Welcome back to school!

We currently have 182 students enrolled in our school. About 25% of those students are new to our school. While we welcome back all of our students, we especially welcome our new students and families to the Puckapunyal Primary School and community.

Before school started, we hope families received a letter detailing rooms and teachers for students in 2015. Until Open Day we are never absolutely certain how many students will arrive and therefore cannot structure our classrooms until after that day.

Our Year 1-6 students started last Thursday and everything went smoothly. It was great to see many smiling students who seemed glad to be back.

Our 40 Prep students started last Friday and it all went smoothly as well. They looked brilliant in their brand new uniforms. Congratulations to our parents for ensuring that their children found the amphitheatre on day 1.

Our School Newsletter normally comes home on a Wednesday and is called the ‘Wednesday Notes’. We encourage all families to read the newsletter each and every week as it usually contains very important information for our families. We can email the newsletter to you if you wish. Please let us know if you would like it emailed or subscribe on our website. We also have a school facebook page where we can remind families of important school information throughout the year.

It was also great to see so many parents at our first assembly and attending the Parent Information Session afterwards. We hope that the session was valuable for you.

Each Monday morning we will begin the week with our official assembly, so please come along and join in the fun! They will take place in the school amphitheatre or PC Centre depending on the weather.

Kevin Warne, Principal

Good luck to all students, teachers and families for 2015!

**All enrolments forms for new students need to be sent to the school office as soon as possible.**
We have listed below all of the Puckapunyal Primary School staff for 2014. Please note their roles in the school and the Year levels that they teach.

**Classroom Staff**

- Room 6 - Sally O’Connor - Foundation OC
- Room 3 - Mercy O’Meara - Foundation/Year 1 O
- Room 8 - Jane Challis/Racheal Broughton - Years 1/2 C
- Room 9 - Matthew Itter - Years 1/2 I
- Room 10 - Allyson Dixon - Year 3/4 D
- Room 11 - Katie Atkinson - Years 3/4 A
- Room 1A - Robyn Itter - Years 5/6 I
- Room 1B - Jenny Philp - Years 5/6 P

**Specialist Staff**

- Art - Sharon Anderson-Warne
- Library - Jane Challis/Sharon Anderson-Warne
- Literacy Support - Sharon Anderson-Warne
- Goodger Program - Kevin Warne/Peter Harcourt
- LOTE (Indonesian) - Christine Hooper
- Physical Education - Peter Harcourt
- Years 3-6 Swimming Program - Fiona McCarthy

**Administration**

- Principal - Mr. Kevin Warne
- Assistant Principal - Allyson Dixon
- Business Manager - Simone Hall

**School Support Staff**

- Sue Ranger - Defence School Transition Aide
- Helen Atkinson - Integration Aide
- Karen Lewis - Integration Aide
- Steve Herenyi - Technician

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**Defence Community Organisation**

**Welcome Family Day**

Where: Area Theatre  
When: 4:30pm -7pm Thursday 19th February 2015
- Jumping castles & face painting
- Military displays, community and sporting organisations
- Food and drinks available
- Come along and join us, make some friends and enjoy a great afternoon
- Snake and Reptile display and introduction

Come along, join in and make some friends.

***Our school choir will be singing at 5:15pm too!!!***

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**Conveyance Allowance**

is available families who reside more than 4.8 kms from their nearest school (whether they travel by car or public transport). Application forms and further information is available from the school office. Forms are due in by 27th February.

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**Daily School Program**

Our Daily Swimming Program began this week for students in Years 3-6. It is a 9 day program that runs every day. We rely on teachers and volunteer parents to conduct the sessions. We have grouped children according to similar abilities and give them a daily opportunity to practise and improve their skills and improve water confidence. We follow the ‘Royal Life Saving’ program. While many of the adults are ‘Austswim’ trained, some are not. Please remember, it is not squad training and there are not any professional swimming coaches involved. Life Guards will be at the pool at all times during the sessions. Swimming sessions will take place over the following dates:

- **Week 1** – Mon 2nd Feb, Tues 3rd Feb, Wed 4th Feb, Thurs 5th Feb, Fri 6th Feb,
- **Week 2** – Mon 9th Feb, Tues 10th Feb, Wed 11th Feb and Thurs 12th Feb.

Students will walk down to the pool being supervised by their teachers.

