**Dates to Remember**

**December**

- **Mon 2**
  - Prep 2014 Parent Information Night
  - 7pm – 8pm

- **Thur 5**
  - Prep & Buddy Excursion

- **Tue 10**
  - Year 7 Orientation Day

- **Tue 10**
  - Step Up Day

- **Thur 12**
  - Christmas Carols Evening

- **Fri 13**
  - Last Day for Lunch Orders

- **Mon 16**
  - Community Sub-Committee Mtg 6pm

- **Mon 16**
  - School Council Meeting 7.15pm

- **Thur 19**
  - Gr 6 Graduation

- **Fri 20**
  - Last Day of Term 4

**Students Dismissed at 1.30pm**

**January 2014**

- **Thur 30**
  - First Day Back for Grades 1 – 6

**February 2014**

- **Mon 3**
  - Preps Start School and Finish at 1.30pm
- **& Tues 4**
  - Preps Finish School at 3.15pm from this Day

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**Karl’s Last Day**

Could families please note that **Friday 13th December will not only be the last day for lunch orders** for the year, but it will also be the **last day for Karl and his family providing this service to our school**.

After many years of helping us with mail delivery, parcels, banking and lunch orders, Karl is retiring from the long hours of work at The Patch Store and planning to spend some more time with his family and enjoying his many interests.

To acknowledge the contribution Karl has made to our school, he will be invited to attend our final school Assembly at **1.00pm on Friday 20th December**.

We hope you can join us as we farewell Karl on this day.

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**From the Principal...**

Please make sure you are aware of the many upcoming events over the next few weeks – from the Prep & Buddy excursion to our Christmas Carols evening, Student Concert, Grade 6 Graduation and the Assembly on the last day, with dismissal at 1.30pm. School starts again on Thursday January 30th for all children except Preps. There will be one more newsletter in a fortnight’s time.

*** **Don’t forget Step Up Day** when all students move up to the next year level and their grade for 2014 from 9.00 until 11.00. This will be on Tuesday December 10th and you will also receive your child’s report, grade and teacher for 2014 on this day. Teachers are still being allocated as we are currently advertising for a graduate teacher and until this is finalised we are unable to complete our structure for 2014. In the last newsletter grades and teachers will be published.

Have a great weekend,

Deb
**Principal’s Awards**

This year we have introduced Principal Awards. The awards are for students who have constantly worked across the year, have shown outstanding learning and/or behaviour and have been identified by staff across all areas. These were given at Assembly today to the following children:

**Year Level Awards**

**Year Prep - Alex Vranjes**
Alex is a very hard working Prep. She is keen to learn and takes on all activities with a positive attitude. Alex is persistent with tasks and always listens on the floor. Alex is a kind and caring friend, often playing with lots of different children. She is helpful in the classroom and organised with her belongings.

**Year One - Callan Paul**
Callan is always keen to learn, cooperative and is focused on his learning. His abilities in Literacy and Numeracy are well beyond his expected level and he is to be commended on consistently working to give his best.

**Year 2 - Liam Horne**
Liam is a willing learner in all areas. He is working beyond the expected level in his Numeracy. Liam is a focused mathematician who thinks outside the box.

**Year 3 - Anastasia Armitage**
Anastasia is always keen to learn, cooperative, creative and is focused with the required task - always to the best of her ability. She is a kind and caring friend always willing to help others. She understands her responsibility as a learner and is an excellent example of a student who understands the importance of learning - she is always excited to learn something new.

**Year 4 - Jack Loveridge**
Jack is a kind and caring friend who always makes time for his classmates. He is considerate of other people’s needs and goes out of his way to find ways to help. Jack has demonstrated an incredible resilience to life’s journey and we all learn from him every day.

**Year 5 - Zali Mustafa**
Zali is an enthusiastic, committed, responsible student who throws herself fully into ALL activities. She has a great love of learning and consistently will go beyond what is expected.

