We have had a very smooth start to the year and we thank our entire school community for that.

Our core business at school is to educate our students, to improve their academics in all subject areas and to help them develop the skills necessary to become successful beings in an ever changing modern society.

The Victorian Curriculum is the new curriculum for all Victorian public schools. It incorporates the Australian Curriculum and reflects Victorian standards and priorities. All teachers will be using The Victorian Curriculum as our curriculum framework in 2016. The Victorian Curriculum framework provides a single coherent curriculum for years F-10. The Victorian Curriculum is a set of prescribed content and common achievement standards, which schools use to plan student learning programs, assess student progress and report to parents. The Victorian Curriculum sets out what every student should learn during their first eleven years of schooling. The curriculum is the common set of knowledge and skills required by students for life-long learning, social development and active and informed citizenship.

Our school will work hard to ensure success in all classrooms. We have a very motivated and experienced group of professional teachers who share the responsibility for all students. The Victorian Curriculum has been designed so that students can work below or beyond the levels according to what their needs are.

To ensure that our children succeed at school, families and teachers need to have open 2-way communication. We need to quickly discuss any concerns as soon as they arise and work towards the same goals. Please do not hesitate to come and have a chat to me or our teachers at any time throughout 2016.

Kevin Warne, Principal

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**Inside this Issue:**

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- Canteen Helpers Needed
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- Parents as Helpers Course
- School Photos
- VCOP Big Write
- Puckarook Football/Netball Club

**Nominal school level**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nominal school level</th>
<th>The Victorian Curriculum Level</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep/Foundation</td>
<td>Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>Year 2</td>
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<td>Year 3</td>
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<td>Year 5</td>
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<td>Year 6</td>
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</tbody>
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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 5-10 nights. **Well done if you have kept up!**

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Kevin Warne, Principal
Happy Birthday to Abigail Major, Abby Chetcutti, Max Chetcutti, Abbey Kendall, Loech Worden and Dakota Chalson who are all having their birthdays this week.

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

We love birthdays! We think it is terrific when families send cupcakes or large cakes to school for their children to share with the classroom. However, we have several students at school who have allergies that can cause anaphylactic reactions. We need to keep all of them safe at all times at school. Therefore, we ask that if you would like to send any food items to share, we need you to provide an ingredient list. We also ask that you contact your child’s teacher at least the day before so we can prepare.

Labour Day

Please do not forget that Monday 14th March is Labour Day (public holiday) and therefore the school will be closed. No children are expected at school that day. We hope that all of our families enjoy the long weekend.

Watch Out!

We ask all families to please watch out for snakes this time of the year. There have been a few sightings in the area.

No Dogs Please

We also ask families and school visitors to be aware that dogs are not allowed in the school grounds during school time (unless for a special pre-planned classroom showing). While we love dogs, not all of our students do. Several students have real fears of dogs, especially our junior students. If you would like to walk your dog to school as you come to pick up your children, please keep clear of the gateways and back from the school grounds.

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 are available from the school office. Forms are due in by 12th February.

Deployment sessions and Fundraising: I trust that the start to school has been a relatively smooth one for all our students. Once the swimming program concludes (Friday 12th February) I will be resuming deployment sessions. This is a session for any student who has a parent deployed overseas, and provides support in many forms. Please let me know if your child is in this position. Also I would love to hear from anyone who may be interested in helping with some fundraising for the school. This can take the form of a ‘one-off’ activity or support throughout the year. Again let me know if this could be you…and we’ll get organised after the swimming program.

Positive Behaviour Program: At Puckapunyal Primary School we like to recognise positive behaviour, and we link it in with the four ‘houses’. Every student is allocated to a house (Chisholm-blue, Bradman –yellow, Hume-green and Melba-red). Year six house captains will be announced at week. When positive behaviour is observed staff give the student a ticket which is put in one of the house boxes in the foyer. Weekly, at assembly, cumulative tallies are announced and there are also regular lucky dip prizes. At the end of each term all members of the winning house (unless they have received a ‘blue’ slip for negative behaviour) participate in a reward activity. This activity is also open to students from the other three houses who have received the highest number of tickets for the term.

