Wednesday Notes

Well Done, Pucka!

Congratulations to the 26 students who participated in the **District Swimming Carnival** in Seymour last week. Puckapunyal Primary School finished a credible 3rd overall which is a great effort. While the team performed well is great, it is an absolute bonus. We are very proud of our students for several reasons. Firstly, they all gave their best for their team. They cheered loudly for their teammates and showed great sportsmanship to their opposing schools. They all behaved well and were brilliant ambassadors for their school. They represented their school and their community with high distinction. Well done!

It seems that all of the hard training that our students did either through school lessons, early morning swimming or privately, paid off. There were many fantastic highlights and unfortunately we cannot mention all of them. However, we must congratulate **Somaiya Harriden, Luke Golder and Mackai Harriden** who were age group champions for the day. Well done champs! (More photos on page 9)

Many students came home with many ribbons from their events. Some of them even represented the Seymour District at the **Division Swimming Championship Carnival** today.

We will report on their performances next week.

It was also terrific to hear many other students talk about how proud they were of their efforts. For many students swimming 50m was a huge task. Well done, team.

**Darwin Defenders Commemoration**

**Birthdays/AGM**

**Division Swimmers**

**It’s Not Ok to be Away**

**Stephanie Brown Poem**

**Well Done, Parent Helpers!**

**Student Awards of the Week**

**Helping Your Child Read**

**Happy Birthday Chart**

**Invitation to Mums!**

**Teaching/Learning Focus Week 5**

**Indonesian**

**Every Day Counts**

**Motherhood Unmasked 2015**

**District Swimming Photos**

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***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 15-20 nights. **Well done if you have kept up!**

***Sunday Nights - a great night to check for Head Lice.***
10 of our senior students represented our school at the **Darwin Defenders Day Commemoration** last Thursday. Along with Mrs. Ranger and Mrs. Hall the students attended the service at the Shrine of Remembrance. Our school Captains, Taylah Studte and Lincoln Bazel laid a wreath on behalf of our school. Linclon, Taylah and Holly Hastie also made speeches in front of the large crowd who attended. The aim of the day was to commemorate the bombing of Darwin in 1942 during World War 2. Well done, leaders!

**Congratulations to the 11 students who performed so well at the Seymour District Swimming Carnival last week, that they have been selected in the team to represent our school and the Seymour District at the Division Swimming Carnival today. The Division Swimming Carnival will involve 4 other divisions and will take place today at the Seymour Outdoor Pool. Good luck, champs!**

**2015 Division Swimming Team**


**Good luck, champs!**

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**Happy Birthday** to Charlie Mackay, Tristan Murphy and Leisl Rayner who are having their birthdays this week. On behalf of the Puckapunyal Primary School Community, we wish them all a very **Happy Birthday**!
Deployment sessions: Deployment sessions have already begun, so please let me know if your child has a parent deployed overseas.

Healthy lunch tip: Use your loaf. Keeping lunches healthy, interesting and providing variety can be challenging. Here are some ideas for the humble sandwich: Bread, fruit bread, rolls, wraps, pita/pocket breads, focaccia, ciabatta, mountain bread, pikelets/pancakes, savoury muffins, scones etc.

Ride2School: We encourage active travel – walking or cycling to school, and we have our Ride2School day coming up in March. While the weather’s so pleasant, perhaps consider incorporating active travel into your morning and afternoon school routine.

Pavers: Late in 2012 we sold engraved pavers as a fundraiser. Over the holidays those pavers were laid near the old canteen. If you purchased a paver, please have a look – they look fantastic!! Thank you for your support!

Fundraising: While we’re on the subject of fundraising, if anyone is interested in assisting with fundraising activities please let me know. Most of the activities are already organised and require some hands-on assistance. Any support is always appreciated and can just be a ‘one-off’ contribution. Thank you!!! Have a terrific week. Sue Ranger, DSTA.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR REWARD UPDATE

Hume continues to lead the way but the other houses are still close. Keep up the positive behaviour everyone!

