Dates to Remember

March
Tue 24th  Close the Gap Day
Thur 26th  Waste Management Excursion
Fri 27th  Prep - 2 Athletics Day 9.30-12pm
Fri 27th  Last Day of Term 1
(Students dismissed at 2.20pm)

April
Mon 13th  First Day of Term 2
Mon 20th  School Photos
Thur 23rd  ANZAC Commemoration

Animal Lovers
Are you interested in feeding our animals over the holidays for one or two days? A quick lesson by Michelle can be arranged to show you how, when and where. Please contact Michelle as soon as possible.

Parent Contributions 2015
Information regarding Parent Contributions (school fees) for 2015 along with policy documentation was published on our website last year. Click here to be directed to these documents.
Parent Contributions cover the cost of consumable items used by your child and are integral to the running of the school.
Please understand that we are very conscious of family budgets and Deb, Jody or Karen are always available to discuss suitable payment options with you to manage these educational expenses.
We would appreciate payment as soon as possible and thank you for your ongoing support.
From the Principal…

Thought for the week: The key to happiness is having dreams: the key to success is making them come true. - James Allen

The saying goes, “a picture is worth a thousand words” and this is how I would like to reflect on our Open Garden.

Firstly, a thank you to Michelle and her team whose foresight and commitment to our Learning Landscape / Garden has allowed us all to benefit from the tranquility and beauty that has been created.

So many helpers to say thank you to - all of our parents, students and staff members who helped to make this special weekend a great success. To all who pulled the Open Garden together, the following stories and pictures are tribute to you all. Our efforts have been rewarded with approximately $7,500.00!!

In the next few weeks we will be commencing our new report format. At this stage we will be trialing a new format for the mid-year reports. A forum will be held to explain what we are doing in Term 2 for parents. After the reports and interviews we will then be seeking further input from parents. Our school Improvement Team of Jane Capon, Andrew Hanson and Jennie Simpson will be organizing these changes so watch out for notices, surveys, forums and information nights from them.

In the next few weeks you will receive an SMS indicating there are several policies on the website for review and comment. These policies have been reviewed by our School Council Education sub-committee, and we ask for your comments before they are ratified at the June School Council meeting.

Have a great week,

Deb

herrmann.debra.a@edumail.vic.gov.au
Our Open Garden Event Inspires All!

Everyone seems to agree that the weekend of our Open Garden was a testament to our belief as a school and community that time connecting with nature is good for us. Throughout the weekend we could hear the happy sounds of children engaged in simple wholesome fun and adults comparing their years in primary school with those of their children. Our Year 3/4 students demonstrated their leadership skills, confidence and knowledge as they took wetland tours, talented young and older musicians shared their passion and expertise on our two stages, wood-fired pizza and other yummy foods gathered people together to talk and laugh and visitors to the school affirmed our belief that we have a unique learning environment for our children. It was a weekend that reminded us all of the importance of opportunities to slow down, share ideas, celebrate our environment and build relationships.

Here are some of the comments made by students in Year 5/6 following the weekend:

Ada heard people say how amazing it was that kids made the garden. It made her feel proud of the students because she knows how much work has gone into it.

Indigo said her grandparents came and they went on the wetlands tour and said it was amazing that such young kids knew so much and were surprised it wasn’t the adults doing the tours.

Jade said a girl from her dancing class said that the open garden was so amazing it almost made her want to cry. The girl goes to Monbulk Primary School and is 10 years old.

Nathan was off camping for weekend but when he got back to school everyone was talking about how good the open garden was.

Bradley was talking to the Mountain Pop stall holder and he said this school was inspiring.

Max liked how the kids helped out at the stalls unlike other fetes where parents and teachers did most of the work. He had to think and help others as he gave instructions on how to make mini scarecrows.

Isabelle loved how everybody has put at least something in the garden event that is memorable for someone else.

Lily looked at the garden project books in the Eco-Centre and then saw a little girl from another school looking at the animals so went and taught her about the bearded dragons.

Such extraordinary experiences don’t happen by themselves of course and there are many people to thank for giving (as George Harrison would say) “a whole lot of precious time. It took patience and time, to get it right”.

