This term, and no doubt, all of 2016 has been a very busy, yet productive time for Puckapunyal Primary School. We thank our community, staff and students for a successful school year.

We also see many new families arrive each year and now we are saying goodbye to others, many of whom are moving interstate or overseas. We understand that it is a very difficult time for families and children, with many families saying goodbye to friends and packing up their houses. We believe that one special thing about Puckapunyal is the way that the community supports the school and this year has been no exception.

We would like to thank all of our families for their support this year. Schools rely on parent and community support. The best schools are the schools that have good communication between these groups. Children learn best when the community and the school work together and have the same goals. We are fortunate to have a close relationship with our community.

We wish all of our families a very Merry Christmas. We hope that our moving families travel safely and settle quickly into their new homes and their new schools. We also hope that our future families arrive safely and enjoy their stay at Pucka.

Good luck to everyone over the Christmas break and have a restful and safe New Year! Christmas cheer to all!

Kevin Warne, Principal

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.

***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 210 - 215 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 and Active Travel:
Tomorrow at 8.15am we are having a healthy breakfast at school. Cereal, toast and fruit will be on the menu. While we have some cutlery and crockery, please bring a bowl and spoon if possible. We encourage everyone to travel to school in an active manner and then enjoy breakfast together. At 9am the whole school will be walking for about 30 minutes together. All family members are welcome.

End of year: We wish all families a wonderful, fun-filled Christmas with family and loved ones. Safe travelling to all and best wishes to everyone for 2017 – whatever your destination. We trust that Puckapunyal Primary School has contributed to a positive 2016 for your family, and we are looking forward to 2017 with some old and new faces, ready for new experiences and challenges.

Happy Christmas everyone!!

Sue Ranger, DSTA.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR REWARD UPDATE

Well done to Melba! Melba house students along with our top ticket earners from each class will enjoy ice-creams later in the week. Great effort!

CURRENT SCORES
Melba: 280 points Chisholm: 245 points
Bradman: 232 points Hume: 197 points

Thank you Student Leaders!

This is also the time of the year when we would like to thank many of the students who have had extra responsibility this year.

*Our School Captains, Jamie Clark and Tristan Murphy have performed admirably this year – thank you, School Captains, we wish you well!!

*Our House Captains organised their teams throughout the many sporting events this year – well done House Captains!

*Thank you Student Representative Councillors (S.R.C.) who took on many roles throughout the year in 2016!

*To all of those students who took responsibility for School Assemblies, the Year 6 Valedictory Dinner, school crossing flags, school flag, school bins, newsletter proof reading, yard duty marking, classroom monitoring and other assigned duties... we say - ‘thank you, we cannot run a school without you!’
Each and every year, we have to sadly farewell some of our staff.

This year, we have to say goodbye to Jenny Philp who has been a brilliant teacher at Puckapunyal for many, many years. Jenny is taking a year off but will definitely return in 2018! Enjoy the year off, Jenny! Of course, we thank Jenny for her wonderful service at Pucka PS over the years.

We also have to say goodbye to Jodie Leechman who has been a part-time classroom teacher this year. Jodie is having a baby and we wish her well in 2017. She will be seen in the school doing some casual relief teaching here and there next year. Thanks, Jodie!

Happy Birthday to James van der Waal, Jack Anderson, Will Ludlow, Clodagh McCarthy, Matilda Turner, Riley Andrew, Dimitri Corocher, Zion Oti and Connor Barclay who are all having their birthdays this week or sometime in December. On behalf of the Puckapunyal Primary School Community, we wish them all a very Happy Birthday!

We have 2 new teachers contracted to teach at Puckapunyal Primary School in 2017. We welcome Clinton Donohue and Jaimie McCarthy to our school for next year.

Each week at assembly, SRC representatives remind our students of a few important school rules.

This week, SRC representatives, Dani Corocher and Tobias Rayner 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.

Maths Games

Just for a bit of fun, on Friday all Years 3-6 students will be participating in a Maths Games Competition. Good luck, kids!

