

Puckapunyal¹ Primary School

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Term 4 Issue 11
December 20th 2017

Wednesday Notes

Striving for Excellence

End of Year Message

2017 has been a very busy, yet very productive time for Puckapunyal Primary School. We thank our community, staff and students for another successful school year.

We always see many new families arrive each year and now we are saying goodbye to others, many of whom are moving interstate or overseas. We understand that it is a very difficult time for families and children, with many families saying goodbye to friends and packing up their houses. We believe that one special thing about Puckapunyal is the way that the community supports the school and this year has been no exception.

We would like to thank all of our families for their support this year. Schools rely on parent and community support. The best schools are the schools that have good communication between these groups. Children learn best when the community and the school work together and have the same goals. We are fortunate to have a close relationship with our community.

We wish all of our families a very Merry Christmas. We hope that our moving families travel safely and settle quickly into their new homes and their new schools. We also hope that our future families arrive safely and enjoy their stay at Pucka.

Good luck to everyone over the Christmas break and have a restful and safe New Year! Christmas cheer to all!

Kevin Warne, Principal



Last Day of 2017

Friday 22nd December will be our last day of Term 4 in 2017. The children will be dismissed at 1:30 p.m.

At 1:10 p.m. there will be a **final assembly** just to say goodbye and to wish you all a Merry Christmas. Please come along and join in our last assembly for 2017 in the school amphitheatre or PC Centre.

The final day can be an 'out of school uniform day' for all students. There will not be any buses available on the last day for our students who normally travel to school by bus. Students will have to make other arrangements for that day.

***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 210-215 nights. Well done if you have kept up! ***

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Coming Events	
Friday 22 nd December	Last Day of 2017 1:10pm Assembly 1:30pm Dismissal
Tuesday 23 rd January 2018	Information Night for New Families
Wednesday 24 th January 2018	2018 Open day for New Families
Monday 29 th January 2018	Staff Resume
Tuesday 30 th January 2018	Years 1-6 Students First Day
Thursday 1 st February 2018	Foundation Students Begin

We can all work together to rid the community of Head Lice. Let's check our heads once per week!

D.S.T.A. Message

No news, health tips or requests for fundraising this week; just a heartfelt wish that all families have a wonderful, fun-filled Christmas with family and loved ones. Safe travelling to all and best wishes to everyone for 2018 – wherever your destination. I trust that Puckapunyal Primary School has contributed to a positive 2017 for your family, and I am looking forward to 2018 with some old and new faces, ready for new experiences and challenges.

Happy Christmas everyone!!

Sue Ranger, Defence School Transition Aide

Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday to Clodagh McCarthy, Matilda Turner, Amelia Duna, Jazmin Ramsbotham, Nic, Jordan Toby, Reeko Gower, Dimitri Corocher and Zion Oti who are all having their birthdays this week or sometime in December. On behalf of the Puckapunyal Primary School Community, we wish them all a very **Happy Birthday!**



POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR REWARD

Well Done Chisholm house for taking out the second half of term 4's positive behaviour. They enjoyed some ice cream on Monday!

FINAL SCORES

Chisholm – 186 points

Melba - 170 points

Bradman – 150 points

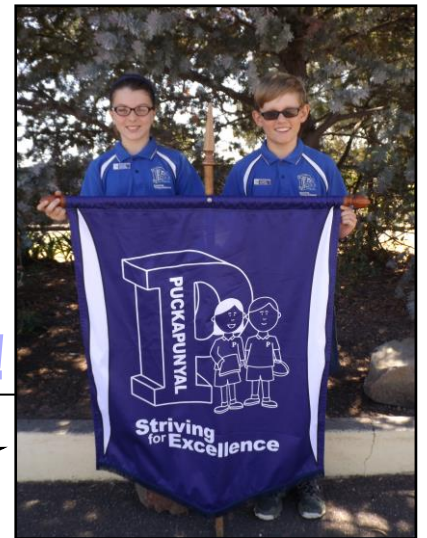
Hume - 50 points

Holiday Request – Over the school holidays, there will be many builders and tradespeople at our school, working on a variety of projects. It is very important that children are not on school grounds during the school holidays as there will be many vehicles and machinery on site.



