

POSSUM PRESS



NEWS FROM JEN

FRIDAY 3 FEBRUARY: Term 1 Week 1



Welcome to the 2017 school year. It has been an absolute pleasure to touch base with so many families over the past week. I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our families who have recently joined the Maribyrnong community and look forward to getting to know you and your children. I would also like to extend a very warm welcome to all of our educators and students; I have already enjoyed hearing of the many adventures our students have had over the past six weeks.

It was wonderful to see so many of you at the Welcome Barbecue on Wednesday night, braving the rain for a hot sausage or veggie pattie. I would like to extend my thanks to the staff for their efforts on the night, we always enjoy the opportunity to touch base with families. My thanks also to the P&C for once more supporting this event by providing the food and drinks, my thanks to Longpark Meat Co for supplying the sausages at a considerably reduced rate and also to Supa Express Kaleen for sponsoring the event by providing the bread for families to enjoy. I do hope you enjoyed the event and made some new friends.

Staffing Update

Over the break each family was sent a letter outlining the school staffing structure for the year. Further to this information I would like to welcome Mrs Alison Nilon to our teaching team. Alison will be working with Mrs Baird in year 1 BN on a Thursday and Friday. Alison has many years of teaching experience, most recently at Turner School. I would also like to welcome Mrs Kathy Nash to year 1 JB. Kathy will teach with Jane Baillie on a Thursday and Friday for the first six weeks of term. We will then welcome Hannah Flaherty to work with Jane.

If you would like to touch base with your child's teacher across the year, their email addresses are available from the school website and also from each Possum Press Newsletter.

Keeping Up To Date

We understand how important and complex it can be for families to keep up to date with school events throughout the year. To assist you to stay informed, we have a number of key channels that you can access:

- the calendar on the school website which you can sync with your calendar on your mobile devices
- the Skoolbag App which has a calendar that you can also sync with your mobile devices. Some forms are also available through the eForm section of the App, including submitting an absent record or change of details form for the school to process. The App also allows the school to send reminders for events or key information relating to school operations. This App is available for free download
- the school newsletter which is published fortnightly provides a wealth of information about shorter term events and updates which are noteworthy for the fortnight ahead.

We look forward to continuing to support families to remain informed and involved in our students' lives.



ACT
Government
Education

CONTACTS

Maribyrnong School

Ph: 62055933 Fax: 62055932

www.maribyrnongps.act.edu.au

FACEBOOK: Maribyrnong
Primary School-Kaleen



Board Chair Lauren Newman
laurennewman_13@yahoo.com.au

P&C President Sharon Houston
maribyrnongpandc@gmail.com

Possum Pantry Canteen

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

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

Westpac School Bank Account

BSB 032 777 Account 001615

DATES TO REMEMBER

FEBRUARY

- | | |
|------|---|
| 8-10 | 5/6 Camp Cooba |
| 10 | No Assembly |
| 13 | Swimming Carnival:
8 years in 2017 and over-
competitive swimmers only. |
| 14 | Information Night K-6 |
| 16 | Board 6.00 pm
P&C 7.00 pm Library- ALL
WELCOME ☺ |
| 16 | 5/6 T-shirt orders DUE |
| 24 | Assembly 2.15 pm |

Allergies and Nut Aware

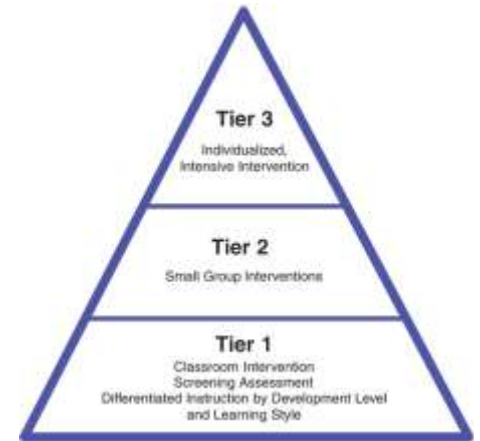
Maribyrnong is a Nut Aware School. This means that we ask that no nuts are brought to school, including in sandwich spreads, as a raw snack or within muesli bars etc. We know that families go to great lengths to check ingredients lists to avoid sending products with nuts to school, we greatly appreciate these efforts. We do have a number of children across the school with increased sensitivity to the smell of nuts and contact (rather than ingestion) with any nut based products. As such we ask that if your child has had a nut based spread or product before coming to school, that they wash their hands and face prior to leaving home. These actions significantly reduce the possibility of cross contamination. We do have a number of children with other allergies across the school also, class teachers will be in touch regarding any other foods to be aware of in your child's class. We take allergies very seriously, ensuring all staff are trained in the use of auto injectors. We ensure that all action plans and necessary medications move with the relevant child as they move through the school. For example the supplies are taken to science when the children have their science lessons, and are in the yellow jacket playground bag while children are playing. If you have a child with an allergy, please ensure all action plans are up to date, your contact details are accurate, and all medicines required are on site.

