What a warm February it has been! We thank all of you for your support with ensuring our students were dressed in sun smart clothing and prepared for the warmer weather over the past few weeks.

Swimming Carnival
Thank you so much to all of our community who were able to come along and support the school at our swimming carnival on Wednesday 25 February. What an amazing day it was! The sun was shining (for most of the time), the students all gave their best efforts, and they supported each other through words of encouragement. This event was a great success because of the organisational efforts of our coordinating team comprising Kathy Nash and Anna Thorpe. Congratulations to all of our students who competed and to those who won ribbons and a big thank you to our dedicated volunteers. Notes will be sent home in the coming weeks for students who have qualified for the next stage of competition.

Women and Girls Fun Run
Once again this year we entered a school team into the Annual Women and Girls’ 5km Fun Run/Walk coordinated by the YMCA on Sunday 1 March. This event offered a great opportunity for women and girls to head outdoors and enjoy some exercise, whether the aim was to score a personal best time or to spend time with friends. Our thanks go to Deb Livermore for her coordination of the Maribyrnong team!

Cross Country
Our school Cross Country Carnival will be held next Friday 13 March from 9.15 am until 11.10 am. A note went home last week asking for volunteers to assist on the day with marking and monitoring the running track. Our P&C are coordinating a special lunch on the day and notes were also sent out last week. If you are able to come along and assist please complete the form and return it by next Wednesday.

Individual Learning Plans (ILPs) and Learning Support Plan (LSPs)
One of the principles that guides educators at Maribyrnong is that no two learners are the same. Each of our students has a unique background and combination of strengths, talents and learning preferences. How we go about personalising school experiences for our students is an area of ongoing interest for all of our educators. Inquiry learning presents rich opportunities for this and staff are currently focused on determining individual learning goals with and for our students. Goal setting and reflection on learning are well established visible learning principles within each of our classrooms.

For students who have special needs we develop formal Individual Learning Plans and for students who have been identified as gifted and talented we develop Learning Support Plans. Our educators are currently in the process of drafting these ILPs and LSPs and will be making a time with parents and carers over the coming weeks to meet and discuss the short term and long term goals for these students.

Additionally, the Education and Training Directorate will be launching its refreshed Gifted and Talented Education policy this week, which will be incorporated into the school’s implementation guidelines for supporting students. For more information, please head to the ACT Government Education and Training website (www.det.act.gov.au).
**National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)**  
We’re excited at Maribyrnong Primary School to be part of the dialogue surrounding the implementation of the NDIS in the ACT. The NDIS is a new way of funding individualised support for people with disability. It involves more choice and control and is a lifetime approach to a person’s reasonable and necessary needs. The NDIS was introduced in the ACT in July 2014. The scheme brings a new approach to the acquisition of resources for families to use to support their child’s development. To qualify for funding, a rigorous set of criteria has been developed which is different to criteria used for various support schemes in the past. All families of children with disability are initially encouraged to apply for the Scheme for assessment as to their eligibility for access.

Children from birth to four years have been rolled in to the scheme over the past six months while students in high school have been rolled in from the start of 2015. All current primary aged children with disability will be rolled in to the scheme from March 2015. We have invited the National Disability Insurance Agency out to Maribyrnong to host an information session for our families of children with disability and time will be available at this session to assist families to complete all of the paperwork to see whether their child qualifies for support. As soon as we have this date we will send out notification to our families. For more information please see the following website: [www.ndis.gov.au](http://www.ndis.gov.au)

**Dogs at School**  
While we all love our four legged family members, dogs are not able to come onto school premises. By leaving our treasured friends at home we ensure they are safe and that other people are safe including those children who are scared of dogs, particularly an unknown dog. The Territory and Municipal Services website states that dogs are not to be taken into the grounds of a childcare centre, preschool, primary or high school during school hours or any after school sports training events. Bringing your dog onto school premises can result in an infringement notice. In public places a dog must not be taken within 10 metres of a designated playspace (if children are playing on it). This includes the equipment near the shops near our school. For further information please visit [http://www.tams.act.gov.au/city-services/pets/keeping_dogs_in_the_act/where_can_i_take_my_dog](http://www.tams.act.gov.au/city-services/pets/keeping_dogs_in_the_act/where_can_i_take_my_dog)

We appreciate your support with this matter.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Jen.