School Value - Confidence

At assembly this week Confidence was announced as our School Value of the week. That means teachers are looking for students who are demonstrating ‘Confidence’ 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 Confidence? Year 5 student, Jack Anderson read out the meaning of Confidence.

‘Confidence is feeling self-assured. It comes from trusting yourself. When you are confident in others you know you can rely on them and trust them. When you are confident you act from a position of strength so you are prepared to risk trying or learning new things. Confidence means you don’t allow fear to keep you from doing what you really want to do. Instead of being afraid of failure you see mistakes as opportunities to learn from.’
**Defence School Transition Aide Message**

Back at school: I trust that everyone has had a smooth and satisfactory beginning to the school year. Changing schools, beginning school for the first time and even returning for another school year can be daunting for students and parents. It is great to see parents eager to support their children at this time and be an integral part of their education. If you have any concerns, or just feel like a chat about school and your child, please find me!

**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**

Congratulations to the following students who were ‘Students of the Week’ for last week. Winners – Jewell Hatfield, Savanah Naunton, Brodie Robinson, Sophie van der Waal, Christiana McCabe, Abbey Kendell, Dani Corocher and Trinity Boyd. These students were selected because they were modelling ‘Caring’. This week teachers are looking for students who are modelling ‘Confidence’.

**Authors of the Week**

Congratulations to the following students who were ‘Authors of the Week’ for last week. Winners – Cy Gill, Connor Barclay, Tyson Morgan, Kiara Miller, Blake Cooper, Riley Gilmour, Kian George and Nannah Taylor. These students were selected because they showed great skills as an author.

**Times Tables Awards**

- **3/4 A in Room 11** won the Middle School Times Tables Trophy. Kaileigh Buckley and Lily-Rose Krieger 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. Lachie Thompson and Max Fletcher were also very happy to collect the winning trophy this week!

**Yard Duty Trophy**

- **1/2 in Room 3** won the Yard Duty Competition. Poppy Krieger and Charlie Gilmour enjoyed collecting the winning trophy for their classroom this week!

**Positive Behaviour Raffle Awards**

Congratulations to **Naomi Pennycook**, Emily Watson, Cayleigh Cousins and Beth Ludlow who won the raffle prizes for ‘Positive Behaviour’ this week!

‘Striving for Excellence’

*Open since 1887*

**Recycling Cans’ Awards**

Well Done **Olivia Scotman** who received a ‘Recycling Cans’ Award this week. Every little bit counts! Olivia also received a special prize for all of the cans she has donated throughout the year. Well done, Olivia!
Last Thursday, all of our Year 6 students attended their **Graduation Night** – the **Valedictory Dinner** in our Pitman-Coffey Centre. It was a fantastic night! We saw our Year 6 students accept their graduation certificates that acknowledged their transition to secondary school in 2017.

The night began with Kade Altas and Emilie O’Keeffe, two of our Year 6 students being MCs for the evening. They performed wonderfully! Well done, kids.

The students and special guests enjoyed the beautiful meal that was catered for by Jonathan Murphy (one of our wonderful dads!).

After the meal, all parents and family members arrived for the presentation. We began with a very professional powerpoint display that summarised the students’ year and other parts of their lives. Everybody enjoyed the powerpoint display. Laura Ranger, one of our former Bradman House captains (2008), was our guest speaker and spoke to the students and wished them the very best for their future. Everybody enjoyed the speech.

The presentations soon began with each student presenting an acrostic poem to one of their peers as they were presented with their Graduation Certificates from their classroom teachers.

Many special awards were then presented to the worthy recipients. Please read the next few pages.
The ‘Striving for Excellence’ Award - is designed for a student who always gives their best regardless of their abilities and academic achievement – they are striving for excellence (our school motto). The ‘Striving for Excellence’ award is a plaque and a book voucher for $50, donated by Defence Bank or the school since 2005. The plaque was kindly made and donated by the Marshall family. The award was presented by School Council President Anne Trevena.

This year’s ‘Striving for Excellence’ Award was presented to Lochlan Worden.

Lochlan has been a hard working student who consistently gives 100% in everything he does. He has a positive attitude and always gives his best. He has helped out with many jobs around the school and can be relied upon to do so. He has been a fantastic role model for his peers and a well deserving SRC representative throughout the year. Congratulations Lochlan.

