

# POSSUM PRESS

## NEWS FROM JEN

What a wet fortnight we have had! Even the rain can't dampen our amazing achievements over the past two weeks. We enjoyed a visit from the Director-General of Education, Ms Howson, we launched our brand new sandpit thanks to the amazing donation from the school P&C and we accepted many awards at the SEA\*ACT Science Fair awards night on Friday.

As our term nears its end, I would like to extend my thanks to the amazing educators at Maribyrnong. In term 3 we have seen great development in preschool social skills, incredible growth in kindergarten reading levels, improved maths results in year 1/2, great development in year 3/4 writing and a very motivated senior school who have been thoroughly engaged learning about issues of social concern. Each day our educators aim to provide students with new opportunities, more complex learning experiences, and leadership possibilities. I do hope to see you at our Learning Journey/Grandfriends Day on Monday to celebrate these, and many more, successes.



## Welcome Ben van Galen

On Tuesday 14 June at 11.37am, Emily and her husband Marc welcomed Ben Van Galen into their family. Ben was born in Sydney at The Children's Hospital at Westmead. Ben was born with a congenital heart defect, where the arteries in his heart were transposed, as well as other major complications to his heart structure. This meant that Ben underwent multiple surgeries in his first few weeks of life and spent much time in an induced coma. After a very long two months, at 54 days old, Ben and the Van Galen family were all able to return home to Canberra. While there are more surgeries to come in Ben's future, he is growing beautifully and enjoying life at home with his big brother Willem. I extend my warmest of congratulations to the family and while I can't know how difficult the first few months of Ben's life have been, I do know how incredibly thankful I am that Ben chose Emily and Marc to be his parents; their strength and determination are unsurpassed. Congratulations to the family and I look forward to sharing more wonderful news in the coming months. If you would like to congratulate the family you are welcome to email them [emily.VanGalen@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:emily.VanGalen@ed.act.edu.au)

## Twilight Fair

Our annual Twilight Fair is just around the corner, with Friday 4 November fast approaching. Our P&C welcomes donations for the book stall and craft stall. Donations can be left outside the P&C store room (near Kowdinsky) or head to the front office. There are still a number of vacancies on the volunteer roster if you can spare an hour or two; please complete the volunteer slip on the App or email Sharon directly. Our P&C are working on advertising through a number of online noticeboards. If you have a noticeboard in your workplace and would like to share this event with colleagues, please contact Sharon Houston for a flyer or a copy of the advertisement which we are using. Sharon can be contacted via email on [Sharon.houston@education.gov.au](mailto:Sharon.houston@education.gov.au)

We are looking forward to this great community event!



THURSDAY 15 SEPTEMBER: Term 3 Week 9



**ACT**  
Government  
Education

## CONTACTS

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**Board Chair** Lauren Newman  
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**P&C President** Sharon Houston  
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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

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 19 | Grandfriends Day & Learning Journey Assembly at 9.15 am* |
|    | (*note special day and time)                             |
| 21 | P&C Disco  |
| 23 | Last day of term!!                                       |



School Holidays 24 September to 9 October  
**OCTOBER**

- |    |                      |
|----|----------------------|
| 10 | First day of term 4. |
|----|----------------------|

## **Learning Journey and Grandfriends' Day**

Our annual Learning Journey and Grandfriends Day will be held on Monday 19 September. This is an opportunity for the students to show their family what they have learned during the term. It is fantastic for the students to explain to parents what they have been learning, explain why they have been learning it and show the work that they have produced. Our Learning Journey is also a chance for us to share with and celebrate our 'Grandfriends' - those special people in our lives who support and love us. Our assembly will commence in the hall at 9.15 am, followed by the opportunity to visit the classrooms and share students' learning with them. Grandfriends can then take the opportunity to be pampered with a morning tea provided by our wonderful P&C in the hall. This year we encourage families to bring along a plate to share in the hall after the learning journey has finished. Taking the time to enjoy morning tea together and reflect on the children's learning promises to be a wonderful time to connect our community. If you do bring something along to share, we kindly ask that it is nut free.

