



Patchwork News

Respect, Responsibility, Integrity

Friday 14th November 2014

Term 4 Issue 3

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Dates to Remember

November

- Mon 17th** Grade 3/4 Camp
-Wed 19th
Thur 20th Prep/Gr 6 Buddy Excursion
Thur 20th Book Fair (in the Library)
-Thur 27th
Thur 27th Prep 2015 Transition 9.00-11.00am
(Art, Enviro, Music & Phys Ed)

December

- Wed 3rd** Prep 2015 Parent Info Night 7pm
Thur 4th Christmas Concert
Tues 9th Step-Up Day
Tues 9th Prep 2015 Formal Orientation
Wed 17th Grade 6 Graduation
Fri 19th Last Day of Term 4

Dear Parent... letter

Every now and then, we read something that makes us stop and think.

One of our school mums sent us a fictitious letter she had come across and we thought you might also like to read it.

Sharing this is in no way meant to be pointed - it simply reminds us all of the delicate balance of nurturing and responsibility that our staff members juggle in order to provide your child with the best care possible.

If you would like to read the letter, just [click here](#).



From the Principal...

Thought for the week: Do you have your fire plan ready?

Fire safety at this time of the year and in term one is always on our minds. As a school we will commence our regular re-location practices to the Hall or the oval, depending on the identified risk. We have had a strong plan and process for many years now.

Over the next few weeks we ask that you focus on your own fire plan for extreme weather days and in the case of a Code Red Day being called. Please see further information about DEECD's response to Code Red Days on our website.

As the year draws to a close, we both reflect back on 2014 and look forward to a smooth transition into 2015. We are fast approaching Step Up Day for all students on Tuesday December 9th. For our new parents, this is when the Year 6 students attend secondary school for the day and our remaining students 'step up' to meet their new teacher for the following year and see who will be in their class. It is an exciting time and a lot of preparation has gone into finalising and coordinating grade placement. This involves looking at children's needs and making the best possible educational plans for all children in the school.

We realise that 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 had specific information regarding the placement of their child should have passed on any information in writing or had discussions with the class teacher by the 30th October – as always we are seeking to make the best possible educational plans for all children in our school.

Last newsletter we announced our structure for 2015 and it is with sadness I inform you of the retirement of one of our most highly valued teachers at The Patch. Cheryl Powell, a long-time member of staff and our Literacy Coach for the last 4 years, is leaving us at the end of the year. Cheryl has ably driven our improvement in reading, spelling and writing since become our Literacy Coach. She has also lead the Dandenong Ranges Network Schools in the development of consistent whole-school reading strategies, writing and spelling. We will miss her expertise but hope she will continue to work with us in a consultancy capacity during 2015.

In 2015 Cheryl was to be in Grade 3/4 so we will be advertising for a new classroom teacher and anticipate an appointment before Step Up Day.

Thankyou to all those parents and staff who have commented on the Uniform Policy. This will now be taken up by the Education Sub Committee and presented to School Council next Monday night for approval and implementation in 2015.

The student requisites charge (school fees) and levies for 2015 along policy documentation are now available on the school website. Student requisites cover the cost of consumable item used by your child and are integral to the running of the school so I sincerely thank all parents who have paid 2014 fees. You will have seen some improvements in the grounds over the last few weeks and many repairs to our buildings. Without your contributions we would be unable to complete these works.

Have a great week

Deb

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

An Inquiring Mind!

Robbie in Prep B has spent some time recently investigating electricity and impressed us all with his understanding of the concept of an electrical circuit and the creation of a model to test the theory. Perhaps it would be better if Robbie explained it himself....

"I made this circuit by myself. I learned that the electrons flow from the negative terminal to the positive terminal from *The Magic School Bus*. The negative is the start of the circuit and the positive is the end of the circuit and it keeps going until the switch gets turned off. I made my own switch by putting a slope on the white wire. The alligator clips help connect the wires and conduct electricity that comes from the battery. I used silver wires and two copper clips and a bulb. The battery can be any type but I chose a D size so it lasts longer."

- **Robbie, Prep B**



Well done, Robbie – that's really great work!

VPass System on Trial

We have recently implemented a trial of **VPass** as our method of recording students arriving late and leaving early and monitoring visitors to our school.

VPass is an iPad app that guides users through fields recording information similar to that required by our manual paper-based system. The iPad is attached to the wall on the right hand side of the Office counter. The benefits include:

- Reduction in paper consumption
- Reduction in manual record-keeping for teachers
- Information required in case of emergency re-location is easily accessible online via smart phone or iPad
- Enables us to meet our OH&S responsibilities easily
- Colour-coded lanyards quickly identify the purpose of a visitor to our school
- More effective management of school keys and security

If the trial is successful, we will continue to use VPass next year.