Response To Intervention

This year we have launched a new approach to our response to reading intervention in the junior school. Children will continue to access literacy groups across the teaching unit with targeted learning experiences for their individual needs; focusing on differentiated reading groups, grammar and punctuation, writing, handwriting and spelling. This approach is part of the Tier 1 Response To Intervention.

This year Elissa Penfold and Sarah Dorrough will also run small group reading intervention groups. Children who require additional, intensive focus on reading development will work in a group with up to three other children and one educator. The key focus will be to develop phonological awareness skills such as hearing and recognising, segmenting and blending of individual sounds. Other focus areas include reading fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, oral language and letter-sound relationships. This approach is part of the Tier 2 Response To Intervention. We will be sending home information for parents and carers whose children will be part of these tier 2 groups as well as some information about how they can be further supported at home.

Finally, we will continue to support children's learning through referral to our school psychologist Judy Marriott, through engaging with external therapists and support agencies as part of our Tier 3 interventions. If you have any questions about the new approach or any concerns please get in touch with either your child's teacher or one of the executive team.



Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

This year we have officially launched our Social Emotional Learning (SEL) program in conjunction with the School Relationships Policy. Over the coming weeks, our staff will be exploring the 5 school values with our students: excellence, respect, responsibility, inclusion, resilience. In week 3, we will commence using the 'Bounce Back' program, teaching explicit lessons for one hour a week focused on nine curriculum units which include: core values, people bouncing back, courage, looking on the bright side, emotions, relationships, humour, no bullying and success. Each fortnight we will provide families with an update through the school newsletter as to key discussion points covered, in this way families can also be part of the discussion at home, further strengthening our shared responsibility for education. If you would like further information, please contact Anna Thorpe or your child's teacher.

Parent/Carer Information Night

Our Parent/Carer Information Night will be held on Tuesday 14 February (week 3) at the following times:

- kindergarten at 6.00 pm
- year 1 and year 2 at 6.30 pm
- year 3 and 3/4 at 7.00 pm
- year 5/6 at 7.30 pm.



This is a great time to come along and meet your child's teacher as well as learn about the way in which each teaching unit will work for the year. All sessions will be held in the classrooms and will last for 30 minutes. We look forward to seeing you all here on the night.

Before School Supervision

Before school supervision commences at 8.45 am when a school staff member commences playground duty; generally you can expect to see me with another educator on morning duty. We encourage students to have a calm and quiet start to the morning and therefore do not permit running games or ball games before school. When students arrive they should wait in the area where their class lines up each morning to ensure they are in the supervised playground areas. Students riding to school each day should lock their bikes up and move to their designated class area. If you need to leave your child at school earlier than this, we ask that you enrol them in the Communities@Work morning program where they are given breakfast and supervised until 8.45 am. Enrolment forms for the Communities@Work are available from the website

<https://commsatwork.org/services/children/out-of-school-hours-care/>

Sign In/Out Book

Each year we revisit procedures to ensure we are following the appropriate guidelines. If a child arrives late, (more than 5 minutes after the bell) or needs to leave early during the school day, parents and carers are requested to go to the front office first. A member of staff will then assist you to sign the Student Sign In / Out Book which is located on the counter at the office. A member of staff will then collect your child from the classroom. If you are returning your child to school after an appointment, please accompany your child to the front office and sign them in via the Student Sign In / Out Book. This process ensures that the school is aware of any adults who are on the premises at any given time. Students who arrive late to school will also receive a late slip that needs to be handed to their class teacher and stored with the class roll for reporting purposes. We thank you for your cooperation in these matters.

Student Attendance

As part of the ACT Education Act it is our responsibility to ensure students attend school on a regular basis. If your child is absent from school please ensure that you inform the school as soon as possible. There are a number of options available including completing the absence form on the school App, a phone call to the front office, an email to either your child's teacher or by sending a letter with your child when they return.

Student Injury - Insurance and Ambulance Transport

The ACT Education and Training Directorate does not provide any insurance cover for injury, disease or illness to students resulting from school activities or school-organised excursions. Claims for compensation are met where there is a legal liability to do so. Liability is not automatic and depends on the circumstances in which any injury, disease or illness was sustained.

