



School Council Newsletter

JUNE 2023



Hello!

What a year its been so far and we are only half way there! Its been a fantastic, hardworking, joyful, exhausting first semester. Everyone has give their all to our little school and that's given us a great start to 2023.

Parents, Council, Staff and Teachers, Well done! I hope you all get a fantastic mid year break!

We have a HUGE term 3 coming up! There will be lots of opportunity's for our community to get involved in with Wellbeing projects, Fundraising and Engagement work, not to mention that we have the production to look forward to.

We also have the hard task of finding a replacement for our principal Deb as we get ready to farewell and thank her at the end of Term 3. There is more information on this process in the newsletter.

See you under the tree

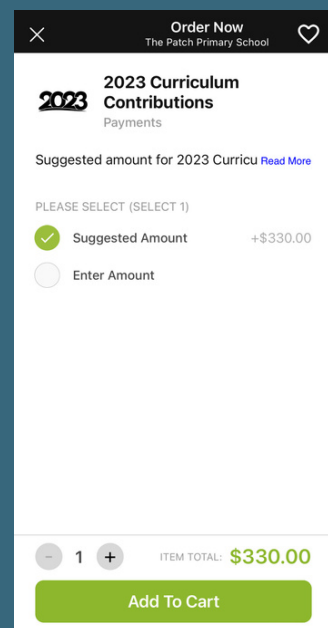
- Ange



A Reminder for Voluntary Curriculum Contributions

Education for all children, no matter their circumstances, is an essential good that we are lucky to access in Australia. As a state school, our buildings and teachers are funded by the Department of Education to ensure that our children have the opportunity to grow and learn to their full potential. Beyond this, the school covers additional expenses primarily through voluntary curriculum contributions and other fundraising.

Our curriculum contributions, although voluntary, provide assistance with the purchase of essentials such as paper, pencils, books, crafts so that all children can fully participate in school life regardless of their circumstances.



The screenshot shows a mobile app interface for '2023 Curriculum Contributions Payments' from 'The Patch Primary School'. It features a 'Suggested amount for 2023 Curriculum Contributions' of \$330.00. Below this, there are two radio button options: 'Suggested Amount' (which is selected) and 'Enter Amount'. At the bottom, there is a quantity selector set to '1' and an 'ITEM TOTAL: \$330.00' with a green 'Add To Cart' button.

Unfortunately, our curriculum contributions are well down on previous years. This jeopardises the school's ability to cover additional expenses and places more pressure on fundraising.

We realise that times are incredibly difficult for ALL families, every aspect of our lives is currently affected by rising costs and our school is not immune to this. If you are in a position to pay the full amount, here is a gentle reminder.

If you would like to pay a different amount or weekly, monthly payments, simply go to QKR and as shown above "Enter Amount". You can do this as many times as you like over the school year. It is similar to a payment plan.

If you need additional advice or assistance, the voluntary curriculum contributions are overseen by our Business manager Karen. She is welcoming, understanding and discreet, and will happily help you in any way she can (we are lucky to have her!).

We understand that not everyone can afford to pay especially in the current climate, but we are grateful for anyone who can pay whatever the amount. You can find information below regarding school costs and fees. [School costs and fees | Victorian Government \(www.vic.gov.au\)](https://www.vic.gov.au/school-costs-and-fees)



Council Updates

Fundraising

In the first half of this year we have managed to raise a terrific amount of much needed funds through the following:

- Jolly Soles (\$369)
- Easter Raffle (\$1940)
- Icy Poles (\$172.50)
- Stomp BBQ (1,328)

With a total of \$3,809.50 these funds will be used to help purchase new building materials for the kids at school, a Marimba for the music room and a plastic igloo cover for the propagation area. We have more items on our wish list this year for the school, so we thank you all for your contributions thus far and continuing support.

A big thanks to Coles, Bakers Delight & Mount Dandenong Bakery for their donations to our sausage sizzle. A shout out to Summer Snow/ Bellevue Orchard a local producer and family run business for their yummy juices & support.

And a massive shout out to the fundraising team who are going above and beyond to help out with all things fundraising related. Kristy, Anna, Joo-Lee, Carly, Melissa, Nadine, Nat your time and energy is really appreciated! A great big thanks to all the parents who stood and helped at the sausage sizzle!