---

**MYTHS ABOUT WRITING**

**Myth # 12 Reading hinders writing development.**

What do readers do when they read?

You may be thinking that the answer to this question is pretty simple—you read. However when you read your mind is very active as it processes the text and comprehends what you are reading. You are doing more than saying words to yourself or hearing them inside your head. You are making connections.

These connections help you to be a better reader and become a better writer. This is because we can read like a writer.

When we read from the perspective of a writer, we focus less on what the writer is trying to say and more on how the writer is saying it. This is because we look at the techniques the writer is using to get their message across and how those techniques affect us as we experience the text.

**Tips for supporting your child with their writing development:**

- Read with your child every day. Reading mileage helps their reading and writing!
- Read a variety of books and different texts (books, magazines, newspapers, cereal boxes, signs, web pages, letters, emails etc.)
- Share the reading and writing. Your child may read to you, you might read to them or you may read together. When writing share the pencil, let them do all the writing or you can be the scribe and write their ideas down.
- Help your child make connections between what they are reading and what they can write. For example, after reading Koala Lou by Mem Fox your child may want to write a story or a sentence that rhymes just like in the story... “Koala Lou I do love you!” could become “Mummy and me, we do like the sea!”
- Talk about your favourite part in a book and explain why you enjoyed that part (because you are reading like a writer). For example, “When I read my Harry Potter book, the words make me think of a dark setting with lots of colours swirling around, the colours are the magic that surround the characters in every scene”.

So.....this myth is busted!  
Reading a variety of books and different texts will help your child become a better writer.

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
You will have read in the newsletter or heard us talking about the Working with Vulnerable People Card many times over the last two years and may be wondering what all of the fuss is about.

**Who is a vulnerable person?**
The Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Act 2011 (WWVP Act) defines a person as being vulnerable if they are a child under the age of 18 years or an adult who is experiencing disadvantage, and is accessing a service related to the disadvantage. This definition forms the basis for the types of services or activities that might require registration. The definition also recognises people’s changing circumstances as they will not be considered vulnerable at all times.

**Who is a volunteer?**
For the purposes of the WWVP Act, a person is a volunteer if the person is engaged to provide a regulated activity or service to vulnerable people and does not receive payment for providing the activity or service (apart from any payment for expenses).

**So why do you need a Working with Vulnerable People Card?**
The Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Act 2011 commenced on 8 November 2012, with individuals working or volunteering in ‘Activities or Services for Children' having until 7 November 2013 to become registered. All educators at Maribyrnong Primary are registered; registration costs $73 for a three year period.

Registration for volunteers is free. The Act aims to reduce the risk of harm or neglect to vulnerable people in the ACT, and requires people who have contact with vulnerable people to register with the Office of Regulatory Services (ORS).

**Does everyone need to register?**
No, not everyone needs to have a Working with Vulnerable People Registration card. Only those who are engaged in regulated activities or services with vulnerable people need to be registered. There are also exemptions as described under section 12(2) of the Act. For example, a person is not required to be registered if they engage in a regulated activity (other than an overnight camp) for no more than:
- 3 days in any 4 week period; and,
- 7 days in any 12 month period.

**What are the penalties for not registering?**
The penalty for failing to register and continuing to work in a regulated activity past the registration date is up to $7,000 (50 penalty units). This also means that you cannot volunteer at school.

