On Thursday August 1st we will be holding a Fun Maths Games Afternoon in the PC Centre from 2:30pm. All families are invited to come along and join in the fun with your children. Please meet your child at their line up area to be then escorted down to where the fun begins! We look forward to seeing as many people as possible.

The use of opinion data as a measure of school performance is a very important step towards making our school the best it can possibly be. For many years, we have conducted annual and anonymous opinion surveys for staff, students and parents. We use this information to inform and direct our plans for school improvement. Many parents over the years will have completed these surveys. Every year, 30 families are randomly selected to participate in the Parent Opinion Survey.

We ask the selected families for 2013 to take the time to complete the survey as honestly as possible as opinions are important to us and will be reflected in the management and organisation of the school.

If you receive a survey, please return it to school, completed by Friday, 2nd August 2013. Please be assured that all responses are totally confidential.

***Have you heard your child read today? We encourage all students to practise their reading at home about 5 nights per week. Therefore, by now, most students should have read at least between 110-115 nights. Well done if you have kept up!

***Sunday Nights - a great night to check for Head Lice.
Defence School Transition Aide Message

Back at school: I trust that everyone has had a smooth and satisfactory beginning to the school year. Changing schools, beginning school for the first time and even returning for another school year can be daunting for students and parents. It is great to see parents eager to support their children at this time and be an integral part of their education. If you have any concerns, or just feel like a chat about school and your child, please find me!

SWAPP Select Program
I have information about the ADF partners career assistance program if anyone is interested.

NEW UNIFORM
We have recently had a new shipment of uniform arrive that includes shorts, tops, tracksuit pants and hats. Some parents have been waiting on this to arrive.

Best wishes for the week.

Sue R
Defence School Transition Aide

Congratulations to the following students who were ‘Students of the Week’ for last week. Winners – Cohen Ryder, Hailey Altas, Ruby Hall, Luke Freeman, Sophia Lopez, Joshua Morris, Oliver Kenny, Lochlan Worden, Jack Easom, Jamie Boucher and Hannah Postill. These students were selected because they were modelling ‘Tolerance’. This week teachers are looking for students who are modelling ‘Compassion’.

Congratulations to the following students who were ‘Authors of the Week’ for last week. Winners – Janae Senner, Riley Wallace, Brooke-Mackenzie White, Mitchell Carrick, Daniel Boucher, Ben Hall, Ixchel Hodgson, Tea Rose Porter, Hayden Freeman, Tiberius Lindeblad and Arabella Dee. These students were selected because they showed great skills as an author.

5/6 P in Room 1B won the Senior School Times Tables Trophy this week. Emma Boyd and Melanie Waszczuk will look after the winning trophy for the week.

3/4 A in Room 9 won the Middle School Times Tables Trophy this week. Patrick Johnson and Saskia Truter were delighted to win the weekly trophy.

2 F in Room 10 won the Yard Duty Competition Trophy. Emily Cox and Amy Franks are both delighted to look after the winning trophy for their grade!

Congratulations to Declan Reyne, Cohenn Diaz and Cooper Dickinson who each received a ‘Clean Up’ award for the week. Well done, kids!

Well done Amanda Horner who played the piano at assembly this week. She has only been learning for 5 weeks. Great job, Amanda!
Happy Birthday to Jett Miller and Paige Hallett who are both having their birthdays this week. On behalf of the Puckapunyal Primary School Community, we wish them all a very Happy Birthday!

The School Canteen is open for Lunch Orders again this term. Each and every Friday students can order lunches from the school canteen. The menu will be different each week. Please see the Term 3 menu from the last newsletter of Term 2.

**This week**
Party pies and party sausage rolls – $1 each  
Tomato or BBQ sauce – 20 cents each  
Chocolate or Strawberry milk - $2

**Help needed!!**
If you are interested in helping out in the canteen you can pop your name down on the roster at the office. It can be a ‘once-only’ session or every week….whatever suits. All help is greatly appreciated. If current volunteers could also pop their name on the roster, that would be great too.

