



# POSSUM PRESS

## NEWS FROM JEN

Week three is well underway! Over the past fortnight, classes have been focusing on developing student understanding of our school values. The first three weeks of the school year focus on the direct instruction of each of the school values. Educators and students are asked to consider what each value would look like in action; in the class, school and wider world. To facilitate discussion these have been framed against key questions. Classroom lessons during this time focus on enacting each of these values whilst self-questioning students own actions in different contexts. In this way our values program is seen to be supportive and preventative. Classes also work together to develop a class Code of Conduct using these values as a basis. Focusing on establishing these understandings early in the year ensures that classes develop a shared, common language of social and emotional learning. It has been wonderful to hear from students on how they can demonstrate excellence, respect, resilience, inclusion and responsibility in their learning, actions and mindset.

### Get to know you interviews

Thank you to the parents who attended the get to know you interviews last week and for returning the learner profile. This information is incredibly useful for our educators in order to ensure they can offer the best support for each child in their class. Term overviews will be sent home soon to share with families the academic areas of focus this term. The overview provides a snapshot of student learning for this term and allows you to see the range of learning experiences the children will engage in. It is a great conversation starter with your child and can help when you ask "What did you do at school today?" and get the answer "nothing" or "the usual." Prompt them to tell you more while referring to the term overview as your cheat sheet!

### What is my child learning at school?

This question is often asked by parents and carers and the answer isn't straightforward given the way the National Curriculum works. Through the inquiry units each term, children will pose questions related to more specific learning concepts in a topical way (i.e. the weather, solar system etc). At Maribyrnong Primary we organise our curriculum to support an inquiry approach. Each inquiry unit at Maribyrnong Primary School develops student capacities to:

- manage themselves as people and as learners in a changing world
- understand the history, the now and the possible future of the world in which they live
- be confident, critical and creative thinkers who seek solutions to problems and answer questions
- develop holistically with opportunities to connect through their expressive, creative and communicating self in both a local and global way.

To enable students to achieve these broad purposes, the following overarching organisers are used:

- Me and Myself
- Me in My Community
- Me in my Global Community
- Me in Place and Time



Continued ...



THURSDAY 21 FEBRUARY : T1 W3



**ACT**  
Government  
Education

## CONTACTS

### Maribyrnong School

Ph: 6142 0570

[www.maribyrnongps.act.edu.au](http://www.maribyrnongps.act.edu.au)

**FACEBOOK:** Maribyrnong  
Primary School-Kaleen



### Board Chair

Megan White

### P&C President

Ros Riddle

[maribyrnongpandc@gmail.com](mailto:maribyrnongpandc@gmail.com)

### Possum Pantry Canteen

Wednesday to Friday Ph: 6241 5974

<http://www.flexischools.com.au>

### Communities@Work

ph:0405 124 312

Before and After School Care

### Westpac School Bank Account

BSB 032 777 Account 001615

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### FEBRUARY

- 20-22 5/6 camp Cooba
- 22 **Assembly year K-2 @2.00 pm**
- 25 Swimming Carnival
- 26 Preschool 5c Donation Day
- 28 Clean Up Australia Day!  
6.00pm School Board  
P&C 6.30 pm meet in the Library  
for a 7.00 pm start

### MARCH

- 1 **Whole School Assembly @2.00pm**  
5c Friday Whole School Donation  
Day

More dates are under EVENTS on the Skoolbag App or for the full calendar, please visit:

<http://www.maribyrnongps.act.edu.au/our-community/calendar>

The scope and sequence of inquiry units for kindergarten to year 6 are mapped using all learning areas from the Australian Curriculum. The inquiry units use foundational abstract concepts to ensure that the units of work are responsive to student needs and interests while applying knowledge, skills and understandings to a range of learning areas. Our key focus is to provide opportunities for children to think, to challenge their problem-solving processes, to inquire about the world in which they live. These critical thinking skills are crucial if we are to prepare them for a future that will look quite differently from the current reality.

So what is your child learning about? Perhaps the abstract concept in their inquiry unit is *perspectives* so they are posing questions about how groups are represented in the media. Or perhaps the abstract concept is *wisdom* so the inquiry unit may be focused on the knowledge and skills students need to be informed, active citizens in a world where their voice and agency is embraced. Inquiry units challenge students to think at higher levels. At the heart of the inquiry process is the task of helping deepen students' understandings by guiding their thinking about lower level 'facts' through to concepts and, ultimately, to higher level, transferable generalisations. While this scaffolding process has been accepted for many years, we are aware of the need for teachers to articulate it explicitly to students. This conscious spotlighting of thinking provides a very exciting and challenging layer to the work teachers and students do in an inquiry. This is where our focus on making the learning visible is apparent and so empowering.