**How do we ensure we comply with The Act?**
At Maribyrnong we have two sign in books for volunteers, one for registered volunteers and one for non-registered volunteers. If you are registered, we take a copy of your card (front and back) and keep these on file. You will need to sign in at the office with your WWVP registration number and take a volunteer badge. This means that we have acknowledged you are on school grounds working as a volunteer. For non-registered volunteers, you are still required to sign in and take a volunteer badge, this assists us to ensure you do not exceed 3 days in 4 weeks or 7 days in 12 months.

For more information: http://www.ors.act.gov.au/community/working_with_vulnerable_people_wwvp

To register: http://www.ors.act.gov.au/community/working_with_vulnerable_people_wwvp/forms_and_fees

---

**STAFF EMAILS**

jennifer.howard@ed.act.edu.au
jantiena.batt@ed.act.edu.au
anna.thorpe@ed.act.edu.au
leanne.rankine@ed.act.edu.au
roslyn.riddle@ed.act.edu.au
shane.deane@ed.act.edu.au
sarah.dorrough@ed.act.edu.au
elissa.penfold@ed.act.edu.au
emma.wild@ed.act.edu.au
justine.minchin@ed.act.edu.au
lynette.lisacek@ed.act.edu.au
kathy.nash@ed.act.edu.au
leslie.carr@ed.act.edu.au
kylie.apps@ed.act.edu.au
jane.baillie@ed.act.edu.au
symone.chipreo@ed.act.edu.au
keilly.pownall@ed.act.edu.au
stacey.hodgson@ed.act.edu.au
amanda.peake@ed.act.edu.au
lucy.tome@ed.act.edu.au
camille.wise@ed.act.edu.au
sarah.baird@ed.act.edu.au
naomi.devlin@ed.act.edu.au
jessica.leepakshi@ed.act.edu.au
leeanne.walls@ed.act.edu.au
lee.amer@ed.act.edu.au
jacque.mengel@ed.act.edu.au
virginia.norris@ed.act.edu.au
nicola.toms@ed.act.edu.au
niomi.ceely@ed.act.edu.au
elsa.hendry@ed.act.edu.au
georgia.richardson@ed.act.edu.au
gaby.carter@ed.act.edu.au
sally.longworth@ed.act.edu.au
kelly.perrett@ed.act.edu.au
judgy.marriott@ed.act.edu.au

**NOTES SENT HOME**

- Naplan information-years 3 & 5 only
- 5c Friday TOMORROW- 6 March
- Cross Country Volunteer request
- Possum Café Special Lunch on 13 March, Cross Country Day
- Book Club Brochures  (Lamont Book Club available from the office)

**OVERDUE:**
- Welcome Packs: please return ASAP
- Permissions (blue)
- Information Checklist (pink)
GLIMMERS, DAZZLERS, SPARKLERS (PRESCHOOL)

Over the term, our aim has been to get to know our children and to help them get to know each other. It’s been really great to see the positive impact on relationships. Most children are now able to name everyone in the class and there is an increasing sense of belonging to the preschool and to each other. This week we will continue to get the children to reflect on who they are, what they are like and how they share similarities and differences with other children in the class.

This term, we are also focussing on social skills. It is important for preschoolers to know how to interact with other students and educators. Some of the concepts we will be looking at this term include friendships skills, resolving conflict, communication skills, participation as well as respecting yourself and others.

This year we have students in our preschool with severe allergies to nuts and strawberries. Because of the seriousness of these allergies, we are asking that you please refrain from sending any nut or strawberry products to school.

We hope you have fabulous week!
Elsa, Sally, Ni, Gaby, Georgia & Kelly😊

NEONS (1/2)

The Neons have been busily delving into our investigation into our local community. The children have been looking into the Maribyrnong School community and the people, programs and places in our school that make it special. Over the coming weeks the children will be looking further out into the Kaleen and Canberra communities and what it means to be a part of them. The students are also looking at writing to inquire so if you have an important job in our community (such as a nurse, volunteer, firefighter etc) and would be happy to come in and discuss with the children what you do, please come into the unit and speak with one of the teachers.