Users can simply follow the prompts on the iPad, ensuring each field contains data (*if the field is not relevant please enter any character to allow you to move on – all fields must include data*) and if you are signing your child in or out during school hours, please **be sure to pick up a 'Late Arrival' or 'Early Leaver' pass** which are found on the counter to the left of the iPad.

As always, your feedback is welcome so please let the Office staff know how you find this new system.

PICK-UP ETIQUETTE

We supervise nearly 300 children at the pick-up every afternoon but this is only possible when everyone works within the guidelines we have in place.

Please remember that ***cars are not to park anywhere along the gutter at the pick-up*** and you will notice that this is clearly marked (including just inside the entrance gate).

It does take patience on everyone's part to manage this short window of time in a safe manner so we thank you very much for your understanding.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our fabulous Uniform Shop Volunteers are in need of some help.

If you are interested in contributing a small amount of time to assist with some clearly defined jobs ranging from half an hour per month to a couple of hours each week, please consider speaking with the Uniform Shop ladies about joining their team.

This is a great way to get to know other parents, utilize your skills or perhaps learn something new.

Please give it some thought over the holiday break and, if you are at all interested, speak with one of the team on any Thursday morning (new opening time 9am – 9.30 Thursday) or leave your details with Jody at the office and we will arrange for someone to give you a call.

Thanks for your support 😊

NOVEMBER BOOK FAIR!

The Patch Primary School Book Fair is coming up again in November!

Christmas is around the corner, so it's the perfect opportunity to start early on your shopping and support the school at the same time.

The book fair that we had in May raised \$600 for our school library. This was a great result, so thank you to everyone who supported the fair.

The book fair starts at 3.30pm on Thursday 20th November and finishes at 9.00am Thursday the 27th.

See you at the Book Fair!

Cheers, Josie

Sassafras PRIMARY SCHOOL

OUR 120TH!

16TH NOV 2014

10am-2pm

All welcome!

Devonshire Tea • Sausage Sizzle • Snow Cones • Fairy Floss • Games to Play • Displays of our History
• Music • "The Heart of The Hills" Our 120 Year History Book for Sale



OSHC END OF YEAR FAMILY FUN

Monday 8th December
6:00 p.m. at the hall

Sausage Sizzle and Family Games
All OSHC families welcome



Thank You For Your feedback!

A big thank you to all those who completed our **Uniform Survey** earlier this year - we had a fantastic response rate!

A summary of feedback follows:

- 96% of respondents are **generally happy** with our school uniform;
- 84% of respondents would buy a **winter pinafore** for their daughter;
- 83% are familiar with the school's **Uniform Policy**;
- 75% would like **one new two-tone polo shirt**, to replace the two plain navy & sky polos;
- 60% would buy a **Polar Fleece Vest**;

- Most parents would not like a poly/cotton V-neck jumper to be added to the Uniform; and
- Most parents would not like a 100% cotton polo shirt to be added to the Uniform.

The most frequent general response comments were regarding:

- The need for a **girl's winter uniform**; and
- The need for the Uniform Policy to be **universally & consistently** enforced.

Your feedback has resulted in a number of exciting changes as follows:

1. **A new two-tone polo shirt** will be available from Term 1 2015 (*NB: the current plain Navy & plain Sky polos will remain recognised uniform items for a number of years until they are phased out, to ensure that the current shirts you own achieve maximum wear*);
2. The new **Polar Fleece Vest** is already in stock at the Uniform Shop;
3. **New winter pinafores** will be available for Winter 2015;
4. A **new Sky blue skivvy** will be available for Winter 2015 (*particularly for wearing underneath the pinafore*);
5. The **fabric of the girls Summer Dresses** is now slightly thicker;
6. A **new Uniform Policy**, with specific recognised uniform items, has been developed and will shortly be distributed for public consultation. (*Please utilise this opportunity to provide us with important feedback*).
7. We have done a **complete overhaul** of the way we order & store uniforms. Therefore you are most likely able to obtain the majority of items when you need them, without having to wait weeks for delivery.

We welcome your feedback on an ongoing basis. Please either speak to our Uniform Shop volunteers directly, or complete one of our generic feedback forms from the office.



The Patch Landcare Group Stream Frontage/Edible Garden Tour

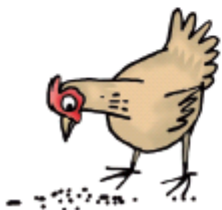
Learn and be inspired! See how others are doing it in The Patch! Meet other locals!