Help Needed

We need your help. We are looking for a family to look after Ms. O'Connor's classroom **budgies** over the school holidays. The budgies will come with the cage and plenty of food. Please help if you can. Please contact Ms. O'Connor if you are able to help.



Thank You Student Leaders!

This is also the time of the year when we would like to thank many of the students who have had extra responsibility this year.

*Our **School Captains, Taliah Greenwood and Jack Anderson** have performed admirably this year –thank you, School Captains, we wish you well!

*Our **House Captains** organised their teams throughout the many sporting events this year – well done House Captains!

*Thank you **Student Representative Councillors (S.R.C.)** who took on many roles throughout the year in 2017!

*To all of those students who took responsibility for School Assemblies, the Year 6 Valedictory Dinner, school crossing flags, school flag, school bins, newsletter proof reading, yard duty marking, classroom monitoring and other assigned duties... we say - 'thank you, we cannot run a school without you!'



Good Luck, Aimee!

Each and every year, we have to farewell some of our staff.

This year, we have to say goodbye to **Aimee Brincat**. However, it is only for a short time!! Aimee has been a brilliant teacher at Puckapunyal for many years. She is taking Terms 1, 2 and 3 off but will definitely return in Term 4! Aimee is taking time off to have her second baby! Of course, we thank Aimee for her wonderful service at Pucka PS in 2017 and wish her and her family the very best of luck.



Welcome, Nicola, Bec, Jenny and Fiona!

We are delighted to welcome new staff to our school and some familiar staff back to our school for 2018!

It is great to have **Jenny Philp** back to our school in 2018 who is returning from a year off. Her experience is always invaluable. Good luck, Jen!

We welcome **Nicola Robson** to our school who will be a classroom teacher in 2018. She has done extensive amounts of Casual Relief teaching at Pucka and we look forward to her beginning next year. Good luck, Nikki!

We also welcome **Bec Cashill** to our school who will be doing some part-time teaching throughout the school in 2018. This will be Bec's first time at our school. Good luck, Bec!

It will also be great to have **Fiona McCarthy** back to our school in 2018 to perform some part-time teaching. Fiona has done extensive amounts of Casual Relief teaching and part-time teaching at Pucka and we look forward to her beginning next year. Good luck, Fiona!



School Values - Enthusiasm

Teachers are looking for students who are demonstrating 'Enthusiasm' to be eligible for the **Student of the Week award**. We encourage parents to talk to their students about our values throughout the year.

Enthusiasm is doing things with zest and excitement. It is really looking forward to something. **Enthusiasm** comes from having a positive attitude about the things you do.

You can be **enthusiastic** about making your bed, going on a holiday or feeding the dog. It is being cheerful and giving your best to whatever you do. **Enthusiasm** makes boring things fun.

Awards for the Week

Students of the Week

Authors of the Week



Congratulations to the following students who were 'Students of the Week' for last week. Winners – **Eli Matangi, Reagan Ritchie, Jordan Toby, Kade Horton, Tayla Said, Sophia Brooks, Riley Gilmour, Charlie Mackay** and **Georgia Donnelly**.

These students were selected because they were modelling 'Tolerance/Compassion'. This week teachers are looking for students who are modelling 'Enthusiasm'.



Congratulations to the following students who were 'Authors of the Week' for last week.

Winners – **Olivia, Bradley Kitchin, Dimitri Corocher, Gemma Koch, Charlotte Davies, Ryan Lindner, Henry Billen, Hayden Clarke** and **Isaac Bennett**. These students were selected because they showed great skills as an **author**.

Times Tables Awards



3/4 M in Room 9 won the **Middle School Times Tables Trophy**.

