We have had a very exciting start to the year with many new families and staff joining our school community. I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all of our educators, students and families; I look forward to getting to know you over the coming weeks. I have already enjoyed hearing of the many adventures our students have had over the past six weeks.

School Structure
The school structure for 2014 is as follows:

- **Deputy Principal**: Jantiena Batt
- **Executive Teacher**: Anna Thorpe
- **Business Manager**: Leanne Rankine
- **School Assistant**: Ros Riddle
- **BSO**: Ken Warland
- **Preschool M-W**: Elsa Hendry and Sally Longworth
- **Preschool W-F**: Ni Ceely and Gaby Carter
- **ECIU**: Georgia Richardson and Kelly Perrett
- **Kindergarten**: Sarah Baird
- **Kindergarten**: Symone Florian (M-Th) and Keilly Pownall (F)
- **Year 1/2**: Amanda Peake
- **Year 1/2**: Naomi Devlin
- **Year 1/2**: Lucy Perfect
- **Year 3/4**: Kylie Apps
- **Year 3/4**: Emma Wild
- **Year 4/5**: Sarah Dorrrough (M-Tu) and Elissa Penfold (W-F)
- **Year 5/6**: Jane Baillie (Tu-F) and Keilly Pownall (M)
- **LSU**: Lee Amer and Jacque Mengel
- **LSUA**: Virginia Birchall and Nicola Toms
- **Literacy & Numeracy**: Anna Thorpe (junior school) and Kathy Nash (senior school)
- **Science**: Leslie Carr
- **French**: Lyn Lisacek
- **Library**: Keilly Pownall
- **Learning Support Assistants**: Kinder and year 1/2 - Leeanne Walls, Year 4/5 and 5/6 - Justine Minchin

Welcome BBQ
As is our tradition, we are holding a Welcome BBQ for the whole school community on Thursday 6 February (today!), starting at 5.30pm. This event is sponsored by the P&C and there is no charge for families. There will be a sausage sizzle, ice blocks for all of the children and tea and coffee for adults. We hope to see all of you there as we celebrate the 2014 school year.

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 on morning duty with Keilly Pownall on duty on a Thursday morning. 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 Breakfast Club where they are given breakfast and supervised until 8.45 am. Enrolment forms for the Communities@Work Breakfast Club and After School care can be obtained from the Front Office. Our coordinators Jenna and Grace can be contacted on 0400 462 086.
Voluntary Contributions and Book Packs
Our school, like all other ACT schools, depends on an annual voluntary financial contribution from parents and carers to help meet the costs of educating our children. This year we aim to purchase new home reading resources for our students and expand our literacy resources in the classroom. We try our best to keep the contribution at an affordable level for all families. The voluntary contributions rate for 2014, as set by our School Board, remain unchanged:

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A huge thank you to all of our families who have paid the $40 book pack fee. The school is matching your contribution dollar for dollar. If you would like to discuss payment options (such as $2 a week) I welcome you to contact Leanne, Ros or myself.

Parent Information Night
Our Parent Information Night will be held on Tuesday 11 February (week 2) at the following times:
- Preschool: 5.30pm
- Year 1/2: 6.30pm
- Year 3/4: 7.00pm
- Year 5/6: 7.30pm
- Kindergarten: 6.00pm
- Preschool: 5.30pm

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.

Nut Free School and Action Plans
Maribyrnong is a Nut Free School. We have several students who will suffer an anaphylactic reaction if they come into contact with any nut products. We ask that parents and carers maintain vigilance in ensuring that **no nut products** are sent to school at any time. These products include peanut butter and hazelnut spread which are especially dangerous due to their sticky consistency. If your child has an action plan for asthma, anaphylaxis or another allergy, please ensure these are up to date, and a copy has been provided to the school as soon as possible. Any medications or auto injectors need to be provided to the front office to be recorded in our medicines register. We appreciate your support to ensure we can respond swiftly to the needs of all children.

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.

Meeting with Teachers
If you need to see your child’s teacher, please arrange an appointment or leave a message at the front office to contact you at a mutually agreeable time. The teachers’ emails are listed in the newsletter if you would prefer to contact them that way. Staff are not available on Tuesday afternoons as this is our staff meeting day. The preschool team meet on Wednesday afternoons. Our team meetings are held on Thursday afternoons. We also have morning meetings related to Student Wellbeing and Curriculum. It is important staff attend these meetings for their professional learning as the focus is always on how best to support our students. Quick updates of a couple of minutes are of course welcome but please remember to make an appointment time for those longer conversations.

Board and P&C Meetings
We are calling for nominations for our School Board. Nominations opened on Monday 3 February at 11.00 am and will close on Monday 17 February at 11.00 am. For more information please contact Leanne in the front office. We will have two vacancies on our School Board in 2014. Our first P&C meeting will be held at 7.00 pm in the Library on Thursday 20 February. This is your chance to come along and get involved in the many activities coordinated by the P&C. Bring a friend and come along! We are always thrilled to welcome new faces and this is a fantastic way to get to know other members of our school community and to support the school.