Have a terrific week.

Sue Ranger, DSTA.

Helpers Needed

School Canteen Lunches will be available on Fridays when a working group of volunteers can be organised. If you are a parent with some time and you can help in the school canteen please contact the school office. We would love to hear from you.
School Council News

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.

Garden Group
Would you like to get involved in the Puckapunyal Primary Veggie Patch?

If so, please come to a meeting this Friday (5th February) at 9am at the school veggie garden/chicken coop area. The idea is to share ideas and brainstorm new projects for 2016.

If you are interested but cannot attend the meeting, please contact Christine on 0431210378

Tennis Coaching with Master Coach Norman Cahill begins Thursday (4th Feb) for students at the Puckapunyal Tennis courts:

Times: Yrs 1&2 3:45-4:30pm
Yrs 3&4 4:30-5:15pm
Yrs 5&6 5:15-6:00pm

Enrolments are welcome after school at the tennis courts on Thursday. $60 per term.

Information notices are available in front of the school office.
Good luck tennis enthusiasts.

Contact Norm – 57941620 or 0428941620

Safety Messages
We ask all adults to help model great traffic sense for our students. We encourage all students to use the 2 provided school crossings when crossing Alamein Road. Most students are terrific at doing that. But not all! All classes will be discussing and practising the use of the school crossing this week. We ask all families to also talk about how to safely use the School Crossing as well. We also ask parents to use the School Crossing to help model great traffic sense. We cannot expect our students to use the crossing, if they see that adults do not.

We have also had a few reports of students riding their bikes unsafely. We ask families to discuss safe riding with their children. We also ask families to ensure that their children can ride safely before they ride to school. For students under 10, they are allowed to ride on the footpath. That means sharing the footpath with pedestrians, prams, toddlers, adults, etc. That can be hazardous if anyone is careless. Students under 8 have not yet developed peripheral vision and should be supervised if on the road. Let’s all be careful!!
Each week in the newsletter, we will give families a summary of the Teaching/Learning Focus for the week. That can help families by: being aware of what classrooms are covering; with discussion topics at the dinner table when discussing school (eg. ‘How are you going with addition in Numeracy this week?’); helping their children study at home, etc. Parents have indicated that this information would be very useful. We also ask families to be aware that schools are very busy places and events can be unpredictable at times. We therefore must remain flexible. That means, we can plan to cover certain topics at particular times and have to change them according to arising needs.

### Junior School – Preps/Foundation Rooms 6 & 8

**Literacy:** We have begun to take home our Home Reading books. During the next 2 weeks we are learning about the letters ‘s’ and ‘f’ and are practising writing our name.

**Numeracy:** We are counting informally to 10 and learning all about the number 1 and 2.

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

**Literacy:** We are focusing on the letters ‘s and f’ and writing recounts. We are concentrating on the opening sentence.

**Numeracy:** We are counting and making 10’s as well as learning about seasons.

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

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

**Numeracy:** We are counting and making bundles of 10. We are revising time – seasons, days and months.

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

**Literacy:** Over the next two weeks we will be focusing on our school values.

**Numeracy:** We will also be working on the four processes in Numeracy.

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

**Literacy:** Over the next two weeks we will be focusing on our school values.

**Numeracy:** We will also be working on the four processes in Numeracy.

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### Indo Lingo

Children will learn/revise Indonesian greetings and farewells, Indonesian roll call, and respectful terms of address for a man and woman.

- Selamat pagi = Good morning (dawn till 11am)
- Selamat siang = Good day (11am till 3pm)
- Selamat sore = Good afternoon (3pm till dusk)
- Selamat malam = Good evening/night (dusk till dawn)
- Sampai jumpa = Until we meet again/See you later

- Ada = Here/present
- Tidak ada = Not here/absent

- Pak = respectful term of address for a man, short for ‘bapak’; it also means father/dad
- Bu = respectful term of address for a woman, short for ‘ibu’; it also means mother/mum

Salam (Regards)
Bu Hooper (Mrs Hooper)
Guru Bahasa Indonesia (Indonesian teacher)
Homework/Homereading Requirements for our Students

On Monday 15th February, your child will receive his/her first weekly homework sheet for 2016. They will receive a weekly homework sheet in Terms 1 and 3 only. In Terms 2 and 4 all students will have a project to work on instead.

