**Dates to Remember**

**December**
- Wed 17th: Grade 6 Graduation
- Fri 19th: Year 5 & 6 at Knox Leisureworks
- Fri 19th: Last Day of Term 4
- **School finishes at 1.30pm** *(No Friday morning Assembly)*

**January**
- Fri 30th: First day of Term 2015 for ALL students (including Preps 😊)

**February**
- Wed 11th: Prep Picnic
- Wed 11th: Year 5 & 6 Leadership Day
- Tues 17th - Thur 19th: Information Session Prep - 6
- Wed 11th: Prep Picnic

**March**
- Wed 11th - Fri 13th: Waste Management Excursion
- Sat 14th - Sun 15th: Open Garden Weekend
- Wed 18th: Year 2 Dum Theatre Excursion “The 26 Storey Treehouse”

**LAST DAY OF TERM**

The final Assembly for 2014 will be held at 1pm, next **Friday 19th December**.
Please note that students will be at the **pick-up area by 1.20pm** and will be dismissed at **1.30pm**.
Our After School Care program will be operating from 1.30 til 6pm.

*We wish you a safe & relaxing festive season!* 

**Lunch Orders Next Week**

Please note that as next week is the final week of term, lunch orders will be available on Monday and Wednesday only. Due to our early finish there will be **NO LUNCH ORDERS ON FRIDAY 19TH DECEMBER**.

*We would like to thank everyone at The Patch Store for their exceptional service and delicious lunch options provided throughout the year 😊*
From the Principal…

Thought for the week:  *The only way to discover the limits of the possible is to go beyond them into the impossible.*  - Arthur C Clark

Today at our last Friday morning Assembly for the year the students farewelled Marita, Cheryl and Kellie. There were many sad faces but still many happy memories to keep. At our very successful Christmas Carols last Thursday night the School Council and school community acknowledged the many years of service of Marita and Cheryl with bouquets of flowers and a small posy for Kellie. These teachers will be sadly missed by all.

On a happier note, we are pleased to announce Nina de Vreeze will be joining the Year 3/4 team in 2015. We warmly welcomed her on Tuesday when all students stepped up to the new grades for 2015.

We also acknowledged the following children with Principal Awards for 2014:

- **Prep -2**
  - **Academic Excellence**: Evie Smith
  - **Civics and Citizenship**: Olivia Langrish
  - **Most Improved**: Luke Page

- **Year 3-6**
  - **Academic Excellence**: Jasmine Andrews
  - **Civics and Citizenship**: Zali Mustfa, Genevieve Whitford
  - **Most Improved**: Finlay Carter

This is our last newsletter for the year and next Friday the 19th of December will be both sad and happy as we farewell our Year 6 children and leave for holidays. I would like to acknowledge the following families who are moving on as they currently have their last child at The Patch School. Many families have had a long association with us and we wish you and your children every success and happiness.

The **Beattie** Family
The **Britton** Family
The **Couvreur** Family
The **Mustafa** Family
The **Teasdale** Family
The **Tibballs** Family
The **Van Der Hulst** Family
The **Ross** Family

The **Butler** Family
The **Goldberg** Family
The **Gould** Family
The **Kinrade** Family
The **Lucas** Family
The **Matulich** Family
The **Oudyk** Family
The **Warburton** Family

As a community of parents, children and teachers, we have all faced uncertainties. Like any community, we have had up and downs but together we have come to share our celebrations. We are truly fortunate at this school to have such wonderful children, parents and teachers. As always the teachers have remained true to their passion – teaching your wonderful children, keeping them happy and educated has been foremost in their minds.

Our Emergency Management Plan (EMP) document has been updated and uploaded to meet the new requirement set by the Department. This document is available for you to read on the school website. It is important to note that the document is exceptionally large but includes – the School, the Kinder and OSHC plans. We have a smaller practical version that we use for staff.

I wish you all a great and relaxing break – we are looking forward to 2015.

