

# POSSUM PRESS



## NEWS FROM JEN

THURSDAY 2 MARCH: Term 1 Week 5

We have had the most amazing start to term 1. In the last five weeks teachers have been busy creating safe and supportive learning environments with their students. Classes have been focussing on getting to know their peers and building positive relationships to learn and support one another. We have also welcomed a new P&C President, Meg Holesgrove, and we will welcome a new school board representative in the coming weeks.



**ACT**  
Government  
Education

Our new response to intervention model is well underway, with nine targeted reading groups running across the week for children in year 1 to year 4. These children are accessing a highly targeted program aimed at improving their reading abilities through an intensive phonics approach. We look forward to sharing their progress and achievements with you in the coming weeks.

## CONTACTS

### Maribyrnong School

Ph: 62055933 Fax: 62055932

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

**FACEBOOK:** Maribyrnong  
Primary School-Kaleen



**Board Chair** Lauren Newman  
[laurennewman\\_13@yahoo.com.au](mailto:laurennewman_13@yahoo.com.au)

**P&C President** Sharon Houston  
[maribyrnongpandc@gmail.com](mailto:maribyrnongpandc@gmail.com)

### Possum Pantry Canteen

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

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

### Westpac School Bank Account

BSB 032 777 Account 001615

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### MARCH

- 3 5c Friday: K to 6, Budawang and Kakadu groups
- 7 Preschool Photo Day (Namadgi and Wallaroo groups)
- 8 K to 6 School Photo day
- 9 Preschool Photo Day (Budawang and Kakadu groups)
- 10 Assembly at 2.15 pm.
- 13 Canberra Day Long Weekend
- 17 Christian Education In Schools (opt-in only)
- 23 Board 6.00 pm and P&C 7.00 pm in the school library
- 24 Assembly at 2.15 pm.



### Values Postcards

It has been a great experience to hand out many values postcards over the last few weeks. As children are seen displaying one of our five school values, Inclusion, Respect, Responsibility, Resilience and Excellence, they are given a postcard in acknowledgment of their efforts. We are then taking a photo and sharing this on the values wall at the front of the school, under the possum box.

It has been incredibly valuable listening to the children explain their choice of actions and how they understood those actions to contribute to the wellbeing of others in our school community. As each discussion unfolds I feel incredibly proud to understand how children are understanding and applying the school values in their everyday actions.

When your child brings home a school values postcard in the coming weeks, take a moment to listen to how they applied the value in their everyday interactions, I am sure you will feel as proud as I have!

## External School Review

We are currently in our fourth year of the school improvement cycle. This means that in 2017, the school will participate in an external school review. Two experts will be part of the school for three days, 22 to 24 August, speaking with staff and students about school life, programs, achievements, results and systems in place to meet student needs. Our School Board Chair and P&C President will play key roles in the review, providing additional evidence of our work as a community. A report will be written by the panel highlighting areas of achievement and areas for improvement, as well as a set of recommendations. We look forward to engaging with the community and panel throughout this experience.



## Parking

A reminder to all families that the Bus Zone at the front of the school is in operation from 8.00 am until 4.00 pm daily. We have a number of buses who need access to this zone each morning and afternoon. Unfortunately, due to illegal parking, the buses are not able to pull in safely to the kerb. This is creating a huge concern for student safety where children are forced to move between traffic to gain access to the bus. This also means that the bus has been parked in by cars who are double parked. Safety of our students is everyone's responsibility. I encourage families to access alternate and legal parking arrangements including Shannon Circuit, 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. I appreciate your cooperation with keeping our kids safe.

## Front Building Update

In June 2016, the ACT Education Directorate announced its budget for the 2016-2017 financial year. Maribyrnong was one of the schools listed to receive funding for the development of a contemporary learning space. This funding has been allocated to upgrade the learning spaces in the building currently known as the 'Maribyrnong Centre'. Last year Leanne and I met with the design team several times, including over the holiday period. The plans have been through the procurement process and we are waiting on the announcement of who has won the tender. The space has been designed with the senior school in mind, we anticipate they will be year 5/6 classrooms. We look forward to keeping you up to date on the progress of this work.

## P&C Positions

Congratulations to our newly elected P&C! We appreciate your commitment to supporting Maribyrnong.

