Dear School Community,

The last fortnight has been very busy as we have welcomed new pets to the school, planted an Autumn/Winter crop in the Vegetable Garden and built on our Earth Sciences theme this Term by undertaking science experiments, attending excursions and hosting workshops!

Our new school chickens have been named and a Chook Palace has been built to house them. Ivy, Milly and Candy have all settled in well and are quite partial to being picked up and patted! We have school monitors to check their food, water and hopefully collect some eggs later in the year. We are hoping that by selling eggs when they arrive, we can subsidise the cost of our chook feed. I’m sure our students will let you know when the time arrives!

Our school vegetable garden has now been rejuvenated. All residual plants and weeds have been removed, the soil has been fertilised, an autumn/winter crop has been sown/planted, the garden has been mulched and netting has been fixed in an attempt to fend off unwanted guests.

I can also report that our toilets have been partially renovated in an attempt to rid them of flies. We have had Flywire Frames put up over the existing chook wire window frames and plastic streamers have been attached to protect the doorways. Once our termite residency has come to an end via the baiting program, minor repair works can take place and we can then re-paint the toilets for a much needed facelift.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Max and Kellie Keele for all of the time and effort they have put into the Chook Palace, rejuvenated Vegie Patch and our Fly-free Toilets. Quite simply, these projects would not have been completed by now if it wasn’t for your hard work. Thanks.

Our Earth Sciences theme “Beneath our Feet” has begun to culminate in a range of experiments, excursions and workshops that have reinforced what children have been learning in the classroom. Rosalie has done an amazing job of organising many exciting and adventurous ways of building upon our recently acquired geoscience knowledge and skills including:

- An excursion to the Old Dookie Tip in the search for the famous Dookie Greenstone with an aboriginal elder, geologist and two rock enthusiasts as guides,
- Making our very own Geodes by forming crystals inside eggshells overnight and mimicking the longer natural processes that saw amethyst and garnet form in Dookie Greenstone,
- Using rocks to create artwork in a ‘Sacred Stones’ workshop at school, and
- Attending ‘The Rockery’ Gemstone Museum at Longwood to explore a range of geodes, cut and polished stone, gemstones and other various geological wonders.

Expect a full report in our first Newsletter for Term 2 on ‘The Patch School’ Curriculum Day visit. Rosalie and I visited yesterday and we hopefully borrowed lots of great ideas for use at our “Little School where Science Rules.”

Thanks for Reading,
Adam Cleary – Principal.
CALENDAR

MARCH
- Wed 18th - School Council AGM @ 6pm
- Thur 19th - The Rockery Gem Museum
- Fri 20th - Welcome/Farewell barbecue
- Wed 25th - MARC Library
- Fri 27th - End of Term 1

APRIL
- Mon 13th - First day of Term 2
- 17th, 18th & 19th - Centenary

SCHOOL COUNCIL AGM
The School Council Annual General Meeting will be held tomorrow (Wednesday, March 18th) at 6:00pm.
All office bearer positions (President, Vice-President and Treasurer) will be decided.
The School Strategic Plan draft needs to be passed before being sent to the Department

WELCOME / FAREWELL BARBECUE
The Term 1 Welcome/Farewell Barbecue will be held on Friday, March 20th starting at 6:00pm.
Please bring your designated Salad / Dessert.
They are:
- Blackmore: Roast Vegetable Salad
- Boyd: Sweet
- Cleary: Vanilla Slice
- Chauhan: Rice Salad
- Davidson: Sweet
- Hamilton: Platter
- Holland: Salad
- Keele: Salad
- McNeill: Salad
- Thomas: Meatballs

FORTNIGHTLY SCIENCE FACT

“THE ROCKERY” GEMSTONE MUSEUM
This coming Thursday (March 19th) we are travelling to Longwood to “The Rockery” Gemstone Museum.
Parents are most welcome to come along with us, and children are allowed to bring no more than $5 to purchase a small gemstone.

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS
In addition to a ‘Letter to themselves’, we would also like students to contribute something small and personal that they don’t mind burying for 25 years! Rosalie and I will photograph and include as many school items as we can fit in, but we would like families and children to decide on a special item themselves.
Objects must be no wider than 10cm and no longer than 30cm. There is also a note attached from the Centenary Organising Committee. I would encourage all parents to help where they can.

WHOLE SCHOOL CAMP - MT HOTHAM
A whole school camp to Mt Hotham in September is being run in conjunction with our Primary Connections Science Program. We will be attending with Undera Primary School. The draft itinerary looks fantastic and will give our students an affordable opportunity to visit our amazing Alpine environment. We require a (non refundable) deposit of $100 for all students and parents attending. This deposit goes towards the accommodation costs for the camp and needs to be paid by Friday, March 20th. Thank you.

HOMEWORK
You will have noticed that Homework has been kept to a minimum this Term. Students should be focussing their energies on reading at home, practising their personal spelling words, reciting their times tables and collecting information or specimens for Science. Our homework will evolve over the year as we delve further into Science but could you please make sure students are completing these minimum reading, spelling and times tables tasks well.

UNIFORM
Our school polos, jackets and polar fleeces have arrived back at school to be handed out early next week when the ‘limited edition’ Grade 6 polos will be arriving too. Please ensure you have paid in full as uniform will only be sent home with those families that have paid. Our winter tunics should be available for the beginning of Term 2.
Why is science important in young kids' lives?

* Science involves a lot of communication with other people.
* Science develops patience and perseverance in kids.
* It can help kids form a healthy dose of scepticism.
* Science teaches kids about the world around them.
* Science can spark in kids' minds that they, too, can help solve the world's big problems.

Bring out the scientist in your child

At a glance...

* Kids most powerful ideas about science are the ones they develop themselves.
* As kids attempt to make sense of what they see, their ideas can sometimes be scientifically incorrect.
* Kids need to be allowed to test and research their ideas to better understand science.
* By listening to your child's scientific ideas they gain confidence in their thinking.
* Kids are naturally curious – encourage your child to be even more curious.

Scientist of the Week
March 6th

Hannah-Mae for following instructions well in science.

Scientist of the Week
March 13th

Becky for her fantastic rock collection and her enthusiasm for science.

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PrimaryConnections
Linking science with literacy

Kids Matter
Australian Primary Schools Mental Health Initiative
New Chooks

Responsible Pet Ownership
Dookie Greenstone Excursion
Making Geodes

Sacred Stones Workshop
Examining Rocks

Microscope Photos