With so many families attending it is imperative that we adhere to the road rules and parking regulations. As a school who values all members of our community it is of paramount importance that carefully considered choices are made by us all. Parking options include utilising the shop car park, the overflow car park, parking legally along Shannon Circuit, walking to the event, riding your bike there and carpooling with others. By working together we can enjoy this event and celebrate our wonderful learning community. We look forward to seeing you on what promises to be a fun morning.

## **School Photographers**

Thank you to all of the families who provided feedback regarding our recent change of school photographers. The change in photographer meant that families were able to access images online. Broadly, the feedback we received included:

- greater choice with families being able to view and select photographs prior to purchase, some families were provided with one photo rather than being provided with a choice
- the photographers were very friendly and encouraging of students
- families believed the cost was more expensive than our previous supplier (a price comparison was completed prior to the change and there was a \$2 difference)
- the quality of the printed paper was a concern as was the double sided images

All feedback was provided to 'Grin and Bear It' on Tuesday this week. We received some statistics from the company which included:

- 78% of families preregistered
- 80% of students had more than one image (2 to 3 for primary and 4 to 6 for preschoolers)
- 84% of sibling photos had more than one image

Each image was reviewed carefully by the company, where families were not given a choice of photo this related to the multiple shots taken of each child being almost identical; as such the photos were not uploaded as they looked so similar. After our discussion we have decided to book our 2017 school photographs with 'Grin & Bear It', making the following key changes:

- the photographs will be printed single sided
- all photographs will be taken outside
- the photographs will be booked for earlier in the year to take advantage of the warmer weather outside.

Thank you for your feedback and support as we continue to strive for the best outcome for our families.

## **SEA\*ACT Science Fair**

The SEA\*ACT Science Fair awards night was held last Friday night. We once again have had an amazing presence in the fair showing our strong commitment to science education. A huge congratulations to the many Maribyrnong students who won individual and group awards on the night, overall we received 25 individual and group awards. Congratulations also to our junior school, through their efforts we once again won the Early Childhood Shield for the fifth year in a row.

Thank you to all of our families and teachers who supported students in undertaking their science projects. Thank you also to our P&C for supporting this initiative through paying for each Maribyrnong student to enter this next level of competition. It would be remiss of me not to make special mention of Leslie Carr who has challenged, guided and supported our students in completing their projects. Thank you Leslie for your hard work and passion for science education at Maribyrnong Primary School and beyond.

## **Joining or Leaving Maribyrnong?**

If you are joining or leaving us at Maribyrnong please let us know as soon as possible. Planning for next year is underway and knowing correct numbers is essential to this process. Thank you!

Thank you all for another wonderful term and I hope that you have a safe and happy break. I look forward to seeing you back on Monday 10 October.

Thank you for your ongoing support.  
Jenny.

It is nearly the end of term 3 and there are still so many wonderful things coming up in the Canberra community.

#### National Archives of Australia

The Waterhouse Natural Science artwork finalists, which explore our natural history will be on display at the National Archives of Australia. This is a free exhibition which will be showing in Canberra from the 16 September - 13 November. Follow the link to find out more about the NAA. <http://naa.gov.au/>

#### Floriade

Spring has sprung for 2016! Floriade returns from the 17 September - 16 October at Commonwealth Park by Lake Burley-Griffin. Don't miss the largest floral festival in the southern hemisphere! There is a huge range of activities for all the family throughout the month long celebration including music performances, cultural celebrations, food and wine shows, horticultural workshops, market traders, artistic displays, entertainment and recreational activities and entry into Floriade is free!

There is also **Nightfest** which is a ticketed program from the 28 September - 2 October and lights up the park with magical illuminations, roving entertainers and more shows to entertain. Follow the link for all the

details <http://www.floriadeaustralia.com/>

#### Holiday Happenings

Check out what is happening in the Spring School Holidays by following the link

<http://holidayhappenings.com.au/canberra.php>

Something for everyone!

Jackie Sampson – Defence School Transition Aide.



