**DIARY DATES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri 17 Apr</td>
<td>Prep/Yr 1 Swimming Program at PARCS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 20 Apr</td>
<td>Victorian Premiers Reading Challenge Registration Forms due back today Whole School Assembly 2.55pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 21 Apr</td>
<td>Prep/Yr 1 Swimming Program at PARCS Yr 3 Celebrations Incursion Prep - Yr 2 Parent Reading Session 2.30pm - 3.30pm - Room 5 main building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 22 Apr</td>
<td>Prep/Yr 1 Swimming Program at PARCS Yr 3 Celebrations Incursion Yr 4 Excursion to the MCG 9am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thur 23 Apr</td>
<td>Prep/Yr 1 Swimming Program at PARCS Yr 6 Patterson River Secondary College Incursion 9.30am Yrs 3 - 6 Cross Country Run 1pm - 3pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 24 Apr</td>
<td>Prep/Yr 1 Swimming Program at PARCS PFA Second Hand Uniform Sales - Yr 6 rooms 3pm - 4pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 27 Apr</td>
<td>Yr 2 Historical Society Incursion Senior School Assembly 2.55pm Patto’s Got Talent Expression of Interest Forms due back today</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 28 Apr</td>
<td>Yr 3 Celebrations Incursion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 29 Apr</td>
<td>Yr 3 Celebrations Incursion Patto’s Got Talent - Gladesville Heat 12pm Prep - Yr 2 Parent Reading Session 7pm - 8pm - Room 5 main building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 1 May</td>
<td>Yr 6 Interschool Sport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 4 May</td>
<td>Yr 4 Hands on Science Incursion Junior School Assembly 2.55pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 5 May</td>
<td>Yr 4 Hands on Science Incursion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 6 May</td>
<td>Patto’s Got Talent - McLeod Heat 12pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thur 7 May</td>
<td>Mothers Day Stall in the library during morning sessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 8 May</td>
<td>Prep 2015 &amp; 2016 Fairytale show in the school hall 9.30am - 10.30am Yr 6 Interschool Sport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 11 May</td>
<td>Senior School Assembly 2.55pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 12 May</td>
<td>Y3 &amp; Y5 Naplan - Language Conventions &amp; Writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 13 May</td>
<td>Yr 3 &amp; Yr 5 Naplan - Reading Patto’s Got Talent - Thompson Heat 12pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thur 14 May</td>
<td>Yr 3 &amp; Yr 5 Naplan - Numeracy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 15 May</td>
<td>Kids Disco: Prep - Y2 5.30pm - 6.45pm and Yr 3 - Yr 6 7.30pm - 9pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PRINCIPAL’S REPORT**

**WELCOME BACK**

I would like to welcome everyone back for Term 2. I hope all families had a safe and happy Easter period. This term will be 11 weeks in duration and will conclude on Friday 26 June 2015.

**STAFFING NEWS**

It is with sadness that I announce the resignation of Jill Clark from Patto after 11 years of wonderful service and support to senior school teachers, students and school programs. Jill expressed that she wanted to leave quietly and without fuss. We shall miss Jill’s contribution to Patto, and wish her every happiness in life’s future journey.

**UP: PRINCIPAL PREPARATION PROGRAM**

PLPS has been chosen by the Department of Education to host Karen Walker, Assistant Principal of Mt Martha PS, for a 4 week period as part of the UP program [Principal Preparation Program].

The UP program prepares aspiring Principals to manage the complexity, expectations and increasing accountabilities of the principal role. It also promotes aspiring principals to reflect on their practice, pursue their vision, gain perspective and seek feedback about their performance in preparation for embarking on principalship.

The school has previously hosted two previous Assistant Principals, Kaitlyn Haitus and Janet Evison. Kaitlyn is currently Principal of Balwyn North PS and Janet is Principal of Heany Park PS.

