

Patchwork News

Respect, Responsibility, Integrity

Friday 18th October 2013Term 4 Issue 1Telephone: 9756 7463Fax: 9752 0211 OSHC: 9756 7463 / 0419 515 494Email: the.patch.ps@edumail.vic.gov.auWebsite: www.thepatchps.vic.edu.au

Dates to Remember

November

Mon 18 th	Community Sub-Committee Mtg 6pm
Mon 18 th	School Council Meeting 7.15pm
Thur 21 st	FREE DRESS supporting State Schools
	Relief – Gold Coin Donation
Wed 27 th	Prep Bear Hunt Excursion

December

Mon 2 nd	Prep 2014 Parent Information Night
	7pm – 8pm
Thur 5 th	Prep & Buddy Excursion
Tue 10 th	Year 7 Orientation Day
Thur 12 th	Carols Evening
Mon 16 th	Community Sub-Committee Mtg 6pm
Mon 16 th	School Council Meeting 7.15pm
Thur 19 th	Gr 6 Graduation
Fri 20th	Last Day of Term 4

SHOWCASE DVDs NOW AVAILABLE!

If you haven't received an order form you can access one from our school website. Just <u>click here</u>!

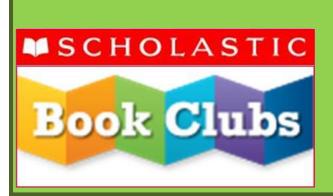
FREE DRESS DAY NEXT WEEK!

It is a Free Dress Day next <u>Thursday 21st November.</u>

Children can wear free dress **if they bring a gold coin donation** and it is a very good cause indeed as we are sending the proceeds of this day to *The State Schools' Relief*. This organisation connected to the Education Department provides clothing such as windcheaters, tracksuit pants, shorts, socks, undies, shoes etc. for children whose families might be in great need at some time in their school life. The State Schools' Relief does a wonderful job and works with any school who approaches them about children in genuine need of basic clothing for school so that no child is deprived of basic clothing and no child feels different to others in this respect.

We have utilised the services of State Schools' Relief a couple of times in the past and have been very grateful for their assistance. This is a chance for children to give to other children who are in great need of basic clothing items for school.

Please remember to send your child with a gold coin if they are to wear free dress next Thursday.



Book Club Orders Due No later than 3pm Monday 18th November

Remember NO CASH

Please place orders in Scholastic letter box at school Office.

From the Principal...

Thought for the week: Have you got your fire plan ready!

Next week is Fire Action Week. We have been reviewing our Fire Plan for school and the Preps even had a visit from Bob and Leo who are volunteer firefighters with Kallista -The Patch CFA Brigade. Our students were very excited when the fire truck arrived!

Fire safety is always on our minds, particularly at this time of the year and Term One. As a school we will commence our regular re-location practices in case of an emergency, gathering in the Hall or at the oval depending on the identified risk. We have had a strong Emergency Management Plan and process in place for many years now.

Over the next few weeks we ask that you focus on your own family's fire plan and clearly define the trigger point you will use to enact it. Please see the information provided in this newsletter about the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development's procedure for Code Red Days.

Showcase – thank you for the many letters from parents who have expressed their appreciation for the wonderful talent of our students and commitment of our teachers. To help you remember your child's performance, a notice was sent home providing you with the opportunity to purchase a DVD of this successful event. I would like to thank Paul Towner once again for his time which will allow the DVDs to be purchased as a fundraiser for the school.

A final call:

As the year draws to a close we reflect back on the year and look forward to a smooth transition into 2014.

I am currently looking at enrolment and funding projections for next year and staff will start preparing class groups for 2014 in preparation for Step Up day on Tuesday 10th December. This involves looking at children's needs and making the best possible educational plans for all children in the school.

We realise some children may have had certain teachers for multiple years. When placing children in home groups we will be mindful of addressing this along with consideration of who your child learns best with, their ability, behaviour and social needs.

