Next week is the last week of Term 1. Friday 4th April is the last day of the term. All students will be dismissed from school at 1:30 p.m. The students will only require a morning play lunch as they can have their lunch once they are home that day. We will finish off the term with a 1:10 p.m. assembly which all parents are invited to attend. We have some awards to hand out, some presentations and some performances for assembly. Please come along. It will be an Out of Uniform Day on this day as it is always on the last day of term.

Crazy Hair Day

On Friday the 4th of April (last day of Term 1) the SRC will be running a Crazy Hair Day to help raise money for people with blood cancer. The SRC encourages everyone to be creative and come to school with a crazy hairstyle. There will be prizes awarded for the craziest hair on the day. It will be an out of uniform day and gold coin donations will go towards the Leukaemia Foundation World’s Greatest Shave.

Student Medications

At times children require medication to be administered whilst they are at school. For this to happen, the medication must come to school in its original box or container and parents need to complete a medication form at the school office. This also applies to the use of cough mixtures and throat lozenges.

***Sunday Nights - a great night to check for Head Lice. ***

***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 35-40 nights. Well done if you have kept up!

Just like last year, we are hoping that Friday Canteen lunches will be available from next term. We do, however, require some more helpers to volunteer. If you can spare the odd few hours on a Friday to help in the School Canteen, please let the school office know. Thanks!
**Happy Birthday**

Happy Birthday to Dimitee Taylor who is having her birthday this Sunday.
On behalf of the Puckapunyal Primary School Community, we wish Dimitee a very Happy Birthday!

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**ANZAC Day Commemorations**

**Anzac Day** is on Friday the 25th of April (first week of Term 2). It is a public holiday and the school will be closed. We hope that all families enjoy the day. On Thursday 24th April, at a special 9am morning assembly, we will have a short commemoration to pay respect to the ANZACs. We encourage students to bring wreaths to school and any child in cubs, scouts, guides, etc. can wear their uniforms for the commemoration. All parents are welcome to attend our commemoration. It will be held in the school amphitheatre or the PC Centre (depending on the weather). As in previous years, our school choir will be attending the dawn service at Memorial Park on ANZAC Day. We will be performing 2 songs at 5:45 a.m. We would encourage all school community members to attend the service.

At both ANZAC commemorations, our school captains will be laying wreaths on behalf of the school.

Ms O’Connor has begun choir rehearsals for the Dawn Service.

The Years 3-6 students in the choir have been practising during some lunch eating times.

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**School Latestays/Camps Planned for 2014**

**Foundation** – Latestay at school Thursday 4th September - Foundation student stay at school until 7:30pm for BBQ and other outside activities.

**Year 1** – Latestay at school Tuesday 2nd September – Year 1 students stay at school until 7:30pm for BBQ and other outside activities.

**Year 2** – Excursion and Stayover at school Friday 5th September – Saturday 6th September. Years 2 students attend an excursion to the Melbourne and stay the night at school.

**Years 3/4** – 3 day/2 night camp to Ballarat – Wednesday 27th August – Friday 29th August. Students to participate in Goldmine activities at Sovereign Hill, Ballarat.

**Years 5/6** – 3 day/2 night camp to Philip Island – Monday 8th September – Wednesday 10th September. Students to participate in Beachside and Outdoor Adventure activities at YMCA Camp in Philip Island.

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**Easter Raffle fundraiser:** We have already raised over $500 with this raffle. Thanks so much everyone! Just a reminder that the tickets, money and donated prizes are due in no later than Thursday, 3rd April.

** Mothers’ Day stall:** Any suitable gifts for this are also appreciated. Thank you for gifts already received.

**Healthy lunch tip – ‘instant’ lunch food:** Here are some healthy suggestions of pre-packaged/‘ready to eat’ foods available, that can take the pressure off the morning lunch preparation rush. They can also add some variety and interest to your child’s lunchbox. It’s always a good idea to check the salt, sugar and fat content of these products. For instance there are some great muesli bars available that are still relatively healthy, but there are also some that lack substantial nutritional value.

