



Patchwork News

Respect, Responsibility, Integrity

Friday 15th May 2020 Term 2 Issue 2

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Dates we can look forward to

Coming up...

- **Monday 25th May is a pupil free day.** No students on site, however OSHClub will be running.
- **School photos have been rescheduled for Thursday 30th July.**
- **Stomp the Beat sessions have been rescheduled to the first five Wednesday's of Term 4, this applies to all year levels.**

VIRTUAL TOUR NOW AVAILABLE

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL...

Thought for the week: 'Acknowledging the good that you already have in your life is the foundation for all abundance' – Eckhart Tolle

Education week is next week and we would normally be open for tours, visiting classes and taking enrolments for 2021, so how do we showcase our wonderful school whilst we are still remote learning? A virtual tour of the outside grounds and inside the school! I would like to acknowledge and give a heartfelt thankyou to Amber and Mark (Kiah and Lotus's parents) for their generosity in taking professional photographs of our school grounds. These are now on our website as an outdoor tour and provide a beautiful reflection of the outdoor areas of our school and the beautiful artwork created by through our art program.

Our indoor video has been photographed by teachers Kent and Karen, who have also created fabulous images for the inside tour. Kent has compiled both virtual tours and deserves a huge thankyou as well. Virtual Tour: <http://www.thepatchps.vic.edu.au/about-us/virtual-tour/>

A reminder for Preps intending to enrol for 2021; enrolments are due by August 7th 2020, please see our website for further information: <http://www.thepatchps.vic.edu.au/year-level-news/new-prep-enrolment-inform/>

We look forward to developing our photographs further when we are able to resume a normal routine. Don't forget to like our Facebook page, Vivien has made a wonderful video for our year 6's. <https://www.facebook.com/thepatchps/videos/2054180618059724/>

You will notice a few changes as we transition back to school, whilst we have been remote learning. Ken has been busy with the gardens which are looking beautiful at this time of year, whilst Al has been completing general maintenance around the school, decks painted, gutters cleaned, leaves removed. Lisa has also painted the music box and we have relocated and created a new office area for Michelle in the main building, which now brings all of the Admin team together.

The new shed provided by Yarra Valley Water, in front of the year 3/4 building has been completed, with newly painted floor and racks inside. Power is soon to be connected with outdoor lights for our night activities. Yarra Valley Water has almost completed their onsite work with the final preparations being the surrounding fence and the change of electrical meter at the top of the block. We will then look at planting around this area after all works have been finalised, more to come on this later.

Again, thankyou everyone for working to keep our school safe and enjoy next week as we celebrate our efforts with wellbeing activities. Thank you to Alesha for compiling these activities, I have enjoyed the meditations already created by Judy. Enjoy your weekend.

Debra
Principal
herrmann.debra.a@edumail.vic.gov.au



Have you wondered what our staff have thought about the Flexible and Remote Learning?

Here are some comments from our staff during our fortnightly WebEx catch up:

Pauleen Gould (3/4 Teacher): I just wanted to focus on the point that these children are learning despite us. Their experiences at home and their work connected to Google Classroom is showing that they do keep on learning, they are resilient and they are gaining so much from this time. I also wanted to thank leadership and the staff for the privilege of being part of this supportive and connected team. It has been such an intense journey for everyone in different ways. To work with people and parents who are so accepting and honouring and encouraging has been one of the joys of this difficult time. So great to talk to kids via WebEx this week one on one. I feel like I'm actually connecting with them and doing a little bit of teaching again. Listening to their writing and really enjoying seeing the improvement and the enthusiasm from so many of our beautiful kids. I really miss being with the children and with my colleagues. When we do get to be back at school I will really enjoy these things. I won't even complain about the alarm clock going off so early.....well for a little while at least. I do enjoy the later starts I must admit 😊😊😊.

Vivien (5/6 Teacher): As a teacher I have been struggling to take my foot off the accelerator while we are learning in a remote format. Although we have always had our students' well-being as our top priority, we have also had their learning and academic progress as another high priority. Within the classroom it's in our nature to be able to push our students to challenge themselves academically and face new concepts. It feels really unnatural to not be encouraging our students to be completing some of the tasks that we know will enhance their learning and knowledge. I have noticed some of my students and families expressing to me that they are struggling because they aren't completing the school work that we have assigned for them online, but it has become really obvious to us as a staff that there are so many other rich learning opportunities that they have had at home during this time. There are things our students are being taught at home that we would never have the opportunity to teach them while they are at school. And I wanted to figure out a way that as their teacher I can be pushing them to achieve great things and for them to acknowledge the amazing things they are learning at home.