Any parents who have specific information regarding the placement of their child should have passed on any information in writing or had discussions with the class teacher – as always we are seeking to make the best possible educational plans for all children in our school. I have extended this date to **Friday 23rd November.**

If your child is due to commence school in 2014 but you have not yet enrolled him/her, please call in at the office to complete an enrolment form. Forms are also available from our website.

If you know of friends who have children due to commence school in 2014, encourage them to visit our school (tours can be arranged by contacting the office) and remind them that **enrolments need to be** *finalised now to enable planning for next year.*

If you have any questions or would like to arrange a school visit please contact us on 9756 7463

Have a great weekend,

Deb

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

This fantastic piece of writing belongs to ex-Patch School student, Bernadette Hansby, who is now in Year 7 at Monbulk College.

Bernie's story was chosen from many submissions to be included in "Write Across the Universe", a collection of creative writing from Monbulk College students.

"Write Across the Universe" is available for purchase at the office at Monbulk College for \$12.

LIVING THE DREAM

Home is where you feel safe and like you belong. I guess I could call this home, as I have been here for at least 27 months now. Keck Hospital of USC, Los Angeles. But it is not the home I hoped for. I had been diagnosed with leukemia since the age of 10 and I am turning thirteen this year.

"Hey Darling, I got you some lunch" Mum said coming in with a tray of food. But not the food you excited about. I have to have foods that contain healthy vitamins.

"Thanks mum" I said.

"Is there anything else I can get for you?" mum questioned.

"Well, you know mum how when I was a little girl I used to always talk about going into space? Will I ever be able to do that?" I knew the answer to this. But maybe if I told mum how I felt she would at least keep my hopes up.

"Why?" mum asked. "Well I am just so eager to see what is outside the earth. Space contains so many things that earth doesn't. I want to explore it and touch the moon!" Mum had tears falling down her face. She knew that was never going to happen. She knew she was going to lose her daughter. Then Nurse Tammy came in. "How are you feeling?" she asked.

"Alright" I replied. Tammy tested my blood and my temperature. She also changed my bed sheets and gave me my medicines. Then she looked at my mum. Mum was still in tears. Tammy grabbed her by the hand and took her outside. I could just hear them out of the crack in the door.

"I am so sorry, Jean. We have done everything we could. She is losing more blood every day. Her temperature is going to reach a level where it won't go down. All we can do now is hope for the best." Mum collapsed in Tammy's arms. I sat there thinking about what I had just heard. But I guess it wasn't a surprise. After watching hours of TV, They came in.

"It is time you got some sleep darling" Mum said. "Ok" I said tiredly. "I will see you in the morning." Then I drifted off to sleep.

I woke up. But I wasn't in the hospital room. I was in an odd object that had very large windows. That's when I saw the stars. I was in a rocket ship and I was floating in space! I was living my dream! How did I even get here? I hadn't been out of my hospital bed in ages. It felt good to be on zero gravity. You can just spread your arms and legs and drift off! I made my may towards the window. It was amazing. I could see planet earth, Jupiter and even the Milky Way! I couldn't take my eyes off it. Then I looked where we were heading. The moon. I was beside myself. Despite having leukemia, I was the happiest I had ever been in my life! The small rocket landed softly on the moon's surface. I got out and knelt down to touch it. The dust slipped through my fingers. It was cold, but smooth. I looked around me. I was free. Free from the hospital beds. Free from my disease. I wanted to come here every day. At that moment I stopped breathing. But my life ended in the most wonderful place I could ever have hoped for. I lived my dream.

By Bernadette Hansby, Monbulk College

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Have you seen our new 'Parent Resources' page on the school website yet??

We are providing a variety of information, parenting workshops that are currently on offer and links to other great websites. We are trying to include a wide range of topics and viewpoints that not only inform but provide 'food for thought' and we hope will start some valuable parenting conversations. We have only just begun, but welcome any feedback and suggestions ⁽²⁾

Your Bushfire Survival Plan & Code Red Days

Living and working in an environment as beautiful as the Dandenong Ranges requires us to take responsibility for our safety on days of significant fire danger.

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) has a policy in place stating that Government schools listed on the <u>Bushfire At Risk Register</u> must close on days of Code Red fire danger. Families will be advised *up to 3 days and no later than 12pm on the day before* if their school will be closing for this reason. Once declared, schools that have advised their community of closure will not change this advice regardless of improvements in the forecast weather.