As there is no automatic insurance cover for personal injury if your child is injured at school or during a school organised activity/excursion, you should therefore consider whether taking out personal insurance cover for your child is warranted. This insurance might cover contingencies including medical/hospital expenses, ambulance transport outside the ACT, and cancellation of transport/accommodation or loss of/damage to luggage. The ACT Ambulance Service provides free ambulance transport for students who are injured or suddenly become ill at school or during an approved school organised activity within the ACT.

Working with Vulnerable People – Volunteers in Schools

We will continue to implement a volunteers and visitors sign in process at the front office. When you visit or volunteer at school, please make sure that you check carefully that you are signing into the correct folder. For those who hold a Working with Vulnerable People Card (WWVP), please make sure you have this card on you and that your number is recorded next to your signature. For volunteers and visitors without this card, you will need to sign into the non-registered folder. If you are a regular volunteer, that is volunteering more than 7 hours in a semester, you must have a WWVP card. If you exceed these hours you are in breach of the Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Act 2011 which commenced on 8 November 2012. This also puts the school at risk of breaching the act and being fined. We certainly appreciate all of our volunteers and your support in this matter is appreciated to ensure we are keeping all of our students safe. If you have any questions around the registration process, you can call the Office of Regulatory Services on 6207 3000 or go online to <http://www.ors.act.gov.au>

For more information: http://www.ors.act.gov.au/community/working_with_vulnerable_people_wwvp

Parking

A general reminder about parking and safety within our community. We understand that car parks are at a premium around 9.00 am and 3.00 pm daily. It is crucial that we continue to work together for the safety of our children. The bus zone is accessed each morning and afternoon by two buses, one which is a mini bus for special needs transport bus and the other which is a coach sized bus transporting children to Hall. It is crucial that the bus zone remains free of cars so that our children are able to safely access these buses. There is ample parking down Shannon Circuit and the gate from the playground to Shannon Circuit is open morning and afternoon for your convenience. There is also parking at Gwydir Square and towards the Scout Hall. While these options require a short walk and a little more time out of the day, they are crucial to keep our community safe. Student safety is a priority for us all and I appreciate your cooperation with keeping our kids safe.

A reminder also that the Children's Crossing is in effect now that school has returned. The crossing is a part-time crossings which operates just before and just after school hours, as well as other times such as school excursions and lunch times. They are highlighted by red flags with the words 'children crossing' on them. When the flags are displayed you must slow down and stop before the stop line if a pedestrian or cyclist (adult or child) is on or entering the crossing. You must not proceed until all pedestrians have left the crossing. You must not stop on or within 20 metres before or 10 metres after a children's crossing. Pedestrians are not to wave cars through, this opens up risks for all parties involved.

Once more this year we will be updating our school Face Book page regularly with reminders about upcoming school events. To stay up to date remember to 'Like' our page Maribyrnong Primary School – Kaleen and remember to download the Maribyrnong Primary Skoolbag App.

Thank you for your ongoing support!
Jen.

A Focus on Maribyrnong Values

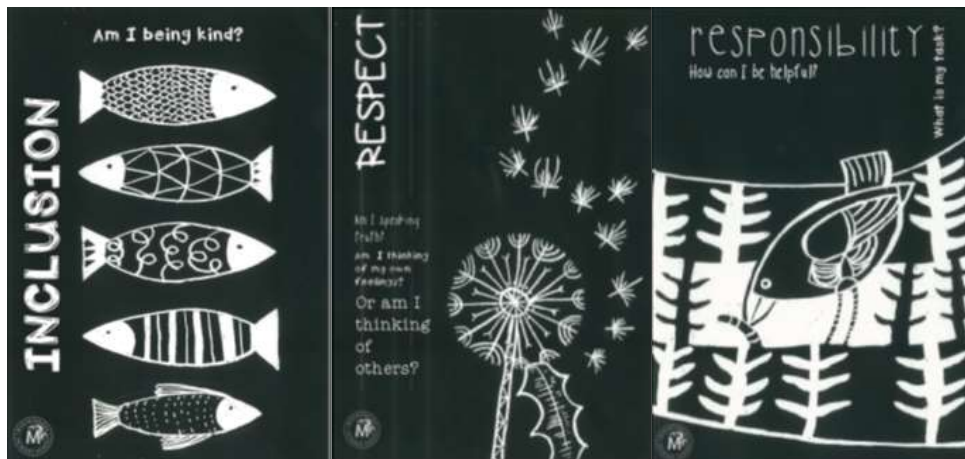
As we begin our 2017 new school year, all educators at Maribyrnong will be launching a focus on our Maribyrnong Values program. In 2016 we shared new relationships policy where we outlined the three following principles as core to our community focus:

- **Social Concern** – all community engagement and communication should be primarily motivated from a place of social concern; concern for others and the motivation to work for the welfare of others.
- **Student Voice** – when students have a genuine say in the life of the classroom and school, they become committed to decisions they help to make, and feel responsible to the community they have helped to shape.
- **Values** – when a school community deliberately emphasises the importance of learning and of behaving humanely and responsibly, students have standards of competence and character to live and learn by.

