On Thursday 11th December, our Year 6 students will attend their graduation night - the Valedictory Dinner.
All Year 6 students will need to arrive at the PC Centre by 6:00 p.m. to begin their night with a Dinner. All parents are asked to arrive at 7:30 p.m. for the Graduation Ceremony after dinner. We do not have the room for siblings and other family friends to come along as well. Please appreciate our request or it will be too crowded to proceed.

TIMELINE:
6.00pm Students are expected to arrive at Pitman-Coffey Centre
6.30pm meal
7.30pm Parents arrive - presentations followed by dancing
Cost: The cost for the dinner is $25. Payment is due by Thursday 4th December.

Please Note: All Year 6 students are to bring a 2 litre bottle of soft drink for serving at dinner on the night. The bottle needs to be at school leading up to the night.

Awards to be presented at the Valedictory Dinner:
- Year 6 Valedictorian
- 4 Student Bursaries
- Sporting Award
- Academic Excellence Awards
- Striving for Excellence Award
- Quiet Achiever Award
- Mitchell Shire Citizenship Award
- Lion’s Club Community Award
All students seem very excited about the big night. Good luck to all Year 6 students. We hope they all enjoy the occasion.

DRESS: We remind families that it is a primary school function and that school council expects that we keep the dress code ‘neat and casual’. We do not want students away from school attending hair dressers, or having formal dress/suit fittings. We also need to remind students that our school policy of not wearing make-up to school and school functions still applies.

On Monday 15th December our Monday Morning Assembly is our Awards Assembly. That means that there will be several special and traditional awards handed out to deserving students to recognise their efforts over the whole year. We encourage all families to come along to help congratulate the award winners.

***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 205-210 nights. Well done if you have kept up!

***Sunday Nights - a great night to check for Head Lice. ***
Congratulations to the following students who were ‘Students of the Week’ for last week. Winners – Hamish Kenny, Layla Chivers, Tessa Thompson, Anna Buckeye, Jaycob Paz, Nikolas Van Jaarsveldt, Hannah-Rose Simmonds, Mel Waszczuk and Isra Elsheikh. These students were selected because they were modelling ‘Respect’. This week teachers are looking for students who are modelling.

Congratulations to the following students who were ‘Authors of the Week’ for last week. Winners – Amelia Cree, Angela Klein, Liesl Rayner, Will Hastie, Matilda Fry, Mackenzie Jenkins, Shae Robertson, Ethan Adams-Hastings and Liam Irwin. These students were selected because they showed great skills as an author.

5/6 P in Room 1B and 5/6 H in Room 1A jointly won the Senior School Times Tables Trophy. Patrick Broughton and Will Burn grabbed the trophy first for 5/6 H.

3/4 A in Room 11 won the Middle School Times Tables Trophy. Sophie Spinaze is also delighted that her classroom won the winning trophy this week!

5/6 P in Room 1B won the Yard Duty Competition Trophy. Liam Sullivan and Joshua Esqueria are very happy to collect the winning trophy this week!

Did you hear Patrick Broughton read part of his book for the Book Launch at assembly this week? We did! He did a wonderful job! Come along and see who reads next week. Well done, Patrick!
Happy Birthday
to Dominic Plessey who is having his birthday this week. On behalf of the Puckapunyal Primary School Community, we wish Dominic a very Happy Birthday!

As mentioned last week, our wonderful School Choir still has one more performance for 2014.

2. Seymour Carols by Candlelight
When: Sunday 7th December
Time: Santa arrives at 7:30pm for an 8:00pm concert start
Venue: Goulburn Park Sound Shell, Seymour
Songs: ‘All I Want for Christmas Is You’ and ‘Feliz Navidad.’

Please come and see them sing. Good luck choir.

Spelling Bee
The School Spelling Bee Final is on again this year. It will take place at school on Tuesday 16th December from 11:30 a.m. in the PC Centre. It has become a great tradition during the last week of the year for the past few years. Even though several families have left by then, it has become an event that keeps the school ticking along right up until the end of the year. All families are welcome to come along. The names of the children who have earned the right to represent their grades are listed below.

Spelling Bee 2014 Finalists
Prep - Joel Simmonds POC, Amelia Cree POC, Jackson Bartle P/1OM
Year 1 - James Thwaites 1/2R, Henry Billen 1/2I, Jett Miller P1O
Year 2 - Emily Watson 1/2R, Anna Buckeye 1/2I, 2/3D Abigail Major
Year 3 - Hamish Kenny 2/3D, Nathan Hopkins 3/4A, Ollie Kenny 3/4B
Year 5 - Mitchell Carrick 5/6 P, Jake Haywood 5/6 P, Isam Elsheikh 5/6 H, Dylan Sallis 5/6 H
Year 6 – Marisa Zantey 5/6 P, Nic Franks 5/6 P, Ben Postill 5/6 H, Mel Waszczuk 5/6 H

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR REWARD
UPDATE
Melba has hit the front again – what a close contest! Keep up the positive behaviour everyone!!