There have been a number of students without hats and drink bottles throughout the week. It is crucial that we support our students to play and stay hydrated during the day. For their own health and wellbeing, students without hats experience limited play opportunities as they must stay in the shade in accordance with our SunSmart Policy. If you would like to purchase a hat through our uniform shop, please download an order form from our school website [http://www.maribyrnongps.act.edu.au/](http://www.maribyrnongps.act.edu.au/)

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.

Thank you for your ongoing support!
Welcome to preschool!

Elsa, Sally, Ni and Gaby are very happy to be Maribyrnong’s Educators for 2014! We have had a very busy few weeks getting the classroom ready for our eager preschoolers. Last week we thoroughly enjoyed meeting our lovely families at the parent teacher interviews. Over the next few weeks we will be learning more about each of our students, and planning a play based program that is engaging, stimulating and most of all fun!

Just a reminder to bring a hat every day and a piece of fruit that can be cut up to share at fruit break. Please make sure that all items brought to school are labelled. We would also love a photo of each preschooler with their families to make a display in our room.

2014 is the International Year of Crystallography and all classroom units are named after precious stones; preschool will be called Rubies and Sapphires.

Looking forward to an exciting year ahead with the Rubies (Monday-Wednesday) and Sapphires (Wednesday – Friday).

Elsa, Sally, Ni and Gaby.

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Welcome to kindergarten this week and can’t quite believe how fast the first week has flown by! We are beginning to settle in to kindergarten learn about the Maribyrnong Primary School rules and routines. This week, we met our big year 5 and 6 buddies. We will be meeting with them every day during these first few weeks as we find our way on the playground. We have scheduled in a Wednesday picnic lunch each week. 2014 is the International Year of Crystallography and all units are named after precious stones. The kindergarten unit will be known as the “Opals”.

This week we have been getting used to managing our lunch boxes, fruit and water bottles. Please practise with your child getting their full lunch box out of their bag and putting it back in. At Maribyrnong we enjoy a fruit or veggie break at approximately 10.00 am. It is important that each child has a piece of cut up fruit or vegetable every day for fruit break. Fruit roll ups, squeeze fruit tetra packs or fruit yoghurt is best left for B2 snack time. We encourage you to fill your child’s drink bottle with water especially in this warmer weather. This week we will continue to begin our day with a choice of table activities however in week 2 we will be starting our day on the mat all together in class groups. KSB library day is Thursday – each child needs a library bag to be able to borrow from the library – it can be a plastic bag or reusable bag. KFP library day is on Friday.

News will start week two and a roster will be sent home on Thursday. We encourage children to bring in something made or found in lieu of toys. Please don’t send in any precious items for news as they are best enjoyed at home.

Symone, Sarah, Keilly and Leeanne.

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Welcome to The Emerald City! This year the 1/2 unit have three new teachers – Mrs Naomi Devlin, Mrs Amanda Peake and Miss Lucy Perfect. We have loved meeting all of the students and look forward to getting to know them throughout the year.

1/2 will have science, French and library each Wednesday. Please make sure you send your child to school with a labelled library bag ready to borrow from the library on this day. It is great to see hats, jumpers and lunchboxes clearly labelled. During these warm months please also send a labelled and full water bottle to school with your child.

We look forward to meeting you at the BBQ tonight. If you need to contact us at any stage throughout the year, please feel free to email us. Our email addresses can be found in the newsletter or on the school website.

We look forward to working together for a fabulous 2014.

Naomi, Amanda, Lucy and Leeanne.

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We are very excited to welcome all of our year 3 and 4 students in 2014!

In the first week back we will be sending home the students’ workbooks to be covered in contact. We ask that the Writer’s Notebook is covered in a range of different stimulus material to inspire students in their writing. Examples might include photos of special events and family members, interesting pictures from magazines, feathers, an excerpt of print or the child’s own drawing or writing. Covering books in contact ensures that they will stay in good condition throughout the year.

Just a quick reminder to please send your child to school with a clearly labelled hat and drink bottle.

Wishing you a fantastic first term!

Kylie and Emma.
GARNETS (LSU)
We heard some fabulous holiday news from everyone in the LSU on our first day back at school! What an exciting and relaxing time everybody has had! It was so nice to be welcomed here, as a new teacher to Maribyrnong, by 8 smiling, happy faces on Tuesday. I just know we are all going to have a fabulous year together. This year is the International Year of Crystallography and the LSU are going to be known as the Garnets.

The students will have their science lesson on Wednesday each week and their Library and French lessons each Thursday. It would be fantastic if the littlies could bring a clearly named library bag ready to take home their borrowed book. A plastic one will be fine.

Just a reminder that we have a fruit break, lunch and afternoon tea. It would be a good idea to have a chat with your child about their lunchboxes so they know which items to go for at these times.

Don’t forget to also look at the news from the unit your child will be integrating with, so you don’t miss out on any of the goss!

Have a wonderful weekend!
Lee and Jacque.

MOONSTONES (LSUA)
The Moonstones have had a magnificent start to the year. All the Moonstones have visited their year level classes during the week. We have also been very busy learning the layout of the school.

We have enjoyed many fun activities so far including construction with play dough, numeral ordering, name writing, portrait drawing, reading, PE and construction activities.

