World’s Greatest Shave!

I, Tameem, am doing The World’s Greatest Shave. It will donate money for people with blood cancer. Please sponsor me at my home page. If that does not work, email me: talkhlawi@hotmail.com. If you don’t want to sponsor me, then you can tell other people to sponsor me.

Tameem 3/4B

We will be having a special assembly on Thursday 13th March to cheer Tameem on as he shaves his head for charity. If you would like to help Tameem with his fundraising by sponsoring him, please click here.

Have You Noticed a New Parent in Your Child’s Grade?

This year we have had many new families join our school community. Please don’t hesitate to introduce yourself to any new parent you see, particularly around your child’s classroom.

It can be quite challenging when you are in an unfamiliar environment and don’t know anyone. A warm ‘hello’ and a smile can make all the difference.

Why not invite a new parent to the staff room for a cuppa and a chat? You may find a friend you simply hadn’t met yet 😊
From the Principal...

Thought for the week is: *The most powerful thing we can do to change the world is to change our own beliefs to something more positive.*

If we expect less from our children we will receive less, but if we challenge and build relationships our children will soar. The behaviour you attend to the most will be the one that you will see more in the future. If we focus on the positive we will receive positive behaviour but if we focus on the negative we will receive negative behaviour. Not only is what you attend to important, the frequency and distribution of your attention is also important. As rule of thumb for every one corrective or negative interaction, we should attempt to provide seven to eight positive interactions.

As educators and as parents we can ask ourselves, “What behaviour do we attend to - positive child behaviour or negative child behaviour?”

Information nights for parents next week for your calendar

**Year 1 & 2**  
Tuesday 11th March from 6.00 – 7.00 in the hall

**Year 3 - 6**  
Tuesday 11th March from 7.15 – 8.15 in the hall

**Prep**  
Wednesday 12th March from 6.00 – 7.00 in the library

You should have received information in your child’s class newsletter with times and venue. The focus this year is to inform you of how we are working with your child and specific information about each year level will be provided to each family. This booklet will be available soon on our website or if you do not have access to the website, a hardcopy can be collected at the information evening. This supports our sustainability policy.

As part of the information evening we have asked you to either email us or send a note about any questions you may need addressed and we will either answer at the evening or discuss with you. We are looking forward to a great evening on Tuesday for Years 1-6 and Wednesday for the Preps.

One of the questions I have been asked lately is the size of our classes. School funding for staff is based directly on the number of students who are enrolled. Every year the decision needs to be made about how those teaching hours can best be used.

Do we have a slightly smaller class and lose our fantastic specialist Arts program or do we have slightly larger classes and maintain Music and Art? School Council was clear that our students would benefit more from the latter.

While I recognise the concern that this decision might cause you, I am very confident that the extraordinarily talented teachers in this school are continuing to engage your children and address their needs. As ever, if you want to talk directly to me about the issue, please feel welcome.

We are keen to work with families individually and through School Council in these decisions. We are also keen to improve our school and to ensure that we are providing the quality education you want for your children.

Have a great weekend and enjoy Monday with your family

Deb  
Principal  
herrman.debra.a@edumail.vic.gov.au

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Scholastic Book Club

**All orders for Scholastic Book Club are due no later than Tuesday 11th March**

Thanks for your support!
EVERYDAY COUNTS

From 1 March 2014, new laws will mean that parents can be fined for not sending students to school without an acceptable reason.

In Primary School, some students miss on average three weeks of school per year. That’s half a year of school by the end of Year Six.

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child’s education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

Why it’s important
We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in the later years of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

Getting in early
Attendance patterns are established early – a child regularly missing days in kindergarten or in the early years of school will often continue to miss classes in the later years, and receive lower test scores than their classmates. It’s vital that students go to school every day – even in the early years of primary school.

What we can do
The main reasons for absence are:

Sickness – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they’re ill. It’s vital that they’re only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.

It’s vital that holidays are planned during school holidays where possible, and not during the term if it can be avoided.

“Day off” – Think twice before letting your child have a “day off” as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts.

Truancy – This is when students choose not to go to school without their parent’s permission. There can be many reasons for truancy. The best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.

If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don’t fall behind:

- Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.
- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.
- Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible.
- Openly communicating with your child’s school about all absences is a good way to prevent attendance issues being escalated to a School Attendance Officer.

A School Attendance Officer is a Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Regional Director who has authority to follow up attendance issues. Attendance issues that are escalated can lead to an Infringement Notice.

If you’re having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit:
MANAGING THE FLOW OF TRAFFIC IN AND OUT OF THE SCHOOL, CAR PARKING AND SUPERVISING STUDENTS AS THEY LEAVE AT THE END OF THE DAY ARE COMPLEX BUT MANAGEABLE TASKS AND OUR STAFF DO A GREAT JOB WITH THIS EVERY DAY.