The following committee roles were filled at the AGM:

- President – Meg Holesgrove
- Vice President – Sharon Houston
- Treasurer - VACANT
- Secretary – Liz Swann
- Assistant Secretary – Mark Gilbert
- Public Officer – Liz Swann
- General Members – Clare Whittingham, Rouvaye Sillis, Jackie Sampson

The following non-committee roles were also filled:

- Music Scheme Coordinator – Kristy Gould
- Canteen Coordinator – Zoe Fellows
- Book Club Coordinator – Ana Stokic
- Uniforms – Clare Whittingham
- School Banking – Ilona Kuss
- Twilight Fair Coordinator – Sharon Houston
- P&C Council Representative – Liz Hughes-Brown

There are a number of roles which remain vacant, the most immediate being the Treasurer role. A letter was emailed to all families last week asking for nominations for the role. Without a treasurer our P&C is unable to operate. The implications for the school are substantial, this means we would be without a canteen, music scheme and uniform shop. Please touch base with Meg as soon as possible if you are able to take on this role: [megholesgrove@hotmail.com](mailto:megholesgrove@hotmail.com)

## Robotics Club

Last Monday saw the launch of the first P&C Robotics Club of the year. It was a lively and interactive session with many of our students and their carers getting to know their Edison robots. If you or your child are interested, please email [Maribyrnongrobotics@gmail.com](mailto:Maribyrnongrobotics@gmail.com)



## Easter Raffle

Our annual Easter Raffle is less than five weeks away! Our fabulous P&C are looking for donations of small gifts such as a colouring books, carrot seeds, soft toys, an Easter egg, chocolate rabbit, a board game, textas or coloured pencils etc. A connection with the Easter theme would be great but not essential. Donations of baskets (large and small) or cellophane, for making up the prizes would also be appreciated. Any donations can be dropped in at the front office. Raffle tickets will be sent home in the coming weeks.

Thank you for your ongoing support,

*Jen.*

## Speaking and Listening Mythbuster

### Myth # 3 Children just need to have-a-go and their ability to speak and listen will develop.

While having-a-go will certainly encourage children to develop their speaking and listening skills there is much more we can do as educators and parents to support their development.

A supportive classroom and home culture will help develop students' confidence to 'have-a-go' as they move from familiar to unfamiliar ways of speaking and listening.

Learning opportunities can draw on students' interests, knowledge and skills. Students can also be encouraged to contribute to the decisions made in the classroom and at home so that they develop a sense of belonging.

At school this is done through:

- being sensitive to cultural differences (some cultural practices limit eye contact for example)
- maintaining an emphasis on enjoyment
- communicating high expectations to your children
- valuing social talk and the use of home language
- providing opportunities for planned and unplanned speaking and listening
- building on students' prior learning and knowledge
- encouraging all attempts at speaking and listening for new purposes
- ensuring that students have a clear sense of what is expected of them
- providing opportunities for students to review their learning
- involving students in negotiating their learning
- taking advantage of the interests that students display.

At home you can:

- maintain an emphasis on enjoyment
- support your child to step out of their comfort zone and into their growth zone
- discuss their interests and pose questions
- connect home discussions to school learning
- talk, listen, talk, listen, talk, listen!



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

**Having-a-go is the first step in developing speaking and listening skills. Explicit teaching and home partnerships are the next steps!**

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)

As part of implementing the KidsMatter Framework, our school is trialling the **Bounce Back!** social and emotional learning program. Bounce Back! is an award-winning wellbeing and resilience class-based program for children and young people from kindergarten to year 8.

Bounce Back! offers practical strategies to help children and young people function well at school and in life. It promotes positive mental health, wellbeing and resilience for students and teachers plus safe and supportive class and school learning environments.

