



# POSSUM PRESS

## NEWS FROM JANTIENA

What a fantastic start to the school year we have seen. As I wandered around classrooms this week I observed students engaging in a range of learning experiences from learning the rules of a soccer game, enjoying big book storytelling, discussions about being a community-minded citizen and even how many claps we need to do to celebrate a fourth birthday!

### What is my child learning at school?

I was asked this question by a parent recently and the answer isn't straightforward. They wanted to know if their child would be learning about Ancient Civilisations, Inventions or about Insects. The answer to this question is no, however their inquiry unit may pose questions related to these areas in a topical way.

At Maribyrnong Primary we organise our curriculum to support an inquiry approach. Each inquiry unit at Maribyrnong Primary School develops student capacities to:

- manage themselves as people and as learners in a changing world
- understand the history, the now and the possible future of the world in which they live
- be confident, critical and creative thinkers who seek solutions to problems and answer questions
- develop holistically with opportunities to connect through their expressive, creative and communicating self in both a local and global way.

To enable students to achieve these broad purposes, the following overarching organisers are used:

- Me and Myself
- Me in My Community
- Me in my Global Community
- Me in Place and Time

The scope and sequence of inquiry units for kindergarten to year 6 are mapped using released learning areas from the Australian Curriculum. Hence the mapping of these units is continually 'in draft' as new learning areas are released. The inquiry units use foundational abstract concepts to ensure that the units of work are responsive to student needs and interests while applying knowledge, skills and understandings to a range of learning areas.

So what is your child learning about? Perhaps the abstract concept in their inquiry unit is *perspectives* so they are posing questions about how different cultures view decisions in the world. Or perhaps the abstract concept is *freedom* so the inquiry unit may be focused on the Rights of the Child. Inquiry units challenge students to think at higher levels. At the heart of the inquiry process is the task of helping deepen students' understandings by guiding their thinking about lower level 'facts' through to concepts and, ultimately, to higher level, transferable generalisations. While this scaffolding process has been accepted for many years, we are aware of the need for teachers to articulate it explicitly to students. This conscious spotlighting of thinking provides a very exciting and challenging layer to the work teachers and students do in an inquiry. This is where our focus on making the learning visible is apparent and so empowering.

### Information Night

Thank you to the many parents who attended the Information Night on Tuesday. We enjoyed sharing programs and plans for the year. This was a great opportunity to connect with other parents and carers too. Questions were asked, suggestions made and we all left excited about the year ahead.



Thursday 19 February, Term 1 Week 3



**ACT**  
Government  
Education and Training

### 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** Noel Florian  
[maribyrnongpandc@gmail.com](mailto:maribyrnongpandc@gmail.com)

**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:

#### FEBRUARY

19	Board 6.00 pm & P&C 7.00 pm
25	Swimming Carnival
27	Clean up Australia Day Assembly 2.15 pm 1/2 Item

For the full 2015 calendar, please visit  
[http://www.maribyrnongps.act.edu.au/our\\_community/calendar](http://www.maribyrnongps.act.edu.au/our_community/calendar)

**Unit Names**

This year is the International Year of Light. The purpose behind the proclaiming of the International Year of Light was to raise awareness of the light based technologies that are increasingly used to build sustainability and conserve energy. It is also to celebrate the discoveries made by scientists to build our global knowledge of the solar system. We have some very creative unit names with many students providing input into the final decision. What a great example of student voice in action. If you are interested in finding out more about this International Year of Light and light technologies, then please follow this link <http://www.light2015.org/Home/About.html>

**PIPs (Performance Indicators in Primary Schools) Assessment**

The Kindergarten teachers have started the PIPs testing. What is PIPS? It is a computer based assessment program that assesses the early literacy and numeracy skills of students in Kindergarten. Our Kindergarten teachers value this opportunity to work individually for a sustained time with each of their students. All students in ACT Public Schools undertake this assessment. PIPS assists with:

- determining what kindergarten students know when they enter primary school
- assessing the progress of students in literacy, numeracy and phonological awareness (sounds in language)
- diagnosing individual student work and providing information to indicate what students are achieving or understanding
- predicting future performance
- identifying students who might benefit from early targeted intervention or enrichment.

