



PATCHWORK NEWS

RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY, INTEGRITY

Friday 21st November - Term 4, Issue 2 2025



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DATES TO REMEMBER

NOVEMBER

Wed 26 th	Prep & Yr 6 Puffing Billy Excursion
Fri 28 th	2026 Prep Transition Session 3 (9.15am-10.45am)
Fri 28 th	Second Hand Uniform Sale (8.45am-9.15am)
Fri 28 th	Casual Dress Day
Sun 30 th	Jess Dunn's Music Concert (Independent Music Students)

DECEMBER

Thurs 4 th	PatchFest26 Meeting (3.30pm-4.30pm)
Tues 9 th	Step Up Day (9.30am-10.30am)
Thurs 11 th	Patchmas End of Year Concert
Fri 12 th	Free Lemonade Icy Pole for every student
Sat 13 th	Carols on the Mountain (Jnr & Snr Choir)
Mon 15 th	PatchFest26 Meeting
Tues 16 th	End of Year Prep Celebration (2.30pm-3.30pm)
Wed 17 th	Yr 6 Graduation at Sky High
Thurs 18 th	Yr 5/6 Knox Leisureworks Excursion
Thurs 18 th	Final Assembly (12.30pm-1.30pm)
Thurs 18th	LAST DAY OF TERM 4 - Early Finish (1.30pm)
Fri 19 th	CURRICULUM DAY

JANUARY

Tues 27 th	STATEWIDE CURRICULUM DAY
Wed 28 th	CURRICULUM DAY
Thurs 29th	FIRST DAY OF TERM 1
Thurs 29 th	Prep students finish at 11am
Fri 30 th	Prep students finish at 11am

BELL TIMES

8:55am First Bell
9:00am Learning Begins
11-11:45am First Break
11:45-12pm Lunch eating time
2-2:30pm Second Break
3:20pm Prep & Yr1/2 Dismissal
3.30pm Yr 3-6 Dismissal

ASSEMBLY

9.00am Friday mornings

Have a safe
and happy
break!





MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Principal's email: james.burnside@education.vic.gov.au

Assistant Principal's email: alesha.sangster@education.vic.gov.au

Hi Patchies,

I've noticed a trend that every time I write my newsletter blurb the weather forecast looks promising with some warmth for the next few days. If this continues, I may be convinced to begin weekly newsletters...

The last two weeks have been busy with swimming lessons for our Preps to Year 4s. Our students have been amazing by getting through a tiring schedule of learning then swimming then back to learning each day. Meanwhile, our Year 5/6s have been focused on their Taming of the Butterflies speeches and roles. We can't wait to see how they perform next week!

As this is our last whole-school newsletter for the year, I want to acknowledge some brilliant staff that will be leaving The Patch at the end of the year:

- **Yale** – Yale has earnt a leadership position at another school for 2026! She will be absolutely wonderful in her new role leading curriculum improvement, after displaying her teaching and learning expertise over the last two decades at The Patch. She will be greatly missed for her passion for learning and impact on the many students she has taught here.
- **Deb** – Deb and her partner are heading to rural Victoria! Our Prep rooms will not be the same without her warmth and care for our new students. Deb has been a jack of all trades for us, and we won't truly know the impact of her departure until she is gone! We hope the move will be a positive one for all her family.
- **Irene** – Irene is heading north with her family! We are jealous of the sunshine she will get to enjoy very soon. Irene has been teaching at The Patch the past two years and has made a wonderful impact in our Year 3/4s. We will miss her innovation in maths lessons and newspaper lunch clubs!

- **Lukas** – as many of you might know, Lukas has expertise in music and productions, and he has spent some of these past months exploring that venture. We know he is going to achieve great things. Lukas will be missed for his outgoing personality and enthusiasm for organising staff vs student sports games!
- **Jennie** – we were so lucky to have Jennie come out of a short-lived retirement to take on Performing Arts and Year 1s this year! Jennie has an infectious smile and warmth, which our school has been lucky to have experienced for so many years (she has taught a few of our parents!). Jennie will try another go at retirement, but we hope to convince her to join us for the odd special day next year.

While these amazing staff will move on to new adventures, they will always be part of our Patch community. And we'll get the opportunity to celebrate them at Patchmas next month.

Speaking of Patchmas, we are only 2 and a half weeks away from it! Students are practising merry songs and our awesome fundraising team is organising the snags to fill you up before the performances begin on Thursday 11th December. We can't wait to see our students perform and celebrate their 2025 year.

Keep a look out for the many end of year school dates on the following pages. Between special events and transition dates, it will fly-by quickly!

