



Patchwork News

Respect, Responsibility, Integrity

Friday 2nd February Term 1 Issue 1

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Dates to Remember

February

Mon 5 th	School Council call for nominations
Mon 12 th	Nominations close for School Council
Wed 14 th	Prep Picnic
Wed 14 th	First School Assembly 2:45pm
Thur 15 th	Information Books sent via email
Tue 20 th	'Get to Know You' interviews
Wed 21 st	'Get to Know You' interviews
Mon 26 th	School Council meeting

March

Mon 12 th	Labor Day – Public Holiday
Wed 14 th	School Assembly 2:45pm
Wed 14 th	Talking the Talk – Parent info on Sex Ed (pg. 6)
Tue 20 th	Cup-cake fundraiser for Year 6 Graduation
Mon 26 th	School Council meeting
Wed 28 th	School Assembly 2:45pm
Thu 29 th	End of Term - Early 2:30pm Finish
Fri 30 th	Good Friday – Public Holiday

April

Wed 11 th	School Assembly 2:45pm
Mon 16 th	Term 2 Commences 8:50am
Tue 24 th	Curriculum Day – Student Free Day
Wed 25 th	Anzac Day – Public Holiday
Thu 26 th	SCHOOL PHOTO'S
Mon 30 th	School Council meeting

***School Assemblies
have moved from
Friday mornings to
Wednesday
Afternoons 2:45pm
Fortnightly***

xxx

**Bell Times
Start 8:50am
Recess 10:40 – 11:10
Lunch 1:05 – 1:50
Bell for drop off 3:25pm**

From the Principal...

Thought for the week: The only limit to our realisation of tomorrow will be our doubts of today.

Franklin D Roosevelt

We have had a very smooth start to the term. Prior to school starting our teachers were trained in Anaphylaxis & CPR, they spent time reviewing, planning and handing over information to your child's teacher for 2018. They have also begun creating an orderly environment that you will begin to see evidence of in our classrooms and movement around the school. Your children have had a great start to the year, Michelle and I could see this as we walked around and visited every grade. Lots of smiling faces and enthusiastic children. On Thursday the Year 5 & 6's had a great day of Leadership— thank you to the Year 5/6 team and students for a worthwhile day. Our explicit focus for 2018 will be on developing and improving our writing and spelling throughout the school. We are looking forward to an exciting year as we implement THRASS throughout the school.

We will also be working on our school information books over the next two weeks; these will then be emailed to you. If you have any questions after reading these booklets please contact your class teacher who will be happy to answer your questions.

In week 4 Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st of Feb our 'Get to Know You' interviews will be held. Information will be sent in the next week on how to book in, staff will also have the opportunity to clarify any on-going issues that may have been identified in our handover sessions from last year's teacher. Please allow about 15 minutes for this conversation, if you feel you will need a longer session it is suggested you make contact with your child's teacher to discuss an alternate meeting time.

Nominations for School Council 2018 commence Monday 5th Feb and close on Monday 12th Feb. All information will be emailed and posted on the website Monday 5th February, forms will also be available at the office.

For many years we have been identified as a bushfire at risk school. We will be relocating to Knox Central Primary School on days declared Extreme Fire danger rating.

The Patch School will be closed on days of Code Red fire danger rating, NO relocation.

A reminder about Total Fire Ban days and if your child walks to the store or home, they are required to be picked up from school - unless you have signed the notice granting permission to walk from Term 4 last year, this covers children for the whole fire season into Term 1 2018.

As indicated in our information last year it was highlighted the need for identification of the type of message we are sending and the importance of using URGENT to identify immediate action. We are now going to have the precursor TPPS: and then the type of message Urgent, Reminder or Information attached to our SMS. We anticipate that this will give a clearer indication of what is needed from you.

URGENT we will need your immediate action and attention eg evacuation to hall, power outage at school, CODE RED 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 you have returned the attached permissions form for each of your children, it is imperative that we have every student's permissions and fire plan.

