

# POSSUM PRESS



## NEWS FROM JEN

THURSDAY 13 OCTOBER: Term 4 Week 1

Welcome back! I hope that you all enjoyed the break and that you were able to enjoy the sunshine over the past few weeks. There was great excitement on Monday with the children talking about their adventures at the coast, visits to Floriade, and fun shared with friends camping. Term four is set to be just as exciting with the school concert, transition visits, aqua safety for year two students, excursions, graduations and the twilight fair. With so much happening, please ensure you have downloaded the School App so that you don't miss a thing!

### PIPS Testing

Kindergarten end of year PIPS testing is scheduled for weeks two and three. The students are tested individually in literacy and numeracy by the class teacher while another teacher takes the whole class. The PIPS report is separate from the school report and usually comes out later in term four. The report identifies areas of growth and allows the teacher to see areas for future focus. If you have any questions about PIPS please contact your child's teacher or see Anna.

### Preschool 2017 Information Session

Our information session for 2017 preschool families is scheduled for next Wednesday 19 October. The session will outline our philosophy in action, what a day in preschool looks like, how we implement the Early Years Learning Framework, and our policies and procedures which are guided by the National Quality Framework. Families will have the opportunity to meet some of our educators and ask questions. Information packs will also be handed out at this event – with loads of goodies as well. Families will be asked to book in for a 'Getting to Know You' interview which will be held before the end of the year. If families are unable to attend the information session they will need to call the front office to make an interview time. Interviews will be held in the preschool.



### Preschool Disco and Morning Tea



On Wednesday 26 October our four preschool groups will join together for a disco in the hall. The SRC reps are looking forward to hosting this event and will show the preschoolers how they do the Hokey Pokey, Macarena and YMCA. The preschool disco starts at 11.40 am and concludes at midday. The disco will be followed by a combined morning tea for our preschool families. It is a great opportunity for our families to get to know each other before becoming kindy parents in 2017.

### After School Care – Change to Coordinator

This week we farewell Tracey, our Before and After School Care Coordinator. Tracey has worked as part of the Communities @ Work team Maribyrnong for the past two years, creating engaging experiences both before and after school for our children. I have enjoyed working with Tracey to get to know each of our children and have enjoyed the way she works with every child to encourage the best from them. I would like to thank Tracey for her contribution to our community and wish her well in her new position at Barnardos. Our new coordinator, Mark Ferris, commenced with the team today. Mark and Tracey will work side by side for the remainder of the week before Mark commences in the coordinator role on Monday. We welcome Mark to the Maribyrnong community.



**ACT**  
Government  
Education

## CONTACTS

### Maribyrnong School

Ph: 62055933 Fax: 62055932  
[www.maribyrnongps.act.edu.au](http://www.maribyrnongps.act.edu.au)

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**Board Chair** Lauren Newman  
[laurennewman\\_13@yahoo.com.au](mailto:laurennewman_13@yahoo.com.au)

**P&C President** Sharon Houston  
[maribyrnongpandc@gmail.com](mailto:maribyrnongpandc@gmail.com)

### 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

### OCTOBER

- 17-21 Week 1 of **Aquasafe**: year 2 only
- 19 Preschool 2017 information session- 6.00 pm Library
- 21 Assembly 2.15 pm
- 24-28 Week 2 of **Aquasafe**: year 2 only
- 26 Preschool 2016 Combined- Disco & Morning Tea
- 27 6.00 pm Board & 7.00 pm P&C

### NOVEMBER

- 4 P&C TWILIGHT FAIR  
4.00 - 8.00 pm



### Transitions at Maribyrnong

This year we will again be implementing the whole school transition session on Wednesday 23 November. This session is for all students at our school along with students who will be joining our community in 2017. The aim of the session is to allow students to interact with peers who will be in their unit group next year. It is not a class placement exercise, nor will they be with their 2017 classroom teacher. This session will focus on providing our students with the experience of working alongside others with whom they might not have worked with before. It will also support the completion of sociograms where students list people they work well with in consideration of class placements. As usual children, and their families, will be notified of their class teacher by letter in the January school holidays. More information about the transition sessions will be sent home in the coming weeks.

### Staff News for 2017

Next year we will welcome a number of new educators to Maribyrnong including Mia Grant from Mt Rogers Primary School and Lisa Riepon from Evatt Primary School. I look forward to getting to know our teachers and welcoming them to the Maribyrnong community. We will also welcome back Lucy Tome, Stacey Hodgson and Emily van Galen in semester 2. At the end of this year we will farewell Elsa Hendry as she commences her maternity leave, and look forward to welcoming her back in 2018.



