



Patchwork News

Respect, Responsibility, Integrity

Thursday 2nd February Term 1 Issue 1, 2023

Telephone: 9756 7463 OSHClub: 1300 395 735 / 0400 708 773

Email: the.patch.ps@education.vic.gov.au Website: www.thepatchps.vic.edu.au

Dates to Remember

FEBRUARY

Friday 3 rd	Year 5/6 Leadership Day at school
Mon 6 th	Nominations close for School Council Election 4.00pm
Tues 7 th	Yr3/4 Information Night (4pm-5pm) in Yr3/4 Building Yr5/6 Information Night (5pm-6pm) in the Yr5/6 Building
Wed 8 th	Yr1/2 Information Night (4pm-5pm) in the Library Prep Picnic (5pm-6pm) on the Oval
Fri 10 th	9.10am First Assembly
Tues 21 st	Snake Incursion – whole school
Wed 22 nd	District Swimming (select students)

March

Fri 3 rd	Division Swimming (qualified students)
Mon 13 th	LABOUR DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY
Wed 15 th –Mon 20 th	NAPLAN for Yr3 & Yr5 students
Fri 24 th	Region Swimming (qualified students)
Tues 28 th	School Council Meeting – 6pm

April

Tues 4 th	Division Tennis (TBC)
Wed 5 th	Prep & Yr6 Easter Picnic
Thurs 6 th	END OF TERM 1 – Early Finish at 2.30pm

Bell Times

8:55am Warning 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

REMINDERS

- School Council Nominations and Letter to community sent out On Monday 30th January.
- Parent Payment Arrangements were sent out at the end of 2022. Payments can be made via Qkr! Please refer our website www.thepatchps.vic.edu.au for further information.
Payment plans are available, please see Karen in the office.
- Information Books Prep – Yr 6 will be sent out Friday 3rd Feb.
- Soon you will receive correspondence regarding your intentions for Extreme Fire Danger Rating days and relocating to Knox Central P.S. so that we have an accurate record.
- All new families have been sent Compass Login details. If you still can't access Compass please contact the office.



Our newsletter is getting a re-vamp.

Watch this space!!!

Principals email: debra.herrmann@education.vic.gov.au

Assistant Principal's email: michelle.rayner@education.vic.gov.au

From the Principal...

Welcome to all parents and a special welcome to our new families, trusting that your time at The Patch PS is a rewarding one and that you will acquire many great memories and friendships over your time here.

If you have been at the school for some time and see a new face in the yard, please make them feel welcome, extend a hand of friendship, and try to ensure everyone in our community feels included in all aspects of school life.

There are many opportunities for parent involvement within the school: classroom assistance, assisting at Working Bees, camps and excursions and of course, being a member of the Parent Network who do such an amazing job of raising funds for the school and giving the children some wonderful experiences.

I wish to especially welcome our 2023 Foundation children (Prep) to The Patch Primary School community. This year we have two Foundation (Prep) classes with 39 excited and eager children beginning their primary school years. I have no doubt that The Patch PS's extensive transition program played a significant role in our Foundation children (Preps) confidently walking through the door today.

We hope your children have had a great start to the year. We saw lots of smiling faces and enthusiastic children, ready to learn.

Our teaching and learning focus for 2023 will be to continue to be Wellbeing, Numeracy developing and promote student agency and voice across the school, a focus on Nature Based learning and the well-being of our community.

This year we are operating 12 class groups across the school with a total enrolment of 291 students. The school is continuing to grow steadily, a result of a good reputation, outstanding teaching and resources, supportive parents and well-behaved and studious children.

Welcome to Anna McDonnell who has joined our specialist team as our new Physical Education Teacher, and to Bec Hill and Paula Woodward who join us in our Inclusion Support team. We hope that this is the start of a long and successful career in education here at The Patch PS.

There have been many people hard at work over the holidays to ensure a smooth start to the school year for all. Many thanks to Glenn and Ken who continue to ensure our school was clean and ready for 2023. Thank you, mums and dads, for ensuring your children were ready for their return to school. Please ensure your child/children have a sun-smart hat and water bottle with them each day.

A huge thankyou to our teachers for all the preparations they have made to ensure a great start to the 2023 school year. Over the past few weeks, they have met in teams to discuss and plan curriculum, spent hours getting rooms ready, made teaching materials and organised supplies and equipment. Already many hours have been expended on these and other tasks, both at home and school. We are ready for another great year.