Abby Chetcuti and **Melhoney Pambai** were very happy to collect the winning trophy for their classroom this week!

5/6 I in Room 1 won the **Senior School Times Tables Trophy**.

Cooper Dickinson and **Harry Fletcher** were also very happy to collect the winning trophy this week!



'Yard Duty' Trophy

'Positive Behaviour' Raffle Awards

Congratulations, Max!



1/2 I in Room 3 won the **Yard Duty Competition**. **Bailey Armstrong** and **Max Brown** enjoyed collecting the winning trophy for their classroom this week!



Congratulations to **Casey Cousins, Ashby Murphy, Jack Anderson** and **Noah Chetcuti** who all won a raffle prize for 'Positive Behaviour' this week! Great effort, kids!



Congratulations to **Max Fletcher**! He received his **piano exam results** and got an 'A+'. Well done, Max!

Year 6 Valedictory Dinner

Last Thursday, all of our Year 6 students attended their **Graduation Night** – the **Valedictory Dinner** in our Pitman-Coffey Centre. It was a fantastic night! We saw our Year 6 students accept their graduation certificates that acknowledged their transition to secondary school in 2018.

The night began with Taliah Greenwood and Noah Chetcuti, two of our Year 6 students being MCs for the evening. They performed wonderfully! Well done, kids.

The students and special guests enjoyed the beautiful meal that was catered for by staff and parent volunteers. Well done, everyone!

After the meal, all parents and family members arrived for the presentation. We began with a very professional powerpoint display that summarised the students' year and other parts of their lives. Everybody enjoyed the presentation. Fiona O'Reilly (nee, McRae), one of our former teachers was our guest speaker and spoke to the students and wished them the very best for their future. Everybody enjoyed the speech. Thank you, Fiona!

The presentations soon began with each student presenting an acrostic poem to one of their peers as they were presented with their Graduation Certificates from their classroom teachers. Many special awards were then presented to the worthy recipients. Please read the next few pages.



Class of 2017



MCs, Noah Chetcuti and Taliah Greenwood.



Students and guests enjoyed their Valedictory Dinner before the presentations. The rooms looked great! Well done, Mrs. Itter and Mr. Donohue!

Valedictory Dinner Awards

The 'Striving for Excellence' Award - is designed for a student who always gives their best regardless of their abilities and academic achievement – they are striving for excellence (our school motto).

The 'Striving for Excellence' award is a plaque and a book voucher for \$50, donated by the Puckapunyal Area Amenities Board (PAAB). This award has been awarded since 2005. The award was presented by School Council President, Anne Trevena and PAAB representative, Major Peter Wiles.

This year's 'Striving for Excellence' Award was presented to **Charlotte Donnelly**.

Charlotte has been a consistent worker throughout the year who strives to achieve the best possible outcomes in all that she attempts. She is always bright, bubbly and friendly towards her peers and staff at the school. She can be called on to carry out tasks of responsibility and willingly assists others. Congratulations Charlotte!



'Outstanding Sportsman of the Year' Award - is designed for the student who clearly stands out from the rest of his/her colleagues in relation to sporting achievements.

The 'Outstanding Sportsman of the Year' award means the name is recorded on a large plaque and the student receives a small plaque and Book Voucher for \$50. The award has been presented to students since 2002. This year's award was presented by teacher, Damien Humphrey.

This year's 'Outstanding Sportsman of the Year' award was presented to **Charlie Mackay**.

Charlie has shown exemplary sporting skills in a variety of sports. He has represented the school in: District Swimming, District and Division level for Cross Country, Athletics in Division, Districts and Region, and in the Hoop Time Competition. He also participated in the Four Day Bike Ride and Team Triathlon. Charlie, along with his many sporting achievements, has been an excellent House Captain, who has supported and encouraged others to do their best. He has been an excellent role model for his peers and he has participated in many extra-curricular activities. Well done to a very worthy recipient of the 'Sportsman of the Year Awards'. Congratulations Charlie!