Looking forward to seeing you at our next event on July 14th, a night out for the adults!

- Mikhaela

Community

Deb and I recently met with MP Daniela De Martino to discuss the upcoming works at the school and future plans for the Patch PS.

School Council is a vital component of advocating for the needs of the school and helping to ensure future funding. Daniela was passionate about education and amazed by our school (especially the wetlands area) and its students. I'm sure Council will build on this relationship so the Patch will thrive for a long time to come.

- Ange





Wellbeing

CLASSROOM BLITZ

The parent wellbeing team will be leading a "MID-YEAR CLASSROOM BLITZ" on the 2nd last day of term 2. We did this last year and it was an awesome turnout of parents who came for just an hour or so to help out in the classrooms with 'mid-year' tidy. Last year we blitzed some target areas on the teacher's wish lists providing a bit of organising and light cleaning that was met with genuine gratitude from staff and teachers (I'm not sure how many times Jennie said thank you!), which had a lovely ripple effect on all those who helped. If you feel you can lend yourself to this for an hour or 2 on **Thursday 22nd** between 12-3 please email emmataylorflowers@gmail.com. If we have an idea of numbers ahead of time we can get an idea of what we might be able to offer the teachers.

FILL THEIR BASKET

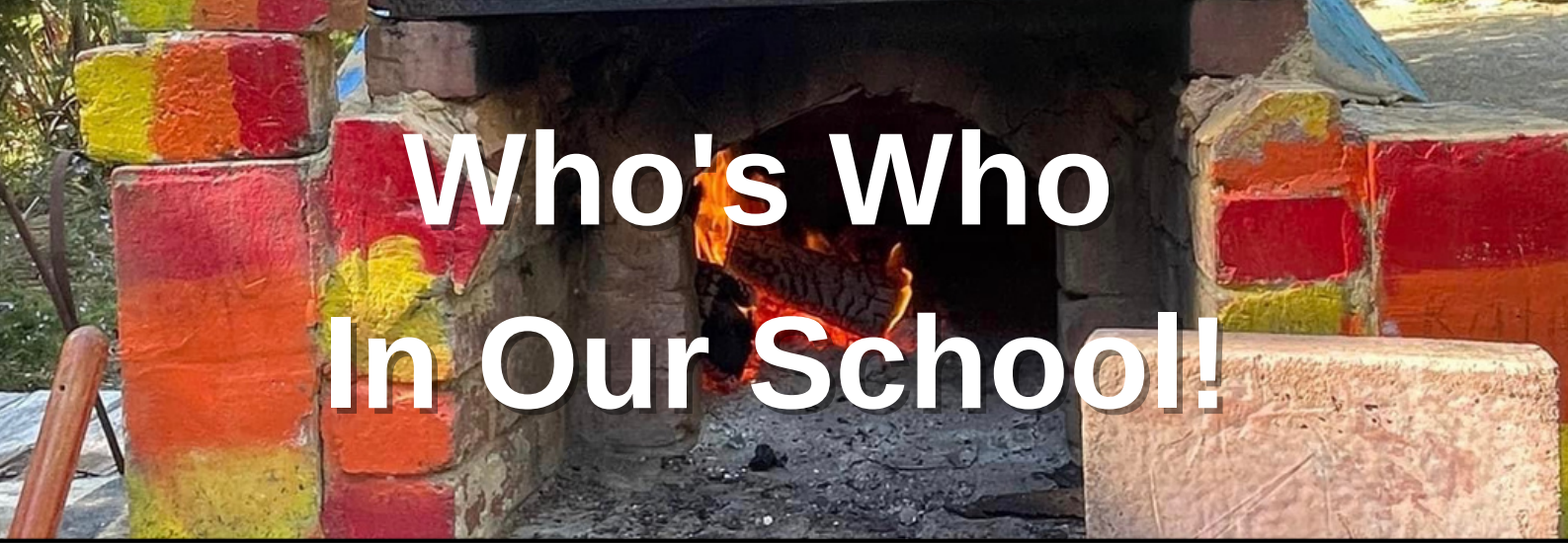
Another parent wellbeing initiative that is ongoing is the basket in the staff room. If you have any home grown goodies a packet of delicious biscuits or something you think the teacher might enjoy in their elusive 'down-time' drop it into the basket. Not sure where it is, just ask Kim (there's not a lot that Kim doesn't know!!)

