



POSSUM PRESS

NEWS FROM JANTIENA

What a wonderful start to spring we have had this week. It is great to feel the warmer weather and see our children enjoying their time outdoors. We have also seen many children riding to school in the warmer weather – please remind your child to wear their helmet to and from school. This is a legal requirement as well as a safety issue.

SEA*ACT Science Fair

As I write this newsletter the public showing of the SEA*ACT Science Fair is about to kick off. We have had an amazing presence in the fair showing our strong commitment to science education. To foster scientific thinking, all teachers at Maribyrnong view young children as active learners (versus recipients of knowledge) and give them many opportunities to explore and experiment. Such opportunities allow children to construct meaning and develop understandings that are not only valid but also valuable to their development. Thank you to all of our families and teachers who supported students in undertaking their science projects. It would be remiss of me not to make special mention of Leslie Carr who has challenged, guided and supported our students in completing their projects. Thank you Leslie for your hard work and passion for science education at Maribyrnong Primary School and beyond.

ACT Public Education Excellence Awards

This year Maribyrnong Primary School has nominated five outstanding educators in the ACT Public Education Excellence Awards. These awards recognise their contribution to public education as highly regarded and effective educators.

Our nominees are:

- Jacque Mengel – Education Support Role
- Ni Ceely – Early Childhood Teacher of the Year
- Sarah Baird – Primary Teacher of the Year
- Leslie Carr – Primary Teacher of the Year
- Kathy Nash – Primary Teacher of the Year

The awards ceremony is on Thursday 11 September. We look forward to sharing the outcome of our nominations but know, win or not, we have exceptional educators at Maribyrnong Primary School. The calibre of all nominees is amazing and we could have nominated all of our educators for these awards. We wish all our nominees, and those from across the system, well and look forward to updating you in the next newsletter.

Classroom Chats

Symone Florian has been asked to present a professional learning session by the Australian Literacy Educators' Association (ALEA) next week on how she has implemented the Daily 5 literacy approach in kindergarten. Classroom Chats have been running in the ACT for more than a decade and allow teachers to share best practice with other teachers. Each year eight educators are approached to facilitate these sessions so it is fantastic to have one of our educators asked to share her insights into the Daily 5 approach. Teachers from across Canberra and from different sectors will be attending the session next week. Congratulations Symone!

LSUA Outdoor Learning Environment

The deliveries are happening, the machines are working full tilt and the LSUA Outdoor Learning Environment is taking shape! After a long wait we are now seeing the plan come to fruition. The students have been very excited to watch the changes occur in the outdoor space and are already making plans for their learning in this new area.



Thursday 4 September, Term 3 Week 7



ACT
Government

Education and Training

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Board Chair Lauren Newman
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P&C President Noel Florian
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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:

SEPTEMBER

- | | |
|----|---|
| 8 | Christian Education in Schools (CEIS) - opt in |
| 12 | P&C Lolly Day
Assembly 2.15 pm -3/4 unit item |
| 18 | Board 6.00 pm and P&C 7.00 pm |
| 22 | Grandfriends Day and Learning Journey, Assembly 9.15 am |
| 23 | Kindergarten excursion - National Museum of Australia |
| 24 | P&C Disco |
| 26 | Assembly 2.15 pm 4/5 and 5/6 item
Last day of term 3 |

First day of Term 4- Monday 13 October.

Lolly Day

On Friday 12 September we will be having our annual Lolly Day. This day allows children to dress up in multi-coloured non-uniform clothes and have a crazy hairstyle for the day in return for bringing in a sealed bag of lollies. These lollies are used by the P&C to make mixed lolly bags for the Twilight Fair in November.

The Children's Book Council of Australia Awards

This is one of my favourite times of the year... why? I love books and celebrating authors and illustrators. We use quality literature throughout the learning day at Maribyrnong so it is always exciting when we are introduced to new books or see our favourites recognised in such a prestigious way.

