

# FINAL NEWSLETTER FOR 2017!

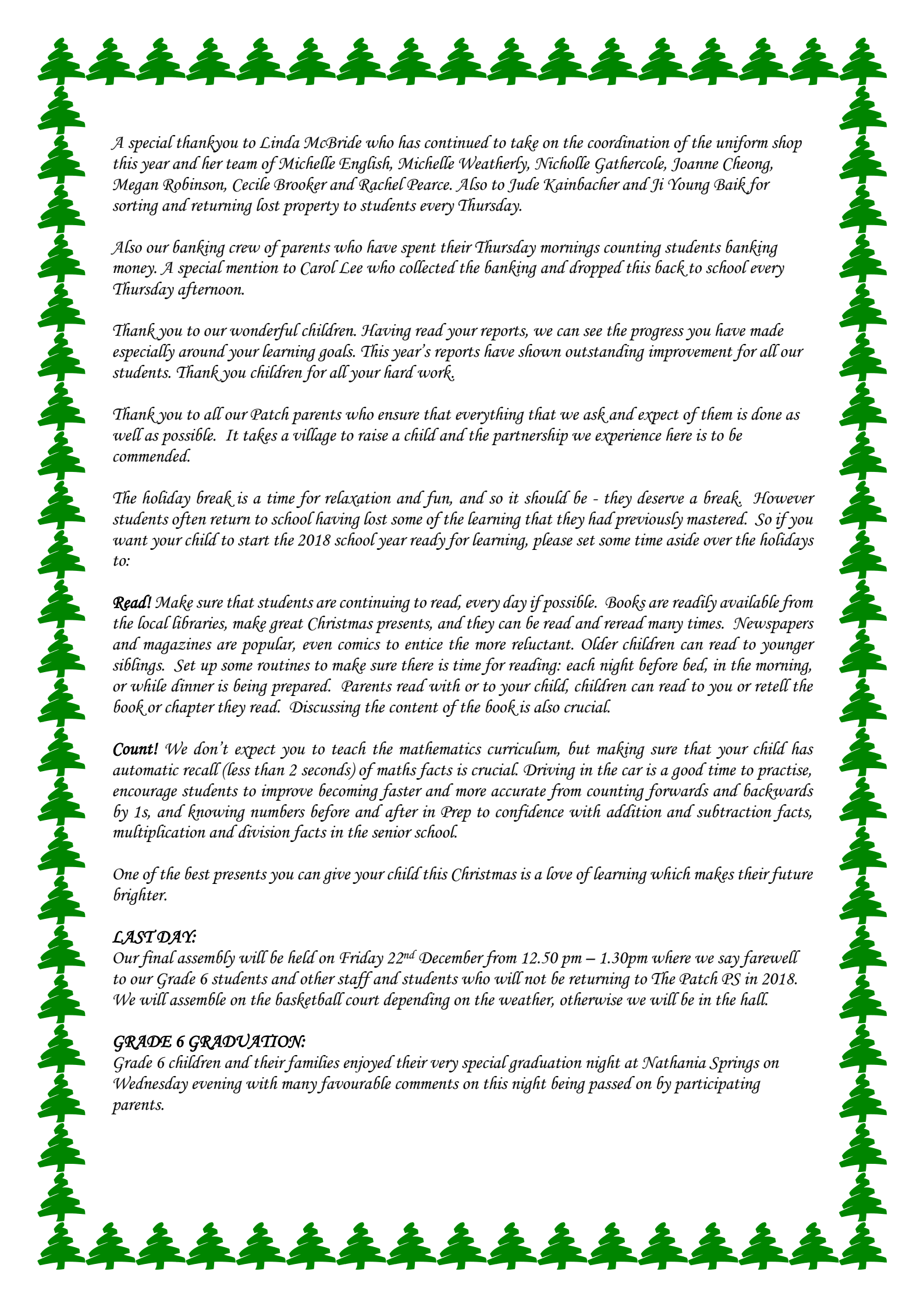
*Thank you to everyone in The Patch PS community for making this a successful year for our children and our school. It has been another exciting year with many new and different things happening to engage and challenge our children and to seek out new ways to make our school the best it can be. Some highlights for our children and staff in 2017 at The Patch have been:*

- *Participated in Framework to Improve Student Outcome (FISO) network with a focus on Data Literacy including involvement with 5 network schools.*
- *Utilising "I can" statements where students establish what is next on their learning continuum.*
- *Sent home reports in our new format that included student negotiated learning goals.*
- *The whole school production "We Can be Heroes."*
- *The introduction of "Google Apps for Education" in grades 4-6.*
- *Celebration of 10 years since opening our garden.*
- *Education Week celebrations.*
- *'Getting to Know You' interviews and Information Night in Term 1.*
- *Strengthening our Prep transition program with hugely positive parent feedback.*
- *Successful fundraising activities Movie Night, Trivia Night, Raffles, Showcase, Roller Disco and Mango Drive.*
- *Parent Network run activities that gave the children and adults some great fun!*
- *Introduction of more laptops to our school.*
- *Our Christmas Carols Concert.*
- *Numerous performances by the Ukulele group, singing group and violinists.*
- *End of year swimming at Monbulk Aquatic Centre P- 4.*
- *Camps at OASIS, Phillip Island and Sovereign Hill for children in grades 2-6.*
- *Grade 6 graduation and Prep celebration.*
- *An end of year transition morning to prepare for new grades.*
- *Successful involvement in the University of NSW testing and the Premier Reading Challenge.*
- *And much, much more....*