Mitchell Shire Citizenship Award - is designed for a student who is a model citizen and role model for their peers.

The 'Mitchell Shire Citizenship' award is a certificate and a book voucher for \$50, donated by the Mitchell Shire. The award has been presented to students for many years. The award was presented by Mitchell Shire Councillor, Bill Chisholm.

This year's 'Mitchell Shire Citizenship' award was presented to **Dimitee Taylor**.

Dimitee has been a fantastic citizen of Puckapunyal. She has conducted herself in a manner which shows reliability and compassion towards her peers and members of the community. She willingly volunteers to help around the school and has undertaken many roles of responsibility throughout the year. Great work Dimitee!





Lion's Club Community Award - is designed for a student who is an excellent community member.

The 'Lion's Club Community' award is a small chronology and a Landmark Book Voucher for \$100. The aim of the voucher is to go towards secondary schooling for next year. The award has been presented for many years. This year's award was presented by Leonie Willis from the Seymour Lion's Club.

This year's 'Lion's Club Community Award' was presented to **Danielle Corocher**.

Danielle has demonstrated an eagerness to learn and do well in everything she does. She has been an excellent role model and a fantastic citizen and House Captain. She has played an important part as a member of the Student Representative Council. She is always willing to help others and displays compassion. She has undertaken many extra roles and duties at Puckapunyal and she has been a terrific example for others to follow.

Achievement Award - is designed for a student who achieves well academically and is a good role model.

The 'Achievement' award means the name is recorded on a large plaque and the student receives a small plaque and a book voucher for \$50, donated by the school. The award has been presented to students since 1995. This year's award was presented by Defence School Transition Aide, Sue Ranger.

This year's 'Achievement' award was presented to **Max Fletcher**.

Max has been a good role model for others to follow and has been a student who has undertaken many extra roles of responsibility throughout the year. He is happy and displays a great attitude. He willingly helps others and his academic achievements are also at a high standard, especially in the area of Numeracy. Congratulations on a great year Max!



Academic Excellence Awards – are designed for students who have achieved very high results academically.

The recipients of the 'Academic Excellence' awards receive a certificate and a \$50 cheque from the school. This year's award was presented by Teacher, Katie Hartland.

This year's 'Academic Excellence' awards were presented to **Claudia Carrick and Taliah Greenwood**

Claudia has worked hard throughout the year, striving to push herself that extra little bit with her school work. She has achieved excellent results academically in Literacy and Numeracy and has always put a great deal of effort in with these subjects. Congratulations and well done Claudia!

Taliah has proven herself to be a big achiever in many of her subjects this year. She has been a hardworking and dedicated student. She always applies herself well and she is always striving to achieve her best. The progress which she made this year has been excellent and is a credit to her. Keep up the terrific work.



School Bursaries – are designed for students who best achieve academically and are great role models for their peers. They are our best all round students.

There were 2 awards this year. The ‘School Bursaries’ are a certificate, small plaque, a book voucher for \$250 and their names will remain on our new School Honours Board. The aim of the voucher is to go towards the students’ secondary schooling for next year. The bursaries have been kindly donated by Defence Bank and our school. The award has been presented for the past 30 or so years. This year the awards were presented by Principal, Kevin Warne and Defence Bank representative, Anja Van Der Waal.

The students have been selected because they are the students who have achieved consistently throughout the year in all areas of the curriculum and in extra-curricular activities. They are the students who set the standard for others to follow. They are great role models. They are the students who not only behaved and conducted themselves in an exemplary manner, they set the standard academically as well.

This year’s ‘Student Bursaries’ are awarded to **Lachlan Thompson** and **Jack Anderson**.

Lachlan has been a fantastic student and House Captain this year. He is a student who always has a smile on his face and takes the time to talk to others. He follows the school values and is very capable when taking on roles of responsibility. He has been a great role model for others to follow and he has been an excellent participant in all areas of the curriculum. A terrific effort Lachie!