### Twilight Fair

With three weeks to go, the excitement is building for our Twilight Fair on Friday 4 November. Please note there will **not** be an assembly on this day. Our P&C fundraising committee have worked tirelessly coordinating this event. If you haven't signed up to volunteer on a stall it isn't too late to support our wonderful school. Please come to the front office and complete a volunteer slip, alternatively you can complete the volunteer eForm on the **Skoolbag App**. Please remember if you are a regular volunteer, you will need to register for a Working With Vulnerable People card with the Office of Regulatory Services. There will be a special sign in station near the library on the night.

### Class Formation

This term we will be working as a staff to plan our classes for 2017. A great deal of time and effort is involved in planning our classes each year. Staff have an in-depth knowledge of student combinations that enhance learning and they will use this knowledge to support the placement of students in classes for 2017. This information is combined with student strengths, personalities, friendships and student support requirements. Each year students complete a sociogram where they are asked to list five people they work well with for the following year. Students are placed into classes with at least one child from their list. We work closely with our preschool educators to best plan for kindergarten placements as well. If you believe your child's placement needs special consideration please let me know in writing as soon as possible. This can be done via email [Jennifer.howard@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:Jennifer.howard@ed.act.edu.au) or through the eForm on the App or by making an appointment through the front office. It is imperative that all requests are made directly to me so that I am able to ensure appropriate considerations are made. Please remember that requests cannot be made for specific teachers. Families will once more be informed mid-January through teacher introductory letters as to staffing arrangements and class placements for 2017.

### Congratulations

Congratulations to Chris and Tessa who were married during the school stand down. The weather held out for a beautiful day celebrating their marriage.



Thank you for your ongoing support. See you at the Twilight Fair!  
Jenny.

## P&C 'GIVE AN HOUR'

So far we have looked at covering books for the school library, reading in the classroom and helping out in the canteen as ways of giving an hour to our school. This week we are looking at one of our biggest school events of the year – The Twilight Fair to be held on Friday 4 November. All welcome!

Each year our school community comes together for an amazing evening of activities, stalls, music and food to celebrate all the brilliant things that go on here in our school. There are so many ways each and every one of us can come along and give an hour of time to make a difference. We need people to make cakes, donate books, help set up and pack away as well as take some time out to assist on the many stalls and activities that will be happening on the night.

There are vacancies still left on our volunteer rosters. You are welcome to fill in a volunteer slip at the front office, use the Skoolbag App to let us know when you are able to assist or email our P&C president directly on [maribyrnongpandc@gmail.com](mailto:maribyrnongpandc@gmail.com). This is one occasion where many hands truly do make light work.



**Not long now until the Twilight Fair so let's see if we can make it the best one yet!**

Moving is a major life change, and children may face challenges as they leave behind friends and familiar places and activities. Moving can be a large part of being in a defence family. This week we look at some ways to help children through the process of moving.



Tips for moving with children:

**Talk to the children about the upcoming move.** Communicating truthfully and openly with children about relocations is important to help them understand and cope with the change. Talk about the relocation early and often to give them time to become accustomed to the idea and think through what it means to them. Explain clearly why it is important for the family to move.

**Involve the children in the process.** Letting children help with the move – e.g. helping to pack or unpack, or decide where things will go in the new home – and involving older children in discussions and preparations for the move, can help them to feel empowered, valued and that they have a say.

**Talk about feelings.** Encourage children to express their emotions, their hopes and fears, and respond with understanding. Expressing your own feelings in healthy ways can help them recognise they are not alone. If they resist opening up to you as a parent, try to provide some opportunities for them to talk with family or friends they may feel more comfortable confiding in. They might also want to express their feelings through other avenues like stories or poetry, art, music or physical activities.

**Be positive.** Guide children to think about the positive things about the change – e.g. the chance to make new friends, new interesting subjects to take at school, or a fun activity to do in the new location – and healthy ways to respond to the challenges – e.g. keeping in contact with friends from the last location, or creating a scrapbook or photo album of their former community, school, home and friends.

**Recognise signs of stress.** Children, particular younger children, are often unable to articulate their feelings and thoughts as adults do. If they are having trouble dealing with stress and changes during deployment, it will often present in their behaviour or in health complaints. Observe children for signs of stress, as they can be easy to miss when you are tied up with all the preparations and practical things to do for a move.

**Provide security, stability and a friendly ear.** An important aspect of settling children into any environment is to make them feel secure. This security may just be a feeling that the family is together, or that someone will be there when they need to talk. Be available for your children, both by being there and by taking a genuine interest in what they feel, say and do. After the move, resume normal family routines as soon as possible (e.g. bedtime, chores, discipline, story time or traditions).

