



# Patchwork News

*Respect, Responsibility, Integrity*

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March Term 1 Issue 1, 2022

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## Dates to Remember

### March

Mon 14 <sup>th</sup>	LABOUR DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY
Thurs 24 <sup>th</sup>	School Athletics Day – Yr 3-6
Mon 28 <sup>th</sup>	District Tennis – select students
Tues 29 <sup>th</sup>	School Council 6pm

### April

Fri 1 <sup>st</sup>	Monitor Assembly
Fri 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>LAST DAY OF TERM 1 – 2.30pm finish</b>

Mon 25 <sup>th</sup>	ANZAC DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY
Tues 26 <sup>th</sup>	<b>FIRST DAY OF TERM 2</b>
Wed 27 <sup>th</sup>	District Athletics – select students

### May

Wed 4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>SCHOOL PHOTOS</b>
Wed 25 <sup>th</sup>	Yr 4/5 Camp commences
Fri 27 <sup>th</sup>	Yr 4/5 Camp returns
Tues 31 <sup>st</sup>	School Council – 6pm

### 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
3:00pm	Prep Dismissal
3.15pm	Y1/2 Dismissal
3.30pm	Yr 3-6 Dismissal

**Please come along to  
our assemblies each  
Friday 9.10am**

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL...

We are looking forward to working together this year with a focus on developing a stronger sense of connectedness and improving our understanding around Numeracy. The relationship between teachers, students and families is critical to successful learning, along with a respect and mutual desire for all our students to achieve and be happy.

As we head into week 7 a settled nature around the school is being felt. Our children are slowly remembering how to play together and cooperate and be respectful of each other. The first few weeks have been a little bumpy and as we reinforce our resilience plans, being centred, ready and grounded for learning and importantly our unconditional regard for each other. We are slowly remembering what our school life is all about after being away for so long. I have included a wonderful piece on that child, who reminds us that we are all different and unique and that is okay.

On Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> of February we held our first school council meeting for the year. School councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of our school.

Congratulations and a warm welcome to our newly elected School Councillors of Nadine Goodall and Pauleen Gould. Our community members Ilana Payne and Jo Rouse and welcome back to Angel Brunette, Briony Mackenzie, Michelle Rayner and Tania Blandthorn who join Olivia Cozzolino, Mikhaela Bourke, Ange Ellis and Megan Robinson

We farewell Emma Taylor, Bec Wapshott and Alesha Sangster who have been invaluable with their support of the school and in shaping our direction with The Nest, our Wellbeing Officer and Fundraising/School community groups and listening ears. Your viewpoint and commitment will be missed.

A warm welcome to our new ART teacher Pauline Molenaar who has already established a new Art installation in the foyer of the school. An exciting display of our values of respect integrity and responsibility and Artwork of BUNJIL's wings. The wings have been created with a handmade feather from every student in the school. The impact of when you enter the front doors is incredible and a wonderful credit to Pauline and her visioning of this space.

We also welcome back Megan Bishop from family leave working in Performing Arts with the Year 1/2 and Year 6. You will see them moving and dancing away every Thursday, an exciting addition to our specialist programs.



Auslan Education Services

More excitement is we are trialling AUSLAN throughout the school from Prep – 6. We are using the skills of AUSLAN Education Services, which provides videos, resources, and planning documents for staff to undertake this program. We look forward to using this program over this year and determining if this is the language we wish to pursue for our school.

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL CONT...

You will have received information about our Cadbury Easter fundraiser. Many thanks to School Council for organising this.

We look forward to starting our fundraising efforts for the school with a BANG....

Planning week is next week and the specialists will be working in classrooms and their specialist programs. Tuesday will be Year 3 and 6, Wednesday is Year 4/5, Thursday is the Year 1/2 and Friday will be the Preps. This time allows the teams to forward plan.

The Patch PS has been selected as one of 100 schools in Victoria to be part of the Campfire Conversations program. Ollie one of our Year 6 teacher will be heading this project up and he will be sending out further information to the community. This is an opportunity for our school and local community to be at the forefront of exciting system changes that empower Koorie learners, families, staff and the wider community to create meaningful reforms, read more further on in our Newsletter

We are looking for people in our school and local community that would be interested in becoming involved in this sharing of knowledge. There are students and staff that hold knowledge of the work we have already done and want to pass on. There are members of our wider community that have knowledge, or are interested in, the stories of the area we live in.

Have a wonderful weekend and enjoy time with your family! Time moves ever so quickly and suddenly your children are grown with lives of their own and children of their own.