Pease click on the hyperlinks to the DEECD for full details on <u>Code Red Days</u> and <u>Code Red Day FAQs</u>. Our Emergency Management Plan is developed to keep everyone as safe as possible in the event of an emergency and one of the greatest threats we plan for is bushfire.

We have included our plan for Total Fire Ban days in this newsletter, so please read it and become familiar with the process we have in place. Preparing, understanding and practising a plan can alleviate some of the anxiety often felt during the summer months.

Also note that *on days of Total Fire Ban, students cannot walk home* from school unaccompanied by an adult without written permission from their parents or guardians.

For our families, the most important thing the school can do is encourage you to develop, practise and review your bushfire survival plan.

If your bushfire survival plan involves leaving the area the night before or early in the morning when there is a High, Very High, Severe, Extreme or Code Red fire danger rating forecast, *please do so*.

The only way your safety from bushfire can be guaranteed is if you are not here. For lots of information and advice on planning & preparing for bushfire, visit the <u>Country Fire Authority</u> website.

Lost Property Alert!

Lost property is located in a large clear box near the sick bay, opposite Marita's Prep room. The amount of clothing, lunch boxes, shoes etc. that end up in there is astounding.

We need your help! Please make sure all items taken to school are clearly labelled. If you have lost something check the lost property box ASAP.

The Uniform Shop volunteers also manage the lost property and will go through the box once a month, attempting to return named property.

On the last Monday of every month the lost property box will be emptied and all things other than school uniform items will be donated to charity. School uniform items will be available to purchase as second hand items from the Uniform Shop for a small price.

For the remainder of this year, Monday November 25th and Monday December 16th are the dates items will be donated to charity.

Thanks for your cooperation, *Claudia Dykstra*, Uniform Shop volunteer

****Uniform Shop****

Remember that the Uniform Shop is now open

every Monday from 8.45am to 9.15am.

If you are unable to attend the Uniform Shop during opening time, you can always leave your completed order form and payment at the Office any school day except Friday. Thank you ©

From our Assistant Principal...

Update on the Boys

Just to keep everyone informed regarding the welfare of Jay and Kane, the two boys staying with the Sangster family at the moment. The boys have been re-united with a family member who would like them to live with him/her. At this stage they are visiting this relative over the week-ends to become re-acquainted again. Alesha and James report that the boys are coping well with most things, although there are naturally some setbacks along the way (which is to be expected). We are hoping that Jay and Kane can finish the year at The Patch in our beautiful, supportive community with their friends before moving on and we will know more early in early December when their situation will be looked at again by the authorities concerned. In the meantime we will all continue to nurture the boys and support Alesha and James in the practical ways that have been set up. Thank you all for what you are doing to make this happen so easily.

Lynne Pearce Assistant Principal

Traffic Safety During Pick-Up Time

This week a parent was observed pulling out of the line of traffic waiting to turn left into the school, driving along the footpath and turning into the gravel car park.

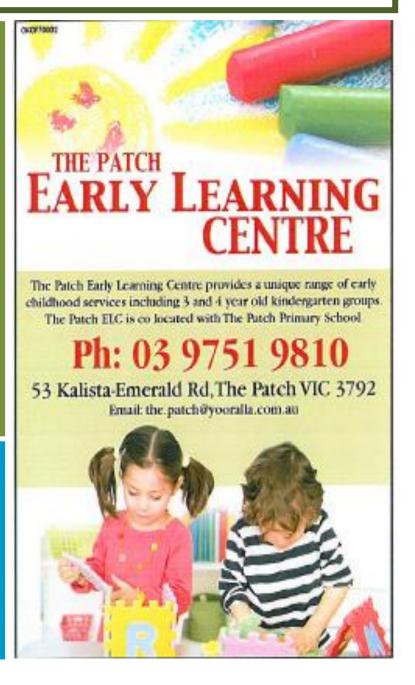
Drivers are **not permitted** to drive on the footpath at any time and it is quite clear the danger this behavior places pedestrians in.