Have a great weekend,

Jim





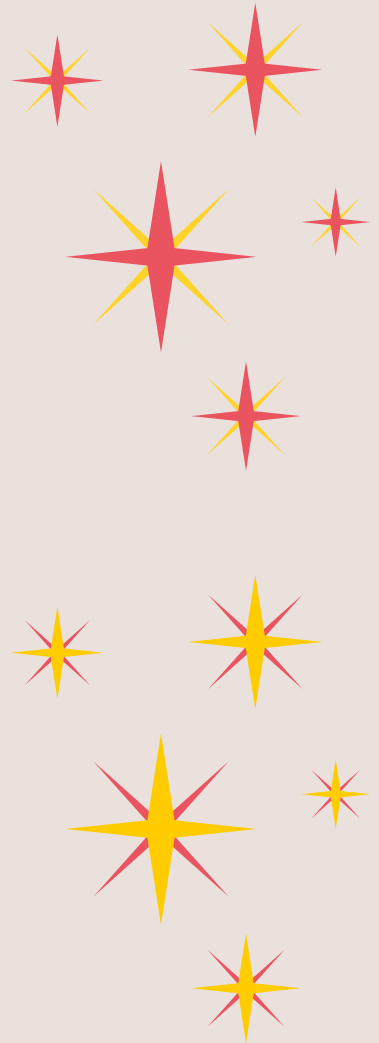
PATCHMAS 2025

Thursday 11th December
On the Oval
5 PM - 7 PM
Concert will start at 5.30 PM

SAUSAGE SIZZLE

Pre- order your sausage in bread
via Qkr!
(Qkr! opens 24/11 & closes 5/12)

Sausage sizzle orders will be
available for collection between
5.00pm - 5.30pm



PATCHMAS END OF YEAR CONCERT

Our wonderful Patchies will be performing on the school oval. Bring a picnic rug/camp chair and enjoy the show! Dont forget to order a sausage to have prior to the concert!

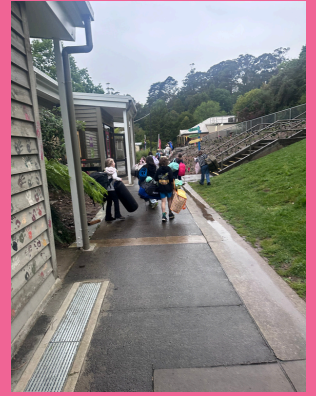
SANTA AT THE PATCH STORE

Santa will be visiting The Patch Store from 1.30pm - 4.30pm on Thursday 11th December! Come on down to meet Santa before Patchmas begins.





GRADE 2 SLEEPOVER



On Friday the 7th of November the Grade 2 children took part in a 1-night sleepover camp experience at School. The aim of the program was to introduce children to the camp environment and a range of activities in the hope that it will excite them about future school camps and give them an idea of what to expect in future years.

The Grade 2 children enjoyed a delicious sausage sizzle for dinner and then set up their beds for the evening in the hall, where they relaxed and watched a movie. Every child put in an amazing effort at the sleepover and we are so proud of them all!



2026 Parent Payment Arrangements

The 2026 Parent Payment Arrangements letter was sent out on Compass on Friday 21/11/2025.

This is just for your information at this stage as Qkr! will not open for payments until January 2026. Please note that the letter and full information can also be found on our school website.

Qkr! will remain open for the entirety of 2026, so if you wish to contribute and are unable to do so early in the year you are able to do payments or part-payments throughout the year.

As previously mentioned, any contribution is valued!

Thanks

Carols on the Mountain

FERNY CREEK RESERVE
SATURDAY 13TH DECEMBER

Junior & Senior Choirs

Meet Leanne and Jess at 6.45pm
in front of the stage



SECOND HAND UNIFORM



FRIDAY 28TH NOVEMBER 2025

8.45AM - 9.15AM

In the breezeway near the library entrance



**\$2
PER ITEM**

**PAYMENT VIA
QKR!**

**Thanks to our parent volunteers for running the sale!
All funds raised go directly to the school.**

2025 VIP SALE

**SATURDAY
22ND NOV TO
SATURDAY
29TH NOV**

Beleza Boronia

4/216 Dorset Rd, Boronia VIC 3155

Trading Hours

Mon to Fri : 10:00am - 5:00pm

Sat: 10:00am - 1:00pm

20% OFF*
IN-STORE ONLY*



*CONDITIONS APPLY

Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer, voucher, or discount.
Discount available on full priced Beleza branded items only



Term 4 Free Icy Pole

After a year of fundraising,
we will be offering a FREE
Lemonade Icy Pole to every
student on Friday 12th
December.