Have a great week,

Deb

herrmann.debra.a@edumail.vic.gov.au
Congratulations to the Winners of the 2014 Principal Awards!

Awards have been presented today to students who have shown exceptional achievement this year in several areas of their school life (see Principal’s Report).

Congratulations to (left to right) Jasmine, Zali (back), Evie (front), Luke, Finlay, Gen and Olivia.

Congratulations to this year’s Principal Award nominees pictured below (main picture back row) Isaac, Jack, Megan, Troy, Sylvan (front row) Patrick, Pearl, Callan. Those not present for group photo are pictured individually.
“The Year That Was”
in Environmental Education and Sustainability

It’s been a remarkable year full of excitement, new discoveries, new developments and recognition for excellence. Here are some of our achievements:

- Beautiful new building signs designed and created by our Wednesday Art Extension Groups. A big thank you to Simone Broekman, Steve Warburton, Steve Page, Lily Rayner and Natalie Latham. We couldn’t have done it without your guidance and great ideas.
- Bio blitz – thanks to Simone Mustoe, an extraordinary event which incorporated experts from a range of zoological fields that created a snapshot of life in and around our school ground. This data will form an integral part of an ecological management document. See also: http://www.bowerbird.org.au/projects/5057/sightings
- Ngarrett Garden opening. This student designed and constructed garden also won the Eastern Metropolitan Region’s garden award for 2014 and the “Best Garden for engagement in education and play, 2014”, in the School Garden Awards. Well done years 4/5/6!
- HabitAT School Action Award from the Yarra Ranges Council for 2014 in recognition of the on-ground works by the Year 3/4 students in and around their school ground.
- Biodiversity award – our school won the “Biodiversity School of the Year, 2014” for the ResourceSmart School Awards at the Convention Centre. Great to see all the practical work our students have done improving and protecting habitat for wildlife recognized.
- Earthkeepers camp – our Year 5 students embraced the opportunity to immerse themselves in nature and embed further knowledge of ecological literacy, identity and nature connectedness.
- New verandah on Eco-Centre – no more drenchings entering or leaving the Eco-Centre!
- Planting day with the 1/2 students, teachers and parents. What a fantastic outcome – 297 seedlings planted on the bank above the Bulum Bulum building!
- Visits by Melbourne University, Maranatha College, Yunnar PS, Chisholm Institute of TAFE and an International Chinese Study Tour provided opportunities for our students to demonstrate their ecological knowledge and leadership skills. We are very proud of their efforts.
- Nature-Based Education Workshop delivered to teachers across Victoria using students as educators and incorporating experts from a range of backgrounds to deliver lectures and workshops.
- Our Weather, Recycling and Animal Monitors complete an excellent year demonstrating responsibility, initiative, reliability and leadership. Well done.
- Energy Audit of our school conducted and an Energy Extension team established to look at ways of reducing our energy use across the school.
- Completion of Core and Biodiversity Modules for ResourceSmart School Program.
- Our school garden opens every Wednesday for all students to play, relax or garden. Following this, a group called Grub Club take responsibility for some of the more physical management tasks required. These students gain skills and competencies that can improve their chances of finding part-time work later on.
- Gang Green (year 3 students) continues to take responsibility for other ground works, Open Garden on Wednesdays and next year’s event.
- An interview with Richard Stubbs on 774 ABC and Megan Elias and Michelle Rayner, promoting our 4/5/6 school garden and the award from the School Garden Awards.
- Working bees and garden team meetings – another year, another series of opportunities to feel an integral part of a vital community! Thank you so much for coming along and helping to make our school grow.

continued overleaf...
• Fern Gully grows and grows! Another 400 ferns were planted and additional areas prepared for next year. Special thanks to the Sands family for their help in this project.
• New Kinder Garden – the garden in front of the kinder is having a face lift thanks to a group of ex-kinder parents with some great ideas. Watch this space.
• Animals to Aged Care Facility – for the first time, many of our animals shall be going to an aged care facility for care and attention over the summer break. What a wonderful way to share our resources and build links with other members of our community.

continued overleaf...
Our thanks to everyone for their support throughout 2014!
A Reminder for the Commencement of Term 1 2015

We are identified as being at higher risk on the Bushfire Risk Register and, as such, will be required to pre-emptively close on days of Code Red fire danger. More information will be available next year.

