



POSSUM PRESS

NEWS FROM JANTIENA

Thursday 30 October, Term 4 Week 3

In true style the spring weather has certainly been mixed, beautiful one day and a bit chilly the next. Our students have enjoyed the warmer weather and all the opportunities it brings. Please ensure that hats and water bottles are coming to school every day. We like our children to be well-protected and well-hydrated so they can engage in all learning experiences.

Transitions at Maribyrnong

Based on the feedback of our families, students and teachers, this year Maribyrnong is having a whole school transition session on Wednesday 26 November. This session is for all children at our school along with students who will be joining our community in 2015. This session allows students to interact with students who will be in their unit group next year. It is not a class placement exercise, nor will they be with their 2015 teacher. This session will focus on providing our students with the experience of working alongside others with whom they might not have worked with before. It will also support the completion of sociograms where students list people they work well with in consideration of class placements. As usual students, and their parents, will be notified of their class teacher by letter in the January school holidays. More information about the transition sessions will be sent home in week five.

Preschool Disco and Morning Tea

Last Wednesday our two preschool groups joined together for a disco in the hall. The SRC reps showed their leadership skills once again as they led the preschoolers in doing the Hokey Pokey, Macarena and YMCA. Ms Pownall showed us quite a few moves too! The preschool disco is set to become a new term four tradition for our preschoolers. This was followed by our combined morning tea for our preschool families. It was a great opportunity for our families to get to know each other before becoming kindy parents.

Twilight Fair

It isn't long to go now. The annual Twilight Fair promises to be an adventure filled event, catering to all interests. If you haven't volunteered yet there is still time. Many hands make light work and there are still a flurry of jobs to be done before Friday 7 November and on the actual night. Please come to the front office if you are able to help out in any way. Remember what Jen said in our last newsletter, volunteers must have registered for a Working with Vulnerable People Card prior to the day.

Phonics

Of late there have been many news articles related to the teaching of phonics and the resistance by teachers to engage with this concept. Some have even suggested there is a 'phonics war'. At Maribyrnong phonics is taught within context and as part of a balanced literacy program. As we know reading is not simply decoding the text but understanding the multiple meanings within the text. We would all be able to decode a book in another language (perhaps not with the correct pronunciation) but would have little understanding of what we have read. If educators employ a phonics only approach, children will be able to decode what they are reading but have little or no understanding of what they have read. This is often referred to as 'barking at print'. Part of the misinformation about phonics is due to the issue of connecting it solely to reading instead of identifying the importance of phonics when spelling in writing. When writing students need to have a firm grasp of phonics and phonemic awareness (identifying, thinking about, and working with the individual sounds in words) so that they can make spelling approximations that are reasonable.



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Government

Education and Training

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Possum Pantry Canteen

Wednesday to Friday Ph: 6241 5974
<http://www.flexischools.com.au>

Communities@Work ph:0400462086
Breakfast Club and After School Care

Westpac School Bank Account

BSB 032 777
Account 001615
EFTPOS is available with a \$10 minimum.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

OCTOBER	
30	Board 6.00 pm and P&C 7.00 pm
NOVEMBER	
7	P&C Twilight Fair 4.00 - 8.00 pm ## NO ASSEMBLY TODAY ##
12	Kindy 2015 Transition Day #1
19	Kindy 2015 Transition Day #2 Kindy 2015 Info Night 6.00 pm
20	Year 6 Mini-Fete
21	Assembly at 2.15 pm Kindy item
24	CEIS 11.00-12.00 pm
26	Kindy 2015 Transition Day #3 and whole school transition

For future dates, please look at the full calendar on our school website.

Phonics continued...