Why do we set Homework?
We give the students a weekly homework sheet for a variety of reasons. Firstly, the homework sheet is primarily about the topics in Literacy and Numeracy that students are studying each week. That makes it an opportunity for families to be aware of what their children are studying in class. It also helps students get used to having good work habits because as they get older they will have increasing amounts of homework tasks. Homework also gives students an opportunity to practise and reinforce what they are learning.

The Homework sheets will contain a few examples of Literacy and Numeracy each week.

On top of the weekly homework sheet, we do ask Foundation (Prep) - Year 2 families to spend time listening to their children read and practise counting and number patterns each night. We also ask Years 3-6 families to spend time listening to their children read and practise their tables each night. We hope these tasks become a solid focus as they are crucial for the development of all students.

Families who would like to engage their children in extra homework also have other choices. Families can set their own children extra tasks. Primary aged text books are available at some supermarkets, newsagencies, book shops and on a variety of websites. Families can visit our school website and use some of the available links to other websites which are regularly used in classrooms.

Foundation (Preps)
Daily independent reading. We ask all parents to record book titles and sign reader covers and return daily.
Weekly Spelling and/or Sight words. When Foundation students are ready, some spelling and sight words will come home to practise.
1 page Homework sheet. Every Monday, a Homework sheet will come home to be completed and returned to school by Friday. The Homework sheet will contain simple Literacy/Numeracy practice.
Gathering information or materials for classroom activities, such as ‘Show and Tell’, etc.

Years 1/2
Daily independent reading. We ask all parents to record book titles and sign reader covers and return daily.
Weekly Spelling and/or Sight words. When Year 1 students are ready they will bring home some spelling or sight words to practise.
1 page Homework sheet. Every Monday, a Homework sheet will come home to be completed and returned to school by Friday. The Homework sheet will contain simple Literacy/Numeracy practice.
Gathering information or materials for classroom activities, such as ‘Show and Tell’, etc.

Years 3/4
Daily independent reading. We ask parents or students to record book titles in their diaries and the number of pages read and initialled by parents daily.
Weekly times tables. Students will be expected to learn times tables. These will be written by students on their homework sheet.
1 double sided Homework sheet. Each Monday a Homework sheet will come home to be completed and returned to school by Friday. The work sheets will cover topics studied in Literacy and Numeracy throughout the current term. Project work. Students may be asked to do project work to be completed at school and at home.

Years 5-6
Daily independent reading. We ask parents or students to record book titles, write a comment and record the number of pages read in their diaries and initialled by parents weekly.
Weekly times tables. Students will be expected to learn times tables. These will be written by students on their homework sheet.
1 double sided Homework sheet. Each Monday a Homework sheet will come home to be completed and returned to school by Friday. The work sheets will cover topics studied in Literacy and Numeracy throughout the current term. Project work. Students may be asked to do project work to be completed at school and at home.

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2016 PUCKAPUNYAL PS
EMERGENCY BUSHFIRE PLAN

- This is the time of the year that we need to remind all families to have a Bushfire Plan in place which includes actions on school and non-school days.

**FIRE MANAGEMENT at PUCKAPUNYAL PS**

- In the event of a fire which threatens Puckapunyal Base on a normal school day, the Emergency Plan for Puckapunyal Primary School will be activated.
- All staff and students of the Puckapunyal Primary School and Multi-Function Centre will be evacuated to the Pitman-Coffey Centre (PC Centre).
- A Liaison Officer from the Department of Defence will be deployed to Puckapunyal PS to assist.
- On-going liaison will occur between Department of Education, Base Management, and the CFA and this will determine the next phase of action. If necessary, all remaining staff and students will be evacuated to The Area Theatre.
- Via facebook, text messages and the school sign, families will be notified by the school of an Evacuation to the PC Centre or the Area Theatre.