To ensure everyone in our school community is as safe as possible during these times, we ask that you observe a few rules to assist us in this area:

**Staff Parking** – remember that no parents or children are permitted in the asphalt staff car park, the lower gravel car park or in front of hopper as these areas are designated specifically for staff members.

**Visitor’s Gravel Car Park** – for the safety of everyone, children need to be supervised in the main gravel car park. With constant vehicle movement at the start and end of the school day, your safety and the safety of your children is paramount.

**No Parking Behind the Hall** – parents are asked to refrain from using the access road to the right of the Hall, parking in the lower car parks behind the Hall and further down toward the senior students building and Music rooms. Those areas are specifically allocated to staff and unauthorised vehicles are not permitted. This also applies to parents dropping children off for private music lessons – please use the designated drop off zone.

**Crossing the Road** – if you are parking outside of the school grounds, please collect your child from school and accompany them safely to your car. Children should not be crossing roads alone.

**Public Bus** – we ask that children catching the bus towards Belgrave to wait in the bus shelter at the timetabled bus stop near the corner of The Patch Rd & Kallista Emerald Rd. The bus stop near The Patch Store is not a designated timetabled stop and concerns have been raised about children waiting at The Patch Store unsupervised and having to wave down the bus, often standing on the edge of the road to gain the bus driver’s attention. Many cars come and go in front of The Store and, once again, the safety of your children may be at risk.

**Grassy Bank at the Pick Up Area** – the grassy bank below the pick-up is an **out of bounds area** and no-one should be walking or playing there. Appropriate footpaths are provided and should be used. Unruly behaviour in this area before 3.45pm also distract staff from supervising students waiting to be collected.

Thank you for your attention to these important points and for your assistance in keeping everyone safe during school hours. If you would like to discuss any of these matters, please don’t hesitate to contact Deb.

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**The Green Schools Forum Great Cook-Off**

On Thursday, March 6th, Indigo Sangster and Sam Thomas attended a special assembly at Silvan Primary School to receive a trophy on behalf of The Patch PS for their involvement as part of an 8 student team in the Green Schools Forum Great Cook-Off. The Cook-Off was performed late last year and required competing teams to prepare and cook a variety of dishes for a panel of judges who then awarded places according to creativity, taste and variety.

The Patch Primary School team, under the direction of Jennie Simpson and Julian Thomas (father of Sam and local chef), comprised eight students from grades 3 and 4 (Indigo, Sam, Kate, Jude, Scarlett, Mia, Patrick & Braden) and utilised organically grown vegetables and fruits from the school garden to prepare a delicious apple and rhubarb crumble and a savoury flan. The teams were required to plate up their creations and clean up afterwards and the whole experience was exciting and novel.

The trophy collected at yesterday’s assembly was presented by The Honourable James Merlino and is a perpetual trophy which The Patch will endeavour to keep when it enters the cook off again later this year! Come and have a look at the trophy, a masterpiece in culinary sculpture, while it is on display at the school foyer.

Well done Cook-Off Team, Jennie and Julian; you should be very proud of your efforts.

Michelle Rayner
Thank You to our Prep families!

This year the Prep team decided it would be nice to visit each of the new Preps at their homes. We have spent the last month traveling all over the mountain and as far as Mt Evelyn and Gembrook visiting each of our lovely new Preps!

We have arrived (sometimes after being a bit lost!) to be greeted by smiling faces and excited children ready to show us all of their special things! We have met many special pets including lamas, ponies, lizards, dogs, cats and turtles! We have seen special toys, bedrooms and backyards. We have had lovely chats with mums, dads, brothers, sisters, grandparents, aunties, uncles and friends. The children have shown us their special hobbies from motor bike riding, horse riding to art, dancing and music!

We would like to thank all of the families for welcoming us into their homes and allowing us get to know your beautiful children in their home setting. It has certainly been beneficial to us and we hope it helped your children feel special and settle into school life!
Congratulations to Certificate Winners

We wish to congratulate the students who were presented with certificates of achievement at last Friday’s school assembly. These children were acknowledged for showing exceptional personal qualities and a high standard of work in class – well done!

Inter-School Swimming

Congratulations to Callum T and Ebony H who were successful in the recent Inter-School Swimming Carnival and have qualified for the Regional Competition which was held today. Best of luck!

More World’s Greatest Shavers!

We are a group of Grade 5 & 6 students – Sadie, Finn, Ellen, Breanna, Oriane, Nyssa, Cadhla and Keshet. We are all colouring our hair for the World’s Greatest Shave and would like people to sponsor us. The reason we are doing this is to raise funds for leukemia and other blood cancers.

We have also made tasty treats just for you, like cupcakes, marshmallows with chocolate, cookies, hedgehog slice and a ‘Lolly in a Jar’ competition for 50c per guess. These treats will be for sale on Wednesday 12th March and we will have colourful hair on Thursday 13th March.

Please support our stall or sponsor us at www.worldsgreatestshave.com.au and search for our team or simply click “The Patchies”.