Join in a fun tour of 3 very diverse and interesting private gardens in The Patch, generously open just for us. There may even be a chance of buying some herbs for your own garden along the way. Family-friendly, **new faces welcome**.

Sunday 16th November

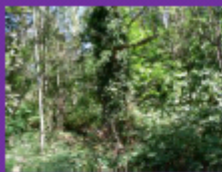
Meet at the carpark in front of the school
at 9.30am

We'll finish with **lunch** and lots of laughs at the final garden around midday (gold coin donation for lamb spit and salad, BYO drinks) – this is our final activity for 2014.



We'd like an idea of how many are staying for lunch, so please RSVP by 13th Nov to info@thepatchlandcare.org.au or SMS Jenny: 0419 878 149





Weed Blitz

Free Environmental Weed Tipping Day

Skips will be available at

Kallista Community House, Kallista

Kalorama Memorial Reserve, Kalorama

Saturday 15th November 2014

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

When removing weeds please 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.

WEED INFORMATION AND ADVICE AVAILABLE ON THE DAY

For information on weed removal techniques call 9294 6822 or
<http://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au>

We cannot accept **Noxious Weeds** due to legal limitations on transportation www.depi.vic.gov.au

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



Education Maintenance Allowance

Information about changes to Education Maintenance Allowance as a result of the School Reform Agreement made between the Victorian Government and Commonwealth Government.

What is EMA?

The Education Maintenance Allowance currently provides financial assistance to low-income families to help meet costs associated with the education of their children.

How it is paid?

Parents can currently elect to have their EMA paid in one of the following ways:

- paid by direct deposit (Electronic Funds Transfer) into the parent's bank account; or
- paid directly to the school to be held as credit which the parent can use towards education expenses; or
- paid by cheque which will be posted to the school for collection.

In 2013 over 70 per cent of parents receiving the EMA chose to have their EMA paid directly to their school. Each school would then use the funds for a range of expenses for that child.

Who is eligible?

The EMA currently provides financial assistance to Victorian families on a low income to help with the cost of educational items such as textbooks, stationery, uniforms and excursions.

It is a means-tested payment - parents must hold a Centrelink or Veterans Affairs concession card to be eligible.

What is changing?

In the recent School Reform agreement signed with the Commonwealth, the Victorian

Government has changed the way it helps low income families with education expenses.

From 2015, the Government will distribute the funds previously used for the EMA directly to schools. DEECD will develop the arrangements to be used to distribute these funds to schools – consultation will occur with stakeholders about this.

Why?

Under the recent School Funding Reform an additional \$12.2 billion will be allocated to Victorian schools.

Will my child be worse off?

No. Education funding for children will increase but will be delivered to your child in a new way through their school. The new agreement provides that schools with the most vulnerable students will receive the funding they need.

The students who will benefit the most from this funding agreement are those who are the most vulnerable.



Remember your weekly school banking is collected on a Wednesday.



Every time you deposit you will receive
a sticker for your certificate and with
only 6 stickers per term you will
receive a prize at the end of term.

Application forms and certificates are available at the school office.

By banking with Bendigo Bank you also support all
the animals at the Monbulk Wildlife Shelter.

Have fun saving and don't forget you can contact
us at the Bank with any questions at all 😊

Monbulk & District **Community Bank®** Branch
70 Main Street, Monbulk, VIC 3793
P 03 9752 1130
E monbulkmailbox@bendigoadelaide.com.au

Monbulk & District
Community Bank® Branch



Support **Bob the Wombat**



Community Notices

MONBULK PRIMARY SCHOOL 'FULL OF FUN' FAIR

A fair full of amusements, 'Monbulk Showtime' acts, café/food stalls, silent auction, fu stalls and lots more... Sunday 23rd November 11am til 4pm in the grounds of Monbulk Primary School

MONBULK AQUATIC CLUB presents

Dive & Turn Clinic 16th November FREE ENTRY Please register your interest and join in our dive and turn clinic. 5.30pm – 6.30pm and then join our Aggregate from 6.30pm – 8pm and a BBQ after.

Register on 0467 325 504 or www.monbulkagquaticclub.com.au

HIT 'N' GIGGLE - TABLE TENNIS ANYONE? GET OFF THE COUCH.

