

Holiday Edition...

POSSUM PRESS



NEWS FROM JEN

As our school year comes to an end, it's important to take a few moments to reflect on the year that was 2016. Our students have made wonderful achievements in science, winning many awards in the SEA ACT Science Fair and winning many competitions organised by UC Lake Ginninderra College. All of our students participated in and won major awards in the Chief Minister's Reading Challenge, and our students were recognised for their sporting talents at Belconnen, ACT and National sporting events. Three children participated in the French speaking poetry competition, with two performing in the top three across the ACT. Our school was accredited with five star ACTSmart Sustainability practices and our community won the Carbon Challenge for most emissions saved. This year we installed a new playground to the value of \$70,000 and our P&C provided supported the installation of a new sandpit by providing \$9,000 in funding. We also launched the Google Apps for Education Model (GAFE) in years three to six and purchased over \$30,000 worth of new ICT.

2017 promises to be an equally fabulous year with plans to extend the GAFE program into year one and two and we look forward to expanding our classroom spaces in to the front building which will be renovated in the next six months. Big things are happening at Maribyrnong and we look forward to continuing to work with you to achieve great things for our students and school community.

End of the Year

As the end of the year approaches teachers will be maintaining regular class programs as much as possible. Our literacy and numeracy groups have just finished for the year at the end of last week. There are however some special end of year events and jobs such as library stock take, concert practice and classroom clean-ups that will require additional flexibility and patience. We seem to, at this time of year, have an increase of tiredness around the school. We ask that wherever possible students maintain regular school night bedtimes and routines and be considerate of one another. If there are any concerns please don't hesitate to contact class teachers or one of the school executive.

THURSDAY 8 DECEMBER: Term 4 Week 9



ACT
Government
Education

CONTACTS

Maribyrnong School

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www.maribyrnongps.act.edu.au

FACEBOOK: Maribyrnong Primary School-Kaleen



Board Chair Lauren Newman
laurennewman_13@yahoo.com.au

P&C President Sharon Houston
maribyrnongpandc@gmail.com

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

Communities@Work ph: 0405 124 312
Breakfast Club and After School Care

Westpac School Bank Account
BSB 032 777 Account 001615

** WEEK 10 EVENTS IN TERM 4 **

MONDAY 12 DECEMBER	TUESDAY 13 DECEMBER	WEDNESDAY 14 DECEMBER	THURSDAY 15 DECEMBER	FRIDAY 16 DECEMBER
 School Concert K-6 12.00 pm and repeat performance at 6.00 pm	 Year 5/6 Day Out: Fun day at Hoyts and Lazer Tag.	 Year 6 Dinner 5.30 pm (photos at 5.00 pm) Years 3 to 5 are welcome to attend the disco at 7.00 pm Concludes at 8.30 pm.	 Regular school day ☺ Last canteen day 2016.	 Year 6 Graduation Assembly at 9.15 am. School ends at 3.00 pm.

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Community Concern

It was raised at a recent P&C meeting that a community member witnessed a young child left in a car unattended, with all windows closed. The ACT Government publishes a resource called ParentLink. This resource is aimed at providing parenting information to the ACT community and surrounding region. The advice they provide states that leaving your child in a car unsupervised at any time is extremely dangerous and not recommended. The reasons for this stance include:

- In summer the temperature in a car is much hotter than outside and your child can quickly suffer heat exhaustion and become seriously ill.
- Children get bored and can explore the car's knobs and buttons which can lead to dangers.
- Children can become distressed or may try to struggle free from their seatbelts and become injured.
- They may be in danger of someone trying to steal the car with them in it, or they may be taken from the car by someone.

For more information:

<http://www.parentlink.act.gov.au/parenting-resources/parenting-guides/adult-issues/home-alone>

Semester Two Reports

End of year reports have been sent home this week. These reports highlight the achievement and developments made by your child and also provide information on areas that will be focused on in future teaching.

The semester two report includes an A to E report that outlines the grades your child has obtained for each subject area. Kindergarten students do not receive an A to E report in line with our Directorate guidelines. It is important to remember that teachers will award a 'C' grade to students who are achieving **at the expected level for their year group**. This is a positive and competent achievement for students.

The school based report outlines student achievement in each subject area in more detail, has a learning habits checklist, a targeted intervention list and a general teacher comment. If you wish to discuss the report or any aspect of your child's learning please contact your child's teacher.