### **PIPs (Performance Indicators in Primary Schools) Assessment**

The kindergarten teachers have started the PIPs testing for 2019. Over the next three weeks you will see that we have relief staff teaching in kindergarten to enable our teachers to complete this assessment with every child. Throughout this time, our relief teachers are in regular contact with class teachers to ensure that teaching programs are maintained and learning outcomes consistent across this time. What is PIPS? It is a computer based assessment program that assesses the early literacy and numeracy skills of students in Kindergarten. Our Kindergarten teachers value this opportunity to work individually for a sustained time with each of their students. All students in ACT Government Schools undertake this assessment.

PIPS assists with:

- determining what kindergarten students know when they enter primary school
- assessing the progress of students in literacy, numeracy and phonological awareness (sounds in language)
- diagnosing individual student work and providing information to indicate what students are achieving or understanding
- predicting future performance
- identifying students who might benefit from early targeted intervention or enrichment.

This assessment is administered in the first month at school. The second assessment is administered early in term four and shows how your child has progressed relative to their starting point in the first assessment. We use the information gleaned from PIPS together with our school based assessments to ensure all students succeed at Maribyrnong Primary.

### **Bikes at School**

It is wonderful to see so many students riding to school this year and utilising the bike racks. In the coming weeks we will be installing additional bike racks at the back of the year 3 classrooms, similar to those at the back of the year 4 classrooms. This will provide greater access to bike racks from the Shannon Cct entrance to the school. We would like to remind everyone to dismount from bikes and scooters at the school fence line and walk them across the playground. Students should use the bike rack nearest to the gate they enter. We are also asking that bikes be locked into the racks and not around trees. We have had a few trees damaged and want them to heal as they provide much wanted shade around the school.



### **Aquasafe**

The year 2 Aquasafe program is scheduled for week 7, 18 to 22 March. Aquasafe is a unique water safety and awareness program designed specifically for year 2 students in the ACT. The concept of the program was developed as a joint initiative between Royal Life Saving ACT and the ACT Education Directorate. Participation for the program is partially funded by the ACT Government. This funding increases accessibility and affordability of the program for all students. Aquasafe is different from traditional learn to swim programs in that it focusses specifically on water safety skills and knowledge that can be applied to a range of aquatic environments. Aquasafe complements existing learn to swim programs and supports children to develop the knowledge, skills and understanding to avoid danger and prevent death in and around water. All students in year 2 must participate in the program. An online registration code will be emailed home to year 2 families in the coming weeks. If you have any questions about the program please just get in touch.

### **Leave**

I will be on leave from Friday 22 February to Friday 8 March to support my daughter through surgery. Linda Francis, deputy principal from Fraser Primary will work in the principal role during my absence. If you need any support, please just touch base with Linda or another member of the executive team (Anna, Keilly and Niomi).

Thank you for your ongoing support!  
Jen.

Over the last three weeks I have been out and about across the school meeting new people and catching up with defence families to see how they have settled back in to the new school year. A large part of our discussions have focussed on friends, having friends, meeting friends, being a friend and keeping friends.

Children's wellbeing is supported when they develop a positive sense of self and the social skills to help them relate well with others. During the early years children are developing:

- confidence about what they can do
- positive feelings about themselves
- trust that other children will be friendly
- optimism and enthusiasm
- their capacity to understand and respond to other children's feelings (empathy)
- their knowledge about the social rules of their own society and culture in how to relate to other people
- their skills in joining in and playing in groups with others.

Parents and carers can help children develop their friendship and empathy skills by:

- Modelling good communication skills such as listening, responding and showing interest in what a child has to say
- Talking about everyday friendship experiences with a child. What went well? What did not go so well? How did your child feel about it? How do they think the other child might be feeling? Providing children with opportunities to practise their skills, such as arranging playdates for children and exposing them to lots of different social situations.
- Stay close enough to support children in their interactions but try to also give them space to work out their own problems and offer help when this is not working. In this way children will develop confidence in their skills within a supportive environment.
- Giving children encouragement and acknowledging their behaviour when you see them using friendship skills such as sharing, being responsible and caring about others.

This information was taken from the Kids Matter website. You can find plenty of other useful information about developing positive relationships on the following link. <https://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/mental-health-matters>

A reminder that "Possum Partners" happens each Friday starting at 9.15am. Meet at the Lilly Pilly Room near the front office.

"First Friday Coffee Club" is on the first Friday of each month at U & Co Café starting at 9.15am. Next Coffee Club will be on Friday 1 March. All welcome!

Jackie Sampson – Defence School Mentor.

## GET CONNECTED @ MARIBYRNONG

**Possum Play starts tomorrow Friday 22 February.**



### **Possum Partners**

Come along and join us each Friday starting at 9.15 am at the Lilly Pilly Room (near the front office) for conversation, company and a cuppa.