We have been advised that both Victoria Police and Yarra Ranges Council by-laws officers will continue to patrol this area intermittently.

Our sincere thanks to the majority of drivers who graciously manage the pick-up procedure each day showing patience and courtesy. We truly appreciate your assistance in keeping our students and their families safe.

Yarra Ranges Council Parking on The Patch Rd

There are further changes being made to the parking restriction along The Patch Rd near our school. For full details, please <u>click here</u> to view document on website.



Great News About Communicating to our Families!

Tiqbiz is a great way to communicate with you via electronic devices including your smart phone, tablet or PC. You need to simply download the app as detailed below, sign on to our school and the categories that are of interest to you and get ready to receive lots of school information quickly and effectively! If you sign up to tiqbiz, you are welcome to unsubscribe from our regular newsletter alerts, as the newsletter will be sent direct to your electronic device ©

We're now using an app to send our messages, newsletters and notices.

The tiqbiz app will help our school keep parents fully informed and up-to-date with newsletters, notices, news and events.

It's easy to use and also has the benefit of helping reduce our paper consumption by printing less.

The first step is to download tigbiz to your phone, tablet, computer... or all of them.

Search for: tigbiz



iPhone and iPad

Important: Click 'allow' notifications when asked. This is to allow your school to send you important alert notices.



Android smartphone and tablet.



Windows & Mac computers.

Once installed, follow the steps on the next page to tick on our school.

Find and tick our school

1. Log-in Open tiqbiz and register/log-in.

2. Find our school

Click the 'Find' icon and type our school name into the search bar. You will now see all of our school boxes.

3. Tick on

Click on the grey tick beside our school box and any other boxes that apply to you. When the tick turns green, you're connected.



4. Inbox

Click on the Inbox icon. This is where you will receive our information

Technical Support 9am-5pm Mon-Fri (AEST)

 Victoria
 (03) 9800 1489

 New South Wales
 (02) 8091 6826

 Queensland
 (07) 5641 4565

 South Australia
 (08) 8121 5651

 Western Australia
 (08) 9467 5780

 Email
 team@tiqbiz.com



www.tiqbiz.com

Your School... Your Community

The **Community Sub-Committee** of the School Council has been meeting and discussing a range of issues affecting the school and the community – it has been a valuable part of the community connectedness of the School Council.

The main purpose of the Community Sub-Committee is to be a forum for discussing ideas and suggestions from parents and be a voice for community building in the school.

Our aim is to continue to build stronger links across teachers, students, parents the Early Learning Centre and the broader community.

Some of the projects that the Community Sub-Committee have been working on in consultation with teachers and school staff include:

- Communications identifying ways the school communicates working on providing some consistency to the way that grade newsletters are issued, came from these discussions. Work across the website, messages from the school and new initiatives on signage comes from these discussions. We've initiated the feedback mechanisms to hear from parents.
- Caring for the Community looking at ways we can provide assistance to school community members that need support has also been part of discussions in the Sub-Committee.
- Building Links we have been discussing ways to build links across the school and across the community, including with business.
- Promoting The Patch School we are now actively discussing a range of ways to promote The Patch School and The Early Learning Centre.
- Other projects are on-going and include building stronger links and cross-promotional opportunities for the school and the Early Learning Centre, developing a marketing plan to ensure we can take every opportunity to promote the school and looking at how the school is branded. We are also developing plans around a community forum (to be held next year) and a whole of school parent survey to be issued before the end of this year.

To continue to consult and hear from parents, we encourage you to consider the following ways that you can engage...

1. Provide un-solicited feedback or suggestions

You can provide your feedback by either email or note form...

- ✓ By email: <u>community@thepatchps.vic.edu.au</u>
- \checkmark In a note and pop it in the Feedback Box in foyer at school

2. Ensure you complete the parent survey when it is issued (before the end of the year)

3. Attend the next Community Sub-Committee meeting and bring your ideas of what you think we could be doing. Next meeting (anyone interested is welcome to attend) is:

6pm, Monday 18th November at The Patch School

A key part of our work is to listen and hear from you – so let us know what you think!