#### Key features of Bounce Back!

- It is a long-term, multi-year, multi-faceted whole-school program and not just an 'add-on'.
- It is a universal program taught to all students, not just selected students. However concepts and skills from the program can also be further consolidated in individual or small-group sessions.
- The components and teaching strategies in the program are all evidence-based.
- It is taught by classroom teachers and based predominantly on children's literature (especially younger and older picture books) and follow-up language/literacy activities.
- There is a strong focus on circle time, cooperative learning approaches and educational games to build positive relationships, positive emotions and teach social-emotional skills.
- The social and emotional knowledge, skills and concepts in Bounce Back! are integrated with academic content wherever possible. Many aspects of the program can also be integrated with humanities and social sciences, health, maths, science, music, art and drama.
- The psychological content of Bounce Back! is predominantly drawn from two core models: Cognitive Psychology and Positive Psychology.
- Parenting information is provided on the Bounce Back topics so parents can be supporting the key messages in the home.

So why not ask your child what they have been doing in their social and emotional learning time and see what connections you can make together?



What would you like to know about KidsMatter? Send your questions to [jantiena.batt@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:jantiena.batt@ed.act.edu.au) and it will be answered in the next KidsMatter Update.

## 2017 SCHOOL PHOTOS



**Tuesday 7 March** - Namadgi & Wallaroo, pre booked preschool/sibling photos

**Wednesday 8 March** – Staff, Kindy to year 6 and pre booked sibling photos

**Thursday 9 March** - Budawang & Kakadu, pre booked preschool/sibling photos

Last week your child was given a note informing you how to register for your child/rens school photos. Did you receive this? if not do not panic. If you register before photo day, **Grin & Bear it** will send you an email when the photos are ready for you to view and order. If you do not have the note or have not registered before photo day you will receive another note from **Grin & Bear it** when the photos have been taken and are ready to view. You will be able to then view and order photos.

**\*\*If you would like sibling photos, these need to be booked online by Friday 3 March.\*\***

If you have any questions please contact the front office.



## STAFF EMAILS

### School Executive

jennifer.howard@ed.act.edu.au

jantiena.batt@ed.act.edu.au

anna.thorpe@ed.act.edu.au

### School Psychologist

judy.marriott@ed.act.edu.au

### Front Office

leanne.rankine@ed.act.edu.au

roslyn.riddle@ed.act.edu.au

### DSTA

jacqueline.sampson@ed.act.edu.au

### 5/6

shane.deane@ed.act.edu.au

emma.wild@ed.act.edu.au

mia.grant@ed.act.edu.au

jasmine.paunovic@ed.act.edu.au

michelle.markezic@ed.act.edu.au

### Year 3 and 3/4

naomi.devlin@ed.act.edu.au

lee.brown@ed.act.edu.au

kylie.apps@ed.act.edu.au

melanie.meadley@ed.act.edu.au

justine.minchin@ed.act.edu.au

### Year 2

symone.chipreo@ed.act.edu.au

henry.warre@ed.act.edu.au

elissa.penfold@ed.act.edu.au

### Year 1

jane.baillie@ed.act.edu.au

sarah.baird@ed.act.edu.au

alison.nilon@ed.act.edu.au

lisa.riepon@ed.act.edu.au

leeanne.walls@ed.act.edu.au

### Kindergarten

camille.wise@ed.act.edu.au

tegan.arnold@ed.act.edu.au

alexandra.avis@ed.act.edu.au

### LSU

stacey.howard@ed.act.edu.au

jacque.mengel@ed.act.edu.au

### LSUA

christopher.moon@ed.act.edu.au

sally.longworth@ed.act.edu.au

### Preschool

merrin.walsh@ed.act.edu.au

kelly.perrett@ed.act.edu.au

taryn.cameron@ed.act.edu.au

niomi.ceely@ed.act.edu.au

nicola.toms@ed.act.edu.au

karina.harris@ed.act.edu.au

merrilyn.pepper@ed.act.edu.au

### Specialist Teachers

sarah.dorough@ed.act.edu.au

keilly.pownall@ed.act.edu.au

lynette.lisacek@ed.act.edu.au

leslie.carr@ed.act.edu.au

rowena.king@ed.act.edu.au

## DSTA NEWS FROM JACKIE

As I move around all the different class groups I quite often stop and have a chat about what people have been doing on the weekend. Many of our students here at Maribyrnong are involved in sporting activities. Sporting clubs and associations are a great way to get connected to your community.

We are starting to move into the winter season for sport here in Canberra. You will begin to notice all the signs popping up along the roads advertising registration days as well as opportunities to come along and try a new sport. Many clubs are also running trials to begin working out teams for the upcoming season, so now is the perfect time to take a look the sports available to you in our local area.

