



# PATCHWORK NEWS

KINDNESS, COURAGE, CONNECTION

Friday 13th March - Term 1, Issue 2 2026



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## DATES TO REMEMBER

### MARCH

Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Yr 3 & Yr 5 NAPLAN Concludes
Wed 25 <sup>th</sup>	Second Hand Uniform Sale (8.45am-9.15am)
Wed 25 <sup>th</sup>	Yr 3/4 'Let it Grow' Team Building Incursion
<b>Fri 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>PATCHFEST26</b> (Dress up in Orange for Harmony Day)
Thurs 31 <sup>st</sup>	Regional Swimming (Qualified Students)

### APRIL

<b>Thurs 2nd</b>	<b>LAST DAY OF TERM 1 - Early Finish 2:30pm</b>
<b>Mon 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>FIRST DAY TERM 2</b>
Tues 21 <sup>st</sup>	NEVR Choir Rehearsal Kalinda (10.00am - 2.00pm)
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Yr 5/6 Lord Somers Camp commences
Fri 24 <sup>th</sup>	Yr 5/6 Lord Somers Camp finishes
Mon 27 <sup>th</sup>	Yr 1/2 Narrative Dress Up Day (2.30pm)
Thurs 30 <sup>th</sup>	Prep Camp Afternoon

### MAY

Tues 5 <sup>th</sup>	Yr 5/6 NEVER Rehearsal Kalinda (10.00am - 2.00pm)
<b>Wed 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>School Photo Day</b>
Fri 8 <sup>th</sup>	Mother's/Special Person Day (2.30pm)
Fri 8 <sup>th</sup>	Free Dress Day - Casual Clothes
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup>	Yr 1/2 Healesville Sanctuary Excursion
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup>	NEVR Choir Rehearsal Hamer Hall
Fri 15 <sup>th</sup>	House Athletics Day
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup>	Ukulele Festival (Jess Dunn's Students)
Wed 20 <sup>th</sup>	Prep 2027 Information Night (6.00pm)
Wed 20 <sup>th</sup>	Open Afternoon (2.30pm)
Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup>	District Cross Country (Qualified Students)
Tue 26 <sup>th</sup>	National Sorry Day
Wed 27 <sup>th</sup>	National Reconciliation week
Fri 29 <sup>th</sup>	Free Dress Day - Dress in Indigenous Colours

## BELL TIMES

8:55am First Bell
9:00am Learning Begins
11-11:45am First Break
11:45-12pm Lunch eating time
2-2:30pm Second Break
3:20pm Prep &Yr1/2 Dismissal
3.30pm Yr 3-6 Dismissal

## ASSEMBLY

9.00am Friday mornings



# MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Principal's email: james.burnside@education.vic.gov.au  
Assistant Principal's email: alesha.sangster@education.vic.gov.au

Hi Patchies,

The hills suddenly realised it was Autumn this week and the jumpers came out. For adults, at least (some students have a knack of wanting jumpers when it's 30 degrees and then deciding just shirts are the style when it's 14 degrees). Thinking glass half-full: it will be nice to not have any Extreme days to think about for another year.

Patchfest is now only two weeks away! We are excited for all the stalls, games, performances, and food that will be on offer for our students and families. Our 5/6s are doing a brilliant job getting stalls ready for the students-only part, while Alesha and Anna are leading a fantastic group of parent volunteers in organising the event. We would love it if you, too, could support us on the day by putting your name down to support one of our stalls or set-up equipment for an hour. I'll be sending out a Patchfest Volunteer Roster via Compass later today for you to click the link and place your name down. This event runs so well due to our parent/carer volunteers, so thank you in advance for your help!

I want everyone to be aware of how proud we are of our Year 3s and 5s who have been doing NAPLAN tests. We don't teach to the test at our school – we want our students to be immersed in learning experiences that give them the confidence to explore the world with curious minds – but our students have been brilliant in their efforts to do their best.

Lastly, on another positive note, our students have been enthusiastic to get our Values Leaves and adding them to our Values Tree. It is so lovely to see students each day grinning ear to ear as they explain why they earned their leaf. Likewise, we've loved sending out 'positive behaviour' notifications on Compass. These are just some of the extra habits we're implementing to spread more positive vibes and celebrate the many wonderful things our students are doing.

Have a great weekend!

Jim



# INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC LESSONS

Our school has an excellent extracurricular music program with 4 instrumental music teachers offering lessons on various instruments.

All instrumental teachers are contractors, set their own fees and timetables.