A reminder about homework. The children have been asked to create a presentation based on something they can explain to the class. By now the students should have picked what they are going to talk about and be brainstorming ways they can present it and the points they need to cover. Students will be creating a poster of their ‘how to’ explanation in class and this is not part of their homework. Students will be presenting their oral explanations and poster in either week 9 or 10.

It was great to see all students participate in our Clean Up Australia Day on Monday. Lots of rubbish was cleared away from our school grounds creating a cleaner environment.

Please remember that students are not allowed in the unit before the bell goes in the morning.

Thanks to those wonderful parents who are listening to children read in the mornings. We are always grateful for your help. The Neon unit would like to welcome Daniel Vaeth-Levin. He will be completing his final University placement in the 1/2 teaching unit.

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

AURORAS (K and K/1)

It has been another busy and productive fortnight in the K/1 unit. We are getting used to participating in our Daily 5 literacy activities. We are becoming more confident and skilful readers and writers as we learn more about sight words and the letters and sounds of the alphabet.

In maths, we have been asking questions and collecting data. We have displayed some of our class graphs in our classrooms. We have also been comparing items by length and describing which objects are longer or shorter.

As part of our unit of inquiry we have discussed our extended families. We have made family portraits of our grandparents and collage pictures of the houses we live in.

Please remember to make sure your child has a hat to wear at school. There are many children coming to school with no hat. They will play in the shade at break times if they do not bring a hat. We would also like to remind everyone that students should not bring toys to school. Toys can be easily easily lost or broken and are best kept safely at home.

Thankyou,
Naomi, Jessica, Sarah and Leeanne.

BEAMERS (3/4)

Hello from the Beamers! We have been busy practising for the Cross Country which is to be held next Friday 13 March. Students are now familiar with the course they have to run, and we can see some future marathon runners in the group. A blue note went home about a special lunch which is taking place after the Cross Country. Please see the front office or your child’s teacher if you require one.

On Monday, students participated in Clean up Australia Day at Maribyrnong. The energy and enthusiasm shown by all students was commendable. The playground looks wonderful!

Students have been busy working in groups to contribute to a mural on the pit wall. We have discovered the wide range of cultural backgrounds amongst the students. This will become a part of the mural. It’s great to acknowledge and celebrate the many cultures we have in the unit.

Thankyou to the parents/carers who have sent in old shirts to be used as paint smocks. We are still on the hunt for some more. If you have any spare shirts at home, please send them in with your child. We are starting a collection in the 3/4FP wet area. Thanks very much.

Kylie, Keilly, Symone, Jane and Justine.
The whole school participated in Clean up Australia day on Monday. The 5/6 SRC students played a large role by helping Mrs Carr sort the rubbish into the correct bins. They were an excellent help. A big thank you to Mrs Carr for organising the day.

The Australian Federal Police will be coming to visit the 5/6 unit in the following weeks to talk to us about cyber safety, the use of social media and the potential dangers. A note will be sent home regarding this. Please sit down and have a discussion with your child about this.

We are still looking for parents to volunteer for the Cross Country carnival. If you’re able to volunteer your time please contact Shane.

Reminders:
- 5/6 Assembly item – Friday 6 March
- Cross country – Friday the 13 March.

Shane, Elissa, Sarah, Emma and Justine.

---

The LSU fireflies have been doing a great job going between the LSU classroom for our programming and their mainstream classes for various subjects so far this year. The courtyard in the LSU is being utilised for students in the school that need support to play independently and/or safely. We now have a specific duty person on the big playground as well helping those students who are able to give the big playground a try. This will hopefully help all the students feel safe and provide assistance to promote positive social interactions.