There are two types of approaches to phonics teaching: synthetic and analytic. A synthetic phonics approach starts with a limited set of letters that are taught by the sounds they represent and built into different kinds of words. Gradually more letters are added and other combinations are introduced. The analytic approach is designed to use the alphabetic principle. It encourages learners to look at whole words and break them down into their phonemes. While both are useful, solely using phonics, can seem nonsensical to the learner because it obscures the function of reading (i.e. making meaning from print). Many 'packaged' programs have used a synthetic approach to the teaching of phonics and as such have not been utilised by the educators at Maribyrnong. Instead baseline assessment is collected to ascertain where students' point of need is in relation to their phonemic awareness. From this information programs are designed that allow students to analyse the different layers in our language and apply this in their spelling and reading. Through implementing a balanced literacy program, using quality literature, we know our students will develop foundational concepts that help them across all learning areas.

Preschool 2015 Information Session

Last Wednesday we had the opportunity to meet many new families to our Maribyrnong community at the Preschool 2015 Information Session. The session outlined our philosophy in action, what a day in preschool looks like, how we implement the Early Years Learning Framework, and our policies and procedures that are guided by the National Quality Framework. Families also had the opportunity to meet our educators, ask questions and book in for getting to know you and your child interviews. If you missed this session your information pack has been sent to your home. Please call the front office to make an interview time. Interviews will be held on Wednesday 28 January 2015 in the preschool. Children and siblings are most welcome to attend these interviews.

RSPCA Dress like an Animal Day

Last Friday the school was invaded by lions, tigers, zebras, cats, rabbits and even a unicorn or two! What a successful day it was as students dressed like an animal to raise money for the RSPCA. There was \$316.45 donated to the RSPCA. Well done Maribyrnong on supporting such a worthy cause.

2014 MILO T20 Blast School Cup

Congratulations to our eleven 3/4 students who represented Maribyrnong last week at the 2014 MILO T20 Blast School Cup. Their determination and sportsmanship was outstanding and noted by the adjudicators who awarded the team the Best Team Spirit Trophy. Well done team! The trophy is on its way to the pool room....oops I meant the display cabinet. Thank you to Miss Wise, Lauren and Jackie for supporting our students in this adventure.

2015 is fast approaching!

If you know of any families who are likely to be enrolling at our school, including our preschool, in 2015 please encourage them to contact the school as soon as possible. We have a limited number of preschool places left – even with three preschool groups! Similarly if your children will not be continuing their education at Maribyrnong Primary in 2015 please advise us of your intentions as soon as possible.

Have a wonderful week. See you at the Twilight Fair!
Jantiena.

WRITING MYTHBUSTER

Myth # 7 A good writer must spell well.

In commonsense terms, spelling is using the correct order of letters to represent a word. Being able to spell is critical to writing. Without it, the best writing can be rendered unreadable and useless. However good spellers may not be able to spell a word correctly in their first attempt but they will be **resourceful**. That means they are able to find out how to spell an unknown word by using different strategies.

Spelling is more than a rote activity. Students need to be explicitly taught how to use their brain, eyes and ears when spelling. The ability to spell words depends on a child's understanding of the three spelling layers and how they interact with each other.



The first layer is the alphabetic layer. Students using the information in this layer recognise letters and the sounds they make within words.

The second layer deals with the common patterns that occur in the English language. Students accessing this information are able to recognise that if they can spell cat they can also spell fat, bat, mat etc. The patterns in our language help students learn many words.

The final spelling layer is driven by meaning. Students learn that groups of letters represent meaning such as sub means under or below and is present in words such as submarine, submerge and substandard.

When you think of these three layers and how children need to know how they work together and when to access the different information it becomes clear that spelling is much more than rote learning. Writers must be resourceful and use this information in their writing. This may happen as they craft their writing while at other times it will be when they re-read and proofread their work.



So.....this myth is busted! Good writers are able to convey their intended message by maintaining meaning while spelling is about being resourceful!

Looking for more information to support your child's literacy or numeracy development? Please contact Jantiena Batt through the Front Office or by email jantiena.batt@ed.act.edu.au

AROUND THE GROUNDS

Teacher Transfer

Each year, Public Schools across the ACT have teachers moving between schools; this is called teacher transfer. We are often asked by parents and carers why staff have moved on and why there has been a change in the staffing composition at school.