Thank you and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Matt Clear (Father of Maya, Niamh and Dash) 0403 229 094 clear.matthew@gmail.com

















Weed Blitz

Free Environmental Weed Tipping Day

Skips will be available at Monbulk Recreation Reserve, Monbulk Kallista Community House, Kallista Kalorama Memorial Reserve, Kalorama Saturday 16th November 2013

9am - 3pm

- 🜲 Agapanthus
- 🖊 Arum Lily
- 🖊 Asparagus Fern
- 🔸 Banana Passionfruit
- Cotoneaster
- English Holly
- 💺 English Ivy
- 🗼 Japanese Honeysuckle
- 🔸 Karamu
- Mirror bush
- Montbretia
- Red Cestrum
- 🖶 Sweet Pittosporum
- 💺 Wandering Trad
- Wild Tobacco Tree

We Cannot accept Noxious Weeds due to legal limitations on transportation www.dpi.vic.gov.au

Event sponsored by the Urban Fringe Weed Management Initiative and council's Weed Wipeout program





Melbourne Water





WEED INFORMATION AND

ADVICE AVAILABLE ON THE

DAY

For information on weed removal

http://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au

techniques call 9294 6822 or

be aware of the potential that native animals may be sheltering in them. Always check woody weeds for nests before removing and where possible replace a weed with an indigenous native plant. Nest boxes are easy to make, inexpensive to buy and a great way of providing homes for native animals.

When removing weeds please

Total Fire Ban Class Procedures

The Patch School has a very thorough Emergency Management Plan, particularly with reference to bushfire. Processes are in place to care for our students in the event of a bushfire emergency and our Hall is a specifically designed fire refuge.

If you hear of a bushfire in the vicinity of the school, we ask that you do not attempt to get here and collect your child unless it is absolutely safe to do so. Our experienced staff with skills in emergency management, first aid and fire suppression, will do everything they can to ensure your child is as safe as they can possibly be whilst in our care. Trying to get to school quickly under such stressful circumstances is by far a greater risk. We will endeavour to keep you informed of our situation via SMS (be sure you have submitted the orange SMS consent form) and ask that you resist the urge to come to school until the emergency has passed.

Remember that if your Bushfire Survival Plan includes leaving the area on your identified 'trigger' days, it is perfectly acceptable for your child to be absent from school on those days – just send a written note on their return.

If you have any questions about emergency management at school, please do not hesitate to contact us. Below you will find an outline of our procedures on days of Total Fire Ban (TFB).

Part 1 TFB Daily Procedures

The class roll and the Total Fire Ban roll are marked first thing in the morning and placed in a clearly visible location

Students keep their shoes on all day in case of the need to re-locate quickly

Integration Aides prepare/locate resources that may be needed in the event of re-location

A "bookmark/tag" system (or alternative method of monitoring student movements) is implemented to keep track of students who leave the room (students to be sent in pairs)

Students are reminded before morning recess & lunch to stay within the restricted playground boundaries – no playing beyond the rebound wall

Both rolls are marked again after lunch and returned to an easily visible location

Students are reminded that no-one is to walk home on a Total Fire Ban day without written consent from their parents. Consent forms are to be stored in the teacher's EMP satchel.

All other students to go to the pick-up area.

Part 2 Actions in the Event of Re-location

	Staff will remain calm and follow the planned procedure as detailed below
	Students line up and wait quietly at the door
ו 🗆	Teacher accounts for all visitors in their classroom
	All windows are closed & electrical items turned off (if time permits)
□ I	Integration Aides collect any resources required by their child during relocation
	Teacher collects TFB attendance roll, laptop & power cord (if this is one of their Emergency agement responsibilities) and their personal belongings (if time permits)
Πι	Lights are turned off (if time permits)
ו 🗆	Teacher and students proceed to the Hall in an orderly fashion using the safest, most direct path
NOT	E: Any students from other grades who are in your room at the time must accompany you to the Hall.

