



POSSUM PRESS

NEWS FROM JANTIENA

Inquiry Units at Maribyrnong

At Maribyrnong our curriculum is mapped into inquiry units across four organisers:

- Me and Myself
- Me and My Communities
- Me and My Global Community
- Me in Place and Time.

Each inquiry unit incorporates knowledge and understanding from a range of learning areas such as History, Geography, Science, English, Mathematics, The Arts and more. The inquiry units are based on a foundational abstract concept, such as Freedom, Perspective, Change, Culture, and are intended to nurture creative, confident and critical thinkers. Each unit of work is highly differentiated by design with core, structured and extended questions shaping the learning experiences for all children. The three different levels of questions ensure that the unit of work meets all students at their point of need and broadens their learning. This approach is highly differentiated and is another example of how we support all learners at Maribyrnong.

Canteen Update – ‘The Book’

At the P&C Meeting last week we discussed the benefits of FlexiSchools in the canteen. The online ordering system is already proving to be a popular option for many families as they get to know this new process. The use of ‘The Book’ was also discussed. Currently families pay into ‘The Book’ so that their children can access lunch orders and purchases while their account is in credit. Since FlexiSchools provides the same option it was decided that the use of ‘The Book’ will be wound down. This will alleviate extra work for Rouvaye and Bec and ensure that all accounts remain in credit. To make certain that ‘The Book’ ceases in due course, two key dates have been set by the P&C. No new payments can be made into ‘The Book’ after Friday 4 July (the last day of this term). All credit must be spent by Friday 26 September (the last day of term three). This gives families a term to run down their credit as we move to fully embracing the FlexiSchools online ordering system.

2015 Preschool Enrolments

Last week we processed our preschool enrolments for next year and have sent out sixty letters offering a place for 2015. Families are now required to accept their offer of placement and complete the enrolment by providing the necessary documentation as soon as possible. Children who turn four years of age by 30 April 2015 are eligible to enrol. Please remind friends and neighbours who live in our priority enrolment area, to lodge an enrolment application as soon as possible. The process for all government schools is now an online process. If assistance or access to a computer is required please contact the front office, we are here to help.

Professional Learning

Over the last semester many of our wonderful teachers have attended professional learning on Saturdays, in stand down and after hours. The development courses they have engaged in have included Zart Art, Playing with Grammar in the Early and Primary Years, Using Writers’ Workshop to Improve Students’ Writing, The Orff Approach to Teaching Music, Change 2 Model, Teaching Strategies and Behaviour Support for Students with Autism, Mirrors and Windows: Incorporating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Perspectives to name a few. This professional learning will be embedded as the year continues.



Thursday 26 June, Term 2 Week 9



ACT
Government

Education and Training

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Communities@Work
Breakfast Club and After School Care
0400462086.

Westpac School Bank Account
BSB 032 777
Account 001615
EFTPOS is available with a \$10 minimum.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

JUNE

30 Kindy Zoo excursion

JULY

1 Alpha Show - kindy to year 6

2 P&C Disco

3 1/2 Qwestacon excursion

4 Assembly 2.15 pm-kindy item



21 Day one of term 3!

Outdoor Learning Environment Upgrades

The preschool outdoor learning environment will be upgraded over the coming school holiday period. The preschool will be a worksite and therefore we will be unable to access the playground for this period of time. Great care and careful scheduling has taken place to ensure the project is completed in stages ready for the first day back next term.

After a number of minor changes, the upgrade to the outdoor learning environment in the LSUA will now take place during early term 3. We look forward to updating you on the progress of this project.

Australian School Climate Measurement Tool (ASCMT) Survey

As mentioned in previous newsletters the ASCMT survey is underway. This survey is in addition to the annual School Satisfaction Surveys that schools and parents have completed for many years. The School Satisfaction Survey will again be available for all families to complete next term. The ASCMT Survey is a more detailed survey that looks into the social climate and general 'well-being' of the school in addition to satisfaction of the educational program offered. Our year 5/6 students and staff have completed the survey...have you? The survey is available online through the home page of our school website.