This assessment is administered in the first month at school. The second assessment is administered early in term four and shows how your child has progressed relative to their starting point in the first assessment. We use the information gleaned from PIPs together with our school based assessments to ensure all students succeed at Maribyrnong Primary.

**Voluntary Contributions**

Now is a great time to pay your voluntary contributions. In previous years this money has gone towards home readers, mathematical manipulatives, ICT initiatives and other resources. It is a great investment in your child’s education. There are many options available to you in contributing to voluntary contributions. It can be a one-off payment, contributions over a term or even fortnightly contributions. Please see Leanne Rankine in the front office to discuss payment options.

**Student Safety**

All members of our community are reminded that they are required to wear a helmet when riding a scooter or bike. We remind our students about this and seek your support in prompting your child to secure their helmet before starting their ride to school. Unfortunately many students have arrived at school with their helmet on their head, but unsecured. As you know placing a helmet on your head is not enough to protect you in an accident. Parking in a safe manner around our school also supports their safety. Please follow the road rules and ensure our students are kept safe.

*Jantiena.*

**Writing stories is the most important writing skill**

Over time the way in which we teach writing has changed. For many years writing was taught based on genres such as narratives or expositions. The genre or text type approach allowed students to learn how to write in one specific way. While this approach was successful, research indicated that students were unable to make connections between the different genres or text types. This meant that learning started from scratch for each type.

We **now** know that the most effective way to teach students to write is by teaching students the different social purposes for writing. These are:

- ~ Writing to entertain
- ~ Writing to describe
- ~ Writing to persuade
- ~ Writing to recount
- ~ Writing to socialise
- ~ Writing to inquire
- ~ Writing to explain
- ~ Writing to instruct

The different social purposes of writing are all equally important. There are then different text forms that fit under the social purposes.

Entertain	Describe	Persuade	Recount
Narrative	Report	Exposition	Biography
Fairytales	Label	Menu	Autobiography
Fable	Menu	Job applications	Diary
Fantasy	Contents	Editorial	Journal
Poem	page	Headlines	Retells
Free Verse	Index	Competition	Minutes of meetings
Song lyric	Glossary	Entry	Reviews
Word Puzzle	Bibliography	Slogan	
	Blurb	Ad	
	Description		
Socialise	Inquire	Explain	Instruct
Invitation	Survey	Explanation	Directions
Apology	Questionnaire	Affidavit	Timetable
Message	Interview	Memo	Recipe
Note		Rules	Manual
Personal correspondence		Policy	Invoice
Announcement		Journal	List
		Timetable	Experiment
		Complaint	Blueprint
			Summons
			Map

Teaching students to write stories is a valuable experience but not the only text form that they will learn in primary school. It is quite amazing the writing your child will do in their primary years!

**So.....this myth is busted! Writing stories (writing to entertain) is an important experience but not the most important skill in their writing development.**

Looking for more information to support your child’s literacy or numeracy development? Please contact Jantiena through the front office or by email [jantiena.batt@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:jantiena.batt@ed.act.edu.au)

## AROUND THE GROUNDS

### Australian Curriculum

The Australian Curriculum sets consistent national standards to improve learning outcomes for all young Australians. It sets out, through content descriptions and achievement standards, what students should be taught and achieve, as they progress through school. It is the base for future learning, growth and active participation in the Australian community. ACARA develops the Australian Curriculum through rigorous, consultative national processes.

The Australian Curriculum focuses on learning area content and achievement standards that describe what students will learn and teachers will teach. It also gives attention to seven general capabilities that are important for life and work in the 21st century and to three issues identified in the Melbourne Declaration as needing more attention than they have received in curricula to date. The general capabilities and the cross-curriculum priorities are not added as additional subjects. They are dealt with, where relevant, through the learning area content on which the curriculum is built.