The winning books this year are:

Book of the Year: Early Childhood

- 📖 The Swap by Jan Ormerod & Andrew Joyner
- 📖 I'm a Dirty Dinosaur by Brian Janeen & Ann James
- 📖 Banjo and Ruby Red by Libby Gleeson & Freya Blackwood

Book of the Year: Younger Readers

- 📖 City of Orphans by Catherine Jinks
- 📖 My Life as an Alphabet by Barry Jonsberg
- 📖 Light Horse Boy by Dianne Wolfer & Brian Simmonds

Book of the Year: Older Readers

- 📖 Wildlife by Fiona Wood
- 📖 Fairytales for Wilde Girls by Allyse Near
- 📖 The Sky So Heavy by Claire Zorn

Picture Book of the Year

- 📖 Rules of Summer by Shaun Tan
- 📖 King Pig by Nick Bland
- 📖 Silver Buttons by Bob Graham

Eve Pownall Award for Information Books

- 📖 Jeremy by Christopher Faille & Danny Snell
- 📖 Welcome To My Country by Laklak Burarrwanga & Family
- 📖 Ice, Wind, Rock by Peter Gouldthorpe

We hope some of these titles are familiar to you because many are in the school library (or on their way into the library). At Maribyrnong quality literature is used to support students to read in two different ways. The first way is to **read like a reader**. We might think of this as the 'normal' way of reading where we try to figure out what a piece of writing means by understanding the words a writer is using. The second way is to **read like a writer**. When we read from the perspective of a writer, we focus less on what the writer is trying to say and more on *how* the writer is saying it. Specifically, we look at the techniques and devices the writer is using to get his or her message across and how those techniques and devices affect us as we experience the text. So the next time you are reading a book, consider are you reading like a reader or reading like a writer?

Father's Day Stall

Thank you to our hard working team of P&C volunteers who crafted items, packaged with style and ensured bargains were to be had by all students attending the Father's Day Stall this week. What an amazing array of items on offer! We hope dads, granddads, pops and friends enjoy their presents on Sunday.

Joining or Leaving Maribyrnong?

If you are joining or leaving us at Maribyrnong please let us know as soon as possible. Planning for next year is underway and knowing correct numbers is essential to this process. Thank you!

Have a wonderful fun-filled week!

Jantiena

WRITING MYTHBUSTER

Myth # 4 Writing is taught in separate blocks.

Writing is more than putting words on paper. It's a final stage in the complex process of communicating that begins with thinking and connecting ideas.

At school children are taught many skills that pertain to the art of writing. These skills relate to planning, drafting, text construction, grammar, spelling, conferring, editing and publishing. While each skill and process is explicitly taught by teachers as part of the curriculum, they are not taught in isolation. By ensuring these skills are taught as parts of a whole text, more connections can be made.

Why use this approach?

Put simply, it is because the brain that fires together, wires together!

Children don't discover how to write in a vacuum; nor do they learn as part of a step-by-step process, they need plenty of meaningful examples of writing. Teachers ensure they layer the skills and processes so that students become keen writers. They provide examples that display whole texts and then deconstruct them (pull them apart, improve them and reassemble the texts). This allows children to build their understanding of how texts work and add these skills to their repertoire.

Ways to help your child with writing:

- ✍ Comment positively about your child's writing efforts at every opportunity. Make this feedback explicit, for example "The way you have described the character makes me want to meet them in real life" rather than "You write well". This type of feedback allows writers to see how readers feel about their work.
- ✍ Talk about how authors write, for example talk about their favourite picture book or novel and discuss how the author created a picture in your mind or the words they used to describe a character.
- ✍ Suggest that your child write letters to people for different reasons; contact with grandparents, thankyou cards for gifts, apologies for not being able to attend a party.
- ✍ Let your child make a list of things needed or wanted for his or her room, the house, the garage or garden.