So why get involved in sport? Here are just a few reasons why:

- Playing sports helps develop teamwork and leadership skills.
- Sports boost self-esteem.
- It's a natural stress reliever.
- Kids develop lifelong healthy lifestyle habits.
- It's fun!



If you are a family who has been through the process of moving a number of times, finding a way of continuing with sport, be it as part of a team or individually can be quite difficult. This is particularly tricky if your child has been participating at a high level.

If you are interested in a sport or you are having difficulty locating or connecting with a sporting association this may be an area we can help you with.

Another place to seek information is the School Sport ACT (SSACT) web site. School Sport ACT (SSACT) is the peak body for School Sport delivery in the ACT. SSACT actively promotes school sport for all ACT students through the support of regional, state and national representative opportunities and pathways. You can find them at <https://www.schoolsportact.asn.au/>

Jackie Sampson – Defence School Transition Aide.

# Lights on Learning!

## *Focusing on Year 1 and 2 – The Daintree*

Students in The Daintree have had a great start to term 1! We have spent time getting to know each other and establishing routines which students are becoming more familiar with. The school “Values” program is an important part of our weekly routine where we focus on the social and emotional learning of students.

Students are working in differentiated groups for literacy and number. Literacy groups include spelling and reading. Spelling is taught through the “Letters and Sounds” program and through the BEE spelling program. Students learn letter sounds and how we blend these sounds to read words. We can also segment the sounds in words to write them down. So far we have covered s, a, t, p, i, n, m, d. Talk with your child about these letters and discuss what they have learnt. Reading groups are another component of our literacy session. Students work in small groups and engage in activities based around a text which is at their reading level. Your child’s “literacy group” teacher will be one of the teachers in the year level of which they are in.

Number groups also happen across the unit. Students are learning about ordering numbers and place value. Check in with your child and ask who their “Maths group” teacher is.



Our inquiry unit this term is focusing on the geographical features of the Canberra region. We are learning about places around our local area which are natural, constructed/built or managed. Examples include Cotter River, Telstra Tower and Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve. Students are highly engaged and are enjoying sharing their experiences of visiting such places with their families.

In visual arts, students are learning about colour. We have learnt about warm and cool colours and primary colours. Students are producing stunning pieces of art which are displayed in classrooms.

Just a reminder that school photos are next Wednesday 8 March. Please ensure your child is in school uniform.

Lisa, Sarah, Jane, Alison, Michelle, Henry, Symone, Elissa, Leanne.

# Lights on Learning!

## *Focusing on the Uluru LSUA*

Wow, week five already! The students of class Uluru are all settled into our work routines both inside the LSUA and out in their integration classes. During our circle times, we have been discussing our new school values of Respect, Responsibility, Inclusion, Excellence and Resilience and what they look like in our daily lives.

In our literacy sessions we have been focusing on how to structure an interesting recount. The students have also been working on editing their work so it makes sense to everyone who reads it.

For our research skills sessions the students have been independently researching words they would like to learn how to spell, finding a picture of what the word represents, then sending both the word and the picture to a specific email address.

We are currently reading *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*. It is full of difficult language. For example, did you know that a larder is a small room in a big house dedicated to food? We didn't!



In our numeracy sessions, the students have been working on how to tell the time on both analogue clocks and watches and digital ones. They have also been learning how to read twenty four hour time.

In our art sessions we have been learning about how geometry can be incorporated into art to create some really stunning and interesting images. One of these pieces is called an Anamorphic Illusion. We all tried to be precise as we could when it came to ruling, colouring and shading each section of the piece so the illusion would work. I think the students did a great job!



In our inquiry unit we have been exploring our understanding of our place in time. In order to understand how we came to be here in Australia we have been researching stories from the First Fleet and the reasons why the British decided to send people here in the first place.

Chris and Sally.



## P&C NEWS



### P&C Give an Hour – An Hour of Power!

This week in Give an Hour we are looking at what you could do to help out in the school canteen.

Possum Pantry operates three days a week from Wednesday to Friday providing fresh and nutritional food choices for our school community.