**HOUSE NEWS – PATTO’S GOT TALENT**

Our House competition for Term 2 is ‘Patto’s Got Talent’. Individuals and groups that have talent in Performing Arts are encouraged to register their interest. If your child can dance, sing, play an instrument or do all 3, we are interested in their involvement in ‘Patto’s Got Talent’.

Expressions of Interest forms must be completed by Monday 27 April and placed into House boxes located outside Ms Lamaro’s room [Room 9].

**SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS**

Just a reminder to all parents that teachers are officially on yard duty before school from 8.45am – 9.00am and after school from 3.30pm – 3.45pm. A bell is sounded at 3.45pm to ensure that students that have not been collected by parents report to the office.

For new parents to our school, the following procedures have been implemented in relation to student safety and children arriving at school well before 8.30am.

Contact will be made with parents informing them that staff are not officially on yard duty until 8.45am.

Parents will be asked if they can find other alternatives for morning supervision. If there are no other supervision alternatives, parents will be provided with an enrolment form for Before School Care.
SUNSMART: SUN PROTECTION POLICY

Just a reminder that the wearing of school hats in the playground for Term 2 is required up until Thursday, 30th April.

Following this teachers will encourage students to wear their hats on days where UV levels are expected to reach 3 or above up until the 1st September when the compulsory wearing of hats recommences.

CONGRATULATIONS

Kiran C (5B) went to Sydney over the school holidays and competed in two major Karate tournaments. The first tournament was the 2015 Australian University and School Championship where Kiran represented Patterson Lakes Primary and did an amazing job bringing home a bronze medal. The second tournament was the Australian Open Championships where he came up against other competitors from around Australia in his division, again he came home with another bronze medal.

Kiran has been attending Karate since he was 4yrs old and is extremely dedicated and trains very hard, sometimes 5 nights a week and holds his brown belt. It is his hoped that he can make it into the Victorian Karate Team this year. Well done Kiran!

Ethan L (6A) who attends Paul Sadler Swimland received a Diploma last term for swimming excellence. To gain this award Ethan had to display a mastery of the four competitive strokes, the ability to swim 50m freestyle in under 45 seconds, the ability to swim at least 200m in an unprotected open water environment and the ability to swim 3 kilometres non-stop. Well done Ethan!

MONASH UNIVERSITY PRE-SERVICE TEACHER PLACEMENTS

We welcome Katherine Armena (Prep C), Lauren Garland (3/4Z), Mia Fine (3D), Eun Bi Jo (3D) and Josh Chapman (4A) for their teaching placements which are taking place over the first two weeks of Term 2. Katherine, Lauren and Joshe are in their second year, and Mia and Eun Bi their first year at Monash University.

HOLIDAY BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS WORKS

Over the holiday period the main buildings and grounds works completed were:

- Painting of outdoor poles, shades and roofing near the courtyard
- Painting of the entrance area outside the main office.
- Painting of the bag areas of a number of portable classrooms.
- Replacement and repair of fencing and the boom gate near Coles.
- Installation of an auto flushing device in the Senior Boys’ toilet.
- Repair of the Junior Playground irrigation system.
- Levelling of pavers in the courtyard.
- Installation of a stone pathway in the new section of the vegetable garden.

- Annual cleaning of the gutters of all our roofing and the drainage pits.
- The installation of a concrete base for our new junior play area beside the Bike Shed – in the next few weeks some basketball towers, fencing and a new sand pit will be installed in this area. This project has been possible through recent fundraising activities.

IT’S NOT OK TO BE AWAY OR LATE!

Last year Patterson Lakes Primary School averaged 12.4 days of absences per student which was a pleasing result as it was lower than the school average for the previous four years. This was also 0.4 days lower than our 2013 school average and met our goal of being below 12.5 days per student. The number of ‘Late Arrivals’ per student decreased by 0.2 days per student from 2.7 days in 2013 to 2.5 days in 2014.