Deb

## THAT CHILD

To our parents about THAT child, the one other children go home and talk about, the one who is violent, curses and gets angry in class, the one who parents worry will hurt, disrupt and perhaps influence their own children.

I know. You're worried. When, your child comes home with a story about THAT child. The one who is always hitting, shoving, pinching, scratching, maybe even biting other children. The one who always must hold my hand in the hallway. The one who has a special spot at the carpet, and sometimes sits on a chair rather than the floor.

The one who had to leave the table because pencils are not for throwing. The one who climbed over the wetland fence exactly when I was telling them to stop. The one who poured their water bottle onto the floor in a fit of anger. On purpose. While I was watching. And then, when I asked them to clean it up, emptied the ENTIRE dispenser of paper. On purpose. While I was watching. The one who dropped the REAL ACTUAL F-word in class.

## THAT CHILD cont...

You're worried that THAT child is detracting from your child's learning experience. You're worried that they take up too much of my time and energy, and that your child won't get their fair share. You're worried that they are really going to hurt someone someday. You're worried that "someone" might be your child. You're worried that your child is going to start using aggression to get what they want. You're worried your child is going to fall behind academically because I might not notice that they are struggling to hold a pencil. I know.

Your child, this year, in this classroom, at this age, is not THAT child. Your child is not perfect, and generally follows rules. They can share toys peaceably. They don't throw furniture. They raise their hand to speak. They work when it is time to work and play when it is time to play. They can be trusted to go straight to the bathroom and straight back again with no shenanigans. They think that the S-word is "stupid" and the C-word is "crap." I know.

I know, and I am worried, too.

You see, I worry all the time. About ALL of them. I worry about your child's pencil grip, and another child's letter sounds, and that little tiny one's shyness, and that other one's chronically empty lunchbox. I worry that one of the children's coat is not warm enough, and that for another a dad yells at them for printing the letter B backwards. Most of my car rides and showers are consumed with the worrying. But I know, you want to talk about THAT child. Because that child's backward B's are not going to give your child a black eye.

I want to talk about THAT child, too, but there are so many things I can't tell you.

I can't tell you that they were adopted from an orphanage at 18 months.

I can't tell you that they are on an elimination diet for possible food allergies, and that they are therefore hungry ALL. THE. TIME.

I can't tell you that their parents are in the middle of a horrendous divorce, and they have been staying with their grandma.

I can't tell you that I'm starting to worry that grandma drinks...

I can't tell you that their asthma medication makes them agitated.

I can't tell you that their mom is a single parent, and so they are at school from the moment before-care opens, until the moment after-care closes, and then the drive between home and school takes 40 minutes, and so they are getting less sleep than most adults.

I can't tell you that he has been a witness to domestic violence.

That's okay, you say. You understand I can't share personal or family information. You just want to know what I am DOING about That Child's behaviour.

I would love to tell you. But I can't.

I can't tell you that they receive speech-language services, that an assessment showed a severe language delay, and that the therapist feels the aggression is linked to frustration about being unable to communicate.

I can't tell you that I meet with his parents EVERY week, and that both usually cry at those meetings.

I can't tell you that the child and I have a secret hand signal to tell me when they need to sit by themselves for a while.

I can't tell you that they spend the rest of their time curled in my lap because "it makes me feel better to hear your heart, Teacher."

## THAT CHILD cont...

I can't tell you that I have been meticulously tracking their aggressive incidents for 3 months, and that they have dropped from 5 incidents a day, to 5 incidents a week.

I can't tell you that the school secretary has agreed that I can send him to the office to "help" when I can tell they need a change of scenery.

I can't tell you that I have stood up in a staff meeting and, with tears in my eyes, BEGGED my colleagues to keep an extra close eye on them, to be kind to them even when they are frustrated that they just punched someone AGAIN, and this time, RIGHT IN FRONT OF A TEACHER.

The thing is, there are SO MANY THINGS I can't tell you about That Child. I can't even tell you the good stuff.

I can't tell you that their classroom job is to water the plants, and that they cried with heartbreak when one of the plants died over winter break.

I can't tell you that they kiss their baby sister goodbye every morning, and whispers "You are my sunshine" before mom pushes the stroller away.

I can't tell you that they know more about thunderstorms than most meteorologists.

I can't tell you that they often ask to help sharpen the pencils during playtime.

I can't tell you that when a classmate is crying, they rush over with their favourite soft toy from the corner.

The thing is, dear parent, that I can only talk to you about YOUR child. So, what I can tell you is this:

If ever, at any point, YOUR child, or any of your children, becomes THAT child...

I will not share your personal family business with other parents in the classroom.