‘Outstanding Sportsperson of the Year’ Award - is designed for the student who clearly stands out from the rest of his/her colleagues in relation to sporting achievements. The ‘Outstanding Sportsperson of the Year’ award means the name is recorded on a large plaque and the student receives a small plaque and Book Voucher for $50. The award has been presented to students since 2002. This year’s award was presented by teacher, Katie Atkinson.

This year’s ‘Outstanding Sportsperson of the Year’ award was presented to Somaiya Harriden.

Somaiya has shown exemplary sporting skills in a variety of sports. Somaiya has represented the school in: District, Division, Regional and State Swimming; District and Division Cross Country and District Athletics. She qualified for the Division Athletics and represented the school in the Netball Victorian School Championships. She also participated in the Team Triathlon, Individual Triathlon and the Four Day Bike Ride. Somaiya, along with her many achievements, has displayed maturity by encouraging others to improve or have a go. She has been a great role model for all of her peers and is very worthy of the ‘Outstanding Sportsperson of the Year’ Award.

Mitchell Shire Citizenship Award - is designed for a student who is a model citizen and role model for their peers.

The ‘Mitchell Shire Citizenship’ award is a certificate and a book voucher for $50, donated by the Mitchell Shire. The award has been presented to students for many years. The award was presented by Mitchell Shire Mayor, Rhonda Sanderson.

This year’s ‘Mitchell Shire Citizenship’ award was presented to Somaiya Harriden.

Somaiya has been a fantastic citizen of Puckapunyal. She has been well organised, compassionate and reliable. She volunteers to help around the school and has willingly undertaken many other roles of responsibility throughout the year. Great work Somaiya.
**Achievement Award** - is designed for a student who achieves well academically and is a good role model.

The ‘Achievement’ award means the name is recorded on a large plaque and the student receives a small plaque and a book voucher for $50, donated by the school. The award has been presented to students since 1995. This year’s award was presented by Defence School Transition Aide, Sue Ranger.

This year’s ‘Achievement’ award was presented to **Beth Ludlow**

Beth is a wonderful role model for others to follow and has been a student who has not hesitated in undertaking extra roles of responsibility throughout the year. She is always happy, with a very positive attitude. She is dedicated towards achieving her best at all times. Her academic achievements are also at a great standard.

**Congratulations Beth.**

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**Lion’s Club Community Award** - is designed for a student who is an excellent community member.

The ‘Lion’s Club Community’ award is a small chronology and a Landmark Book Voucher for $100. The aim of the voucher is to go towards secondary schooling for next year. The award has been presented for many years. This year’s award was presented by Dilio Schivo from the Seymour Lion’s Club.

This year’s ‘Lion’s Club Community Award’ is presented to **Jamie Clark**.

Jamie was selected because she has an eagerness to learn and do well in everything she does. Jamie has been a fantastic citizen and School Captain at Puckapunyal. She is a wonderful role model for others to follow. She never complains, is reliable and well organised. She is always willing to help others, is compassionate and has undertaken many extra roles and duties at Puckapunyal. She has been a terrific example for others to follow.

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**School Bursaries** – Are designed for students who best achieve academically and are great role models for their peers. They are our best all round students.

There are 4 awards this year. The ‘School Bursaries’ are a certificate, small plaque, a book voucher for $250 and their names will remain on our new School Honours Board. The aim of the voucher is to go towards the students’ secondary schooling for next year. The bursaries have been kindly donated by the Puckapunyal Area Amenities Board. The award has been presented for the past 30 or so years. This year the awards were presented by Principal, Kevin Warne.

The students have been selected because they are the students who have achieved consistently throughout the year in all areas of the curriculum and in extra-curricular activities. They are the students who set the standard for others to follow. They are great role models. They are the students who not only behaved and conducted themselves in an exemplary manner, they set the standard academically as well.

-This year’s ‘Student Bursaries’ are awarded to **Tea-Rose Porter**, **Naomi Pennycook**, **Cayleigh Cousins** and **Libby Brown**.

