Wednesday Notes

Well Done, Pucka!

Congratulations to the 29 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. We are very proud of our team because they all gave their best for their school. It seems that all of the hard training that our students did either through school lessons, early morning swimming or privately, paid off. Many of the students who competed worked really hard during the swimming programs where we saw much improvement. Well done!

It is a good time to remind our students that Seymour Sharks is a great organisation where kids can receive specialised swimming training. Most of the better swimmers from all of our schools were students from the Seymour Sharks Club. Something to consider if students are interested in furthering their swimming! There were many fantastic highlights and unfortunately we cannot mention all of them. However, we must congratulate Somaiya Harriden (12 years) and Abbey Kendall (9 years) who were age group champions for the day. Well done champs! (More photos on page 10)

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.

**If we can get enough interested students, Early Morning Swimming (Years 3-6) may continue once a week. Speak to Mr. Warne if you are interested.

***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 20-25 nights. Well done if you have kept up!
Happy Birthday to Charlie Mackay, Ethan McCabe and Tristan Murphy who are all having their birthdays this week. On behalf of the Puckapunyal Primary School Community, we wish them all a very Happy Birthday!

School Captains, Jamie Clark and Tristan Murphy and the wreath that they laid at the shrine.

Emilie O’Keeffe and Libby Brown read about the day at assembly.

Congratulations to the 8 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!

2016 Division Swimming Team
Libby Brown, Naomi Pennycook, Somaiya Harriden, Amy Franks, Noah Chetcuti, Max Fletcher, Lachlan Thompson and Clodagh McCarthy.
Good luck, champs!

Darwin Defenders Day Commemoration

10 of our senior students represented our school at the Darwin Defenders Day Commemoration last Friday. Along with Mrs. Ranger and Mrs. Itter the students attended the service at the Shrine of Remembrance. Our school Captains, Tristan Murphy and Jamie Clark laid a wreath on behalf of our school. Kade Altas, Naomi Pennycook and Cayleigh Cousins, 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! More on page 9.
The **School Canteen** is open for Lunch Orders this Friday. Each and every Friday students can order lunches from the school canteen. The menu will be different each week. Please ensure that a paper bag comes with the order. Please indicate on the lunch bag if the money is in another sibling’s bag.

**This week the menu is** -
- **Pizza Supreme or Ham & Pineapple** $2.50 each
- **250ml Chocolate or Strawberry milk** - $2
- **Apple/Orange Juice Popper** - $1.50
  
  *No charge for tomato sauce*

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**Easter Raffle fundraiser:** We are once again running an Easter raffle. There should be a book of 10 tickets accompanying this newsletter and we would appreciate your support in selling them. We are also asking for donations for prizes to fill hampers with….it can be anything really (Easter eggs; nut free please, holiday activities, books, sporting equipment etc.). Traditionally this raffle has been very well supported and we always appreciate this. Thank you!!

**Healthy lunch tip:** Bread alone makes sandwiches nutritionally worthwhile, but no sandwich is nutritious if it’s not eaten! Here are some ideas to fill sandwiches with; some will appeal, while others won’t!

**Solo fillings:** mashed baked beans, asparagus, beansprouts or alfalfa, carrot, cheese, cold meats coleslaw, egg, corn, celery, banana mashed with lemon juice, sultanas, avocado etc.

See next week’s newsletter for some appealing combination fillings.

**Ride2School:** We encourage active travel – walking or cycling to school, and we have our Ride2School day next Friday, 4\(^{th}\) March. Our active travel figures are below 50% for the first time in several years so we encourage you to consider incorporating walking to and/or from school into your routine. It’s a cheap, healthy and social habit!

Have a terrific week.

**Sue Ranger, DSTA.**

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**Our wonderful School Choir** is performing tomorrow at the **DCO Family Day/Expo** (Thursday the 25\(^{th}\) Feb) at the Area Theatre in Puckapunyal. They will be singing at 5:30pm if anyone would like to see them perform. They had a practice at assembly this week and did very well! Good luck, kids!

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**Term 1 Menu**

**Friday 4th Mar:**
- Party pies and sausage rolls $1 each or 3 for $2.50
- 250ml Chocolate or Strawberry milk - $2
- Apple/Orange Juice Popper - $1.50

**Friday 11th Mar:**
- Hot Dogs $3 each
- 250ml Chocolate or Strawberry milk - $2
- Apple/Orange Juice Popper - $1.50

**Friday 18th Mar:**
- Pizza Supreme or Ham & Pineapple $2.50 each
- 250ml Chocolate or Strawberry milk - $2
- Apple/Orange Juice Popper - $1.50

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Each week at assembly, SRC representatives remind our students of a few **important school rules.** This week, SRC representatives, **Max Chetcuti** and **Jordan Haywood** reminded our students of the following rules:

- Show some respect – give way to adults.
- Use your manners at all times.
- Walk carefully around corners – you don’t know who is on the other side.
- Eat on the asphalt – put your litter in the bin.