If you DO NOT want
your child to receive a
free Lemonade Icy Pole
please fill out this quick
[opt out form](#) for us.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC LESSONS

Our school has an excellent extracurricular music program with 5 instrumental music teachers offering lessons on various instruments. All instrumental teachers are contractors, set their own fees and timetables. Music lessons can fill up quickly, so waiting lists are a possibility for some lessons. If you are interested in music lessons for your child/ren it is best to contact the teacher individually.

Jess Dunn

Junior Choir, small group ukulele lessons, small group voice lessons, solo lessons (voice or ukulele)

Email: jessdunn.arts@gmail.com

Mob: 0408 102 542

Hiro Mukai

Violin

Email: hiro1656@hotmail.com

Mob: 0423 765 312

Mieke Florisson

Senior (Yr3-Yr6) Piano

Email: miekeflorisson@bigpond.com

Mob: 0407 647 511

Eddie Cole

Guitar

Email: music@eddiecole.com

Mob: 0417 152 947

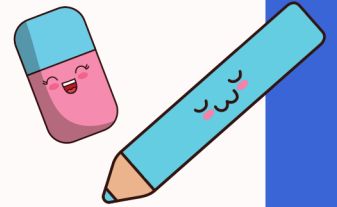
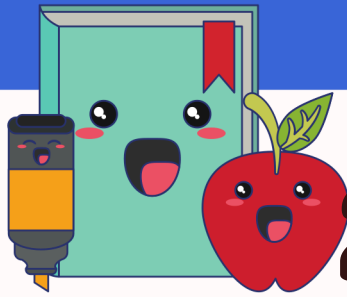
Madeleine Rowe

Junior (Prep - Yr2) Piano

Email: musicalmother@hotmail.com

Mob: 0408 539 523





2025 Term 4 Curriculum News

Supporting Our Teachers, Supporting Our Students!

Hi Everyone,

It is hard to believe that 2025 is already drawing to a close. As we look back on the year, it has been wonderful to see the continued growth in teaching and learning across our school.

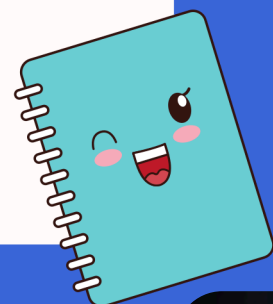
Our teachers have continued to strengthen their practice using the Victorian Teaching and Learning Model (VTLM 2.0). With a clear focus on explicit teaching, we are ensuring students know exactly what they are learning, see each step modelled, and have plenty of guided practice before working independently. This consistency is helping create calm, supportive classrooms where every child can feel confident and successful.

We are also proud of the strong progress in our whole-school approach to literacy. InitialLit is now firmly embedded across Prep–Year 2, giving our youngest learners solid foundations in reading, spelling, and writing. In Years 3–4, Spellex has become an important part of the program, helping students develop structured spelling knowledge and increasing their accuracy and confidence as writers. Together, these programs—supported by explicit teaching—are creating a clear and cohesive literacy pathway for all students.

We deeply value the role families play in supporting children's learning. You don't need to be an expert—simple, everyday moments like talking about a book, noticing numbers in the environment, or playing games together can make a big difference. This newsletter includes practical, easy ideas to help you support your child at home in ways that build confidence, curiosity, and a love of learning.

Thank you for the wonderful contribution you make to your child's learning journey.

Warmly,
Kellie





Learning at home



Supporting learning at home is most effective when families feel confident, prepared, and connected. As we work together to help every child thrive, we want to share some simple, practical strategies that can make a significant difference to your child's wellbeing and progress. Creating a calm, structured environment, fostering positive communication, and building strong learning habits at home all contribute to a more successful and enjoyable learning experience for students. Below are some helpful tips you may wish to use to support your child's learning routine.

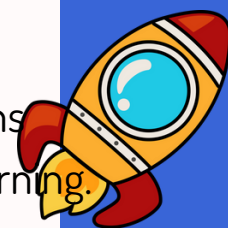
Be a role model

Model the learning behaviours you value by asking questions, exploring new ideas, and sharing your own learning experiences. Children benefit from seeing curiosity and persistence in action.



Set expectations

Help your child set achievable goals and plan their day. Clear expectations encourage independence and create a sense of ownership over their learning.



Encourage reading

Make reading part of your daily routine. Shared reading, listening to audiobooks, or discussing stories all help build comprehension, vocabulary, and enjoyment. Encourage your child to explore a variety of texts: fiction, non-fiction, magazines, or even instructions for a favourite activity. Visiting the local library, taking turns reading aloud, or asking your child to retell parts of the story can also deepen understanding and build confidence. The most important thing is that reading feels enjoyable and achievable.



Create a supportive environment



Designate a learning space:

Set up a calm, consistent study area that your child can associate with learning. This space should be quiet, well-lit, and free from distractions like TV or devices not needed for schoolwork. Keeping essential materials—such as pencils, notebooks, a charger, and reading books within easy reach helps children stay organised and focused.