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The School Valedictorian is a person or persons who are selected to best represent their peers to make a speech on behalf of them. This year we had 2 Valedictorians. The Valedictorians will have their names printed on our school Honours Board and receive a small plaque.

This year our Valedictorians were, Jamie Clark and Beth Ludlow. They were selected because they are not only brilliant citizens, but also can make a speech to best represent their fellow peers. They are great students and superb role models as shown by receiving other awards as well.

All Year 6 students displayed their ‘Brag' Boards’ at the Valedictory Dinner. Do you like these examples?

A big thank you to Mrs. Jennifer Philp and Mrs. Robyn Itter for their tireless efforts in organising the night. Thank you teachers! We would also like to thank our parent helpers who for weeks have been organising bits and pieces with our teachers. Many were even waiters for the night!

Guest Speaker, former Bradman House Captain, Laura Ranger, delivering her speech.
At Monday morning’s Awards Assembly several awards were presented to worthy students. It has been a long tradition to have an Awards Assembly at Pucka P.S. Congratulations to all of the successful recipients. We had a huge audience at the assembly which was terrific. Thank you to the families who were able to come.

‘In Kindness’ Award

This award is an annual award. The winner receives a small plaque, a $50 book voucher and their name is recorded on a large plaque donated by the Ulrich family in 2000. This year’s award was presented to Dimitri Korcher.

Dimitri is the well-deserved recipient of the In Kindness award. He is kind to everyone, and always ready to help. He is the first person to help out the new Foundation students, and show them classroom routines. He always cleans up and he always offers to help others. He is also one of our SRC representatives. As well as being kind, he rarely complains, he just gets on with it. He is going to have a great life because of this. Well done, Dimitri, you deserve this award. (written by class teacher, Mercy O’Meara)

‘The Tryers’ Award

This award is an annual award. The winner receives a small plaque, a $50 book voucher and their name is recorded on a large plaque donated by the Proudlock family in 2000. This year’s award was presented to Dakota Miller.

When Dakota started school at Puckapunyal this year she was not too happy about her move down from Darwin. After weeks of persistence from both her peers and teacher to convince her that she was at the best school going around, we finally won the battle. This young lady went from an unhappy student to a bright, happy, bubbly, fun and hardworking student. Dakota has worked extremely hard this year to achieve some outstanding results. She has jumped 15 reading levels, 5 Goodger charts and improved her academic level in all areas of the curriculum. She takes on board all feedback given by the teachers in order to improve the standard of her work, and she often asks for extra work to help her with topics that she may be finding difficult. She has definitely kept us entertained this year with her drama skills which bring a positive energy into our classroom. Well done Dakota and keep working hard next year.

(written by class teacher, Katie Atkinson)

Well Done, Tristan and Naomi!

This award is an annual award. Each and every year our school selects 2 students, 1 boy and 1 girl who were our best cyclists during the 4 Day Bike Ride. The names of the winners are recorded on a large plaque donated by the Franklin family in 2004. This year’s award was presented to Tristan Murphy and Naomi Pennycook.

We are proud to say that Tristan and Naomi were clearly our best riders over the 4 days spending most of the time at the front of the group. Over the four days they travelled around 170km. The two students were not only the two best riders but two of the best well behaved students that went on the trip. Well done Tristan and Naomi!

(written by class teacher, Damien Humphrey)
This is the tenth year that the **Making a Difference award** has been presented. The recipient of this award from any year level, is a student who makes a positive difference to the lives of those around them. They are polite, helpful, responsible, reliable, honest and compassionate. The award winner will receive a book, a brain-teaser puzzle ball and a certificate.

This year’s award was presented to **Jessica Cleland** and **Ethan McCabe**.

*Jessica* has only been at Puckapunyal Primary School for a short while, but has made a huge impact on the students around her. She is a kind, caring and hardworking student. *Jessica* comes to school with a smile on her face and a willingness to learn. She enjoys working with others and is a great role model for all students. *Jessica*’s enthusiastic personality has made Puckapunyal Primary School and the wider community a better place. Well done *Jessica*! (written by class teacher, **Damien Humphrey**).