CURRENT SCORES

Hume - 200 points
Melba - 186 points
Bradman - 173 points
Chisholm - 169 points

Last year our students each averaged **14.46 days away** from school for the year. That is above the state average. For the first time in over 12 years our students have a lower attendance rate than the state average. We do certainly encourage unwell students not to be at school, especially if the illness is contagious. However, we do ask families to read the Department of Education article on page 9 that details the importance at being at school every day.

It’s Not Okay to be Away

Written by Stephanie Brown (3/4 A Room 11)

School is cool when you follow the rules,
This is a rule that most forget,
Work your hardest and do your best.
It’s not okay to be away,
And if you say it is you are lay-zay!
When you are new you don’t know what to do,
But you’ll meet someone friendly,
Who will say gently,
You’ll be okay if you stay away from the mean team.

Well Done, Parent Helpers!

Congratulations to the 13 dedicated parents who completed the Parent Helpers course at school this week. These wonderful mums have completed a 2 session course which has trained them to help students with Reading, Writing and Mathematics. These mums will soon be working at school as volunteer helpers. Well done!
We would also like to thank Jane Challis who conducted the training for the parents.

**Can You Help Us?** – We require any couches/sofas that may not be needed anymore. Several of our classrooms would love to have a couch for students to use when reading. We also require any old ipods/MP3 players that are no longer needed. They would be used occasionally for some students to listen to music while working. We would be very grateful**
Congratulations to the following students who were ‘Students of the Week’ for last week. Winners – Hayden Gripske, Aidan Paul, Sophie Van Der Waal, Joel Simmonds, Casey Cousins, Hailey Altas, Jamie Clark and Cayleigh Cousins. These students were selected because they were modelling ‘Honesty’. This week teachers are looking for students who are modelling ‘Respect.’

5/6 I in Room 1A won the Senior School Times Tables Trophy. Trinity Boyd and Skye Saunders were delighted that their classroom won the winning trophy this week!

3/4 A in Room 11 won the Yard Duty Competition Trophy. Jaycob Faz was very excited to show off the winning trophy this week!

Congratulations to the following students who were ‘Authors of the Week’ for last week. Winners – Emma Kenny, Lilly Mackay, Kathleen Cox, Lake Robertson, Blake Neilson, Abigail Major, Lincoln Bazel and Taylah Studte. These students were selected because they showed great skills as an author.

3/4 A in Room 11 won the Yard Duty Competition Trophy. Jaycob Faz was very excited to show off the winning trophy this week!

‘Recycling Cans’ Award

‘Yard Duty’ Trophy

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‘Clean Up’ Awards

Congratulations to Marissa Fredrickson, and Anna Buckeye who received ‘Clean Up’ Awards this week! Thanks, kids!

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Helping Your Child Read

Here are some tools to assist you when helping your child to read.

**Praise and Encouragement**
Praise for children is like nutrients for plants, it helps them thrive! So give daily doses!

“You are a good reader.”
“You are reading very well now.”
“It’s getting easier and easier.”
“I like hearing you read.”
“I like the way you read that.”
“You are doing very well.”
“Terrific!”
“Well done!”
“Fantastic!”
“Top effort. I like the way you tried here.”
“I like the way you figured that out all by yourself.”
“You went back and fixed this, well done.”
“How did you know this wasn’t ………?”

“First you said ……. (error) and then you said ……. and that was right. What did you notice? Well done!”

“I like reading with you.”

“Wow! What a great reader you are!”

“I like sharing a book together.”

“That was a bit tricky wasn’t it?

“Let’s have another go.”

“How did you figure that out?”

“I’m proud of you.”

“Thank you for reading to me.”

*Make your comment at the end of a page or at the end of the book. Let them get through a page without interruptions because they can lose the gist of the story if we interrupt too often.

*If your child is stuck on a word, don’t leave them hanging. That’s agony for both of you. Tell them the word and get them to take a good look at it.

