The children in all classes have been very busy writing and illustrating books as part of their literacy program. On Monday 1st December, at our normal Monday assembly we will conduct the **School Book Launch.** Each grade will be represented by a student who will read a passage of their own book at assembly.

To celebrate each child’s achievement the books will be on display in the school foyer and corridor during the rest of that week.

We are very excited to have Rhonda Tallnash, an author of children’s books coming to open our book launch during Monday morning’s assembly. She will read some of her latest books and share some of her experiences as an author with us.

If you would like to find out more about Rhonda Tallnash and the books she has written check out her website on [www.rhondatallnash.com](http://www.rhondatallnash.com) and enjoy some of the activities available.

Mrs Challis, Literacy Co-ordinator

Year 6 students, Marisa Zantey and Melanie Waszczuk, are both putting the finishing touches on their books for the **Book Launch.** Good job, kids!

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**PUPIL FREE DAY THIS FRIDAY**

There is no school for students this Friday. Staff will be very busy collating data and writing reports. We hope that our students enjoy their break.

***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 200-205 nights.

*Well done if you have kept up!*

***Sunday Nights - a great night to check for Head Lice.***

‘Striving for Excellence’

*Open since 1887*
Congratulations to the following students who were ‘Students of the Week’ for last week. Winners – Isaac Johnstone, Stephanie Bennett, Matilda Ingle, William Andersen, Hamish Kenny, Lochlan Worden, Rhys Billen, Ben Postill and Charli Berger. These students were selected because they were modelling ‘Honesty’. This week teachers are looking for students who are modelling ‘Respect’.

Congratulations to the following students who were ‘Authors of the Week’ for last week. Winners – Baden Pearse, Matilda Turner, Riley Gilmour, Emily Watson, Eila Schlender, Nathan Hopkins, Amelia Pearse, Isam Elsheikh and Isra Elsheikh. These students were selected because they showed great skills as an author.

5/6 P in Room 1B won the Senior School Times Tables Trophy. Sean Larkin is delighted that his classroom won the winning trophy this week!

3/4 A in Room 11 won the Middle School Times Tables Trophy. Bryce Williams is also delighted that his classroom won the winning trophy this week!

3/4 B in Room 13 won the Yard Duty Competition Trophy. Shelby Marston and Rhys Billen are very happy to collect the winning trophy this week!

Congratulations to Zahra Kelly, Mackai Harriden, Frankie Gaspari and Abby Chetcuti who each won a ‘Positive Behaviour’ Raffle Award. Well done, kids!

‘Striving for Excellence’
Open since 1887
Our wonderful School Choir will be performing Christmas Carols twice this year. They are so excited!

1. Puckapunyal Xmas Picnic
   When: Sunday 30th November
   Time: 4:45pm
   Venue: No 7 Oval near Frontline

2. Seymour Carols by Candlelight
   When: Sunday 7th December
   Time: Santa arrives at 7:30pm for an 8:00pm concert start
   Venue: Goulburn Park Sound Shell, Seymour
   Songs: ‘All I Want for Christmas Is You’ and ‘Feliz Navidad.’

Please come and see them sing. Good luck choir.

Did you hear Isam Elsheikh read part of his book for the Book Launch at assembly this week? We did! He did a wonderful job! Come along and see who reads next week. Well done, Isam!

Happy Birthday to Paige Cooper and Emily Watson who are both having their birthdays this week. On behalf of the Puckapunyal Primary School Community, we wish them both a very Happy Birthday!

Due to the Pupil Free Day this Friday, there will be no lunch orders this week.

2015 Enrolments: Just a reminder that if you have a child attending PPS next year, we require completed enrolment forms to be returned as soon as possible. Also if you know of families posting in who intend sending their children to PPS, could you ask them to contact us (if they have not already done so). It is very helpful if we have accurate numbers at this stage. Thank you.

Used uniform: Thank you for the 2nd hand uniform received. It is great to have supplies on hand when uniform is needed. We can still use more, so we are happy to keep receiving it!

Enjoy your week.
Sue Ranger, Defence School Transition Aide.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR REWARD UPDATE
We have a new leader with Hume just in front! Remember that it is not just the winning house that shares in the reward at the end of term, but also those students who get the most tickets in their class. Keep up the positive behaviour everyone!!

CURRENT SCORES
- Melba- 380 points
- Hume- 383 points
- Bradman- 295 points
- Chisholm- 270 points

Yahoo! I thought as we walked down to the kitchen. On Thursday we made honeycomb with Mrs Porter and Mr Simmonds. Mrs Porter brought some honeycomb in that she made on Wednesday night. We got to sample it and it was delicious. We made two batches of honeycomb; one was following the recipe and the other was crazy because we put three tea spoons of bi-carb soda in. The crazy honeycomb tasted kind of like the inside of a crunchy and it was a bit darker than the other honeycomb. I had a fantastic time!

by Oliver Kenny 3/4 B

3/4 B Honeycomb

‘Striving for Excellence’
Open since 1887
While Summer is not here yet, we have had a few hot days recently. We have had a few students get caught out with the heat and have come inside after play quite hot, thirsty and exhausted. We will encourage students to bring their drink bottles to school which can be kept in their classroom on their desks. We will also encourage them to play in shady areas. We also ask families to ensure that all students come to school with a drink bottle. Also please talk to them about having regular drinks.