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Ride2School: Our commitment to active travel has earned us a $100 gift voucher to be used on sporting goods. Well done everyone and keep walking and riding….even on the colder days!

Creative play: We are still after donations of suitable equipment or toys for our students. Matchbox cars, lego, dress ups, construction materials and more can all be put to good use. All donations gratefully received!!

Mobile ‘phone recycling: Keep those ‘phones coming in. We are almost at 30!! Thank you for your support.

Healthy Tips: Some more family activities:
- Play together as a family – Join them on a bike ride, play hide-and-seek, throw the frisbee with them at the park etc.
- Mark activities in the family diary – Once the physical activity is committed to paper, it’s much more likely to happen.
- Walk the dog together, as a family.
(Source: Heart Foundation)

Enjoy your week. Sue Ranger, D.S.T.A.

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Every now and then, we ask families to donate a tissue box to their children’s grades. As you can imagine each grade uses thousands of tissues throughout the year and school can only supply so many. Please help to contribute. We also encourage students to carry handkerchiefs.

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Sick Students
It is that time of the year when there are lots of bugs, flu viruses, etc. going around the community. We have had lots of sick children at Puckapunyal lately. We want all of our children to recover as quickly as possible. We also do not want sick children at school infecting other children. Therefore, we insist that sick children do not come to school. Families will have to make other arrangements. Unfortunately, if a sick child comes to school we will have to contact the family to pick him/her up immediately. Please help us to contain any illnesses.

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School Athletics All students in Years 3-6 have begun their athletics training. In P.E. and Sport the students are practising their field and track events.

We have House Athletics Carnivals scheduled for both Prep-Year 2 and Year 3-6 students.

*Years 3-6: Thursday 22nd August-Friday 23rd August
*Prep-Year 2: Tuesday 10th Sept
With many families leaving at the end of the year, it is imperative that we know the movements of our families as soon as possible. To employ teachers and organise classrooms we need accurate information to determine how many students will be at Puckapunyal in 2014. If you are aware of your plans for next year and know whether your child/ren will or will not be attending Puckapunyal Primary School for the year 2014, please fill in this form and return to the school as soon as possible.

Don’t Forget – Those very lucky students who won a free kebab from the Seymour Kebab House can still redeem their winning prize up until 21st September. Enjoy your kebabs kids!

2014 – NEXT YEAR
Family Name:

Given Names of Children:

__________________________________________________
__________________________________________________
__________________________________________________

Circle and complete one section:

a. The above mentioned children will be at Puckapunyal Primary School in 2014
b. Our family is moving to ______________________(destination)
   Their last day of school at Puckapunyal PS is ___/___/13
c. It is yet uncertain as to where we will be living in 2014.

Mrs. Philp will be taking Long Service Leave for the last 6 weeks of Term 3.
Our Assistant Principal, Allyson Dixon will be the teacher of Room 1B for those 6 weeks. We wish Mrs. Philp well for her well-deserved break!

Thank you to all of the students who participated in the school Move-a-thon last week. We now need all sponsorship money to come to school as soon as possible. There are prizes to be won for some students who raise funds for the school. Do you like the prizes?

Do you like some of the art work that our prep students are doing at the moment? Tessa Thompson and Angela Klein did a great job with their kookaburras!

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Television In The Bedroom May Hurt Child’s School Performance

ScienceDaily (July 5, 2005) — A study of elementary school students found that children who had television sets in their bedrooms scored significantly lower on school achievement tests than children without TVs in their bedrooms. Having a computer in the home was associated with higher test scores, according to the same study, which was conducted by researchers at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and Stanford University. The study is published in the July 4, 2005, edition of the Archives of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine.