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data

The Nationally Consistent Collection of Data project collects data from schools about the number of students who require adjustments to participate in education. It will present a national picture of the supports schools provide students. From 2015, this information will be collected in every school across Australia, every year. The purpose of the process is to help governments to target support and resources in schools to help all students reach their potential.

This term all ACT Public Schools will be taking part in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD). Schools identify students who need adjustments and are identified as meeting a broad definition of disability. This definition is based on the Disability Standards for Education 2005 which is an inclusive definition of what constitutes a disability and does not require a medical or professional diagnosis. If your child currently requires some additional support at school they may be included in the data collection. Examples of the sorts of adjustments and supports a school may provide include:

- small group literacy and numeracy sessions
- modified and targeted tasks
- additional time to complete tasks
- modified learning materials (e.g. use of visuals)
- including programs or goals from health professionals (such as physiotherapists, occupational therapists etc).

A letter was sent home to families of students that have been identified as requiring adjustments and supports. This letter outlined the process and sought your permission to include your child in the data collection. If you received a letter please return the slip, indicating your preference for inclusion, by Friday 27 June. No names or personal information is collected as part of the collection process. More information about the NCCD can be found at the Australian Government Department of Education website. <http://education.gov.au/nationally-consistent-collection-data-school-students-disability>.

Have a wonderful week!

Jantiena

READING MYTHBUSTER

Myth # 8 Computer programs or apps teach children how to read.

There are many computer programs or apps available to support children with their reading and literacy skills. These programs focus on a drill and practice approach with many programs using a timer or reward system as children progress through the levels. These programs or apps are best utilised to strengthen reading concepts and skills. They cannot replace the explicit teaching that happens at school or the reinforcement that happens at home when children read, are read to or read with a loved one.

Many software manufacturers promote the success of their programs and apps, presenting amazing results. However no reading program has ever been shown to be truly successful with all children and across all cultures. Similarly no reading program has been shown to accelerate all children to advanced levels of performance.

Teachers are experts at guiding readers at all levels of development. They are able to identify a child's point of need and teach them the appropriate reading strategy to enhance their skills. The teaching of these strategies is also carefully monitored through discussions, targeted questioning and learning experiences that allow children to move from novice to master over time. Computer programs and apps do not have the capacity to do this. To achieve success for all children, teachers need to be extremely sophisticated and diagnostic in their approach to reading instruction. Every child is different and each child must be treated differently. A computer program or app cannot be sensitive to the varied and rapidly evolving learning needs of individual children, but a diagnostic, knowledgeable teacher certainly can.

Combining programs, reading mileage (reading familiar and new texts to yourself and with family and friends) and instruction at school ensures that reading develops. The combination of explicit teaching, applying knowledge to new situations and revisiting reading strategies allows all readers to build their confidence and capacity in this area. It is never just one element that makes a difference. It is the combination of all that turns the hard work into success!



So.....this myth is BUSTED! Computer programs and apps can support a child's reading ability but they do not replace the role of explicit teaching.

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

RUBIES & SAPPHIRES (PRESCHOOL)

What a fabulous term we have had! We hope you enjoyed reading your child's report and the insight it gave you into your child's learning journey here at preschool over the semester.

We have changed our dramatic play area into a veterinarian's surgery and it has been a huge hit! We have loved watching the children having so much fun looking after all the sick and wounded animals.



Dates for your diaries:

Bus Wash Excursion

- Rubies: 26/8/14
- Sapphires: 22/8/14

Have a fabulous and safe holiday and we look forward to seeing you next term.

Elsa, Sally, Kelly, Ni and Gaby.

EMERALD CITY (1/2)

Although there is only one week left in the term we have filled it with a range of learning activities.

Monday morning we will have two guest speakers coming in to talk about water collection in Australia – this will be an interesting end to our 'World of Water' unit of inquiry.

Tuesday afternoon will be entertaining for students who will be watching the visiting Alpha Show in the hall.

Thursday is our excursion to Questacon, where we will visit three exhibits, one being H2O – Soak Up the Science exhibit.

