Welcome back to school!
We currently have 204 students enrolled in our school. About 45% of those students are new to our school.

While we welcome back all of our students, we especially welcome our new students and families to the Puckapunyal Primary School and community.

Before school started, we hope families received an email/letter detailing rooms and teachers for students in 2017. Until Open Day we are never absolutely certain how many students will arrive and therefore cannot structure our classrooms until after that day.

Our Year 1-6 students started yesterday and everything went smoothly. It was great to see many smiling students who seemed glad to be back.

Our 40 Foundation students start tomorrow and we wish them well in their first year of school.

Our School Newsletter normally comes home on a Wednesday and is called the ‘Wednesday Notes’. We encourage all families to read the newsletter each and every week as it usually contains very important information for our families. We will also email the newsletter to all email addresses that we have for our families.

We also have a school facebook page where we can remind families of important school information throughout the year.

It was also great to see so many parents at our first assembly and attending the Parent Information Session afterwards. We hope that the session was valuable for you.

Each Monday morning at 9am we will begin the week with our official assembly, so please come along and join in the fun! (Please note – for Monday 6th Feb and 13th Feb, while the Years 3-6 Swimming Program is taking place, 5/6 I students will not be at assemblies). They will take place in the school amphitheatre or PC Centre depending on the weather.

Kevin Warne, Principal

Good luck to all students, teachers and families for 2017!

**All enrolments forms for new students need to be sent to the school office as soon as possible.**

Conveyance Allowance is available families who reside more than 4.8 kms from their nearest school (whether they travel by car or public transport). Application forms and further information is available from the school office. Forms are due in by 17th February.
Welcome Aimee, Clinton and Jaimie

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 2017. We also welcome back, Aimee Brincat who has been on family leave for the last year. Good luck!

Daily School Swimming Program

Our Daily Swimming Program will begin next week for students in Years 3-6. It is a 7 day program that runs every day. We rely on teachers and volunteer parents to conduct the sessions. We have grouped children according to similar abilities and give them a daily opportunity to practise and improve their skills and water confidence. We follow the ‘Royal Life Saving’ program. While many of the adults are ‘Austswim’ trained, some are not. Please remember, it is not squad training and there are not any professional swimming coaches involved. Life Guards will be at the pool at all times during the sessions. Swimming sessions will take place over the following dates:

Week 1 - Thurs 2nd Feb and Fri 3rd Feb,
Week 2 - Mon 6th Feb, Tues 7th Feb, Wed 8th Feb and Thurs 9th Feb.
Week 3 – Mon 13th Feb

Students will walk down to the pool being supervised by their teachers.

Timetable

5/6 I (Room 1) students meet at the pool at 9:00 a.m. and return at 10:30 a.m.
5/6 D (Room 2) students leave school at 9:15 a.m. and return at 10:30 a.m.
3/4 M (Room 9) students and Year 3 students from 2/3 H (Room 10) leave school at 10:00 a.m. and return at 11:45 a.m.
3/4 H (Room 11) students leave school at 10:45 a.m. and return at 12:30 p.m.
5/6 I will be the classroom beginning each day so these students will need to meet their teachers at the pool at 9am each day (and then walk to school with staff after the swimming lesson). All other students will walk down to the Puckapunyal Pool for their lessons and will be supervised by their teachers.

Swimming Carnival and Before School Swimming

On Friday 10th February, Years 3-6 students will participate in our House Swimming Carnival. Many of them will then be selected to represent our school at the District Swimming Carnival on Wednesday 15th February.

To help the students train for those carnivals, our before school swimming program will also begin on Thursday 2nd February (tomorrow) for children from Years 3-6. This will continue until Monday 13th February (8.00 am - 8.30 am at the Area Indoor Pool). It is not a swimming training session but a lap swimming opportunity session. It should only involve students from Years 3-6 who are capable of swimming at least 1 complete lap at a time. We encourage those students to come along and swim some laps. There will be a teacher from Puckapunyal Primary School at the Pool each morning to supervise. Please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Warne at school if you have any queries about any of our Swimming Programs.

Icy cups will be for sale at the PC Centre Kitchen after school, (3:30 p.m.) on Wednesday and Friday afternoons (*starting this Friday*). The cost of icy cups is 50 cents and they are made from a variety of flavours of cordial.

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We have listed below all of the Puckapunyal Primary School staff for 2017. Please note their roles in the school and the Year levels that they teach.

