Dates to Remember

August
Fri 16th  Gr 5 Visiting Monbulk College
Mon 19th  Community Sub-Committee Mtg 6pm
Mon 19th  School Council Meeting 7.15pm
Tues 20th  Book Week Poetry Gr 3 – Gr 6
Fri 23rd  Gr 5 Visiting Monbulk College
Thur 29th  Shopping Tour Deposit Required

September
Mon 9th  Community Sub-Committee Mtg 6pm
Mon 9th  School Council Meeting 7.15pm
Fri 20th  Last Day of Term
            Students Dismissed from 2.20pm

Great News!!

The ‘Learning Landscape’ film made by Michelle’s daughter, Melia, will be screened on Channel 31 on:

- Tuesday August 13th at 6pm with repeats on
- Wednesday August 14th at 5am,
- Thursday August 15th at 7.30am
- Friday August 16th at 4.30pm

This is really exciting!

Caring for Our Community

As mentioned by Deb in the last newsletter, we are conscious that there are times when some families in our school community are going through difficult times and may need some assistance and/or support.

We would like to reconfirm that if you are experiencing any difficulties and would like some assistance please come and talk to us as we have access to many helpful resources which may be of use.

Remember that often a listening ear can go a long way to helping and you can be assured of complete confidentiality unless you consent otherwise.

We may not be able to resolve the issue completely, but we can certainly try and assist in any way we can.
We have nearly completed our 4th week of term 3 and on Tuesday of this week our Preps celebrated the completion of their first 100 days of school! What a great day they had – participating in a range of activities based around the number 100 and a beautiful class party (with some very creative parents making foods that had a connection to 100!) to finish off a great day.

Deb and most of our Leadership team have been attending a Leadership conference in Torquay over the last two days and will have the opportunity to hear some prominent educators speak as well as do some ‘big picture’ thinking in relation to our school’s future and where we are heading. (Our Leadership team consists of Deb, Michelle, Cheryl P, Jennie Simpson and me - but Kellie also attended the conference).

At the moment the children in Grades 3 – 6 are preparing for a Spelling Bee organised and coordinated by Jess Holden - who is taking Angie’s place for 6 weeks while she is on Long Service Leave. Every student is involved in this spelling challenge initially until our most talented spellers are left to participate in the Spelling Bee finals. This is a wonderful extension opportunity for those children who are competent spellers and an entertaining experience for those watching them ‘spell it out’.

Last week several students from Grades 3 – 6 participated in the Australian Maths Competition which presents children with a range of challenging problems to solve. Their completed papers have been sent to the university for marking and each child will have his/her results sent back to them once corrected externally. This is another opportunity (optional) for our students who are talented in the area of Maths to be challenged and ‘shine’.

To celebrate Book Week this year the children in Grades 3- 6 are participating in Poetry presentations being run by Mac Craig (our first Principal at The Patch) and Dr Stephen Whiteside, who has written many poems for children. Mac is a wonderful storyteller and presenter and the children have a very special treat awaiting them. This will take place on Tuesday August 20th at school. Notices and payment needs to be finalised by this coming Wednesday.

Friendship Skills for Children – We have included another article in this fortnight’s newsletter, written by Michael Grose, who is one of Australia’s leading parenting educators. It outlines twelve friendship skills every child needs and gives some simple, realistic ways to help your child develop these. If you would like to read more or see what else is available from Michael Grose you can go to his website www.parentingideas.com.au
I will be away on Long Service Leave for the next 2 ½ weeks so you will not be hearing much from me until I return at the end of August. Have a good week everyone.
Excursion & Camp Payments

Parents are reminded that we require all payments for school activities by the due date unless alternative arrangements have been made with Deb or the Office staff. Due to the large amount of planning and preparation required for excursions and camps, your cooperation is vital.

If, for any reason, you are finding it difficult to pay for any school charges please do not hesitate to discuss the matter confidentially with Deb as there are often options we can offer you to assist.

Unfortunately, if no payment is received by the due date, your child may not be able to participate in the activity. We really don’t want anyone to miss out, so please speak to Deb if you have any concerns.

SECOND HAND BOOKS FOR GRADE 3 & 4s

The Grade 3/4s will be starting book circles for some of the students. We will need 4-6 copies of each of the books the students will read and discuss.

Following our school’s focus on sustainability, we’d love to source some preloved copies of these books if possible.

If any Patch School families or extended families, have copies of the following books that they wouldn’t mind donating or lending to the Grade 3/4s for this year, could you please send them to school with your child with a note marked, “FOR 3/4 BOOK CIRCLES”. You may even find some of these books in a visit to your favourite op shop!

