On Thursday 10th 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 PC Centre
- 6.30pm meal
- 7.30pm Parents arrive - presentations followed by dancing

**Cost:** The cost for the dinner is $25. Payment is due by Friday 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
- 3 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 hairdressers, 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.

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**Awards Assembly**

On Monday 14th 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.

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**Coming Events**

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<td>Spelling Bee Class Parties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 16th December</td>
<td>School Concert</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

***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 190-195 nights. Well done if you have kept up!***

***Sunday Nights - a great night to check for Head Lice.***
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’s menu from a recent newsletter.

**This week the menu is -**

- **Pizza Supreme or Ham and Pineapple** $2.50
- **Chocolate or Strawberry milk** $2.00
- **Orange or Apple Juice** $1.50

The School **Spelling Bee Final** is on again this year. It will take place at school on Tuesday 15th 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 will be listed next week.

**Indonesian Activities**

To celebrate our new learning of Indonesian in 2015, on Friday the 11th of December, we will be having fun doing special **Indonesian activities!** Between 11.30-1.30 the students will be making Indonesian masks, singing Indonesian songs and playing Indonesian games! It will be great fun! Families are welcome to attend.

Next year, as with every year, we ask parent volunteers to help with our **Swimming Program.** In weeks 2 and 3 for Term 1 in 2016, our Years 3-6 students will be attending the Area Pool for swimming each day. If any parent would like to volunteer to help with the swimming groups, please contact us. We try to keep the group sizes as small as possible. The more people that volunteer, the better. If you have Austswim training that is great! If you do not, we can organise some training for you as long as you help us with our program in return. If we have trained you in the past, please volunteer again. If you do not have Austswim training and can’t do the training, you can still help. Ask us how. We need you!

**POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR REWARD UPDATE**

Well done to all students who earned a positive behaviour ticket last week. You help make each day a great one for yourself and also for others.

**CURRENT SCORES**

- Melba: 635 points
- Hume: 583 points
- Bradman: 562 points
- Chisholm: 498 points

Happy Birthday to **Dominic Stewart, Cade Garland** and **Dominic Plessey** who are all having their birthdays this week. On behalf of the Puckapunyal Primary School Community, we wish them all a very **Happy Birthday**!

We are very proud of all the help that our whole school community has given to the school to make it a better place in 2015. On Monday 7th December, at 11:00 a.m., our school has organised a **special morning tea.** The morning tea is to thank all of our parents who have helped at school this year. That could be people who helped out in the canteen, classrooms, fundraising, excursions, working bees, etc, etc. All families are welcome to attend. Please come along and join in the celebration.

Leaving? Uniforms: If you are leaving and have any additional PPS uniform that needs a new home, we can find one! It’s always useful to have a supply of second hand uniform on hand. Thank you.

**2016 Enrolments:** Just a reminder that if you have a child at tending PPS next year, we require completed enrolment forms to be returned as soon as possible. Also if you know of families posting in who intend sending their children to PPS, could you ask them to contact us (if they have not already done so). It is very helpful if we have accurate numbers at this stage. Thank you.

Have a terrific week.

**Sue Ranger, Defence School Transition Aide**
At assembly this week **Kindness** was announced as our **School Value of the week.** That means teachers are looking for students who are demonstrating ‘Kindness’ 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 **Kindness**? Year 5 student, **Leah Farr** read out the meaning of **Kindness.** Assembly MC, **Ryan Cox,** also brought his pet blue-tongue lizard to the assembly to model how to be kind to pets. He spoke very well to the audience and even let them ask questions about his pet. Well done, Ryan!

‘**Kindness** is showing care and concern for other people, animals and the environment. **Kindness** need not be on a grand scale – it can be in a small gesture. It can brighten up somebody’s life, help animals feel more cared for and make the planet a better place to live.’
Congratulations to the following students who were ‘Students of the Week’ for last week. Winners – Ryan Connie-Carbery, Charlotte Lincoln, Lauren Gourlay, Zakk Chalson, Jett Miller, Anna Buckeye, Libby Brown and Lochlan Worden. These students were selected because they were modelling ‘Responsibility’. This week teachers are looking for students who are modelling ‘Kindness.’

Congratulations to the following students who were ‘Authors of the Week’ for last week. Winners – Caleb Holloway, Amber Hopkins, Eamon Constable, Liesl Rayner, Eila Schlender, Cooper Dickinson, Trinity Boyd and Jake Tanis. 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. Cayleigh Cousins and Serena Chivers were delighted to win the trophy this week!

3/4 A in Room 11 won the Middle School Times Tables Trophy. Trey Ward was very happy that his classroom won the winning trophy this week!

1/2 C in Room 8 won the Yard Duty Competition. Clodagh McCarthy was delighted to collect the winning trophy this week.

Charlie Skipper pretended to be a professor and read out some interesting facts at assembly on Monday. He was brilliant! Well done, Charlie!
LOOK AT WHAT IS HAPPENING AROUND OUR SCHOOL

Photographs and writing by Year 5/6 students Francina, Taylah and Tennyson

Somers School Camp

The 24 Year 5/6 students who participated in the Somers School Camp experience certainly had the time of their lives! While enjoying boating, environmental studies, orienteering, high ropes course, low ropes course, surfing, bike education, archery, challenge swing, flying fox, art, rock climbing and abseiling, initiatives activities, group activities and drama, we had definitely made some new great friends!