A few reminders to keep our term going smoothly:
- The 5/6 LSU students have homework set on studyladder that needs to be started. At the moment we are looking at place value in our maths groups in the senior end. If you would like written homework in addition to this please let me know and I will provide some.
- Please bring library bags to school ready to swap over borrowing books from the library.
- The LSU has a toy box for the younger students to accommodate the toys that come in from home each day. The rules on the side remind students they can bring 1 toy each day and it lives in the toy box during class time.
- Thursdays is cooking day for the younger LSU students. Feel free to send an apron along to avoid extra washing for the week!

Have a fantastic weekend! Lee and Jacque.

---

What an amazing term we have had so far! The Glow Worms enjoyed their first community access visit to U & Co Café. A huge thank you to Michael and his amazing staff for handing out our special picture menus, doing table service and making us feel so welcome. The students all ordered their own food and drink and paid for their goods at the end. A massive congratulations to all our students who are to be commended on their outstanding behaviour. Our next visit to U & Co will be this week (as the following week is Cross Country).

As our literacy programs are individualised, some students will receive home readers and literacy work to do at home.

We are all looking forward to participating in the Cross Country, coming up on Friday 13 March.

Virginia, Nicola and Kathleen.

---

The 3/4 Science Club and the 5/6 Science Club are run as extension classes for students who show outstanding potential in science. Student numbers are limited because of the nature of the activities we do and the students involved are reviewed each term.

This term the 5/6 science club are taking part in the Giant Classroom Science Challenge. This involves students conducting five designated investigations, with optional further activities; then completing ten questions on line about each activity. Once they have successfully completed all the investigations they will be presented with a certificate of recognition of their achievement. All students who are part of this Giant Classroom programme can access other on line quizzes. Congratulations to Charlotte Manna Gray who was the top student from Australia and New Zealand in the Asia Wise Quiz last week. As a reward Charlotte has been asked to write ten of her own questions for the quiz site, she has also received a certificate recognising her as a Quiz Master.

The 3/4 science club are working on the Engquest Catapult Challenge from the Engineers Australia website. Students are designing and constructing a catapult to fire a marshmallow. When they have trialled and modified their catapults as necessary we will organise a contest to see who can fire their marshmallow the furthest and whose design is the most accurate when aiming at a target down the length of a table. Leslie.
### COMMUNITY NEWS

The Women and Girl’s fun run/walk was held on 1 March 2015, on a weekend where active Canberrans were spoilt for choice. Many Maribyrnong families participated in the Proximity Government and Business triathlon, the Amy Gillet bike rides, parkrun and many other weekly sporting activities.

Our cheery Maribyrnong team was a contender for the primary schools participation prize of $500 to the school. Only a single participant separated the top three primary schools. Unfortunately for our P&C coffers, this year’s participation prize went to Arrawang Primary School.

For the Maribyrnong Team, the Women and Girls’s fun run really is about participation. Many people have aspirations such as running a certain time or doing the distance without stopping. For many more, the highlight of the morning is spreading out on the grass after completing the 5km, eating watermelon, drinking water or coffee and chatting, laughing and cheering on the award winners – from the impressive under 9yo who ran the 5km in 23ish minutes to the octogenarian who completed her 29th consecutive Women and Girl’s fun run over the weekend.

Well done to everyone who ran, walked, cycled or swam in one of the events over the weekend. If you were tempted to join the Women and Girl’s fun run this year, but didn’t get around to it for whatever reason, we hope you’ll reconsider for 2016. To paraphrase Dr Zeuss, a ‘participant is a participant no matter how small.’

Deb.

### BOOK CLUB

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

**Scholastic Book Club** brochures have been sent home this week. Orders due 16 March.

### SCHOOL BANKING

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

### TAE KWON DO

**www.nationaltaekwondo.com.au**

All Enquiries
Phone 0414 898 888

Our Children’s program will help your child to develop:
- Coordination
- Fitness
- Concentration
- Balance
- Confidence
- Self-Control

Maribyrnong Primary
Thursdays at 6.30 pm.