Last Sunday, our **School Choir** performed at the Seymour **Carols by Candlelight** at St Mary’s Hall in Seymour. They sang beautifully! We congratulate the choir on all of their performances this year so far. We also thank Sally O’Connor for her tireless efforts with the choir in 2016. Well done, Sally. They still have one more **Christmas Performance** for the **Puckapunyal Xmas Picnic**

**When:** Friday 9th December  
**Time:** 4:00pm start (Choir needs to meet Ms. O’Connor ready for a 5:30pm performance)  
**Venue:** Area Theatre

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On Monday 12th 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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**Student Reports** will come home with students this Friday. We encourage families to make contact with their children’s teachers if they would like to discuss the report. We have also asked students not to open the reports until the reports arrive home to mum or dad.

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

***We can all work together to rid the community of Head Lice. Let’s check our heads once per week!***
**Healthy Breakfast:** On Thursday 15th December we are having a healthy breakfast at school. We encourage everyone to travel to school in an active manner and then enjoy breakfast together. More details to follow next week.

Enjoy your week!

*Sue Ranger, DSTA.*

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**POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR REWARD UPDATE**

It’s great to see lots of positive behaviour! Let’s keep it up ‘til the end of term!

**CURRENT SCORES**
- Melba: 195 points
- Chisholm: 181 points
- Bradman: 157 points
- Hume: 121 points

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**Happy Birthday**

Happy Birthday to Stephanie Brown and Riley McCabe who are both having their birthdays this week. On behalf of the Puckapunyal Primary School Community, we wish them both a very Happy Birthday!

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**School Canteen Thanks!**

**Last Week for Friday Lunch Orders**

**Mystery Menu**

Please choose 1 menu choice!

- $4 per mystery pack (includes drink)

  **Menu Choice 1** - Party pie/ sausage roll combo (Pack includes either pies or sausage rolls or combination of both)
  **Menu Choice 2** – Hot Dog
  **Menu Choice 3** – Pizza
  **Menu Choice 4** – chicken nuggets and wedges

**Drinks** - Juices available only

The mystery part will be that you may not get your 1st menu choice preference. That will depend on our stocked items!

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**Thank you, Parents!**

This year we have had a small number of dedicated parents who have continuously strived to ensure that our students have canteen lunches each Friday. Our students would not have had the wonderful canteen lunches without our volunteers. We thank those mums for terrific service to our school.

**Thank you, Stacy!**

For the last year, Stacy Brooks has voluntarily managed the canteen lunches. That means, she has organised parent rosters, ordered food, organised menus, liaised with school staff, etc. etc! We thank Stacy for her wonderful dedication and leadership!

We will be looking for more volunteers to help each Friday in 2017. If you can help, please see Simone in the office.

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**Swimming 2017**

Next year, as with every year, we ask parent volunteers to help with our Swimming Program. In weeks 1 and 2 for Term 1 in 2017, 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!

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**New School Uniforms**

As you know, the **new designed school shirts** have been part of our school uniform since the end of last year. As advertised earlier in the year, 2017 will be the last year that the old designs can be worn. 2017 is the last year to integrate the new uniforms and phase out the old ones. The new shirts are available now for purchase. In 2017, uniforms will also be available for purchase.

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***Good luck Year 6 students who attend their Year 6 Graduation Night (The Valedictory Dinner) this Thursday***
On Tuesday 20th December it will be our last day of Term 4 in 2016. The children will be dismissed at 1:30 p.m. At 1:10 p.m. there will be a final assembly just to say goodbye and to wish you all a Merry Christmas. Please come along and join in our last assembly for 2016 in the school amphitheatre.

The final day can be an ‘out of school uniform day’ for all students.

There will not be any buses available on the last day for our students who normally travel to school by bus. Students will have to make other arrangements for that day.

On Monday after assembly, our keyboard students, along with keyboard teacher, Peter Hagen put on a great concert. All students involved played for the whole school! They did a great job! Well done, kids and thank you, Peter!

At assembly this week Caring was announced as our School Value of the week. That means teachers are looking for students who are demonstrating ‘Caring’ 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 Caring? Year 5 student, Marissa Fredrickson read out the meaning of Caring. Assembly MC, Libby Brown, along with some friends, conducted a puppet play about Caring. Well done!

‘Caring is paying attention to the things that matter to you. You can care for yourself, for other people, for pets or for special things. When you care for something you treat it with respect and concern.’
Congratulations to the following students who were **Students of the Week** for last week. Winners – Gemma Koch, Lewis McGee, Gracie Beattie, Savannah Bradford, Matilda Turner, Kate Cleland, Brooklyn Lindsay and Amy Franks. These students were selected because they were modelling ‘Kindness’. This week teachers are looking for students who are modelling ‘Caring’.

**SWAPP Select Program**

I have information about the ADF partners career assistance program if anyone is interested.

**NEW UNIFORM**

We have recently had a new shipment of uniform arrive that includes shorts, tops, tracksuit pants and hats. Some parents have been waiting on this to arrive.

