What’s Coming Up
- Open Garden at The Patch Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th March
- Taming the Butterflies / Standing Tall (Grade 6) - every Monday Term 1
- School Photos: 20th April
- Earthkeeper’s Camp
  - Camp 1 - (First ½ Grade 5) Wednesday, April 22nd - Friday April 24th
  - Camp 1 - (Second ½ Grade 5) Monday, April 27th - Wednesday, April 29th

Homework Expectations
- Reading for 20-30 minutes every day. Record your reading in your diary.
- Reading Letters: One per fortnight. Each student has a special day to hand this in.
- Taming of the Butterflies (Grade 6 only - instead of reading letters)
- Spelling: individual lists for testing on Thursdays or other task
- Mathletics At least 45 minutes per week. www.mathletics.com.au

Earthkeepers Camp
Earthkeepers Camp details have finally been confirmed! Earthkeepers, while a world wide programme, created by the Institute for Earth Education, has only been introduced to Australia over the past few years. We have been extremely fortunate at The Patch in being involved in the development of the Yarra Ranges Earthkeepers Camp. This year is the first year the camp will be running without major financial backing from the Yarra Ranges Council.

In conjunction with Earthkeepers we have had to negotiate costs, to enable our students to have this incredible experience. Over the past 4 weeks we have managed to reduce the cost per student from nearly $500, to a more manageable $280. Bus access to the venue is not possible (no turning circles), and this has also helped us keep the cost down a little.

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for these students to experience a remarkable and unique programme. Earthkeepers is an earth education program designed specifically for 10-11 year olds (Gr5&6). It develops ecological literacy and identity as a foundation for effective, student-lead environmental action.

The program begins with a residential camp at the Earthkeepers Training Centre, at Mt Toolbewong near Healesville. Over three days and two nights, students embark on a special adventure to learn basic ecological principles and enjoy some rich, first-hand contact with a wild, natural place.

But this is just the beginning. To become a true Earthkeeper, students must return home to practice new habits that reduce their impact on the earth, and share their new knowledge and experiences with family and friends. Only then is their training complete, and each student recognised with a special presentation at school assembly.
What are we learning about at the moment?

MATHS
In maths we are completing a survey in which we find the “average patch student”. We are combining the surveys of around 75 children from the 5/6 building.

WRITING
In writing we have been doing inquiry, a factual project on topics of our choosing. We are currently in week 7 and have been doing it for most of the term. We have also written small narratives using an introduction, a complication and a resolution.

READING
In reading we have been focusing on predictions, deep thinking and changes that occur to the one main character during the book.

TAMING OF THE BUTTERFLIES
In taming of the butterflies the year 6 students are learning how to overcome stage fright and learn to write speeches.

STANDING TALL
During standing tall the year 6 students are learning how stand tall physically and mentally.

SPELLING
In spelling we have been focusing on suffixes, prefixes and base words.

SPORT
In sport we have been doing rotations of high jump, hurdles and throwing sports.

BUDDIES
The grade 6 students have been teaching the preps how to play games fairly.

OPEN GARDEN
At the open garden the 5/6s are doing a stall involving pet rocks, scare crows and cd bird scarers. There will also be a concert.
By Leah Hansby and Jackson Jones 56B

Eastern Metro Primary Region Championships - Swimming
Congratulations to all of the students who competed in the Division Championships in swimming at Croydon Memorial Pool. Sarah McGenniss, Nathan Van Der Hulst, Molly Argoon, Callum Thomas, Riley Hawthorne, Jake Mackay, Ryan Sturt, Alex Morrison, James Morrison and Joel Slattery competed against other schools in the district in order to progress to the Eastern Metropolitan heats. They represented The Patch Primary with a smile on their face and a positive attitude regardless of their results. Well done to them all!

Open Garden Weekend
We are running a FABULOUS Pocket Critters craft stall! We need you ALL there!
See you on the weekend...
What: The Patch Primary School Open Garden Event
When: Saturday March 14 and Sunday March 15; 10am – 4.30pm.
Why: Our major fundraiser for the year and a way to showcase and promote our school
Cost: Adults $8, U18 free
Parking: gold coin donation (CFA)
The Patch Primary School Open Garden Weekend
Notice from Grade 56 Students

We are informing you about the open garden scheme, on the 14-15 of March. The grade 5/6’s are running a craft store and we need your help to donate some materials for the three activities being held. (If possible) the three activities are: creating your own pet rock, scare crows and CD bird scarers.

These are the following materials we hope you can supply us with. (If not possible no worries)

- Smooth Rocks - each no more than 500gms
- Old unwanted CDs an DVDs
- Old fabric
- Lots of Straw-not hay (for allergies)
- Old Newspapers
- String-wool-thread
- Buttons- beads
- Wooden skewers - preferably with the sharp ends removed
- Natural things, leaves, gumnuts, bark-etc.
- Old clothes
- Feathers
- Hessian
- Glitter
- Tin foil
- Other satisfying objects for children’s craft

Thankyou,
Grade 5/6’s

P.S We do not wish for you to buy any of these materials (all found or recycled)
(Molly, Jasmine and Niamh)

Parents Needed to Assist

Dear 5/6 parents,

We are in desperate need of parent help us with our craft store!
Please fill this form in:

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The open garden is on the 14th and the 15th of March. Please return this form by the 6th of March.

From 5/6A, 5/6B and 5/6C (Max Cooper and Luke)