**Year 5 - Brodie Gould**
Brodie is an enthusiastic reliable student who has consistently ensured her role as flag monitor is undertaken. She is kind caring and willing to help at all times.

**Year 6 - Dougal Leach**
For an amazing, outstanding effort in absolutely everything even things he found difficult. Doug is learning that you can give everything a GO.

**Specialist Awards**

**Archer Radley & Willow Cleary**
The recipients of the Physical Education award are recognised as students who have demonstrated ongoing commitment and dedication to Physical Education. Both students have been enthusiastic and consistent in their approach to Physical Education. Archer has shown great sportsmanship and has attempted all tasks to the best of his ability and Willow has represented the school in an exceptional way.
Specialist Awards cont.

**MUSIC** - Braden Lynch-Clay and James Sands
The Music award recognises students who have demonstrated ongoing commitment and dedication to Music in all aspects. Braden and James always show initiative, self-motivation and a willingness to help at all times.

**ART** - Isabella Ditton, Lilian Kidd, Megan Elias and Oscar Davidson-Tuck
The Art award recognises students who have demonstrated ongoing commitment and dedication to Art in all aspects. Isabella, Lilian, Megan and Oscar are all truly outstanding students.

**ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE** - Georgia Grimmer and Breanna Gowers
The Environmental Science Award recognises students who have demonstrated ongoing commitment and dedication to the environment in all its aspects. Georgia and Breanna have always worked enthusiastically on tasks, taken responsibility, shown initiative, displayed leadership and demonstrated powerful nature connections and a great desire to make a positive change on the planet.

**JAPANESE** - Amber Beukema & Monte Hall
The Japanese Award recognises students who have demonstrated ongoing commitment and dedication to Japanese. Amber and Monte have participated enthusiastically and voluntarily in verbal learning activities, accuracy in written work, enthusiasm in lunchtime Japanese class.
Great Job Everyone!
Good Bye to Marg

After 34 years of teaching, including the past 18 here at The Patch School, we will sadly say good bye to Marg Hallinan as she retires at the end of this year. As an integral part of our staff, Marg has been a warm, supportive friend and colleague to us all. Marg has a unique way of connecting with her students through humour, stories and life experience, and after touching the lives of so many of us for so long, she will be sorely missed (as will her mischievous sense of humour!) by the whole school community.

Today we celebrated Marg’s retirement with staff and Marg’s family; husband Dennis and children Renae, Tom and Anastasia where she was presented with a beautiful string of pearls from her colleagues. Marg was also surprised with a gift from her family which was a voucher to swim with the great white sharks at Port Lincoln! What an adventure that will be!

If you would like to say good bye to Marg, members of the school community are welcome to attend our end of year Assembly at 1pm on the last day of school.
Your Bushfire Survival Plan & Code Red Days

Living and working in an environment as beautiful as the Dandenong Ranges requires us to take responsibility for our safety on days of significant fire danger.

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) has a policy in place stating that Government schools listed on the [Bushfire At Risk Register](http://www.bushfireregister.vic.gov.au) must close on days of Code Red fire danger. Families will be advised *up to 3 days and no later than 12pm on the day before* if their school will be closing for this reason. Once declared, schools that have advised their community of closure will not change this advice regardless of improvements in the forecast weather.

Please click on the hyperlinks to the DEECD for full details on [Code Red Days](http://www.dee.ed.vic.gov.au) and [Code Red Day FAQs](http://www.dee.ed.vic.gov.au). Our Emergency Management Plan is developed to keep everyone as safe as possible in the event of an emergency and one of the greatest threats we plan for is bushfire.

We have included our plan for Total Fire Ban days in this newsletter, so please read it and become familiar with the process we have in place. Preparing, understanding and practising a plan can alleviate some of the anxiety often felt during the summer months.

**Also note that on days of Total Fire Ban, students cannot walk home** from school unaccompanied by an adult without written permission from their parents or guardians.

For our families, the most important thing the school can do is encourage you to develop, practise and review your bushfire survival plan.

**If your bushfire survival plan involves leaving the area the night before or early in the morning when there is a High, Very High, Severe, Extreme or Code Red fire danger rating forecast, please do so.**

The only way your safety from bushfire can be guaranteed is if you are not here. For lots of information and advice on planning & preparing for bushfire, visit the [Country Fire Authority](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au) website.

Lost Property Alert!

Lost property is located in a large clear box near the sick bay, opposite Marita’s Prep room. The amount of clothing, lunch boxes, shoes etc. that end up in there is astounding.

**We need your help! Please make sure all items taken to school are clearly labelled. If you have lost something check the lost property box ASAP.**

The Uniform Shop volunteers also manage the lost property and will go through the box once a month, attempting to return named property. On the last Monday of every month the lost property box will be emptied and all things other than school uniform items will be donated to charity. School uniform items will be available to purchase as second hand items from the Uniform Shop for a small price.

Monday December 16th will be the last date items will be donated to charity.

Thanks for your cooperation,

*Claudia Dykstra*, Uniform Shop volunteer

**Uniform Shop**

Remember that the Uniform Shop is now open every Monday from 8.45am to 9.15am.

If you are unable to attend the Uniform Shop during opening time, you can always leave your completed order form and payment at the Office any school day except Friday. Thank you ☺️
Have you seen our new ‘Parent Resources’ page on the school website yet??

We are providing a variety of information, parenting workshops that are currently on offer and links to other great websites. We are trying to include a wide range of topics and viewpoints that not only inform but provide ‘food for thought’ and we hope will start some valuable parenting conversations. We have only just begun, but welcome any feedback and suggestions 😊

Further Amendments to Parking on The Patch Rd

The Shire of Yarra Ranges is amending the proposed changes to the parking restriction along The Patch Rd near our school. For full details, please [click here](#) to view document on website.

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*Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.*

- Nelson Mandela

Why not talk about this when your family is having dinner this weekend?
What would you like to learn that could change the world?
Let me know what you think 😊

Jody
The Community Sub-Committee of the School Council has been meeting and discussing a range of issues affecting the school and the community – it has been a valuable part of the community connectedness of the School Council.

The main purpose of the Community Sub-Committee is to be a forum for discussing ideas and suggestions from parents and be a voice for community building in the school.

Our aim is to continue to build stronger links across teachers, students, parents the Early Learning Centre and the broader community.

Some of the projects that the Community Sub-Committee have been working on in consultation with teachers and school staff include:

- **Communications** - identifying ways the school communicates - working on providing some consistency to the way that grade newsletters are issued, came from these discussions. Work across the website, messages from the school and new initiatives on signage comes from these discussions. We’ve initiated the feedback mechanisms to hear from parents.

- **Caring for the Community** - looking at ways we can provide assistance to school community members that need support has also been part of discussions in the Sub-Committee.

- **Building Links** – we have been discussing ways to build links across the school and across the community, including with business.

- **Promoting The Patch School** – we are now actively discussing a range of ways to promote The Patch School and The Early Learning Centre.

- **Other projects** are on-going and include building stronger links and cross-promotional opportunities for the school and the Early Learning Centre, developing a marketing plan to ensure we can take every opportunity to promote the school and looking at how the school is branded. We are also developing plans around a community forum (to be held next year) and a whole of school parent survey to be issued before the end of this year.

To continue to consult and hear from parents, we encourage you to consider the following ways that you can engage...

1. **Provide un-solicited feedback or suggestions**

   You can provide your feedback by either email or note form...

   - By email: community@thepatchps.vic.edu.au
   - In a note and pop it in the Feedback Box in foyer at school

2. **Ensure you complete the parent survey when it is issued (before the end of the year)**

3. **Attend the next Community Sub-Committee meeting** and bring your ideas of what you think we could be doing. Next meeting (anyone interested is welcome to attend) is:

   **6pm, Monday 16th December at The Patch School**

A key part of our work is to listen and hear from you – so let us know what you think!

