



# POSSUM PRESS

## NEWS FROM JANTIENA

The school is buzzing!! Learning programmes are well underway throughout the school with classes working on building a sense of class identity, as well as expanding their knowledge in a range of learning areas in their units of inquiry. Maribyrnong Primary School certainly is an exciting place to learn.

### Information Night

It was fantastic to see many of our Maribyrnong families at our information night last Tuesday night. We trust that you found these sessions informative. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please make an appointment to speak to your child's teacher. The school executive team are happy to be a part of these conversations as well. If you were unable to attend the session please collect the handout that captured the main points discussed on the night for your information.

### Communication

Communication is such an important aspect of schools and their communities and there are a number of means by which we communicate with parents and carers.

These include:

- Newsletters - these are published each fortnight on a Thursday (odd weeks). At the beginning of each term, a calendar of events is published with as much detail as possible.
- The school website - general information about the school is outlined here.
- Information evenings, such as those held last week.
- Facebook updates – our page is updated with reminders and announcements regularly (Maribyrnong Primary School – Kaleen).
- Emails – staff emails are listed in the newsletter and families are encouraged to email information to teachers where appropriate.
- Parent-Teacher Interviews - these will be held in term two. There will be more information about how to make an appointment with your child's teacher for these formal interviews closer to the date.
- Meetings arranged by parents/carers and/or teachers as required.
- Learning journeys - to be held in term three.
- School reports and interviews. Reports are sent out at the end of term two and term four.

Parents and carers can assist with excellent communication by:

- Checking bags or emails for notes and newsletters.
- Phoning the school between 8.30 am and 9.00 am if your child is not coming to school on any day (front office 62055933).
- Sending a note to your child's teacher following any days of absence.
- Phoning the front office to leave messages that need to be relayed to teachers in a timely manner.
- Emailing teachers information that can be accessed at an appropriate time (after school).
- Checking the 'Notes Sent Home' section of the newsletter in case a note has not made it home and then collecting a duplicate note from the front office.
- Ensuring that the front office has your contact details so when we need to contact you we can!



Thursday 20 February, Term 1 Week 3



**ACT**  
Government

Education and Training

### CONTACTS:

#### Maribyrnong School

Ph: 62055933 Fax: 62055932

[www.maribyrnongps.act.edu.au](http://www.maribyrnongps.act.edu.au)



Find us on  
**Facebook**

Maribyrnong Primary School-Kaleen

**Board Chair** Justine Minchin  
[justine.minchin@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:justine.minchin@ed.act.edu.au)

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

#### 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:**

#### FEBRUARY

20 P&C meeting 7.00 pm staff room  
21 LSU Canberra Show  
26 Swimming Carnival  
28 Assembly 2.15 pm 3/4 item

#### MARCH

7 5c Friday  
10 Canberra Day long weekend  
14 Assembly 2.15 pm kindy item  
School Cross Country

The Calendar for 2014 is available on the school website.



## Preschool

Our preschool children are settling well in to their new routines and we welcome all new families and children to our Maribyrnong School community. Some of the children have even been heard to voice their desire to want to stay all day, every day because "preschool is fun."

We are anticipating some more new families as our Early Childhood Intervention Unit (ECIU) enrolments grow. Thank you to our early childhood team for their orientation of new students and families to our community.

## Performance Indicators in Primary Schools (PIPS)

Each year, kindergarten students across the ACT are involved in the Performance Indicators in Primary Schools (PIPS) assessment program. This interactive, online assessment provides our school and the system with information about the reading and numeracy skills students bring on formal school entry. The term 1 baseline data is compared with an end of year assessment to inform planning around school based programs and assists with allocating system resources for learning support.

PIPS testing has started and will continue into next week. Our kindergarten teachers value this opportunity to work individually for a sustained time with each of their students. Parents will receive PIPS reports later in the year. If you would like to know a little more about PIPS, please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher or our Junior Primary Team Leader, Anna Thorpe.

## Policy Development at Maribyrnong

This year we are undertaking a review of some of our school policies. Generally, we are guided by the policies of the ACT Education and Training Directorate. These are available on the ETD website at [www.det.gov.au](http://www.det.gov.au) Some of these policies require interpretation at the school level and to this end we will be developing a series of procedural documents (or guides) that describe the implementation of the policy at Maribyrnong Primary. We encourage all of our families to keep an eye out for opportunities to provide feedback about the procedures.