We will be having an emergency practice of evacuating to the hall with children from Prep – 6 in the next few weeks. Our purpose will be to identify that our procedure works in the event of an incident. I am confident we will continue to meet our current record of 9 minutes.

Please familiarise yourself with the classroom emergency management process that we have displayed in every room and also in this newsletter.

Have a great weekend

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

Deb

EVERYDAY COUNTS

Missing one day a fortnight is the same as missing 4 whole weeks of school a year. From Prep to Year 12 that adds up to 1.5 years of school!

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

Why it's important

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in the later years of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

Getting in early

Attendance patterns are established early – a child regularly missing days in kindergarten or in the early years of school will often continue to miss classes in the later years, and receive lower test scores than their classmates. It's vital that students go to school every day – even in the early years of primary school.

What we can do

The main reasons for absence are:

Sickness - There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they're ill. It's vital that they're only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.

It's vital that holidays are planned during school holidays where possible, and not during the term if it can be avoided.

"Day off" - Think twice before letting your child have a "day off" as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts.

Truancy - This is when students choose not to go to school without their parent's permission. There can be many reasons for truancy. The best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.

If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don't fall behind:

- Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.
- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible. If you're having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

Parenting online

I think the internet is a wonderful resource for children to use, but it is also one that needs guidelines and monitoring and I would encourage all parents to think about how they are doing this at home. Below is a guidance sheet which has been sourced from "The Cybersmart program". It has some very practical ideas around helping keep your children safe. This site has many ideas for Parents, teachers and students and if you have the chance it is well worth the time.

The Cybersmart program provides a range of cybersafety materials for parents and their children. For more information, resources, advice and tips, visit the Cybersmart website at www.cybersmart.gov.au. Encourage your children and teens to take a look around the website. If you have young children, you may like to explore it together to help them understand how to protect themselves against online risks and make the most of their experiences online. The following general internet safety tips are a good starting point to help your children become safe and responsible internet users.

- At this age children's internet use should be closely monitored. To help with this try to keep the computer in a shared or visible place in the home.
- Be aware of how your child uses the internet and explore it with them. Bookmark a list of favorites you are comfortable with your child visiting and teach them how to access this list.
- Teach your child that there are ways they can deal with material that worries or frightens them—they should immediately tell a trusted adult if they feel uncomfortable about something they have found on the internet or received in an email. Teach them how to close a web page or turn off a monitor if they are worried
- Establish rules around the types of content or information they should report to an adult. For example, one rule may be 'tell Mum or Dad about any swearing or bad words you find'.
- Talk to your child about personal information and why it is special. This sort of information can be used to identify or locate where they live, go to school or activities in which they are involved.
- Set rules—make sure your child knows what information they can share or post online and which websites they can visit. Telling a trusted adult before posting any personal information online, including for competition entry is a useful rule.
- Help your child understand that what they say and do online is important. Encourage your child to use the same manners, communicate with others in the same way and report others who aren't being nice, just as they would in the offline world.
- Advise your child not to respond to any negative messages and to report any negative messages they receive to you or another trusted adult.
- Consider using filters, labels and safe zones to help manage your child's online access.
- Install and update anti-virus and other e-security software to restrict unauthorised access to data on the home computer and protect that data from corruption. Ensure that security features including a firewall are turned on, set to automatic scan and updated regularly to protect against the latest risks.
- If your child shows changes in behaviour or mood that are concerning explore your concerns with them and if necessary seek professional support, including through the Cybersmart Online Helpline at www.cybersmart.gov.au/report.aspx. The Cybersmart Online Helpline provides free, confidential online counselling for children and young people. Your child's school may also be able to provide guidance and support.

Before & After School Care service at The Patch Primary School

OSHClub is one of Australia's leading providers of Before & After School Care services, and has a record for successfully delivering the highest-quality care in Australia (as assessed independently by the Regulatory Authority). OSHClub forms strong, collaborative ties with our partner schools, and we are designing the service to meet the specific needs of your school community.