Part 3 On arrival at the Hall

- Students sit quietly in their allocated area
- Total Fire Ban roll is marked to ensure all students are accounted for
- □ Students from other classes return to their own grade
- If all students are present, a green card is raised in the air
- If a student is missing, a **red card** is raised in the air

Teachers await further instructions staying with their students at all times. They do not leave the Hall until instructed



THE PATCH EARLY LEARNING CENTRE INC (Patch Parents Association) Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 3rd December at 7.30pm The Patch ELC 4 y.o. room, 53 Kallista Emerald Rd The Patch

All Patch kinder families are invited to discuss the future of The Patch ELC Parents Association.

Any queries can be directed to Sarah Tebbutt on 0400 402494 or email at tpelcpa@gmail.com

Community Notices

A New Christmas Tree Farm www.cobradahorchards.com.au

Come and choose a fresh ChristmasTree grown at 85 Monbulk-Seville Rd.Wandin-East Melway Ref. map 305 A8 Open from November 23rd Weekdays 10am till 7pm Weekends 8am till 8pm 5 foot trees \$41.00 6 foot trees \$48.00 7 foot trees \$56.00 8 foot trees \$64.00 9 foot trees \$75.00 Phone 0419 395 420

Admin All-Rounder

We are a small family home-based business located in Monbulk. We need a person to help us for approx 6hrs (1 day) a week during school hours. The job involves a variety of office duties including accounts payable & receivable, invoicing & filing. Excellent computer skills needed particularly in Microsoft Office & Excel. Please send resume to judy@downeysroofing.com.au.

The annual Kids Fun Run With Thomas will once again be held at Gembrook Puffing Billy Station on Sunday, 24th November. There will be fun and games for all the family. The Kids Fun Run with Thomas is a Rotary Club of Emerald & District fundraising event with the theme 'Kids Helping Kids'. What better way to raise funds to improve the health of children, than through the exuberance and enjoyment of healthy children. Thomas the Tank Engine has such a special place in the hearts of children, young (and old), that the day is filled with bright-eyed excitement as the children run alongside the train.

The funds raised by the Kids Fun Run with Thomas 2012 will be used to purchase needed equipment for the Children's Ward at the William Angliss Hospital in Ferntree Gully.

For more information and REGISTRATION, visit www.kidsfunrunwiththomas.org.au

An Invitation to 'A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens

HOPE Production Group cordially invites you to their Yuletide live theatre presentation of the timeless literary classic, "Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens. The production will be performed in association with the Burrinja Cultural Community Centre and will be stages at their venue. All profits go to supporting the Dandenong Ranges Emergency Relief Service who provide aid and support for members of our community in need. Evening shows on Saturday 14th & 21st December.

Matinee shows on Sunday 15th & 22nd December.

Adults \$22 Child (under 16)/Concession \$16 Family (2 adults, 2 children under 16) \$65

351 Glenfern Rd Upwey 3158 Tickets available for purchase at www.burrinja.com.au

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 9756 7515, 0407 049 012 or email chrisjw@netspace.net.au.

Come and join The Voice Maker School of Singing!

Students are now having Singing Lessons at School in school time by a Professional Vocal Coach! For all children that love singing and want to develop confidence within themselves the fun way! They will also perform in live shows!**Semi private lessons \$15-2 students half hour.

**Private lessons \$30 for half hour. Call Jennie on 0410 543 946 or email joey24@optusnet.com.au

Spanish For all Ages

A playful and creative introduction to a second Language this program offers lots of opportunities for developing an interest in Spanish and its Culture. Preps to Grade 6's are welcome, small groups only.

Mondays from 4:15 to 5pm in the Uniform Room. Forms at the office or contact Pilar on 0427881572 HASTA LUEGO!

New Group Piano Lessons available at The Patch.

To complement the existing piano and music programs at the school, group keyboard lessons are now available for kids from Prep to Grade 6. Groups of 2 or 3 children (of similar ages) will learn piano and music-reading skills in a fun and inspiring way. \$15 per child for half an hour.

Teacher: Fiona Seers (a Patch parent) with over 20 years teaching experience and a love and passion for music education. To enquire about booking a spot for your child please call Fiona on 0438 833 592 or email fionaseers@hotmail.com.