CURRENT SCORES
Melba- 430 points
Hume- 429 points
Bradman- 335 points
Chisholm- 302 points

‘Striving for Excellence’
Open since 1887
At each Monday Morning Assembly the students are reminded about some of the school rules. We like to print them in each week’s newsletter so that parents can discuss these rules with their children to ensure full understanding. These rules were read out by SRC representative, Giselle Andrew and Phoenix Miller.

- Water tanks and garden areas are not play areas.
- Use your manners at all times.
- Don’t enter a classroom unless there is a teacher in the room.
- Shelter sheds are quiet time play areas.

At assembly this week Responsibility was announced as our School Value of the week. That means teachers are looking for students who are demonstrating ‘Responsibility’ to be eligible for the Student of the Week award. We encourage parents to talk to their students about our values throughout the year.

What is Respect? Year 5 student, Emily Gourlay read out the meaning of Responsibility.

‘Being responsible is a sign of growing up. It means you are willing to be accountable for your behaviour. It means doing something to the best of your ability and keeping your agreements.’
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 our writing skills by working on a variety of written texts and concepts.  
**Numeracy:** We are working on counting and revision of concepts covered this year.

**Junior School – Year 1s**  **Rooms 3, 8 & 9**  
**Literacy:** We will continue to develop our writing skills by working on a variety of written texts and concepts.  
**Numeracy:** We are looking at shapes and their properties and the outcomes of chance events.

**Junior School – Year 2s**  **Rooms 8, 9 & 10**  
**Literacy:** We will continue to develop our writing skills by working on a variety of written texts and concepts.  
**Numeracy:** We are looking at shapes and their properties and the outcomes of chance events.

**Middle School - Years 3/4**  **Rooms 10, 11 & 13**  
**Literacy:** During writing sessions over the next few weeks, we will work on editing and procedures.  
**Numeracy:** We will be revising money. Tables facts will be practised throughout the week.

**Senior School - Years 5/6**  **Rooms 1A&1B**  
**Literacy:** During writing sessions over the next few weeks, students will focus on poetry. In reading we will be focusing on fluency and expression.  
**Numeracy:** We will continue to revise place value (including decimals), processes, fractions, decimals and percentages along with revision of concepts according to student needs. Tables facts will be practised throughout the week.

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**Jelly Volcanoes**

On Thursday last week we made Jelly Volcanoes. We were investigating how the Bi-Carb soda reacted to the vinegar and jelly when they were added to each other. The way we knew it worked was when the mixture began to rise and foam over the cup.  
**Lochlon Nabbs 3/4 B**
To celebrate the hard work that our students and teachers have done during the year we traditionally celebrate with a **class party** at the end of each year. On Tuesday 16\textsuperscript{th} December, each grade will be conducting their classroom party. Each child will be required to bring something from home to contribute. Please see the timetable for each grade below. Please note that we do not have any fridge space for the party food.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Room/Grade</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Menu</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Prep OC    | Tuesday 16\textsuperscript{th} December | 12:30pm  | Room 1          | Boys to bring sweets
Girls to bring savoury food
(small plate, no food requiring heating please) |
| Prep/1 OM  | Tuesday 16\textsuperscript{th} December | 12:30pm  | Room 1          | Boys to bring sweets
Girls to bring savoury food
(small plate, no food requiring heating please) |
| 1/2 I      | Tuesday 16\textsuperscript{th} December | 12:30pm  | On Front Verandah | Girls to bring savoury food
Boys to bring sweets
(small plate, no food requiring heating please) |
| 1/2 R      | Tuesday 16\textsuperscript{th} December | 12:30pm  | On Front Verandah | Girls to bring savoury food
Boys to bring sweets
(small plate, no food requiring heating please) |
| 2/3 D      | Tuesday 16\textsuperscript{th} December | 2:30pm   | Room 10         | Nothing to bring! |
| 3/4 A      | Tuesday 16\textsuperscript{th} December | 12:30pm  | Room 11         | Girls to bring savoury food
Boys to bring sweet food
(small plate, no food requiring heating please) |
| 3/4 B      | Tuesday 16\textsuperscript{th} December | 12:30pm  | Room 11         | Girls to bring sweets
Boys to bring savoury food
(small plate, no food requiring heating please) |
| 5/6 P      | Tuesday 16\textsuperscript{th} December | 12:30pm  | PC Centre       | All students to bring a plate of party food
(small plate, no food requiring heating please) |
| 5/6 H      | Tuesday 16\textsuperscript{th} December | 12:30pm  | PC Centre       | All students to bring a plate of party food
(small plate, no food requiring heating please) |
**End of Year School Concert**