As has been in place for several years now, on days of Total Fire Ban all children are required to be picked up from drop off and no child will be permitted to walk home or leave the school without an adult unless written permission is provided by their parent or guardian.

It is important that all parents have alternative arrangements in place for these days. Also as Total Fire Ban days occur and you choose to pick your child up early it is vital that you sign your children out at the office. The DEECD require attendance rolls to be marked in the morning and after lunch and this is even more important when included as part of our emergency management procedures.

In the event of an unforeseen fire we would waste several precious moments trying to work out where children are if they have not been signed out appropriately. For everyone’s benefit, I implore you to make sure you follow this very simple procedure.

Deb Herrmann
Principal

The Patch Christmas Angels

Thank you sincerely to all the families who donated non-perishable items to our annual food drive for distribution by the Monbulk Care Network.

At this time of year it is important to not only be appreciative of the life we have, but to think about and support those who are less fortunate or experiencing difficult times.

As always, your warmth and generosity is greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

VPass System on Trial

We have recently implemented a trial of VPass as our method of recording students arriving late and leaving early and monitoring visitors to our school.

VPass is an iPad app that guides users through fields recording information similar to that required by our manual paper-based system. The iPad is attached to the wall on the right hand side of the Office counter. The benefits include:

- Reduction in paper consumption
- Reduction in manual record-keeping for teachers
- Information required in case of emergency re-location is easily accessible online via smart phone or iPad
- Enables us to meet our OH&S responsibilities easily
- Colour-coded lanyards quickly identify the purpose of a visitor to our school
- More effective management of school keys and security

If the trial is successful, we will continue to use VPass next year.

Users can simply follow the prompts on the iPad, ensuring each field contains data (if the field is not relevant please enter any character to allow you to move on – all fields must include data) and if you are signing your child in or out during school hours, please be sure to pick up a ‘Late Arrival’ or ‘Early Leaver’ pass which are found on the counter to the left of the iPad.

As always, your feedback is welcome so please let the Office staff know how you find this new system.
Thanks from Gil for APCC

In July this year, Gil of 5/6A, travelled to Fukuoka, Japan to represent Australia at the 26th Asia Pacific Children's Convention (APCC). Gil and his fellow delegates were sponsored by many local and not so local businesses. This week Gil presented Dave, head coach at Templestowe Jiu Jitsu & Tony, manager at Monbulk Safeway with certificates of appreciation for their kind donations.
EMERGENCY ALERT. BE WARNED. BE INFORMED.

If there is a bushfire, flood, severe storm or other major emergency near you, the emergency services may choose to warn you by text to your mobile or a voice message to your home phone.

Emergency Alert is the national telephone warning system. It uses the address where your phone is registered and the actual location of your mobile to reach you:

- when your home or school is near an emergency
- when you are travelling with your mobile near an emergency.

When the emergency services use the telephone warning system:

- a home phone within the warning area may receive a recorded voice message that begins with “Emergency, Emergency”, and/or
- a mobile phone that is switched on and in an area of mobile coverage may receive a text message.

The service is free and you do not need to register.

The warning message will tell you:

- which emergency service sent the message: eg CFA
- about the emergency and where it is
- what you should do to stay safe
- where you can get more information.

All telephone warnings come from the official number:
+61 444 444 444

Example Text Alert

From: +61 444 444 444
EMERGENCY WARNING FROM CFA
Fire in Pohnners Road area. Visitors to Grampians National Park should leave now.
Check local radio or visit emergency.vic.gov.au

Talk to your child about the Emergency Alert system.
If they receive a warning message on the home phone or a warning text on their personal mobile, encourage them to stay calm and show or repeat the message to a responsible adult they know, such as a relative or teacher.

