



# POSSUM PRESS

## NEWS FROM JEN

Thursday 13 November, Term 4 Week 5

Who can believe we are half way through term 4? Already we have achieved so much, with our summative assessment almost complete and our annual Twilight Fair over for another year. There are some high quality events still to come including our kindergarten transition program and our year 6 mini fete, not to mention semester 2 reports, year 6 graduation and the concert. This is an important time of year to support our students to stay focused energised in the lead up to holidays.

### Twilight Fair

Many hands make light work – what a wonderful saying to capture the community support we had at our Twilight Fair last Friday night. A number of records were broken including the:

- \* number of volunteers, totalling over 100!
- \* number of families through the Fair, totalling over 300!
- \* amount of fun and number of giant animals on the teddy tombola!

Preliminary counting has taken place and it looks like we have made a record profit totalling over \$13 000! We work closely with our P&C to allocate funds to various priorities at the school. For instance this year our P&C supported the purchase of an iPad trolley, assisted to send two of our students to WA for a conference and supported the school to purchase some new resources for our science program. We look forward to keeping you up to date with the priorities for 2015.

A huge thank you to our P&C and of course the amazing coordination and organisation by Sharon Houston over the course of the year; the hours dedicated to organising such an event are greatly appreciated. There are also many other people to thank including Clare, Rebecca and Rouvay (in the canteen), Noel our P&C President and Ian and Tony our Treasurers! I would also like to thank Tony for running the live auction on Friday, what a talent to share with our community!

Thank you to our community for coming along and supporting the event, it was great to see such community spirit which gave the Fair a wonderful feel. With over 100 of you volunteering on the night, your ongoing support for our school and our students is immeasurable.

I would also like to thank our staff for their incredible support including set up, pack up, donations and coordination of stalls. I feel incredibly privileged to work with such dedicated educators.

I hope you enjoyed this event and I look forward to welcoming many more of our volunteers to our P&C meetings in 2015 to continue to support our great school.

### Congratulations Damian De Marco!

A huge congratulations to Damian De Marco who has been awarded 2015 ACT Local Hero Award in the ACT Australian of the Year Awards. Damian has spent decades fighting to protect child safety and wellbeing. We are incredibly proud of Damian's achievements and feel privileged to have such an amazing role model in the Maribyrnong community! For more information please see the link below:

<http://www.australianoftheyear.org.au/news-and-media/news/article/?id=2015-act-australian-of-the-year-award-recipients-announced>



**ACT**  
Government

Education and Training

### CONTACTS:

#### Maribyrnong School

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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:

#### NOVEMBER

- 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 day.

### IMPORTANT DATES IN DECEMBER:

- 12 Year 5/6 Big Day Out
- 15 School Concert at 12.00 pm and 6.30 pm
- 16 Ken's Community Farewell Special Assembly 9.15 am
- 17 Year 6 Graduation Assembly 9.15am. Last Day of term 4.

## Staff News

I have four exciting updates regarding our staff this week.

- Next week we welcome back Leanne Rankine to the front office. Leanne injured her knee at the end of last term while playing soccer and has been recovering from surgery. A big thank you to Ros and Leanne who shared the Business Manager responsibilities during Leanne's absence; their organisation and coordination of the finance, enrolments and facilities management has been outstanding.
- I would like to congratulate Jane Baillie and her husband David who are expecting their third child in May 2015. This is an exciting time and I am sure you will join me to wish the family well.
- During the January holidays, Lucy Perfect who is currently teaching in year 1/2 will marry her fiancé John. On behalf of the school I would like to wish them every happiness as they enjoy this next part of their life together.
- Finally, it is with a heavy heart and of course a happy heart that I announce our wonderful Building Services Officer, Ken, will be retiring at the end of the term. Ken has been an integral part of the school community for over 10 years. Whenever there is a problem, we call for Ken; whenever there is a ball on the roof or a lost bracelet down the drain, we call Ken; whenever something needs to be fixed, we call Ken. Words cannot express how much Ken means to our school community, and while things definitely won't be the same without him here, we can but celebrate the amazing person that he is. We also know that if we need him, he will be down the coast on his boat relaxing and fishing. We will be hosting a special 'Celebrate Ken' event in the coming weeks, more details to come.

## Remembrance Day

This week we commemorated the efforts of those fallen during war throughout history. In 1997, Governor-General Sir William Deane issued a proclamation formally declaring 11 November to be Remembrance Day, urging all Australians to observe one minute's silence at 11 am on 11 November each year to remember those who died or suffered for Australia's cause in all wars and armed conflicts. Our teachers have spoken with our classes about paying our respects at this time and there were a number of questions from our students about war and conflict resolution. The topic of war is incredibly complex and we treat all conversations openly and sensitively. Please see your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns.