**Timetable**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Room</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/4 A (Room 11)</td>
<td>11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Mon, Wed, Fri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4 D (Room 10)</td>
<td>12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Tues, Thurs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6 I (Room 1A)</td>
<td>12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Mon, Tues, Wed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6 P (Room 1B)</td>
<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Thurs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Before School Swimming**

On Friday 13th February, Years 3-6 students will participate in our House Swimming Carnival. Many of them will then be selected to represent our school at the District Swimming Carnival on Wednesday 18th February. To help the students train for those carnivals, our before school swimming program also began yesterday for children from Years 3-6. This will continue until Thursday 12th February (8.00 am - 8.30 am at the Area Indoor Pool). It is not a swimming training session but a lap swimming opportunity session. It should only involve students from Years 3-6 who are capable of swimming at least 1 complete lap at a time. We encourage those students to come along and swim some laps. There will be a teacher from Puckapunyal Primary School at the Pool each morning to supervise. Please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Warne at school if you have any queries about any of our Swimming Programs.

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**School Swimming Caps**

for sale in the school office for $3.
We have many lovely books in the library and we are encouraging all of our students to borrow them. All students require a protective library bag clearly named to enable them to borrow from the library. The library has opened for borrowing and library classes have also begun. There will be an hour of Library each week for all classes.

Please ensure a smooth start to our library by supplying your children with a Library Bag, clearly named to protect books.

Thank you, Mrs. Anderson-Warne and Mrs. Challis.

Visual Art Classes
Each week students from all grades will enjoy an hour of Art. I am looking forward to meeting our new students and parents as well as welcoming back those I know. We normally spend 2-3 weeks learning a new skill and applying it in a finished art piece. Our school proudly displays student art work and we invite parents to view student work when they visit.

If you have an interest in art and craft, please pop in and introduce yourself to me.

All students require an art smock (clearly named on the BACK shoulder) to protect their clothing in each session. These will be kept in a tub in the classroom. Some parents buy pre-made smocks, others supply an old shirt. Please check sleeve lengths and that the child is able to do it up his/herself. If you have any special items that you have been collecting for the art room, please send them along. Art classes also began this week for all classes.

Thank you, Mrs. Anderson-Warne

School Council News

School Council Elections 2015
Please consider standing for election for School Council this year. Contact Kevin for further information.

The Puckapunyal School Council has vacancies for 5 Parent Representatives for 2014.

Wednesday 11th February: NOMINATIONS called for (Forms can be collected from the office).

Wednesday 18th February: Nominations CLOSE (If an election required ballot papers will be distributed).

Wednesday 25th February: OPEN BALLOT

Wednesday 4th March: CLOSED BALLOT (Votes counted).

School Council Annual General Meeting will be held at school at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday 10th March.

Puckapunyal Scouts
For those who are interested in Scouting:
1st Puckapunyal Scout Group runs both scout and cub meetings here on base at the Scout hall located near Alamein Park, Puckapunyal.

Meeting times
Scouts (10 1/2 - 14 years) 1900-2030hrs Thursday nights, resuming 5th February
Cub Scouts (7 1/2 - 10 1/2 years) 1830-2000hrs Monday nights, resuming on the 9th February

Anyone interested is welcome to come along to a meeting, speak to the leaders and join in on the fun.

If you have any questions or would like to meet the leaders and some of our scouts and cubs look out for us at the DCO Information day.

For any further information feel free to speak to any of the leaders.

Scout Leader - Bob Hart 5792 2995
Cub Leaders - Alison Cox 5793 1121 & Chris Harbert - 0450929479

Family Invoices
The school office has sent home invoices to families. The invoices include ‘stationery fees’ that need to be paid to the school as soon as possible. The invoices also include ‘voluntary contributions’ but they are not mandatory. If any family had any outstanding money from last year, that will also be included in the invoices. Thank you to families who have made those payments already.

Open since 1887
A very warm welcome to students and families from everyone at Puckapunyal Primary School. My role in this position is to ensure that your child’s transition to our school is a smooth and happy one. In the distant future, when your child leaves our school, I assist in making this a positive time also. For all the time in between, I’m here to help with any school issues or concerns from students or parents. I also run and assist with a number of activities throughout the year. Please come and introduce yourself, and make me aware of any ‘settling in’ issues that your child may be experiencing. So again, welcome and I trust that your family’s time here at Puckapunyal will be a fruitful and enjoyable one.

**Sue Ranger, Defence School Transition Aide**

Thank you to all families who have ensured that all of our students have been in correct uniform so far. It is great to see so many students in their Pucka blues! Below is the copy of the school uniform list taken from our School Uniform Policy.