Board Position

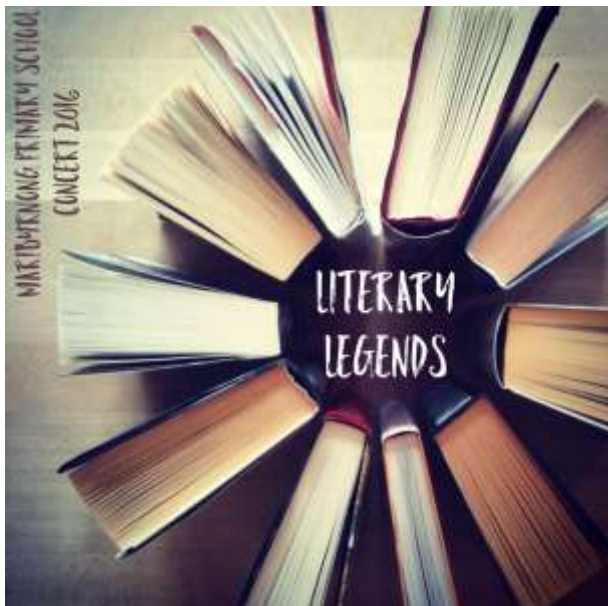
There will be one parent vacancy for the School Board for a two year period, commencing April 2016. This is due to the parent representatives having fulfilled two years in office. We need to declare the positions vacant so that an election can be held if required; in 2016. The Returning Officer will be Leanne Rankine, our Business Manager. Membership of the School Board is a wonderful opportunity for parents to participate in the ongoing management of the school and to contribute to the determination of the school's future directions. These positions are part of a seven-member group of three parents, two teachers, a nominee of the Directorate and the Principal. The current Board meets on a Thursday evening twice a term, just before the P&C meeting, in weeks 3 and 8. If you are interested in a position on the School Board and would like more information about the roles and responsibilities of School Board members, please feel free to contact me or you can talk with one of the current parent representatives – Lauren Newman, Liz Swann and Noel Florian. More information is also on the back page of this edition.

Concert

We hope all families can attend either the matinee or the night performance of our concert, with performances at 12.00 pm and 6.00 pm. We ask that children arrive at school at 5.30 pm so that preparation can be made for the performance to commence at 6.00 pm. Be prepared to be amazed! Maribyrnong is well known for the outstanding concerts we write and perform; being our major culminating end of year celebration. I know you will be blown away by the talent of our students and teachers again this year!

Once more the costumes promise to be simply amazing thanks to the talents of Leeanne and Justine. Thank you also to Jackie Sampson, Rebecca Kirpson-Colley and Michelle Markezic. A big thank you to Anna Thorpe who so capably led our concert team to write an amazing script and entertaining finale song; each year continues to bring something unique. My thanks also to Sarah Dorrrough for her work with our lead actors; her strength to nurture the best in each child is admirable. Finally, my thanks to our staff for the amazing routines and unwavering dedication to produce such high quality and imaginative dances.

Please remember that with most families attending, parking will be at a premium. It is essential that we work together to ensure the safety of our families and also our local community neighbours. If parking in neighbouring streets, please be mindful and respectful of the law. The bike racks remain open for families choosing to cycle to the event.



Thank You!

Thank you

As the year comes to a close, I would like to thank all of the educators at Maribyrnong for their ongoing commitment to quality public education. It has been such a privilege to work with our entire staff that thrive on providing the best possible opportunities for each and every child. I would also like to thank Jantiena Batt and Anna Thorpe for all of their support this year. I would like to make special mention of the contribution Anna Thorpe has made as Deputy Principal this term, her contributions and support have been outstanding.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish Elsa Hendry, one of our fabulous preschool educators, all the best with the impending arrival of her little one. I look forward to hearing of her arrival and look forward to sharing the news with our community.

I would also like to thank Amanda Peake for her commitment to early childhood education. Amanda started at Maribyrnong three years ago now after completing her internship at the school. Amanda will be working in a casual capacity at the school next year prior to her family being posted. I sincerely thank Amanda for her contribution to our community and wish her well with the move to Queensland.

Across the year, the energy and enthusiasm from our staff to develop a strong, collaborative vision for our wonderful school has been greatly appreciated. I look forward to building on our successes next year.

I would also like to thank Kerry Shillabeer for her contribution as co-canteen manager over the past two years. Kerry has made substantial contributions to our canteen menu and work towards strengthening our healthy menu. I wish Kerry all the best with her future endeavours and thank her sincerely for her contribution to our community.

Have a safe and happy break.

For the last time in 2016, thank you for your ongoing support.
Jen.

2016



NEWS FROM JACKIE (DSTA)

Holiday time is nearly here! This can be a time filled with great excitement as well as a time of change. For us here at school there is a mix of joy that the summer break is just around the corner with sadness because it means that we will be saying goodbye to some of our students who are moving on to the next great adventure of High School or a moving to a new school for the start of 2017. Along with this also comes movement for some of our defence families due to postings.