This was the lowest result over the past 11 years but we still need to make a huge effort to ensure that students arrive at school on time in 2015 to further reduce lateness. Our goal for 2014 was to reduce our late arrivals to 2.5 days per student which we were able to achieve – Well done!

Some data for Term 1 of the 2015 school year is as follows:

1237 – This is the total number of ‘days absent’ that students have taken during Term 1 this year. On average this is lower than for Term 1, 2014. If our students are lucky to stay healthy for the remainder of the year and attend school when they are well, then we could further improve our attendance rate and keep our absences below last year’s result. A target of 12.3 days is our goal.

352 – This is the number of unexplained absences for Term 1. This makes up 28.5% of absences and is 0.6% higher than at the same time last year. These are absences without parent/guardian notes or calls to the Office as to the reason why students were not at school. Please remember that when your child is absent from school a note or call to the Office is needed to explain the absence as this is a Department of Education requirement. Let’s make a better effort to improve this for the rest of the year and beyond.

The P.L.P.S student ‘Absences’ and ‘Late Arrivals’ ladders for our 29 classes for Term 1 of the learning season in 2015 looks like this. (The average number of absences and late arrivals per student for each class are shown in the right hand columns).
HAPPY BIRTHDAY

NAME | BIRTHDAY
-----|--------
Mercedes D | 16 April
Noah M | 16 April
Jayla G | 16 April
Charlotte K | 16 April
Sunday N | 16 April
Axl M | 17 April
Josh A | 17 April
Tie-La G | 17 April
Nyakuek D | 18 April
Tammy K | 18 April
Maisy N | 19 April
Blake W | 19 April
Tiffany C | 20 April

Happy Birthday to the following students who are celebrating their birthday during the next week. We hope you have a lovely day.

MUNCH MONITOR ONLINE LUNCH ORDERS

Lunch Orders are available online on Monday, Thursday and Friday.

How do I set up an account to order online:

Go to: www.munchmonitor.com
Click LOGIN then REGISTER
Enter School Id: plps and Password: munch3197

Then follow the 4 easy steps to create your account:

STEP 1: Create a Parent Profile by entering information about yourself.
STEP 2: Add your Students to your account.
STEP3: Transfer money to your account by clicking the Account Top-up button
STEP4: Click MY ORDERS and you’re ready to Order lunches!

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ABSENCES</th>
<th>LATE ARRIVALS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 6A</td>
<td>Prep D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 1C</td>
<td>2C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 2D</td>
<td>3/4Z</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Prep D</td>
<td>5A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 1A</td>
<td>6C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 2B</td>
<td>5C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 3/4Z</td>
<td>1A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 5C</td>
<td>3A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Prep B</td>
<td>4B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Prep A</td>
<td>2D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 5B</td>
<td>3C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 4A</td>
<td>6A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 5A</td>
<td>1B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 2C</td>
<td>5B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 1B</td>
<td>3D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 6C</td>
<td>1/2Z</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 6D</td>
<td>Prep A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 3C</td>
<td>Prep B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 3A</td>
<td>6B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 Prep C</td>
<td>4A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 4C</td>
<td>5D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 1D</td>
<td>Prep C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 1/2Z</td>
<td>1C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 3B</td>
<td>1D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 6B</td>
<td>4B</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 5D</td>
<td>3B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 3D</td>
<td>2A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 4B</td>
<td>2B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 2A</td>
<td>3B</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Average (all) 1.66
Average (Boys) 1.50
Average (Girls) 1.80

Average (all) 0.47
Average (Boys) 0.38
Average (Girls) 0.56

Congratulations 6A who are our leaders in attending school for the first term of 2015. Keep up your excellent attendances 6A.

Congratulations to Prep D who are our leaders in being on time to commence school for Term 1. Keep making sure you are ready for school before 9 o’clock Prep D. Well done!

In Term 1 the boys had a better attendance record and were better at being on time for school than girls.

Research shows that regular attendance at school does assist student learning.

