**Homework Expectations:**

- **Mathletics** several times a week. [www.mathletics.com.au](http://www.mathletics.com.au)
- **Reading** for 20-30 minutes every day. Remember to track your thinking and record your reading in your diary.

**What’s Coming Up**

- **Science Week** – 15<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> August (Week 6)
- **Literacy Week** – 31<sup>st</sup> August – 4<sup>th</sup> September
- **Footy Colours Day** – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September
- **Bush dance** – Whole school community – Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> Sept
- **Curriculum Day** – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September
- **End of term 3** – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September

**What we are learning about at the moment:**

**Numeracy:** We are working on understanding the concept of fractions – which is proving quite tricky. Fractions are an equal part of a whole. In other words, a whole object, or collection of objects, is broken into equal parts. Each equal part if called a fraction. We are working on counting by fractions as well as adding and subtracting fractions. We are also investigating equivalent fractions. Understanding equivalent fractions helps us to count by fractions. For example: \( \frac{1}{4}, \frac{2}{4}, \frac{3}{4}, \frac{4}{4} = \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{4}, 1 \)

We are also investigating 2-Dimensional and 3-Dimensional shapes and their properties.

**Literacy:** We have begun a school based project about explorers who helped to shape the history of Australia. Children have selected an explorer and over the next few weeks children will conduct their research into their chosen explorer. They will then write an information text based on their chosen explorer as well as plan a short presentation for the grade. Children have been provided with a run-down of what is expected of them over the next several weeks as well as rubrics for how the information text and presentation will be assessed. These rubrics are on display in our classrooms.

**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.
Congratulations to all of our amazing students for preparing and conducting such outstanding 3-Way Conferences. It was a pleasure for your teachers to be involved in this process and watch you proudly (and sometimes nervously!) present your work and your learnings to us and to your parents. What a privilege to see you shine in such a brilliant way. Thank you to all the parents who came to participate in these conferences. We hope that you also enjoyed them and have an awareness of what your child is doing at school, how well they are achieving and the goals they have set for themselves for the coming semester.

Please remember to fill in the survey on Survey Monkey to provide us with feedback regarding these 3-Way Conferences. [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/D3SBJF2](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/D3SBJF2)

Has your child been coming home from school covered in mud? Kids are kids and they will get muddy at playtime when playing on the oval. We don’t want to stop them from doing this because children need to get out and play during playtimes. We don’t mind that they are getting dirty and we’re sure you don’t mind either. What does concern us is that sometimes children are coming inside wet as well as muddy and they have no spare clothes in their school bags to change into. This means that this child will now have to sit through the rest of the day in uncomfortably wet clothing. This is going to make learning a difficult experience. PLEASE make sure your child has spare clothes (especially socks!!!) in his or her school bag for such occasions. A warm, waterproof jacket is also essential at this time of the year to keep your child warm, dry and healthy at this time of the year.

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 playtimes, 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.
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 incursion 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

Attendance and Absence Notices:

Please remember to send an Absence note to school with your child when they return to school after every absence. All absences must be explained to the school via these notices as the school must report all information regarding attendance to the Department of Education. Unexplained absences may be reported to the Department and families can and will be fined for these. So please make sure you have informed your child’s teacher in writing of any absences.

Thank you!
Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child’s education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

Why it’s important

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in the later years of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

Getting in early

Attendance patterns are established early – a child regularly missing days in kindergarten or in the early years of school will often continue to miss classes in the later years, and receive lower test scores than their classmates. It’s vital that students go to school every day – even in the early years of primary school.

What we can do

The main reasons for absence are:

Sickness – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they’re ill. It’s vital that they’re only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.

It’s vital that holidays are planned during school holidays where possible, and not during the term if it can be avoided.

“Day off” – Think twice before letting your child have a “day off” as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts.

Truancy – This is when students choose not to go to school without their parent’s permission. There can be many reasons for truancy. The best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.

If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don’t fall behind:

- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible.

Openly communicating with your child’s school about all absences is a good way to prevent attendance issues being escalated to a School Attendance Officer. A School Attendance Officer is a Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Regional Director who has authority to follow up attendance issues. Attendance issues that are escalated can lead to an Infringement Notice.

If you’re having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit: www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/behaviour/Pages/studentattendance.aspx