**School Staff**

**Classroom Staff**

Room 6 - Sally O’Connor - Foundation OC
Room 8 - Mercy O’Meara - Foundation/Year 1 O
Room 4 - Jane Challis/Aimee Brincat - Years 1/2 C
Room 3 - Matthew Itter/Aimee Brincat - Years 1/2 I
Room 9 – Jaimie McCarthy - Years 3/4 M
Room 10 – Damien Humphrey - Years 2/3 H
Room 11 - Katie Atkinson - Years 3/4 H
Room 1 - Robyn Itter - Years 5/6 I
Room 2 – Clinton Donohue - Years 5/6 D

**Specialist Staff**

Art - Sharon Anderson-Warne
Library - Sharon Anderson-Warne/Aimee Brincat
Goodger Program - Kevin Warne/Karen Lewis
LOTE (Indonesian) - Christine Hooper
Years 3-6 Swimming Program - Fiona McCarthy

**Administration**

Principal - Kevin Warne
Business Managers - Simone Hall/Andrea Thompson

**School Support Staff**

Defence School Transition Aide - Sue Ranger
Integration Aide - Helen Atkinson
Integration Aide - Karen Lewis
Integration Aide – Janice Marshall
Technicians - Steve Herenyi and Manuel Pace

Good luck!

Challis/Aimee Brincat
We have many lovely books in the **library** and we are encouraging all of our students to borrow them. All students require a protective **library bag** clearly named to enable them to borrow from the library. The library will open for borrowing and library classes will begin next week. There will be an hour of Library each week for all classes.

Please ensure a smooth start to our library by supplying your children with a Library Bag, clearly named to protect books.

**Thank you, Mrs. Anderson-Warne**

**Visual Art Classes**

Each week students from all grades will enjoy an hour of **Art**. I am looking forward to meeting our new students and parents as well as welcoming back those I know. We normally spend 2-3 weeks learning a new skill and applying it in a finished art piece. Our school proudly displays student art work and we invite parents to view student work when they visit.

If you have an interest in art and craft, please pop in and introduce yourself to me.

All students require an art smock (clearly named on the BACK shoulder) to protect their clothing in each session. These will be kept in a tub in the classroom. Some parents buy pre-made smocks, others supply an old shirt. Please check sleeve lengths and that the child is able to do it up him/herself. If you have any special items that you have been collecting for the art room, please send them along. Art classes will also begin next week for all classes.

**Thank you, Mrs. Anderson-Warne**

**School Council News**

**School Council Elections 2017**

Please consider standing for election for School Council this year. Contact Kevin for further information.

The **Puckapunyal School Council** has vacancies for 3 Parent Representatives for 2017.

**Wednesday 8th February**: NOMINATIONS called for (Forms can be collected from the office).

**Wednesday 15th February**: Nominations CLOSE (If an election required ballot papers will be distributed).

**Wednesday 22nd February**: OPEN BALLOT

**Wednesday 1st March**: CLOSED BALLOT (Votes counted).

**School Council Annual General Meeting**

will be held at school at 5:00 p.m. on **Tuesday 7th March**.

Yesterday we had a **Parent Information Session** immediately after the children went into their classes. It went well. It gave all parents and especially new parents an opportunity to be aware of school expectations and planned events before the school year starts. We hope it helped our families. We thank our parents for their support by attending the session. It was great to see so many people attend.

**Parent/Teacher Information Sharing**

On Monday 27th February, we have a **Parent/Teacher Information Sharing Day** planned. It will give teachers an opportunity to let parents know how their children have settled into their classrooms. It will also give parents an opportunity to inform teachers about any important issues relating to their children. There will be an opportunity for time slots to be selected from lunchtime onwards. Please stay tuned. However, we do have an open door policy at Puckapunyal and always welcome parents to school to talk to teachers and staff. Do not hesitate if you need to make an appointment before the scheduled session.

**School Arrival Times**

Students who do not catch a bus to school are only allowed to arrive at school from **8:50 a.m. onwards**. From that time onwards, there will be 2 staff members on yard duty. Only students who catch a bus are allowed to arrive earlier. We ask families to be aware of these times.

**School Working Passes**

**Dates for 2017**

**Term 1** – Saturday 18th March 8am - lunchtime

**Term 2** – Saturday 6th May 8am - lunchtime

**Term 3** – Saturday 22nd July 8am - lunchtime

**Term 4** – Saturday 4th November 8am - lunchtime

The school office has sent home **invoices** to families. The invoices include ‘stationery fees’ that need to be paid to the school as soon as possible. The invoices also include ‘voluntary contributions’ but they are not mandatory. If any family had any outstanding money from last year, that will also be included in the invoices. Thank you to families who have made those payments already.