**IT IS OK TO BE AWAY – IF YOU ARE ILL!**
SECOND HAND UNIFORM SALE

Parents and Friends Association are holding a second hand uniform sale on Friday the 24th of April from 3pm - 4pm outside the Year 6 Rooms.

Uniforms will be going out for just $5.00 and all will be in good to very good condition.

Be warned, due to a successful response to last years sale it would be wise to get there quick.

See you there!

ALOPECIA AWARENESS - FIRST AID NEWS

Alopecia

We have a student here at Patterson Lakes Primary School who suffers from a condition called Alopecia.

Alopecia is one of the most common autoimmune skin diseases resulting in the loss of hair on the scalp and elsewhere on the body. The onset is typically rapid, initially starting with one or more small, round patches, and can progress to the point where all the hair is lost on the scalp (alopecia totalis) or even on the whole body (alopecia universalis). A simple explanation is that Alopecia means hair loss.

As you can appreciate children in primary school often become very aware of not just their own appearance but the appearance of others. We understand that it’s a natural response for someone to see a person with Alopecia and assume they are really sick or have cancer, due to the hair loss.

Please feel free to openly discuss with your children at home what Alopecia is and please reassure them and yourselves, that aside from the obvious hair loss, this student is perfectly happy and healthy.

For more information regarding Alopecia, please refer to the following webpage http://www.aaaf.org.au/
ANZAC APPEAL

It’s that time of year again to get behind and support the ANZAC appeal. The monies raised assist the former members of the Australian Allied Defence Forces.

Some of the areas financial assistance is provided include:

- Grocery shopping
- Outstanding household bills
- Medical and hospital expenses
- The provision of mobile aids such as wheelchairs, scooters and walking frames
- Household repairs and maintenance
- Funeral costs

Our Junior School Councillors will be coming around the classrooms selling ANZAC tokens right up until the week of Anzac Day, which is Saturday 25th April 2015.

Thank you for your support
Mark Koppens and the JSC

ROYAL CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL GOOD FRIDAY APPEAL

We would like to thank the families and students who supported the Royal Children’s Hospital Easter Appeal in the way of a Gold Coin donation for the Free Dress Day held at the end of last term.

We are proud to say we raised a total of $738.85 and all proceeds have been donated to the Royal Children’s Hospital.

Thank you again for your support.

MOTHERS DAY STALL

Mother’s Day Stall
THURSDAY 7th May
(During morning classes)
Gifts from $1 to $10

Parents & Friends Association will be having the Mother’s Day Stall on THURSDAY 7th MAY

Children will be able to purchase gifts for their Mum at the stall during the morning session. Please send money with your child in a named envelope, on the day, if you wish for them to participate. Wallets should also be named. A plastic shopping bag may be helpful to bring your gift home in.

Any parents who are able to assist on the day with the running of the stall would be most welcome.

Please see Julie Shaw.

YRS 3 - 6 CROSS COUNTRY

Cross Country is soon approaching!

On Thursday the 23rd April PLPS will be running the Cross Country River Run for Years 3-6.

The event will be held at Patterson River between 1.00pm-3.00pm. 8-10 year olds will be running a 2km race and 11-13 year olds a 3km race.

Students are to wear their House Polo’s on this day.

If any parents are able to assist during the event (Working with Children Check required) please email Michelle Conway at conway.michelle.l@edumail.vic.gov.au

Runners Club

A reminder that Runners Club continues on the school oval at 8.10am each Thursday morning, weather permitting. New runners (parents included) are always welcome.
Congratulations to our Talented Artists. Our Year 3 artists completed a wax resist cat drawing influenced by Paul Klee. Both Toby F (3A) and Nina D (3A) created outstanding colourful cats with expressive eyes. Fabulous work!