This year the making a difference award has been awarded to two students that are really making a positive difference to our school. One recipient is from FOC. He is always positive and wanting to help others. He doesn’t complain and makes good decisions. This student works hard and tries his best all the time. The making a difference award recipient from FOC is **Ethan McCabe**. (written by class teacher, **Sally O’Connor**).

Each year, the ‘**Julie Lyons-Vague Scholarship**’ Award is presented to a Grade 4/5 student who embodies the qualities that Mrs Lyons-Vague valued. The award is presented on behalf of the Vague family, including Leigh Vague, Mrs Lyons-Vague’s husband, and Mrs Lyons-Vague’s sons, Aaron and Justin.

At Monday’s Awards Assembly, the ‘**Julie Lyons-Vague Scholarship**’ Award was presented to **Hailey Altas**. This award is a book voucher for $100 donated by the Vague family.

*Hailey* is a student who I feel demonstrates the values and qualities that Mrs Julie Lyons-Vague would be proud of. She is always polite and courteous to others. She socialises and works well with students within the class and with her peers from other classes. She willingly offers assistance and always has a smile on her face, never grumbling or complaining about anything. She is a quiet worker within the class who always tries her best in all that she attempts. It is a real pleasure to have *Hailey* in our class and to be able to see her mature and grow. I feel confident that Mrs Lyons-Vague would agree that *Hailey* is a very deserving recipient of this award. Well done *Hailey* and keep up the great work! (written by class teacher, **Robyn Itter**).
‘Striving for Excellence’ Awards - The school presented 6 awards to students in each of the year levels from Foundation -Year 5. The students were selected because they are students who always try and give their best, regardless of their academic levels. They received a plaque and a book voucher for $50 kindly donated by Defence Bank. Well done, kids! ‘Striving for Excellence’ is our school motto!!

Foundation – Milli Miller (written by class teacher Mercy O’Meara)

Milli has been Striving for Excellence every day. She came into Foundation with a spark in her eye: she was here to learn and she couldn’t wait to get started! From Day One Milli has worked hard. She is so keen to read well that she asks me to listen to her reading every day. She completes all tasks with enthusiasm, and she takes pride in the presentation of her work, and her writing just gets better and better. Milli Miller is a great student who deserves credit for her efforts- well done Milli.

Year 1 – Wade Hansen (written by class teacher, Jane Challis)

Throughout this year, Wade has consistently demonstrated our school motto “Striving for Excellence.” He arrives at school every day eager to begin his learning with a smile and positive attitude. Wade always puts in a huge effort which is reflected in his learning and he has made excellent progress in all areas of the curriculum. Wade listens carefully, follows instructions and has been a valued class member who is popular with all his peers. Congratulations Wade on receiving the “Striving for Excellence” award for 2016.

Year 2 – Paige Cooper (written by class teacher, Matthew Itter)

Paige has impressed many people in the school community this year with her happy, caring, positive nature and wonderful manners. She is an extremely helpful student who is always looking for ways to assist others and support people in need. This is never to the detriment of her work however, as she is a very diligent worker with a fine approach to her learning. Paige displays terrific tolerance for others and does not let unimportant things bother her. She constantly strives to do her best and is always looking to improve her skills in all subjects. Paige asks questions when she is unsure of something and then works very hard and productively to better herself. Paige is therefore a most deserving winner of the 2016 Grade Two ‘Striving For Excellence’ Award. Well done Paige!

Year 3 – Chloe Hogan (written by class teacher, Katie Atkinson)

Chloe is a worthy winner of this award as she continually strives for excellence in any task she undertakes. She has a positive attitude and approaches work with enthusiasm and the desire to learn. She is always focused and has a clear understanding of what she is required to do. She comes to school with a smile on her face every day and leaves with one every afternoon. She is a kind friend and a delightful student. Well done Chloe and continue to strive for excellence in everything that you do.