*Firstly, thank you to our dedicated team of staff (Leadership team, teachers, office staff, integration aides and OSHC team) who work together to give your children the very best learning environment that they can provide in their time at The Patch PS. It is with confidence I can say they are looking forward to a well-deserved break once they get over their own Christmas and New Year celebrations. I know that with school running up to December 22 this year, many staff are having to cram their own Christmas preparations into 2 days, such has been the ferocity of the workload in this final part of the school year. Well done to all staff for a sensational year of learning, challenges, reflection and development at The Patch PS.*

*A huge thank you to all School Council members for their support and tireless contribution to the school for the betterment of all children, not just their own. A very special thank you to School Council President Sarah Tebbutt and Treasurer Joanne Cheong who held Executive Roles.*

*Thank you to the parents who continue to work hard in so many ways to make a huge contribution to our school's ongoing success. Thank you to Danielle De Valence, Bree Downes, Megan Holmes, Eliza Phillips, Simone Broekman, Jess Dunn, Becks Wapshott, Jo Issell, Julia Dixon, Janine Jenkins and Bek Shing, who have organised and led our parent teams to complete another successful year. They have been wonderful in raising \$19,596.00. I would like to acknowledge all members of the community for your hard work.*



*A special thank you to Linda McBride who has continued to take on the coordination of the uniform shop this year and her team of Michelle English, Michelle Weatherly, Nicholle Gathercole, Joanne Cheong, Megan Robinson, Cecile Brooker and Rachel Pearce. Also to Jude Kainbacher and Ji Young Baik for sorting and returning lost property to students every Thursday.*

*Also our banking crew of parents who have spent their Thursday mornings counting students banking money. A special mention to Carol Lee who collected the banking and dropped this back to school every Thursday afternoon.*

*Thank you to our wonderful children. Having read your reports, we can see the progress you have made especially around your learning goals. This year's reports have shown outstanding improvement for all our students. Thank you children for all your hard work.*

*Thank you to all our Patch parents who ensure that everything that we ask and expect of them is done as well as possible. It takes a village to raise a child and the partnership we experience here is to be commended.*

*The holiday break is a time for relaxation and fun, and so it should be - they deserve a break. However students often return to school having lost some of the learning that they had previously mastered. So if you want your child to start the 2018 school year ready for learning, please set some time aside over the holidays to:*

***Read!*** *Make sure that students are continuing to read, every day if possible. Books are readily available from the local libraries, make great Christmas presents, and they can be read and reread many times. Newspapers and magazines are popular, even comics to entice the more reluctant. Older children can read to younger siblings. Set up some routines to make sure there is time for reading: each night before bed, in the morning, or while dinner is being prepared. Parents read with or to your child, children can read to you or retell the book or chapter they read. Discussing the content of the book is also crucial.*

***Count!*** *We don't expect you to teach the mathematics curriculum, but making sure that your child has automatic recall (less than 2 seconds) of maths facts is crucial. Driving in the car is a good time to practise, encourage students to improve becoming faster and more accurate from counting forwards and backwards by 1s, and knowing numbers before and after in Prep to confidence with addition and subtraction facts, multiplication and division facts in the senior school.*

*One of the best presents you can give your child this Christmas is a love of learning which makes their future brighter.*

#### ***LAST DAY:***

*Our final assembly will be held on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December from 12.50 pm – 1.30pm where we say farewell to our Grade 6 students and other staff and students who will not be returning to The Patch PS in 2018. We will assemble on the basketball court depending on the weather, otherwise we will be in the hall.*

#### ***GRADE 6 GRADUATION:***

*Grade 6 children and their families enjoyed their very special graduation night at Nathania Springs on Wednesday evening with many favourable comments on this night being passed on by participating parents.*

*It is a very intimate night for the Year 6 graduating students and their parents and the focus of the evening allows the children to demonstrate their enormous skills in public speaking as well as the thoughtful reflection on their primary school journey and the opportunities that lie ahead.*

*I would like to thank our fantastic staff who put the night together. Special mention goes to our grade 6 staff, Kellie McDonald and Yale Mercieca in organising the graduation and to Leanne Neely and Kath Russell for the graduation song. Great work ladies thank you!*

*I wish all the year 6 children a very positive transition into their secondary education. You will all be sorely missed and of course we look forward to you all visiting in future years to hear of your new ventures.*

### ***FAMILIES LEAVING THE PATCH***

*A special mention to those families leaving The Patch PS this year, often after a long association with the school. Thankyou to the following families for their friendship and valued contributions over the years:*

#### ***Year 6 Families***

*Tameem - The Alkhlawi Family  
Honey - The Carter Family  
Amy - The Elias Family  
Liam - The Horne Family  
Pearl - The Kidd Family  
Cameron - The Krause Family  
Wes - The Monaghan Family  
Charlie - The Mustoe Family  
Joshua - The O'Connor Family*