The Year 6 Talented Artists drew amazing self-portraits inspired by Van Gogh. You can already guess who they are! Fantastic work completed by Harvey T (6A) and Katie H (6A).
Our school has again accepted the challenge to participate in the 2015 Victorian Premiers’ Reading Challenge. Last year many of our students participated in the challenge.

We believe that the encouragement of extensive reading will further enhance and improve our students’ literacy levels, as well as, their vocabulary, imagination and creative writing skills. Further details of the challenge can be obtained from http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/events/prc.

Students will begin the challenge when the below form is handed in and they receive their logon details. The challenge will conclude on Monday, 14th September. Students in Prep to Year 2 are challenged to read or experience 30 books and students in Years 3 to 6 are challenged to read 15 books. If students are just learning to read, you can help them ‘experience’ books by reading to, or with them and talking about the story, text and pictures.

Please return completed forms to your classroom teacher by Monday 20th of April. You will be provided with a login to record your books on the website.

We call on all students to ‘dare to dream’ and ‘undertake the adventure of books’.

FOR PARENTS:
I give my consent for my child ________________________________ of Grade __________________ to participate in the 2015 Premiers’ Reading Challenge. I/we are willing to authenticate my child’s reading and to verify each book upon completion. On completion of the Challenge, I/we consent for his/her name to be published in the Reading Challenge supplement of “The Herald Sun”.

Parent/Guardian Signature: ____________________________________________

FOR STUDENTS:
I _________________________________ of Grade _______________ would like to enrol for the 2015 Premier’s Reading Challenge. I agree to abide by the regulations of the Challenge.

Student’s Signature: ________________________________________________
Prep - Yr 2 Parent Reading Information and Classroom Helper Training

Training will be offered for parents to help assist children on their path to reading success and assisting in the classroom.

The same session will be offered at two different times to accommodate for all. You do not need to attend both sessions.

**Session 1:**
- Tuesday 21\(^{st}\) April
- 2.30pm - 3.30pm
- Room 5 (main building)

**Session 2:**
- Wednesday 29\(^{th}\) April
- 7.00pm - 8.00 pm
- Room 5 (main building)

If you are interested in attending one of these training sessions, please fill out the form below and return it to the office by Monday 20\(^{th}\) April.

Thank you

Samantha Marston (Curriculum Coordinator)
Poppy Morris (Literacy Coordinator)

I will be attending the Parent Training Session on

- [ ] Tuesday 21\(^{st}\) April
- [ ] Wednesday 29\(^{th}\) April

Name:________________________________________________________
Childs’ name:______________________________________ Grade: ______________
KIDS DISCO

WHEN:       Friday 15th May 2015
WHERE:     School Hall
TIME:         Prep to Yr 2: 5.30pm - 6.45pm
              Yr 3 - Yr 6: 7.30pm - 9.00pm

Cost includes: Entry to disco, bottle of water, packet of chips and a python snake.

Cost: 1st Child $10, 2nd Child $10 3rd & 4th child $5

Please note discounts are only offered to FAMILIES, not friendship groups.

To avoid long queues we are pre-selling tickets for the night. Please fill in the form below and return it with your money and the tickets will be sent home to you. If you choose to pay on the night the cost will be $15.00 per child, no discount will be offered.

Glow products will be sold on the night, prices ranging from $1 to $4 but there will be no canteen.

TICKETS ARE NON-REFUNDABLE

PREPAID TICKETS ARE ONLY AVAILABLE UNTIL TUESDAY 12TH MAY. AFTER THE 12TH MAY TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE NIGHT AT THE EXTRA COST.

KIDS DISCO TICKET BOOKINGS

Name:........................................................................ Grade: ..........
Name:........................................................................ Grade:.............
Name:........................................................................ Grade:.............

------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

Cardholder Name:........................................................................
Credit Card No:........................................................................ Exp: ..........
Amount: $...............................    Number of Tickets: .....................
Cardholder Signature:.........................................................  Date.........................
As we progressed through Term 1, we received a growing number of reports from parents with children who have head lice. Thank you to those families who have signed and returned the Head Lice Inspection Consent Form. Class screening and spot checks of suspected head lice cases will commence NEXT WEEK.