We are very proud of all the help that our whole school community has given to the school to make it a better place in 2014. On Monday 8th December, at 11:00 a.m., our school has organised a special morning tea. The morning tea is to thank all of our parents who have helped at school this year. That could be people who helped out in the canteen, classrooms, fundraising, excursions, working bees, etc. etc. All families are welcome to attend. Please come along and join in the celebration.

On Monday 15th December our Monday Morning Assembly is our Awards Assembly. That means that there will be several special and traditional awards handed out to deserving students to recognise their efforts over the whole year. We encourage all families to come along to help congratulate the award winners.

Next year, as with every year, we ask parent volunteers to help with our Swimming Program. In weeks 2 and 3 for Term 1 in 2015, our Years 3-6 students will be attending the Area Pool for swimming each day. If any parent would like to volunteer to help with the swimming groups, please contact us. We try to keep the group sizes as small as possible. The more people that volunteer, the better. If you have Austswim training that is great! If you do not, we can organise some training for you as long as you help us with our program in return. If we have trained you in the past, please volunteer again. If you do not have Austswim training and can’t do the training, you can still help. Ask us how. We need you!

At each Monday Morning Assembly the students are reminded about some of the school rules. We like to print them in each week’s newsletter so that parents can discuss these rules with their children to ensure full understanding. These rules were read out by SRC representative, Taylah Studte.

- 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.

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

‘Being respectful is an attitude of caring and treating each other with dignity. It is speaking to and dealing with others in a courteous manner. Respect encompasses honouring the rules of your family or school. This helps to create a more peaceful and pleasant environment to be in. Self-respect is developed when you protect your own rights for things that are important to you. For example, the right to privacy.’
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 3 & 6**  
**Literacy:** We will continue to develop writing skills with a focus on the ‘ed’ ending. We are also writing sentences with finger spaces and using initial sounds. We are looking also at procedural texts.  
**Numeracy:** We will be working on money, calculators and number revision.

**Junior School – Year 1s  Rooms 3, 8 & 9**  
**Literacy:** We will continue to develop our writing skills by working on narratives and writing reports. We are looking at contractions and procedural texts.  
**Numeracy:** We are looking at equal sets, arrays, multiplication and repeated addition as well as mass and mapping.

**Junior School – Year 2s  Rooms 8, 9 & 10**  
**Literacy:** We will continue to develop our writing skills by working on narratives and writing reports. We are looking at summarising skills and procedural texts.  
**Numeracy:** We are looking at equal sets, arrays, multiplication and repeated addition as well as mass and mapping.

**Middle School - Years 3/4  Rooms 10, 11 & 13**  
**Literacy:** During writing sessions over the next few weeks, we will work on editing and procedures.  
**Numeracy:** We will be revising the four processes, estimation and graphing. Tables facts will be practised throughout the week.

**Senior School - Years 5/6  Rooms 1A&1B**  
**Literacy:** During writing sessions over the next few weeks, students will focus on poetry. In reading we will be focusing on fluency and expression.  
**Numeracy:** We will continue to revise place value (including decimals), processes, fractions, decimals and percentages along with revision of concepts according to student needs. Tables facts will be practised throughout the week.

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The School **Spelling Bee Final** is on again this year. It will take place at school on Tuesday 16th December from 11:30 a.m. It has become a great tradition during the last week of the year for the past few years. Even though several families have left by then, it has become an event that keeps the school ticking along right up until the end of the year. All families are welcome to come along. The names of the children who have earned the right to represent their grades and their year levels will be announced next week.

Monday’s assembly was a great example of how much students improve their reading in a short period of time. Our Year 1 student, Lake Robertson did a great job reading the ‘Declaration’ in front of the whole school. Pretty good for a junior student! Well done, Lake.

*‘Striving for Excellence’*

*Open since 1887*
Dear Parents,

On Friday 5th December the Puckapunyal Primary School will be conducting the Individual Triathlon. It will be held at the Puckapunyal Area Pool.

The triathlon will involve students from Years 3-6 and will be a mixture of boys and girls. Only Years 3-6 students will attend if they have entered the event or volunteered as a helper for one of the participants.

Swim Leg – 5 laps of indoor pool = 165 m  
Ride Leg – 2km lap X 2 = 4km  
Run Leg – 1.2km lap X 1 = 1.2 km

The event will begin at 2:00 p.m. and finish at approximately 3:30 p.m. All students attending the event will be dismissed from the pool at 3:30 p.m. There is no cost for the day. All parents are welcome to attend and cheer.

The children will need to take their bags and anything that needs to go home that day. Triathletes will need to bring all of the necessary gear for the event, eg. bathers for swimming, bikes and helmets for riding and running shoes for running.

Please return permission forms to the school office by Monday 24th November, 2014.

Good luck triathletes!