Establish a routine:

Predictable routines provide children with comfort and clarity. Keeping regular times for meals, study, play, and bedtime helps students develop healthy habits and manage their day with confidence. A consistent routine also supports emotional wellbeing by reducing uncertainty.

Make it a positive experience

Encouragement and praise can make a significant difference.

Celebrate effort and progress, and include hands-on activities such as games, puzzles, or creative tasks to make learning enjoyable.

Balance learning and breaks:

Children learn best when their day includes short bursts of focused work followed by purposeful movement breaks. Structured pauses for stretching, outdoor play, or a quick snack help improve attention and energy levels.

Here are some easy options you can use throughout the day:

Quick resets

- Gentle stretches for the arms, legs, back, and neck
- A short set of star jumps
- Wall push-ups or toe touches to get the body moving

Fun activities

- “Animal moves” such as crab walking, bear crawling, or frog jumping
- A quick dance to a favourite song
- Balance challenges like standing on one foot

Calming breaks

- Slow, deep breathing
- Simple yoga poses such as tree pose or child’s pose
- Slow, mindful movements

Outdoor options

- A short walk or lap around the yard
- Skipping, ball play, or a quick run
- A mini scavenger hunt (find a leaf, a rock, or something that makes a sound)

Quiet or seated movement

- Gentle twists while sitting
- Finger stretches or simple hand patterns
- Seated marching on a chair





Foster communication & engagement



Talk with your child:

Regular check-ins help you understand what your child is learning and how they are coping. Invite them to share what they found interesting, what they found challenging, and where they may need help. These conversations also support emotional wellbeing and help children feel heard and valued. You might ask open-ended questions such as “What was the best part of your day?” or “Is there something you’d like help with tomorrow?” Keeping these chats calm and unhurried encourages children to speak openly and strengthens their confidence in seeking support when they need it.



Encourage questions

Promote curiosity by inviting your child to ask questions and think aloud. This builds confidence, deepens understanding, and strengthens problem-solving skills. You might model this by wondering out loud yourself—for example, “I wonder why that happened?” or “How could we figure this out together?” When children see that questions are welcomed and valued, they become more willing to take risks, think critically, and explore new ideas. This habit supports learning across all areas, both at school and at home.

Communicate with teachers:

Stay connected with your child’s teacher to keep informed about expectations, progress, and upcoming tasks. Open communication ensures that home and school are working together to support your child consistently. Reaching out early—whether to clarify an instruction, share a concern, or celebrate a success—helps teachers better understand your child’s needs and strengthens the partnership supporting their learning. Regular communication also means any challenges can be addressed quickly, ensuring your child feels supported both at home and at school.



Friends of Mater Association (FOMA) presents:

MATER TWILIGHT Christmas Market

Wednesday 26 November 2025
4.30pm - 8.00pm

**Christmas
Gifts
Food trucks
and stalls
Live music**



Come on down to The Patch Tennis Club and join in the fun! 5ETS has a range of programs to suit the family, from hot shots pathway to private lessons.

5ETS Program

- Red Ball 5-8yr old program – Tues afternoons & Sat morning
- Orange ball 8-10yr old program – Sat morning
- Semi/Private tennis coaching – via appointment

ANZ Tennis Hot Shots Pathway

AGE 3-5 LAUNCH PAD STAGE
 Fundamental and Fun through Motor Skills (FMS)
 Equipment: Tennis ball, Tennis racket, Tennis court
 Activities: Tennis ball, Tennis racket, Tennis court

AGE 5-8 RED STAGE
 Equipment: Tennis ball, Tennis racket, Tennis court
 Activities: Tennis ball, Tennis racket, Tennis court

AGE 8-10 ORANGE STAGE
 Equipment: Tennis ball, Tennis racket, Tennis court
 Activities: Tennis ball, Tennis racket, Tennis court

AGE 9+ GREEN STAGE
 Equipment: Tennis ball, Tennis racket, Tennis court
 Activities: Tennis ball, Tennis racket, Tennis court

For further information on the programs above or private coaching please contact
Jessica Lainis on 0421 805 696 or email 5etcoaching@gmail.com

**FREE
EVENT**



INVITE YOU TO

MERRY MONBULK

Christmas
STREET PARTY

**FRIDAY 5th DECEMBER
5PM-8PM**

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY

**SCAN FOR
DETAILS**



Bendigo Bank

Community Bank
Monbulk & District



We're coming to town

Give life. Give blood in Upwey.

24 to 29 November



We're popping up at Upwey:

Upwey Community Hall

1443 Burwood Hwy,
Upwey 3158

See website for opening hours

Book your donation now



13 14 95



give blood