Year 4 – Abigail Major (written by class teacher, Jenny Philp)

This year’s Year 4 ‘Striving for Excellence’ Award is presented to Abigail Major. Abigail consistently gives 100% effort in everything that she does. She has a great, positive attitude and always gives her best. She uses initiative, volunteers to help with jobs around the school and within the classroom. She is a reliable student who has been a fantastic role model for others to follow. Congratulations Abigail.

Year 5 – Jack Anderson (written by class teacher, Robyn Itter)

The Year 5 Striving for Excellence Award, is awarded to a new student to our school this year - Jack Anderson. From the first day of the school year, Jack has focused on producing excellent work and he has always pushed himself to achieve the best possible outcomes. He works hard to improve his skills in all curriculum areas. He approaches tasks in a positive manner and willingly assists others. It has been great to see his confidence develop and to see him prepared to have a go at a variety of tasks presented to him, whether it be in the sporting area, in the classroom or in a position of responsibility. It is a real pleasure having Jack as a student in our class and congratulations on being the recipient of the Year 5 Striving for Excellence Award.
Quiet Achiever Award

Quiet Achiever – The ‘Quiet Achiever’ award is an award that is donated by Lee Whant, a former Defence School Transition Aide. This award has been presented since 2005. The recipient’s name is recorded on a large plaque which stays at our school and the student receives a small plaque and a book voucher for $50. Lee’s husband Chris has created this trophy from a red gum burl. They choose a special piece of wood each year that he makes into the small plaque.

The ‘Quiet Achiever’ award is presented to a student who focuses on doing the best they can, with what they have. They never give in to themselves and continually display the important values of tolerance, kindness and friendship towards others. Lee believes these values are another aspect of excellence and complement the school’s motto of ‘Striving for Excellence’. The significance of the bear that you see on the plaque is about caring and reflection.

This year’s ‘Quiet Achiever’ award is presented to Charlie Mackay.

The Quiet Achiever Award goes to a student whose outlook towards his schooling has blossomed this year - Charlie Mackay. Since the start of the year I have had the pleasure of seeing Charlie push himself to achieve positive outcomes in all curriculum areas. He has shown enthusiasm with his learning and tries hard with every task that is set. He is eager to learn and strives to achieve the best possible outcomes in all that he attempts. He works to the best of his ability and has demonstrated responsibility. Well done Charlie and congratulations.

(written by class teacher, Robyn Itter)

Individual Triathlon Champions!

This award is an annual award. Each and every year our school selects 2 students, 1 boy and 1 girl who were our best Individual Triathletes during the Individual Triathlon. The names of the winners are recorded on a large plaque donated by the Franklin family in 2004. This year’s award was presented to Max Fletcher and Somaiya Harriden.

‘Chicken Princess' Award

Each year, we thank the students who are our Chicken Monitors. We thank Abby Chetcuti, Kate Cleland, Tessa Thompson and Matilda Ingle. They were responsible for organising everything to do with our school chickens this year. They were especially impressive each week at assembly informing us about the chickens. They were presented with the ‘Chicken Princess’ Award at assembly. Thank you, girls! Their award is a certificate and a box of chocolates.

‘Striving for Excellence’

Open since 1887
Congratulations to all of the students who reached the final of the School Spelling Bee. Well done to the 7 winners! Thank you again to Mr. Itter for being our MC and doing another entertaining job! Thank you to all of the supporting staff.

Well done, Savannah, Lachlan and Gemma!

Well done, Eliza, Evan and Tabitha!

Well done, Ned, Olivia, Savannah and Rory!

Well done, Will, Christiana, Sophia and Rohanna!

Well done, Kian, Emily, Hayden and Abigail!

Well done, Claudia, Jack, Jaycob and Max!

Well done, Naomi, Kade, Mac and Libby!

Well done, Mr. Itter!
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 31st January. The first day for Foundation (Prep) students is Thursday 2nd 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 1st 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 24th 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 Tuesday 31st 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.

Anyone who attends our assemblies throughout the year would have been very impressed with Jack Kennedy. He ends each assembly a terrific joke! His poise and timing just seems to be the tonic to get our working week started each Monday. Thank you, Jack! We are all looking forward to his 2017 jokes for the first school day of the year!

‘Striving for Excellence’

Open since 1887