In this study, we found that the household media environment was related to a child’s academic achievement,” said Dina Borzekowski, EdD, lead author of the study and assistant professor in the Department of Population and Family Health Sciences at the Bloomberg School of Public Health. “Among these third graders, we saw that even when controlling for the parent’s education level, the child’s gender and the amount of media used per week, those who had bedroom TV sets scored around 8 points lower on math and language arts tests and 7 points lower on reading tests. A home computer showed the opposite relationship—children with access to a home computer had scores that were around 6 points higher on the math and the language arts test and 4 points higher on the reading test, controlling for the same variables.”

The study followed a diverse group of third-grade students from six schools in northern California. During the course of a school year, nearly 400 students and their parents were asked to report on the types of media available in the home, including television, videotapes, computers and video games, as well as how often the child used them. The children’s math, reading and language arts skills were tested twice over the year using the Stanford Achievement Test.

Overall, children who had a television set in the bedroom but did not have a computer at home scored the lowest, while students without TV in the bedroom but with access to a computer at home scored the highest. Students who gained a television in the bedroom over the course of the school year scored lower in all areas than those who had their TV taken away during the same period. The researchers did not find a consistent negative association between test scores and the amount of television watched per week.

“Educators and parents are looking for ways to improve children’s standardized test scores. This study suggests that something as logical and straightforward as taking TV sets out of kids’ bedrooms, or not putting them there in the first place, may be a solution,” said the co-author of the study, Thomas N. Robinson, MD, MPH, an associate professor of pediatrics and medicine at Stanford University and director of the Center for Healthy Weight at Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital at Stanford. “While this study does not prove that bedroom TV sets caused the lower test scores, it adds to accumulating data that kids shouldn’t have TVs in their bedrooms. It also suggests that investing in a home computer for a child to use may be an additional strategy to help your child’s test scores. The best combination was having both: no TV in the bedroom and also a home computer to use.”

Sunset Valley & William Creek

At the start of Term 3 4/5 H and 4/5 W created two towns, called Sunset Valley and William Creek. With these towns we have also created our own currency called ‘Pucka Bucks’. The students are using the Pucka Bucks to pay out fines, taxes, pay their salary and plenty more. A part of this is also jobs. There are alternative businesses and regular jobs. Regular jobs include an electrician, reporter, meteorologist and other important roles. Alternative businesses have been created by the students themselves and they can either stay with that or change that. Businesses include a candy store, massage therapy, renting out the computers and a construction company. Every second week Sunset Valley and William Creek have something called a market day. On Market Day they can trade with their alternative businesses, using Pucka Bucks. It is really fun and I’m hoping that we will get to do something as fun as this next term.

By Daniel Boucher, 4/5 H (Sunset Valley)
What did other students think?........

Williams Creek Market Day was great. If you don’t know what I am taking about 4/5W and 4/5H are doing economics and acting as a town. There is tax, rent, salary and fines. Tax is the least fun thing which the town does. Rent is not so bad and you can buy your desk. Most of the time you can lose money through fines. I am going good with 3 215 Pucka Bucks. The market is great with lollies, cartoons and cupcakes. It is great. I bought a spring roll and cartoon. By Josh Porter

Arrghh, tax again! 4/5W and 4/5H have come up with the idea of turning our classes into towns. My class (4/5W) now has the town name Williams Creek. Every fresh week we assign a new job and earn a salary. We need to pay tax and rent. Also if we step out of line, we get fined. The price of fine always varies depending on what we are fined for. Williams Creek isn’t all about fines and other minuses. We also earn bonuses for home reading and home work being in on time and also for getting ten out of ten on times tables tests. Every fortnight we have a Market Day and everyone has a stall. My stall is called All-Sorts and I sell things that I hand-sewed. It was a great Market Day and it was great fun and I can’t wait until next time! By Hazel Ludlow

Yay, time to get more money into our bank! Cha-ching! It’s the start of our new term. This term our class is learning about economics and running a town. We all have our own jobs to do and my jobs have been an attendance officer the first week, which means taking the class roll. Then the second week I was a real estate agent. I am now a news reporter, telling some of the world news. We have also been having a market so we can sell and buy and I have been a hair stylist, selling hair things and doing people’s hair. Some of the things that people did at the market were making cookies and cakes, selling bags and signs and selling hot food. So, we are really enjoying being part of a town. By Sarah King

“Finally, it’s market day! I’ve been waiting all fortnight for this wonderful, magical moment that goes for an hour – well I better make the most of it.”