In each curriculum, the content descriptions specify what all young people should be taught, and the achievement standards set out the depth of understanding and sophistication of skill expected of students at points in their schooling. Other information is provided to support the content descriptions and achievement standards. Each curriculum includes a rationale, aims, year or band level descriptions, information on the organisation of the curriculum, content elaborations, annotated portfolios of student work samples and a glossary.

The Australian Curriculum has been released over a number of years through a phased approach. A number of curriculum areas are waiting for final endorsement. So you will see further change to our reporting outcomes as the final curriculum is rolled out over the coming years.

For more information:

<http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/>

## FRONT OFFICE NEWS

Thank you to the families who have returned their 2015 blue permission forms and the pink student check sheet, over 50% have been returned. We appreciate your assistance in maintaining our records. If your details change throughout the year please contact the office to ensure we have correct information on file.

- If you have changed the notification for your child/s immunisation details to 'Yes' please ensure the office staff have seen and taken a copy of the immunisation records. This could be the "blue" book or a copy of immunisation statement available from Medicare. Your child/s record can not be changed to Y until these documents are sighted/copied.
- If you have changed address details please present documentation to the front office to verify this change. For example – lease agreement or rates notice.

Thank you for your assistance,

Leanne and Ros.

Number of Children at the school	Voluntary Contribution for 2015		
	Consumables	Library Fund (Tax Deductible)	Total
1	\$67.00	\$83.00	<b>\$150.00</b>
2	\$83.00	\$117.00	<b>\$200.00</b>
3	\$100.00	\$150.00	<b>\$250.00</b>
4	\$117.00	\$183.00	<b>\$300.00</b>

## STAFF EMAILS

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 judy.marriott@ed.act.edu.au

## NOTES SENT HOME

- PIPS information- for Kindy only
- Book Club Brochures
- P&C Uniform Shop 5/6 Polo Shirt – **DUE 20/02/15**

### RETURN ASAP:

- Welcome Packs: please return
  - Permissions (blue)
  - Information Checklist (pink)
- Optional notes to return (cream):
  - Chess Classes
  - CEIS
  - Canteen volunteers request
  - P&C Piano
  - Uniform Order sheet

## GLIMMERS, DAZZLERS, SPARKLERS (PRESCHOOL)



Welcome to preschool in 2015! What a lovely way to start the year with the parent/teacher/child interviews held in January – feels like so long ago now! It was a great opportunity to meet, and learn about the children and families who we will share the preschool journey with this year.

We have had a lovely (and very busy) few weeks learning, investigating, making friends, dancing and singing, playing, sharing and questioning.

Thanks also to the families who attended our information session this week. We are always available to help with any questions, comments or concerns you may have. Please feel free to contact the preschool directly on 6205 6602, or email us personally at

[Elsa.hendry@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:Elsa.hendry@ed.act.edu.au)

[Georgia.richardson@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:Georgia.richardson@ed.act.edu.au)

[Niomi.Ceely@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:Niomi.Ceely@ed.act.edu.au)

We hope you all have a fabulous week!  
Elsa, Sally, Ni and Gaby, Georgia and Kelly ☺

## NEONS (1/2)

The Neon Unit is glowing with enthusiastic students who have immersed themselves in their learning. Students are managing the transition between different learning environments very well as they move between Number, Bee Spelling and Guided Reading lessons.

A huge congratulations goes out to the newly elected SRC representatives; Hayden, Eliza, Oliver and Isabel. We know they will do a fantastic job at attending meetings, brainstorming new ideas and being the student voice for the Neon Unit.

Thank you to all that attended the information night on Tuesday. It was lovely to see familiar faces and to meet some new families. Should you require to contact your child's teacher at any time please make an appointment with the front office or email the teacher directly.



During visual arts students use a range of mediums to create artworks. It would be ideal if students could bring in an art smock to keep at school. This could be an old shirt that is no longer needed at home. This will greatly assist in keeping uniforms clean.

Amanda, Camille, Kathleen, Keilly, Lucy and Stacey.