ATHLETICS

Finally, I wanted to reflect on the warmth of wellbeing that was present at the Athletics Carnival and again thank Anna and all those involved in creating a truly cracking whole-school event. Looking around on the day there was wonderful community connectedness: parent helpers bestowing support and encouragement on all the Patchies across every event, meeting new people and sharing tips on keeping warm in cold start of the day, reconnecting over lengthier conversations than a passing drop-off or pick up might allow, staff and parents chatting, lots of smiles, standing shoulder to shoulder, cheering in the sun as the day continued. There was certainly enough doses of wellbeing to get those happiness chemicals flowing around and it was a marvelous reminder of the very special community we have here in The Patch Primary.

If you have any ideas and feedback to support the parent wellbeing team please let us know.

- Emma



Who's Who In Our School!

We all know our amazing classroom teachers. Those incredible people who keep our little people happy, healthy and loving school. However, there is also a huge group of people that you might not see as often, but they all play an integral role in our school and with our Patchies.

Anne Lawry is our wonderful wellbeing support. You will find her at the school on Tuesday and Friday in the Nest. She's always there with a smile and a friendly word.

We have an amazing group of humans in our Education Support and Tutoring program. Kellie, Lukas, Naomi, Nicola, Paula, Bec H, Bec S, Sarah, Indigo, Dave, Jude, Deb and Laura. How lucky are we to have these people supporting us all in class. Josie ensures our kids are well read in the library and helping them discover the magical world of books.

Glenn looks after the Maintenance of the school and you will see him on Tuesday and Thursday, fixing a door, building a seat or being followed by a troop of Children begging to get their ball off the roof!

Ken our gardener is in on a Thursday to help look after our grounds. He also helps with Gang Green, a particular highlight for the kids who are members.

Eddie, Jess, Mieke, Hiro and Madeline come in, and with the students that choose to, through, guitar, ukulele, piano, violin and voice, they help keep the music flowing.

Last but never least we have Kim, Andrea and Karen. Where would we be without them in the office? Probably wondering around the school completely lost and not knowing what day it is, what event is on and where the brand new jumper we just brought has ended up. Always with a smile, always ready for a laugh, always ready to comfort and help. Thank you ladies.

Along with our teachers and Michelle and Deb this group of people keep the school running. They keep it safe, happy, fun, and welcoming. They are the Ultimate Patchies!