Please note that PLPS has in place a Head Lice Policy Agreement that stipulates all children found to have head lice (even 1 or 2 live lice) must be collected from school and cannot resume school until treatment has taken place.

We ask all families to please check your children’s hair each week and treat if necessary.

Here are the facts: -

Head lice infestations are a common occurrence, particularly in primary schools.

- it is estimated about 23% of primary students have head lice at any one time
- anyone can catch head lice regardless of their age, sex, or how clean their hair is
- head lice move from one person’s head to another via hair
- head lice do not survive long when they are off a human head
- head lice do not live on furniture, hats, bedding or carpet
- head lice have built up some resistance to head lice treatments

Treatment: -

- Daily combing of white hair conditioner using a fine tooth comb is effective in getting rid of head lice and eggs.

Tips for parents in reducing the spread of head lice: -

As infestations are particularly common in primary schools, it is best to choose a treatment that can be used over time. There is no single solution to eradication, only persistence.

- regularly check your children’s hair
- teach older children to check their own hair
- tie back or braid long hair
- keep a fine tooth head lice comb in the bathroom and encourage all family members to use it when they wash their hair
We currently have 600 users registered on Tiqbiz since the launch of our school’s Tiqbiz app, showing even more so that it’s certainly proving to be a valuable communication tool for our school.

If you haven’t downloaded the school app yet and wish to do so, please follow the simple instructions below. Should you require any assistance you can contact Tiqbiz direct on 9800 1489 or contact Rachael Grady at the school on 9772 4011.

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We have a school app

We are now using an app to send instant messages, newsletters and notices.

The Tiqbiz app will help our school keep parents fully informed and up-to-date with newsletters, notices, news and events. It’s easy to use and also has the benefit of helping reduce our paper consumption by printing less.

The first step is to download Tiqbiz to your phone, tablet, computer… or all of them.

Search for: Tiqbiz

Available on the App Store  
iPhone and iPad

Important: Click ‘Allow’ notifications when asked. 
This is to allow your school to send you important alert notices.

Android smartphone and tablet.

www.tiqbiz.com  
Windows & Mac computers.

Once installed, follow the steps on the next page to tick on our school.

---

Find and tick our school

Log-in  
Open Tiqbiz and register/log-in.

Find our school  
Click the ‘Find’ icon and type our school name into the search bar. 
You will now see all of our school boxes.

Tick on  
Click on the grey tick beside our school box and any other box that apply to you. 
When the tick turns green, you’re connected.

Inbox  
Click on the Inbox icon. 
This is where you will receive our instant messages, newsletters, notices and calendar events.

Technical Support 9am-5pm Mon-Fri

Victoria  
(03) 9800 1489

New South Wales  
(02) 8091 6826

Queensland  
(07) 5641 4565

Email  team@tiqbiz.com
Have you ever compared your child’s behaviour, academic progress or social skills with a sibling or your friend’s children? Comparing your child with others is a stress-inducing and, ultimately, useless activity.

But it’s hard to resist, as we tend to assess our progress in any area of life by checking out how we compare with our peers.

When you were a child in school you probably compared yourself to your schoolmates. Your teachers may not have graded you, but you knew who the smart kids were and where you ranked in the pecking order.

Now that you have kids of your own do you still keep an eye on your peers? Do you use the progress and behaviour of their kids as benchmarks to help you assess your own performance as well as your child’s progress? Or perhaps you compare your child to yourself at the same age?

Benchmarking children’s progress with that of other children is not a wise parenting strategy. Inevitably, it will lead to parent frustration as there will always be a child who performs better than your own on any scale you use.

