

School Council Newsletter

DECEMBER 2023

For our last school council newsletter we will keep it short and sweet. Instead we have put together a 2023 Council Recap!

It's important to me to give credit to the members of the school council and all the work they do that might not get the attention that other work does. Its also important to respect that some council members like to get on with the job and stay under the radar, so I wont mention too many names!

To wrap up the year Jim suggested that we hold our final meeting over a meal, and so in between moving and seconding reports and tabling ideas for 2024, we enjoyed each other's company, had quite a few laughs and shed a few tears (mainly me, ok, just me!) when saying goodbye to some councillors.

To top off the night and prove to us that we really do have the most amazing school community, a Patch family happened to see us holding our meeting and left a donation towards our bill. To this family, I say, you have no idea how much that meant to the group. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

To our entire Patch community, thank you for an amazing year. It's been a momentous one for a million reasons and as always Patchies walked through it together.

Have an amazing Christmas, New Year and Holidays and we will see you in 2024!

Ange



Our council members from left to right:
Ange, Nadine, Pete, Karen, Tania,
Marie, Tex, Michelle & Jim
Absent: Alesha, Jo, Emma,
Kath & Mikhaela

2023 Council Recap.

Our Teachers, Staff and all of you in our community gave us such a memorable year.

We said goodbye to our long serving Principal Deb and welcomed Jim and his family into our community.

For the first time in 7 years we had a school production, and what a production it was!

Our amazing school athletics carnival brought so many of us together to cheer on the kids. It has been an action packed, full of emotion year to remember.

It was no different for your school council.

Whilst we only meet once a month as a council, it's the boots on the ground work in between that gets the job done, and council members volunteer hours of their time in various capacities around the school.

I personally have not had the words to thank these people enough for everything they have done in 2023.

This year your councillors worked on the following (just to name a few):

Continuing the work with the architects and Landscapers for the upcoming build. Councillors have spent hours poring over plans, designs, discussing impacts on community etc.

Selection of new Principal. This process included establishing the Panel that would represent the school. The panel then went on to hold many meetings leading up to and after the interview process. An extraordinary meeting was then held to establish councils' approval on the recommendation and how we move forward. This process was months in the making.

Thanks to council members our National Student Wellbeing Program will continue for the foreseeable future. This program allows us to keep Anne in her vital role as our well-being support officer. The application process for this program is long and time consuming. Our words need to be chosen carefully and the areas of support needed, carefully reviewed.

Fundraising fell into a lovely rhythm thanks to council members who established a dedicated parent team around them and ensured events such as the easter raffle, The production t-shirt and food was managed without a hitch, as well as many other events. They have already started to pull the team together for Patch fest '24! The extra meetings and the almost constant sourcing of supplies and ideas are just a few examples of the work they do.

Members who work on the financial side of council, must attend another meeting once a month on top of the regular council meeting, to delve into the finer points of the school's budget and ensure that everything is where it needs to be. It is a vitally important role on council.

Members have been working with SRC and Admin to design Posters, Newsletters and administration of the Families Facebook page and much more.

Council advocate for the school. Communication and subsequently relationships are established and fostered with local MP's and Government to ensure our school is in the best position should an opportunity present itself for the betterment of the school.

Council listens to the community as shown recently when a council member and their family took it upon themselves to mow the oval and tidy it up. They gave up a full Sunday to make sure our community could once again safely enjoy the oval.

At the end of the day your school council are a dedicated group of people who all have the one common goal of ensuring The Patch remains the great school we know it to be. Thank you for your support of council and all the work you as a community have done and assisted with to allow us to get on with the job!

Thank you!

T H A N K Y O U

Goodbyes & maybe a few hellos?

We say goodbye to two very special council members at the end of 2023.

Nadine Goodall is the person who has changed the face of the newsletters, sat with the SRC and magically brought all their ideas to life on advertising their events. She has changed the way we communicate on the Families Facebook page and spent hours on the administration of it.

She has been a dedicated member for the last two years as well as taking on the role of Vice President. Thank you for everything you have done and quietly achieved (including giving our upcoming community night the name PATCHMAS!).

Emma Taylor leaves council but her work will remain for many years to come. Her utter dedication to the wellbeing of our school is evident everywhere. "Fill their Basket", "Prep Parent Morning Tea", "National Wellbeing Support Program"....all Em, and that's just to name a few!

Emma also served as Vice President and as I said in my Presidents report both Em and Nadine deserve all the respect I can possibly offer as they had to listen to me! I like to talk things over.....A LOT!

Thank you both for everything you have done for our school. It is appreciated beyond words.

For anyone interested in coming onboard to council in 2024, please reach out and lets chat.

Its such a rewarding, challenging, vital, enjoyable, interesting way to be part of the school community.

Email: ange.ellis@education.vic.gov.au

J O I N U S



Social Media @The Patch



We understand that not everyone has a social media account or even wants one! And those that do, know just how good a social media detox can be for the soul every now and then. However, it does prove to be a fast way to get information out to our community when needed, or if you need to find something fast.

Obviously the first point of information is Compass. Please make sure your email is up to date with Kim in the office.

The school has a Facebook page run by the staff
The Patch Primary School | Facebook

We also have a family's page. Please be aware that this is run by parent volunteers. There is no staff involvement. It is a good place to ask for playdates, check in the files section to find lost newsletters or information, find out about free dress day or for any other community information sharing

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/familiesofthepatchps>

Families of The Patch Primary School Group | Facebook

There is a page for the Nest that is currently under construction as it has been inactive over lockdown to some degree. We will share the link for that once it is up and running again.



Our school council members 2023

President: Ange Ellis

Treasurer: Marie Schoenmaker

Secretary: Mikhaela Bourke

Parent Council Members

Emma Taylor

Nadine Goodall

Kathryn James

Tex Moon

Peter D'Abico

Staff Members

Karen Robinson

Tania Blandthorn

Michelle Rayner

Deb Herrmann

Alesha Sangster

Community Member

Jo Rouse

Who to contact

If you have anything you would like to discuss or have raised by someone on council, please do not hesitate to reach out to Ange or any of our members. In the meantime, please check the link below to see if your concern or issue is something school council can help with. A gentle reminder that our parents volunteer their time, and may not always be available.

<https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/school-council-powers-and-functions/policy>