It has been lovely to meet our new families and we look forward to a happy and positive year of learning!

2014 is the International Year of Crystallography and all units are named after precious stones. A special thank you to Hunter’s mum for thinking up the name Moonstones!

Virginia and Nicola.

THE THUNDER EGGS (4/5 and 5/6)
Welcome back to the 4/5/6 unit! We welcome a few new students to the unit this year. We hope you settle into life at Maribyrnong and have a wonderful year.

This year is the Year of Crystallography. In the Maribyrnong tradition, we have a chosen a name to reflect this and will be known as the “Thunder Eggs”.

We have a busy and exciting term ahead with both the swimming carnival and camp to look forward to.

Notes were sent home on Tuesday with details regarding the 5/6 shirts. These need to be returned by Friday 21 February. The sooner all forms are returned the sooner the order can be placed.

We will also be sending out 5/6 camp notes as required.

As well as welcoming new students to our unit, we welcome the return of Mrs Dorrough who was last at Maribyrnong in 2006. Teaching at Maribyrnong for the first time is Mrs Penfold. Both teachers will be teaching year 4/5.

We look forward to seeing you throughout the year.
Shane, Jane, Keilly, Elissa, Sarah and Justine.

FRONT OFFICE NEWS
Maribyrnong Primary School Management Account.
BSB 032 777 Account 001615

2014 Book Packs
$40 per child from preschool to year 6.

Voluntary Contributions for 2014 as set by our Board:

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WESTPAC’S QUICKWEB PAYMENT SYSTEM
A letter will be sent with information regarding the new payment option available for families.

The letter will advise your individual Family Key & Student Key(s) needed for proceeding with payments through the school website link to Westpac’s Quickweb Payment System.

Each excursion and payment request notes will have the unique Fee Code needed to complete payments in this system.

http://www.maribyrnongps.act.edu.au/payment
**P&C NEWS**

**Book Club**
Brochures have been distributed and orders are due Tuesday 18 February.

**5/6 Polo shirt**
The 5/6 Polo shirts note went home this week. Please note that the sizes for these shirts tend to be on the smaller side. Note and monies due back Friday 21 February. Any queries please contact Clare Whittingham on madden_clare@hotmail.com or 0408 252736.

**Uniform shop**
Uniform shop is open every Monday morning 8.45am - 9.30 am in the Canteen. We have a great range of both new and 2nd hand uniforms. You can download our uniform order form at http://www.maribyrnongps.act.edu.au/our_community/school_uniform. If you have any uniforms you would like to donate, they would be greatly appreciated and can be dropped off at the canteen. If you have any queries, please contact Clare Whittingham on madden_clare@hotmail.com or 0408 252736.

**LIBRARY BAGS**
Children in the junior school (Kindy to year 2) MUST have a Library bag to borrow from the Library. Library bags are sold at the front office for only $5.00 (cash only please). There are so many patterns available as you can see in the photo below! Don’t forget to put your name on your bag!

**2013 CONCERT DVD**
There are copies of the 2013 end of year concert, *A year to remember: Canberra turns 100*, still available at the front office.

They are yours to own for just $5.00.

**STAFF EMAIL**

- jennifer.howard@ed.act.edu.au
- jantiena.batt@ed.act.edu.au
- anna.thorpe@ed.act.edu.au
- leanne.rankine@ed.act.edu.au
- rosllyn.riddle@ed.act.edu.au
- keilly.pownall@ed.act.edu.au
- jane.baillie@ed.act.edu.au
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- leslie.carr@ed.act.edu.au
- kylie.apps@ed.act.edu.au
- emma.wild@ed.act.edu.au
- symone.chipreo@ed.act.edu.au
- sarah.baird@ed.act.edu.au
- amanda.peake@ed.act.edu.au
- lucy.perfect@ed.act.edu.au
- naomi.devlin@ed.act.edu.au
- leeanne.walls@ed.act.edu.au
- lee.amer@ed.act.edu.au
- jacque.mengel@ed.act.edu.au
- virginia.birchal@ed.act.edu.au
- nicola.toms@ed.act.edu.au
- niomi.ceely@ed.act.edu.au
- elsa.hendry@ed.act.edu.au
- sally.longworth@ed.act.edu.au
- georgia.richardson@ed.act.edu.au
- kelly.perrett@ed.act.edu.au

**NOTES SENT HOME**

- 2014 Admin pack - containing 2014 permissions, information check sheets and information for families. Due back by Friday 21 February
- Scholastic Book Brochures
- Christian Education in Schools note
- 5/6 T-shirt order form
- 5/6 Camp (sent home in term 4 2013)
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 2014. No prior experience is necessary.

The following positions will be vacant from the 1/4/2014:

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

**Nominations are now open.** Nomination forms are available 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.

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 the email address above.

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**HATS ON!**

Remember you must have a navy bucket or navy wide brim hat to wear at school.

You can purchase these through the Uniform shop.

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**WELCOME BBQ**

TONIGHT

Thursday 6 February at 5.30 pm

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**PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT**

Tuesday 11 February

in the class units.

(See page 2 of newsletter for times)