CHALLENGE SWING

The challenge swing is an 18.5 metre high swing. To get higher, your group has to pull the rope. When you feel comfortable with your height, you pull a little string with a green ball on the end, and then, you swing! As you swing, you feel like you have no stomach at all.

ORIENTEERING

You had three sessions on orienteering, each with different courses. In your first session you had the line course. You had a map and a partner. On the map you had 1-8 check points splattered around which you had to find. There was a line from one to another, guiding your way. When at a checkpoint, you were to write down what the sign had said. In your next session you had the letter course. With a partner, you went around the campus finding the checkpoints. This time, the map didn’t have lines guiding your way; you were just shown where they were placed. In your last session, you had ‘The Great Competition’. You had to find 30 different checkpoints and stamp whatever was there in the correct box on the sheet. These were two of our favourite activities, but these two stood out to us. Below is a photo of all the Puckapunyal students who were there on the last day. We’re sitting on a big boulder on the asphalt.
Last Sunday the wonderful School Choir performed beautifully at the Puckapunyal Christmas Picnic. Well done kids!

They still have one more huge performance to complete at the Seymour Carols by Candlelight.

**When:** Sunday 6th December  
**Time:** Santa arrives at 7:30pm for an 8:00pm concert start  
**Venue:** Goulburn Park Sound Shell, Seymour

**Songs:** ‘Mary’s Boy Child’ and ‘Jingle Bell Rock. Please come and hear them sing. Good luck choir.

Below are the wonderful students who read their books at the Book Launch on Monday. Well, done, kids!

- Eamon Constable
- Jy Mawer-Smith
- Ronan Sullivan
- Eliza Thompson
- Lachy Tschiderer
- Abigail Major
- Serena Chivers
- Tristan Murphy

The **Years 3/4 1 Day Bike Ride** will take place on Wednesday 9th December. They will ride approximately 20 kms or so. We are also looking for parents to participate too!
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 continuing to develop our writing skills with a focus on sounding out and using the red and blue words in our writing and learning the ‘ing’ endings. We are practising Kung Fu punctuation and talking about WOW words.

**Numeracy:** We are revising 2D and 3D shapes and graphs.

### Junior School – Year 1s Rooms 3, 8 & 9
**Literacy:** We are focusing on quotation marks and revising all forms of punctuation.

**Numeracy:** We are learning about transformations (flips, slides, turns and rotations).

### Junior School – Year 2s Rooms 8 & 9
**Literacy:** We are focusing on expositions.

**Numeracy:** We are learning about transformations (flips, slides, turns and rotations).

### Middle School – Years 3/4 Rooms 10 & 11
**Literacy:** During writing sessions over the next few weeks, we will continue to work on Poetry. We will continue to focus on our editing skills.

**Numeracy:** We will continue to focus on measurement, geometry and graphing. Another continued focus will be mapping. 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, we will continue to focus on Poetry. In reading we will be focusing on strategies, fluency and expression.

**Numeracy:** We will continue with work on the four processes, the order of operations, place value, number patterns, decimal fractions, common fractions and percentages. We will continue to complete work relating to mapping and compass directions. Tables facts will be practised throughout the week.

### Foundation – Year 2
The children are focusing on **keluarga** (family) at the moment. They will start to make small books about their families this week. The children are most welcome to bring family photos, or perhaps photocopies of them, for their Indonesian class on Wednesday or Friday, to encourage further use of their Indonesian skills!

- **ayah/bapak** = dad
- **ibu** = mum
- **kakak** = older brother/sister (sibling)
- **adik** = younger brother/sister (sibling)
- **saya** = me/I/my

---

*Salam (Regards)*

Bu Hooper (Mrs Hooper)

Guru Bahasa Indonesia (Indonesian teacher)
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 15th 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 (in school grounds)</th>
<th>Menu</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Children bring……</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Foundation OC | Tuesday 15th December | 12:30pm | Room 6 Verandah | Boys to bring sweets  
Girls to bring savoury food  
(small plate, no food requiring heating please) |
| Foundation/1 OM | Tuesday 15th December | 12:30pm | Room 6 Verandah | Boys to bring sweets  
Girls to bring savoury food  
(small plate, no food requiring heating please) |
| 1/2 C     | Tuesday 15th December | 12:30pm | Shelter Shed (out front of art room) | Girls to bring savoury food  
Boys to bring sweets  
(small plate, no food requiring heating please) |
| 1/2 I     | Tuesday 15th December | 12:30pm | Shelter Shed (out front of art room) | Year 4 Boys – drinks  
Year 4 Girls - Fruit  
Year 3 Boys – sweet  
Year 3 Girls – plates, cups, decorations (small plate, no food requiring heating please) |
| 3/4 A     | Tuesday 15th December | 2:30pm | Room 10 Verandah | Savoury or sweet |
| 3/4 D     | Tuesday 15th December | 2:30pm | Room 10 Verandah | Year 4 Boys – drinks  
Year 4 Girls - Fruit  
Year 3 Boys – sweet  
Year 3 Girls – plates, cups, decorations (small plate, no food requiring heating please) |
| 5/6 I     | Tuesday 15th December | 12:30pm | PC Centre | Savoury or sweet |
| 5/6 P     | Tuesday 15th December | 12:30pm | PC Centre | Savoury or sweet |
A keyboard programme run by an experienced qualified teacher, Peter Hagen, is now available at Puckapunyal Primary School for 2016. The benefits of this programme can be of enormous value to your child. Beyond the obvious musical expertise, your child will gain greater concentration, reading and hand-eye co-ordination skills that will extend to other areas of the core curriculum. It has been proven in tests that children learning keyboard significantly improved their own performance in subjects such as reading, writing and maths thus increasing their confidence and self-esteem. Enrolments are now being taken for 2016 for either the group lessons or the individual lessons. You can pick up an enrolment form from the school office.