Jack has been an exemplary School Captain this year, displaying compassion and excellent leadership qualities. He has followed all of our school values and has been a brilliant citizen and superb role model. He has participated fully in the school curriculum and in many of the extra-curricular activities that have been on offer. He is always willing to help others. Well done Jack!



The School Valedictorian is a person who is selected best to make a speech on behalf of their peers.

The Valedictorian will have their name printed on our School Honours Board and will receive a small plaque.

This year our Valedictorian is School Captain, **Jack Anderson**.

Jack was selected because he is not only a brilliant citizen, but he can also make a speech to best represent his fellow peers. He is a great student and a superb role model as shown by him receiving a bursary award as well.

****NB** – his speech is available from the school office if anyone would like a copy to read.



All Year 6 students displayed their '**Brag Boards**' at the Valedictory Dinner. Do you like them?



Guest Speaker, former Pucka PS teacher, **Fiona O'Reilly**, delivering her speech.

A big thank you to **Mrs. Robyn Itter** and **Mr. Clinton Donohue** for their tireless efforts in organising the night. Thank you teachers! We would also like to thank our parent helpers who for weeks have been organising bits and pieces with our teachers. Many were terrific as our 'very' subservient waiters for the night!



Assembly Awards

At Monday morning's **Awards Assembly** several awards were presented to worthy students. It has been a long tradition to have an Awards Assembly at Pucka P.S. Congratulations to all of the successful recipients. We had a huge audience at the assembly which was terrific. Thank you to the families who were able to come.

'In Kindness' Award

This award is an annual award. The winner receives a small plaque, a \$50 book voucher and their name is recorded on a large plaque donated by the Ulrich family in 2000. This year's award was presented to **Abbey Kendell**.

Abbey is a kind and caring student who shows compassion and care for others. She is the student who is quick to say, "Good morning," and to ask you how you are, or how your day has been. She works cooperatively with class mates and socialises well. She assists in a junior room with some reading and always displays excellent manners. Abbey has made great progress this year academically. She gets on with the task at hand and always has a smile on her face and a positive outlook to tasks undertaken. She is an excellent role model for others to follow. Abbey Kendell is the well-deserved recipient of the In Kindness award. Congratulations Abbey! (written by class teacher, Robyn Itter)



'The Tryers' Award

This award is an annual award. The winner receives a small plaque, a \$50 book voucher and their name is recorded on a trophy donated by the Proudlock family in 2000. This year's award was presented to **Joe Gilmour**.

Joe Gilmour has been at Puckapunyal for 4 years now and it has been excellent to see the way that he has developed over that time. This year, Joe has become a more independent worker, who is able to complete maths problems involving the four processes and he has been able to assist others with this type of work with his Numeracy tips on Pucka News. He has been able to follow instructions to carry out tasks and he seeks assistance when required. He has read consistently throughout the year, and as a result, he has gone up three levels with his reading in 2017. Joe also made it through to a District level for High Jump and he assisted the juniors with this sport at their Athletics. He has given everything a go and tried his hardest with all that he attempts. The care and detail taken with his work has been noted by staff and students alike. Well done Joe! (written by class teacher, Robyn Itter)



Well Done, Charlotte and Charlie!

This award is an annual award. Each and every year our school selects 2 students, 1 boy and 1 girl who were our best cyclists during the **4 Day Bike Ride**. The names of the winners are recorded on a large plaque donated by the Franklin family in 2004. This year's award was presented to **Charlotte Donnelly** and **Charlie Mackay**.

Charlotte received this award for her commitment and hard work not only towards the 4 Day Bike Ride but also the training sessions. Her easy going, no fuss attitude meant that she was always riding along without any complaints. She demonstrated the ability to train hard and was able to improve her fitness level. She rode at the front of the group for the duration of the 4 day ride and kept us all entertained with her stories. Well done Charlotte!