Our school information booklets will be emailed to you on Friday 3rd Feb. If you have any questions after reading these booklets, please contact your class teacher who will be happy to answer your questions. This year we intend to reintroduce our Parent Information nights these will be held in week 2, Tuesday 7th and Wednesday 8th of February,

Soon you will be sent a link to a google form for 'Information You Want Us to Know for 2023'. This is your opportunity to let your child's teacher know what your child's strengths, weaknesses, interests and motivators are. On this form you will be able to indicate whether you would like to book a meeting with the teacher to discuss any further issues or concerns. The teacher will then get in touch with you to book a suitable time.

Looking forward to a wonderful 2023.

Regards

Debra Herrmann

Principal



Our last production was in 2017 and we are looking forward to resuming this every 2nd year.

We are so EXCITED to be working on a whole school production for 2023!

SAVE THE DATE

Thursday 14th September

Discovery Church

89 Monbulk Road, Mt Evelyn

There will be a Matinee & Evening Performance

More Information soon!

We are a BAR 'Bushfire At Risk' School



We are identified as being at higher risk on the Bushfire register and, as such we will be:



- **Closed** on days where the Fire Danger Rating is **Extreme** and will relocate to **Knox Central Primary School, Boronia**.
- **Closed** on days when the Fire Danger Rating is **Catastrophic**, as per DET policy – No relocation.

Should there be a predicted "**CATASTROPHIC**" day, school community members will be notified three days prior to the predicted closure to inform them. One day prior to the closure day(s) you will receive another alert, letter/phone call to confirm the closure.

If the school is closed, nobody will be on site. This includes all staff and students. As the Out of School Hours Care Program will also be closed families will be required to make alternate arrangements for such days. It is recommended that you enact your fire plans on these days.

Active Fire Procedures

In the event of an active fire occurring in the area all students will be evacuated to the safer place which is our school hall. Parents will be notified should we ever evacuate to the hall.

We ask that you do not come to the school to collect your children, at this time, as the potential for traffic closures and hazards in such conditions could result in tragic consequences as was the case in the Black Saturday fires. Please note that the school's Safer Place is not a community refuge, and we discourage you from using it as a plan of action in your family's emergency management plan.

Many parents will choose to enact their family fire plans well before a real threat is faced. This may mean leaving the local area the day before a day of extreme heat and/ or wind. Of course, this decision lies with each family and should mean that your route down the Highway is not blocked or impeded as may be the case if a fire was in the area.



A reminder about Total Fire Ban days

If your child walks to the store or home unaccompanied, they will need to be picked up from school grounds on these days by an adult. If this is not possible and you consent to your child leaving the school unaccompanied, please complete contact the office to sign a permission slip (once signed this notice will cover Term 1 until the end of Term 4)

As indicated in our information last year, we need to be clear about the importance and classification of school SMS information. We shall now have the precursor TPPS: and then the type of message, Urgent, Reminder, or Information, attached to our SMS. This will identify the action required by you.

URGENT	we need your immediate action and attention, e.g. evacuation to hall, power outage at school, Catastrophic day or EXTREME day
REMINDER:	please note and act accordingly
INFORMATION:	letting you know of a situation, e.g. accident on the road, tree down

Please ensure that we have your update to date contact information, if you are unsure, please see Kim in the office.

We will be having an emergency evacuation practice to the hall with children from Year 1 – 6 in the next few weeks. Our purpose will be to ensure that our procedure works effectively in the event of an incident and identifies any areas for improvement. I am confident we will continue to meet our current record of 9 minutes. Please feel free to read our emergency management plan available on our website.

<http://www.thepatchps.vic.edu.au/about-us/emergency-information/>

Do you have a Health Care Card?



Camps Sports Excursion Fund (CSEF) is available to health care card holders.

This is \$125 each year for your child towards camp, sports or excursions.

Please see Karen in the office to check your eligibility.

Those who have previously applied for CSEF at The Patch PS will automatically be renewed this year, no need to re-apply.

Information and application forms are available from the office or our website.

Message from Ange Ellis – School Council President...

I wholeheartedly encourage any parent who wants to put a nomination forward to sit on council to do so. It is a rewarding experience to think that you are contributing in some way to make our school the best school it can be for not only our children but future Patchies as well.

In saying that I would strongly suggest looking at the following links first to see if Council is the right fit for you.

[School Council — Overview: Overview | education.vic.gov.au](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school-council/overview)

[School Council — Powers and Functions: Policy | education.vic.gov.au](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school-council/powers-and-functions)

School council essentially looks after the vision of the school. It helps to define policies, helps with the schools' grounds and facilities, assist with contracts and looks after and promotes the school within the wider community. One thing to remember is with all the work that council does supporting school operations, the results often take time to develop and come to fruition.