If adults are not around, encourage them to follow the action given in the alert.

For more information about the system, visit emergencyalert.gov.au and watch the video (it’s in 30 languages).

In an emergency, do not rely just on your telephone for a warning.

- Stay aware of your surroundings
- Listen to local radio
- Visit emergency.vic.gov.au
- Download the FireReady app
- Go to facebook.com/cfavic
- Follow @CFA_Updates on Twitter

EMV
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT VICTORIA
For quicker, hassle-free school payments, try Qkr!

Introducing Qkr! (pronounced ‘quicker’) by MasterCard: the easy-to-use phone app that gives you the flexibility to place orders at a time and place that suits you. Qkr!:

- Saves you time by letting you order and pay for school items directly from your phone;
- Reduces the need for your child to bring cash to school;
- Reduces the time school staff spend on administrative tasks

Watch the Qkr introduction video

http://vimeo.com/100952137
A Bio-Blitz at The Patch School!

On 7th December, The Patch School was joined by local biologists and members of the Victorian Entomological Society for a day searching for as many animals as possible. Land crayfish, giant earthworms, wombats, freshwater eels, satin bowerbirds, wedge-tailed eagles, sugar gliders, potato orchids and water rats are just some of the animals that live on and around the school grounds. Have a look at the video for an insight into the day: http://youtu.be/zJ3wM8PTEcU

For images of some of the animals identified on the day, check out: http://www.bowerbird.org.au/projects/5057/sightings

A big thank you must go to Simon Mustoe for his suggestion that such an activity take place and for his tireless efforts in inviting and liaising with the scientists who came along on the day. Simon created survey sheets and maps of the school ground, installed wildlife cameras donated by companies in response to letters from our Year 3/4 students, took video footage of the day and provided a vast collected of resources to refer to during the day (and night!).
SETTING OUR KIDS UP FOR SUCCESS

An introductory workshop for parents of Primary School children. Information and strategies for:

- Building self-awareness and confidence
- Emotional regulation and anxiety management
- Encouraging resilience and ‘bounce back’ techniques
- Enhanced learning tools for learning differences

Three time slots available to choose from:
Thursday 11th Dec either 10am-12pm or 6-8pm or Saturday 13th Dec 9.30-11.30am

This is a FREE 2hr workshop held at Catalyst Kinect in TECOMA. Bookings essential. Please call 0447 876 060 to secure your place.

This workshop is presented by Luella Cochrane - Kinesiologist, Integrative Health and Education Consultant and mother of two. Luella works with both adults and children to identify and dissolve blocks that may be preventing optimal wellbeing in physical, mental and emotional health, relationships and performance.

KINESIOLOGY, INTEGRATIVE HEALTH & EDUCATION
Shops 5 & 6, 1567 Burwood Hwy
Tecoma 3160
0447 876 060 | luella@catalystkinect.net | catalystkinect.net
Remember your weekly school banking is collected on a Wednesday.

Every time you deposit you will receive a sticker for your certificate and with only 6 stickers per term you will receive a prize at the end of term.

Application forms and certificates are available at the school office.

By banking with Bendigo Bank you also support all the animals at the Monbulk Wildlife Shelter.

Have fun saving and don’t forget you can contact us at the Bank with any questions at all 😊

Monbulk & District Community Bank® Branch
70 Main Street, Monbulk, VIC 3793
P 03 9752 1130
E monbulkmailbox@bendigoadelaide.com.au
Community Notices

ST JOSEPHS COLLEGE UNIFORM FOR SALE
Complete set of uniform (Winter, Summer, Sports) for sale. You can purchase individual items or the full set. Depending on the items, sizes vary from Size 8 to Size 12. All in excellent condition. Please contact Irena on 0433 559 830 or at irenavassiliev@gmail.com.