*Everyday, find something to praise about your child and how well they are reading. It doesn’t have to be about their take home books. You can use their favourite books or the library book they have borrowed that week. Notice how much they are already doing that is correct. And remember reading is meant to be fun. Keep it lighthearted and positive in your approach.

*Choose a regular, relaxed time of the day to read together. Before bed time might be fine so long as you and your child are not too tired. Remember it is an ongoing process and small successes help keep the child interested and engaged.

Happy Reading! **Junior Department**
Mrs A-W is teaching **maths measurement 'birthdays' in graph format** to year 1/2 Challis. They are very proud of the results, well done! Photo features Max Chetcuti, Lauren Gourlay, Finlay Koch, and Zahra Kelly.

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**An Invitation for Mums**

"Motherhood Unmasked"

**If you are:**
Interested in making friends and exploring your experience of motherhood through art, come along!

**Wednesdays 10am-12pm**
Seymour Baptist Church
4th March – 6th May
(school holidays not included)

Hot drinks and morning tea provided!
Children welcome!

For enquiries and to register please contact Shannon:
0468 934 767  motherhoodunmasked@gmail.com

8 workshops include a variety of activities: Paint, collage, clay and more!

No artistic skill or background required!

Your valuable experience as a mum is the focus of the project

Workshops conclude with an exhibition in honour of Mother's Day

Mums from all backgrounds welcome

It's FREE!

Seymour Baptist Church
82 Avenel Road
Seymour
March 4th – May 6th
School holidays not included

More information on page 10
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 (e.g. ‘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.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Junior School – Preps/Foundation Rooms 3 &amp; 6</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Literacy:</strong> We are starting to develop early writing skills with a focus on pencil grip. We will be focusing on the letter ‘Mm’ and the sound it makes.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Numeracy:</strong> We are looking at the number 4 and location.</td>
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<th>Junior School – Year 1s Rooms 3, 8 &amp; 9</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Literacy:</strong> We are continuing to look at initial strategies for writing with capital letters and full stops as well as making predictions.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Numeracy:</strong> We are looking at measurement and sequencing numbers.</td>
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<th>Junior School – Year 2s Rooms 8 &amp; 9</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Literacy:</strong> We are continuing to look at initial strategies for writing with capital letters and full stops as well as making predictions.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Numeracy:</strong> We are looking at measurement and sequencing numbers.</td>
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<th>Middle School – Years 3/4 Rooms 10 &amp; 11</th>
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<td><strong>Literacy:</strong> During writing sessions over the next few weeks, we will work on <strong>recounts.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Numeracy:</strong> We will learn about <strong>place value to 10 000/100 000, calendars, diaries and timetables. Tables facts</strong> will be practised throughout the week.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Senior School – Years 5/6 Rooms 1A &amp; 1B</th>
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<td><strong>Literacy:</strong> During writing sessions over the next few weeks, we will focus on <strong>interjections, questions</strong> and <strong>exclamations.</strong> In reading we will be focusing on <strong>fluency</strong> and <strong>expression</strong> while also identifying <strong>key words and phrases</strong> during <strong>note taking.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Numeracy:</strong> We will continue with work on the <strong>four processes, inverses</strong> and <strong>estimation.</strong> Another focus will be continued work relating to <strong>measurement conversions. Tables facts</strong> will be practised throughout the week.</td>
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**Please Help** - Please ensure your toddlers are not playing on the school verandahs before 3:30pm each school day. Students are still learning and it is very distracting for the students inside. After 3:30pm, all children are welcome.
Foundation - Year 2 students have been learning greetings, how to say their name and sing a song.

'Selamat pagi Bu' (Good morning mum) in 'bahasa Indonesia' (Indonesian).