## Class Formation

Thank you to the families who have made contact regarding special consideration for class placements for 2015. If you believe your child's placement needs special consideration please let me know in writing as soon as possible. This can be done via email, note or by making an appointment at the front office for a meeting time. By all requests coming to me, we are able to ensure appropriate considerations are made. Families will once more be informed mid-January through teacher introductory letters as to staffing arrangements and class placements for 2015.

Thank you to our P&C for the amazing morning tea for World Teacher's Day!



Jen.

## WRITING MYTHBUSTER

### Myth # 7 Spelling is a rote learning task.

Rote learning is a technique which focuses on memorisation. The major practice involved in rote learning is learning by repetition. This is based on the idea that by repeating information you will quickly recall the meaning of the material. In spelling this would mean that by writing a word over and over again you will learn how to spell it.

Many of you would have memories of doing just this when you were at school and while you learned to spell in this manner, did you make connections between words that have similar patterns or meanings? The answer is most likely no. The approach to teaching spelling in years gone by was to have students write and rewrite words so that it was committed to memory. This is like when some of us had to write out lines such as "I will not talk in class" and while we repeated and wrote the words it didn't change our behaviour or thinking.

At Maribyrnong Primary School we use an approach called BEE Spelling. This program refers to the three layers in spelling and the three thinking processes we undertake to be resourceful and effective spellers. We use the BEE keys, meaning we use our B (Brain), E (Eyes) and E (Ears). This approach supports students in being active learners who construct their knowledge through powerful discussion, word study and reflection.

The BEE Spelling approach uses a diagnostic tool, a spelling inventory, that identifies a student's point of need in their spelling development. Teachers use this tool when grouping students for spelling and to identify the features in words students need to focus on.

Remember spelling is a thinking experience not a rote learning activity. Spelling errors are not random or careless but under error analysis appear to follow a pattern - they are consistent, systematic errors that through repetition, i.e., practice, have become learned, habitual and extremely resistant to extinction. Learned spelling errors, like all habit patterns, are produced automatically without conscious control and are for the most part are no longer self-detected or self-corrected by the individual. So in this case practice (of errors) doesn't make perfect!

**So.....this myth is busted! Spelling is not a rote task, it relies on active construction of knowledge based on the three layers of spelling. Spelling is a thinking task. However repetition of errors is a non-thinking task!**



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](mailto:jantiena.batt@ed.act.edu.au)

## AROUND THE GROUNDS

### The National Quality Standard

You may have heard the term 'NQS' being used at school over the last two years, particularly parents and carers with children at preschool during this time. The NQS is The National Quality Standard which sits under The National Quality Framework (NQF).

The NQF is the result of an agreement between all Australian governments to work together to provide better educational and developmental outcomes for children using education and care services. The NQF introduces a new quality standard to improve education and care across long day care, family day care, preschool/kindergarten, and outside school hours care.

The National Quality Standard (NQS) is a key aspect of the NQF and sets a national benchmark for early childhood education and care, and outside school hours care services in Australia.

Every service in the country will be assessed to make sure it meets the new quality standard by the end of 2015. As Maribyrnong has not yet been selected for assessment, we believe we will be assessed throughout 2015.

The NQS introduces ratings for children's education and care services. Each service receives a rating for: [seven quality areas](#), and an overall rating. There are five rating levels within the national quality rating and assessment process:

- Excellent rating – awarded by ACECQA
- Exceeding National Quality Standard
- Meeting National Quality Standard
- Working Towards National Quality Standard
- Significant Improvement Required.

The major benefits for parents, carers and children include:

- improved educator to child ratios
- greater individual care and attention for children
- educators with increased skills and qualifications
- better support for children's learning and development
- a national register to help parents assess the quality of education and care services in their area.

We look forward to keeping you informed regarding the assessment process at Maribyrnong.

For more information:

<http://www.acecqa.gov.au/national-quality-framework/introducing-the-national-quality-framework>

There has been a confirmed case of Chickenpox in the school.

For more information please visit:

<http://www.health.act.gov.au/publications/fact-sheets/chickenpox>

## STAFF EMAILS

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## NOTES SENT HOME

- A-E **OPT-OUT**
- 1/2 Duncan Smith Incursion
- 5/6 Big Day Out
- 2015** Book Packs due 12 December
- 2015** 5/6 Camp Cooba- notes and deposit required asap
- Whole school Transition day on 26.11.14 information



## PRESCHOOL (RUBIES & SAPPHIRES)

Wow, we can't believe it's almost the end of the year! The preschoolers really enjoyed their first transition visit to the primary school where they got to meet the kindergarten teachers and do lots of fun activities. They are also very excited as they will meet their year 5 buddies next week.