I will communicate with you frequently, clearly, and kindly.

I will make sure there are tissues nearby at all our meetings, and if you let me, I will hold your hand when you cry.

I will advocate for your child and family to receive the highest quality of specialist services, and I will cooperate with those professionals to the fullest possible extent.

I will make sure your child gets extra love and affection when they needs it most.

I will be a voice for your child in our school community.

I will, no matter what happens, continue to look for, and to find, the good, amazing, special, and wonderful things about your child.

I will remind them and YOU of those good amazing special wonderful things, over and over again.

And when another parent comes to me, with concerns about YOUR child...

I will tell them all of this, all over again.

## Campfire Conversations - Self Determination in Education Reform

**A campfire is a place where everybody has a spot to sit; to listen, share and connect with each other. It is a place for storytelling and deep listening.**

Hi Patch Community,

The Patch PS has been selected as one of 100 schools in Victoria to be part of the Campfire Conversations program. This is an opportunity for our school and local community to be at the forefront of exciting system changes that empower Koorie learners, families, staff and the wider community to create meaningful reforms.

The purpose of engaging in storytelling and deep listening around the campfires is to:

- *provide Koorie people opportunities to define self-determination in education*
- *explore possibilities for how self-determination could and should look in education*
- *build and strengthen partnerships between Koorie communities and schools*
- *develop a range of changes to improve agency and success for Koorie people in schools, and*
- *highlight the benefits of self-determination for the whole school community.*

We are looking for people in our school and local community that would be interested in becoming involved in this sharing of knowledge. There are students and staff that hold knowledge of the work we have already done, and want to pass on. There are members of our wider community that have knowledge, or are interested in, the stories of the area we live in. I will be working with the Koorie Education Workforce (KEW) to connect our community with the local Koorie community to provide guidance.

Below is a link to a more detailed project overview.

[Project Overview.pptx](#)

I look forward to meeting those who are interested in becoming involved in this important project.

Please contact me to find out more @ [oliver.piesse-walton@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:oliver.piesse-walton@education.vic.gov.au)

Kind Regards,

Ollie Piesse  
6A Teacher & Campfire Convenor



## HOME & SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

Our teaching and support staff are looking forward to a productive partnership with you to ensure all students can achieve their highest potential. We recognise that in order to be successful in school, our children need support from both the home and school. We know a strong partnership with you will make a great difference in your child's education. As partners, we share the responsibility for our student's success and want you to know that we will do our very best to carry out our responsibilities.

We ask that you guide and support your child's learning by ensuring that he/she:

- 1) Attends school daily and arrives on time ready for the day's learning program
- 2) Completes all homework given by teachers
- 3) Reads daily to develop a love for reading and to improve literacy skills
- 4) Shares school experiences with you so that you are aware of his/her school life

If you have concern that is worrying you please contact us for an appointment so we can spend time talking with you rather than rushing to class or to a meeting. Michelle's and my door is always open should any parent need to chat. Our number one priority is the engagement, wellbeing, achievement and care of all students at The Patch Primary School and we are always happy to hear feedback on the improvements we are making and what we can do to better assist our students.

Of course, your child's class teacher is your first port-of-call. Should the need arise to speak directly to a staff member; you can contact us and we will organise an appointment at a mutually convenient time either before school or after school. Please allow us time during school hours as we concentrate our efforts on the children. It is very important that we devote our attentions and 'duty of care' to our school's students throughout each school day.

## ASSEMBLIES

Our assemblies, begin at 9:10 on Friday mornings and are currently outside on the Basketball Court weather permitting. You are certainly welcome to attend, to find out what is happening around the school and to give a hearty cheer to those students that receive the "student of the week awards" and also our choir and musical performances. Please come along if you can, as your child gets a great thrill from having you there. Please ensure Covid safe practices are followed.

## WORKING WITH CHILDRENS CHECK

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 in as many school events as you require. We are hoping that now that Covid restrictions are easing to have parents back on-site (watch this space). 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.

## VISITORS

QR code check-in is no longer required at schools. Our normal policy which requires all visitors to report to the office first when entering the school remains. Please report to the office to sign the visitor's register and pick up your visitor's label. This ensures that in an emergency we are able to account for all people at school.

In Victorian government schools, parents, carers and other adult visitors who enter school buildings must be able show evidence of two doses of COVID-19 vaccine or have a valid medical exemption.

The following limited exemptions apply:

- When attending to administer medical treatment to their own child when the treatment cannot be administered by the school.
- When attending to collect their child who is unwell and cannot leave the school building unaccompanied by their parent/carer.
- When attending for a momentary period that does not involve sustained contact with staff or students, for example, to collect a completed art project, collecting a packet of rapid antigen tests or similar.