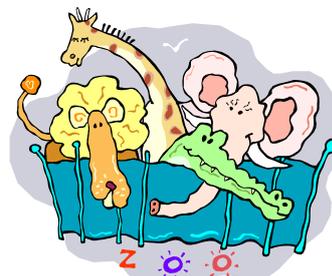
We would like to welcome Mr. Christoff to the Emerald City unit. He is a preservice teacher from the University of Canberra who is primarily working in 1/2ND. Make sure you say hello to him when you are at school next.

Term two has flown by – thank you to all the parents and carers who have supported the Emerald City this semester. Enjoy the holiday break and we look forward to seeing the students back for term 3.

Lucy, Naomi, Amanda, Leanne and Mark.

OPALS (K)

We have some fierce counting down going on in the kindergarten rooms. We are very excited about our zoo excursion next Monday. If you have misplaced your note you can collect a spare from the office or from the classroom.



We have also been counting down to the holidays. We are all excited to be having a break soon!

In our technology day next Wednesday (week 10) we will be designing, making and appraising an animal habitat. If you have one at home, could you please send a labelled shoe box in with your child.

We have been seeing jackets come in as the weather gets colder. Please remember to label all items of clothing clearly so that we can help to return lost property to their owners.

We wish you a wonderful term break with lots of rest and relaxation and look forward to seeing you all bright eyed and bushy tailed next term.
Symone, Sarah, Keilly and Jessica.

DIAMONDS (3/4)

We have been busy completing our inquiry unit of work on the First Fleet. Students have loved learning about the journey of the First Fleet and the conditions convicts had to live through to survive this journey.

Thank you to all the families who attended our assembly last Friday we hope you enjoyed our slide show of our adventures at camp.



It has started to get very cold so please ensure your child comes to school in warm clothes that are clearly labelled with their name.

We hope you all have a safe holiday and look forward to seeing you next term.

Kylie and Camille.

GARNETS (LSU)

Oh my goodness it is nearly the holidays again! We have done some incredible learning this term and can't wait to show it all off at the learning journey next term!

We said farewell to Davide this week as he headed off on his European adventure. We also said farewell to Jenna who we will miss in the classroom very much. We have welcomed back Francesca and Lyndall who we are so happy to have back in the classroom.

Our chocolate croissant puddings were amazing – I hope those of you who got a surprise one taken home enjoyed it as much as we did. ☺



Teaching points / discussions for home:

* Secret cooking tip – you can use an empty water bottle to help separate the egg yolks from the egg whites!

* Letter learners we are practising: l, a, am, here.

* Our groups in multiplication must always have the same amount.

Have an excellent weekend!

Lee and Jacque.

THE THUNDER EGGS (4/5 and 5/6)

With the end of another term approaching we are busy making final additions to portfolios. All portfolios will be sent home next Thursday 3 July. We hope you enjoy looking through your child's portfolio with them. They have put a lot of effort into their portfolios and are proud to show you their achievements from first semester. We kindly ask that portfolios are returned by the end of week one next term, 25 July, so your child can continue to add more work throughout second semester.

We are very excited to be starting a 'storyline unit' on "Gold" next term. Storyline is a method of presenting information to students so that they make the decisions about their learning and in which direction to take it. Storyline units are very hands-on and creative, whilst also incorporating endless opportunities for students to further their understanding about the inquiry focus, which in our case will be "Gold". We can't wait to get started!

As part of persuasive writing in 5/6, students wrote a letter to the premier of Western Australia, Colin Barnett, regarding the shark culling that was occurring at the time. It was fantastic for students to utilise their right to freedom of speech and to do so in such an appropriate manner. We were very pleased to receive a reply from Colin Barnett regarding our letters and it clearly showed that our letters had been read.

We would like to wish Mr Deane all the very best as he travels to France in the school holidays to get married. He will return in week two of next term. Mrs Rowena King will teach 5/6 D for the first week of term. Best wishes Mr Deane!
Jane, Keilly, Shane, Elissa, Sarah and Justine.