This week during my one-on-one catch ups with my students we set a goal for them to achieve in the next week. Most of them had nothing to do with our school tasks and all of them were brilliant. Some of their goals included cooking meals for their families, taking their dog for daily walks, building lego structures and helping out around the home. It feels really great having a goal that I can help my kids to achieve and it feels even better to be able to point out to each of them how much they have been achieving and learning about at home (even when it has nothing to do with the tasks on google classroom).

Leanne Barton (music teacher): I absolutely love seeing the videos and photos that students are sending to me. They really make my day! I have had one from Joe in prep who learnt a song from his Greek Grandmother that she remembers singing as a child. Joe sent a video of himself singing the song in Greek, a photo of all the words that he wrote out beautifully and a recording of his Yia Yia singing. That was very special. Jill in grade 3/4B wrote a wonderful song called 'All at Home'. She sent me a gorgeous video of herself singing the song and playing ukulele. I've started teaching a cup percussion piece to the 5/6s and posted a video of it. I have loved seeing some videos coming in of students learning to play it. Amelia and Veronique sent me their bloopers (which gave me a laugh) as well as a very polished performance which showed me how hard they had been practicing.

Alesha Sangster (Prep Teacher): It has been lovely to have one to one time with each Prep on WebEx where they can chat, show me their special things, stand on their heads, sing me songs, show me a close up of their face, disappear, read to me and test their M100W. It brings out the happy tears, that's for sure! It also lets me in to see that everyone is juggling other kids and life while they are helping their Prep during their online meeting. I can relate, having juggled my own kids learning with working too, it is not easy. The WebEx meetings bring about another connection and understanding between all of us. Not my natural space but one I have learnt to adapt to and find positives in 😊.

Deb Allan (Integration Aide): My wish is that we will all be together as a family again and to hug those who want to be hugged. I would award a star to those little people that we teach. Their world has been turned upside down and they just keep trooping along, with a smile....now that's resilience!!!! A credit to the teachers who educate and the parents who are teachers 😊.

Tania Blandthorn (Prep/1 Teacher): This has been a challenging time for all of us. New technology I have had to learn, thinking outside the box with planning and of course the isolation of working from home. However this being said I can see so many positives out of this situation.

Firstly, the connection with families and parents has been amazing. I have loved the support, communication and questioning I have received from families. This is an area I always thought I had a strength in but this time has reinforced with me just how integral this is to a student's learning and success and is an area which I will put a very big emphasis on with the return to regular schooling.

Secondly, I feel it has given many parents me included as a parent with 3 boys learning from home, a real insight into how their children learn best and how tired they become when learning new things. This is something that will have a positive affect I think on these students learning across all year levels and their approach to school for the rest of their lives, which is amazing really. I think it has made them realise that school is more than the classroom (I know my boys have learnt this.)

Thirdly, it has allowed me to slow down on many aspects of my life. I have had to learn to clock off at a certain time and have made myself not go back and do more work as I would normally do after hours of sporting training, meetings and picking my own children up from different places. So for me it has given me the break I needed to balance out my life more. Which I believe in turn has made me a better mum and teacher in many respects.

Lastly, it has made me appreciate that I love teaching and that I have missed the interaction with the students, parents and my co-workers in the classroom. The look on a child's face when they make a new piece of learning or are proud of an achievement is something that can never be replaced by a photo of submitted work.

Yale Merceica (Japanese Teacher): It's been a better week at home for us this week, I feel we're getting into the swing of remote learning. After the message from Deb and Michelle last week, I've really taken on the message to be kind on myself and not stress of not everything is done. It's been surprisingly easy to do this, I'm the kind of person who likes to 'tick all of the boxes' but I've changed perspective to tick the boxes for my family, rather than the boxes in google classroom.

I'm so glad my kids are at The Patch. The way we are doing this is so much better than other schools I hear about. The messages we are sending out to our students and families promote community and wellbeing above all else. Kudos to us.

I'm enjoying playing Jan Ken Pon (paper, scissors, rock) for circle time. I took the lead from Leanne (who is teaching a song) to try to make circle interactive and fun, it's making my circle much more fun and entertaining.

I worked out how to download and save a youtube video, it's one of those things that should be easy but I never knew how, so I did some research, downloaded a program (well, 2, the first one didn't work) and then I did it! Go me.

Karen Robinson (Year 1/2 Teacher): This past couple of weeks I have enjoyed seeing the children more at ease and ready to share with one another during our online meetings. Despite being apart there is a sense during all the banter that we are together and connected.

It has also been heart-warming to see the children support one another too. If someone in the group has been reluctant to share or unable to think of something to say, other students have enthusiastically stepped in to offer their ideas and support, just as they would in our classroom at school.