Every Friday 7.30pm - 9pm at 'the Hub' lower level, Monbulk Living and Learning Centre. Newly formed Not for Profit Club. \$5 members, \$5 visitors. \$40 annual fee. All ages. Join anytime. Just show up or call Jenie 9752 1213 or mail@jeniestrohnaturopath.com. Sponsored by Shire Yarra Ranges and Integrity

THE RIDGE TOP BRIGADES FAMILY FUN & INFORMATION DAY

Sunday 23rd November at Olinda Community Hall 10am – 3pm

Lots of great activities and even more expertise and information to help you prepare for the coming fire season. A great day for all the family!

THOMAS & FRIENDS KIDS FUN RUN WITH THOMAS

Sunday 23rd November 2014 Children aged 3 – 12 years old get the chance to run with Thomas the Tank Engine and Puffing Billy! Clowns, Jumping Castles, Music, Show bags, Food, Lizzie's Lizards!

Enter Online at www.kidsfunrunwiththomas.org.au . Info line 0408 769 491 or 03 9763 9166

Organised by the Rotary Club of Emerald and District Inc

MONBULK FUN RUN 2014

'Run to the G' 4km and 8km Run / Walk DATE: Sunday 7th December 2014

PLACE: Start / Finish – 'MCG' - Monbulk Cricket Ground

TIME: 8.00 – 8.30 registration for a 9.00am start (sharp)

ENTRY FEE \$25 Adults \$10 Secondary Students (inc. breaky) \$40 Family Primary Kids Free

For more info on the event or to volunteer your time please contact Steve or Kelly Utting

utting.steven.c@edumail.vic.gov.au / kellyyembellish@hotmail.com

FURNITURE FOR SALE

French Provincial style dining room suite. Timber top with antique white base. Seven matching chairs and one carver's chair. Matching buffet and TV cabinet. \$1000 ono. Phone Trish 0438 888 865

WELL-BEING FOR THE WHOLE BEING

Tai Chi: Beginners Classes starting early October: Monday, Wednesday & Friday mornings, and Monday evenings.

Qi Gong: Beginners Class: Monday mornings.

Both suitable for all levels of fitness . Both excellent in preventative & restorative "maintenance"

Both recommended by GP's for recovery from illness. Classes in Belgrave, Upwey, Sassafras & Silvan

For details: call Su at Chi Generation on 0437 949 919

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KIDS IN THE HILLS SPEECH PATHOLOGY SERVICES

Kids in the Hill is offering school readiness assessments (including pre literacy skills, receptive and expressive language, articulation), the cost is 80\$ with the report and recommendations. Offer is valid until Christmas only. We are also offering a school readiness group for children going to prep in 2015. The group is running for 6 days in January; please register your interest as the spaces are limited. Call Elena Benatar on 041 467 9648.

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 0407 049 012 or email chrisw7@ymail.com

Violin, Viola & Cello Lessons

Lessons are available at school on Fridays with experienced strings teacher Jane Coleman.

For further information call: 0431 290396 or email: janeliz.coleman@gmail.com. Be quick as there are currently only 2 places available for new pupils.

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! ONE FREE LESSON available on request so why not give it a try?

Call Jennie on 0410 543 946 or email jennieanastass@gmail.com

Spanish For all Ages ¡Hola Amigos!

After School Spanish classes at The Patch P.S. will run on Wednesdays for Grade 1 to 6 children from 3:45 - 4:30pm and Mondays for our Semi- Private group from 4-5pm

STARTING..... WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 12th in the Uniform Room!!!

Come and learn the Language through songs, storytelling, music and dance.

For more information please contact Pilar Nesvara directly on 0435358802 or Pilar7@live.com.au

LUNITA BLUE Creative Spaces ABN 80898480 ¡HASTA PRONTO!

Private Ukulele Lessons

The Patch School students now have the opportunity to take private ukulele lessons, starting next term on Mondays, from week 2 onwards. The Patch School parent, Jess Dunn, has had 5 years' experience teaching ukulele to kids and adults and is looking forward to teaching at The Patch. The cost is \$14 for a 20 minute individual lesson or \$10 for a paired lesson (subject to suitable pairing). For more information, please call or email.

0408 102 542 jessdunn.arts@gmail.com.au

Junior School Singers

The Junior Singers are regrouping for fourth term!

We have been invited to sing at 'Merry Monbulk'; the Monbulk Christmas Shopping event on Nov 28th.

Students from Prep and Gr 1 & 2 are welcome to come along to the music room on Wednesday at lunchtime

We sing for the first half of lunch.

Orkestra

The Orkestra has been invited to play at 'Merry Monbulk', the Monbulk Christmas shopping event on Fri Nov 28th

We rehearse Mon mornings 8.15 in the music room

If you would like to join us, call Cath Russell on 97553013 or email mscathsemail@yahoo.com.au

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