The Programme is devised for small groups of no more than five children. In this way the needs of individuals can still be met whilst also making use of the many possibilities of playing music in a group setting. Children of different standards can even play together and sound very good. The group lessons also focus more strongly on accurate rhythm using backing rhythms than traditional methods of learning keyboard.

Special advantages and features of this programme include:
- Experienced, highly qualified and friendly teacher
- Small groups of no more than five (often only four) children per teacher
- Low cost lessons at only $13.00 per week
- Each child plays their own keyboard during lessons (no clumsy unfair sharing of keyboards)
- Extra free music and worksheets provided from time to time to supplement the books used
- Use of your own iPod headphones (with 6.5 mm adaptor) or other headphones for individual practice
- Private lessons are also available at $38 per half hour lesson ($380 per ten week term)

Peter Hagen is a musician, active performer, educator and music entrepreneur. His wide ranging musical experience includes three university degrees, varied experience as junior music coordinator at Lauriston Girls’ School, teaching at Yamaha Music Foundation, vocal tuition at the Australian Children’s Choir and an active performing career. He has been active in the field of community music, directing and playing in musicals in the local area. He tours nationally and internationally. Further information can be found at www.peterhagen.com.au

URGENT BUDGIE CARE NEEDED!
Are you home over the Christmas holidays until school starts again in 2016? Would you like to look after Ms O'Conner's budgies? All seed and instructions provided! Please see Ms O'Connor - first in, best dressed!

Transition Day for Year 6 students is scheduled for Tuesday 8th December for all Yr. 6 students. Students are able to catch local buses to and from Seymour College on the day or make their own arrangements.
If you are catching the bus please make sure that you know where to catch the bus and be there a little bit early!
It will be a full day at Seymour College. On arrival at Seymour College please go directly to the Resource Centre in the Administration Building. Wear school uniform. Bring a hat and a drink. A lunch BBQ will be provided.

‘Striving for Excellence’
Open since 1887
**Student Report Cards** will be sent home with each child on Friday 11th December, 2015.

Student Report cards provide parents with clear, comprehensive and consistent information about their child’s progress from 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 Foundation - 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>VELS 2012</th>
<th>2013-15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep</td>
<td>Level 1</td>
<td>Level 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Level 2</td>
<td>Level 2</td>
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<td>Level 3</td>
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<td>Level 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Where can I find out more information about AusVELS?**

End of Year School Concert

Where: Puckapunyal Area Theatre
When: Wednesday 16th December, 2015
Time: 2pm Start
All Families are Welcome!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Foundation O’C</th>
<th>Song and Dance– ‘Superhero Medley’</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foundation/1 O’M</td>
<td>Chant – ‘2015 Summary’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Song – ‘Indonesian Christmas Carol’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 C</td>
<td>Song and Movement – ‘Rheumatism Boogie’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 I</td>
<td>Poem - ‘Merry Christmas Pucka Staff’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4A</td>
<td>Song – ‘Happy’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4 D</td>
<td>Song – ‘Kidstown Uptown Funk’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6 I</td>
<td>Indonesian Christmas Carols – ‘Silent Night’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>‘Jingle Bells’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6 P</td>
<td>Christmas Carol – ‘6 White Boomers’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Choir</td>
<td>Songs – ‘Advance Australia Fair’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>‘Get Stupid’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

‘Striving for Excellence’
Open since 1887
Many of our Years 5/6 students went on an 8 day district camp to Somers.
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._

‘Striving for Excellence’

_Open since 1887_
45th Annual

Carols by Candlelight

Goulburn Park Sound Shell, Guild Street, Seymour

Sunday, December 6th

Commencing at 7.30pm with Santa  8.00pm Concert
Sausages sizzle & drinks available from 6.30pm onwards

Free admission

Souvenir Program & Safe Flame Candle $2.50
& Safe Flame Bracelets $1 — Donations

ALL PROCEEDS FROM CANDLES GO TO:
SEYMOUR HEALTH — CANCER & DIALYSIS SERVICES UNIT