For all our families who are starting the process of packing and relocating we want to wish you all the very best as you begin this next chapter. We hope that you take a little bit of the Maribyrnong spirit with you where ever you go and always remember that you were a valued member of our school community.

For those families who are looking to start with us next year we would like to extend a very warm Maribyrnong welcome. We are looking forward to getting to know you and sharing with you all the wonderful things that our school has to offer.

The DSTA program is going from strength to strength with lots of defence families accessing support in many different ways. If you are a new or continuing defence family we are here to help and would love to hear from you. If you are travelling on from us we would love to hear from you and all your new experiences.



Wishing you all a safe and happy holiday and all the very best for 2017.

Jackie Sampson – Defence School Transition Aide.



KEEP CONNECTED @ MARIBYRNONG

Keep connected to news with:

- Download the **Skoolbag-Maribyrnong Primary App** to keep up to date with news, alerts, complete absence or excursion notes.



- Like us on **FACEBOOK** for updates: Maribyrnong Primary School-Kaleen



- The Maribyrnong website and full calendar: http://www.maribyrnongps.act.edu.au/our_community/calendar

2017

MONDAY 30 JANUARY:

DAY 1 FOR KINDY at 9.00 am & PRESCHOOL (Mon-Wed groups) starting at 8.45 am

TUESDAY 31 JANUARY:

DAY 1 FOR YEAR 1 TO 6 starting at 9.00 am

WEDNESDAY 1 FEBRUARY:

DAY 1 FOR PRESCHOOL (Wed-Fri groups) starting at 12.00 pm

WEDNESDAY 1 FEBRUARY AT 5.00 pm

Whole school welcome BBQ!



Lights on Learning!

Focusing on LSU

Well here we are right at the end of the year, and what a year it has been! We are busily practising our concert as for the first time ever we are doing our very own LSU / LSUA performance. We are looking forward to everyone coming to watch us next Monday.

We have had some very exciting moments this term. Catherine and Charlotte were kind enough to bring in their new baby chicks they keep at home. It was lovely to see them and hear about their home as we often use eggs they bring in from their bigger chickens in our cooking lessons.



One very hot day we decided to set up our water play in the courtyard which we shared with the LSUA children. We all loved discovering the different ways they could make the water move with our tools and cooling ourselves down at the same time



Jason was lucky enough to go and see the Australian Royal Air Force planes in their hanger at the airport. He even got to experience the cockpit and sit in the Prime Ministers chair on the aeroplane!



Catherine won our artist of the month award for this amazing sculpture of a dog she made independently. Congratulations on a wonderful effort Catherine.



Have a wonderful holiday break and a great new year,
Lee, Jacque and Michelle.

Lights on Learning!

Focusing on the linspire leadership team



This year we had students from years three to six join Team linspire. linspire is a leadership program for children to help them be better leaders. Team linspire met once a week to discuss ways to improve our school and the types of qualities that it takes to be a good leader. We learned that anyone can be a leader and make a difference.

This was a great opportunity to meet and work with students from other schools and share ideas about what we thought leadership was and how we could make a difference by being leaders in our schools.

During the year we attended two conferences at the Royal Theatre and the National Convention Centre. We listened to amazing guest speakers' talk about how sometimes their small ideas and desire to make a difference blossomed into something that has changed the lives of many.

We then came back to school inspired to see how we could make a difference.

At school we noticed how lots of students were leaving rubbish on the ground. It looked like we did not care about our school or environment. Team linspire decided to encourage students to want to clean up by having Litter Monitors on the playground who noticed people keeping the playground clean and tidy. Those people got a ticket to go in to a draw each assembly to win a voucher to be used at the canteen. This has been very popular and encouraged kids to make a difference to a space that we all enjoy using.

Team linspire also organised a sports day. We put in lots of planning and had everything ready to go. Unfortunately the weather was terrible so we had to do some last minute rearranging to instead have fun linspire rotations including Movie and a Smoothie, craft, games and group activities. Everyone had a really good time.

Our last linspire activity for the year was a Sports Day at the Governor General's! It was the best day ever. We participated in three rotations of sport activities like skipping, AFL, combat course, hockey and fitness. Life Education was there with Healthy Harrold the giraffe, we met his excellency the Governor General and his wife and then Santa arrived late in the afternoon in a Navy helicopter! We were so lucky to attend such a fantastic day. It was a brilliant finish to a very inspiring year.



Team linspire.

FRONT OFFICE NEWS



Please collect any student medication, including asthma puffers and epi pens, from the front office before the school holidays. If you would like it sent home with your child on their last day, please put this in writing to authorise us to do so.