**CODE RED DAY**

- A Code Red Day will be communicated to all communities via the media prior to a Code Red Day occurring. Via school notes, facebook, assemblies, text messages and the school sign, families will be notified by the school of a Code Red Day.
- Only the Seymour Town Bus will operate as per normal. Rural buses will be cancelled.
- Puckapunyal Primary School remains open on a Code Red Day.
- **Families will be encouraged to keep children at home on a Code Red Day** as part of their individual family Bushfire Plans.

**FIRE MANAGEMENT**

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If you would like to be a volunteer at our school to help in the classroom occasionally or routinely please attend the following course.

**Presenters: Jane Challis, Kevin Warne,**

**All sessions will be held in the Staffroom**

**Session 1**
Monday 15\(^{th}\) February
9.30-12.00pm

**Literacy**
- Welcome/Introduction to program
- Confidentiality
- Working with Children Check
- Being a Helper
- Reading
- Writing
- Speaking and Listening

**Classroom Visits/ Sharing Observations**

**Session 2**
Tuesday 16\(^{th}\) February
9.00-12.00pm

**Numeracy**
- Introduction
- Goodger Maths Program
- Linking maths to real life
- Numeracy at home
- Developmental continuum

**Classroom visits/ Sharing Observations**

**Classroom Visits:**
Tour school
Goodger Maths in a classroom
Visit other classrooms and observe and interact with students.

**Sharing Observations:**
What did you see happening in the classroom? What ways do you think you could help in the school?
Our new Classes for 2016!

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**VCOP and Big Write:** During 2016, our school will have a very strong focus on improving our students’ writing, spelling and editing skills. To assist in doing this, we are implementing a whole school program called VCOP and Big Write. Big Write is a way of teaching writing, based on the research of Ros Wilson. It focuses on four main aspects of the writing process (VCOP) and gives the children the skills to improve their own writing through self-assessment. So what does VCOP stand for?

**V** is for Vocabulary: in time, classes will have a 'Vocabulary Wow Words' display where new and impressive words that the children have used are shared with everyone. Words are added during the term, relevant to topics being studied. The children are encouraged to use these words where appropriate in their writing.

**C** is for Connectives: powerful connectives (joining words) are taught. Children are encouraged to use these in their writing.

**O** is for openers. Openers: Children are encouraged to make their sentence openers more interesting so ideas are displayed in the classroom. For example, using an opener changes “She climbed the mountain.” to “Slowly, she climbed the mountain.”

**P** is for punctuation. Punctuation: every class has a clearly displayed 'Punctuation Pyramid' showing the levels of punctuation. Children are taught the names of the different types of punctuation and they learn to use them in their writing.

**Current VCOP Focus:**
This week our whole school is looking at effective and interesting use of punctuation in our writing. Basic punctuation is found at the top of the pyramid and more complex punctuation is found on the bottom layer of the pyramid. C stands for capital letter.
Interested in junior netball or football?

The Puckapunyal Tallarook Junior Football Netball Club is keen to enrol as many kids as possible to play in the 2016 junior netball and football season. Our club fields both netball and football teams in three age groups, under 12’s, under 14’s and under 16’s. With and extra unders 10’s comp running for football only. All matches are played on Sundays with round one of the season set to commence in early April. NetSetGo and Auskick for under 8’s (under 10’s for netball) is coordinated separately however is supported by the Club.

You can find us at the DCO welcome family event at 5:00pm on the 25th February for registration. Training to commence Mid April. For non-military families, access to Puckapunyal can be arranged. Talk to the contacts below about how it is arranged.

Cost of 2016 season membership/registration/insurance is $90.

CALL NOW  
Secretary – Holly Tanis 0439 833 212  
Vice President-Netball – Tamara Pennycook 0437 377 034  
(contact for all Netball registration paperwork)  
See this link for football registration  
http://www.foxsportspulse.com/club_info.cgi?c=0-6195-82279-0-0