MOONSTONES (LSUA)

We have been working very hard on learning about friendships this week. The steps we have been practising are:

1. wear a smile
2. say "Hello"
3. introduce yourself "Hi, I'm Virginia..."
4. talk- ask questions about the other person. "What's your favourite toy, game, sport, food...?"
5. ask them to play



The students have been rehearsing these steps in class and we have been practising on the playground when Virginia & Nicola are available for support.

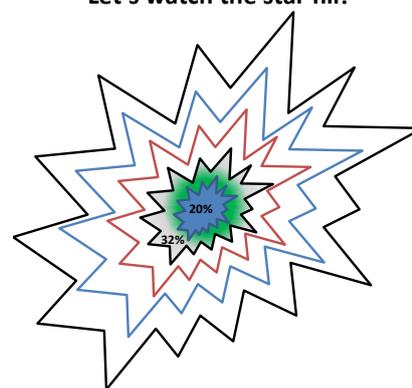
It's been lovely meeting up with our parents for interviews and sharing the achievements of the students.

Cheers

Virginia & Nicola.

FRONT OFFICE NEWS

Voluntary Contributions for 2014 are at 32%
Let's watch the star fill!



To contribute:

Maribyrnong Primary School Management Account.
BSB 032 777 Account 001615

Number of Children at the school	Voluntary Contribution for 2014		
	Consumables	Library Fund (Tax Deductible)	Total
1	\$67.00	\$83.00	\$150.00
2	\$83.00	\$117.00	\$200.00
3	\$100.00	\$150.00	\$250.00
4	\$117.00	\$183.00	\$300.00

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

WRITING CLUB

The Writing Club meets most Wednesdays to complete individual writing tasks. Some students attend so that they can write letters to their pen pals from a Girl Scout troop from Maintowoc in Wisconsin, USA. Other students come along to finish their contribution to our school newspaper that is under construction!

We discuss the different social purposes for writing and students choose the most appropriate purpose and form for each piece of writing. There are eight different social purposes for writing, they are:

- Writing to entertain (prose and poetry)
- Writing to socialise
- Writing to describe
- Writing to inquire
- Writing to persuade
- Writing to recount
- Writing to explain
- Writing to instruct



There are different modes for each social purpose (written, spoken and visual) but we focus on representing ideas in the written or visual form. Writing Club is open to all students. You can come every week or just until you finish your writing project.

We have some very talented writers at Maribyrnong!

Jantiena

SPECIALIST PROGRAMS - SCIENCE

This is the start of the busiest time of year on the science calendar. Look out for information coming home soon about the **Maribyrnong School Science Fair**. The next school holidays would be a great time to conduct science investigations to enter in our School Science Fair. Entries will be due by August 15 with public viewing on Monday August 18. This is a bit later than last year so that we do not have to store entries for too long at school before the ACT Science Fair on August 29.

Many classes have started new science topics in the last few weeks. The kindy classes are investigating what things are made of and the reasons why a particular material was chosen. This involves thinking about the properties of a variety of common materials such as wood, plastic, metal and glass. The 1/2 classes are studying how water is used and what responsible water use involves. The 3/4 classes are investigating how different forces affect the movement of objects. The 5/6 classes are completing their unit of work on desert survivors, looking at how animals have adapted to live in the harsh desert climate. LSU students are developing their science skills by investigating things to do with air and air force. Soon senior students will start to plan the workshops they will run for the rest of the school on the Maribyrnong School Science Day. This will take place next term on August 20 and will be part of our National Science Week celebrations.

Leslie.

P&C TRIVIA & AUCTION NIGHT

Friday 1 August 2014 at The Sports Club Kaleen from 6.30 pm for a 7.00 pm start. \$220 per table (maximum 8 people per table). Theme - Down on the Farm (dress up is optional with prizes for best costume). Email jackie@vogueconstructions.com.au to book a table. **Be quick because tables are filling fast!** Payment for tables must be made by Wednesday 29 July and can be dropped at the front office in an envelope with your name, the event and the amount clearly marked on the front. Reminder to keep all the fabulous donations coming in for Trivia Night hampers by Friday 4 July. A big thank you to all the families who have already sent something in.