This really is an area in our school where many hands make light work. There is always something to be done. If you would like to drop in you might be able to:

- assist with over the counter sales
- help wipe benches
- make lunch orders
- help to prepare the food that goes into lunch orders such as chopping up fruit/vegetables or warming up hot items
- bake muffins
- cook pikelets

These are only some examples of the many jobs that need completing each day that the canteen is open. If any or all of these ideas sounds like something you could do to give an hour then drop into the Canteen to see what you could do to help.

Again, for any job that you would like to assist with at school it is very important that you sign in at the front office as a volunteer. This is a really quick and simple process that our office staff are more than happy to help you with.

***One hour can make such a difference.***

## SCHOOL BANKING NEWS

### School Banking starts again!

New and existing students are welcome, Wednesday mornings from 8:45am in the canteen. Bring your money and yellow bankbook.



Many new rewards this year. Learn more at

<https://www.commbank.com.au/personal/kids/school-banking.html>

or drop in on Wednesdays.

## NOTES SENT / EMAILED HOME

- Student information pack (K to 6) **OVERDUE- please return asap.**
- Preschool Excursions to the Canberra Museum and Gallery (emailed and on the App)

### Keep connected to news with:

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

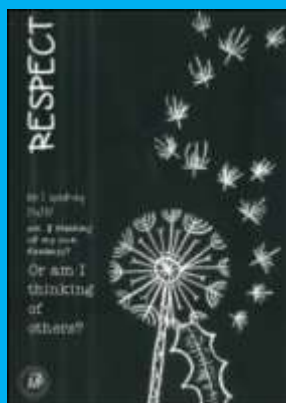


- Like us on **FACEBOOK** for updates: Maribyrnong Primary School-Kaleen



- The Maribyrnong website and full calendar:

[http://www.maribyrnongps.act.edu.au/our\\_community/calendar](http://www.maribyrnongps.act.edu.au/our_community/calendar)



## OUR MARIBYRNONG VALUES

## COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Paulina Young, mum to Lewis and Kian, is going to Tanzania in August to volunteer with the Not for Profit Organisation, E.P.I.C (Everyday People Initiating Change). <http://www.epicthemovement.org/>

As part of the volunteering Paulina is required to raise funds and is hosting an **80's theme trivia night**. It will be held on Friday 28 April at the Hellenic Club in Woden. Tickets are \$40 and must be purchased prior to the event. Please contact Paulina directly for more information: ph 0438 454 705 or [paulinaryoung@yahoo.com.au](mailto:paulinaryoung@yahoo.com.au)

If you can't make it to the night and would like to contribute to her **GO Fund Me** page, please visit: <https://www.gofundme.com/paulinaryoungtanzania>



**Come play AFL with the Belconnen Cats in 2017**

**Registration now open!**

Develop skills, coordination, teamwork, and have fun with your mates.

For age groups 5 to 15 yrs



Information and contact details at [www.belconnencatsafl.com.au](http://www.belconnencatsafl.com.au)  
Nicole Thorne ph: 0419 486 082

**Belnorth**  
Football Club  
**Just for Girls**



Belnorth FC also has soccer teams Just for Girls, aged from under 6 and up.

Come along and join us ...

**Registrations close  
7 April**

**More details on  
[www.belnorth.com](http://www.belnorth.com)**



**saverplus**

**Stressed about  
school costs?**

**Would \$500 help pay for uniforms, books, excursions,  
tutoring, a laptop or tablet?**

Saver Plus matches your savings for school costs, dollar for dollar, up to \$500!

You may eligible if:

- you have a Health Care or a Pensioner Concession card and,
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Saver Plus is an initiative of Brotherhood of St Laurence and ANZ, delivered in partnership with The Smith Family, Berry Street and The Benevolent Society and other local community agencies. The program is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government Department of Social Services. Go to [www.dss.gov.au](http://www.dss.gov.au) for more information



**Winter Season Registration Open Now**

**West's Magpies Basketball Club**

All Players 6—18 Years Welcome

All Skills Levels

If you are interested in joining our fantastic club, email us at [wests.basketball@gmail.com](mailto:wests.basketball@gmail.com) or check out our website for more information at [www.westsbasketball.com.au](http://www.westsbasketball.com.au)



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