Kevin Warne  
Principal

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PUCKAPUNYAL PRIMARY SCHOOL  
SCHOOL EXCURSION AUTHORISATION

Family Name | Given Name | Room

I give permission for my child to participate in or be a bike handler for the Individual Triathlon at the Puckapunyal Area Pool, Puckapunyal on Friday 5th December, 2014.

In case of accident, or illness, I authorise the teacher in charge of the excursion to consent, where it is impractical to communicate with me on ______________________ or ______________________, to my child receiving such medical or surgical treatment as may be deemed necessary.

Specific medical information that teachers should be aware of:

________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________

SIGNATURE OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN: ______________________________

FULL NAME IN BLOCK LETTERS: ______________________________

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End of Year School Concert

Where: Puckapunyal Area Theatre  
When: Wednesday 17th December, 2014  
Time: 2pm Start  
All Families are Welcome!

‘Striving for Excellence’
Open since 1887
**Student Report Cards** will be sent home with each child on Friday 12th December, 2014.

Student Report cards provide parents with clear, comprehensive and consistent information about their child’s progress in Year Prep to Year 10, as well as suggestions on how to best support their child’s learning.

During the evaluation process, information about children is gathered from testing programs, anecdotal records, informal observation and parent/teacher interviews.

It must be remembered that throughout their school lives children of approximately the same age will vary greatly in achievement. This occurs because of individual differences in intellectual, physical, emotional and social maturity. Consequently, teachers do not expect all children in their class to attain the same scholastic levels, but rather that they work positively and energetically towards the highest standard of which they are capable, doing their personal best! – ‘Striving for Excellence’ (school motto). These reports will grade all students with rating codes compared to Department expectations.

**What is AusVELS?**

AusVELS is the Australian Curriculum in Victoria. The curriculum and assessment framework was implemented in 2013 in Government Schools from prep-Year 10. AusVELS uses a new 11 level structure which reflects the design of the Australian Curriculum whilst retaining the Victorian priorities and approaches to teaching and learning. AusVELS replaces VELS – Victorian Essential learning Standards that have been used in schools since 2006.

The 11 level structure of AusVELS (Foundation to Level 10) assists teachers to make judgements on student learning against common standards, to report student achievement and show progress over time.

**How have reports changed?**

Student reports since 2013 have used the 11 AusVELS levels. As new Australian Curriculum subjects are developed the content will be phased into AusVELS over time.

A translation table of VELS to AusVELS can be found below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nominal Year Level</th>
<th>Prep</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VELS 2012</td>
<td>Level 1</td>
<td>Level 2</td>
<td>Level 3</td>
<td>Level 4</td>
<td>Level 5</td>
<td>Level 6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AusVELS 2013-14</td>
<td>Foundation</td>
<td>Level 1</td>
<td>Level 2</td>
<td>Level 3</td>
<td>Level 4</td>
<td>Level 5</td>
<td>Level 6</td>
<td>Level 7</td>
<td>Level 8</td>
<td>Level 9</td>
<td>Level 10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Where can I find out more information about AusVELS?

Stay Safe Outdoors

This Summer be aware of hot surfaces outdoors

Enjoying the outdoors is great fun for your children but remember, many outdoor surfaces like playground equipment, skate park ramps, outdoor seats and barbecues can get very hot, even on days of mild temperatures.

When exposed to direct sunlight, surfaces may reach temperatures high enough to cause serious contact burn injuries in a matter of seconds.

A child’s skin is thinner and more sensitive than an adult’s, and will therefore result in a more severe burn.

Always supervise young children when they are outdoors and before allowing them to touch, climb or play on outdoor structures, test the surface temperature to determine if it is safe.

Holding your hand just above the surface may help you determine if the surface is too hot to play on.

If the surface temperature is 50°C or more or has been determined to be too hot, do not let your child play on or touch the surface.

For more information about children’s safety visit www.kidsafe.com.au

Contact us:
t: (03) 5734 6200
e: mitchell@mitchellshire.vic.gov.au
w: www.mitchellshire.vic.gov.au

Mitchell Shire Council
Samson is a CEO. He heads up Samson Inc. It’s a dog-eat-dog world out there… but Samson always fights fair. And that’s why he’s the best top dog.

**Text:** Top Dog  
**Author & Illustrator:** Rod Clement  
**Learning Intention:** To explore the responsibilities of being a leader.  
**Measure of Success:** I have used a graphic organiser to show how Samson was the leader of the pack.

*Mrs Challis*  
Library teacher

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**LIBRARY INVITATION**

Dear Parents,

To celebrate the school Book Launch, I am inviting you to attend your child’s Library lesson and have time sharing the books written and illustrated by our students.

**When:**  
Monday 1\textsuperscript{st} December  
12.30pm -1.30pm 1/2R  
2.30pm - 3.30pm 1/2I

Tuesday 2\textsuperscript{nd} December  
12.30pm-1.30 pm P/1O  
2.30pm-3.30pm PO’C

**Where:** School Library

I look forward to seeing you in the Library and having fun sharing the books our students have published!

*Mrs Challis*  
Library Teacher

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Keep practising to read and write! Enjoy your children!