Welcome back to school!
We currently have 185 students enrolled in our school. About 25% 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 2016. 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 today and everything went smoothly. It was great to see many smiling students who seemed glad to be back.

Our 33 Foundation students start tomorrow and we wish them well in their first year of school.

Our School Newsletter normally comes home on a Wednesday (except today) 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 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 (after swimming) we will begin the week with our official assembly, so please come along and join in the fun! (Please note – for Monday 1st Feb and 8th Feb, while the Years 3-6 Swimming Program is taking place, we will have assemblies at 3pm). 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 2016!

**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 12th February.
**Daily School Program**

Our Daily Swimming Program will begin next week for students in Years 3-6. It is a 9 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 improve 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** – Mon 1st Feb, Tues 2nd Feb, Wed 3rd Feb, Thurs 4th Feb, Fri 5th Feb,
- **Week 2** – Mon 8th Feb, Tues 9th Feb, Wed 10th Feb and Thurs 11th Feb.

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

**Timetable**

- 4/5/6 I (Room 1) students meet at the pool at 9:00 a.m. and return at 10:30 a.m.
- 4/5/6 P (Room 2) students leave school at 9:15 a.m. and return at 10:30 a.m.
- 3/4 A (Room 11) students leave school at 10:00 a.m. and return at 11:45 a.m.
- 3/4 H (Room 10) students leave school at 10:45 a.m. and return at 12:30 p.m.

4/5/6 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 12th 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 17th February. To help the students train for those carnivals, our **before school swimming program** will also begin on Monday for children from Years 3-6. This will continue until Thursday 11th 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.
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 his/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**

### Parent Information Session

Today 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.

On Tuesday 1st March, 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 Council Elections 2016

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 2016. **Wednesday 10th February: NOMINATIONS called for (Forms can be collected from the office).**  **Wednesday 17th February: Nominations CLOSE (If an election required ballot papers will be distributed).**  **Wednesday 24th February: OPEN BALLOT.**  **Wednesday 2nd March: CLOSED BALLOT (Votes counted).**

**School Council Annual General Meeting will be held at school at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday 8th March.**

### Dates for 2016

**Term 1** – Saturday 12th March 8am - lunchtime  
**Term 2** – Saturday 7th May 8am - lunchtime  
**Term 3** – Saturday 23rd July 8am - lunchtime  
**Term 4** – Saturday 5th November 8am - lunchtime

### School Working Bees

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.

**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 (optional).
- Puckapunyal navy blue windcheater or plain navy blue windcheater.
- Navy blue shorts or skorts (up to knee, not bike pants) or navy blue track pants.
- Puckapunyal school blue polo shirt (new or old style) or a school blue or navy blue skivvy.
- Navy blue wide brimmed school hat with school logo (compulsory for certain times of the year).
- White, blue or grey socks to be worn with school shorts.

**Boys Uniform:**
- Navy blue school jacket (optional).
- Puckapunyal navy blue windcheater or plain navy blue windcheater.
- Navy blue shorts (up to knee, not bike pants) or navy blue track pants.
- Puckapunyal school blue polo shirt (new or old style) or a school blue or navy blue skivvy.
- Navy blue wide brimmed school hat with school logo (compulsory for certain times of the year).
- White, blue or grey socks to be worn with school shorts.

Values Education Program

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 Top 10 Community Values are:
- Honesty/Trust
- Respect
- Responsibility
- Kindness
- Integrity
- Confidence
- Enthusiasm
- Tolerance
- Reliability
- 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 has sent 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.

Happy Birthday to Memphis Campbell, who is having birthdays this week.

We also wish a Happy Birthday to the following students who had birthdays over the school holidays: Riley Andrew, Dimitri Corocher, Jy Mawer, Hailey Altas, Troy Ward, Liam Percy, Tessa Thompson, Tea Porter, Mackenzie Jenkins, Phoenix Miller, Naomi Pennycook, Dakota Miller, Elijah Casey, Charlee Whitting, Jewell Hatfield, Afifah Rizalmi, Clodagh McCarthy, Samuel Lincoln, Matilda Turner and Connor Barclay.

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

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.

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.

DCO are holding a Family Day/Expo on Thursday the 25th 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 4:30-7pm, 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

My child/children ___________________________ will be singing with the choir at the DCO Family Day Expo on the 25th Feb, 2016.
**School Latestays/Camps Planned for 2016**

**Foundation** – Latestay at school Thursday 1\textsuperscript{st} September - Foundation students stay at school until 7:30pm for BBQ and other outside activities.

**Year 1** – Latestay at school Tuesday 30\textsuperscript{th} August – Year 1 students stay at school until 7:30pm for BBQ and other outside activities.

**Year 2** – Excursion and Stayover at school Friday 2\textsuperscript{nd} September – Saturday 15\textsuperscript{th} October. Years 2 students attend an excursion to the Melbourne Museum and stay the night at school.

**Years 3/4** - 3 day/2 night camp to Ballarat (Miners Retreat Motel) – Wednesday 24\textsuperscript{th} August – Friday 26\textsuperscript{th} August. Students to participate in Gold Mining and Pioneering activities at Ballarat and Sovereign Hill.

**Years 5/6** - 3 day/2 night camp to Phillip Island – Tuesday 6\textsuperscript{th} September – Thursday 8\textsuperscript{th} September. Students to participate in Beach and Outdoor Adventure activities at Camp YMCA.