So thank you to the Garden Team and Open Garden Committee first of all for all the hours of planning, sorting, thinking, networking, making, dreaming and facilitating. Without you it wouldn’t have happened at all. What a wonderful group of people to work with and how easy things are when there is so much good will. A special thanks also to our office staff and art club leaders for their organisation and commitment.

Thank you to every staff member – your input was generous, well thought out, sustainable and the results were beautiful.

Thank you to everyone who organised stalls, made things to sell and/or volunteered to work on them. The variety and quality of cakes was astonishing, the music was delightful, the art work inspiring, the lectures and tours were interesting, the plants were healthy, the food delicious, the coffee was hot and there was something for everyone in the raffle.

Thank you to our sponsors – Bendigo Bank and the Kallista-The Patch CFA for their assistance and good will and thank you Trevor Herrmann for your chilled ability to put leads together and turn things on and John Rayner for your lecture series organisation, horticultural know how and unquestioned support.

No wonder people love this school.

Michelle Rayner
Assistant Principal
Do you have any Spare Wool at home?

If so we would love to use it to make Wool Bombing Art around the school grounds, as a part of Grade 5/6 Art Club.

Please drop your wool off in the bucket marked ‘Wool Donations Art Club’ in the school foyer.

Big thanks from Simone and the Wool Bombers!

CONTACTING OSHC

To contact OSHC staff during program hours please call the main school telephone number 9756 7463 and select Option 1 to be directed to the OSHC landline.

If this line is unavailable, please call the mobile 0419 515 494 and, if there is no answer, feel free to leave a message.

Also call this number during school hours and you will be re-directed to the OSHC Voicemail. Staff will get back to you as soon as possible.

Thank you 😊
ANZAC Walk & ANZAC Place

On Wednesday 11th March, Oskar, Felix, Josh & Ryan represented our school at the opening of ANZAC Walk and ANZAC Place in Emerald. Oskar & Felix’s grandfather is President of Emerald RSL and he and other RSL members have worked very hard to create a special memorial to the 32 soldiers from Emerald who died in World War I. There is a walk of remembrance, a place to reflect and an audio trail that tells you about the soldiers who died from the Emerald community. They were honoured to see our Governor General, Sir Peter Cosgrove, and his wife, Lady Cosgrove, officially open this special place. Sir Peter has spent his entire life in Australia’s armed forces and is a friendly and easy going man. He loves to meet people in his travels around the country as the Queen’s representative.

Thank you to Oskar and Felix’s parents, Marita and Damien, who accompanied the boys and took these terrific photos.

If you have the chance, take the time to visit this beautiful memorial located adjacent to the Emerald RSL in Memorial Avenue and think about those who have given their lives for our country – particularly during next month’s ANZAC day centenary.
The TV Cameras zoom in!

Last week, Chocolate Studios and the Australia wide environmental initiative “Kids Teaching Kids” joined hands and came to The Patch School to film a television commercial to promote the upcoming Kids Teaching Kids week. 17 students from years prep to six were involved in the film shoot which began at the early hour of 6.30am and continued through to 1pm. Students were filmed in the vegetable and secret garden, wetlands and Eco-Centre and the production crew were astonished by the beauty of the landscape and opportunities for learning. The commercial should be ready for screening in three weeks on channels 7, 9 and 10 so keep a look out. If it looks like it is The Patch, it probably is. If we receive forewarning about a time we shall send out a Tiqbiz alert to let you know. Hopefully we shall gain access to the finished product so we can share it with our community.

How wonderful that our school garden is being celebrated far and wide!

Here are some images of the day and the students who participated – Indigo, Rohan, Anton, Liam, Yasmin, Sadie, Finn, Sasha, Yoni, Poppy, Sarah, Ryan, Lilian, Lilah, Gus, James and Jasmine.
Supporting Asylum Seekers & Refugees
Food Drive at The Patch School 16th–27th March
(food basket will be in front foyer of school)

This is the first collection of non-perishable items that our KINDRED (Building a kind and compassionate Australia) group is coordinating to donate to the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre. It’s the same group of people that coordinated the last two food drives but with a new name! After the amazing effort of our wonderful school community last year many people were helped with much needed items.