Charlie has been presented with this award for his dedication, determination and ability to encourage others. Throughout the training sessions and the 4 day ride Charlie performed at a high standard. He always tried his hardest to improve his fitness and encourage others around him to do their best. There is one reason Charlie was a stand out for this award. It was his caring and compassionate nature towards his peers. When riding, Charlie could always be heard calling out, "Well done! Great effort! Keep up the good work! You can do it! You're doing so well!" These motivational words even helped the adults keep going when it was a tough day. Congratulations Charlie! (written by class teacher, Katie Hartland)



'Making a Difference Award' of the Year!

This is the eleventh year that the **Making a Difference award** has been presented. The recipient of this award from any year level, is a student who makes a positive difference to the lives of those around them. They are polite, helpful, responsible, reliable, honest and compassionate. The award winner will receive a book, a brain-teaser puzzle ball and a certificate.

This year's award was presented to **Yarah Tennant-Andrew**.

*This year the 'Making a Difference' Award has been awarded to a Foundation student who is making a positive difference to our school. She is always positive and wanting to help others. She doesn't complain and always makes good decisions. This student works hard and continually demonstrates our school values. She is a delightful class member and makes us smile every day. The 'Making a Difference' Award recipient is **Yarah Tennant-Andrew**. (written by class teacher, Sally O'Connor).*



'Julie Lyons-Vague Scholarship' Award

Each year, the 'Julie Lyons-Vague Scholarship' Award is presented to a Grade 4/5 student who embodies the qualities that Mrs Lyons-Vague valued. The award is presented on behalf of the Vague family, including Leigh Vague, Mrs Lyons-Vague's husband, and Mrs Lyons-Vague's sons, Aaron and Justin.

At Monday's Awards Assembly, the '**Julie Lyons-Vague Scholarship' Award** was presented to **Jack Lindner** and **Clodagh McCarthy**. This award is a book voucher for \$100 donated by the Vague family.

This year's awards were presented to **Jack Lindner** and **Clodagh McCarthy**.

***Jack** is a student who I feel demonstrates the values and qualities that Mrs Julie Lyons-Vague would be proud of. Jack is a student who always has a smile on his face and he displays a quiet, polite and friendly manner to others. He is kind and courteous and he socialises and works well with students within the class and with his peers from other classes. He carries out tasks responsibly and reliably and willingly assists when required. Jack has also made excellent progress with all of his school work this year. I feel confident that Mrs Lyons-Vague would agree that Jack is a very deserving recipient of this award. Keep up the great work Jack! (written by class teacher, Robyn Itter)*

***Clodagh** is a student that Mrs Lyons Vague would love to have taught. She demonstrates the ability to carry out the values that Mrs Lyons Vague treasured. She is a quiet achiever who works to the best of her ability. She is a dedicated and determined student who always puts in that extra effort to set tasks. She is kind and compassionate towards her peers. She is a delight to teach and a student that can be relied on to do any extra jobs the teachers may have. I believe that Mrs Lyons-Vague would be proud knowing that Clodagh is the recipient of this year's award. Well done Clodagh and keep being the delightful student that you are. (written by class teacher, Katie Hartland)*



'Striving for Excellence' Awards

'Striving for Excellence' Awards - The school presented 6 awards to students in each of the year levels from Foundation -Year 5. The students were selected because they are students who always try and give their best, regardless of their academic levels. They received a plaque and a book voucher for \$50 kindly donated by PAAB. Well done, kids! 'Striving for Excellence' is our school motto!!



Foundation – Zara Marini (written by class teacher Sally O'Connor)

*The well-deserved recipient of the Foundation 'Striving for Excellence' award ALWAYS works to the best of her ability. She 'has a go' at any task and is willing to help other classmates as well as teachers – even without being asked. As well as putting in 100% effort in all areas of her schooling, she is a kind and caring class member. The winner of the Foundation 'Striving for Excellence' Award is **Zara Marini**.*

Year 1 – Chayce Mackie (written by class teacher, Matt Itter)

Chayce has been a friendly, polite member of our school community this year. She has impressed many people with her lovely manners and happy nature. Chayce has worked very hard this year to improve her reading, writing and maths abilities. She showed her ability to 'Strive for Excellence' when she immediately worked on strengthening some of her skills throughout the year when she knew they could be improved. Chayce is a very worthy winner of the 'Striving for Excellence' Award. Well done Chayce!