So.....this myth is busted! Children learn to write by writing! Yes the parts are important but writing everyday supports students in developing this skill.

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 - BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT



Managing student behaviour choices is a complex daily task for all educators. Our firm belief is that engaging students in their learning and creating a sense of belonging and identify among their peers is the key to successful behaviour choices. That said, part of our role as educators is to work with families and students around appropriate behaviour choices in society. We deliberately use the language 'behaviour choice'. This term was coined by William Glasser in the 1980s. There are three key points to Glasser's theory:

- all we do is behave,
- that almost all behaviour is chosen, and
- that we are driven by our genes to satisfy five basic needs: survival, love and belonging, power, freedom and fun.

In practice, the most important need is love and belonging, as closeness and connectedness with the people we care about is a requisite for satisfying all of the needs.

So how do we use this approach within our Behaviour Management Procedures?

At the start of each year educators work through class and school rules with students. This is not a teacher directed process, it is led by students based on their experiences and knowledge around how they like to be treated and what they want school life to be like for them. This ensures that the behavioural expectations are clear to students and that they are committed to them as they in essence designed them. The school behaviour procedures are also shared at this time to assist students to understand the consequences for particular behaviour choices.

We also discuss with students the important role they play in identifying instances of inappropriate behaviour and bullying. Educators talk explicitly with students around how they might feel in different situations and responses that the body might give to show that a particular behaviour is not appropriate.

Direct link to read the school behaviour procedures in full:

http://www.maribyrnongps.act.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/282592/Maribyrnong_Primary_School_Behaviour_Management_Procedures_2014.pdf

What happens if a student chooses an inappropriate behaviour? Let's look at this in the next issue of the Possum Press in week 10.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK – Term 3 Week 6

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NOTES SENT HOME

- P&C Lolly Day Friday 12 September.

Notes to come soon:

- 2015** 5/6 Camp Cooba- notes and deposit required
- Kindy excursion to the National Museum of Australia.

*With the change of weather,
if your child is unwell, the best
place for them is at home.*

RUBIES AND SAPPHIRES (PRESCHOOL)

What a busy few weeks we have had at preschool! We have been learning about ourselves and what makes us special and unique. We have investigated the countries that our families come from, plus all the things we have in common and the things that are different.

We have had many parents coming in to share what they do in the community. We have learnt about many important jobs including Firefighters, the Army and Navy, Nurses and Dentists. We would like to say a big thank you to all our parent volunteers who have been spending time with us at preschool; we really appreciate all your help.

We hope you have a fabulous week!
Elsa, Sally, Kelly, Ni and Gaby 😊

OPALS (K)

Well week seven is upon us and we are very busy here in the Opals unit. Our students are really enjoying learning about toys from the past and are getting very excited about making their very own toy. Our museum entrance has been built and the rest of our exhibits are in the making. Keep your eye out for an excursion note for our visit to the National Museum in week ten. We are going to compare our toy museum to the real thing.



We are desperately seeking recyclable materials so we can build our toys for our museum exhibits. Please drop any items off in either wet area. We are looking for small boxes, tubes (other than toilet rolls), plastic containers, lids and other items for building.

We have many children who do not have hats for playing on the playground and participating in sport. Could you please send a labelled, broad brimmed or bucket style hat in to school with your child.

Symone, Sarah and Keilly.

EMERALD CITY (1/2)

By now you may have heard that last week the Emerald City went on an adventure. As part of our storyline inquiry unit, we were told through a newsfeed that Australia had a severe drought and ran out of water so we had to move to a neighbouring Asian country. The flight was very comfortable, complete with inflight snacks.

Emerald City students chose to board a plane travelling to Malaysia, Singapore or Thailand. Students have now settled into their chosen country and are learning about where they are living.

We would like to say thank you for all the positive feedback we have been given about this adventure. We look forward to seeing you at our Learning Journey and Grandfriend's Day on Monday 22 September to share more of this adventure with you.