Thank you and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Matt Clear
(Father of Maya, Niamh and Dash)
0403 229 094
clear.matthew@gmail.com
Congratulations to these fantastic students who all received certificates at Assembly over the past weeks! Well done!
THE PATCH EARLY LEARNING CENTRE INC (Patch Parents Association)
Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 3rd December
at 7.30pm
The Patch ELC 4 y.o. room,
53 Kallista Emerald Rd
The Patch

All Patch kinder families are invited to discuss the future of The Patch ELC Parents Association.

Any queries can be directed to Sarah Tebbutt on 0400 402494 or email at tpelcpa@gmail.com
Community Notices

Emerald Twilight Market
A Twilight Christmas Market will be held in Puffing Billy Park, Kilvington Drive Emerald on Friday 6th December 2013 from 3.30pm til 8pm. For further details, contact echmarket@iinet.net.au

Ferny Creek Tennis Club – Tennis Family Fun Day
Sunday 9th February 2014, Ferny Creek Tennis Club Hilton Rd Ferny Creek
Free beginner coaching sessions with Xtreme Tennis. Try out some cardio-tennis! Fastest serve competition! Free sausage sizzle, soft drink and icy poles. Prizes, including lucky door prize of FREE 12MONTH MEMBERSHIP. New member discount. Social tennis after 4pm. Bring a friend!

Sassafras Ferny Creek Netball Club Registration Day 2014
Mark the Date! 8 February, 2014, 10am – 12pm, Olinda Netball Courts
A great way to meet new friends and play a team sport. Teams for: Under 11s, Under 13s, Under 15s, Under 17s and an Open Team. Early bird registrations are welcome
Talk to Deb Andrich: 0407 514 103 or Ann-Maree Baker: 0418 395 070. Or email us at sassafrasfernycreeknetballclub@gmail.com Find us on Facebook or www.sportingpulse.com.au

Monbulk Aquatic Club FREE 2 WEEK TRIAL
Does your child love swimming? Are they ready to take the next step into swimming squad?
Just turn up at any of our training sessions for a FREE 2 week trial. Squad is great for kids who want to swim for fun, fitness or competition. Session times (excluding public holidays) Monday – Friday Juniors 6pm – 7.15pm Junior State & Seniors 6pm – 7.30pm.

An Invitation to ‘A Christmas Carol” by Charles Dickens
HOPE Production Group cordially invites you to their Yuletide live theatre presentation of the timeless literary classic, “Christmas Carol” by Charles Dickens. The production will be performed in association with the Burrinja Cultural Community Centre and will be stages at their venue. All profits go to supporting the Dandenong Ranges Emergency Relief Service who provide aid and support for members of our community in need.
Evening shows on Saturday 14th & 21st December.
Matinee shows on Sunday 15th & 22nd December.
Adults $22 Child (under 16)/Concession $16 Family (2 adults, 2 children under 16) $65
351 Glenfern Rd Upwey 3158 Tickets available for purchase at www.burrinja.com.au

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 9756 7515, 0407 049 012 or email chrisjw@netspace.net.au.

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
A playful and creative introduction to a second Language this program offers lots of opportunities for developing an interest in Spanish and its Culture. Preps to Grade 6’s are welcome, small groups only.
Mondays from 4:15 to 5pm in the Uniform Room. Forms at the office or contact Pilar on 0427881572 HASTA LUEGO!

New Group Piano Lessons available at The Patch.
To complement the existing piano and music programs at the school, group keyboard lessons are now available for kids from Prep to Grade 6. Groups of 2 or 3 children (of similar ages) will learn piano and music-reading skills in a fun and inspiring way. $15 per child for half an hour.
Teacher: Fiona Seers (a Patch parent) with over 20 years teaching experience and a love and passion for music education. To enquire about booking a spot for your child please call Fiona on 0438 833 592 or email fionaseers@hotmail.com.