Music lessons can fill up quickly, so waiting lists are a possibility for some lessons.

## Jess Dunn

Jnr Choir, small group ukulele / voice, solo voice / ukulele

Email : [jessdunn.arts@gmail.com](mailto:jessdunn.arts@gmail.com)

Mob : 0408 102 542

## Eddie Cole

Guitar

Email: [music@eddiecole.com](mailto:music@eddiecole.com)

Mob: 0417 152 947

## Mieke Florisson

Senior (Yr3-Yr6) Piano

Email: [miekeflorisson@bigpond.com](mailto:miekeflorisson@bigpond.com)

Mob: 0407 647 511

## Madeleine Rowe

Junior (Prep - Yr 2) Piano

Email: [musicalmother@hotmail.com](mailto:musicalmother@hotmail.com)

Mob: 0408 539 523

**If you are interested in music lessons for your child/ren it is best to contact the music teacher directly.**

## YR 5/6 SURF EXCURSION



# PATCH FEST 26'

## REMINDERS!!!

### Qkr!

On Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March the following items will open on Qkr! for purchase:

- Easter Raffle Tickets
- PatchFest26 Token Cards



\*Cards will have \$20 worth of tokens on them.

\*If you purchase less, we will cross off tokens to your value.

\*Cards will be named, if they get lost they can be returned.

\*As purchases at stalls are made the tokens will be crossed off.

\*Pricelists and more info coming soon!

### Volunteers

Jim will send out a Compass News Item soon with a sign-up sheet for volunteer helpers for the day - please pop your name down if you are able to help, thanks!

### Cake Stall

The week prior to PatchFest26 we will send home a paper plate for cake stall donations. There will be a slip for you to write ingredients on.

***FAQs coming soon...***



**THE PATCH PRIMARY SCHOOL**

# Easter Raffle Fundraiser

**DRAWN MARCH 27TH  
@ PATCHFEST**

**Step #1**

Donate your egg or easter related product to the office  
Between March 10th-13th

**Step #2**

Purchase your raffle tickets on  
QKR between March 16th -  
March 27th @ 9am

**Step #3**

Your child will receive tickets in  
class after purchase and we  
encourage you to keep a list of  
who you on sell to, if you  
choose to sell tickets to family  
and friends.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**TICKET STUBS DO NOT NEED  
TO BE RETURNED, WE WILL  
HAVE A RECORD OF YOUR  
PURCHASE & ALLOCATED  
TICKETS.**





**Friday 27th March  
3.30pm-7.30pm**

**What we have in store is:**

- Class Performances
- Harmony Day themes- dress in orange
- Belly dancing performance Dj to dance the night away
- Teacher/student races
- Face paint
- Crazy hair
- Easter raffle
- Giant games- jenga etc..
- Temporary tattoos
- A bar for the grown ups!
- Icecream
- Fairyfloss
- Taco truck
- Kallista scout toasties
- Sausage sizzle
- Andy's smoke meats (veg options)
- Glen cooks food (veg options)
- Sushi

**Can you donate...**the more donations we have the more profit we will have!! There may be other items as we go on but here is a great start.

We would love some help collecting the following items:

**FOR THE BAR**

Bottles of White Wine  
Bottle of Red Wine  
Bottles of Prosecco

**All alcohol to be dropped  
directly to office by an adult  
students may bring other  
items.**

**FOR THE RAFFLE**

Easter Eggs / Easter Themed Items  
(one per family would be great!)  
3-6 large baskets  
Cellophane

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Temporary Tattoos  
Coloured Wool/String  
Small prizes





## Harmony Week & PatchFest26 'Everyone Belongs'

Harmony Week is a national celebration held each March across Australia. Taking place from 16th - 22nd March, it coincides with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, first proclaimed by the United Nations in 1966. The week is an opportunity for all Australians to reflect on the importance of cultural diversity, inclusion and respect and to reaffirm that racism has no place in our communities.

Australia is one of the most multicultural nations in the world, and our diversity is one of our greatest strengths. Harmony Week recognises the more than 300 ancestries, languages and cultural backgrounds that shape our country. At its heart is a simple but powerful message: Everyone Belongs.

While Harmony Week is often associated with themes of connection and community, it is also an important time to have meaningful conversations about cultural identity, fairness and anti-racism. It encourages us to actively create environments where every child and every family feels safe, valued and respected regardless of their background, language, culture or faith.

In the lead-up to Patch Fest, students have been engaging in classroom learning that explores these themes in age-appropriate ways, building understanding, empathy and pride in who they are, while learning to honour and respect the identities of others.