**Family Invoices**

*Striving for Excellence*

*Open since 1887*
A very warm welcome to students and families from everyone at Puckapunyal Primary School. My role in this position is to ensure that your child’s transition to our school is a smooth and happy one. In the distant future, when your child leaves our school, I assist in making this a positive time also. For all the time in between, I’m here to help with any school issues or concerns from students or parents. I also run and assist with a number of activities throughout the year. Please come and introduce yourself, and make me aware of any ‘settling in’ issues that your child may be experiencing. So again, welcome and I trust that your family’s time here at Puckapunyal will be a fruitful and enjoyable one.

Sue Ranger, Defence School Transition Aide

Thank you to all families who have ensured that all of our students have been in correct uniform so far. It is great to see so many students in their Pucka blues! Below is the copy of the school uniform list taken from our School Uniform Policy.

**Girls Uniform:**
- Navy blue school jacket or navy blue windcheater
- Navy blue plain or pleated shorts or navy blue track pants.
- Puckapunyal school blue polo shirt or plain school blue polo shirt or school blue or navy blue skivvy.
- Navy blue wide brimmed hat with school logo (compulsory between Sept and April).
- White, blue or grey socks

**Boys Uniform:**
- Navy blue school jacket or navy blue windcheater
- Navy blue shorts or navy blue track pants.
- Puckapunyal school blue polo shirt or plain school blue polo shirt or school blue or navy blue skivvy.
- Navy blue wide brimmed hat with school logo (compulsory between Sept and April).
- White, blue or grey socks.

On Monday we will start our Values Education Program. All government schools are encouraged to do so. It will be a big fortnight. It will be a great way to unite our school as new students begin at Pucka. Values Education will revolve around teachers and staff conducting programs that encourage students to participate in programs that will promote the following:

1. important school community values
2. school and classroom rules
3. school policies
4. how to make friends
5. settling in activities

Each day will begin with a small 5 minute introduction summarizing what the ‘value’ of the day will be. Our Community Values are:

**Honesty**

**Respect**

**Responsibility**

**Kindness**

**Caring**

**Confidence**

**Enthusiasm**

**Tolerance**

**Reliability**

**Compassion**

**Resilience**

**Striving for Excellence (school motto)**

N.B. - All Values Education programs will be taught in a manner that encourages positive behaviour that our school and families expect from their children/students.
The school office will send home copies of our student enrolment information. It is a routine necessity that we do each year. We require families to check the enrolment information and make adjustments if there have been any changes, eg. phone numbers, family doctors, emergency contact details, etc. Please do so and re-send them back to school as soon as possible.

**Tissue Boxes**

Every now and then, we ask families to donate a tissue box for their children’s grades. As you can imagine each grade uses thousands of tissues throughout the year and school can only supply so many. Please help to contribute. We also encourage students to carry handkerchiefs.

**Birthdays**

Happy Birthday to Yarah Andrew, Bradley Kitchin, Abigail van Dorssen, Max Chetcuti, Abby Chetcuti, Abbey Kendell and Memphis Campbell, who are having birthdays this week.

We also wish a Happy Birthday to the following students who had birthdays over the school holidays: Dimitri Corocher, Lily-Rose McGee, Fiona Hill, Jarrah Younger, Saskia Greenwood, Jack Easom, Tilly Gilmour, Keeley Dawson, Isaiah Goltz, Jake Quinn, Jazmin Ramsbotham, Nicholas Houghton, Jordan Toby, Zion Oti, Reeko Gower, Tessa Thompson, Phoenix Miller, Dakota Miller, Elijah Casey, Charlee Whitting, Jewell Hatfield, Matilda Turner and Connor Barclay.

On behalf of the Puckapunyal Primary School Community, we wish them all a very Happy Birthday!

**School Asthma Plan**

This week, all students who have been identified through the enrolment forms as being asthmatic will be given a ‘School Asthma Action Plan’ form. All students who have asthma will require their parents to fill out the form and return to school a.s.a.p. Families will have the option to agree to the Victorian School’s Asthma Policy for Asthma First Aid or provide an individual action plan signed by the family doctor.

**Choir Performance**

DCO are holding a Family Day/Expo on Thursday, 2nd Feb at the Area Theatre in Puckapunyal and have requested that the choir sing at this event. If your child has expressed an interest in singing with the choir at this event please read the following - **The event runs from 5:00-7pm, with the choir expected to meet Ms O’Connor at 5pm (to sing at 5:30pm) in FULL SCHOOL UNIFORM.**

Could you please return the slip below to school tomorrow so that I can get an idea of numbers for this event. Thank you for your support,

Sally O’Connor
Choir Teacher

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My child/children ___________ will be singing with the choir at the DCO Family Day Expo on Thursday, 2nd Feb, 2017.
School Latestays/Camps Planned for 2017

**Foundation** – Latestay at school Thursday 7th September - Foundation students stay at school until 7:30pm for BBQ and other outside activities.