## AURORAS (K and K/1)

The last couple of weeks have been filled with lots of learning and laughter. We have been counting how many days of school, enjoying singing in the pit, starting Daily 5 and learning our sight words.

Home readers were sent home last week. The children were excited about taking the home readers. Reading regularly is an important part of helping a child learn to read. We ask that home reading folders are brought back to school every day so they can be changed regularly.

This week sight word homework will be going home with the kindergarten children. We ask that they read their sight words everyday with you. Sight words are high frequency words which they will see regularly in the books they read. This will assist them in being able to read more fluently. Year 1 start their homework grid next week.

Thank you to everyone who came to the information session.

The Auroras assembly will be Friday of week 10.

Jess, Sarah, Naomi and Leeanne.

## BEAMERS (3/4)

My goodness! Week three already! We have had a wonderful beginning to the school year. The Beamers were excited to present assembly last week and loved sharing the beautiful work that they've been engaged in! Homework has officially started for the year with mixed reactions from our students. If you need any clarification with our homework grid please send us an email and we will endeavour to clear up any problems. If your child does not understand something please encourage them to approach us. It may be many children don't understand and that we need to clarify with the group.

We are on the hunt for old business shirts that we can use as painting smocks. If you have any spare please send them in with your child. We are starting a collection in the 3/4FP wet area.

Our reading and spelling groups will begin this week with number beginning next week. Make sure to ask your child who their teachers are for these subjects as they may be different to their classroom teacher.

We've had a number of children forgetting to bring a piece of fruit or some vegetables in for our 10 am break. Please ensure that your child is bringing in fruit. They need that boost in the morning.

Lastly, we would like to congratulate our SRC representatives - Holly, Emily and William with Izabell being the reserve. Kylie, Keilly, Symone, Jane and Justine.

## FIREFLIES (LSU)

The LSU fireflies have had a wonderful start to the year and are already settling into a routine.

I had a great time on at Camp Cooba with two of the boys who faced their fears and tackled many obstacles and activities that they thought they would never be able to do. It was so lovely seeing their proud faces and they had a lot of fun doing it. Well done!

Integration with our big classes has started this week so look out for your child's timetable in their bags. This is a copy for you to keep at home so you know what they are doing each day.

Have a fantastic weekend,  
Lee and Jacque.

Lee and Jacque.

## GLOW WORMS (LSUA)

The Glow Worms have been learning about medieval times, Myths and Legends. So far we have been looking at Knights, castles and dragons. Picture timetables will be sent home soon. This will allow more opportunities for communication of some activities from school.

We are pleased to welcome Kathleen Price-Barnes to our unit for part of Thursdays and all of Fridays. Kathleen's role as a Learning Support Assistant will involve assisting students with learning, either in the LSUA or in mainstream classes.



We are planning a weekly excursion to our local café on Fridays. This will allow our students to demonstrate their literacy and numeracy learning in a real life situation. Please send in \$2 if you would like your child to be part of this community access program; a note with further information will go home later this week. We are looking at purchasing milkshakes, cold drinks and/or fruit salad.

Virginia, Nicola and Kathleen.



## SUPERNOVAS (5/6)

Week three already! Last week the year 5/6 unit attended Camp Cooba for three fun filled days of activities. Some of the activities included team initiatives, the assault course and our favourite the dune buggies. The Camp Cooba staff and all of the teachers were extremely happy with the students' behaviour and team spirit. We took some beautiful photos of the students, which we will be showing at the assembly in week six. We welcome you all to attend.

This term our inquiry unit focus will be 'Gallipoli' focusing on the abstract concept of 'community'. In this unit we will be looking at how history has shaped our nation.

A big thank you to all of our parents who attended our information session on Tuesday.

### Reminders:

- 5/6 T-shirt note and money is due Friday 20 February
- The swimming carnival – Wednesday 25 February
- Cross country – Friday 13 March

Shane, Elissa, Sarah, Emma and Justine.



## ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS- CHESS

Chess classes have started again this year. Lessons are held every Monday in the library over B1.