#### P&C 'GIVE AN HOUR'

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
- 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
- Help wipe benches

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!**



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## KIDSMATTER UNPACKED

### Why is social and emotional learning important?

Australia's national educational goals for the 21st century, as well as curriculum frameworks for each state and territory, recognise the importance of children achieving positive outcomes that relate directly to the skills of social and emotional learning. In addition, there is broad agreement and research evidence that shows that social and emotional skills can improve academic learning and enhance students' motivation to cooperate and achieve.

Since social and emotional learning emphasises teaching children the skills for positive relationships, it is a key strategy for schools in their efforts to reduce bullying and improve caring, respect and responsibility at school. When children are taught specific strategies for recognising and responding to emotions, thinking through challenging situations and communicating effectively, they are less likely to act out frustrations at school and elsewhere.

### Social and emotional skills at home

For children to develop social and emotional skills they need guidance that is matched to their level of development, as well as practice. In addition to teaching social and emotional learning at school, parents and carers can encourage children to use these skills in everyday interactions at home. Prompting and encouraging children to apply their learning in this way helps them develop their skills. Here is an example that shows how everyday situations can be used as opportunities for supporting children's social and emotional skills development. In this example, Voula is very excited about a family outing, but her behaviour is very annoying to the rest of her family, especially to her baby brother. The following table considers the problem, the skills Voula needs to learn, and how a parent or carer might support her learning.

Skill	The problem	Needs to learn	How to support
Self-awareness	Doesn't recognise she is wound up.	To recognise she is feeling excited and how it affects her.	<b>Name it:</b> "You seem pretty excited. You might tire yourself out using up all that energy before we even get there!"
Social awareness	Doesn't take account of others' needs.	To understand how others have different feelings and needs from hers.	<b>Ask/explain:</b> "See how the baby is getting upset? He wants you to stop poking him."
Self-management	Doesn't know how to contain her excitement.	To be excited without annoying others.	<b>Redirect:</b> "Let's see if you can use that energy to help us get ready."

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.

## READING MYTHBUSTER

### Myth #10

#### Answering questions about a book is enough to gauge comprehension.

You may think that if your child can answer a few questions correctly about the characters or plot of a story that they have full understanding of the text. Be careful in assuming this! Just because a child can recall names or details of a story does not necessarily mean they fully comprehend it. They may have understood the literal information, but do they understand it enough to tell you the author's purpose? Can they draw their own conclusions about the events? Can they make connections between what they've read to other books or to their lives? Simply asking questions about a story does not give you this information, mainly because the questions we tend to ask don't go deep enough. Questions are ok, but discussions are better!



Have you ever seen a movie and not quite gotten it or felt like you missed something important? Then when talking about it with a friend, they point out something someone said or did and you suddenly 'get it.' Perhaps then when you watched it again you picked up on connections or clues you missed the first time. That's what discussions after reading do for our children. Now by discussion we mean going beyond the literal level (look back at last fortnight's Mythbuster to read more about the four levels of comprehension) and discussing what happened and why, what the characters were like, what would you have done in their position, did you like the ending, if so why? That's not to say you can't ask questions, just try to use them to lead into a discussion rather than having a question/answer session. We call this type of asking 'closed questioning' as the response is simple and either correct or incorrect. 'Open questions' ask students to justify why and make connections to the world. They are not one word answers and demonstrate their understanding at a deeper level. Not only can discussions be really fun but you can use it to gauge your child's understanding.



**So.....this myth is BUSTED! Answering questions about a text does not demonstrate deep comprehension but a discussion might!**

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)

# Lights on Learning!

## Focusing on the 5/6 - TEAM A.S.P.I.R.E.

Another fantastic term has nearly come to an end in Team A.S.P.I.R.E. Students have been busily preparing for Learning Journey which will showcase their learning and skills they have been developing as part of our inquiry unit, Start Something that Matters. Students have created a character, attended conferences, identified a community need and product or service to meet that need, written business plans and proposals, presented to Shark Tank and reflected and refined their ideas all in preparation to present to the community during Learning Journey.