Although Patch Fest will be held just outside the official Harmony Week dates, we are proud to continue this important focus into our festival celebration. This year, you will see a vibrant orange theme woven throughout the event. Orange is the official colour of Harmony Week and symbolises social communication, mutual respect and meaningful conversations. We warmly encourage students and families to wear a touch of orange to show their support.

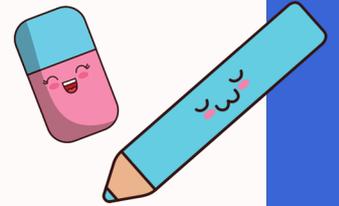
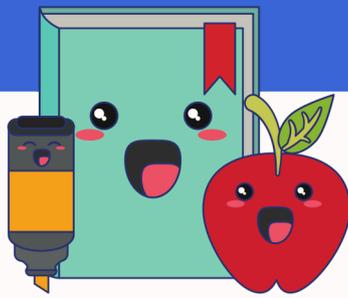
This year, Patch Fest is a celebration of the many cultures that make up our school community and a shared commitment to ensuring that diversity is not only acknowledged, but celebrated.

We look forward to coming together in colour, culture and connection.

Everyone Belongs at Patch Fest!

# HARMONY DAY





# 2026 Term 1 Curriculum News

## Supporting Our Teachers, Supporting Our Students!



Hi Everyone,

It's hard to believe that it has been almost 12 months since we began introducing our Teaching and Learning Model at The Patch Primary School. Over the past year it has been wonderful to see how our teachers and students have embraced this journey together.

In my role as Curriculum Assistant Principal, and as part of the leadership team alongside Jim and Alesha, I've had the privilege of working closely with our teachers as they continue to grow and refine their practice. I spend a lot of time in classrooms, planning with teams and supporting teachers as they explore new approaches that help bring learning to life for our students.

One of the most rewarding parts of this role has been seeing the collaboration across our staff and the way teachers are sharing ideas, reflecting on their practice and supporting one another. This work is all about ensuring that every child at The Patch has the opportunity to feel confident, challenged and supported in their learning.

We are really proud of the progress we've made so far, and we're excited to continue building on this throughout 2026. Thank you to our families for your ongoing support – working together as a school community makes such a difference for our students.

Warmly,  
Kellie





# Helping Every Child Succeed!

## Supporting Learning at The Patch



The section below highlights some practical ways we support learning at The Patch. It explains how children develop key skills, build knowledge over time, and benefit from focused practice and feedback — giving you a clear view of what learning looks like in our classrooms and how you can support your child at home.

### Elements of learning: how students learn!

The elements of learning are based on research into how the brain learns:

- 1. Attention and focus** – learning starts when students are engaged and focused. Teachers create environments that reduce distractions and help students pay attention.
- 2. Knowledge and memory** – new learning builds on what we already know. Teachers help students remember previous lessons and link them to new ideas.
- 3. Retention and recall** – practice makes permanent, but only when done correctly. Teachers use strategies like spacing, quizzing, and revisiting key concepts to help students remember more over time.
- 4. Mastery and application** – students learn best when they can apply knowledge in real-world ways. Teachers ask open-ended questions, problem solving, and peer collaboration to help students apply learning



### Why are things changing?

Schools across Victoria are updating their teaching practices to align with the best evidence about how students learn. Our Teaching and Learning Model is aligned with the Victorian Teaching and Learning Model 2.0. It is based on years of research and experience about the most effective teaching strategies.

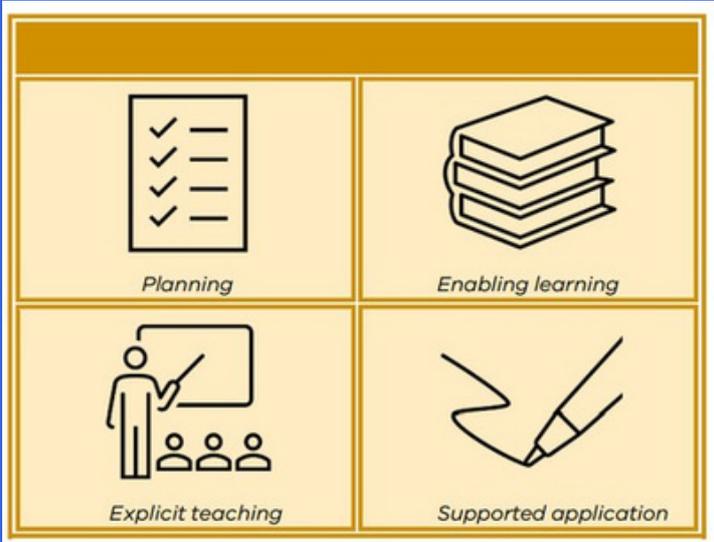


# Elements of teaching: how teachers teach

Our school is focusing on step-by-step or explicit teaching and applies this approach to help students understand, use and remember what they learn.