Our actions are guided by the *ACT Public Service Education and Training Directorate (Teaching Staff) Enterprise Agreement 2011-2014*. Section S Workforce Planning and Section S3 Teacher Transfer guides our actions.

Principals are responsible, in consultation with their school network leader, for developing the preferred workforce profile for the school. In developing the workforce profile, principals take into account:

- (a) the objectives of the school's strategic plan;
- (b) opportunities to recruit staff to the ACT public education system;
- (c) opportunities to support teachers' career development; and
- (d) opportunities to support teacher transfer across the system.

All placements of teachers are for a maximum of five years.

The principal will review a teacher's placement end date through the annual professional discussion early in the year prior to its effect. This review will determine whether the teacher:

- (a) will continue their placement at the school for another period of up to five years, or
- (b) must apply for transfer, to take effect from 27 January in the following year.

Teacher transfer links closely with quality teaching, professional learning, career planning, performance management and leadership development in helping to develop a capable and sustainable teaching workforce. By transferring to new settings throughout their careers, classroom teachers, school leaders and principals gain a broad experience and contribute to renewal of school communities through incorporation of new perspectives.

The same process applies to school leader positions also, including executive teachers, deputy principals and principals.

By transferring to new settings throughout their careers, classroom teachers, school leaders and principals gain a broad experience and contribute to renewal of school communities through incorporation of new perspectives. All teachers and school leaders may apply for transfer at any stage in their career.

For more information:

http://www.det.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/307596/120503_TSEA_document.pdf

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NOTES SENT HOME

- 2015 Book Packs** due 12 December
- 2015 5/6 Camp Cooba**- notes and deposit required asap
- Kindy 2015 Transition visits information
- P&C Twilight Fair information and rosters for volunteers
- P&C Mango fundraiser
- P&C Twilight Fair Kids Art and Craft Competition



**WHITE ELEPHANT DONATIONS
FOR THE TWILIGHT FAIR
ARE NO LONGER BEING ACCEPTED.**

Thank you.

PRESCHOOL (RUBIES & SAPPHIRES)

The chickens have arrived!! Our preschoolers are so excited to be watching the eggs hatch and seeing the baby chicks develop. The Hatching Chicks program is an enjoyable experience which broadens the children's understanding of growth and change. Over a two week period the children will be able to see the chicks hatch and change, allowing them ample time to engage in and contribute to this shared play experience.



With the end of the year fast approaching we have been busy learning new songs and dances for our end of year concert. We can't wait to share these with you!

Have a great week ☺

Elsa, Sally, Kelly, Ni and Gaby.

OPALS (K)

This term is flying by! Here we are in week 3 already. We are becoming busier and busier in the Opals unit with our inquiry unit on "Celebrations" kicking off. We are reflecting on traditions for the next few weeks with the student's creating an artwork about their own birthday celebrations.

In our number groups we have begun exploring the concept of sharing numbers between groups. In our measurement session we have been reviewing our understandings of using informal units to measure length and we have just finished patterning.

PIPS is now completed with all children participating in the assessment. You will receive the results from this assessment by the end of the year. If your child participated in the beginning of the year assessment you'll be able to see the comparison.

Don't forget your hats and water bottles as the weather heats up!

Symone, Sarah and Keilly.

EMERALD CITY (1/2)

Emerald City has been a construction site over the last week while students constructed bookshelves based on the design they drew. The floors were covered in newspaper, recycled printer paper and masking tape as these were the only materials that students were allowed to use. Students finished the project at all different stages, allowing students who didn't complete their bookshelf or who had to stray from the original design to reflect on the Design, Make and Appraise (DMA) process.

Be prepared for students to come home in the coming weeks singing and dancing as they start to prepare for their end of year concert performance. It is an exciting and creative time for the unit.



Thankyou to the parents who are volunteering their time at the Twilight Fair on Friday 7 November – we look forward to seeing you there. A letter has gone home to all volunteers outlining the details of their involvement on the day.

