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 2017. 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 2017.

Kevin Warne, Principal

***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!
Happy Birthday

to Angela Klein
who is having her birthday this Saturday.
On behalf of the Puckapunyal Primary School Community, we wish Angela a very Happy Birthday!

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 (Monday 13th 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 this 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.

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.
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 5 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.

Puckapunyal Garden Group
Let’s get Puckapunyal Primary Garden Club going!

If you have the time and energy to be a garden club organiser, please come to a meeting on Thursday, February 9th (tomorrow) at lunch time (1:45pm) in the PC Centre.

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.

Family Invoices

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.

Dear Years 3-6 Families,
All Years 3-6 students will be competing for their house teams in the House Swimming Carnival this Friday.

Where: Area Swimming Pool (Nadzab Rd, Puckapunyal)
When: Friday 10th February

Carnival Times:
- 9 years & under & 10 years groups 9:30am - 12 noon
- 11 years -12 years groups 12:30pm - 2:30pm

(All students are in the age group according to what age they turn this year. For example, if a student turns 10 in October in 2017, that student is in the 10 year age group.)

All students will come back to school after their carnival is over.

All families are welcome to come and cheer the students in their house teams.
Go Melba, Hume, Chisholm and Bradman!

Years 3-6 House Swimming Carnival

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!!
This week all children will learn/revise greetings, mark the roll, introduce themselves and farewells in Indonesian.

Good morning (sunrise till 11am) = Selamat pagi
Good day (11am till 3pm) = Selamat siang
Good afternoon (3pm till sunset) = Selamat sore
Good night/evening (sunrise till sunset) = Selamat malam
Here = ada
Not here = Tidak ada
My name is ___. = Nama saya ___.
See you later = Sampai jumpa

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

On Monday 13th February, your child will receive his/her first weekly homework sheet for 2017. 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 students to record book titles, write a comment and record the number of nights read in their diaries and have this 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.
2017 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.

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- 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.
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 20th 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 21st 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 2017!

‘Striving for Excellence’

Open since 1887
**VCOP and Big Write:** During 2017, 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.
‘Striving for Excellence’
Open since 1887

Awards for the Week

Students of the Week

Congratulations to the following students who were ‘Students of the Week’ for last week. Winners – Reeko Gower, Jewell Hatfield, Tabitha Turner, Chayce Mackie, Wade Hansen, Angela Klein, Zion Oti, Lachlan Thompson and Noah Chetcuti. These students were selected because they were modelling one of the school values. This week teachers are also looking for students who are modelling one of the school values.

Authors of the Week

Congratulations to the following students who were ‘Authors of the Week’ for last week. Winners – Torrey Murphy, Zoe Landel, Brodie Robinson, Bailey Armstrong, May Kelly, Sophia Brooks, Cally Eagles, Claudia Carrick and Amy Franks. The students were selected because they showed great skills as an author.

Well Done, School Choir!

Our newly formed school choir did a great job singing a couple of songs at the DCO Welcome Day last week! Great job, kids and thank you Ms. O’Connor.

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Seymour Splash

SATURDAY 18 FEBRUARY
2PM-7PM // Featuring DJ COZZAA // FREE BBQ
DRUG AND ALCOHOL FREE EVENT
SEYMOUR OUTDOOR POOL // LESLEY STREET SEYMOUR

*Standard pool entry applies, includes season passes and other promotions

For more information please contact Mitchell Youth Services on 5734 6200 or visit www.facebook.com/MitchellYouthServices

A STEP FOR THE HOMELESS
VOLUME COLOUR DASH

SATURDAY 25 MARCH // 10AM
4KM COLOUR DASH // REGISTER ONLINE
SEYMOUR RACING CLUB
55 KOBYBOYN ROAD, SEYMOUR

*for ticket sales please follow the link to Eventbrite via our Facebook Page.
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/MITCHELLYOUTHSERVICES
For further information contact Shaanie Meyer 5734 6497

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