**Where:** Puckapunyal Area Theatre  
**When:** Wednesday 17th December, 2014  
**Time:** 2pm Start  
All Families are Welcome!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prep O’C</th>
<th>Song – ‘Santa Claus Is Coming to Town’</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Prep/1 O’M | Chant – ‘Rules Rap’.  
|           | Song – ‘Hey Yo’ |
| 1/2 R | Song and Movement – ‘Newspaper Mama’  
|       | ‘Happy as Larry’ |
| 1/2 I | ‘Threw It Out the Window’ |
| 2/3 D | Song - ‘Over the River and Through The Woods’ |
| 3/4A | Song and Dance – ‘Que Sera’ |
| 3/4 B | Dance – ‘The Evolution of Dance’ |
| 5/6 H | Song – ‘Aussie Jingle Bells’ |
| 5/6 P | Song – ‘Rocking Around the Christmas Tree’ |
| **School Choir** | Songs – ‘Advance Australia Fair’  
|       | ‘Keep Your Head Up’ |
**Student Reports**

**Student Report Cards** will be sent home with each child on Friday 12th December, 2014.

Student Report cards provide parents with clear, comprehensive and consistent information about their child’s progress in Foundation Year to Year 10, as well as suggestions on how to best support their child’s learning.

During the evaluation process, information about children is gathered from testing programs, anecdotal records, informal observation and parent/teacher interviews.

It must be remembered that throughout their school lives children of approximately the same age will vary greatly in achievement. This occurs because of individual differences in intellectual, physical, emotional and social maturity. Consequently, teachers do not expect all children in their class to attain the same scholastic levels, but rather that they work positively and energetically towards the highest standard of which they are capable, doing their personal best! – ‘Striving for Excellence’ (school motto). These reports will grade all students with rating codes compared to Department expectations.

**What is AusVELS?**

AusVELS is the Australian Curriculum in Victoria. The curriculum and assessment framework was implemented in 2013 in Government Schools from prep-Year 10. AusVELS uses a new 11 level structure which reflects the design of the Australian Curriculum whilst retaining the Victorian priorities and approaches to teaching and learning. AusVELS replaces VELS – Victorian Essential learning Standards that have been used in schools since 2006.

The 11 level structure of AusVELS (Foundation to Level 10) assists teachers to make judgements on student learning against common standards, to report student achievement and show progress over time.

**How have reports changed?**

Student reports since 2013 have used the 11 AusVELS levels. As new Australian Curriculum subjects are developed the content will be phased into AusVELS over time.

A translation table of VELS to AusVELS can be found below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nominal Year Level</th>
<th>Prep</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VELS 2012</td>
<td>Level 1</td>
<td>Level 2</td>
<td>Level 3</td>
<td>Level 4</td>
<td>Level 5</td>
<td>Level 6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AusVELS 2013-14</td>
<td>Foundation</td>
<td>Level 1</td>
<td>Level 2</td>
<td>Level 3</td>
<td>Level 4</td>
<td>Level 5</td>
<td>Level 6</td>
<td>Level 7</td>
<td>Level 8</td>
<td>Level 9</td>
<td>Level 10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Where can I find out more information about AusVELS?


‘Striving for Excellence’

*Open since 1887*
Once upon a scary night, three friends set out on a journey. But where were they going in the dead of the night, tip-toe creeping in the pale moonlight?

**Text:** Scary Night  
**Author:** Lesley Gibbes  
**Illustrator:** Stephen Michael King  
**Learning Intention:** To have fun doing a shared reading of text.  
**Measure of Success:** I have joined in with the different reading paces and listed the words showing fear.

_The junior classes shared their published Book Launch books with their parents when they visited earlier this week._

Mrs Challis  
Library teacher

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**URGENT BUDGIE CARE NEEDED!**  
Are you home over the Christmas holidays until school starts again in 2015? Would you like to look after **Ms O'Conner's budgies**? All seed and instructions provided! Please see Ms O'Conner - first in, best dressed!
BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) in 2015

2013- 2014 has seen Puckapunyal Primary School make some significant changes in terms of technology and its uses in supporting student learning. When we talk about devices within the school, we actually mean any piece of technology that is used to support student learning including such things as- iPads, iPad minis, iPod touches, laptops, computers and Interactive Whiteboards.

Some major steps in this change process were:

Term 1 2013-
- Staff began discussing how we were currently using technology and how we saw technology changing and how in an ‘ideal’ situation technology would support student learning in our classrooms.

Term 2 2013-
- 4 staff members visited a ‘lighthouse’ school in Melbourne’s South West to observe how technology was being incorporated into teaching and learning.
- A parent survey was conducted via the website in relation to technology and its uses.
- Parent and student forums were run focussing on technology in our school.