Thank you!!
On Sunday my family went on the Colour Run. It was about raising money for charity. We had to run 5km and each kilometre they threw different colour paint at us! I can't believe we got a packet of paint at the end to throw at each other! This is what we ended up looking like, were completely covered!

by Jarrah Sangster
Monbulk Netball Club
Please contact Dean Hill 0447 352 538 or email mountpleasant@aapt.net.au

Who’s Croaking in your Garden?
Focus on Frogs in & around your area.
Melbourne Water hosts a program called Frog watch. Anyone can get involved and you can even help with the Frog Census! Come and hear about the frogs we can look out for in our gardens in the Dandenongs.
Learn how to provide a suitable habitat for our froggy friends.
ALL WELCOME - family friendly event
Where: Monbulk Hub (Main Road entrance)
When: Sat. 15th March, 2.30 pm arrival for 3.00 pm start Followed by Monbulk Land Care AGM
Light refreshments provided 5.30 pm finish Enquiries: 0430214696 (Secretary)

Macclesfield Primary Field Festival
Saturday 29th March 3pm – 9pm
Rides, Performers, Market Stalls, Displays, Live Music, Bands, a Showcase of Local Talent & Food and much, much more!

2010 NISSAN Navara 4X4, 74,000kms, BIG TRIP READY
This single owner white turbo diesel Navara, is ready for that BIG TRIP you have always wanted to go on.
It’s NEVER been used for towing. $17,000 worth of extras including:
- canopy and decked-out tube with sliding false floor, built in fridge, 55ltrs water on board,
- long range fuel tank, bull bar, rear bar, winch, Diff lock, heavy duty 4x4 suspension,
- bellow airbags, 5 Cooper ST-Max tyres, air compressor on board, dual battery system,
- roof racks, annex, off market immobilizer and snorkel.
$29,900. Call Willem (The Patch) on 0418 872 400 to inspect and negotiate.

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Upwey High School Open Day
Wednesday 26 March

School Tours: 9 am, 11 am, 1:30 pm
Meet the Principal: 3:30 pm
See the School in Action: 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm
Presentation: 7:30 – 8:00 pm

Upcoming Term 1 School Tours (9 am–10:30 am):
Tue 4 March, Thu 6 March, Wed 12 March, Wed 19 March, Fri 21 March, Tue 1 April
And other times by appointment – 9754-2838

UPWEY HIGH SCHOOL

Do you really know what Upwey High School has to offer?

A comprehensive secondary school education...
- Academic program, pathways into all the major universities and TAFES, year 11 and 12 students accessing over 70 different programs...90% of 2013 university applicants received one of their first three preferences.
- Extensive camps and tours program; including tours to Central Australia, Queensland, New Zealand, Japan, Noumea, Thailand and Europe
- Full instrumental music program
- Extensive sports program, including specialist Volleyball and Surf Lifesaving programs
- School based apprenticeships and traineeships

✓ A TRIBES school with core teaching teams at each level. Years 7 to 9 students have 2 significant teachers (two-thirds of their week). A productive and inclusive learning community.
✓ Personalised learning achieved through differentiated instruction.
✓ Comprehensive Talented Students program with 15 different focus areas.
✓ All year 9 to 12 students receive a notepad computer. Extensive student learning management system; all learning materials and class notes are available over the web 24/7.
✓ Sister schools in Japan (2) and Noumea.
✓ Renowned year 9 ‘New Horizons’ program incorporating Leadership training, City Experience, Outdoor camp and career and pathway planning.

Check out for yourself how our young people grow and develop ... at Upwey High!
Community Notices

In Schools Music
Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, French horn, Trombone, Tuba, Drums, Percussion, and Bass Guitar. **New students.** Enrolments to Andrew McAlister on 0408467147 or email ismusic@bigpond.com

Music Tuition with Chris Walker  Lessons in piano, guitar and bass guitar during school hours and after. Phone 0407 049 012 or email chrisw7@ymail.com

Come and join The Voice Maker School of Singing!
Students are now having Singing Lessons at School in school time by a Professional Vocal Coach! For all children that love singing and want to develop confidence within themselves the fun way! They will also perform in live shows!**Semi private lessons $15-2 students half hour.**
**Private lessons $30 for half hour. Call Jennie on 0410 543 946 or email joey24@optusnet.com.au

Spanish For all Ages ¡Hola Amigos!
After School Spanish classes at The Patch P.S. will run on Wednesdays for Grade 1 to 6 children from 3:45 - 4:30pm and Mondays for our Semi-Private group from 4-5pm
STARTING..... WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 12th in the Uniform Room!!!
Come and learn the Language through songs, storytelling, music and dance.
For more information please contact Pilar Nesvara directly on 0435358802 or Pilar7@live.com.au
LUNITA BLUE Creative Spaces ABN 80898480 ¡HASTA PRONTO!

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