Remember to update your medical action plans in week one in 2017 at the front office ☺

Voluntary Contribution and Book Packs at Maribyrnong

Number of Children at the school	Voluntary Contribution for 2016/2017		
	Consumables	Library Fund (Tax Deductible)	Total
1	\$67.00	\$83.00	\$150.00
2	\$83.00	\$117.00	\$200.00
3	\$100.00	\$150.00	\$250.00
4	\$117.00	\$183.00	\$300.00

Book Packs for 2017 are \$50.00 per child (the school matches your contribution dollar for dollar) from preschool to year 6 and can be paid by cash, Eftpos, internet banking (BSB 032 777 Account 001615) and Quickweb <http://www.maribyrnongps.act.edu.au/payment>

Not sure if you paid for 2016? We are happy to check ☺

Have a great holiday and see you in 2017! Leanne and Ros.

P&C NEWS

Uniform Shop

Now is the time to stock up on uniforms for next year. The last day uniform shop is open this year is **Monday 12 December from 8.45 am to 9.15 am.**

We also welcome any **logoed** second-hand uniforms, they can be dropped off at the canteen Wednesday-Friday.

If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact the Uniform shop coordinator Clare Whittingham on madden_clare@hotmail.com or 0408 252736.

Uniform shop opening hours 2017

Friday 27 Jan 8.45 am-12.00 pm

Monday 30 Jan 8.45 am-10.00 am

Tuesday 31 Jan 8.30 am-9.30 am

Then every Monday morning 8.45 am-9.15 am

Cheers
Clare.



The Possum Café

is closed on

Friday 16 Decemeber

for cleaning.

If you can 'give an hour' of your time for cleaning between 9.00 am - 12.00 pm please contact Rouvaye in the Canteen.





This week we are looking for the mechanically minded amongst you as a way to "Give an Hour".

Maribyrnong runs a superb bike education program for the senior students. This means that we have an entire class set of bikes that need to be kept well-oiled and maintained to ensure student safety at all times. If you like to tinker with bike chains and wheels this may be the job for you.

As with all offers of assistance at school you will need to sign in at the front office as a volunteer. It is also important to have your Working With Vulnerable People (WWVP) card available if possible. Don't have a WWVP card? Easy! Just drop into the front office to learn how to go about registering.

Summer is a great time to be out and about on bikes. Give an hour to encourage our students to be fit, active and healthy!

2017 SCHOOL BOARD NOMINATIONS

If you're keen to contribute to the governance of Maribyrnong Primary School, you should consider nominating for a position on the school board in 2017. No prior experience is necessary.

The following positions will be vacant from the 1/4/2017.

- 1 staff member position
- 1 parent and citizen member positions

Nominations will open at 11:00 am on Monday 30 January 2017. Nomination forms will be available from that date at the front office (9.00 am to 3.00 pm, Monday to Friday), or you can request one be emailed or faxed to you.

Nominations must be submitted to the front office between **11.00 am, Monday 30 January 2017** and **11.00 am, Monday 13 February 2017**.

You can submit your nomination by:

- hand delivery to the front office
- email leanne.rankine@ed.act.edu.au
- fax to 62055932
- mail to ARO, c/- Maribyrnong Primary School

For more information, contact the Assistant Returning Officer, Leanne Rankine on 62055933 or via email address above.



Outstanding library books are now overdue.
Notices have been sent home this week.
Please return your books as soon as possible.



The Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY) has been engaged by the Education Directorate to develop parent engagement resources for teachers, parents and carers of students with complex needs and challenging behaviour.

ARACY is inviting parents and carers of ACT primary and secondary students to participate in small group discussions focusing on how families and schools work together to support the learning of students who experience particular learning challenges. Participants will be asked questions to explore their experiences of what works well and what doesn't work well, and perspectives about the quality of the connection between home and school.

The discussion groups will take 60 - 90 minutes. Interviews will also be available for individual participants, where preferred. These will last approximately 60 minutes.

Participants will receive a \$50 Coles-Myer gift voucher as reimbursement for time and input into the research.

Interested parents and carers can contact Barbara at ARACY via phone 6248 2400 or email barbara.barker@aracy.org.au.



Do you assist family members, friends or others who are frail aged, living with disability, long-term physical or mental health conditions, or drug and alcohol issues?

Carers ACT provides information and support to carers of all ages and backgrounds, including support and assistance for young carers to complete their education.

Would you like to...

- Know what supports and help you can get?
 - Take a break or go shopping?
 - Get some help around the house?
 - Talk to someone?
 - Meet others who understand you?
 - Learn new skills?

If the answer is yes, contact Carers ACT today.

1800 052 222 | 1800 242 636 | carers@carersact.org.au

Carers ACT is supported by funding from the ACT and Australian Governments.