Term 3 2013-
- 2 classrooms trialled bringing their own devices (preferably an iPad, iPad mini or iPod touch) into school daily to support student learning.
- Staff began to incorporate the use of devices in curriculum planning.
- The school purchased 10 iPad minis.

Term 4 2013-
- 7 teachers volunteered to be involved in the BYOD trial
- Staff participated in Professional Development using devices to support student learning.
- Parent surveys were handed out to classes participating in the trial.
- Another parent forum was held focussing on the successes and challenges of the trial.

2014-
- BYOD was opened to all classes, year levels and students throughout the school
- Staff participated in Professional Development
- Students capabilities with these devices improved significantly
- Learning opportunities were specifically designed around using devices as supports for students

Top 3 Questions:

Why an apple device and which one?
- The responses to the parent survey conducted in 2013 overwhelmingly supported the use of specifically Apple devices into classrooms.
- It also showed that this was the type of device already available to the majority of respondents.
- As a staff, we felt that our skills were strongest in the use of Apple devices and that this was the type of device that offered the best application and support to student learning.
- It is more effective to up-skill staff in the use of a specific device rather than a range of devices.
- During 2014 we have discovered that a 32gig device is much better suited to what students are using them for. As the year has gone on 16gig devices have become full and unable to be used to take photos, make movies, etc.

What if my child cannot bring a device?
- Students without devices will NOT be disadvantaged. Classes are timetabled to access the 20 school owned iPads at least twice a week in which priority will be given to students without devices within that class. Classrooms also have access to at least 4 computers and a bank of 15 laptops that are shared between a maximum of 3 classrooms.

How are the devices looked after while at school?
- When students unpack their bags, devices are placed into a secure box with a lid. Devices are then used as directed by teachers during class time. Devices are then handed back to students at the end of the school day.
- Devices do not get used by students during recess or lunch times- unless on wet weather days with teacher permission.
- Students are not permitted to use/touch another student’s device.

The aim of technology within our school is for students to have access to what they need, when they need it and in a format that best suits their learning.

Please see our website (www.puckapunyalps.vic.edu.au) for further information and frequently asked questions regarding the BYOD program at Puckapunyal Primary School. The list of free Apps we ask to be downloaded onto devices before they come into the school is also available on this website.

‘Striving for Excellence’
Open since 1887
The end of the school year is fast approaching and school holidays provide an ideal opportunity for children and young people to have a well earned rest. They need to hang out and relax. It can also be a positive experience for parents when they have time to be with their children and enjoy doing things together.

However children and young people’s behaviour can sometimes become more difficult during the holidays due to a change in / or lack of routine or boredom, possibly making the parenting role more stressful. Arranging child care and other supports due to work commitments for working parents or parenting solo 24/7 can add to these stresses.

A bit of planning ahead of time can mean you all have plenty of options to ensure the holidays work well for everyone.

**Holiday suggestions include:**

- Talk with your children and identify opportunities for time together which will build on your family relationships, making it a holiday priority to find ways to spend special time (which don’t involve spending lots of money).
- This could include playing the games you have stashed away eg. card games, board games, or working on a puzzle together.
- Cooking days, including shopping for the ingredients, allowing the children to decide on the menu – young people may like to cook a meal.
- Bike rides, swimming, walking, flying a kite, picnics in the park etc.
- Find out about your community – visit the Library, Public Gardens, Museum, Art Gallery, parks and sporting facilities.
- Take the time to organise photos together, paint a picture, read a novel, make up a play or concert, start a diary, plant a small garden, visit friends or family or invite them to visit you.
- Clean and reorganise bedrooms together, or for younger children clean out the old toy box.
- Start a collection: stamps, shells, rocks…
- Get extra jobs done through paying extra pocket money or rewards for washing car, cleaning up outside, or working for neighbours.
- Collect vouchers and look in the newspaper for special deals eg. cheap rates to the movies.
- Arrange some individual time with each child as well as family time – this helps build good relationships and supports self esteem.
- Help the kids to set up the tent (if you have one) in the back yard so that they can ‘camp out’ overnight.
- Check out all the extra holiday activities provided by your local council, youth centre, neighbourhood centres and local organisations.
- Provide one different activity a day. This will keep children interested.
- Remember they don’t need entertaining – be creative with your solutions. A few dress ups can result in fantastic dramatic play.
- Check out what “I’m bored” actually means. – They might just want to chat.

If appropriate and safe, consider taking your child/young person to work for a day or part of a day.

**Wishing everyone a safe and relaxing holiday season!**

For more information about this topic or any other parenting related matter please contact Meredith or Joy at Hume Region Parent Education Service Shepparton office, Goulburn Valley Community Health, 399 Wyndham Street. Shepparton. Telephone 58 233 200.