This is what I thought when Market Day started. Market Day is a day that we do in our class’s economics subject – we’re running our own town! Yes, you heard me correctly, we’re running a town called Williams Creek. Nice name, I know so if you want to learn more about what we’re doing, come to 4/5W! By Sean Larkin

I’ve got one thing to say about Market Day – awesome! The food was amazing. The games were cool. We got lots of money and best of all, it happens every second Friday. My favourite business is Yummy World. All I ate was the spring rolls. But I also have a job. My jobs so far have been electrician, courier and my most recent job is policeman.
We also pay tax, groceries, rent, fine and that’s about it and it is fun. I’m enjoying it and I’m looking forward to Market Day again. By Adam Horvath

On Market Day, there were heaps of people in the class visiting the Sunset Valley and Williams Creek stalls. There were cookies, cupcakes and spring rolls. They were delicious. There was some good stuff there. On to the town of William’s Creek. In the town, we have jobs like policeman, sports coach, reporter and more. We rent our table or when people have enough Pucka Bucks, we can buy our table. We also get salaries or money but the bad things are fines and taxes. Good things are bonuses, which get us more money and groceries, that are virtual or fake. Each job has a different salary.
We all keep our stuff and are recording it in our economics book. But everything is easy and when you’re in this grade, you will like it. It is heaps of fun and I love it! By Alex Waugh

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On Market Day, there was all kinds of shops, selling cookies, cupcakes, spring rolls and lolly bags. It’s great. We sell, we buy but after Market Day it’s a whole different story. Taxes, fines, virtual groceries and classrooms jobs. We have our alternative businesses to work on and think about which is stressful! We have to rent our table for five hundred dollars and we write in our economics book. We write how much cash, people on the table, rent and all that stuff. We have our town names. One is called Williams Creek and the other Sunset Valley.

I am really enjoying everything.

By Charlie Pidoto

In 4/5W and 4/5H we are doing a town! Mr Harcourt’s town is called Sunset Valley. Mrs Williamson’s village is called Williams Creek. I’m in Williams Creek and I’m onto my third job, which is the courier so I give letters and notes to Mrs Hall and answer the phone.

Last Friday was our first Market Day. Maddi and I were selling cookies and our stall was called Cookie Corner. We sold cookies to 48 cookies! Our class was the most crowded.

By Serena Chivers

Last week, 13 Puckapunyal Primary Students from Years 5/6 went to the Somers School Camp. We all split up into 8 separate groups. There were 160 students there altogether. There were so many different challenges for us to overcome. The Challenge Swing was 18.5 metres high and it was very difficult coming down. I got scared! In Environmental Studies we went to the beach and to the Cool Art Bird Sanctuary. We saw many different birds and animals. Bike Education was fantastic too! I was the only girl up the front of the ride. We also saw a koala while we were riding. The high ropes course was fun but scary at the same time. We also had a disco where we had to do dance competitions. The food was great. I liked meeting different people the best. I made lots of new friends. It was a great experience overall.

By Imogen Fawcett 5/6 I

Last week, Years 5/6 students from our school attended the Somers School Camp. We were split up into groups. Each group had their own activities to go to. I was in Group 5. We did boating. We rowed the boats on a creek near the beach. It was great fun but hard. I got some blisters! We had archery which was great fun too. I got about 10 bullseyes (not bad, hey!!) We had a concert. It was hilarious! I was in a skit called ‘The Director’. Lily Waugh sang at the concert. She was really good but did forget some of her words. At least she had a try at it. The camp fire was really nice. We sang a lot of songs at the camp fire. It was really enjoyable. My favourite camp song was ‘Wombat on a Surfboard’. It was great fun overall. I made lots of friends. I am glad that I went.

By Daniel Murray 5/6 I