If you are loaning a book, rather than donating it, please name it and mark it appropriately so it can be returned to you at the end of the year. We can cover it for you with clear contact if you choose.

Most of the books have received awards such as “Children’s Book of the Year” or have been shortlisted for this award.

The list....

- Blueback By Tim Winton
- Black Brother White By Jackie French
- Crow Country By Kate Constable
- The Truth about Verity Sparks By Susan Green
- Verity of Sydney Town By Ruth C. Williams
- Lochie Leonard By Tim Winton
- The Golden Door By Emily Rodda
- The Red Wind By Isobelle Carmody
- Just a Dog By Anna Branford Illustrated by Sarah Davis
- Running with the Horses By Lester, Alison

If you have any other quality books suitable for Grade 3s and 4s you no longer need, they would also be greatly appreciated!

Many Thanks,
The Grade 3/4 team.

Head Lice

We are currently experiencing a higher than usual number of reported cases of head lice in our classes.

Please, please, please check your child’s hair at least weekly for live lice or eggs (both dead and alive) and don’t hesitate to contact the school office if you require any further information.

Thank you for your co-operation as we try to manage this time consuming and frustrating problem.
ABORIGINAL TECHNOLOGY WITH MURRUNDINDI - VISITING YEARS 5 & 6

Yesterday Murrundindi talked to use about the technology that his elders used. The technology was boomerangs, sticks, branches, rocks and plants.

My favourite part was when he talked about boomerangs and how to make them using a tree root, a fire, an axe and your hands. It was so cool.

He also talked about how he could get about three to four metres from an Emu. To do that you have to cover yourself in mud and attach a big hook onto your boomerang and hold it in front of your face and you look like an emu. The mud helps you smell like something you’re not and look like you’re the same colour as an emu. He also talked about how whenever they leave a little camp area they would back burn it to have more new growth. They would let the children, ladies and elders go a few days before.

He talked to us about a fire stick his people used that was so soft in the middle and you rub another stick into it, it will burn in seconds.

I can’t believe that this is all technology!

It is all technology because anything people use to help them to make something easier is called technology. For example this pen I am using is technology and so is this piece of paper. Anything used to make something easier is technology.

Technology made their lives easier because they used their technology to help kills animals a lot easier. It also helped them build homes, fires and clothes.

There is a type of bird called the mistletoe bird that helps build technology too. They eat a berry and when they go to the toilet there is a parasite stuck on their back that they wipe on the tree and over twenty years the parasite forms a lump on the end of the branch. The aboriginals would cut it off and use it as a club.

I have enjoyed learning so much about technology from Murundindi it makes me feel like reading more.

Maddie Ross 5/6B

Murrundindi Technology – Report and Reflection

On Tuesday the 16th of July, Murundindi came in to talk about Aboriginals technology with us grade 5/6ers.

I’ve always wondered how the Aboriginals have just known what fruits to eat and what not, what plants can and can’t be used as medicines and what medicines are needed.

It turns out that their knowledge is all from 50,000 years of trial and error. By now, at the end of those 50,000 years the Aborginals know exactly how to survive in the middle of the forest with all of their technology knowledge.

One of the thinkgs Murundindi shared with us was the firesticks. Murundindi told us that to make fire, the Aboriginals didn’t just use what most people assume a rock and a piece of wookd. They actually used a certain plant that contained lots of nectar, a soft stick and a hard stick. When the Aboriginals were ready to make a fire, they carved a flat side into the soft stick and made the top of the hard stick pointy to create friction, then fire. Next they took the hard stick in between their hands and started rubbing the point end into the soft stick as fast as they could, creating fire anywhere within 2 minutes.

Another think I found very interesting was William Barrack’s emu hunting idea. William Barrack was a very famous Aboriginal for creating the way of emu hunting. No one could ever get anywhere close to an emu and William Barrack knew that the reason why was because the smell nothing like an emu an the emu could smell them from far away and when the emu turned around to see them, the emu could clearly see there were human. William Barrack figured out that he could hide his scent by smothering himself in mud. He also found that using a boomerang hook to hold up to his head and walking while bobbing the boomerang hook made him look like an emu. Soon this became the average way of hunting emus and William Barrack became famous in his area for it.

Thank you so much Murundindi for coming in and sharing your Aboriginal technology knowledge with us. We really appreciate it. Please come in to teach us some more!