Please discuss these rules with your children to help ensure that they understand.

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**Rule Reminders**

**D.S.T.A. Report**

**Easter Raffle fundraiser:** We are once again running an Easter raffle. There should be a book of 10 tickets accompanying this newsletter and we would appreciate your support in selling them. We are also asking for donations for prizes to fill hampers with….it can be anything really (Easter eggs; nut free please, holiday activities, books, sporting equipment etc.). Traditionally this raffle has been very well supported and we always appreciate this. Thank you!!

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**Sue Ranger, DSTA.**

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**POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR REWARD UPDATE**

Lots of positive behaviour last week, particularly from Chisholm house, going from third to first in a week! Keep it up everyone; the scores are very close!

**CURRENT SCORES**

- **Chisholm:** 139 points
- **Bradman:** 133 points
- **Melba:** 128 points
- **Hume:** 122 points

*‘Striving for Excellence’*  
*Open since 1887*
Congratulations to the following students who were ‘Students of the Week’ for last week. Winners – Ethan McCabe, Tabitha Turner, Eliza Thompson, Lachlan Balmer, Eli Casey, Liesl Rayner, Cayleigh Cousins and Finlay Koch. These students were selected because they were modelling ‘Honesty’. This week teachers are looking for students who are modelling ‘Respect.’

Congratulations to the following students who were ‘Authors of the Week’ for last week. Winners – James Van Der Waal, Ruby Courtney, Wade Hansen, Liam Percy, Christiana McCabe, Kate Cleland, Jake Tanis and Kade Altas. The students were selected because they showed great skills as an author.

3/4 A in Room 11 won the Senior School Times Tables Trophy. Matilda Ingle and Will Anderson are both delighted to look after the winning trophy this week!

4/5/6 I in Room 1 and 4/5/6 P in Room 2 jointly won the Senior School Times Tables Trophy. Abigail Major and Leah Farr will share the winning trophy this week!

Did you hear Sophie Granzow read her weekend diary writing at assembly this week? We did! She did a great job! Come along and see who reads next week.

1/2 I in Room 3 won the Yard Duty Competition. Paige Cooper and Sophie Van Der Waal are very proud of their classroom’s efforts

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

Congratulations to Lachlan Balmer, Reilly Adams, Natasha Lak and Eila Schlender who won raffle prizes for ‘Positive Behaviour’ this week! Well done, kids!
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 6 & 8**

**Literacy:** We are continuing to practise our home reading every night. Over the next week we are learning about the letters ‘t and m’ and are continuing to practise learning to write our name.

**Numeracy:** We are learning the days of the week and the numbers 3 and 4.

**Junior School – Year 1s Rooms 3, 4 & 8**

**Literacy:** We are focusing on the letters ‘t and m’, making predictions, recounts and rhyming words.

**Numeracy:** We are counting in 10’s and beginning measurement.

**Junior School – Year 2s Rooms 3 & 4**

**Literacy:** We are continuing to write recounts and concentrating on the opening sentence as well as punctuation.

**Numeracy:** We are focusing on length in measurement and revising numbers up to 2 digits and beyond.

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

**Literacy:** During writing sessions over the next few weeks, we will work on Recounts. We will focus on common and proper nouns. In reading we are working on reading with fluency and expression.

**Numeracy:** We will continue to focus on the four processes. Another continued focus will be reading calendars and timetables. Tables facts will be practised throughout the week.

**Senior School Years 4/5/6 Rooms 1 & 2**

**Literacy:** During writing sessions over the next few weeks, we will focus on the VCOP components (Vocabulary, Connectives, Openers & Punctuation - Writing Program). In reading we will be focusing on reading with fluency and expression.

**Numeracy:** We will continue with work on the four processes and the conversion of different measurements. Tables facts will be practised throughout the week.

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**Indo Lingo**

3/4/5/6s will concentrate on greetings, farewells, marking the roll, introducing themselves and asking someone's name in Indonesian.