### **What we do...**

Cover books, make classroom resources, create displays, assist at whole school event days, laminate, make class sets of games/activities/tasks and so much more. Anyone who has time to spare and would like to assist the school, meet people and connect with the Maribyrnong community, this is for you!

**Everyone is welcome.**

If you have any questions please contact Jackie Sampson (Defence School Mentor) at Maribyrnong on [jacqueline.sampson@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:jacqueline.sampson@ed.act.edu.au) or leave a message at the front office.



# Lights on Learning!

## *Focusing on Preschool*

What a start we have had in preschool! We have some very focused, enthusiastic and excited children ready for learning through play! It has been wonderful getting to know the children and learning about their interests over the past two weeks.

### **Investigations**

The preschool children have been engaged learning new routines, forming friendships and exploring our indoor and outdoor learning environments. During investigations, provocations are set up that enhance children's social skills, fine motor, gross motor, oral language, turn taking, resilience and respectful peer relationships.



### **Music and Movement**

Movement causes the brain to produce endorphins, chemicals that increase both the child's energy levels and their ability to learn. Movement also sends oxygen to the brain, which aids in the thought process. Music and movement activities that include cross lateral movement are especially important to brain development. Cross lateral movement includes any movement in which the arms or legs cross the midsection of the body. This can be achieved by dancing with scarves or swaying like a tree, both common in music and movement activities. Cross lateral movement enables both sides of the brain to work together, which is important in strengthening brain connections.

Throughout the early years, children are learning to do new things with their bodies. Young children are also learning that movement can communicate messages and represent actions. There are many skills that music and movement can also help develop including social skills, awareness of body positions, creativity and imagination, exploring cause and effect, developing large motor skills, improving balance, coordination and rhythm, and improving fine motor skills through finger plays and playing musical instruments.

Ask your child to share a song they have been singing at preschool!

### **A few reminders**

- Please label all clothes, drink bottles and containers.
- Children need to bring a piece of fruit for sharing, their lunch and a snack in a separate container.
- Library borrowing from the school library began this week. Please bring a library bag every Tuesday or Thursday. No bag, no borrowing!

Please remember our preschool start and finish times. There is before school care and after school care at the primary school for preschoolers (the spots fill up very fast!) The provider is Communities@Work and for more information <https://commsatwork.org/services/children/out-of-school-hours-care/>



# Lights on Learning!

## Focusing on Kindergarten

The kindergarten children have quickly settled into life at school and have already learnt so much! The students are busy making new friends, learning school routines and enjoying the school playgrounds. The teachers are very proud of the hard work happening in kindergarten and have already begun displaying this learning in our classrooms!

As 2019 is the International Year of Indigenous Languages, all year level groups are named after traditional Ngunnawal language animals. The kindergarten unit is called the Gang-gang Unit. We have begun learning about Gang-gang cockatoos and are currently working on an artwork to be displayed in our classrooms.

On Friday mornings, we enjoy listening to the *Mystery Reader*. Ms Howard read us a book about a possum having a party during our first week at school. She told us that Maribyrnong Primary School celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> birthday this year and that there are lots of fun things planned for later in the year.

Thank you to the families who have already signed up to be a Mystery Reader and share a favourite book to the children this term. If you would like to be a Mystery Reader for term two, please sign up on the Kindy News noticeboard outside the Kindergarten unit.



Kenny Koala visited the Gang-gang Unit this week to talk to us about Staying Ok at School. He will be able to give us strategies to help us to keep safe. We also have the NRMA visiting us later in the term to talk about road safety.

Last week we enjoyed our first Friday Fun afternoon. This is a structured, cooperative play time during which students build their interpersonal and team work skills. It is also a nice way to relax at the end of the week and enjoy some time with our friends!



Since the first day of school, children have been engaged in fine motor activities each morning. This routine enables us to settle into the school day and gets our fingers and brains ready for learning!

We have also begun gross motor rotations in the hall once a week. We work in small groups on activities that improve our motor skills including balancing, running, throwing and jumping.



### Practical Tips:

- Fruit Break is around 10am each day. Students have a short break from their learning to enjoy a quality picture book and are encouraged to eat a fruit or vegetable snack.
- Library is on Tuesday, please bring a library bag.
- Please label all belongings clearly. Students are responsible for their own belongings on the playground and classroom.
- Students need to wear a hat during outdoor activities.
- Please ensure you notify the school in writing if your child is absent. You can email their teacher directly or notify through the SkoolBag App or to the front office.