Ruby Jones 5/6A
On Tuesday Murrundindi came in to talk about Aboriginal technology. He talked about how they made fire. There is a plant that has nectar and the bottom stem is soft and there is another tree that has hard wood and if you rub them together they create fire. (Pretty amazing!) My highlight of the day was how the Aboriginals made their boomerangs. They melt the sides and if you are right handed you twist the right side down and the left side up. It was really fascinating listening to Murrundindi talking about technology, because it changed my view about technology. What was really funny is that the Aboriginals were eating a medicine leaf and the English saw them eating the medicine leaf and started eating a leaf which looked very similar but the leaf was poisonous and it killed the Englishmen. After all I was fascinated about the talk and I hope Murrundindi can come again.

Dylan Goldberg 5/6B

BOOMERANGS
On Wednesday the 16th of July, Murrundindi came and talked to us about technology and one of the things that he spoke about was how Aboriginals first made the boomerang. The aboriginals would cut a root from a tree, then cut the root in half, they could then make two boomerangs. They then held it over a fire to make it soften then twist the ends. They used Kangaroo skin, so they would not burn their hands. They would twist the root to make it arch in the correct shape. To do this they must twist their right hand down and their left hand up, this made a right handed boomerang. If they were left handed, they would twist their left hand down and their right hand up and this would make a left handed boomerang. It was important to make it in this manner, as they could not use the wrong shaped boomerang or it would not fly.

This displays that the Aboriginals used technology to make a boomerang. Sometimes they would paint the boomerangs with berries so they would be colourful.

HOW THEY MADE PAINT
The Aboriginals made red, orange, purple, yellow and black paint using a tree called Kangaroo Apple. The tree has little berries that are red, orange and yellow. When the Kangaroo Apple blooms it has little purple flowers that they would pick and use as well. They would add a little bit of water, so it made the consistency of the paint. To make black paint, they used coals and the white clay.

HOW A TREE FORMED A PARASITE
There is a special type of berry called a Mistletoe berry and there is a bird that eats these berries named a Mistletoe Bird. When the Mistletoe eats the seeds of the berry it soon needs to go to the toilet and when it does, the seed gets stuck on the birds side. The bird then rubs its side on a branch, the seed then comes off and begins to eat into the branch and this forms a parasite. After twenty years the parasite forms a ball shape on the end of the branch. The Aboriginals would cut this off and make a club, which they used as a weapon.

Lyarnah Zunic 5/6 B
A device such as an iPad.
School Start Time

To enable teachers to begin their learning time at 9am, we ask that students are in their classroom from 8.50am wherever possible. This allows students to organise themselves and be ready for effective learning at 9am. Without this settling-in period, valuable learning time is taken up and we can’t take advantage of the full teaching block.

You may have noticed that we also minimise disruptions from phone calls and PA announcements during the two learning blocks prior to lunchtime to maximise the effectiveness of this time.

Students that arrive at school after 9am will be marked as ‘late arrivals’ and require a parent to sign them in at the Office and provide the class teacher with the white slip.

**If you need to drop your child at school early, please remember that we offer a fantastic before school care program which costs $12 ($13 from Term 3) including breakfast or $6 without (before deducting any Child Care Benefit).**
This week we were fortunate to have brand new basketball rings and back-boards installed on our basketball court. Students were on the courts playing hard without hesitation – and the skills and teamwork has been amazing!
100 Days of School😊

On Tuesday, the Preps celebrated their 100th day of school in style! We have been counting each day we come to school with different objects like icy-pole sticks, counters and have been crossing off each day on our calendar. Lots of children made 100 day t-shirts at home and we had a party lunch. We made 100 day crowns, 100 glasses and had activities to do based around 100. Some activities included making something using 100 straws, finding 100 words to cut out of a magazine and building something with 100 pieces of Lego. We had a wonderful time! Thanks to the Prep parents for sending along some very creative and yummy things to eat!

Lesley and Marita
Get ready for a BIG day of shopping!!

The Patch School Fundraising Shopping Tour
Saturday 19th October 2013

$20 Deposit needed by 29th August!!

If this year’s Shopping Tour fundraiser is as much fun as last time, you will be in for a terrific day!
We will be visiting a few new outlets & incorporating some toys and childrenswear, enjoying a delicious lunch and still returning before 6pm.
Being closer to Christmas you can get a head start on your Christmas shopping!
Cost will be $50 and pick up/drop off will be The Patch School and opposite City of Knox offices, Wantirna South.
Payments can be made by cash, cheque or credit card and feel free to pay in instalments if that suits your budget better (min credit card payment $15).

The more the merrier so why not bring a friend?
12 friendship skills every child needs

Friendship skills are generally developmental. That is, kids grow into these skills given exposure to different situations and with adult help.

Kids can be picky about who they play and mix with. Popularity should not be confused with sociability. A number of studies in recent decades have shown that appearance, personality type and ability impact on a child’s popularity at school.

Good-looking, easy-going, talented kids usually win peer popularity polls but that doesn’t necessarily guarantee they will have friends.