New Principal Process

Soon we will begin the process of choosing our next school principal

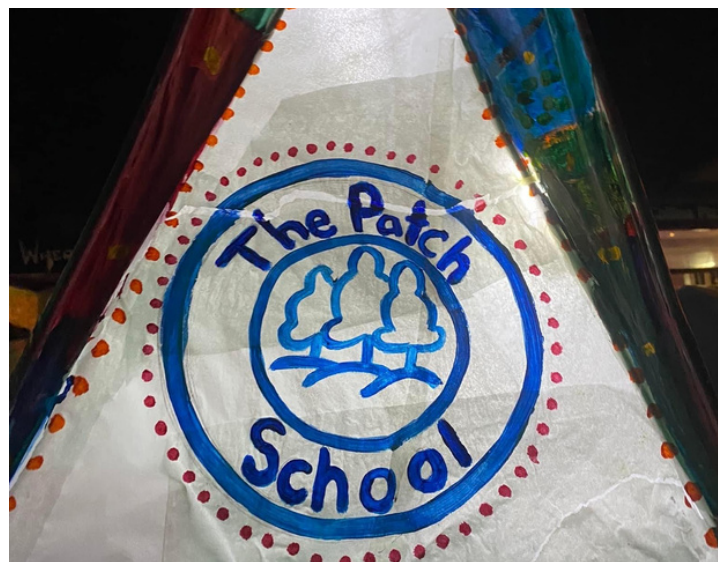
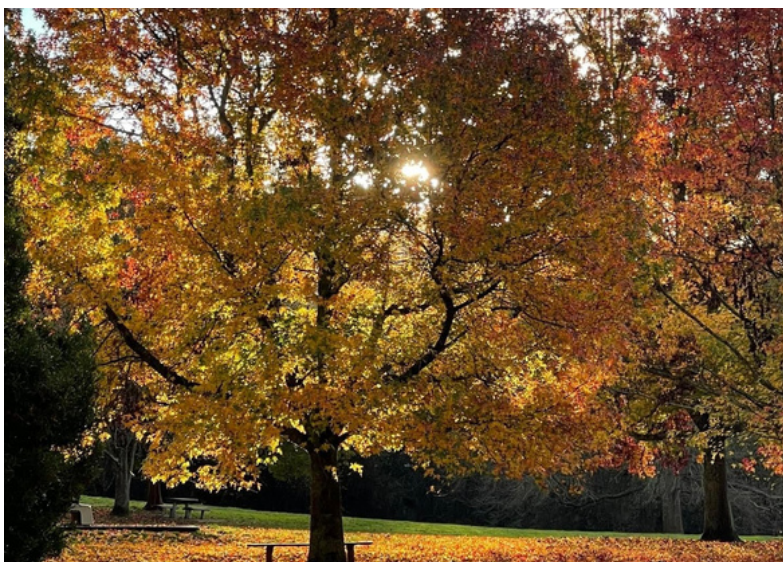
Discussions have been had with not only the school council and staff but also with the SRC and students to ensure that everyone has a voice.

A panel has been decided and is made up of 5 people:

- 1 school council member who will represent the community.
- 1 school council member who will represent the community and the staff.
- 1 staff member
- 1 primary school Principal in the region
- A representative of the Department of Education

Please be mindful that this is a highly confidential process and when we are able to, we will release further information in regard to its continuation or the successful applicant.

We appreciate your help in this so that we can ensure we do the absolute best for our school and its future.



THE PATCH PARENTS

night out

Friday 14th July 7:30pm Burrinja Cultural Centre

THEATRE IS DYING. GARRY IS OUR ONLY HOPE...

GARRY STARR

PERFORMS EVERYTHING



Limited tickets available

Cost: \$29

*Includes a glass of bubbles on arrival **

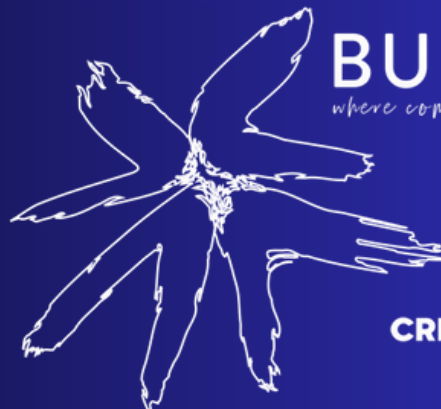
QKR purchases open from 13th - 21st June

BYO a picnic of cheese & snacks to share at your table

Garry Star Performs EVERYTHING

Theatre is dying. Garry is our only hope.

Garry Starr Performs Everything is the story of a disgraced actor who attempts to save theatre from its inevitable extinction by performing every genre imaginable. Starr tears through artistic genres with little regard for personal safety and, arguably, less regard for art.



BURRINJA
where community & culture meet



CREATIVE VICTORIA

* only for tickets purchased through The Patch PS

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 free dress day or for any other community information sharing

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

Families of The Patch Primary School Group | Facebook

There is a page for the Nest that is currently under construction as it has been inactive over lockdown to some degree. We will share the link for that once it is up and running again.



Our School Council Members 2023

President: Ange Ellis

Vice President Term 2: Emma Taylor

Treasurer: TBA

Secretary: Mikhaela Bourke

Parent Council Members

Emma Taylor

Kathryn James

Tex Moon

Peter D'Abico

Mel Muller

Staff Members

Karen Robinson

Tania Blandthorn

Michelle Rayner

Deb Herrmann

Alesha Sangster

Community Member

Jo Rouse

Who to contact

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. In the meantime, please check the link below to see if your concern or issue is something school council can help with. A gentle reminder that our parents volunteer their time, and may not always be available.

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