Year 2 – Amelia Duna (written by class teacher, Matthew Itter)

Amelia joined our school at the beginning of the year and quickly learnt to work on her weaknesses and be a conscientious and hard working member of the class. She has good skills in most areas of the curriculum but has quietly gone about improving them and taking advice when it has been given. Amelia has a friendly nature and happily works without distraction. Her work is neat, well presented and carefully done. Happy and keen to learn, Amelia is a great example of a student who is 'Striving for Excellence'. Well done Amelia.



Year 3 – Savannah Bradford (written by class teacher, Jaimie McCarthy)

Savannah is a student who comes to school every day ready to learn and with a smile on her face. She pushes herself to complete her work to the best of her ability, and then constantly challenges herself to achieve even more. Savannah is a positive and friendly member of the class, who enjoys helping her classmates succeed in their work, whilst always completing her own to a high standard. She 'strives for excellence' in every task no matter how small.

Savannah, it has been an absolute joy having you in my class this year. Keep on pushing yourself to achieve, and never let go of the positivity you display in everything you do. Well done!



Year 4 – Sophia Brooks (written by class teacher, Katie Hartland)

Sophia is a student who gives 100% to any task she undertakes. She has a positive attitude and always approaches new work with enthusiasm and the desire to learn. When working in class Sophia produces work of a very high standard and never worries about what the other students are doing. She happily takes on any challenges that may be thrown her way. Even though she is in Grade 4, this year Sophia has been working in Mrs Itter's Grade 5/6 class for Numeracy lessons. She has finished the year working on Chart W in Goodger Maths, which is well above the recommendation for her year level. Her bright and bubbly personality helps bring a smile to my face each day. Keep working hard Sophia and continue to 'Strive for Excellence' in everything that you do.



Year 5 – Hannah Lucas (written by class teacher, Robyn Itter)

Hannah Lucas only started at Puckapunyal this year, but from the moment she enters the class, to the moment she leaves at the end of the day, she gives 100%. She contributes to discussions, offers assistance to others and focuses on her work in order to achieve great outcomes. She constantly strives to do her best and is always looking to improve her skills in all subjects. She always approaches her work and other tasks with a positive attitude and a smile on her face. She is a most deserving winner of the 2017 Year 5 'Striving For Excellence' Award. Well done Hannah!



Quiet Achiever Award

Quiet Achiever – The ‘Quiet Achiever’ is an award that has been presented since 2005. The recipient’s name is recorded on a large plaque (donated by Lee Whant, a former Defence School Transition Aide) which stays at our school and the student receives a small plaque and a book voucher for \$50 (donated by the school). Lee’s husband Chris has created this trophy from a red gum burl selected from their property.

The ‘Quiet Achiever’ award is presented to a student who focuses on doing the best they can, with what they have. They never give in to themselves and continually display the important values of tolerance, kindness and friendship towards others. Lee believes these values are another aspect of excellence and complement the school’s motto of ‘Striving for Excellence’. The significance of the bear that you see on the plaque is about caring and reflection.

This year’s ‘Quiet Achiever’ award is presented to **Jasmine Jamieson**.

Jasmine is a student who has a no fuss approach and is self-motivated to excel in the work that she does. She has worked hard to improve and develop all skills this year and should be proud of the results that she has achieved. Jasmine has shown enthusiasm with all areas of learning and tries hard with every task that is set. She is eager to learn and strives to achieve the best possible outcomes in all that she attempts. Well done Jasmine and congratulations.