**Selamat pagi** = Good morning (dawn till 11am)

**Selamat siang** = Good day (11am till 3pm)

Some bright sparks might also know:

**Selamat sore** = Good afternoon (3pm till dusk)

**Selamat malam** = Good evening/night (dusk till dawn)

**Nama saya ...** = My name is ... for example: **Nama saya Gracie** = My name is Gracie

**Pak** = respectful term of address for a man, it also means father/dad

**Bu** = respectful term of address for a woman, it also means mother/mum

The children call me Bu (sounds like 'Boo') or Bu Hooper instead of Mrs Hooper :)
All the female teachers are called Bu ... for example **Bu O’Meara**.

All the male teachers are called Pak (sounds like 'Puck') ... for example **Pak Warne**.

LOTE Teacher, Christine Hooper
EVERY DAY COUNTS

Primary School Attendance

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child’s education. Students learn new things are school every day – missing school puts them behind.

Why it’s important

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in the later years of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

Getting in early

Attendance patterns are established early – a child regularly missing days in kindergarten or in the early years of school will often continue to miss classes in the later years, and receive lower test scores than their classmates. It’s vital that students go to school every day – even in the early years of primary school.

What we can do

The main reasons for absence are:

Sickness – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they’re ill. It’s vital that they’re only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.

It’s vital that holidays are planned during school holidays where possible, and not during the term if it can be avoided.

“Day off” – Think twice before letting your child have a “day off” as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts.

Truancy – This is when students choose not to go to school without their parent’s permission. There can be many reasons for truancy. The best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.

If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don’t fall behind:

- Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.
- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible. Openly communicating with your child’s school about all absences is a good way to prevent attendance issues being escalated to a School Attendance Officer. A School Attendance Officer is a Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Regional Director who has authority to follow up attendance issues. Attendance issues that are escalated can lead to an Infringement Notice. If you’re having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

Further information

For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit:
Motherhood Unmasked is a community initiative designed for mothers, by mothers. The project – now in its fourth year, seeks to create a space for mums to engage and reflect on their mothering experiences through creative mediums.

The project originally ran once a year through 2010-2012 in Box Hill. It will now run in Seymour at the Seymour Baptist Church from March – May.

Motherhood Unmasked consists of a series of art workshops, whereby mums come together to creatively explore different themes of mothering and life, using a variety of mediums and activities. At the conclusion of workshops an exhibition is held displaying participants works in honour of Mother’s Day. The exhibition allows participants to connect with the broader community, giving voice to the array of joys and challenges mums face.

At this point the location of the Seymour exhibition is to be confirmed, but it is important to know that displaying work at the exhibition is voluntary, and by no means a barrier to participating in the workshops. Participants do not need to feel anxious about displaying their work if they don’t want to! We have found though, that time and time again, by the end of the workshops, the mums can’t wait to show some of what they have created and share what their artworks represent.

In previous years, we have invited the local MP, Anna Burke, Federal Member for Chisholm to our exhibition opening. Each year Anna kindly opened the project with a speech and provided a great source of support and encouragement throughout the years the project was run.

In 2011, we connected with the Box Hill Maternal Child Health nurse, Pam Heselev, who provided in-kind support through the use of the Box Hill MCH centre, and referrals for participants. Her support was fantastic and she was very enthusiastic about the project. Feel free to contact her if you wish: Pam.Heselev@whitehorse.vic.gov.au.

Though it is not a therapeutic project, we have found that this project offered a great way of connecting mums to other mums through the workshops, and advocating for the needs, goals and aspirations of mums through the exhibition. Friends, family and community members alike all responded positively to the exhibitions, some of whom were deeply impacted by the visual representations and stories of mums’ experiences.

Childcare is not provided, but children are welcome to attend. The hall at Seymour Baptist is a large space and children will be able to play and participate in their own activities in the same room, facilitated by volunteers.

We hope this information has been helpful for understanding Motherhood Unmasked and has assisted in feeling confident to recommend the project to mums throughout Mitchell Shire. I am more than happy to further discuss the project in person or on the phone if you wish.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Shannon McSolvin
0468934767
www.Motherhoodunmasked.com

‘Striving for Excellence’
Open since 1887