During this food drive we are asking for non-perishable items such as:
- Breakfast cereals
- Rice
- Chickpeas, lentils, kidney beans (tinned or dried)
- Honey
- Sanitary items
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste

Kindred is a group of local people who share the vision of an Australia which is kinder and more compassionate. Our current focus is on Asylum Seekers as we believe all people share a kindred humanity. Contact us to join our Facebook Group or email kindredkindness@gmail.com (Webpage and Facebook page coming soon!)

“BELLS OF PEACE”
The Dandenong Ranges Music Council would like to invite you to join in commemorating the contribution of local communities and families in the lead up to the ANZAC Centenary.
As well, there will be large displays of historical photographs, memorabilia etc. and also of material contributed by schools in each electorate including artwork and poems from some of The Patch’s Grade three and four. The exhibition and displays will open 2 hours before the concert.

Jessica Holden
Daniel Blandthorn, the dad of Patrick 5/6C, Jonah 3/4C and Ollie 2A, is participating in this year Oxfam Trailwalker.

Daniel is participating as part of a team from his work Invetech and they are hoping to raise $2000 towards Oxfam. The money raised will help some of the world’s poorest people. Our fundraising enables Oxfam to continue its work delivering projects that support orphans and people affected by HIV and AIDS in Southern Africa, that educate people in Laos on efficient farming techniques and that improve Indigenous health and wellbeing in regional Australia.

Teams of four enter this event and have 48 hours to walk or run the 100km trail. It’s very likely that his team Bolters Invetech will walk through the night (with little or no sleep) until the end. The event raises vital funds for Oxfam Australia. Oxfam is an independent, secular, non-government organisation working in more than 28 countries and Indigenous Australia.

We ask that you support Daniel and his team in this massive challenge. Please consider how you may be able to get behind us, either by sponsoring us directly or referring us to others. If you would like to sponsor us please follow the link:

https://trailwalker.oxfam.org.au/team/home/19426

Team Bio – Bolters Invetech

Oxfam Trailwalker is Australia’s original 100km team endurance event. It’s an inspiring and challenging event that changes lives.
We’re four colleagues from Invetech, of varying ages, backgrounds, waistlines and levels of fitness. We’re all up for an endurance challenge in aid of a good cause, and in best management speak we’ve decided on a "stretch goal" of twenty-five hours. As Dave says, it shortens the pain and gets us to the beer faster.

Reality has now set in, and it’s just dawning on us what we’ve let ourselves in for.
As charities go, we’re big fans of Oxfam and what they stand for worldwide. We hope you agree, and will sponsor us generously!

Thank you.
The Blandthorn Family

Grades 3-6 Choir

The Grades 3-6 choir will be up and running next term! Open to all students in Grades 3-6, rehearsals will take place on Thursday lunchtimes in the music room. As it is now privately run by music teacher Jess Dunn, there will be a small fee of $20 per term - only $2 per session.

To register or for more information, please contact
Jess: 0408 102 542  jessdunn.arts@gmail.com
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
The Importance of Attendance

Please remember that all students are expected to be in their classroom, ready to begin lessons by 8.50am.
We understand that now and again things don’t go to plan but all families should aim for their children to be at school by this time.
Parents should also remember that late arrivals or early leavers must be signed in or out by their parent or guardian using the VPass system on the iPad at the office. The appropriate orange or yellow tag must also be given to the classroom teacher when collecting your child.
The Department of Education & Training has very specific expectations about school attendance and we ask that all parents be mindful of the importance of prompt and regular attendance at school.
Thank you.

ANZAC MEMORABILIA

April 25th 2015 is the 100 year commemoration of date the ANZAC soldiers landed on the Gallipoli Peninsula in Turkey in 1915. Over the first two weeks of term two, all grades throughout the school will be doing a number of activities (appropriate to their age and understanding) around the centenary and the idea of gratitude and peace. It will end with a short ceremony in the week before ANZAC day.
If you have any memorabilia at home that you can share with the students, your child’s teacher would love to hear from you.