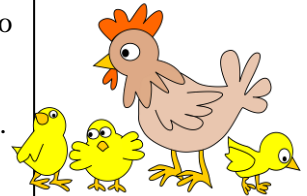
(written by class teacher, Clinton Donohue)



'Chicken Princess' Award



Each year, we thank the students who are our Chicken Monitors. We thank **Sophia Brooks** and **Ella Padman** They were responsible for organising everything to do with our school chickens this year. They were especially impressive each week at assembly informing us about the chickens. They were each presented with the ‘Chicken Princess’ Award at assembly. Thank you, girls! Their award is a certificate and a box of chocolates.



Joker Jack

Jack Kennedy was presented with a Joke Book to recognise his weekly efforts making us laugh with a few jokes at assembly each week! Thanks Jack! What a star!

SPELLING BEE

Congratulations to all of the students who reached the final of the **School Spelling Bee**. Well done to the 7 winners! Thank you again to Mr. Itter for being our MC and doing another entertaining job! Thank you to all of the supporting staff.



Well done, Lilah, Reeko and Zara.



Well done, Gemma, Zoe and James.



Well done, Kirrah, Bill and Stephen.



Well done, Owen, Brielle and Lachlan.



Well done, Eamon, Will, Rohanna and Sophia.



Well done, Abigail, Caitlan, Finlay and Casey.



Well done, Taliyah, Max, Lachlan and Jack.



Well done, Mr. Itter!

2018 Information

The end of 2017 is almost here and our students and families will be excited thinking about holidays and Christmas. No doubt there is a little bit of anxiety about the new school year.

For Kinder families, we hope that our school has been helpful over the past few months with transition days so that the move into Foundation (Preps) will be easier for your child. The year 2018 is going to be special for your family as it will be your child's first year of schooling. We understand that families will be excited and nervous.

The starting date for **Years 1-6** students is Tuesday 30th January (meet in the amphitheatre at the back of the school). The first day for **Foundation (Prep)** students is Thursday 1st February (meet in the amphitheatre at the back of the school). Families and students can find a seat together in the amphitheatre.

The Foundation (Prep) students will then attend school for normal hours from 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. for Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays in February. The students will **not** attend school on Wednesdays during Term 1 until 7th March. This again will help the students get used to school life and a break mid-week will keep them refreshed for school. In our experience, Foundation students do get very tired in their first few weeks of school and a break mid-week has shown to be beneficial. Again, the Wednesday will also be used for Foundation student testing and an appointment date will be given to each family for one of those Wednesdays.

We will be conducting a **New Family Information Night** on Tuesday 23rd January starting at 5pm in the PC Centre. The Information Night is mainly for new families so that they can come and learn new and important information about our school. We recommend that all new families attend that session.

School **Open Day** is Wednesday 24th January (the next day), which is again for families who haven't yet **enrolled** their children or had a chance to **tour** the school. They will also get an opportunity to meet with the principal or leading teacher to discuss their children's educational needs. **School Uniforms** will also be available for any families to purchase on that day. The next day after Open Day, when we have a much more accurate idea of how many students will be attending our school, we will send each family an email. The email will let families know who their child's teacher will be and what classroom they will be in for 2018. **(If the school does not have your family's email address please pass it on to the school).**

Public Holidays for 2018
Friday 26 th January Australia Day Holiday
Monday 12 th March Labour Day
Friday 30 th March Good Friday
Monday 3 rd April Easter Monday
Wednesday 25 th April Anzac Day
Monday June 11 th Queen's Birthday
Tuesday November 6 th Melbourne Cup Day

Significant School Dates for 2018	
Tuesday 23 rd January	New Family Information Night
Wednesday 24 th January	Open Day
Thursday 25 th January	All families to receive a school email
Monday 29 th January	Staff Resume
Tuesday 30 th January	Years 1-6 Commence
Thursday 1 st February	Foundation (Preps) Commence
Monday 26 th February	Parent/Teacher Information Sharing
Thursday 29 th March	End of Term 1