It is wonderful to see so many new students enrolling in the chess program. Returning and advanced students are participating in a school tournament, which is followed by a lesson with Cameron. New and beginning students have a lesson with Cameron then they play against a partner practising what they have learned that lesson.

This term the beginning chess students are learning about each piece and how they move. The advanced students are learning about different defence and attack moves.

Keilly Pownall  
Chess Coordinator.



## SCIENCE

**WASTE  
FREE  
WEDNESDAYS**

This year at Maribyrnong we aim to make **EVERY** Wednesday waste free for B1 and B2. Packaging is fine if it is recyclable or reusable and the Canteen are also on board with this initiative. So swap that cling for foil and label your containers!

## POSSUM PANTRY ROSTER

Week 4 Term 1	Wednesday 25 February	Thursday 26 February	Friday 27 February
9-2.30pm	Laura		Sharon F Kerry
9am-12noon	Kim	Wendy Kerry	Michael Linda
12-3pm		Emma	
Week 5 Term 1	Wednesday 4 March	Thursday 5 March	Friday 6 March
9-2.30pm	Laura		Michael Kerry
9am-12noon	Kim	Kerry	Linda
12-3pm		Emma	

The canteen has been getting busier and we would love to get some more volunteers, if you are available to help in the canteen on any of the shifts not yet covered, or if you would like to be included on future canteen rosters 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.

## P&C



**Redgum book club** is now available at the front office. Orders due 9 March. No cash orders will be taken.



**Lamont book club** is now available at the front office. Orders due 23 February. No cash orders will be taken.

**5/6 Polo shirt** orders due Friday 20 February. Orders forms are available at the front office. For more details please contact Clare Whittingham 0408 252736 or [madden\\_clare@hotmail.com](mailto:madden_clare@hotmail.com).

## COMMUNITY NEWS



27<sup>th</sup> CANBERRA



### MODEL TRAIN EXPO

**SATURDAY 28 March 2015 9am-5pm**

**SUNDAY 29 March 2015 9am-4pm**

University of Canberra High School  
104 Baldwin Drive  
KALEEN



- 30 Scale Model Railways
- Plus
  - Displays & Clinics
  - Children's U -drive
  - Trade stands

#### ADMISSION

Adults \$10.00, Children / Seniors \$5.00  
Family Ticket \$20.00

Presented by the Canberra Model Railway Club

Supported by



The P&C AGM and first general meeting of the year will be held  
**Thursday 19 February at 7.00 pm**  
in the school library.



Dollarmites School banking day is Friday at 8.45 am- 9.00am in the Library.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

We have been notified of a case of Head Lice in the school. You are advised to examine your child's hair to determine whether or not an infection has occurred. Please pick up a copy of the Head Lice Fact Sheet from the front office if you require further information. Alternatively you can view this information at <http://www.health.act.gov.au> and access the fact sheet – Head Lice.

## LOCAL SPORTS

### ZANSHIN MARTIAL ARTS

For training times and locations visit [www.zmaa.com.au](http://www.zmaa.com.au) or txt 040844615.



### NORTH CANBERRA BEARS

Rugby League sign on day Sunday 22 February Ashburton Oval in Kaleen or onlineregistration. Visit [www.facebook.com/NorthCanberraBears](http://www.facebook.com/NorthCanberraBears)



### UNIVERSITY JUNIORS HOCKEY CLUB

For more information please visit [www.unijuniors hockey.com.au](http://www.unijuniors hockey.com.au) or contact Andrew Hellyer on 0419-997031 or [ahellyer@grapevine.net.au](mailto:ahellyer@grapevine.net.au)

## JOIN THE MARIBYRNONG TEAM!!!!

1 March 2015

YMCA women & girls fun run

The 5km traffic free course starts/finishes at Stage 88 (Commonwealth Park) and goes out to the Carillon with a return loop through Commonwealth & Kings Parks.

You can walk, run, push a pram or dance your way around the 5km

**To enter follow the link from [www.wgfunrun.com.au](http://www.wgfunrun.com.au)**