### Kindergarten Transition Visit Times

- Wednesday 19 November : 10.30am – 11.20am (please bring lunch and a hat)
- Wednesday 26 November: 12.15pm – 1.00pm

### Preschool Concert

- Wednesday 10 December: 11.45am-12.15pm

We hope you have a fabulous week!

Elsa, Sally, Kelly, Ni and Gabe 😊

## OPALS (K)

It has been another exciting and eventful fortnight in the kindergarten unit. It was great to see so many families out and enjoying our wonderful Twilight Fair. We are also in the midst of planning and preparing for our fabulous concert at the end of the year. The Opals have been rehearsing our vocal number enthusiastically and are looking forward to learning the choreography for our dances. They are very excited about performing for their parents.

We continue to investigate celebrations and traditions. The students have reflected on how birthdays are celebrated in their families and create a mixed media artwork to share and display in our classroom.

We have also been investigating measurement of length using informal units such as blocks to compare the length of a range of items.

Next Friday we will be performing at the assembly. Please come along and listen to us sing from our favourite songs.

Symone, Sarah and Keilly.

## EMERALD CITY (1/2)

What a busy time of year! We are in full flight with concert practice. We are sure you have had the pleasure of your children singing and dancing around you while we get underway with preparations for our end of year concert.

It was lovely to see so many of you at the Twilight Fair last weekend. What a great evening. Thanks to all the Emerald City parents and carers who volunteered on the night.

Once again Maribyrnong is having a Talent Quest. Students in the Emerald City who would like to enter in this will perform in their class on Wednesday 19 November. Two acts will be chosen to perform in front of the unit on the following Monday, 24 November and finals will take place in the school hall with the rest of the school the following Friday, 28 November.

We are looking forward to our upcoming incursion with Duncan Smith on Monday 1 December. Notes and payment are due by Wednesday 26 November. This will be a fabulous way to conclude our inquiry unit on Me in Place and Time.

Lucy, Amanda, Naomi, Leanne and Heather.

## DIAMONDS (3/4)

Students have been working this term designing, making and appraising towers. As part of this term's technology unit students will design and make a tower to meet specific requirements. We have seen some impressive towers and students are to be commended on their designs and workmanship.

We have commenced our end of year concert rehearsals, students are working with determination to perfect their dance moves.



Please return your child's portfolio if you haven't already done so as we need to get them ready for the end of the year.

As the weather is getting warmer it is important all children have a broad brimmed hat with them every day. They need to wear a hat to play outside and to participate in daily fitness activities.

Kylie and Camille.

## P&C NEWS

### Thank you Volunteers!!!

The P&C would like to say a **HUGE** thank you to the over 100 volunteers that helped out at our Twilight Fair on Friday night. We could not have run the day without you! And a special thank you Sharon Houston for organising the whole event.

### School Uniforms

Have you thought about uniforms for next year? Beat the rush and be ready for next year. Uniform shop is open every Monday 8.45am-9.30am or by appointment. The uniform order form can be found at:

[http://www.maribyrnongps.act.edu.au/our\\_community/school\\_uniform](http://www.maribyrnongps.act.edu.au/our_community/school_uniform) or place your order at <https://www.flexischools.com.au>.

## GARNETS (LSU)

Our garden is growing huge! There are flowers all over the tomato and strawberry plants and we can even see some green strawberries that we are watching closely and waiting to turn red and juicy! Today we put some mulch on our garden bed to keep the roots warm and moist.

The weather is getting much warmer now which the plants love and they are growing very quickly. Our bodies are getting used to the warm weather too. Please make sure that shirts and shorts are worn especially for the days coming up that are supposed to be over 35 degrees! We must remember to wear hats and have proper sun protection too.

We have also been busy in the last couple of weeks learning songs and practising dances in our mainstream classes in preparation for concert. We can't wait to show off our performances in week 10.

Have a great weekend!  
Lee and Jacque.

## MOONSTONES (LSUA)

This week the Moonstones have been learning more about natural disasters and focusing on tornadoes in particular. What causes them? Where do you find them? What happens inside a tornado? It has been very interesting finding out about this natural disaster.



Each week we have been learning about famous artists and creating our own art work inspired by their work. This week we learned about Jackson Pollock and created our own splatter paintings inspired by his work. That was a lot of fun!!!

We also created our own poppies in honour for Remembrance Day and learnt about the history of why we wear them and what they represent.

Virginia & Nicola.

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

It was fantastic to see so many families at our Twilight Fair last Friday. We had a fantastic turn-out and all the 5/6 students did a great job looking after all the stalls at Side Show Alley.

Concert practice has already started in earnest and year 6's have been auditioning for speaking parts. Don't be surprised if students are singing and dancing around the house – it is all part of our preparation!

The Mini-Fete is coming up on Thursday 20 November. Year 6's are asked to bring a donation for the cake stall - cakes, cookies, muffins etc. All the proceeds for the Mini-Fete go towards the year 6 Dinner and Disco.

The Talent Quest will be held on Friday 28 November. We will be holding auditions throughout the units in the next week or two, so get practising.



During weeks 6 to 8, the pre-schoolers will be visiting the year 5 students in preparation for the Buddy program next year. We think this will be a valuable experience for our year 5's as they start to take on the role of future school leaders.

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

## ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS - WRITING CLUB

Why do we have a Writing Club at Maribyrnong?  
These are the reasons our writers came up with...

**Writing is fun  
and takes you  
to a different  
place!**

**Writing is about  
being heard by  
others!**

***Through my  
words I create  
emotions in  
others.***

**Writing is power!  
I share my  
thoughts and  
ideas with the  
world!**

**I write for different social  
purposes and sometimes I  
combine purposes and forms!  
You can break the rules in  
writing!**

Jantiena and the Writing Club.

## FRENCH NEWS

Salut! Learning poems is a normal part of childhood education in France. Children in school learn a poem every week! As a cultural experience, and to practise our spoken French, Maribyrnong students once again learnt a French poem during Term 3, with students invited to learn the poem off by heart if they wanted to compete to be a year level winner and represent Maribyrnong in the ACT French Poetry Competition. It was a tight competition within the school, particularly in years 4 and 5. A very big CONGRATULATIONS to TJ in year 2 and to Phillip in kindergarten who came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the ACT in their year levels. They attended a presentation ceremony at the Alliance Francaise in week 3.

In addition to our poems, we have focussed on similarities between French and English during this semester, and practised using adjectives. We have been describing characters from movies as well as describing each other. Across the school we have been learning and revising vocabulary in topics including fruits and vegetables, body parts, clothes, weather, and the countryside.

It's been a fun year in <La Boite> ! À bientôt,  
Lyn Lisacek.

## SCIENCE NEWS : Kids Teaching Kids Conference on Sustainability, WA.

At the end of October Cara and Jess from the 5/6 science club were lucky enough to attend the International Kids Teaching Kids Conference in WA accompanied by Mrs Carr.

The conference ran for 3 days and involved a series of hands on workshops and video presentations. Cara and Jess had produced an award winning video on the formation of ground water that was shown on the first day. Some of the highlights included learning what to do if you find a beached dolphin, finding out how to construct a water filter to reduce the iron content of bore water, simulating the problems people in Ethiopia have getting drinking water by taking part in an obstacle course carrying a bucket of water on your head! A number of excellent videos were shown including one produced by students in Mongolia.

The conference included a gala dinner at the Mandurah Convention centre with entertainment by the excellent Winjan Dance Troupe and music from The Sneaky Weasel Gang. Jess and Cara will be presenting a power point presentation of their trip in the next assembly.

Leslie Carr.

## POSSUM PANTRY - CANTEEN ROSTER

Week 6 Term 4	Wednesday 19 November	Thursday 20 November	Friday 21 November
9.15am-12.00noon	Laura	CLOSED	Terri
			Micheal
12.00noon-3.00pm	Laura	CLOSED	Terri
Week 7 Term 4	Wednesday 26 November	Thursday 27 November	Friday 28 November
9.15am-12.00noon	Laura		Wendy (9.15- 1.30am)
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.

## SCHOOL NEWS

### Year 6 Mini Fete 2014

Heaps of cool stalls to choose from!



THURSDAY 20  
NOVEMBER

During B1

\*Lucky Dip

\*Cakes and Biscuits

\*Lollies and Drinks

\*Lots, lots more to do!



## POSSUM PANTRY

# Closed

The canteen will be closed next Thursday 20 November for the year 6 Mini fete.

The last day of trading for this year will be Friday 12 December, we will be closed on Wednesday 17 December.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### 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 entertain menton the day, please contact Christine O'Callaghan on 0401 169 800 or [tandcocal@gmail.com](mailto:tandcocal@gmail.com)