Selamat pagi = Good morning (dawn till 11am)
Selamat siang = Good day (11am till 3pm)
Selamat sore = Good afternoon (3pm till dusk)
Selamat malam = Good evening/night (dusk till dawn)
Selamat tinggal = Goodbye (said to the person staying)
Selamat jalan = Goodbye (said to the person leaving)
Sampai jumpa = See you later
Ada = here
Tidak ada = not here
Kenalkan, nama saya ... = Let me introduce myself, my name is ...
Siapa nama kamu? = What's your name?
Siapa namamu? = What's your name?

Salamat (Regards)
Bu Hooper (Mrs Hooper)
Guru Bahasa Indonesia (Indonesian teacher)

F/1/2s will concentrate on greetings, farewells, introducing themselves, marking the roll, learn/revise numbers and classroom objects in Indonesian.

Children who have previously learnt Indonesian will extend their numbers.

Selamat pagi = Good morning (dawn till 11am)
Selamat siang = Good day (11am till 3pm)
Selamat sore = Good afternoon (3pm till dusk)
Sampai jumpa = See you later
Nama saya ... = My name is ...
ada = here
tidak ada = not here
Satu = 1
Sebelas = 11
Komputer = Computer
Every year there is a well-documented rise in asthma flare-ups and hospitalisations when students return to school after the Christmas break. Asthma Australia has information for parents of students with asthma to help them prepare for school. Asthma Australia’s website and social media provide the latest information, including a checklist of what to do to help your child and a survey to complete to determine the impacts for parents/careers. Asthma Australia recommends that you talk to school staff about your child’s asthma and the school’s medication policy, provide an Asthma Plan from the doctor and supply a spare reliever puffer and spacer for your child’s use at school.

For primary aged students:

**Asthma Kids**
Looking for a way to help your child understand more about their asthma or about a friend with asthma? Asthma Kids is an online, interactive tool to help primary school aged children understand what it’s like to have asthma and what they can do to help. Watch one of the introductory videos then take Chester's Asthma Trail. There are prizes to win too! [www.asthmakids.org.au](http://www.asthmakids.org.au)

For secondary aged students:

**Young People and Asthma**
Asthma Australia is working with key organisations supporting young people’s health to help improve asthma health outcomes for 12-25 year olds. A Facebook page, Young People with Asthma – Australia, provides a range of information for these young people and their supporters. Every two months Asthma Australia will also run a Question and Answer session that is proving very popular. Check out the page for our posts and promotion for upcoming Q and A sessions.

As with other years, we will conduct **Parent Forums** each term. On Monday 7th March, the school will have the first forum. The session will be held in the PC Centre straight after the Monday morning assembly (about 9:30am-10:30am). There will be cuppas and cake as well. The idea is for parents to chat with the Principal, Kevin Warne, Assistant Principal, Allyson Dixon and the D.S.T.A., Sue Ranger, about the school and various issues/topics. In the past, parents have brainstormed some ideas for sessions to cover throughout the year. Hopefully our parents will find them useful. Please come along to the first session even if just to say ‘hello’.

Our school is having a **On-site Bushfire Evacuation Practice** on Friday 4th March. Throughout the year we practice Lockdowns, Off-site and On-Site Evacuations.

On Friday 4th March, the **Essendon Football Club** is sending a couple of their players to our school. They are coming to speak to our Years 3-6 students about ‘Leadership’ and ‘Goal Setting’. Good luck, 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

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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 at 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:
LOOK AT WHAT IS HAPPENING AROUND OUR SCHOOL

Darwin Defenders Day

On the 19th of February 1942, Darwin was bombed by foreign invaders. The House and School Captains went and represented Puckapunyal Primary School. We had 3 people speak and the School Captains had to lay a bunch of flowers at the Eternal Flame. Cayleigh, Naomi and Kade read out a poem written by Alan Day who is now 94. This is how the poem went:

On the 19th February 1942
Darwin, on our Australian soil,
was bombed by a foreign invader.

Brave young Australian soldiers
battled them courageously.
They fought and lives were lost.

Down the long long ages glory shall ever shine
for those who fought and died
to save Australia for you and mine.

While we were there, planes were flying over us. After that we said an ode and had 1 minute’s silence. We sang the National Anthem and finished off with the Last Post. We went down to the Salvation Army set-up and they gave us some cordial and tasty snacks. We then went to the gift shop and got ourselves some things to use or do. We finally walked to the Shrine and saw a light going over the top the Stone of Remembrance. We counted how many stairs go up and down which was really fun. To come to the Shrine and back to school we got on 4 trains. On the biggest train trip we all sat down and played Uno and read a part of a book. It was a really long day but it was amazing. We thank Mrs Itter and Mrs Ranger for looking after us. We also have to say thank you to the people who risked their lives for ours.

Written by Cayleigh and Somaiya (Year 6)
District Swimming Photos