




School Council Newsletter

December 2024



*We're almost there!
Some days it feels like 2024
just started, but the end is
nigh on another wonderful
year at The Patch.*

It's been a big year for all of us including council, so apologies in advance for the wordy newsletter.

There are Thank You's, Farewells, and information for anyone wishing to join council in 2025.

This is my last council newsletter, so for the last time...

See you under the tree soon!

Ange



the greeting tree ♥

Thankyou's, farewells and Hello's

Thank you

I think we can all agree that 2024 has been a year like no other at The Patch. Everyone has had to think outside the box, but we remember that it's short term pain for long term gain & what a gain it will be!

- Thank you to our community for your understanding around all the construction this year. Sometimes things (outside of the schools control) haven't gone to plan & The Council recognise that it has not been easy, but thank you for your patience & understanding.
- Thank you to the council for continuing to work on plans to make our school the best it can be, even when we have had to put some of those plans on hold. You always have the schools best interest at heart.

Thank you to our Staff.

- You have continued to turn up every day and give your students your all. You have continued to make memories and make the best out of a sometimes bad situation (setting up and dismantling a classroom on a daily basis for example). I, and I'm sure I speak on behalf of everyone at The Patch sincerely hope that over your summer break, you can recover from the piercing sounds of concrete cutters, nail guns, the steady stream of construction workers from multiple companies and everything else that has contributed to your unusual work place

Farewells

I'd like to take this opportunity to farewell and thank Kathryn James.

Kath joined our council in 2023 & immediately put her keen eye to detail to good use with reviewing of the policies and ensuring every I was dotted and every T crossed.

Thank you for giving up so much of your time to ensure council has and will continue to run smoothly.

This is also my final year on Council. I hand over officially at the February 2025 council meeting.

I've been on council for 6 years, with 4 of them as President and I want to thank the community for trusting me to be your go between and on occasions your voice.

2025 is my last year at The Patch (when they say it goes fast, they're not kidding!) and I look forward to watching it continue to grow and be the amazing, unique school it is.

Thank you



Michelle & Alesha

As we know, Michelle has made the decision to retire.

Her overwhelming contribution to our school is hard to define in words.

She has been a Patch parent, Teacher, Assistant Principal, Head Gardner/Landscaper, Voice of Reason, Friend and a School Council Member.

In her 30 + years of being a Patchie, she has not missed sitting on one school council, and as a result she has become a mentor, a sounding board, the keeper of knowledge and history and everything in between.

She ensures people like myself, who take on a role of any kind in the school, have someone they can trust and ask for advice at anytime.

It was said best on our Families Facebook page by a parent.

“*The beating heart of the Patch Primary School.
We have been so lucky to have you Michelle*”

We now move forward with Alesha stepping into the role of Assistant Principal.

Alesha is another long time Patchie who gives her time to council. Her work, knowledge and dedication in the Wellbeing area is second to none and her love of the school and its “little Patchies” ensures we know we are in the safest of hands moving forwards.

Michelle and Alesha we wish you both all the luck in the world as you both move into different stages of your lives and thank you for everything you have and will continue to contribute to our school.



So what you want to join Council?

Let's start with the basics.

- A council member is a volunteer role. You give your time, skill and dedication freely. Think about what you can offer, you might think it is “just” the ability to come to a meeting and take the minutes, but every role is important and every thing you can give is gratefully received and appreciated by the school.
- If more people apply for school council than there are positions available, It will go to an election. The Principal, President and Administrator (i.e. ——— Kim) will then tally the votes.
- Council meet on the last Tuesday of every month. We must hold these meetings at least 8 times per year & all members are expected to attend.
- A quorum must be met, so it is vital that communication is open and honest.
- Everyone has a role on council, and dependent on your role there can be added responsibilities. For example, Treasurer requires the attendance of a separate monthly meeting with our Business manager and Principal.
- Every council member must also sit on a sub committee, these are, Wellbeing, Engagement, Finance and the sub, sub committee (!) Fundraising
- It is up to you how much you want to expand your role and only you know how much time you have to give, however the core responsibilities must be followed to the best of your abilities. Always remember though, that this is a VOLUNTEER role.



So you want to join council, continued?

Council holds an important position within a school community.

We work for the community and for the school. We follow a code of conduct, we hold confidential information and we follow a set of values to ensure everyone is taken care of within our community.

Our school has a unique “Hills Vibe”. To me, that means we don't always do things the way other schools do, and isn't that part of the reason we are here? It's also something that we need to take into consideration when making decisions. In the majority of instances the work we do and the decisions we make are not done lightly or quickly. We are to ensure the continuation of our school at it's highest possible level.

Sometimes this means that you and your family may not reap the benefits, but your community certainly will!

A prime example is the current works we are dealing with now.

Nearly all council members who advocated, wrote letters, sat on tenders, accepted proposals etc. to assist the school in getting these works underway have either left the school or will be leaving the school before their children can enjoy the new spaces.

But what a feeling to know, that even in a small way, you have helped a new generation of Patchies!

If slow and steady is not your pace, perhaps the sub committees such as wellbeing, engagement and fundraising may work best for you. We always need assistance and we are always looking for new ideas and these committees may be the best place to start.

No matter what you decide, thank you for considering taking on a role within the school.



Helpful information

Please follow these links for further information or Contact Ange using the school council email address for any advice, questions or general information.

[w2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/school-council-overview/overview](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/school-council-overview/overview)

<https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/school-council-powers-and-functions/policy>

<https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/school-council-elections/policy>

<https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/school-council-composition-and-office-bearers/policy>

<https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/school-council-training/policy>

<https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/school-council-meetings/policy>

<https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/school-council-subcommittees/policy>

[Email:ange.ellis@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:ange.ellis@education.vic.gov.au)

If you have anything you would like to discuss or have raised by someone on council, please do not hesitate to reach out to Ange or any of our members via the council email address: ange.elms@education.vic.gov.au. In the meantime, please check the link below to see if your concern or issue is something school council can help with. A page for parents and our parents to write their time for the school year.

Social Media @The Patch



We understand that not everyone has a social media account or even wants one! And those that do, know just how good a social media detox can be for the soul every now and then. However, it does prove to be a fast way to get information out to our community when needed, or if you need to find something fast.

Obviously the first point of information is Compass. Please make sure your email is up to date with Kim in the office.

The school has a Facebook page run by the staff

[The Patch Primary School | Facebook](#)

We also have a family's page. Please be aware that this is run by parent volunteers. There is no staff involvement. It is a good place to ask for playdates, check in the files section to find lost newsletters or information, find out about a free dress day or for any other community information sharing.

Please ensure when inviting a family member to join that they answer the security questions and please familiarise yourself with the group information.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/familiesofthepatchps>