- Tubs of fruit (SPC Ardmona factory outlet in Shepparton has some great bargains of these in bulk)
- Dried fruit (apricots, sultanas, apples, dates, prunes, raisins etc.)
- Mini cheeses
- Cheese and cracker biscuits
- Crackers, crisp breads, rice cakes, fruity Bix
- Muesli bars (must be nut-free)
- Popcorn
- Pretzels
- Pull-top cans (baked beans, macaroni cheese etc.)
- Tuna/salmon tubs
- Weetbix
- Yoghurt
- Breakfast bars and supplements such as ‘Up & Go’

Have a terrific week.

Sue Ranger, Defence School Transition Aide.

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**POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR REWARD UPDATE**

Only one more week to go, and we will have a winner! Any house could win!! Keep up the positive behaviour everyone!!

**CURRENT SCORES**

- **Melba**- 191 points
- **Bradman**- 186 points
- **Hume**- 178points
- **Chisholm**- 174 points

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Well done to
Hamish Kenny,
Naomi Pennycook,
Ben Postill and
Shelby Marston
who all received a ‘Positive Behaviours’ Raffle Prize this week.
Next term, all Years Foundation-6 students will be involved in a Traffic and Safety Education Program during Physical Education and Sport classes.

However, this year, we have had far too many reports from parents and community members that some students are riding irresponsibly to school or around the community.

We strongly encourage families to take responsibility for their children to be taught correctly how to ride their bikes and how to follow road rules.

Please consider the following:
* Does your child know that riding without a helmet is dangerous and illegal?
* Do you know that once a helmet has a crack it is useless and will not protect the head on impact?
* Does your child know that drivers cannot read their minds and they must use hand signals?
* Do you know that children under 8 have not developed peripheral vision and therefore cannot see dangers out of the corners of their eyes?
* Do you know that VICROADS strongly encourage that students under 8, riding on the road, should only ride with adult supervision?
* Does your child have the knowledge and skill to ride safely in the community?

The responsibility for Traffic and Safety Education should be a partnership between home and school. Our school is in an ideal position to promote the issues so that parents become more aware of the children’s needs and the difficulties they experience in traffic. As mentioned, next term we will begin our program. Please also help by addressing the above considerations (and any others you may think of).

### School Assemblies

Have you been to any of our school assemblies yet? Our students run the assemblies and do a terrific job! If any family has any spare time, please come along to our next Monday morning assembly. All community members are also welcome.

### Assembly Reading

Did you hear Liam Reyne and Trinity Bopyd read at assembly this week? We did! They tried to convince the audience with their persuasive writing, which season of the year is the best! They did a wonderful job! Come along and see who reads next week.

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Net Set Go will run on Tuesdays in Term 2 in the Area Gym from 4:00-4:45pm. It is suitable for children aged 5-10yrs old. A registration session will be held this Thursday 27 March at 3:30pm at the flagpole at the front of school. Registration forms are available for collection from the school office for completion prior to that day. The cost for the program is $45 and is due in full on Thursday 27 March. Alison Cox and Tamara Pennycook are still interested in hearing from any parents or teenagers who are available to assist with the program.
Congratulations to the following students who were ‘Students of the Week’ for last week. Winners – Paige Cooper, Abby Williams, Shontay Wicks, Janae Senner, Sara Harbert, Bryce Williams, Emily Cox, William Burn and Mackai Harriden. These students were selected because they were modelling ‘Caring’. This week teachers are looking for students who are modelling ‘Confidence.’

Congratulations to the following students who were ‘Authors of the Week’ for last week. Winners – Matthew Jenkinson, Harrison Bruhn, Tessa Thompson, Cooper Dickinson, Abigail Major, Trinity Boyd, Jake Tanis, Mara Beveridge and Nic Franks. These students were selected because they showed great skills as an author.

Times Tables Awards

5/6 P in Room 1B won the Senior School Times Tables Trophy. Luke Freeman and Mackai Harriden were both very delighted to showcase the winning trophy this week!