**Best wishes for the week.**

Sue R

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**Awards for the Week**

**Students of the Week**

3/4 A in Room 11 won the Middle School Times Tables Trophy. Dakota Miller and Leisl Rayner were very happy to collect the winning trophy for their classroom this week!

4/5/6 P in Room 2 won the Senior School Times Tables Trophy. Claudia Carrick was also very happy to collect the winning trophy this week!

**Authors of the Week**

Congratulations to the following students who were **Authors of the Week** for last week. Winners – Ethan McCabe, Ethan Field, Leah Cleland, Brielle Eldridge, Renae Pennycook, Mia Shortt, Isaac Bennett and Lachlan Thompson. These students were selected because they showed great skills as an author.

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**Times Tables Awards**

4/5/6 I in Room 1 won the Yard Duty Competition. Somaiya Harriden and Natasha Lak enjoyed collecting the winning trophy for her classroom this week!

Did you hear Ethan Field read at assembly this week? We did! He did a wonderful job! Come along and see who reads next week.

---

‘Striving for Excellence’

*Open since 1887*
The children will make a **malakai Jawa** (Javanese angel) and a **rantai kertas Natal** (Christmas paper chain) to decorate their classroom this week for their last Indonesian lesson of the year. Some of their Christmas vocab will be:

- **angel** = **malakai**
- **snowman** = **orang salju**
- **Christmas tree** = **pohon Natal**
- **reindeer** = **kijang**
- **present/gift** = **hadiah**
- **Santa Claus** = **Senter Klas**

**3/4/5/6**

The children will present their **Olahraga Keluarga** (Family Sport) projects this week. Modelled language will be used similar to the following:

- Hi! My name is Kevin. = **Hai! Nama saya Kevin.**
- I like playing football. = **Saya suka bermain futbol.**
- I don't like playing badminton. = **Saya tidak suka bermain bulu tangkis.**
- This is my older sibling. Her name is Jennifer. = **Ini kakak saya. Namanya Jennifer.**
- She likes playing hockey. = **Dia suka bermain hoki.**
- She dislikes playing water polo. = **Dia tidak suka bermain polo air.**
- This is my younger sibling. His name is Matthew. = **Ini adik saya. Namanya Matthew.**
- He likes swimming. = **Dia suka berenang.**
- He dislikes skate boarding. = **Dia tidak suka berpapan roda.**
- This is my friend. Her name is Sally. = **Ini teman saya. Namanya Sally.**
- She likes horse riding. = **Dia suka naik kuda.**
- She dislikes playing soccer. = **Dia tidak suka sepak bola.**

**Salam (Regards)**

*Bu Hooper (Mrs Hooper)*

*Guru Bahasa Indonesia (Indonesian teacher)*
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 is 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 that 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. We are revising all letters, blends and endings. We have finished our book launch books!

**Numeracy:** We are revising money and making graphs.

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

**Literacy:** We are continuing to revise verbs and adjectives and learning about contractions as well as compound words and talking marks. Our book launch books are all done!

**Numeracy:** We are focusing on chance and revision of shapes.

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

**Literacy:** We are revising punctuation. We are very proud of your book launch books.

**Numeracy:** We are looking at chance and revision of shapes.

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

**Literacy:** During writing sessions over the next few weeks, we will revise all concepts covered throughout the term. We are focusing on all four VCOP components. In reading we are working on reading strategies.

**Numeracy:** We will continue to revise all concepts covered throughout the term. Times tables 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 revise all concepts covered throughout the term. In reading we will be focusing on reading strategies.

**Numeracy:** We will continue to focus on binary numbers as well as revision of all concepts throughout the term. Times tables will be practised throughout the week.

**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 can put them behind.

Every day is a great day to be at school, particularly when you’re here at Puckapunyal Primary School!
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 13\textsuperscript{th} December, each grade will be conducting their classroom party. Each child will be required to bring something from home to contribute. Please see the timetable for each grade below. Please note that we do not have any fridge space for the party food.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Room/Grade</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Menu</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foundation OC</td>
<td>Tuesday 13\textsuperscript{th} December</td>
<td>12:30pm</td>
<td>Room 6 Verandah</td>
<td>F OC to bring sweets</td>
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<td></td>
<td>F/1 OM to bring savoury food</td>
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<td>(small plate, no food requiring heating)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundation/1 OM</td>
<td>Tuesday 13\textsuperscript{th} December</td>
<td>12:30pm</td>
<td>Room 8 Verandah</td>
<td>1/2 I to bring savoury food</td>
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<td>1/2 C to bring sweets</td>
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<td>(small plate, no food requiring heating)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 C</td>
<td>Tuesday 13\textsuperscript{th} December</td>
<td>12:30pm</td>
<td>Rooms 2 &amp; 3 Passage</td>
<td>3/4 H to bring savoury food</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 I</td>
<td>Tuesday 13\textsuperscript{th} December</td>
<td>12:30pm</td>
<td>Rooms 2 &amp; 3 Passage</td>
<td>3/4 A to bring sweets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4 A</td>
<td>Tuesday 13\textsuperscript{th} December</td>
<td>12:30pm</td>
<td>Undercover Shelter Shed Area</td>
<td>3/4 H to bring savoury food</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4 H</td>
<td>Tuesday 13\textsuperscript{th} December</td>
<td>12:30pm</td>
<td>Undercover Shelter Shed Area</td>
<td>3/4 A to bring sweets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/5/6 I</td>
<td>Tuesday 13\textsuperscript{th} December</td>
<td>12:30pm</td>
<td>PC Centre</td>
<td>Small plate savoury or sweet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/5/6 P</td>
<td>Tuesday 13\textsuperscript{th} December</td>
<td>12:30pm</td>
<td>PC Centre</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
A keyboard programme, as an extra-curricular activity, run by an experienced qualified teacher, Peter Hagen, is continuing to be available at Puckapunyal Primary School for 2017. 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 2017 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 $14.50 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 $40 per half hour lesson ($400 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