**Visiting Artists for 2016**

‘Dinosaur Science’ – Thursday 17\textsuperscript{th} March. With lashings of humour, loads of audience participation and huge scale models, Dinosaur Science is designed to ‘wow’ even the most cynical students and unearth their inner paleontologist. Throughout the show, problems are solved and assumptions are made, some are dismissed while others are shown to be plausible, even probable.

Rhonda Tallnash (Local Author and Bush Poet) Eg.

‘Flowers for Josie’ – Friday 6\textsuperscript{th} May. 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 workshops for all of our students.

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**Foster Carers Information Night**

Currently there is a large demand for more foster carers in the Shire Of Strathbogie, Shire Of Mitchell & Shire Of Murrindindi. Come along to an information night to find out how you can become a registered foster carer and care for children and young people who cannot live with their families.

**Date:** Tuesday 15\textsuperscript{th} March 2016

**Time:** 6.00 pm – 7.00 pm

**Venue:** 45 Wellington Street, Wallan (Goulburn Valley Family Care Building)

**RSVP:** Tuesday 8\textsuperscript{th} March 2016 to Janene or Annie on 58228 100 or e: humefostercare@berrystreet.org.au

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

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‘Striving for Excellence’

*Open since 1887*
At the beginning of each year, the Puckapunyal Primary School details 2 different sets of Fees.

1. **Stationery Fees** are mandatory fees where families receive an invoice. Families can pay off the fees throughout the year.

   **Stationery Fees 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>All classroom Stationery/Books</th>
<th>Computer Software/Hardware</th>
<th>Internet Usage</th>
<th>Visiting Artists</th>
<th>Total = $200.00</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Under **Stationery Fees**, 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 as 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.

The students will be given access to the latest **computer software/hardware** and the **internet** throughout the year. Students will have access to the internet in their classrooms and via the Computer Lab.

The school will also organise at least 2 **visiting artists** that will correlate with classroom programs. They will be spaced apart and involve a range of genres.

2. **Voluntary Contributions** are not mandatory and we cannot force anyone to contribute. However, the reality is that government schools cannot function as effectively without them. All government schools depend on the contributions to pay for a variety of school programs and budget for them accordingly.

   **Voluntary Contributions 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Library Reading Materials</th>
<th>Classroom Reading Materials</th>
<th>Physical Education Equipment</th>
<th>Art Materials</th>
<th>Computer Software/Hardware</th>
<th>Photocopy Paper</th>
<th>Total = $30.00</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

   **Voluntary Contribution targets:**
   
   1 child      $ 30.00  
   2 children   $ 55.00  
   3 children   $ 80.00  
   4 children   $100.00

‘Striving for Excellence’

*Open since 1887*
Positive Behaviour Support Workshop

For Parents and Carers of Children and Young Adults with Autism

Eligibility to participate in this workshop:
- Parents or carers of children and young adults aged 6 - 25 years, who are living at home and diagnosed with Autism
- Participating families are encouraged to invite professionals or service providers working with them to attend the workshop

When: Monday, 29 February 2016 – Wednesday, 2 March 2016
Where: Benalla All Blacks Football & Netball Club, Ackerly Ave., Benalla, Vic 3672
Time: 9:30am-2:30pm (9:15am for registration)
Cost: FREE (Tea, coffee & biscuits provided ~ participants to bring own lunch)
Registration: Register via the “Events & Workshops” section of our website www.autismspectrum.org.au

Families participating in this workshop will:
- Develop an understanding of autism and how autism impacts upon learning and behaviour
- Learn how to be proactive by creating an autism friendly environment at home
- Learn how to write an autism specific behaviour support plan for one of their child’s behaviours
- Learn how to write a plan to respond confidently when challenging behaviour occurs
- Learn how to teach new skills to promote their child’s independence and quality of life

More than 2000 families have participated in Aspect’s highly successful, contemporary, evidence-based, three (3) day Autism specific Positive Behaviour Support workshops.

“I have learnt very important self-reflection, being able to step back and really look at and examine behaviour, so valuable. I really value the focus on being positive and improving my child’s, my own and my family’s quality of life. Great workshop – I will highly recommend it to others.”

“Very interactive, affirming & capacity building. Ideas not just discussed but taught how to follow through on.”

“Best information session on Autism I have been to. Thank you so much.”

Enquiries:
Please contact the Aspect Positive Behaviour Support Team on Ph: 03 9377 6600 or Email: aspectvic@autismspectrum.org.au
Have you ever thought…

‘If only my children would listen, things would be calmer at our house!’ or

‘Sometimes my child’s behaviour makes me feel really angry’?

You are not alone!

Come and join us at the:

‘Tuning in to Kids’
Parenting Program

A six session ‘emotion coaching’ program for parents and carers of primary school age children where you will learn how to

- Communicate with your child.
- Understand your child’s needs and emotions.
- Help your child learn to manage their emotions.
- Assist your child to deal with conflict.
- Have the tools to help manage your child’s behaviour.

Starting: Thursday 4th February 2016 for 6 Thursday evenings
Time: 7pm to 9pm
At: Broadford Community Centre
158 – 162 High Street Broadford
This is a free program.
Program is open to all members of the public
Bookings are essential as places are limited
To register or for further information contact Joanne at Primary Care Connect
Tel: 5823 3200

Brought to you by Hume Region Parent Education Service