Lucy, Amanda, Naomi, Leeanne and Heather.

DIAMONDS (3/4)

Thank you to all the parents, careers and friends who came to our assembly item last week. We have some fabulous dancers in our unit! We also had some excellent animal costumes in the 3/4 unit last Friday. Thank you to everyone who supported the RSPCA, it is a great cause to support.

Thank you to Miss Wise, Lauren Newman and Jackie Sampson for taking some of the 3/4 girls to the Milo T20 cricket day last week. The girls had a great time and won the Best Team Spirit award. Well done girls!!

This term the 3/4 unit has had some special visitors. Ben's chickens came for the morning, Lily's baby chickens came for a visit, Maia's guinea pig had a look around the unit and Oscar's white German Shepard popped in to say hello.

If your child is in year 4, you would have received a note about the year 5/6 camp for next year. Please return the permission note as soon as possible, as we need to know numbers for the camp.

A quick reminder, please make sure your child has a **labelled** hat and drink bottle.

Kylie and Camille.

CHESS NEWS

We welcome 3 new members to Chess Club this term. It's great to see everyone enjoying their chess tournament games each week. This term Cameron has taught the group about the game of chess in Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone and also some moves from a game which was played in the 1700s.

Students received a note about a Chess tournament being held this Sunday at Belconnen Mall. If you would like your child to enter this tournament, you will need to follow the instructions on the sheet to register and pay online. Entries close tomorrow on Friday 31 October. We only have six chess lesson left this year (there will be no lesson in week 10). It is great to see how much progress the students have made with their skills and strategies.

Keilly Pownall, Chess Coordinator.

GARNETS (LSU)

Term 4 is well on its way and we have been loving spending much of our time outside in the warmer weather and of course in the LSU kitchen.

Our expanding veggie and herb garden now has tomatoes, strawberries, zucchini's, basil, mint, chives and of course our sunflowers that we planted from seed - all growing at a rapid rate. The children are enjoying keeping them watered and watching them grow.

The LSU kitchen so far has seen dark chocolate ice-cream in the ice-cream maker and spaghetti bolognese. As you can see from the pictures they were greatly enjoyed!

This term our writing tasks have adopted individual "I can" goals for each student. Be sure to ask your child at home what their goals are for their writing! If they achieve these goals they are allowed to choose a prize from the lucky dip box!

Have a great weekend!
Lee and Jacque.

MOONSTONES (LSUA)

As part of our morning routine, the Moonstones are stepped through a visual timetable, checked in with a photo and then their photo is moved according to which part of the school they are in during the day. This is an important process to orientate our students for the day and to show any changes in advance. This is a supportive way to alleviate anxiety and to prepare students for transitions between classes and playgrounds.

This week we have been busily learning about the water cycle and floods. The moonstones have undertaken a number of experiments to demonstrate evaporation, condensation and precipitation. We have enjoyed working on our individual literacy programs - some of us are learning about phonemic awareness, and others are involved in reading comprehension and writing activities.

We are studying artists at the moment. So far we have looked at Mondrian, Monet and Van Gogh and created beautiful interpretations of their famous artwork. These works can be viewed in the foyer of our building.
Virginia & Nicola.

THE THUNDER EGGS (4/5 and 5/6)

Term 4 is shaping up to be a massive term in 4/5/6. Concert preparation is well underway with all three classes getting their groove on to produce what will certainly be a memorable event.

On Tuesday, year 4 students undertook TIMSS testing as part of an international study on maths and science teaching and learning.

As part of the reporting process, students will be taking home their portfolios with their work at the end of the year. For this to occur we require all portfolios to be returned to school asap.

We still require more teddies for our Teddy Tombola which is a major part of the Twilight Fair on Friday 7 November .



There have been a number of important notes sent home so far this term and some must be returned ASAP. Students from grades four and five need to ensure that camp notes are returned as camp in 2015 will be in week two of term one!