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| Thank you to the families who attended our ‘Thank You’ Morning Tea on Monday. |
The SADFO
cordially invites you and your family
to the
PMA Christmas Carols
on Friday 9 December 2016
at the Area Theatre

Bring your family, friends,
blanket and/or chairs.
Entertainment commences at 1600

Fun for all the family!!
Jumping Castle, Carols,
Sausage sizzle, a band, singers and.....
SANTA

BYO Light Refreshments are permitted
The end of 2016 is almost here and our students and families will be excited thinking about holidays and Christmas. No doubt there is a little bit of anxiety about the new school year.

For Kinder families, we hope that our school has been helpful over the past few months with transition days so that the move into Foundation (Preps) will be easier for your child. The year 2017 is going to be special for your family as it will be your child’s first year of schooling. We understand that families will be excited and nervous.

The starting date for **Years 1-6** students is Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January. The first day for **Foundation (Prep)** students is Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February.

The Foundation (Prep) students will then attend school for normal hours from 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. for Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays in February. The students will **not** attend school on Wednesdays during Term 1 until 1<sup>st</sup> March. This again will help the students get used to school life and a break mid-week will keep them refreshed for school. In our experience, Foundation students do get very tired in their first few weeks of school and a break mid-week has shown to be beneficial. Again, the Wednesday will also be used for Foundation student testing and an appointment date will be given to each family for one of those Wednesdays.

School **Open Day** is Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January, which is for families who haven’t yet **enrolled** their children or had a chance to **tour** the school. **School Uniforms** will also be available for any families to purchase on that day. At the end of Open Day, when we have a much more accurate idea of how many students will be attending our school, we will send each family an email. The email will let families know who their child’s teacher will be and what classroom they will be in for 2017. In the past we used to post letters to families. Emails will be quicker and families will have the information earlier. **(If the school does not have your family’s email address please pass it on to the school).**

On Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January at 9:00 a.m. all Years 1-6 students will begin their school year with a morning assembly in the school amphitheatre. Families and students can find a seat together in the amphitheatre. Immediately after the assembly, all new families and especially Foundation (Prep) families are invited to a **New Parent Information Session**. That meeting will give parents a chance to be introduced to their child’s teacher and find out important information for 2017. We recommend that all new families attend that session, as this session won’t be repeated on Thursday.

### Significant School Dates for 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday 24&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; January</strong></td>
<td>Open Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday 30&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; January</strong></td>
<td>Staff Resume</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday 31&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; January</strong></td>
<td>Years 1-6 Commence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New Parent Information Session 9:00 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday 2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; February</strong></td>
<td>Foundation (Preps) Commence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday 2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; March</strong></td>
<td>Parent/Teacher Interviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday 31&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; March</strong></td>
<td>End of Term 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Public Holidays for 2017

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January Australia Day Holiday
Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March Labour Day
Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April Good Friday
Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April Easter Monday
Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April Anzac Day
Monday June 12<sup>th</sup> Queen’s Birthday
Tuesday November 7<sup>th</sup> Melbourne Cup Day

‘Striving for Excellence’

*Open since 1887*
Last Thursday, we had 27 students in Years 3-6 participate in the Individual Triathlon events. They had to swim 165 metres, ride 4 kilometres and run 1.2 kilometres. Students entered the races for different reasons. Some wanted to win while others wanted to see if they could complete the gruelling event successfully! They each did a terrific job!! Well done kids!

**3/4 Girls**

1st – Clodagh McCarthy  
2nd – Tessa Thompson  
3rd – Renae Pennycook

**3/4 Boys**

1st – Finlay Koch  
2nd – Kian George  
3rd – Will Anderson

**5/6 Girls**

1st – Somaiya Harriden  
2nd – Naomi Pennycook  
3rd – Amy Franks

**5/6 Boys**

1st – Max Fletcher  
2nd – Lachlan Thompson  
3rd – Jake Tanis

‘Striving for Excellence’

*Open since 1887*