**Girls Uniform:**
- Navy blue school jacket (optional).
- Puckapunyal navy blue windcheater or plain navy blue windcheater.
- Navy blue shorts or skorts (up to knee, not bike pants) or navy blue track pants.
- Puckapunyal school blue polo shirt or plain school blue polo shirt or school blue or navy blue skivvy.
- Navy blue wide brimmed school hat with school logo (compulsory for certain times of the year).
- White, blue or grey socks to be worn with school shorts.

**Boys Uniform:**
- Navy blue school jacket (optional).
- Puckapunyal navy blue windcheater or plain navy blue windcheater.
- Navy blue shorts (up to knee, not bike pants) or navy blue track pants.
- Puckapunyal school blue polo shirt or plain school blue polo shirt or school blue or navy blue skivvy.
- Navy blue wide brimmed school hat with school logo (compulsory for certain times of the year).
- White, blue or grey socks to be worn with school shorts.

On Monday we started our **Values Education Program**. All government schools are encouraged to do so. It will be a big fortnight. It will be a great way to unite our school as new students begin at Pucka.

Values Education will revolve around teachers and staff conducting programs that encourage students to participate in programs that will promote the following:

1. important school community values
2. school and classroom rules
3. school policies
4. how to make friends
5. settling in activities

Each day will begin with a small 5 minute introduction summarizing what the ‘value’ of the day will be. Our Top 10 Community Values are:

- Honesty/Trust
- Respect
- Responsibility
- Kindness
- Integrity
- Confidence
- Enthusiasm
- Tolerance
- Reliability
- Striving for Excellence (school motto)

**N.B.** - All Values Education programs will be taught in a manner that encourages positive behaviour that our school and families expect from their children/students.

Our preps in Room 6 look so comfortable sitting on their classroom couch. Nice!
The school office has sent home copies of our student enrolment information. It is a routine necessity that we do each year. We require families to check the enrolment information and make adjustments if there have been any changes, eg. phone numbers, family doctors, emergency contact details, etc. Please do so and re-send them back to school as soon as possible.

Happy Birthday to Casey Grant, Leah Hagerty, Abigail Major, Abby Chetcuti, Max Chetcuti, Lochlan Worden and Emma Harbert, who have had a birthday since we have been back at school or are having a birthday this week.

We also wish a Happy Birthday to the following students who had birthdays over the school holidays: Emma Kenny, Riley Andrew, Dimitri Corocher, Ethan Golder, Adam Harbert, Jy Mawer-Smith, Hailey Altas, Trey Ward, Liam Percy, Tessa Thompson, Tea Porter, Mackenzie Jenkins, Pippy Mallett, Charlie Skipper, Phoenix Miller, Naomi Pennycook, Skylar Leak, Dominick Messina and Patrick Messina.

On behalf of the Puckapunyal Primary School Community, we wish them all a very Happy Birthday!

Every now and then, we ask families to donate a tissue box for 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.

This week, all students who have been identified through the enrolment forms as being asthmatic will be given a ‘School Asthma Action Plan’ form. All students who have asthma will require their parents to fill out the form and return to school a.s.a.p. Families will have the option to agree to the Victorian School’s Asthma Policy for Asthma First Aid or provide an individual action plan signed by the family doctor.

The after school music program is once again being offered at the Puckapunyal Primary School (in the PC Centre) on Tuesday and Friday afternoons to interested students. On offer this term is Piano, Guitar, Vocal and Drum Lessons. Should you wish to enrol or have an enquiry, please fill out the form below and return to the school office. Alternatively, visit us in the PC centre after school for a chat!

Looking forward to seeing lots of fresh new faces!

Miss Emily 0425804219
Choir Performance

As mentioned on page 2, DCO are holding a Family Day/Expo on Thursday the 19th Feb at the Area Theatre in Puckapunyal and have requested that the choir sing at this event. If your child has expressed an interest in singing with the choir at this event please read the following - The event runs from 4:30-7pm, with the choir expected to meet Ms O’Connor at 5pm (to sing at 5:15pm) in FULL SCHOOL UNIFORM.

Could you please return the slip below to school tomorrow so that I can get an idea of numbers for this event. Thank you for your support,

Sally O’Connor
Choir Teacher

Choir Performance

My child/children ______________________________________ will be singing with the choir at the DCO Family Day Expo on the 19th Feb, 2015.