What happens at OSHClub? We believe in the power of choice for each child, so each session comprises a range of experiences for children to choose from, ...we just want children to have fun!

Our service is designed to develop stronger, healthier and happier children, and to provide an environment that is like a 'home away from home'. It is developed in consultation with children, parents, the school community and staff, and tailored to cater to the children's age, skill, interests and abilities, through a variety of challenging and recreational activities.

Activities include:

> Art/craft > Dress-ups > Science > Loads of toys > Board games > Games
> Drama > Sports > Art and craft materials > Cooking > Gardening > Homework time (if required)

We also encourage lots of outside and sporting activities, which make the most of the school's excellent grounds and facilities.

Service hours Permanent, casual or last-minute bookings are available, so you can book as much or a little as you need, whenever you need it. Permanent and casual bookings are both the same cost.

Session	Opening hours
Before School Care	7.00am – 8.45am
After School Care	3.30pm – 6.00pm

The service is registered with Centrelink, so eligible families will be able to claim the Child Care Benefit (CCB) and the 50% Child Care Rebate (CCR) on fees. The CCR is not means tested, which means just about all working or studying parents are eligible to receive it.

Call **13 61 50** to register.

For details of session fees, please contact our Service Coordinator **0400 708 773** or call our Customer Service & Billing Team on **1300 395 735** or visit our website at <https://www.oshclub.com.au/patch-oshclub-vic/>

Food

We provide healthy, tasty and nutritious food for breakfast and afternoon tea. Breakfast includes low-sugar cereals, wholemeal toast, water and fresh milk/soy milk, then a special item that changes daily – like English muffins, fruit smoothies, blueberry pancakes or fruit toast. Afternoon tea includes lots of fresh fruit and vegetables, fresh milk/soy milk, then a special item that changes daily – like toasted sandwiches, soup, pasta, vegetable wraps, mini pizzas or vegetarian tacos.

Our menus cater for any special dietary requirements, including children with allergies or cultural needs, and they take into consideration each child's preferences. We ask them what they like! The menu changes each week.

Enrolment and bookings

Enrolments and bookings are made online through our secure system available through our website or by calling our Customer Service & Billing Team. There's no enrolment fee, so it's a clever idea to enrol, so we already have your details if you need the service at short notice.

Talking the Talk (Parents) Session

Wednesday 14th March 7 – 8:30pm

The Patch Primary is so pleased to be able to bring the expertise and wisdom of Vanessa Hamilton of 'Talking the talk' to our school. This will be an event NOT to miss.

This will be a 90 Minute Group Presentation For Parents presented by Talking the Talk

Topics covered :

- * Age appropriate sexual development
- * The facts about Human Sexuality
 - * Myths and fears
- * Focus on Respectful Relationships
- * Identifying adults' values & beliefs
- * A guide to addressing curiosity and sexuality questions
- * Supporting your child while growing up in a sexualised society
 - * How to keep your child safe

More information at: <http://www.talkingthetalksexed.com.au/parent-groups.html>

Don't forget to book your tickets early via TryBooking: <https://www.trybooking.com/TDHN>

The Importance of Attendance

Please remember that all students are expected to be in their classroom, ready to begin lessons by 8.50am.

We understand that now and again things don't go to plan, but all families should aim for their children to be at school by this time.

Parents should also remember that late arrivals or early leavers must be signed in or out by their parent or guardian using the system on the iPad at the office. The appropriate orange or red tag must also be given to the classroom teacher when collecting your child.

The Department of Education & Training has very specific expectations about school attendance and we ask that all parents be mindful of the importance of prompt and regular attendance at school.

Community Notices

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 Lessons

Lessons are available at school on Fridays with experienced strings teacher Michaela Tory.
For further information call: 0423 434 598 or email: michaelatory@tpg.com.au.

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. The cost is \$18 for a 20-minute individual lesson or \$12 for a 20 minute group lesson (subject to suitable pairing). For more information, please call or email.
0408 102 542 jessdunn.arts@gmail.com