## STAFF EMAILS

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## FRONT OFFICE NEWS

### 2019 PAYMENTS

Book Packs for 2019 remain at \$50.00 per child from preschool to year six (the school matches your contribution dollar for dollar). Payments can be made by cash, Eftpos, internet banking (BSB 032 777 Account 001615) and via our website using Quickweb <http://www.maribyrnongps.act.edu.au/payment> Fee Code VCBP19

### BOOK PACK AND VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

Number of Children at School	BOOK PACK	School Based Consumables	Library Trust Fund (Tax Deductible)	Total Contribution
1	\$50.00	\$67.00	\$83.00	\$200.00
2	\$100.00	\$83.00	\$117.00	\$300.00
3	\$150.00	\$100.00	\$150.00	\$400.00
4	\$200.00	\$117.00	\$183.00	\$500.00

Leanne, Ros and Emily.

## SCHOOL ABSENCES

All absent days from school must be explained in writing to the school as soon as possible. This can be done in advance where known or when returning after an illness. It can be explained by a paper note, email to the teacher or through the convenient eForm on the Skoolbag App.

## BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE

Ph: 0405 124 312



Please notify Before and After Hours Care if your child is not attending their booking.

## NOTES SENT / EMAILED HOME

- ☒ CEIS- Christian Education in Schools **opt-in form**
- ☒ 5/6 Bike Riding Note

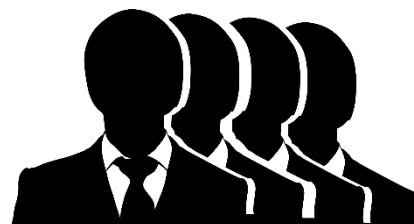


## P&C NEWS



**On Thursday 28 February we will have our first meeting & AGM for the school year in the LIBRARY at 7.00 pm. Come a bit earlier at 6.30 pm if you want to say hello or ask some questions before we start (Mark has promised beverages and cheese).**

**All welcome!**



# MEETING

## Sign up for the Class Carer Program!

The role of the Class Carer is to connect parents/carers with their child's classroom. Each class will have a volunteer parent to act as the Class Carer who will send occasional emails to the class parents/carers with relevant information about things that are happening in their child's classroom.

Please sign up to the program through the sign-up sheets outside your child's classroom, by emailing the Class Carer Coordinator, Hayley Primrose: [Hayleyprimrose@gmail.com](mailto:Hayleyprimrose@gmail.com) or by completing the eForm on the Skoolbag App.

If you would like to volunteer to be the Class Carer for your child's class please email the Coordinator at the email above. This is an easy and meaningful way to be involved in the community life at Maribyrnong.



## POSSUM CAFÉ CANTEEN

If you would like to volunteer in the canteen, you can either let Rouvaye and Andrew know in person, or email [maribyrnongprimarycanteen@gmail.com](mailto:maribyrnongprimarycanteen@gmail.com)

Any time you can give is appreciated. We would love to hear from you!

### SCHOOL BANKING

Meet Megan on Wednesday mornings in the canteen from 8.30 am to 9.00 am.

To explore more about School Banking  
[www.commbank.com.au/schoolbanking](http://www.commbank.com.au/schoolbanking)



School Banking



The Preloved uniform shop is open every **FRIDAY** morning from **8.30 am until 9.15 am.**

Hats can be purchased through the canteen Wednesday to Friday.

**Need new Maribyrnong 'logo' school uniforms?**

**They can be purchased at...**

**WORKIN' GEAR SCHOOLS**

2 Luke Street, Holt ACT 2615  
Open 8.30 am to 5.00 pm Monday-Friday and 9.00 am to 4.00 pm Saturday.

<http://workingearschools.com.au/uniforms/>

To contact the P&C, email [maribyrnongpandc@gmail.com](mailto:maribyrnongpandc@gmail.com) (please note this email is checked weekly).

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Visit our website for enrolment information & timetable. Term 1 starts 19 February at our studio in Mitchell.

E: [info@gungahlinphysie.com.au](mailto:info@gungahlinphysie.com.au)  
W: [www.gungahlinphysie.com.au](http://www.gungahlinphysie.com.au)



## Stay informed with the SkoolBag App



The SkoolBag app is the easiest way to stay up-to-date with school events, last minutes notices, newsletters and all school communications.

**1**

### Download the app

Search for the free SkoolBag app in the Apple App or Google Play Store

**2**

### Create an account

Sign up in seconds with your email address

**3**

### Add your school

Search for your school and add your subscription groups



SkoolBag



Diamantina Scout Hall  
Wednesdays 7-8.15pm

\$20 casual, \$160 ten week term

Contact Debbie: 0459 555 022

[debbieannehodgson@gmail.com](mailto:debbieannehodgson@gmail.com)

Please bring a mat plus a throw while the weather is cold

# Girls' lives transformed

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[WWW.GIRLSBRIGADE.ORG.AU](http://WWW.GIRLSBRIGADE.ORG.AU)

Contact Elizabeth

M: 0457 517 524

Email: [actsc@girlsbrigadeaustralia.org.au](mailto:actsc@girlsbrigadeaustralia.org.au)

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