Please keep an eye on your child's bag for other notes as they are handed out as the term progresses.

Shane, Jane, Keilly, Elissa, Sarah and Justine.

TIMSS STUDY – YEAR 4

The year 4's in Year 4/5DP have been selected to take part in the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS). TIMSS is an important educational research project investigating student achievement in mathematics and science. More than 60 countries, including Australia, are participating in this study. TIMSS is an important activity to keep us, as parents and citizens, informed about how our students in Australia are performing in comparison to their peers in other countries and to compare programs of study and teaching practices. We will be able to obtain current national and international information which will help improve the teaching and learning of mathematics and science in our country.

Selected students will do an assessment in mathematics and science and complete a questionnaire about their experiences at home and school. There is no need for students to study specifically for the assessment as it will not affect individual students' grades or progress in school.

Parents or guardians of selected students will also be requested to complete a questionnaire about early learning experiences and their own attitudes towards mathematics and science. All data will be kept strictly confidential and no individual student or school will be identified in published data or reports.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK – Term 3 Week 9

We use the 'stars' on children's faces when we do not have consent to publish photos in the newsletter. If you wish to update or amend this consent for 2014, please contact the front office.

COMMUNITY NEWS



Melbourne Cup Day at the U&CO Café.

Watch the race on the big screen on Tuesday 4 November at our Melbourne Cup Luncheon for \$20pp. Lunch includes roast chicken and salads plus coffee. BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL on 6241 1100.

SCIENCE NEWS

Students are keen to start a new term of science after the excitement of the science fairs and the science week activities held at school last term. Science classes this term will be based on the following Primary Connections Science Units.

Kindy – Weather in my world

Years 1 and 2 – All mixed up

Years 3 and 4 – Beneath our Feet

Years 4, 5 and 6 – Simple machines

Preschool and LSU students will be exploring the properties of different materials.

There have been some exciting changes outside the science centre with five raised garden beds being built. These have already got a variety of herbs planted in them and students are keen to plant more. Around the corner a small pond has been put in to encourage frogs in the area. The surrounding garden has been planted with mainly native grasses and screening shrubs to establish a suitable environment. Many thanks to Greening Australia who gave the school many of these plants. Students have already seen water beetles and tadpoles in the pond. It will be very exciting over the next months watching these areas grow.



Leslie Carr.

TWILIGHT FAIR

Our annual P&C Twilight Fair is on Friday 7 November 4.00 pm - 8.00 pm.

Raffle tickets are due the morning of the Twilight Fair and more tickets are available at the front office.

See you at the fair...



POSSUM PANTRY CANTEN



The canteen will be **closed for B2** next Friday 7 November to allow us to get ready for the Twilight Fair. There will be lunch orders and counter sales available as usual for B1.

POSSUM PANTRY - CANTEN ROSTER

Week 4 Term 4	Wednesday 5 November	Thursday 6 November	Friday 7 November
9.15am-12.00noon	Laura		Terri
			Micheal
12.00noon-3.00pm	Laura		Terri
Week 5 Term 4	Wednesday 12 November	Thursday 13 November	Friday 14 November
9.15am-12.00noon	Laura		Wendy (9.15-11.30am)
12.00noon-3.00pm	Laura		Sam (1-3pm)

We currently need help on Thursdays and Fridays. If you are available to volunteer in the canteen on any of the shifts not yet covered, or if you would like to be included on the canteen roster please see Bec or Rouvaye in the canteen or call them on 62415974. Any help would be greatly appreciated either for a whole shift or any time you can spare. Volunteers who help out for a shift will be issued with a voucher for 1 Meal Deal. We look forward to seeing you in the canteen. Thank you.

ST. SIMONS CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday 6 December, 10.00 am- 3.00 pm at St Simon's Anglican church, Georgina Crescent, Kaleen. Any budding music group or individual musicians, who might like to perform for a half hour slot as entertainment on the day, please contact Christine O'Callaghan on 0401 169 800 or tandcocal@gmail.com