**Celebrate.** Congratulate children on positive ways they find to manage the challenges of the move. Celebrate milestones and achievements in the move, such as finishing packing up a room, or arriving in your new location. Make sure to take time out to relax and spend time together as a family.

For more information about guiding children through relocations, contact the all-hours Defence Family Helpline on **1800 624 608** or visit

[http://www.defence.gov.au/dco/Moving\\_with\\_children.htm](http://www.defence.gov.au/dco/Moving_with_children.htm)

Jackie Sampson – Defence School Transition Aide.



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# Lights on Learning!

## Focusing on Preschool!

Welcome back to term four and what a busy and exciting term it is going to be! We are looking forward to kindergarten transitions where we will meet the teachers and enjoy some fun learning experiences in the beautiful kindergarten space. We will also be celebrating our year at preschool at the disco, morning tea and end of year concert. Please see below for all the important dates.

### Reflection on Science

Last term we all enjoyed investigating the human body. Some of the areas we explored were the heart, the skeleton, blood, the five senses and the digestive system, an all-round favourite!

We enjoyed playing games to test our sense of smell and touch. We had cups that had four different smells, mandarin, coffee, peppermint (toothpaste) and coconut. We had to close our eyes and tell our group what we could smell. It was tricky keeping our eyes closed but fun to see if we could do it. We then tested our sense of touch where each group was given 6 balloons filled with different materials; kinetic sand, pom poms, polystyrene, baby pine cones, rice and metal bottle tops. We had to feel each balloon and match it to the corresponding picture on the chart.

This term we are going to be observing tadpoles and silk worms and learning about life-cycles. If anyone has access to a mulberry tree for leaves for the silk worms please let the preschool team know.



### Preschools Mud Kitchen

The preschool team are starting to create a mud (or sand) kitchen behind the sandpit. This area will provide great opportunities for children to explore their senses through water, sand and natural materials. You may observe:

- children role playing cafes, restaurants, or a home kitchen
- creative, messy, sensory play
- children exploring different materials
- children problem solving, investigating and communicating ideas to one another

You may like to join your child for a sand pie or gum leaf tea one morning!

Here are a few dates for you to start thinking about:

- ✓ **Wednesday 26 October**- Preschool Disco and Morning Tea 11.40 am-12.00 pm in the school hall.
- ✓ **Wednesday 9 November** - Kinder 2017 Transition Day #1 11.30 am to 12.15 pm in the kindergarten unit.
- ✓ **Wednesday 16 November** - Kinder 2017 Transition Day #2 11.30 am to 12.15 pm.
- ✓ **Wednesday 16 November** - Kinder 2017 Information Night 6.00 pm.
- ✓ **Wednesday 23 November** - Kinder 2017 Transition Day #3 12.00 pm – 1.15 pm.

From the Preschool Team ☺



# Lights on Learning!

## *Focusing on Music!*

The Junior School music program at Maribyrnong is based on the Kodaly method of teaching. It is a singing based program which includes activities such as listening, moving, dancing and the playing of instruments. The students have made wonderful progress with their in-tune singing and are enjoying performing in front of their classmates.



Junior students are learning how to write the rhythm of several songs using the white board, paddle pop sticks on the floor and pencil and paper.



Kindergarten students are continuing to focus on the beat through dance, games, the playing of instruments and gross motor activities.



The year one and two students are learning how to read staff notation and how to play the accompaniment to the song Scooby Doo on the glockenspiels.



We are thrilled with the students' progress so far.  
Katharine Finlayson and Rowena King.

# Attention Year 6 Parents

With everything on their mind, make sure this is on yours

Your child's vaccinations are due next year

The following vaccines are offered FREE as part of the ACT School Immunisation Program

- Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (whooping cough) dTpa
- Human Papillomavirus (HPV)
- Varicella (chickenpox)

Keep an eye out for consent cards which are sent home with students during the first couple of weeks in Term 1.

- FIND
- SIGN
- RETURN



Where can I get more information?  
<http://www.health.act.gov.au/our-services/immunisation/high-school-immunisation-program>



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[www.act.gov.au](http://www.act.gov.au) | [www.act.gov.au](http://www.act.gov.au) | 02 6207 1000

## 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)

## NOTES SENT / EMAILED HOME

- 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.

Please check your inbox for notes specific to your child's unit and check facebook and the Skoolbag App.

### Maribyrnong Primary School Twilight Fair Book Stall Collection

You can leave **SALEABLE** books in the appropriately marked box near Kowdinsky 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.

### FINAL DAY TO ORDER TOMORROW!!!

#### 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.

Orders must close **FRIDAY 14 October 2016**.

Tea towel order forms are available at the front office. If you have any queries please call Alyssa 0405 720 821 or email [krausey626@hotmail.com](mailto:krausey626@hotmail.com)