Tennis Coaching with Master Coach Norman Cahill begins Thursday (12th Feb) for students at the Puckapunyal Tennis courts:

Times: 5-7 yrs 3:45-4:30pm
7-9 yrs 4:30-5:15pm
9-12 yrs 5:15-6:00pm
12 years + 6:00-6:45pm

Enrolments are welcome after school at the tennis courts on Thursday.

Information notices are available in front of the school office.
Good luck tennis enthusiasts.

Contact Norm – 57941620 or 0428941620

Dates for 2015

Term 1 – Saturday 14th March 8am - lunchtime
Term 2 – Saturday 9th May 8am - lunchtime
Term 3 – Saturday 25th July 8am - lunchtime
Term 4 – Saturday 7th November 8am - lunchtime

The temperature inside a car begins to rise as soon as the door closes, and within minutes it can be double the temperature outside.

So if it is 30 degrees outside, it can be more than 60 degrees inside a car in just a few minutes.

With smaller bodies and under-developed nervous systems, young children are at much greater risk of life-threatening heatstroke, dehydration and other serious health risks.

While the summer holidays may be over, the warm weather continues throughout term one.

Three new video ads about the dangers of leaving kids in hot cars have recently been launched.

Please help spread their important messages by sharing the videos with your friends, family and community.

The videos will also feature on weather websites, YouTube advertisements and Facebook-promoted posts targeting parents with young children.
Homework/Homereading Requirements for our Students

On Monday 16th February, your child will receive his/her first weekly homework sheet for 2015.

Why do we set Homework?

We give the students a weekly homework sheet for a variety of reasons. Firstly, the homework sheet is primarily about the topics in Literacy and Numeracy that students are studying each week. That makes it an opportunity for families to be aware of what their children are studying in class. It also helps students get used to having good work habits because as they get older they will have increasing amounts of homework tasks. Homework also gives students an opportunity to practise and reinforce what they are learning.

The Homework sheets will contain a few examples of Literacy and Numeracy each week.

On top of the weekly homework sheet, we do ask Foundation (Prep) - Year 2 families to spend time listening to their children read and practise counting and number patterns each night. We also ask Years 3-6 families to spend time listening to their children read and practise their tables each night. We hope these tasks become a solid focus as they are crucial for the development of all students.

Families who would like to engage their children in extra homework also have other choices. Families can set their own children extra tasks. Primary aged text books are available at some supermarkets, newsagencies, book shops and on a variety of websites. Families can visit our school website and use some of the available links to other websites which are regularly used in classrooms.

Foundation (Preps)

Daily independent reading. We ask all parents to record book titles and sign in reader covers and return daily.
Weekly Spelling and/or Sight words. When Foundation students are ready, some spelling and sight words will come home to practise.
1 page Homework sheet. Every Monday, a Homework sheet will come home to be completed and returned to school by Friday. The Homework sheet will contain simple Literacy/Numeracy practice.
Gathering information or materials for classroom activities, such as ‘Show and Tell’, etc.

Years 1/2

Daily independent reading. We ask all parents to record book titles and sign in reader covers and return daily.
Weekly Spelling and/or Sight words. Students will bring home some spelling or sight words to practise.
1 double sided Homework sheet. Each Monday a Homework sheet will come home to be completed and returned to school by Friday. The work sheets will cover topics studied in Literacy and Numeracy throughout the current term.
Project work. Students may be asked to do project work to be completed at school and at home.

Years 3/4

Daily independent reading. We ask parents or students to record book titles in their diaries and the number of pages read and initialled by parents daily.
Weekly times tables. Students will be expected to learn times tables. These will be written by students in their homework books.
1 double sided Homework sheet. Each Monday a Homework sheet will come home to be completed and returned to school by Friday. The work sheets will cover topics studied in Literacy and Numeracy throughout the current term.
Project work. Students may be asked to do project work to be completed at school and at home.

Years 5-6

Daily independent reading. We ask parents or students to record book titles in their diaries and the number of pages read and initialled by parents daily.
Weekly times tables. Students will be expected to learn times tables. These will be written by students in their homework books.
1 double sided Homework sheet. Each Monday a Homework sheet will come home to be completed and returned to school by Friday. The work sheets will cover topics studied in Literacy and Numeracy throughout the current term.
Project work. Students may be asked to do project work to be completed at school and at home.

‘Striving for Excellence’
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### School Latestays/Camps Planned for 2015

**Foundation** – Latestay at school Thursday 10th September - Foundation students stay at school until 7:30pm for BBQ and other outside activities.

**Year 1** – Latestay at school Tuesday 8th September – Year 1 students stay at school until 7:30pm for BBQ and other outside activities.