The community of Maribyrnong Primary School has agreed (by survey) that the five values our school actively seeks to promote and model are:

INCLUSION
RESPECT
RESPONSIBILITY
RESILIENCE
EXCELLENCE

You will see our school values shared in classrooms, in shared spaces and in conversations via the images below. Class teachers will be working with students to decide what each value looks like in practice, in their own classroom. We look forward to sharing our learning about these values with you at home.
 Anna Thorpe.



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NEWS FROM JACKIE (DSTA)

Hello Everyone!

My name is Jackie Sampson and I am the Defence School Transition Aide (DSTA) for Maribyrnong Primary School. I provide support to the defence families who are a part of our school community.



Maribyrnong recognizes that many defence families benefit from additional support due to service postings or a family member being deployed.

What can a DSTA do?

- welcome new families and students to our school
- support defence students to create friendships
- support defence students in class
- create links to Defence Community Organisation (DCO) for additional support
- provide information to defence families through newsletters and direct contact
- support defence students at times of deployment / postings
- farewell defence families when they leave our school and support them in their transition to a new school.

I can be contacted via email or through the front office here at school. I will be available at school on Tuesdays from 9.00 am – 3.00 pm and Fridays from 9.00 am – 12.00 pm.

I am greatly looking forward to meeting and working with you all.

Upcoming events

First Friday Coffee Club

Come along and join us on the first Friday of each month (excluding public and school holidays) for a cuppa and a chat starting at 9.15 am at U & Co Café at Gwydir Square Kaleen (the shops near the school's front gates). All welcome.

Possum Partners

Meet at the Lilli Pilli Room each Friday at 9.15 am (Unless it is First Friday Coffee Club!) to assist the school with many small but very important jobs. Things like covering books, laminating, making class sets of materials for the students, assisting to put up displays and one hundred other little tasks that provide so much support to our wonderful school community. All welcome!

Defence Community Organisation (DCO) Welcome Event

Defence members and their families are invited to join together for an evening of fun and entertainment at ADFA Gym and AFL Oval from 5.00 pm – 8.00 pm on Friday 10 February. More information can be found on www.defence.gov.au/dco or on the DSTA notice board here at school.

Jackie Sampson – DSTA.

NEWS FROM JUDY- SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST

I just wanted to say hello to everyone and introduce myself to those of you I have not met. My name is Judy Marriott and I am the School Psychologist at Maribyrnong. I am in the school on Tuesday and Wednesday of each week although some weeks this may change. This is my fifth year working at Maribyrnong in my current capacity and I feel very privileged to work in such a caring and dedicated school.

I work with children from preschool to year 6 for a wide variety of reasons including:

- assessment to provide further information on a child's strengths and weaknesses
- development of social skills
- development of confidence and resilience
- supporting a child through difficult family situations
- assisting children with friendship difficulties and many other reasons.



I work closely with parents, carers, educators and outside professionals and feel that the team approach is the best in meeting a child's individual needs.

I will be continuing to work with a number of children who I worked with last year and will be monitoring the progress of others. Please feel free to contact me if anything has changed or developed for your child over the break or if you are concerned in any way about your child and would like to have a chat and make a new referral.

My direct number is 6205 5939 and my email is judy.marriott@ed.act.edu.au

I look forward to catching up with many of you over the school year.

Judy Marriott.



MYTHBUSTER

Speaking and Listening Mythbuster

Myth # 1 Planned and unplanned speaking tasks have the same purpose

Speaking and listening is central to the lives of all people. It is the means through which we communicate feelings, thoughts and experiences. It is an integral part of thinking and learning.

Speaking is usually immediate and spontaneous yet speakers also think and reflect as they speak. The dynamic, interactive nature of unplanned spontaneous speaking is not only vital for the building of interpersonal relationships but also promotes inquiry and the exchange of ideas. Speaking that is more formal may be planned and deliberately constructed for different communicative situations. This type of speaking may be more reflective in nature, drawing together the ideas that have been previously developed. Teachers provide opportunities for both unplanned and planned speaking to support learning in a variety of situations. The table below outlines some of the differences between planned and unplanned speaking.