This means teachers generally start each lesson by clearly explaining what students will learn and why it matters. They break content into smaller steps and actively check for understanding.

Students then practice what they have learnt using different ways over time. This helps them retain information in the long term and apply it with confidence.



## WHY IS THIS GOOD FOR YOUR CHILD OR YOUNG PERSON?

Research shows that the teaching methods set out in our teaching and Learning Model are the most effective approaches for all students, including high achievers and those needing additional support, to:

- set their own learning goals
- understand new things efficiently
- remember what they have learned
- use what they learn with confidence.

As students experience learning success, they become more confident and can learn even more. This helps them become lifelong learners who are ready for whatever the future holds.

## What will this look like for your child or young person?

Your child or young person may tell you that they are:

- clearer about the learning objectives for each lesson and how each lesson builds on the last.
- finding it easier to access new information, concepts and techniques, because teachers are introducing them in small pieces and showing students how they work.
- experiencing more learning success, with teachers supporting them as they practise new skills and develop confidence and competence.
- enjoying applying what they have learned as teachers offer them opportunities to use it increasingly independently, in different contexts, and become more critical and creative thinkers.

### 10 Questions to ask your child about their learning:

- 1 What was a learning goal in class today?
- 2 Can you explain it to me in your own words?
- 3 What helped you understand it better?
- 4 What examples were shared with the class?
- 5 What's one mistake you fixed today?
- 6 How did you practice what you learned?
- 7 How would you explain your learning to others?
- 8 What did you review or remember from earlier lessons?
- 9 How do you know if you're getting better at something?
- 10 What's a question you still have about today's learning?



# The Patch, Kindergarten

# OPEN DAY!

Wednesday March 25th



10am - 11am



**ENROL NOW**  
**FOR 2027**



9752 1835



[enrolments@ev.org.au](mailto:enrolments@ev.org.au)



53 Emerald-Kallista Rd, The Patch



**PRIZES**



**FREE  
BBQ**

# The Patch Tennis & Social Club Open Day

**THE PATCH STORE  
COFFEE VOUCHERS  
FOR MEMBERS**

**Saturday 21st March  
10:00am - 12noon**

**SIGN UP FOR  
TERM TENNIS  
LESSONS**

**Everyone welcome! Come and enjoy a fun morning for the whole family!**

**Join in a Free Hot Shots lesson (ages 5-10 years)**

**Get your heart rate up with our fun Cardio Tennis Program (Adults)**

**Come and meet our members & the committee that make our local tennis club a great asset for The Patch community.**

## **Free Hot shots Tennis**

**Looking forward to seeing you there!**

Just drop in to say hello, or stay and play, it will be fantastic to meet everyone!

**Red ball lesson**

**10:00 - 10:30am 4-6yrs**

**Orange ball lesson**

**10:30 - 11:00am 7-9yrs**

**Come and try Cardio**

**11:20am - 11:50am Adult**

**Contact Jess on  
0421 805 696  
for any coaching enquiries**

*Racquets supplied for junior sessions*



# COULD YOU FOSTER A CHILD?

We **URGENTLY** need **Foster Carers in your area.** Enquire now on how you can help change a child's life.

[Canifoster.com.au](http://Canifoster.com.au) | 1800 932 273



# Can you help?

**FOSTER CARERS NEEDED IN VICTORIA.**

Take our 2-min quiz at [Canifoster.com.au](http://Canifoster.com.au) or call us on 1800 932 273



# Open Door Creative Kids Club

Ages: 8 -14 years

\$5 per week



Sign Up Now!  
Limited places



Join us for fun-filled afternoons of art & craft workshops, designed especially for young creators!

**WEDNESDAYS**

3:45 PM - 5:15 PM

Starting March 25th 2026

For more information collect flyer from the Open Door Op Shop





# MONBULK COLLEGE

# OPEN WEEK

**School Tours for 2026**



Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March  
Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March

Book via our website  
or call us during  
school hours



[www.monbulkco.vic.edu.au](http://www.monbulkco.vic.edu.au)



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