MONBULK COMMUNITY CAROLS 2014
The Monbulk Community Carols 2014 will be held on Friday 19th December at the Rotunda at The Pines, Monbulk Primary School, David Hill Rd, Monbulk at 7.30pm. A BBQ by Rotary will commence at 6.30pm together with Festive Fare by St George’s Anglican Church, Monbulk. Candles are available – both LED and wax, programs and entry are Free. Come and join in the community singing together with Mater Christi Carols Band and Singers, Monbulk Community Choir, and The Patch School Choir. BYO seating.

GET YOUR JINGLE ON!!
Patch Tennis Club Social Tennis Night this Friday night (TONIGHT!! 12th December) 6 - 8 pm Sausage sizzle will be on. Free for members, $5 non-members. Wear some Christmas themed attire! (balls & some spare racquets provided)
For membership enquiries, please contact Renae on 0403 498 085. Membership prices are: Juniors $25, Adults $35, Family $120 (halve this if family already members at another club!) CHEAP, CHEAP, CHEAP! OR you can hire the court for $10/hour from The Patch Store.

REACH GYMNASTICS IN EMERALD
Enrolments are now open for Reach Gymnastics. Based at Emerald Secondary College, classes will be run from the beginning of Term 1, 2015 on Friday evenings. Our classes are based on the 4 F’s, fun, fitness, fundamentals and friends. Classes will be run by qualified and registered coaches and incorporate gymnastics for boys and girls. Enquire with Rebecca Tilley on 0402 723 320 or reachgymnastics@gmail.com for enrolment information. Limited places available so enquire quickly!

HIT ‘N’ GIGGLE - TABLE TENNIS ANYONE? GET OFF THE COUCH.
Every Friday 7.30pm - 9pm at 'the Hub' lower level, Monbulk Living and Learning Centre. Newly formed Not for Profit Club. $5 members, $5 visitors. $40 annual fee. All ages. Join anytime. Just show up or call Jenie 9752 1213 or mail@jeniestrohnaturopath.com. Sponsored by Shire Yarra Ranges and Integrity

MONBULK FUN RUN 2014
‘Run to the G’ 4km and 8km Run / Walk DATE: RESCHEDULED TO Sunday 14th December 2014
PLACE: Start / Finish – ‘MCG’ - Monbulk Cricket Ground
TIME: 8.00 – 8.30 registration for a 9.00am start (sharp)
ENTRY FEE $25 Adults $10 Secondary Students (inc. breaky) $40 Family Primary Kids Free
For more info on the event or to volunteer your time please contact Steve or Kelly Utting utting.steven.c@edumail.vic.gov.au / kellyembellish@hotmail.com

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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

Violin, Viola & Cello Lessons
Lessons are available at school on Fridays with experienced strings teacher Jane Coleman. For further information call: 0431 290396 or email: janeliz.coleman@gmail.com. Be quick as there are currently only 2 places available for new pupils.

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!

Private Ukulele Lessons
The Patch School students now have the opportunity to take private ukulele lessons, starting next term on Mondays, from week 2 onwards. The Patch School parent, Jess Dunn, has had 5 years’ experience teaching ukulele to kids and adults and is looking forward to teaching at The Patch. The cost is $14 for a 20 minute individual lesson or $10 for a paired lesson (subject to suitable pairing). For more information, please call or email. 0408 102 542 jessdunn.arts@gmail.com.au

Junior School Singers
The Junior Singers are regrouping for fourth term! We have been invited to sing at ‘Merry Monbulk’, the Monbulk Christmas Shopping event on Nov 28th. Students from Prep and Gr 1 & 2 are welcome to come along to the music room on Wednesday at lunchtime. We sing for the first half of lunch.

Orkestra
The Orkestra has been invited to play at 'Merry Monbulk', the Monbulk Christmas shopping event on Fri Nov 28th. We rehearse Mon mornings 8.15 in the music room If you would like to join us, call Cath Russell on 97553013 or email mscathsemail@yahoo.com.au