Prep – Grade 2 Athletics Day

Friday 27th March 9.30am – 12pm (weather permitting)
All students will be participating in various modified events including shot put, long jump, javelin throw, hurdles and 40m run.
For this day to run smoothly we need as many parent helpers as possible! There is no need for any prior athletic experience so please join us for a fun day of sports.
A meeting of all parent helpers will held in the staff room on Wednesday 25th March at 3.30pm. If you can’t make the meeting, just let De or your child’s teacher know and we will happily let you know what is required.
This will be a great day and your child will enjoy it even more if you are able to be there!
Notes have gone home today (Friday 20th March) to provide full details.
CAKE STALL

Thank you so much to our wonderful parent (and grandparent) community for your delicious contributions to our Cake Stall on the weekend. Getting enough cakes to sell over a two day period was a huge task but it was wonderful (ok, and a bit overwhelming at times) to see so many cakes flooding in at the Open Garden on Saturday morning. For those of you that couldn’t make it, we had two full trestle tables of goodies out to sell, plus another two that I was writing in the book so we could get them out to sell. So many people were delighted to see the cake stall there and took full advantage. I want make a special mention to Austin’s (Grade 1) mum, Lauren. She made 100 cake pops (yes, 100) and then individually wrapped each one for sale which is a huge effort, generating $200 in sales. Thank you also Jo, Jess, Tamara, Wendy and Carol for your help getting information out to parents and processing Friday’s deliveries. Thank you to Marcia, Nerea, Jo, Lauren and Tania for helping me get through the chaos of Saturday morning. Sorry if I forgot anyone, it was a bit of a blur. And thanks so much to Matt and Jed for your help setting up the stall. Even though the cake stall was a bit of a last minute addition to the Open Garden it was a pleasure to organise thanks to the fantastic response from our parent community. Thanks so much everyone and I look forward to being involved in the next Cake Stall.

Kim Bright
(Mum of Griffin, Indiana & Logan)
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

HOFFY’S COMMUNITY BURPEE CHALLENGE – MARNOCK / SURRIDGE FAMILY FUNDRAISER
Friday 27th march @ the Cameo Cinema Belgrave.
The SpongeBob Move – “Sponge Out Of Water”
Adults $30 Children $25
Purchase tickets at www.trybooking.com/HEBX
Proudly sponsored by Casey Characters

PARENT WORKSHOPS: BRIDGING HEALTH & EDUCATION by Catalyst Kinect
Catalyst Kinect bridges the gap between health and education to bring optimal outcomes in learning, behavior, motivation, performance and wellbeing.
The parent workshops are presented by Luella Cochrane – Holistic Kinesiologist, National Course Writer & Presenter and mother of two.
Workshops include:
- Neurological Basis of Learning & Behaviour $20
- Emotional Freedom Technique $20
- Multisensory Learning Strategies $20
- Introduction to Nutrition, Gut & Psychology $20
- Primitive Reflexes for Learning & Behaviour $20
- Setting Kids Up for Success – Summary & Resources $20
and will run during term 2 with three timeslots:
- 6 x Monday 6pm-8pm – April 20th, 27th, May 4th, 11th 18th, 25th
- 6 x Wednesday 9.30am-11.30am - April 22nd, 27th, May 6th, 13th, 20th 27th
- 2 x Saturdays 9am-5pm – May 30th & June 6th
Note that it is recommended that you attend all workshops in the series.
Bookings essential. Call Luella 0447 876 060, luella@catalystkinect.net or visit www.catalystkinect.net

2015 BELGRAVE CARNIVAL
Good Friday 3rd April 10am – 3pm Rides, Food, Entertainment & Easter Egg Hunt
All profits donated to the Royal Children’s Hospital God Friday Appeal.
www.belgravecarnival.org

CARDIO TENNIS
Cardio tennis for adults starting at The Patch Tennis Court! FUN, FITNESS, MUSIC, & TENNIS.
Tuesdays 9:30-10:30am, or 6:30-7:30pm. First session is FREE! If you play, or haven’t played in ages….it doesn’t matter! ALL WELCOME!
Contact Renae for more details, or just turn up. 0403 498 085

The Department of Education and Training & The Patch Primary School does not endorse the products or services of any private advertiser.
No responsibility is accepted by the Department of Education and Training & The Patch Primary School for accuracy of information contained in advertisement or claims made by them.
**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 is currently only a small number of places available for new pupils.

**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

The Department of Education and Training & The Patch Primary School does not endorse the products or services of any private advertiser.
No responsibility is accepted by the Department of Education and Training & The Patch Primary School for accuracy of information contained in advertisement or claims made by them.