## SUPERVISION

The playground is supervised from 8.45am and children should not be at school before this time unless prearranged by a teacher due to a school event. Each day teachers will be in their classroom at 8.55 am parents should note that lessons will begin at 9am sharp. For more complex issues an alternative meeting time, at a mutually agreeable time, can be arranged after school.

If your child is ill at school, or suffers an accident, then staff will give immediate care and appropriate first aid. However, it is necessary on occasions to contact parents and we are often frustrated by out of date information that delays this process. Please make sure you notify the office, in writing, of any changes to your or your Emergency Contact details as well as mobile phone numbers for our SMS system.

Obviously in extreme cases we may also deem it necessary to call an Ambulance before consulting parents and you need to be aware of this. Please also keep the Office informed of any change in medical issues faced by your children as this helps us to make the best choices for their welfare.

Your up to date contact information is especially important for our SMS system in case we need to contact you in case of an emergency, e.g. bushfire.



## 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 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**



**CADBURY**  
*Easter Egg*

**SCHOOL FUNDRAISER**  
**Take part in our exciting**  
**Easter Fundraiser**

All proceeds go to our school!

**Cadbury Easter Egg box \$80**  
**Natural Confectionery box \$60**

**ORDER NOW**  
**Payments via Qkr!**

Cadbury Easter Egg box includes: 6 x Dairy Egg Milk bags,  
6 x Caramello Egg bags, 4 x Chunchie Egg bags & 4 x  
Caramilk Egg bags.

Natural Confectionery box includes: Snakes (200g), Chews  
Fuity Mix (180g), Party Mix (180g) & Sour Squirms (180g)

# Wellbeing

If you are feeling  
ANXIOUS or WORRIED  
think  
B A T S

B ~ Breathe deeply  
A ~ Ask yourself to count to 10  
T ~ Think of your favourite place  
S ~ Say, "I'm okay. I can handle this"

Be the BOSS of your FEELINGS!

If you are feeling  
ANGRY  
think  
B A T S

B ~ Breathe deeply  
A ~ Ask yourself to count to 10  
T ~ Think of your favourite place  
S ~ Say, "I'm okay. I can handle this"

Be the BOSS of your FEELINGS!

## Student of the Week





# Community Notices

## 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](mailto:chrisw7@ymail.com)

## Violin & Viola Lessons

Private violin/viola lesson available for all grades from prep.  
Please contact Hiro (0423 765 312 or [hiro1656@hotmail.com](mailto:hiro1656@hotmail.com))

## 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](mailto:jessdunn.arts@gmail.com)



## Building Children's Self Esteem For Parents, Carers and Volunteers

Presented by Jasbir Singh Suropada

Learn how to :

- Recognise low self esteem in children
- Help children build a positive mindset, better resilience and improved self-confidence.
- Help them recognise what makes them special.

When: Tuesday 26 April 2022

Where : Online via Zoom

Time: 6:30pm - 8pm

Register:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_ZjVolu\\_xSb203-\\_aXSIpiA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ZjVolu_xSb203-_aXSIpiA)

OR Scan QR Code



CFC is funded by the Australian Government, Department of Social Services.  
See [www.dss.gov.au](http://www.dss.gov.au) for more information.

Queries: [CFCCardinia@anglicarevic.org.au](mailto:CFCCardinia@anglicarevic.org.au)/ 0457 825 076



PARENTZONE

[anglicarevic.org.au](http://anglicarevic.org.au)

BETTER  
TOMORROWS

# Monbulk Netball Club

**PLAY NETBALL IN 2022  
OPEN TO ALL PLAYERS AGES 6 & UP**

**TRAINING WEEKLY AT MONBULK NETBALL CLUB, MOORES RD**

**GAMES ON SATURDAYS AT PINKS RESERVE, KILSYTH**

**WINTER SEASON STARTS MARCH - SEPTEMBER**

CONTACT US:  or  [monbulknetballclub3793@gmail.com](mailto:monbulknetballclub3793@gmail.com)



## Toy Library



**102 Colby Drive,  
Belgrave South**

Tuesday 12 - 1 PM

Thursday 9 - 10 AM

Sunday 3:30 - 4:30 PM



BELGRAVE SOUTH TOY LIBRARY



[BELGRAVESOUTHTOYLIBRARY.  
WORDPRESS.COM](http://BELGRAVESOUTHTOYLIBRARY.WORDPRESS.COM)



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or visit [monbulkmarlins.com.au](http://monbulkmarlins.com.au)

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