Unplanned Speaking	Planned Speaking
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May be spontaneous and rapid as the speaker is thinking on the spot. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is measured. Deliberate planning is done prior to speaking.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can involve spontaneously using voice, pitch, rhythm, stress and body to assist communication as needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses previously chosen and rehearsed devices.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can be hesitant, often punctuated with fillers such as <i>umm</i> and <i>er</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is concerned with precision. Words can be chosen for economy or can be elaborated on depending on the needs of the audience.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May be repetitive. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses repetition deliberately to illustrate a point.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is often disjointed and may contain false starts and incomplete sentences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aims for fluent speech using full sentences.

So.....this myth is **BUSTED!**



Planned and unplanned speaking tasks serve different purposes and end in different results!

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

SCIENCE NEWS

WASTE FREE WEDNESDAYS AT MARIBYRNONG PRIMARY SCHOOL

As part of our sustainability awareness program we encourage all students who bring food to school on Wednesdays to use REUSABLE or RECYCLABLE packaging.

Plastic lunch boxes, foil or paper wrappings are fine. We particularly try to avoid cling wrap and chip packets.

Please help us with this initiative and become part of our sustainable school community.

If you have any questions about Waste Free Wednesdays or would like an information sheet with ideas for waste free lunches please contact Mrs Carr.

Leslie Carr.

leslie.carr@ed.act.edu.au



NOTES SENT / EMAILED HOME

- Student information pack (K to 6) due by **Friday 10/02/17 (week 2)**.
Includes:
 - AQUA note:** Student Information Check Sheet. Please sign and make any corrections to your information.
 - LIME GREEN notes:**
 - 2017 'Grin & Bear it' Photo Consent **ONE PER FAMILY**
 - Medical Information and Consent **ONE PER CHILD**
 - CREAM notes:** Financial Contributions at Maribyrnong.
 - The following cream notes are optional activities and information to return if you wish to opt-in:
 - P&C Class Carer information
 - P&C Possum Café Volunteers
 - Christian Education in Schools (CEIS)
 - P&C Uniform order sheet
- Chess classes** term 1 (emailed) – K to 6
- Swimming Carnival** – competitive swimmers only for 8 year olds (in 2017) and above.



P&C POSSUM CAFE



The Possum Pantry Café needs you!!

The PossumPantry Cafe is open Wednesday to Friday each week. We are looking for volunteers to help produce the lunch orders on Thursday and Friday mornings between 9.00 am and 12.00 pm. It is a great way to get involved in the school and meet people. Come see Rouvaye or Zoe in Canteen.

BOARD NOMINATIONS

If you're keen to contribute to the governance of Maribyrnong Primary School, you should consider nominating for a position on the school board in 2017.

No prior experience is necessary.

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

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

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

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

You can submit your nomination by:

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

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



Maribyrnong is a Nut Aware School

We ask that parents and carers maintain vigilance in ensuring that **no nut products** are sent to school at any time.

P&C NEWS



Give an hour

Every day at Maribyrnong there are loads of activities that family and community are invited to come along and join in with. Things like listening to reading, assisting with groups, participating in special events, helping at the canteen, providing specialised assistance in an area that they have a particular skill in or just staying for ten extra minutes to offer a helping hand.

We also have wonderful whole school events each year that require many hands to make light work. Things like carnivals, walk-a-thon, special assemblies like book week and the Twilight Fair.

Maribyrnong has a school community of approximately 300 families. If each family was to give just one hour of their time to assist the school at some point during the year this would provide at least 300 extra hours of assistance to our school community as a whole! What a difference that would make. It is so simple to give 60 minutes of your time.

Each newsletter we are going to highlight some of the ways people can get involved and assist the school by giving one hour of time. Keep checking each newsletter for more ways that you could give one hour and make a real difference in our school.

The P&C meet twice a term (weeks 3 and 8) on a Thursday evening at 7.00 pm in the school Library.

Safe School Travel in the ACT – Information Sheet 8

Safety and children's crossings

Ensure that your child always uses the children's crossing – it is the safest point of entry to the school.

Where there is a Children's Crossing:

- Drivers must stop at the white line if pedestrians are waiting to cross or are crossing, when the 'CHILDREN CROSSING' flags are displayed. Drivers must remain stationary until the crossing is completely clear of pedestrians.
- Drivers need to know that a children's crossing is a part-time crossing which is in operation at any time the crossing flags are in place. It operates whenever any pedestrians are using the crossing. This could be the start and finish of school days, during lunchtimes, or for excursions.
- Schools or the operators of these crossings should ensure that flags are



always removed when the crossing is not in use to reduce confusion for, or disrupted by, motorists.