This week we have been focusing on 'bouncing back' through Circle Time. Specifically we are looking at the themes of positive thinking and relationships.

We hope you have a wonderful weekend celebrating Father's Day. Happy Father's Day to all the dads out there.

Amanda, Naomi, Leeanne and Lucy.



DIAMONDS (3/4)

We can not believe that it is already week 7, the term is going by so fast!

The students have been busy at their new jobs as interns at 'Google'. They have been learning how to effectively research on a computer and have been working in groups to learn about their chosen country.

Our storyline unit involves students working together in groups. Some students have been finding this a bit tricky, so this week we have had lots of class discussions regarding how we work together and what we do if we have a disagreement.

The students have created beautiful art work this term, it is making our classrooms and units look very bright and colourful and we look forward to sharing it with you at our Learning Journey in week 10.

The 3/4 unit is performing at assembly next Friday, we look forward to seeing you all there.

Kylie and Camille.



GARNETS (LSU)

We've really enjoyed our last two weeks here in the LSU Garnets with the start of some new programs. Every Thursday we are participating in our café and letter writing experience. Have you received some interesting letters from the children in your mailbox yet? Please take this as an opportunity to discuss your child's school day with them. We are enjoying buying a juice from the supermarket and celebrating healthy choices by leaving soft drinks off the menu. When all the permission notes have been returned we will spend our money on a juice at the café and practise our eating out etiquette.



Today was the first day of Spring and we celebrated by planting our own sunflower seeds. We will be keeping a diary of the progress our sunflower plants make over the coming weeks. We would love you to come and follow our instructions on Learning Journey day in week 10 to plant a seed for you to take home with your children.

Have an excellent weekend!
Lee and Jacque.

MOONSTONES (LSUA)

We have been keenly watching our outdoor playground area take shape. We can't wait for its completion so we can include more sensory and motor activities in our daily routine.

The Moonstones have also been working on Relationship Circles. These circles show a visual of who it is appropriate to hug and when. Nicola and I have been working on teaching 'hand hugs' to everyone.



We have been working hard on our Ocean unit of work. This week we have investigated dolphins and learnt about how dolphins breathe, swim and eat. Nicola has been lending her creative skills and making mermaids and sharks in art.

The Moonstones are looking forward to inviting our parents and grandfriends in for Learning Journey later in the term.

Cheers
Virginia and Nicola.

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

This week years 4, 5 and 6 have been busy preparing our classroom for our Learning Journey in week 10. Get ready to step into the Australian Gold fields in 1853. Each classroom represents Ballarat, Bathurst or Bendigo.

Last Tuesday 26 August we went on an excursion to Birrigai to study life in the Australian gold fields and played a simulated gold game. Each student had to buy a licence and a claim before they could mine for gold. Students could then purchase materials to build tents and cradles to make mining for gold easier.

Throughout the day troopers conducted numerous licence checks and many of our miners ended up in jail.

Here are some comments from our students from our excursion: "We learnt not to trust the troopers, commissioner or the assay office. Life on the gold fields could be unfair" Sean P.

"Due to the weather we were put in the position of actual miners" Charlie M.

"The government was corrupt and gave out fake licences so they could fine us. We stood up and ripped up our licences and Peter Lalor gave a speech" Leon M.



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

ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS – WRITING CLUB

The Writing Club meets most Wednesdays to complete individual and group writing tasks. Writing Club is open to all students.

We have guidelines that we follow in writing club. These are:

1. We respect each other and the type of writing we do.
2. We provide constructive and descriptive feedback about our writing.
3. We listen to each other and celebrate all writing.
4. We are positive and encouraging at all times.
5. We do our best to make the group a safe environment to enhance the craft of writing.
6. We ask for help when we are stuck.
7. We try different to write for different social purposes and in different forms.
8. We read lots and can 'lift a line' from our favourite author!
9. We revisit our writing because sometime we need to 'rest' the writing before we can work on it again.
10. We have fun while writing!

