Grade 3/4 camp is happening THIS WEEK! Here are some reminders for you:

Date: Wednesday July 22nd – Friday July 24th 2015 (3 days, 2 nights)

Time: ARRIVAL: Wednesday 10am: Students dropped off at Silvan Reservoir Park picnic area (off Stonyford Road, Silvan). We will walk to the campsite from Silvan Dam (even if it's raining)
Luggage (CLEARLY LABELLED) is to be dropped at Mt Evelyn Recreation Camp by parents immediately following the drop off of students at Silvan Dam.
DEPARTURE: Pick up from Mt Evelyn Recreation Camp on Friday 2.00pm

Bring: Morning Tea, water bottle and lunch in small reusable container or paper bag in a small backpack for our walk to camp
Everything from the attached “Camper’s Bring List” (available on the school website)

Transport: Parents to transport to and from camp.

Venue: 70 Tramway Road, Mount Evelyn, Victoria, 3796

Dress: Sensible and warm casual clothing. WARM RAIN PROOF JACKET. Comfortable walking shoes.

Please ensure you have installed the TIQBIZ app on your smartphone or computer as we will be using the app to contact parents in case of any change to our plans. In case of emergency, you will be contacted via their Emergency Contact details that you have provided.

Students will receive a camp information booklet upon their arrival at camp. Information regarding activity groups and shared cabins will be in this book. All children are sharing a room with at least one other child that they selected.

If your child chooses to bring a camera to camp, please ensure it is clearly labelled with their name. Cameras will be collected from students before bed time and returned at breakfast the following morning.

If you have any questions regarding camp, please do not hesitate to contact us at school.
Three Way Conferences

A major part of the new reporting schedule at The Patch P.S. is the running of Three Way Conferences. These conferences are led by the student with support from the teacher, creating an atmosphere of celebration for students and an “ownership” of their learning. It is no longer a conversation between grown-ups, but an opportunity for students to showcase their success and share their learning.

Prior to the conference, students work with their teachers in class to develop their presentation. They learn about public speaking skills and the importance of solid preparation. They reflect on their learning and set goals to help them move forward.

In Years 3 – 6, the student uses a PowerPoint presentation during this conference to present work samples, discuss successes, present future learning goals and reflect on the past Semester. The presentation is developed during Writing and ICT sessions, as it is an authentic use of transactional text and ICT to present their own ideas.

Reflection and goal setting is central to student learning and part of our regular assessment and reporting cycle. The Three Way Conference is a powerful way for students to showcase their learning in a supportive environment and allows parents a deeper insight into their child’s achievement.

The Three Way Conference is a celebration of student learning. Therefore any issues or concerns requiring a conversation between a teacher and parent/carer should be organized for a later time. This is not to diminish any important issue, but to acknowledge the purpose of the Three Way Conference.

A Note About Playtimes:

The weather at this time of the year can be unpredictable and wet day timetables become more common. At our school we are raising resilient young people and we believe that it is important for our students to be prepared for inclement weather and to spend time outside on these days.

Our community understands the benefits of being outside in the warmer weather and we provide our children with appropriate clothing for such weather (hats, t-shirts, shorts and sunscreen). Those same benefits can be obtained in winter, providing we wear suitable warm clothing and have access to rainwear if it is drizzling.

Some advantages to spending time outside at break times include

- staff and students getting some fresh air rather than spending the whole day inside;
- it provides a chance for students to use their bodies (particularly the large muscles) rather than just their minds;
- It improves winter fitness and increases circulation;
- we are healthier and more resilient when we spend more time in a natural environment.

In recognition of this we will be sending students outside on wet weather days during recess and lunch play times, provided it is safe to do so. They will need to have warm clothes and a raincoat and you may consider an extra pair of dry socks in their bags. Children without coats will be able to play in one of the many sheltered areas as they do when they do not have a hat in summer.

In the case of extreme or dangerous winter weather, students will of course be kept safely inside.

Your children are very important to us and we believe that we work best when we all work together. If you have any information, celebrations or concerns that you would like to share with your child’s teacher, please contact us to make an appointment.