## Student Representation and Leadership

This week, Student Representative Council (SRC) members were elected in each class from kindergarten to year six. These students have been considered worthy representatives for their classes by their peers. The SRC is one feedback mechanism for our students where they can share their thoughts, make plans and take action. The SRC representatives record ideas from their class or unit meetings and then share them at our fortnightly SRC meetings. They then share the decisions from SRC meetings with their class or unit. This is just one way our SRC connects students with authentic opportunities to voice their thinking.

## Thank you Supa Express Kaleen

We would like to thank Supa Express in Kaleen for donating all of the bread for our Welcome BBQ. We are extremely lucky to have the support of our local supermarket at such events and appreciate their generosity. Next time you are shopping there please extend your thanks too!

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Jantiena

## READING MYTHBUSTER

### Myth # 1 Children shouldn't use the pictures in a book to help them read

Reading is all about making MEANING from the text.

Pictures help your child know what words to expect while they are reading and whether their predictions are correct. Teachers encourage children to 'read' the pictures as well as the words in a book. Your child might look from the word to the picture and back to the word when they are reading.

This is a great strategy to use because it means they are checking that their reading is making sense (maintaining meaning). Making sense of what is being read is the most important reading strategy a child will master. As beginning readers they may 'sound out' words or look for 'chunks' of words to help decode the text but these strategies are left behind as they establish more efficient strategies. Maintaining meaning remains a strategy for all readers (you do it all the time).

Books can be, and in fact should be, read many times. Don't underestimate your child's ability to pick up more meaning from the text every time they read a book.

#### Tips for Supporting your Child's Reading

- Reading should be a fun experience for everyone. Choose the right time and location to share this time with your child.
- Ensure reading is part of your everyday routine. Reading to children is the single most powerful thing parents can do at home to help their child become good readers.
- Allow your child to read at their pace and look at the picture for as long as they need. If they 'lose' where they are up to remind them so that the meaning is maintained.
- Asking too many questions about the book can spoil the magic. Families who enjoy books together often find that children, when they are ready, talk to them about the book without prompting.
- The first prompt when a child is reading and the meaning is lost should always be, "Does that makes sense?"



### So.....this myth is BUSTED! Children can use pictures to help them maintain meaning of the text!

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)

## RUBIES & SAPPHIRES (PRESCHOOL)

What a wonderful start to the year! The Rubies and Sapphires have settled into preschool beautifully and it is delightful to see so many smiling faces each day. During the first few weeks of term we have been getting to know each other and learning preschool routines. The children have been thoroughly enjoying both the indoor and outdoor learning centres provided. This year we have students in our class with severe allergies to nuts and pineapple. Because of the seriousness of this allergy, we are asking that you please refrain from sending nut or pineapple products to school.

We would love parents to come and join us in the classroom. If you are interested in volunteering your time you will need to fill in a volunteers form, which you can pick up from the front office, and apply for a 'Working with Vulnerable People' card. The website is listed below for more details:  
[http://www.ors.act.gov.au/community/working\\_with\\_vulnerable\\_people](http://www.ors.act.gov.au/community/working_with_vulnerable_people)

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you ever have any questions or concerns.

Elsa, Sally, Ni and Gaby.



## OPALS (K)

We have had a very busy and productive two weeks in the kindergarten unit. We have been learning how to sequence, write and recognise numbers and we have started to learn about length.

Our daily five program is well under way. Thanks to the parents who are coming in to help. We still have lots of free mornings if you are available to come and assist, you are very welcome!

Readers have gone home this week along with the sight word homework. Sight words will change fortnightly starting in week 4. Please bring your home reading folder back every day as we send notes home in them. Thank you to the parents who are changing them over for us!

We have begun our inquiry unit on homes and special places. It fits in nicely with science as we are home to a new pair of goldfish. Stay tuned to this space for names.

Please remember to send your child in with a bag on library days. They are unable to borrow without a bag and we are running out of plastic bags to give them. KFP is on Friday and KSB is on Thursday.

Please send a fresh piece of fruit or vegetable in with your child for fruit break in the mornings.

Symone, Sarah, Keilly and Leeanne.

## EMERALD CITY (1/2)

Emerald City is buzzing with activity as we have started our guided reading, Bee Spelling and number groups. The children are adapting well to moving around the unit and working with different peers.