3/4 A in Room 11 won the Middle School Times Tables Trophy. Sophie Spinaze and Saskia Truter are very happy to look after the winning trophy for their classroom!

‘Recycling Cans’ Awards 'Yard Duty' Trophy

Congratulations to Ryan Free, Eden Free and Dimitee Taylor who each received ‘Recycling Cans’ Awards this week. Every little bit counts!

1/2 I in Room 9 won the Yard Duty Competition Trophy. Cohenn Diaz and Hailey Altas are both very happy to show off the winning trophy for their classroom this week!

Thank you to the parents who came to the Parent Forum last week. It was a terrific opportunity to talk to families.

Would you like to look after Ms. O’Connor’s budgies for the holidays? All seed and instructions will be provided. Please see Ms. O’Connor if you can help. First in best dressed! Thank you, Ms O’Connor.
Each week in the newsletter, we will give families a summary of the Teaching/Learning Focus for the week.

**That can help families by:** being aware of what classrooms are covering; with discussion topics at the dinner table when discussing school (eg. ‘How are you going with addition in Numeracy this week?’); helping their children study at home, etc. Parents have indicated that this information would be very useful. We also ask families to be aware that schools are very busy places and events can be unpredictable at times. We therefore must remain flexible. That means, we can plan to cover certain topics at particular times and have to change them according to arising needs.

### Junior School – Preps/Foundation Rooms 3 & 6

**Literacy:** We will continue to develop early writing skills with a focus on pencil grip, capital letters and full stops. We will be focusing on the letter ‘Oo’ and the sound it makes.

**Numeracy:** We will practise counting to 20 by 1s and we will learn how to write the number 8. We are still exploring 2D and 3D shapes.

### Junior School – Year 1s Rooms 3, 8 & 9

**Literacy:** We will be revising basic writing skills including correct pencil grip, correct letter formation and the construction of sentences. Letter focus is the letter ‘Oo’. We are focusing on capital letters, full stops and questions.

**Numeracy:** We will practise our subtraction work and counting by 2s. We continue our work also on fluency tasks. We have been exploring 2D and 3D shapes.

### Junior School – Year 2s Rooms 8, 9 & 10

**Literacy:** We will continue to revise our writing skills including correct pencil grip, correct letter formation, use of dotted thirds and the construction of sentences. We have also been continuing to focus on questions. Nouns have also been a focus.

**Numeracy:** We will continue to practise addition and subtraction as well as counting patterns forwards and backwards by 1s, forwards by 2s, 5s and 10s. We continue our work also on fluency tasks and exploring 2D and 3D shapes.

### Middle School - Years 3/4 Rooms 10, 11 & 13

**Literacy:** During writing sessions over the next few weeks, we will work on persuasive texts and recounts. We will also be focusing on compound sentences using conjunction words.

**Numeracy:** We will continue to learn about the four processes, place value, fractions, tables and skip counting.

### Senior School - Years 5/6 Rooms 1A&1B

**Literacy:** During writing sessions over the next few weeks, we will continue to work on reports. We will also focus on singular and plural nouns.

In reading we will be focusing on fluency and expression while also identifying key words and phrases during note taking.

**Numeracy:** We will continue work on place value (including decimals), processes and estimation. Another focus will be work relating to the investigation of graphs. Tables facts will be practised throughout the week.

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### Adopt a Granny’ Day

On Thursday 24th April our Years 1/2 students will be involved in the ‘Adopt a Granny’ Day program. For many years Di Grant has been visiting our school bringing some grandparents from the Country Women’s Association (and their friends). The idea has been to run some fun activities involving a particular year level of Pucka kids. This is because most of their grandparents do not live nearby. It has been a fun tradition and it’s the Years 1/2 kids’ turn this year! From 9am until lunchtime the visitors will be involved with our students. Any of our grandparents who would like to attend the day can also come and join in with the Years 1/2 kids.

Thanks, Di!
St Patrick's Day Fun

‘Striving for Excellence’
Open since 1887

Thanks for the photos, Mrs. Eastman!