*Grace - The O'Shea Family  
Nick - The Prince Family  
Tim - The Rickard Family  
Natasha - The Rutzou Family  
Isaac - The Sands-Smith Family.  
Lachie - The Smith Family  
Noah - The Van Haren Family  
Jack - The Wastell Family*

*Also*

*The Dillner family  
The Fernando Family  
The Lazdins Family  
The English Family  
The Sheehan Family  
The Argoon Family*

*The Bowering Family  
The Donald Family  
The Bright Family*

*We hope that you take many happy memories with you of your times at The Patch.*

### ***START OF 2018***

*Teachers resume on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January. We have a pupil free day on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January and children commence on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January (All students P- 6).*

### ***PARENT PAYMENT CHARGES 2018:***

*Qkr! will be made available for earlier Parent Payment Charges. Letters have been emailed to all parents. These payments assist the school with budgetary processes in the New Year. Parents who are experiencing financial hardship are urged to come and make an appointment at the school office to discretely speak about a payment plan (should an existing plan not be in place already).*

## 2018 TERMS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAY DATES

Wednesday	31 <sup>st</sup> January	9:00am	<u><b>Term One commences</b></u> – Grade P-6 students begin
Monday	12 March		Labour Day Public Holiday
Thursday	29 March	2:30pm	Term 1 concludes - <u>early dismissal</u>
Friday	30 March		Good Friday
Monday	2 April		Easter Monday
Monday	16 April	9:00am	<u><b>Term Two commences</b></u>
Monday	11 June		Queen's Birthday Holiday
Friday	29 June	2:30pm	Term 2 concludes - <u>early dismissal</u>
Monday	16 July	9:00am	<u><b>Term Three commences</b></u>
Friday	21 September	2:30pm	Term 3 concludes - <u>early dismissal</u>
Monday	8 October	9:00am	<u><b>Term Four commences</b></u>
Tuesday	6 November		Melbourne Cup Holiday
Friday	21 December	12:50 – 1:30pm	Assembly last day of 2018 - <u>early dismissal</u>

### HAPPY HOLIDAYS


Best wishes to all our families for the Christmas period. This is a busy time of year and please take the time to relax, enjoy and celebrate your children and keep safe. Included below is an article from Michael Grose on tips for Happy Holidays.

If you and your family use our school grounds during the holidays and see any suspicious activity, please call DET Emergency Management ☎ 9589 6266 or Monbulk Police ☎ 9754 6677.

I look forward to seeing you all again in the New Year.

*Have a great holiday break and stay safe!*

Debra Herrmann  
Principal



### *Making the most of these holidays*

*You don't need an instruction manual to make the most of the school holidays. After all, holidays are about kicking your feet up, relaxing and getting away from the usual routines. Right? But the festive season can be stressful for many. For parents the prospect of keeping children occupied for up to six weeks can be daunting.*

*Christmas can also be a difficult and lonely time for some. Sole parents and step-parents usually experience particular challenges at this time of the year as family catch-ups cause conflict, and disputes can arise over who children spend their time with. Often family differences are contained during the year but spill over when normal routines cease over the holiday period.*

*Here are some ways to help reduce tension over the festive season and make the holiday season enjoyable and fruitful for all:*

- 1. Be creative with how festivities are organised. If you are flexible with your arrangements as well as your thinking then the potentially tricky times will flow more easily. For instance, two or more Christmas dinners may be needed so everyone is included.*
- 2. Mix up the routines. The best part about holidays is the change from the routines of school-life. Some kids feel comfortable with the routines of school-life and can feel a little lost until the new holiday routine kicks in. Be patient with these routine junkies! Also make sure you begin adjusting the routine as returning to school comes closer so kids are prepared for going to bed and getting up at earlier times.*
- 3. Mix 'me' time with 'them' time. Plan a mixture of outdoor activities or trips with quiet at home activities where you can relax and recharge your own batteries. The holidays give you a chance to spend time as a family but you also need to take some time for yourself each day. It helps to let your kids know that you are having some time out too.*
- 4. Resist being your child's home entertainment machine. Give children opportunities to keep themselves occupied or think of inexpensive, fun ways to keep themselves amused. "I'm bored" is an invitation for kids to keep themselves occupied rather than for you to keep them amused.*
- 5. Team up with other families. Whether it is sharing celebrations with other families or just holidaying with friends, holidays offer the chance to broaden your child's social circle.*

*Make sure you provide the three types of activities that children want with their parents – i.e. **rituals and celebrations**, including family mealtimes; **one-on-one activities** where you spend some time alone with each child; and **unstructured, impromptu activities** such as playing simple games, storytelling and walks around the neighbourhood. These are important relationship-building activities that bind families together and enable you to build up emotional collateral with kids as they move into adolescence. This article comes courtesy of parenting educator, Michael Grose. Whilst parenting is not an exacting science it's sometimes helpful to reflect on the way we do things because small things can make a difference.*

*For more information please go to: [www.parentingideas.com.au](http://www.parentingideas.com.au)*