Trivia Coordination Team.

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- judy.marriott@ed.act.edu.au

NOTES SENT HOME

- Alpha Show-*Cinderella*- K to 6 on Tuesday 1 July
- Chess Lessons term 3
- Kindy Zoo excursion
- 1/2 Questacon excursion
- Community announcement regarding the passing of Margaret Wade
- Athletics Carnival- Friday 25 July (week 1, term 3)

P&C notes:

- ✓ *Down on the Farm*- Trivia & Auction evening information.
- ✓ Canteen news- *FlexiSchools* information
- ✓ Disco- *Frozen* theme
- ✓ Uniform: NEW hooded fleecy jacket with logo

A MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

Parental Engagement A Priority

During Public Education Week at the end of May, it was very good to see the achievements of our students, schools, teachers, and staff showcased and celebrated. On show were so many examples of where you and your communities are actively involved with your children's schools; through different activities and programs.

I will continue to focus on putting children, parents, carers and communities at the centre of our education system and will be looking at further ways of communicating the values of the public education system.

For example, the online enrolment system has simplified processes for parents and carers, and we have also launched the 'Parents and Students At The Centre' page on our website, which features stories of parent-school engagement, including one about how ACT public schools are increasingly using Facebook and Twitter to enable parents and the community engage and stay up to date on their activities and achievements.

Other initiatives include the 'Fresh Tastes' program which encourages learning about nutrition and healthy food and drink choices in schools and we have also launched a series of fact sheets for parents and carers of gifted and talented students.

I also recently launched the '100 Stories: Celebrating public education in Canberra' book which features fascinating stories of people who have influenced, or have been influenced by our public education system. Have a great run-up to the end of term and stay warm!

'100 Stories: Celebrating public education in Canberra' can be viewed online at www.det.act.gov.au.

Joy Burch MLA

Minister for Education and Training



STUDENTS OF THE WEEK



We use the 'stars' on children's faces when we do not have consent to publish photos in the newsletter. If you wish to update or amend this consent for 2014, please contact the front office.

POSSUM PANTRY-CANTEEN ROSTER

Week 10 Term 2	Wednesday 2 July	Thursday 3 July	Friday 4 July
9.15am-12.00noon	Laura	Wendy	Terri Micheal
12.00noon-3.00pm	Laura		Terri
Week 1 Term 3	Wednesday 23 July	Thursday 24 July	Friday 25 July
9.15am-12.00noon	Laura	Wendy	Athletics Carnival, Charnwood.
12.00noon-3.00pm	Laura		

If you are available to volunteer 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 in the canteen or call her on 62415974.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOK

NEED IDEAS FOR THE HOLIDAYS??

For **only \$60** you'll receive over 400 offers that you can use up until 1 June 2015! The great news is the new Entertainment™ Digital Membership has been designed so it can be shared with your partner or immediate family, just like you can with the Book.

[CLICK HERE TO ORDER NOW](#)

Please remember to reference **Maribyrnong Primary School** when registering your 2014/ 2015 Entertainment™ Membership.

For more information **contact:**

Leanne Rankine

Phone: 0262055933

Email: Leanne.rankine@ed.act.edu.au

COMMUNITY NEWS



Launched in January by one of our Maribyrnong families, @Home ACT Property Management is offering an introductory rate of 7.7% inc. gst for the life of any new managements as a thank you for the fantastic community support. Call Jess today, 0401 171 787. www.homeact.net.au

CHILDREN'S MARTIAL ARTS

Action Tae Kwon-Do has children only classes so that your children are taught relevant skills in a safe environment. These children's classes are for children aged 5 -12 years of age and are held in the Maribyrnong school hall. For more information, contact

Mr Paul Welch

*Master Instructor of
Action Tae Kwon-Do
0414898888*



CALTEX Kaleen is hosting a collection drive for the 2014 Vinnies Winter Appeal from Monday 7 to Sunday 13 July. Drop in and donate any non-perishable item such as canned goods or quality new or used blankets. For more info visit www.vinnies.org.au