"If you want to be a writer, you must do two things above all others: read a lot and write a lot...reading is the creative center of a writer's life...you cannot hope to sweep someone else away by the force of your writing until it has been done to you."

~Stephen King

Jantiena (We know there is American spelling in the direct quote...did you see it?)

SPECIALIST PROGRAMS – SCIENCE

The whole school got excited over the Maribyrnong School Science Fair which was bigger than ever this year with over seventy posters and booklets entered from teams of students and individuals. The eight judges were all most impressed with the standard of science inquiry at Maribyrnong and the excellent presentation of many of the posters so well done to everyone who had a go and thank you to supportive parents! All entries into the school science fair were also entered in the ACT Science Fair this year thanks to financial help from the P&C to help pay the entry fees.

The ACT Science Fair was judged on Sunday with Maribyrnong students getting awards in Early Childhood, Primary and Special Education sections. Maribyrnong was awarded the most places in the Early Childhood Section which means we have also won the Early Childhood Shield for the ACT for the fourth year in a row.

All entries into the ACT Science Fair have been on display in our school hall this week and now winning entries will be on public display in the CSIRO Discovery Centre public foyer until the award presentation night on 12 September.

To celebrate National Science Week this year the two year 5/6 classes ran a series of science activities for the junior and preschool students, while the middle school classes tried a set of science challenges. The day was a great success for both participants and student organisers. The activities run by the seniors for the juniors is a great example of peer teaching, as promoted by the Kids Teaching Kids organisation, where students have enormous fun and learn from one another at the same time.

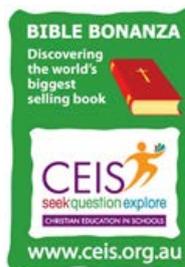


Leslie.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS (CEIS)

Term 3 – Bible Bonanza on Monday 8 September

This term the CEIS team will present 'Bible Bonanza' at our school. This session will use interactive activities and take students back in time to discuss and explore God's rescue plan, as described in the Bible. Only students with permission will attend. If you would like to add your child to the existing attendance list, please complete a form at the office or go to www.ceis.org.au/yes



POSSUM PANTRY - CANTEEN ROSTER

Week 8 Term 3	Wednesday 10 September	Thursday 11 September	Friday 12 September
9.15am-12.00noon	Laura		Terri
			Micheal
12.00noon-3.00pm	Laura		Terri
Week 9 Term 3	Wednesday 17 September	Thursday 18 September	Friday 19 September
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.

COMMUNITY NEWS

COMMUNITIES @ WORK 2015

Before And After School Care.

Enrol now for 2015 (current families must re-enrol) at the website www.commsatwork.org Numbers are capped and once filled, families will be placed on a waiting list for 2015.



Hi Maribyrnong families, we would love you to get the word out! For every new property listed with **@Home Property Management** this SEPTEMBER we would like to donate \$100 to the school! Please call Jess on **M: 0401 171 787** (or say hi at school pick up). www.homeact.net.au

TENNIS FOR JUNIORS- Get Active Sports

Indoor sessions for 3 to 8 year olds at Kaleen Primary in term 4.

Visit www.getactivesports.com.au for more information.

P&C NEWS

CANTEEN

There will be a Canteen meeting on **Tuesday 9 September at 9.10 am** in the canteen. If you are interested in the canteen, how it runs, want to volunteer or just want to meet some other parents please come along and have a cuppa.



TWILIGHT FAIR

Our annual P&C Twilight Fair is on **Friday 7 November.**

The Twilight Fair rosters are now available if you can volunteer an hour of your time on Friday 7 November on one of our stalls. Please see Clare Whittingham, or contact her on 0408 252736 or madden.clare@hotmail.com.

Items for the White Elephant and Book Stall can now be left in the hallway down from the front office. If you have larger items you wish to donate, contact Ben Houston on 0414229185.