**Year 1** – Latestay at school Tuesday 5th September - Year 1 students stay at school until 7:30pm for BBQ and other outside activities.

**Year 2** – Excursion and Stayover at school Friday 8th September – Saturday 9th September. Year 2 students attend an excursion to the Melbourne Museum and stay the night at school.

**Years 3/4** - 3 day/2 night camp to Anglesea (Camp Burnside) – Wednesday 14th June – Friday 16th June. Students to participate in Beach and Outdoor Adventure activities at Camp Burnside.

**Years 5/6** - 3 day/2 night camp to Lake Dewar (YMCA) – Monday 5th June – Wednesday 7th June. Students to participate in Outdoor Adventure activities at Camp YMCA.

Visiting Artists for 2017

**‘Cyber Wise’** – Tuesday 7th March. With a cast of over ten different characters (some human, some puppet), ten costume changes, music from a dynamic sound system, a multitude of exquisitely made props and sets, amazing illusions and a little juggling thrown in for good measure, Cyber Wiser thoroughly entertains while getting students thinking and questioning their activities both online and in the playground.

**Rhonda Tallnash (Local Author and Bush Poet)** Eg. ‘Flowers for Josie’ – in Term 2. Rhonda Tallnash is a local children's author and award-winning Australian Bush Poet. Rhonda became involved in the world of Australian bush poetry by releasing her first book in the children's book series 'Plucky Pets' in Australia in August 2006. ‘Beware of Lulu’ is an example of a witty rhyming book, about the adventures of a pet sheep who fancies herself as a guard dog. Since then many more books have been released. Rhonda is going to conduct poetry and writing workshops for all of our students.

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Expressions of interest are sought for junior footballers, junior netballers, and volunteers for the PJFNC 2017 season. The PJFNC plays in the Seymour District Junior Football and Netball League (SDJFNL) against other clubs throughout the region. We are looking to enter football teams in the U10, U12, U14, and U16 age groups; and netball teams in the U12, U14, and U16 age groups. Volunteers are also welcome with positions available on the committee, as coaches, managers, trainers, runners, etc. for the upcoming season. The PJFNC will be in attendance at the DCO open day on 02 Feb 16 to answer any questions you may have. Please call or text your expressions of interest in becoming involved as a player or volunteer in the PJFNC to Sam on 0433 148 907 or Christine on 0437 463 463.
Parent Payment Charges

Under the Education and Training Reform Act (2006), instruction of the standard school curriculum (Victorian Curriculum) to all students in government schools is free. However, School councils can charge fees to families for goods and services provided by our school that are called Essential Student Learning Items.

Fees for Essential Student Learning Items are mandatory fees. Puckapunyal Primary School makes every effort to keep the cost and number of items that need to be purchased to a minimum. Families will receive an invoice and can pay off the fees throughout the year. Any family experiencing any financial difficulties can also contact the school office to organise flexible payment arrangements.

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<tr>
<th>Yearly School Fee for Essential Student Learning Items - $200 per student</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Includes:</strong> classroom stationery, classroom and Library books, Visual Arts resources, sporting events (resources, ribbons and affiliations), computer headphones, photocopying, Mathletics subscription, and incursions (visiting artists).</td>
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As part of the Essential Student Learning Items, each child will be fully supplied with stationery; i.e. all books, paper, pencils, textas, glue, etc. at the beginning of the year and throughout the year when necessary. This ensures materials supplied are of a uniform nature and that books are the correct line and page requirement. Additionally, all students are then ready to launch into the academic year from day 1 when all students are issued with the same type of classroom materials, at the same time. Families have indicated that they appreciate stationery being supplied by the school.

**Resources** (which can include books and materials) are necessary for all classrooms, Library and Art Room. The school organises many sporting events for all students that require sporting gear, ribbons, medals, affiliation costs, etc.

The school also organises incursions for all students that see 2 visiting artists perform at our school. The type of visiting artist is specifically selected to support classroom programs and themes. They will be spaced apart and involve a range of genres.

Voluntary Contributions are not mandatory and we cannot force anyone to contribute. However, Voluntary Contributions enable the school council to improve the school’s resources and therefore improve the learning opportunities for our students. They allow the school to invest in additional programs, resources, support materials and staff to enrich the programs offered. They enable us to ensure that our students have exceptional opportunities compatible to any other school in the state.

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<th>Voluntary Contribution Target - $50 per student</th>
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<td><strong>Can include:</strong> play equipment, ground and facilities maintenance, classroom aides, classroom books, Visual Arts resources, tutoring programs, ‘1 on 1’ teaching programs, swimming programs, extra curricular activities, sporting equipment, etc.</td>
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