Homework Expectations:
- Reading for 20-30 minutes every day. Remember to track your thinking and record your reading in your diary.

What’s Coming Up
- Parent 3-way conferences – Tuesday 4th of August
- Science Week – 15th – 23rd August (Week 6)
- Bush dance – Whole school community – Thursday 17th Sept

What we are learning about at the moment:

**Numeracy:** We continue to investigate fractions in maths as well as multiplication and division. We multiply numbers (factors) together to find an answer (product). We divide a product into equal groups to find factors. We can use this information to help us find fractions of a whole. We use multiplication charts to help us identify factors and products and we can also use concrete materials like counters and blocks to help us work out fractions of a whole. Ask your child to demonstrate how to find the fraction of a whole 😊 Using a multiplication chart is one strategy that helps and will become less necessary as the children learn their times tables. Please remember to help your child to master their times tables. You can download and print out the times table flash cards we have uploaded to the Grade 3/4 section of the school website ([http://www.thepatchps.vic.edu.au/year-level-news/year-3-4/](http://www.thepatchps.vic.edu.au/year-level-news/year-3-4/))

**Literacy:** We are learning about effective note taking and using these notes to write Information Texts. We are helping the children to understand the importance of referencing information and how to choose the most important information to include in our writing. We are integrating History into our Literacy program by focusing on the European settlement of Australia. Children have been investigating Captain Arthur Phillip and the First Fleet.

**READ READ READ!!!** EVERY NIGHT!!! We know that reading more makes us better readers. Reading helps us to learn more about the world, it increases our vocabulary and helps our imagination to grow. Students are asked to record their daily reading in their diaries and returning their diaries to school every day for teachers to check. Is your child reading each night?

All students are focussing on THREE spelling words at a time.

Please feel free to contact your child’s teacher if you have something you would like to discuss.
Grades 3/4 Camp:

Our Grade 3/4 camp was so much fun! We challenged ourselves, displayed bravery, tried new things, slept away from our homes in rooms full of other children and ate fabulous meals together in a dining room. We had a Trivia Night and a Pyjama Party, swung from a giant swing, flew on a flying fox, mapped the camp grounds and found treasure, built huts, learnt about our role as ‘stewards’ of the environment and completed a high ropes course. And we were exhausted when we went home!

We would like to say a huge THANK YOU to Matt Ryan and Keir MacDonald for coming with us and making camp so much fun. It’s an enormous thing to ask a parent to give up days and nights at home with their families and at their work to come along to a school camp and we are so appreciative. We would also like to say a massive THANK YOU to Nicola Ryan, Cheryl Fallon and Hayden Chiswell for helping to make our camp possible and for their massive role in making it so awesome.

Camp Lost Property: Several items of clothing (and one shoe) are still in our lost property pile from camp. Please double check that your child has all of the socks, jumpers and shoes that they took to camp. If you realise that something is missing, please have them collect it from Jess. All lost property will be displayed outside the school library at the end of the day on Friday (1st of August).

Making Waves!

National Science Week 2015 15-23rd August

It’s that time of the year again! Now entering its fourteenth year, National Science Week has well and truly cemented itself as Australia’s largest festival, with last year’s calendar offering over 1000 events throughout Australia, reaching an audience of over a million people.

This year’s theme is ‘making waves: the science of light.’ We will be celebrating science week at The Patch by organising science lessons on light, holding light activities in the library during lunchtime, facilitating a free excursion on engineering and robotics for grade 5&6 students and running a GEOfIX toy model-building competition!

National Science Week 2015 will run from 15-23 August. Event details can be found at www.scienceweek.net.au.

Photos from last year’s Science Week
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.

To book a conference time [click here](#).

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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.
Photos from camp: