

POSSUM PRESS



NEWS FROM JANTIENA

THURSDAY 1 SEPTEMBER: Term 3 Week 7

The warmer weather is on its way! We have had a few days where the sunshine dancing across the playground re-energised us. We are hoping the warmth and sunshine feed your soul and hopefully we see the end to those pesky winter colds and coughs.

NAPLAN

Individual student reports for NAPLAN were sent home with students in year three and year five last week. The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual assessment for students in years 3, 5, 7 and 9. NAPLAN tests skills in literacy and numeracy that are developed over time through the delivery of the Australian Curriculum and provide a snap shot of your child's progress on the given day of testing. As many factors influence performance, teachers at Maribyrnong Primary School use a variety of formative and summative assessment strategies throughout the year to monitor and report on student growth.

In 2016, Maribyrnong Primary School has made good progress in both year groups. Our year three cohort was above the ACT mean for reading and numeracy. We were above the Belconnen mean for spelling and grammar and punctuation but below the ACT mean in these areas. For writing we were below both the ACT and Belconnen mean. These focus areas will continue to be addressed in our improvement strategies. Our year five cohort were above the ACT and Belconnen mean in all areas, reading, grammar and punctuation, writing, spelling and numeracy. Further analysis will occur with our Pedagogy Circles in the coming weeks so that we can ensure each child is achieving their learning goals. At Maribyrnong we work with each child starting from their point of need and design learning sequences that 'reach and teach' them the required skills, understandings and dispositions to be confident, creative and curious learners.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Ms Carr and our amazing students who are finalists in the 2016 ACT Sustainable Communities Awards. We entered in the Young Legends section and have been listed as a finalist. The Keep Australia Beautiful Awards Team noted that there was a significant increase in award nominations this year and all finalists should be very proud of their work. The judges were consistently impressed with the quality of environmental and community initiatives in the ACT. The announcement will happen next week so keep an eye out for this! Thank you to Ms Carr who crafted the nomination and for providing such rich and authentic learning and leadership opportunities for our students.

Book Week

What a wonderful book week celebration we had, culminating with the Children's Book Council of Australia announcing their awards. Most of these books are in our fabulous library and Ms Pownall has been using these books with classes, immersing them in the rich language, literary devices and illustrative techniques used by these amazing authors and illustrators. Congratulations to:

- *Cloudfish* by Fiona Wood for The Book Of The Year: Older Readers
- *Soon* by Morris Gleitzman for The Book Of The Year: Younger Readers
- *Mr Huff* by Anna Wood for The Book Of The Year: Early Childhood
- *Flight* by Armin Greder and Nadia Wheatley for The Picture Book of the Year
- *Lennie The Legend: Solo to Sydney by Pony* by Stephanie Owen Reeder for The Eve Pownall Award for Information Books

There were many other books that were listed as honour books. If you would like to see the list, it is available online at <https://cbca.org.au/winners-2016>



ACT
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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

DATES TO REMEMBER

SEPTEMBER

2	CEIS- opt in only
6	SRC Lolly Day- Hodori & Roni
8	6.00 pm Board & 7.00 pm P&C
8-9	Kindy Health Screening
9	SRC Lolly Day- K-6, Misha, Cobi Assembly 2.15 pm
12	3/4 National Zoo & Aquarium
13	1/2 Qwestacon
19	Grandfriends Day & Learning Journey Assembly at 9.15 am* (*note special day and time)
21	P&C Disco
23	Last day of term!!

Father's Day Stall

Thank you to our amazing P&C coordinators for organising a wonderful Father's Day stall on Tuesday and Thursday. This was a valuable financial literacy opportunity for our students to engage with as they considered prices, paid for their selection of goodies and managed their money. What a great opportunity to give to others while applying mathematical knowledge in an authentic context. I hope the dads, grandads, uncles, brothers and special friends enjoy their special gifts. There was an amazing assortment of gifts available – we have so many clever and creative volunteers who created, sourced and packaged them. Thank you to all involved!

Active Kids Challenge

All classes from preschool to year 5/6 have been participating in the Active Kids Challenge during this term. The challenge is an eight week initiative to help educate and inspire kids (and families!) to get at least 60 mins of activity every day to stay healthy. For weeks two to nine of this term there is a different challenge for students, families and classes to aspire to. Each student received a mini wall chart to take home to keep track of how the class is going with the challenge. There are four themes, one for each fortnight of the challenge, to demonstrate that there are so many ways children can get active. The themes are:

- **kick, jump, throw**
- **move and groove**
- **ride or walk to school**
- **explore, discover, play.**

We have heard it often, that physical activity leads to improvements in children's health including cardiovascular health, bone health, muscular strength and social outcomes, but what is also important to remember is that it improves brain function. But how does it do this and how important is it to academic outcomes? Here are just a few ways that regular moderate to vigorous activity will help kids in and out of the classroom!

- ❖ When we exercise we get an increase in blood flow around our body, and more specifically, to our brain. 20% of available oxygen is used by the brain, which is critical for cognitive function. Increased blood flow = higher levels of oxygenation.
- ❖ Regular exercise increases blood vessel formation and assists in bringing more nutrients to the brain and increasing the happy brain chemicals like serotonin.
- ❖ Exercise has also shown to increase the key brain molecules/chemicals which are associated with memory and learning.
- ❖ Mathematics and reading are the top two subjects shown by research to be improved by physical activity, with memory, and attention also being shown to improve with regular activity.
- ❖ Research has shown that children can perform with greater speed and accuracy in cognitive tasks after a bout of exercise.

Help Needed!

Our amazing Twilight Fair is on Friday 4 November. It sounds like an event that is a long way away but much work has to happen before this date. The P&C are keen to lock in volunteers for the fair now. If you have downloaded the **Skoolbag App** you would have received a notification about an e-form that is available to register your availability to help out on the night. Have you filled in this form yet? If you do not have the app you can email Sharon Houston, our P&C President, to notify her of your availability at Sharon.Houston@education.gov.au At Maribyrnong we have 309 families, imagine if every family donated one hour of their time - we know your contribution would be gratefully appreciated. The funds raised at the Twilight Fair go directly to supporting the students at Maribyrnong. This year that has meant the construction of the new sandpit and the purchase of a TV for the second preschool room to name just a few. The Twilight Fair is an fantastic community event and we look forward to seeing everyone there.

SRC and P&C Lolly Day

Every year we hold a Lolly Day at Maribyrnong to collect sealed bags of lollies for the P&C to use at our annual Twilight Fair. As a special treat this year, we will be wearing fancy dress! Please wear **Olympic themed clothes** (Australian or your country colours, Olympic rings or dress as your favourite athlete) and donate a bag of lollies. Please take note of the following dates:

Tuesday 6 September - Hodori and Roni preschool groups

Friday 9 September -Cobi, Misha, kindergarten to year six

Please ensure your clothing is appropriate for school e.g. covered in shoes and sunsmart clothes. **Save the date!**



It isn't long now until Grandfriend's Day and Learning Journey on Monday 19 September. The classes are all working hard to demonstrate their understandings from their Storyline inquiry units and are taking great pride in articulating their learning, ready to share this with you. The assembly at 9.15 am allows all classes from kindergarten to year 5/6 to showcase an element from their inquiry unit and is always a popular event. As only two preschool groups are in session on a Monday, the Hodoris and Ronis will not be performing at the assembly but their learning spaces will be open from 9.30 am – 11.00 am for special visitors who would like to see what learning in preschool looks like.

It has been great to see how many people have downloaded the **Skoolbag App**. This coupled with the newsletter, Facebook page and school website, we have many ways we continue to communicate with you.

NEWS FROM JACKIE (DSTA)

Each Friday from 9.15 am – 10.15 am parents are invited to come along and join in with Possum Partners or the First Friday Coffee Club.

Possum Partners meet in the school library each Friday and assist the school with a range of tasks such as photocopying, laminating, book covering, creating class sets of resources, making games, assisting to display work and many other small tasks. It is a great way to help the school, be involved and meet some people in a fun and friendly environment. All welcome!

First Friday Coffee Club happens on the first Friday of each month (not including school and public holidays). We meet at U&Co Café at our local shops at 9.15 am for a catch up and to share news, helpful tips and create a supportive network of people within our school community. All welcome!

If you would like to join in with either of these activities, no RSVP required just come along and drop in.



Looking forward to seeing you there.

Jackie – Defence School Transition Aide (DSTA).

P&C 'GIVE AN HOUR'



Last week we looked at giving an hour to the school by covering books. Even if you have a spare ten minutes that is all it takes to cover one book. Give it a try.



This week you might like to think about giving an hour to come along and listen to some reading in the classroom or assist to change readers.

Reading is something that we encourage all students at Maribyrnong to do every day. Students in the junior part of our school are able to take home books each night that support them to develop a love of reading and assist them to build their reading skills.

Teachers in the junior school would love more parents and carers to come in on a regular basis to listen to students read and help them to change their books as often as possible.



If this sounds like something you could do, come along to the front office and sign in as a volunteer.

It is also very helpful if you have your Working With Vulnerable People card (WWVP). If you do not have a WWVP card and would like to know more, please come in and ask how to do this.

You will then be able to join in all the fun of reading and book swapping! Easy.

Another great way to give an hour!

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Last newsletter we looked at the overarching areas that are addressed within a quality social and emotional learning program. This time we will look at the kinds of social and emotional skills that are important for children to develop.

School is not only about reading, writing and mathematics. It's also about making friends, learning how to work with others and knowing how to be responsible for yourself. Knowing how to manage feelings and get on with others are important skills for everyone. This kind of learning starts in early childhood with parents and carers as children's most important first teachers.

The following skills have been identified through extensive research as skills that require explicit teaching to develop understanding and competence:

1. Self-awareness
 - understanding feelings
 - self-confidence
2. Social awareness
 - respecting and understanding others
 - appreciating differences between people
3. Self-management
 - managing emotions
 - being able to set goals and stick to them
4. Responsible decision-making
 - Choosing wisely and thoughtfully
5. Relationship skills
 - cooperating, communicating
 - making friends and resolving conflict.

Research shows that children benefit most from social and emotional learning when it is taught in regular school lessons and matched to children's learning stages. The Australian Curriculum includes personal and social development as a major learning area for primary school children and this has been incorporated into our inquiry units along with explicit social skilling lessons.

How can you be involved in this?

Children learn best when they are encouraged to practise the skills they learn at school, at home and in the real world. So providing multiple opportunities for children to practise managing their emotions, communicating and making friends (to name a few) allows them to master these skills.

In the next newsletter we will continue to look more into social and emotional learning. What would you like to know about KidsMatter? Send your questions to jantiena.batt@ed.act.edu.au and it will be answered in the next KidsMatter Update.



Myth #9

Readers must master literal comprehension before attempting inferential comprehension.

Comprehension is the understanding and interpretation of what is read. To be able to accurately understand written material, children need to be able to:

- decode what they read
- make connections between what they read and what they already know
- think deeply about what they have read.

There are four levels of comprehension:

- what is on the page (here)
- what is implied or inferred (hidden)
- what connections can be made (head)
- what feelings are evoked from reading (heart)

These four levels address both literal and inferential comprehension and the different types of questions we ask:

- **here** – literal comprehension and questions - "Show me...."
- **hidden** – inferential comprehension and questions - "Why do you think...."
- **head** – literal and inferential comprehension and questions – "Based on the book, explain why...."
- **heart** – inferential comprehension and critical/evaluative questions – "If you were this character what would you do when...."

Reading instruction utilises all levels of comprehension to ensure meaning is maintained and connections are made. A child engaging with a book will access information from what is literally on the page and what they are inferring from reading the book. This often occurs in rich discussions where they are asked to consider different perspectives and justify their thinking. Of course this occurs from the moment children engage with reading. While literal comprehension is often addressed first with beginning readers the focus moves to inferential comprehension almost simultaneously. This allows a balanced understanding of the book to occur and for more reading strategies to be developed.



So...this myth is BUSTED! Literal and inferential comprehension are mastered together as reading strategies are developed.

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

Lights on Learning!

Focusing on the Bolts - Year 3/4

Term three is an exciting term as we become immersed in our storyline unit *Around the World in 50 Days*. Students are enjoying travelling to each of the different continents and learning about the festivals and celebrations that occur in each place. Embedded into this learning is our focus on social and cultural awareness and respect for difference. The students have recreated themselves as travel agents and are busy learning about, reflecting on and creating artefacts as a product of their learning and understandings.

Storyline has such a creative focus, when you come to share in your child's learning at our Learning Journey and Grandfriend's Day you'll see sculptures, artworks, masks, paper bag information reports, lanterns and much, much more! The students are excited to be creating their own travel agent booth where you'll be able to find out a lot of information on the different destinations.



Reading and spelling groups are continuing this term with a focus on comprehension and decoding strategies. Our social purpose for writing this term is *Writing to Inquire* as it links so closely with our storyline learning. In maths, we are continuing to look at the four operations, fraction and money. In our class based programs, we are learning about angles, chance, data, mapping and symmetry.

On Monday 12 September we will be visiting the National Zoo and Aquarium. Students will be having a guided tour with a focus on endangered species. They'll have the opportunity to feed an animal and hold a reptile. After our guided tour, students will be going on an animal hunt, finding the animals from the continents they have been learning about. They are very excited about the excursion. Notes are due back by Wednesday 7 September.

Singing group is also continuing this term. Students involved in the program have been invited to be a part of *Big Gig*. This is a singing event held at Llewelyn Hall in term four. Many schools attend this big performance and the group is quite excited to be a part of it. The focus for this performance is show tunes and the students have been busy lifting the classroom ceiling with their voices!

Just a reminder that it's hats on. Please ensure your child has a labelled hat at school to participate in PE and playground activities.

Have a wonderful rest of term!

Symone Florian, Kylie Apps, Henry Warre, Mia Grant and Justine Minchin.

Lights on Learning!

Focusing on Science

This has been an incredibly busy term for science activities happening in addition to regular science lessons, with many students involved across the school.

The Engineering Games saw a number of our senior students building mouse trap racers, geodesic domes from drinking straws, straw towers and balloon hovercraft. The games were held on a Friday evening at ANU and as before, it proved to be an inspirational evening seeing all the various entries. Congratulations to Connor and Hendrix who came first for their straw tower; also to Georgie and Emily who were highly commended for their geodesic dome.

Science week was celebrated in a number of ways at Maribyrnong this year. Students from the Monday afternoon Robotics Club ran demonstrations of their robots at lunch times during the week which was very popular. Anyone wanting to join the Monday Robotics club should contact maribyrnongrobotics@gmail.com for more information or to register interest.



The whole school was involved in science rotational activities on Wednesday 17 August with the 5/6 students running workshops for the junior school as a peer teaching exercise. The learning that takes place in such situations is amazing in many ways and everyone has a good time! The topics taught included magnetism, static and current electricity, density, how to make sherbet, slime and ochre paint. The 3/4 students investigated chemical reactions that give out heat, air pressure and the relationship between water temperature and its behaviour.



The Maribyrnong Science Fair was timed to coincide with Science Week with the public viewing on the Tuesday. We had over 70 entries from individuals and teams which was a record. Students are really showing an understanding of the scientific process with some excellent posters, booklets and video presentations. Our science fair entries have now been entered in the ACT Science Fair with results due out soon.

Maribyrnong Primary students have been recognised this month for their sustainable practises and are finalists in the 2016 Sustainable Communities Awards in the Young Legends section. The awards breakfast where the winners are announced is next week.

Leslie Carr.

P&C POSSUM CAFE



Do you remember how exciting it was as a kids to order your lunch or have a parent or carer helping in the canteen? The canteen is such a great place to get involved in your community. We desperately need volunteers on THURSDAYS, but anytime you can spare on a Wednesday to Friday is greatly appreciated.

Kerry will be on leave in week 9 and 10 of this term, so extra help on Thursday and Friday in these weeks would be greatly appreciated.

P&C NEWS

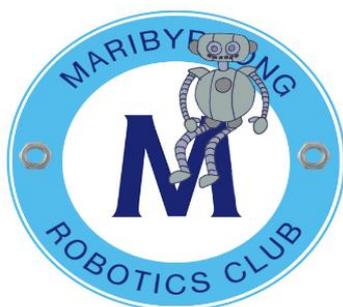
SCHOOL BANKING TERM THREE COMPETITION

Keep saving to discover the Prize Lights! Simply make three or more School Banking deposits during term three for a chance to win one of the Star Saver prizes, including camping kits, instant cameras and magazine packs. What's more, if you complete the fun Stargazing online activity, along with making three or more deposits during term three, you'll also have a chance to win one of 50 Supernova prizes – PlayStation 4 packs.

To complete your Stargazing online activity, or to find out more, visit commbank.com.au/prizelights

FRIDAY MORNINGS IN THE SCHOOL LIBRARY FROM 8.45 am to 9.00 am.

MARIBYRNONG ROBOTICS CLUB



Does your child have an interest in robots or coding?

Since term one 2016 we have been running a P&C sponsored parent-led Robotics Club at Maribyrnong Primary School on Monday afternoons from 3:15 pm to 4:00 pm. The aim of the club is to give students an introduction to robotics and programming in a fun environment. Thanks to a science week grant secured by Mrs Carr, we now have access to more robots so we can accommodate even more students in term four.

Students must attend with a parent or carer and will need to bring along a tablet or laptop to each session. The cost is \$10.00 per term to cover the cost of the robots and batteries. The club is open to all students from years 1 to 6.

Space is limited, so, if your child would like to join or you would like further information, please email Bethaney and Lynn at Maribyrnongrobotics@gmail.com

P&C FUNDRAISER



MARIBYRNONG PRESCHOOL 2016 TEA TOWEL FUNDRAISER

The unique tea towel design is made up of drawings by all our preschool students (Roni, Cobi, Hodori and Misha) and staff at the preschool. The limited edition tea towel is **ONLY \$12.50 OR SAVE** by ordering **2 for \$24.00** or **5 for \$60.00** before **FRIDAY 23 September 2016**. Tea towel order forms are available at the front office. Please enclose payment (or receipt) with your order. Payments can be made by cash, Flexischools, or cheque made payable to Maribyrnong P&C Association.

If you have any queries please call Alyssa 0405 720 821 or email krausey626@hotmail.com

NOTES SENT / EMAILED HOME

- 3/4 National Zoo & Aquarium Excursion (paper notes only) \$18.50
- 1/2 Questacon Excursion (form available on the Skoolbag App) \$20.00
- 5/6 UCHSK Excursion to the Big Night Out- day performance. No cost. (form available on the Skoolbag App)
- SRC Lolly Day note
- Preschool Tea Towel Order Form
- 5/6 2017** Camp Cooba Expressions of Interest and deposit required 50.00 (form available on the Skoolbag App)

Eforms on the App:

- Volunteer for the Twilight Fair
- Feedback on 2016 School Photos.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Maribyrnong Primary students competed in the Junior Volleyball Tournament on Saturday 27 August. The tournament is run by Olympic volleyballer Rachel Uren who coaches the students every Tuesday lunchtime in weeks 3-10 each term.

The team competed against children from Weetangera, Aranda and St Joseph's Primary schools and the students displayed outstanding teamwork. They fought through some very close matches with a number of their sets resulting in a 25:23 score line!



Congratulations to the following Maribyrnong students who played in the tournament: Peter, Amber, Lily, Freya, Riley, Aidan and Jacob.

Keep up to date with:

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



- Like us on **FACEBOOK**: Maribyrnong Primary School-Kaleen for updates.
- The Maribyrnong website http://www.maribyrnongps.act.edu.au/our_community/calendar

ENTERTAINMENT BOOK

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Marymead's Spring Plant Sale

For further information contact 6162 5800 or email

events@marymead.org.au.

Plant SALE

SATURDAY 24 Sept

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TOYS, BRIC-A-BRAC, BOOKS, CLOTHES & SAUSAGE SIZZLE

9.00-1.00 PM

255 GOYDER STREET NARRABUNDAH ACT

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P&C TWILIGHT FAIR NEWS



Maribyrnong Primary School Twilight Fair
Book Stall Collection
is now open.

Donations for the Book Stall at the Twilight Fair are now being collected.

You can leave **SALEABLE** books in the appropriately marked box near Kowdinsky from now until Friday 28 October.

If you have a large quantity of books that you would like to donate, please contact Sharon Houston sharon.houston@education.gov.au to arrange to drop off or you can bring your book donations the morning of the Twilight Fair.

Thank you for your continued support of our school.