If, after everything you read you find that council may not be the right place to offer your particular skill set after all, there are many other ways you can become an essential part of the school's amazing community and assist.

We are forming a fundraising committee and will need lots of creative ideas and help, especially in this covid world we are living in now.

There is a Patch Fest committee who are constantly working on making each Patch fest bigger and better than before and always welcomes new members and new ideas.

We have a wellbeing team that is hoping in 2023 it can reestablish some of the work they were doing previously and always welcomes help and ideas, especially for the use of The Nest space.

And as always you can bring any idea you have to Deb and Michelle or the school council.



ACCIDENT INSURANCE

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development does not provide personal accident insurance for students. Parents are generally responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs. Ambulance cover could be one consideration as the school will not hesitate to call an ambulance if we are concerned for a child's wellbeing.

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development states that reasonable, low cost accident insurance policies are available from the commercial insurance sector. For those parents who seek personal cover, details of an insurer who offers individual accident insurance for \$29 for the year is:

EBM INSURANCE BROKERS and the link is <https://www.ebminsurace.com.au/personal-cover/student-cover.php>

PERSONAL GOODS BROUGHT TO SCHOOL AT OWNER'S RISK

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools. Principals are requested to remind students and parents/guardians of this at the beginning of each academic year and to discourage parents/students from bringing any unnecessary or particularly valuable items to school. Please, try and avoid bringing these items as it can be most upsetting for all concerned when items do go missing.

As per our mobile phone policy, students are to leave mobile phones either with their class teachers or at the office, prior to classes commencing and collect them at the end of the day

WORKING WITH CHILDRENS CHECK

We encourage and value parental and community support at The Patch Primary School. There are many ways that parents, grandparents and friends can assist at our school. We encourage all parents to obtain a Working with Children's Check that will allow you to be very involved in your child's education. These checks are free for volunteers and will allow you to be involved as many school events as you require. Once you have your WWCC, please come to the office so we can photocopy this and we will add your name to our list of parents who have a current WWCC check.

PARENT PERMISSION FORMS FOR EXCURSIONS/INCURSIONS

One of the many exciting parts of going to school is the different experiences children receive when going on camps and excursions/incursions. Students really become immersed in the topic as they receive information in a different setting and a different source. Staff spend a great deal of time organising excursions and all excursions require parent permission to participate.

In previous years, staff have unfortunately spent time chasing up these permission forms on the morning of the excursion when first aid kits, communication lists, equipment and various other items have to be organised.

On some occasions, excursion groups have left late because permission forms have not been returned and are being chased up by staff. This is unfair both on staff but also on those families and children that have sent the forms back. Quite often excursion venues also require final numbers of days before and we get billed on this figure, even if some students do not attend.

We have decided that this year the cut off for permission forms and therefore children being able to attend is the day before the incursion/excursion. **If the permission form is not back by the day before, then the student will not be attending. We cannot continue to chase or accept permission forms on the morning for the above stated reasons.**

This is in fairness to all involved. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

WELLBEING from Anne:

Respectful relationships in the playground

Naturally for many within our community there is some heightened anxiety at the commencement of a new school year. It can be quite a stressful and anxiety producing adjustment after such a lengthy break. Students undergo a great deal of transition, such as:



- a new teacher
- a different classroom
- making new friends
- a new curriculum
- different expectations.

In recent years students have had a unique opportunity to observe how adults and their fellow students respond to different and challenging situations. They can be like a sponge, but don't necessarily always apply their observations at the appropriate moments, particularly if experiencing heightened emotions.

For example, in a conflict situation, we can have three examples (each represented by a specific animal) of different styles of communicating. Such a reference can be utilised in talking with our young people about ways of identifying the need to develop healthy communication skills:

The Lion – Aggressive

- Only interested in winning an argument
- Not worried about hurting other's feelings
- They threaten or hurt people to get their own way
- They get angry and can't stay calm
- They refuse to give in until they get their own way.



The Meerkat – Passive

- Is scared of disagreements
- Often pretends nothing is wrong to avoid a fight
- Will run away or leave
- Gives in too easily because they fear they might lose a friend or because they are frightened
- Doesn't stand up for what is right or what they want.

The Giraffe – Assertive

- Stands tall and stays calm
- Tries to sort out an argument with solutions where both people win
- Says sorry when they are wrong
- Asks for help to sort things out
- Says what they think or feel without getting angry
- Asks the other people what they feel and what they want.



During their schooling years students are provided with many opportunities to develop healthy social and emotional skills. As we support them through this latest transition, most of us will need an additional dose of understanding and patience.

Therefore, please take care of yourself as well as you loved ones,

Anne Lawry

Wellbeing Support