Students have been experimenting with their Chromebooks, designing forms, slideshows and visual displays. The students have also had lessons on how to access their school accounts from home, and have enjoyed using their home computers to complete homework and class tasks.

In technology, students have been designing and making paper planes with the goal of flying straight, looping, turning or twisting. They have been using the design, make and appraise method and focusing on making one change at a time, documenting it and theorising how it will help them achieve their goal.

Students demonstrated excellent leadership this term during Kids Teaching Kids where they presented science lessons to the rest of the school during Science Week and as part of the science program run by Mrs. Carr.



Book week was again a massive success and the imagination and talent required to make their costumes was truly impressive.

We continue to meet with our kindergarten buddies and eat lunch with them every B1 on Wednesdays.

Next term will be busy in 5/6. We have the Twilight Fair, with students organising and running the sideshow alley, concert item, graduation, year 6 Dinner and the 5/6 Big Day Out. Additionally, with the warmer weather, the bike program will be a focus in PE and there will be students going on lunch time rides.



We hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable holiday and look forward to your return in term 4.

Shane, Emma, Melanie and Nicola.

# Lights on Learning!

## Focusing on LSU- The Dequincos

The LSU kids absolutely loved watching the olympics and paralympics this term. We learnt about the sports, events and some interesting facts about some of our Australian Olympians.



This term we made some Milo Fudge in our cooking lesson. It was delicious and we shared it with our mainstream teachers. Look out for the recipe so you can make some more at home! Yum!



Book Week was celebrated with some wonderful costumes.

Can you guess who all these characters are?



Lee, Jacque and Michelle.

Skyzone excursion notes and payment need to be returned for next week's adventure!

**TERM 3 DISCO****WEDNESDAY 21 SEPT 2016**

Black Summer will again be our DJ and he will be playing the latest tunes so you can dance the night away with your friends.

The theme for this disco is 'Colour Crazy' so get out your most colourful clothes and hair colour!

Dancing will start from 6.00 pm with entry through the canteen doors and finish at 7.30 pm. **DISCO ENTRY - \$4.00 per student**, which will include entry, glow stick, fruit break and music. Don't forget to bring a water bottle with your name on it!

Parents and carers, there is **plenty to be done** to ensure the Disco is great fun for everybody. So if you can assist on the night **please indicate your availability** as soon as you can, by email or through the front office.

**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](mailto:krausey626@hotmail.com)

**Maribyrnong Primary School Twilight Fair Book Stall Collection**

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 to donate, please contact Sharon Houston [sharon.houston@education.gov.au](mailto: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.

**School Uniform Shop**

**Due to the Learning Journey and Granfriends Day on Monday 19 September, the uniform shop will be closed. If you have any queries please contact Clare Whittingham on 0408 252 736 or [madden\\_clare@hotmail.com](mailto:madden_clare@hotmail.com).**

**COMMUNITIES@WORK****Communities@Work****Maribyrnong Out of School Hours Care**

Communities@Work provides Out of School Hours Care at Maribyrnong Primary School between 7.30-9.00 am and 3.00-6.00 pm Monday to Friday during school terms. Educators are qualified and skilled to work with children age 4-12 years. OSHC is situated in the school hall, so please feel welcome to visit the team and have a chat about the program.

For further information visit: <http://commsatwork.org/before-after-school-care>

or contact Children Services Enrolments Team at [enrolments@commsatwork.org](mailto:enrolments@commsatwork.org)

**NOTES SENT / EMAILED HOME**

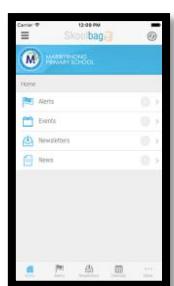
- Kindy to year 6 P&C End of Term Disco –Wednesday 21 September (email)
- Preschool Tea Towel Order Form
- 5/6 2017** Camp Cooba Expressions of Interest and deposit required \$50.00 (form available on the Skoolbag App)

**Eforms on the App:**

- Volunteer for the Twilight Fair

**KEEP CONNECTED...****Keep connected to news with:**

- Download the **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](http://www.maribyrnongps.act.edu.au/our_community/calendar)