Our discussions are becoming more meaningful, interesting and engaging. Each week we now have a question for the children to ponder before bringing their thoughts/response to our Circle Time. This week the children had to think about what superpower they would choose to wake up with tomorrow. It was obvious that many children had enjoyed conversations with their parents beforehand and were excited to share their thoughts with their classmates as well as listen to everybody else's ideas.

Haley (3/4 Teacher): I am enjoying my 1:1 guided reading sessions with (name withheld) and am really seeing great progress in his reading. His mum has been working really hard with him and I have commended both her and him on all their hard work.

Josie Zwiers (Librarian and MiniLit Program): I have really enjoyed coming to school. Partly because it's great to see what's happening here at school. What the teachers, aides and leadership have done to make the prep rooms such a lovely environment to work in. It's calm, the kids are great, just working away. When I hear them on the deck for their breaks, they're all chatting and laughing, it's really so lovely. So engaged with each other and the staff. What a delight and privilege it is to be amongst such dedicated humans.

On a selfish note, the social interaction is great. Life in lockdown can get pretty lonely at times, so a quick chat, a joke and a walk to the shop for a coffee is very welcome.

I miss you all and though I am loving getting my library in order and doing many overdue repairs, it will be awesome when life gets back to normal. Take care everyone.

Kelly McDonald (Year 5/6 Teacher): My highlights have been:

- individual conferences with the students and their families and being able to reassure them they are doing a brilliant job.
- my students nailing their times tables. Everyone in my class is enjoying the challenge and having success.
- Wacky Wednesday circle time where we come dressed in a particular theme, PJ day, tie day, hat day and next week is bring your pet day. The kids love this.

Celebrating the little extras the kids are doing such as making 'how to' videos, PE videos and making beautiful art work for mother's day.

Jennie Simpson (Yr 1/2 Teacher): My positive is that I've had time to make videos – something I love doing – and haven't done for many years. They're not that good, and not edited that well, but it's been an opportunity to start doing them again. It's inspired me to get the latest software happening again on my home laptop.

I've also introduced puppets back into my teaching, something I love using as they're fun, non-threatening, and a great voice for teaching. I intend to continue with these back in the classroom.

My other positive is making time for one on one work with individual students that really need it. I haven't been able to do it for everyone, some of my students are thriving in this new environment, with email, WebEx class and Google Class support. But it's been good to have time for individual students that really need it.

OUR NEW SHED

We are proud to share some images of our new shed situated in the lower area of the gravel carpark. This building will be precious storage for our outdoor equipment, festival items, sports equipment etc. and will reduce the load on other storage areas in the school. The double roll-a-doors at each end will allow for easy access and additional light; we are thrilled.



Gang Green are on-line!

Here are some ideas from our members at our recent WebEx meeting:

- Veronique has been busy gardening with her dad. She is helping to plant vegetables such as snap peas, carrots, cauliflowers and potatoes in her garden and is interested in creating some suggestions for how others can do this. V will try and make a short video of advice or write a simple journal of instructions or suggestions.
- Dom has a number of succulents in pots that have died and he thinks he could do more cuttings of succulents to replace them. This could be an easy activity for those who have succulents growing in their garden already as a small cutting can produce new roots when planted in potting mix and a new plant can be created.
- Edmond has been planting carrot seeds into large pots that have plenty of room to grow and potting mix that is loose and easy for the edible root to grow in. He is also growing herbs and onions and may produce some tips for students to do the same.
- Milla is doing her remote learning at school as her parents are both working away from home so she is keen to share with the rest of the school what the school garden is looking like. Milla will visit the garden and take photos to upload and do some gardening of her own there on Tuesdays with Ken the gardener.
- Lucas has also been putting in vegetables in his home garden and may have some tips to share.
- Gage has been thinking about some art activities that have a garden or tree theme and will explore some ideas that could be shared with the rest of the school. These could inspire an entry in the "home is where the art is" art competition.
- Ryan and Edmond are scouts and had a virtual meeting recently where they learnt how to tie a range of knots. They shall share some of their favourites with the school.
- Brigitte has been watching some gardening activity in her back yard recently and may share some tips on preparing the garden for planting.

Enjoy and get gardening!

What the Student Representative Council (SRC) think about Flexible and Remote Learning

Highlights

Abi: loves the online meetings best – circle time is well organised and no-one can talk over anyone else as they are muted.

Jack: loves being able to have a later start to the day, getting up at 7.30am instead of 6.30. Being able to do schoolwork in bed.

Jill: everyone is home all of the time and they are learning lots of new computer skills.

Wilbur: it is more relaxing learning from home and easier to get work done.

Henry: technical issues

Elsie: More fun using the computer for learning and less stressful. The time restraints are gone and you can go outside for a break whenever you need to. Can do some work for as long or short as you want.

Lucas: loves not having to do the drive to school (windy roads make him carsick). More relaxing at home, less work. He is more focused using headphones with music and can get more done.