Those children and young people who develop strong friendships have a definite set of skills that help make them easy to like, easy to relate to and easy to play with.

Here are twelve essential skills that children have identified as being important for making and keeping friends:

1. Ability to share possessions and space
2. Keeping confidences and secrets
3. Offering to help
4. Accepting other’s mistakes
5. Being positive and enthusiastic
6. Starting a conversation
7. Winning and losing well
8. Listening to others
9. Starting and maintaining a conversation
10. Ignoring someone who is annoying you
11. Cooperating with others
12. Giving and receiving compliments

Friendship skills are generally developmental. That is, kids grow into these skills given exposure to different situations and with adult help.

In past generations ‘exposure to different situations’ meant opportunities to play with each other with siblings and with older and younger friends.

They were reminded by parents about how they should act around others. They were also ‘taught’ from a very young age.

Arrested development

The NEW CHILD grows up with fewer siblings, fewer opportunities for unstructured play and less freedom to explore friendships than children of even ten years ago.

A parenting style that promotes a high sense of individual entitlement rather than the notion of fitting in appears to be popular at the moment.

These factors can lead to delayed or arrested development in these essential friendship skills, resulting in very unhappy, self-centred children.

Here are some ideas if you think your child experiences developmental delay in any of these essential skills or just needs some help to acquire them:

1. Encourage or insist that kids play and work with each other: Allowing kids the freedom to be kids is part of the message here but parents have to be running with the NEW CHILD and construct situations where kids have to get on with each other. For some kids “Go outside and play” is a good place to start!!
2. Play with your kids: Interact with your kids through games and other means so you can help kids learn directly from you how to get on with others.
3. Talk about these skills: If you notice your kids need to develop some of these skills then talk about them, point out when they show them and give them some implementation ideas.

Kids are quite ego-centric and need to develop a sense of ‘other’ so they can successfully negotiate the many social situations that they find themselves in.

As parents we often focus on the development of children’s academic skills and can quite easily neglect the development of those vitally important social skills, which contribute so much to children’s happiness and well-being.

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For more ideas, support and advice for all your parenting challenges visit: www.parentingideas.com.au

While you are there subscribe to Happy Kids, Michael’s hugely popular email newsletter.

www.parentingideas.com.au

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Community Notices

Tecoma Dental – Winter Specials 2013 – It all starts with a smile 😊

Maximum out of pocket expense:
$20 Check up for kids under 14
$160 Check up, clean, x-ray & treatment plan
$1000 Porcelain veneer, crown (per tooth)
$450 In chair teeth whitening
$130 Personalised sports mouthguards

Check ups & other services could be FREE based on your health insurance cover.

Call 03 9754 2148  Book online at www.tecomadental.com.au  Visit us at 1586 Burwood Hwy Tecoma
All health insurances accepted. Offers expire September 2013.

Successful Transition to Year 7
The Outer Eastern LLEN has engaged Angie Wilcock author of The Transition Tightrope – supporting students in transition to secondary school to conduct a ‘Successful Transition’ workshop for Year 6 parents and Year 7 teachers. The Workshop will be held on:

Wednesday August 21 at The Karralyka Centre Mines Rd Ringwood from 7pm – 8:30pm
The workshop is FREE of charge however, booking is essential.
Tel: Cherie Messerle 9723 2717 or Email: cmesserle@oellen.org.au
Further details can be found by clicking here and being re-directed to the school website.

For Sale
Theatre tickets for the Magic Pudding presented by the Victorian Opera Saturday 5 October at 6.30pm. I’m selling 3 adult and 2 children tickets. Cost $160.00 will sell them for $120.00. The adult tickets can be used by children. Contact Nerea on 0417 582 036 if you are interested.

FOR HIRE Bounce-A-Rama Jumping Castles
We have five very enjoyable castles! Looney Tunes, Cars, Scooby Doo, World of Disney and a massive Princess Castle!
Hire our castles for Parties, Carnivals, School Fetes, Work Break Ups, Fundraisers or Just for Fun!!
Contact Ian 0419 882 132, Amanda 0431 219 065 or email moks66@bigpond.com

Take Home A Big Brother Or Big Sister
Give your children the wonderful opportunity to have an international big brother or big sister by hosting one of our exceptional international students arriving in Australia in February 2014 for their 3, 5 or 10 month programs. Our international students from France, Germany, Italy, Austria, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, the U.S.A, South America and Japan will live as a local, attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money and comprehensive insurance cover – all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. Visit us at www.scce.com.au, email scceaust@scce.com.au or call us toll free on 1800 500 501, request our international student profiles, and capture the spirit of family and friendship!

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!