**Year 2** – Excursion and Stayover at school Friday 11th September – Saturday 12th September. Years 2 students attend an excursion to the Melbourne Museum and stay the night at school.

**Years 3/4** – 3 day/2 night camp to Anglesea – Wednesday 27th May – Friday 29th May. Students to participate in Beachside and Outdoor Adventure activities at Burnside Camp.

**Years 5/6** – 3 day/2 night camp to Lake Dewar – Monday Monday 22nd June – Wednesday 24th June. Students to participate in Outdoor Adventure activities at Lake Dewar Camp.

### Visiting Artists for 2015

**‘Rock It’** – Thursday 23rd July. An engaging voyage through Blues, Heavy Metal, Hip-hop and Country, with three larger than life characters! Rock-it is designed to leave students confident and buzzing with excitement at all the possibilities open to them through music.

**Leigh Hobbs (Author and Illustrator)** Eg. ‘Mr. Chicken Lands On London’ – Wednesday 22nd April. Leigh Hobbs is an Australian artist and author. Although he works across a wide range of mediums, he is best known in Australia and the United Kingdom for the humorous children’s books he has written and illustrated.

**Responsible Pet Program** – Friday 13th March. Have fun exploring what it means to be a responsible pet owner.

**Camp Quality Puppet Show** – Wednesday 11th March -Through the use of state-of-the-art puppets, children learn how to be supportive of children who are living with cancer and their siblings. The program informs and educates, resulting in greater sensitivity and support for children who face medical challenges.
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 are starting to develop early writing skills with a focus on pencil grip. We will be focusing on the letter ‘Ss’ and the sound it makes.

**Numeracy:** We are looking at the number 1 and making patterns.

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

**Literacy:** We have begun initial strategies for writing.

**Numeracy:** We are looking at counting to 50 and time.

**Junior School – Year 2s Rooms 8 & 9**

**Literacy:** We are continuing to focus on writing strategies.

**Numeracy:** We are looking at time, days of the week and birthdays.

**Middle School Years 3/4 Rooms 10 & 11**

**Literacy:** During Literacy sessions over the next two weeks, we will work on Values Education. In reading we will be focusing on fluency and expression while covering a variety of reading strategies according to our needs.

**Numeracy:** We will work on place value and the four processes. Tables facts will be practised throughout the week.

**Senior School Years 5/6 Rooms 1A & 1B**

**Literacy:** During Literacy sessions over the next two weeks, we will work on Values Education. In reading we will be focusing on fluency and expression while covering a variety of reading strategies according to our needs.

**Numeracy:** We will work on place value and the four processes. Tables facts will be practised throughout the week.

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These are our beautiful new basketball uniforms that were donated by the Billen and the Allen families at the end of last year. Don’t they look great! Thank you Mackenzie Jenkins and Carter Grant for modelling them for us!
At the beginning of each year, the Puckapunyal Primary School details 2 different sets of Fees.

1. **Stationery Fees** are mandatory fees where families receive an invoice. Families can pay off the fees throughout the year.

   **Stationery Fees 2015**

   All classroom Stationery/Books
   Computer Software/Hardware
   Internet Usage
   Visiting Artists
   Total = $200.00

Under **Stationery Fees**, each child will be fully supplied with stationery, i.e. all books, paper, pencils, textas, glue, etc. at the beginning of the year and throughout the year when necessary. This ensures materials supplied are of a uniform nature and that books are the correct line and page requirement. Additionally, all students are then ready to launch into the academic year from day 1 as all students are issued with the same type of classroom materials, at the same time. Families have indicated that they appreciate stationery being supplied by the school.

The students will be given access to latest **computer software/hardware** and the **internet** throughout the year. Students will have access to the internet in their classrooms and via the Computer Lab.

The school will also organise at least 2 **visiting artists** that will correlate with classroom programs. They will be spaced apart and involve a range of genres.

2. **Voluntary Contributions** are not mandatory and we cannot force anyone to contribute. However, the reality is that government schools cannot function as effectively without them. All government schools depend on the contributions to pay for a variety of school programs and budget for them accordingly.

   **Voluntary Contributions 2015**

   Library Reading Materials
   Classroom Reading Materials
   Physical Education Equipment
   Art Materials
   Computer Software/Hardware
   Photocopy Paper
   Total = $30.00

   **Voluntary Contribution targets:**
   1 child   $  30.00
   2 children $  55.00
   3 children $  80.00
   4 children $100.00
Our new Classes for 2015!

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