Kids develop at their own rates

Each child has his or her own developmental clock, which is nearly impossible to alter. There are slow bloomers, early developers, bright sparks and steady-as-you-go kids in every classroom. The slow bloomers can cause the most concern for parents who habitually compare children to siblings, their friends’ kids and even themselves when they were in school.

The trick is to focus on your child’s improvement and effort and use your child’s results as the benchmark for his or her progress and development. “Your spelling is better today than it was a few months ago” is a better measure of progress than “Your spelling is the best in the class!”

Gender matters

It’s no secret that boys’ and girls’ brains were developed by different architects. One major difference lies around timing, or maturity. The maturity gap between boys and girls is anywhere between 12 months and two years. This gap seems to be consistent all the way to adulthood.

Quite simply, girls have a developmental head start over boys in areas such as handwriting, verbal skills and relationship skills. Boys benefit greatly from teaching strategies designed for their specific needs. They also benefit from having teachers and parents who recognise that patience is a virtue when teaching and raising boys, as it seems to take longer for many boys to learn and develop.

Kids have different talents, interests and strengths

So your eight-year-old can’t hit a tennis ball like Novak Djokovic, even though your neighbour’s child can. Avoid comparing the two as your child may not care about tennis anyway.

It’s better to help your child identify his or her own talents and interests. Also recognise that the strengths and interests of a child may be completely different to those of his or her peers and siblings.

Avoid linking your parenting self-esteem to your child’s performance

As a parent you should take pride in your children’s performance at school, in sport or their leisure activities. Seeing your child do well is one of the unsung pleasures of parenting. You should also celebrate their achievements and milestones, such as taking their first steps, getting their first goal in a game or getting great marks at school.

However, you shouldn’t have too much personal stake in your children’s success or milestones, as this close association makes it hard to separate yourself from them. It may also lead to excessive parental pressure for kids to do well for the wrong reasons – to please you!

The maxim “You are not your child” is a challenging but essential parental concept to live by. Doing so takes real maturity and altruism, but it is the absolute foundation of that powerful thing known as “unconditional love”.
Seaford United Soccer Club - Boys and Girls to Play
Vacancies in most junior age groups for boys and girls to play soccer. Contact Dave on 0490 035 434 or juniors@seafordunited.com.au for more information.

Bayside Basketball Club - New Players for Winter Comp
Winter Competition (runs Terms 2 & 3) Chelsea Basketball, U10 girls & boys and Under 14 girls & boys. Contact Ruth Letch & Sarah Tobias at baysidebasketballclub@gmail.com

Mordialloc College Open Afternoon/Night & SEAL Exam
Yr 7 student Open Afternoon Saturday 18th April 2pm - 4pm, Open Night Tuesday 21st April 7pm - 9pm, SEAL Entrance Exam 23rd April 1.30pm - 4.00pm.

Scorpion Basketball Teams Looking For Players
2 x girls U10, 2 x boys U10 & 2 x boys U12 Mon night at Patterson River Secondary College, training Wed at PLPS 3.30pm. Call Sara on 0410 523 378 for further details.

Mentone Girls' Secondary College - Open Sessions
Open Night Wed 29th Apr 7pm - 9pm in the Gymnasium. Open Afternoons Tues 5th & Thurs 7th May 2pm - 3.30pm in the Nina Carr Hall. Call 9581 5200 for further details.

Play Baseball at the Chelsea Dolphins Baseball Club
We've got program for juniors aged from 4 - 14 years old. Edithvale Rec Reserve, Edithvale Road Edithvale. Call Trevor on 0450 784 728 for details.

Pets On Nepean Chelsea - Family Fun Day for Maison
Family Fun Day Saturday 18th April 9am-5pm at Pets On Nepean. Funds raised will go towards an assistance dog for Maison who is an 8yo boy with a rare chromosome 6 deletion as well as being autistic. For details call 9773 2154.

Carrum/Patterson Lakes Junior Football Club
Looking for Under 9 boys and girls for the 2015 season. For more information call Rachel on 0410 564 374.