Beau: Get to see the family more and organise your day the way that works best for you.

Robbie: Not having to get up so early and to have time with your pets during the day (likes to work with pets around).

Kitty: Spending more time with the family and having help on hand when you need it.

Tanysha: technical problems.

Challenges of remote learning

Abi: get heaps of work sent in all at once; prefer them to be uploaded one by one.

Beau: misses friends and prep buddy. Difficult to finish work.

Jack: finding the activities is hard.

Elsie: feels she is not getting enough done and that is stressing her out. Gets tired.

Kitty: “nerve-wracked” about trying to do as much work as possible. Misses the little things like shopping with mum.

Jill: hard to remember what work needs to be done (have to go back into work to finish things off).

Lucas: missing friends and sport is the biggest challenge.

Robbie: finds it difficult to find the motivation to do the learning tasks. Seduced by the glimmer of more interesting online offerings.

Fellow SRC members provided some useful advice for him: talk to a friend and ask for help and recommendations for the work to focus on;

provide some rewards for yourself to gain when you have done some of the work you set yourself; keep things you don't want to do for better time and stick to it; identify when you are most motivated and use those times to do the work.

Wilbur: misses friends and school life the most.

What I would love to keep from remote learning

Elsie: facetimeing on weekends with friends and teachers

Jill: sleeping in

Kitty: being able to wear PJ's to school

Beau: having a 9.15 circle time and Wacky Wednesday (wear something wacky to school).

Lucas: have headphones on sometimes to listen to music while you work.

Robbie and Jack didn't have anything to add at this stage.

ZARTART COMPETITION SUBMISSIONS



Ben created a beautiful art work of his house and chickens using acrylic and natural materials from around the garden (feathers, twigs, tree bark and hay).

Sekoya's beautiful weaving.



Maya repainted her doll, added new hair and also made her clothes.

3/4 STEM SAILBOAT TASK



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- Online well being strategies
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WHEN: Tuesday 7 July 2020

WHERE: Online

TIME: 1830-1930

COST: Free

Register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7225483949603172880>
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Queries: 0457 825 076

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Parents & Carers Autism Online Workshops

Are you supporting a person with autism spectrum disorder?

This series of FREE online workshops are a partnership between [EACH Family Relationship Support for Carers Service](#) and Kate French, Clinical Psychologist at [Side by Side Psychology](#). These workshops will cover the subject: Understanding Challenging Behaviour in Autism, with a different topic covered in each session.

Join us from 1-hour sessions at home via Zoom link: <https://bit.ly/2STnJEd>

Session 1: May 18, 2020, 7pm.

Understanding Challenging Behaviour in Autism-looking at behaviour change and parenting interventions.

Meeting ID - 82787577083 Password: 530441

Session 2: May 25, 2020, 2pm.

Looking at emotions, mental health and change and emotion-based parenting interventions.

Meeting ID - 88327198968 Password: 530441

Session 3: Jun 1, 2020, 7pm.

Emotion Regulation and Sensory systems.

Meeting ID - 82112781430 Password: 530441

Session 4: Jun 8, 2020, 11am.

Bringing it all together during COVID-19.

Meeting ID - 86577954274 Password: 530441

1300 003 224 each.com.au



Play to Learn * Learn to Play

Connecting and Learning through Play in the Early Years
For Parents, Grandparents and Carers of Children aged 0-6 years

Do you want to:

- Understand how young children's play supports their learning?
- Nurture your child's early development?
- Discover a variety of low cost activities to engage your child at home?
- Connect and have fun with your child during these challenging times?

When:

Friday the 29th of May 2020

Time:

1.00pm - 2.30pm

Where:

Online via Zoom

Cost:

Free of charge. Bookings essential.

Bookings:

<https://www.trybooking.com/BJPIL>

Join Eastern ParentZone and Early Years professionals for this 1.5 hour webinar via Zoom.



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When? Tuesday 26 May 2020
6.30 p.m. - 8.30 p.m.

Where? online

Register? <https://cfccardiniaenergysimplifiedmay2020.eventbrite.com.au>

or scan QR code

Queries? 0457 825 076



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Community Notices

Piano & Guitar with Chris Walker

Tuition in piano, guitar and bass guitar during school hours and after.
Phone 0407 049 012 or email chrisw7@ymail.com

Violin & Viola Lessons

Private violin/viola lesson available for all grades from prep.
Please contact Hiro (0423 765 312 or hiro1656@hotmail.com)

Private Ukulele Lessons

The Patch School students now have the opportunity to take private ukulele lessons. The Patch School parent, Jess Dunn, has had 6 years' experience teaching ukulele to kids and adults and loves teaching at The Patch. For more information, please call or email.
0408 102 542 jessdunn.arts@gmail.com

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