This week we have started our inquiry unit on family life. We are looking at the past and present in a unit called 'Looking Forward, Looking Back'. Children will be working on their own family tree. We have asked them to talk to you about the people in their immediate and extended family. It would be helpful if you could jot down the names of these people so your child can start filling in their family tree. Please note that this is an in class activity and we have not asked children to do their family tree at home. If you have any photographs of family members that you are happy for your child to cut up for their tree, these can be sent in too.

We love having helpers in our classrooms for guided reading. Our guided reading sessions run on a Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 10.10-11.10 am and on Fridays from 10.10-10.40 am. If you would like to volunteer you will need to sign in at the front office and be registered for a Working With Vulnerable People (WWVP) card. Please let your child's teacher know what days you will be able to come in and help out.

Naomi, Amanda, Lucy and Leeanne.

## DIAMONDS (3/4)

The Diamonds have had a very busy start to the year!

Our spelling, maths and reading groups have started this week. It is great to see each student so enthusiastic about their learning. Miss Apps and Miss Wild are very proud! Homework went home this week; please make sure your child is reading every night.



This term we will be looking at 'Interactions'. We will be exploring how different ways of human interaction affects our land. We will also look at how peoples feeling's about certain places influence their views about the protection of different places. Both classes have recorded questions that they would like to know about this subject.

We have a number of students who have not returned their school books, which were sent home to be contacted. Please return them as soon as possible, even if they are not contacted.

Kylie and Emma.

## GARNETS (LSU)

The LSU Garnets have had a wonderful start to the year. All the children's mainstream class timetables have been kicking into gear and they have been venturing out socialising with the student's in their year groups. Be sure to chat to your child about this and find out what they are doing. We will be sending home timetables for the children to keep at home so they know what they are doing each day. Please encourage your child to check their timetable to encourage independence and to learn to perform tasks such as packing their library bag on library day.

The children will be bringing home readers this week to practise at home. If you would like to discuss the process please email Lee or just drop in and see us and we will be happy to go through it with you. Reading at home is just as important as reading at school. As Emilie Buchwald said, "Children are made readers on the laps of their parents."

We are looking forward to our trip to the Canberra Show this week. The children have helped plan our day and we can't wait to see all the exciting things it has to offer! Although we have discussed that there will be no rides on the day, please reiterate this with your child at home to avoid any disappointment. The weather looks like it's going to be fantastic so make sure they come with their hat, sunscreen and drink bottles. I bet you can't wait to hear all about it on your weekend ☺

Have a great one!  
Lee and Jacque.

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

A big thankyou to all the parents and carers who attended our 4/5/6 information session last Tuesday night. Homework has been handed out to all students this week so start checking student bags for it. Students were given a homework grid that they have just under 2 weeks to complete. Additionally, students were given a list of words that they are to use for spelling activities as outlined on the homework grid. We have encouraged the students to let us know early on if they require any further assistance from us in completing the homework tasks. Completing the grid will require students to develop their time management skills and it is often easier if they timetable themselves weekly home slots where they can work on assigned tasks with limited distractions.

Once again, a reminder that in this hot weather we encourage students to have a labelled water bottle that they can keep on their desks to ensure minimal disruptions to their learning and maintaining appropriate hydration.

Up-coming events for students include the swimming carnival next Wednesday where students in years 5 and 6 will take part in a swimming proficiency test for camp activities. This test requires students to be able to swim unaided for 50m and to tread water for 5 mins. A final reminder: 5/6 T-shirt notes are due by end of the week. No orders can be accepted after this time.

Shane, Jane, Keilly, Elissa, Sarah and Justine.

## MOONSTONES (LSUA)

Over the last week the Moonstones have had such a wonderful time reading the stories 'The tree little pigs' and the 'Gingerbread man'. We have had a great time putting on puppet shows of these stories and creating fun art work relating to these books. The students have worked on writing recounts of the stories in their literacy work.



We have played fun games in maths and enjoyed our time in the Library. Science is one of our favourite times of the week where we have been able to do some interesting experiments.



Virginia and Nicola.

## FRONT OFFICE NEWS

### WESTPAC'S QUICKWEB PAYMENT SYSTEM

A letter will be sent this week 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>

**Maribyrnong Primary School Management Account.**  
**BSB 032 777 Account 001615**

### Voluntary Contributions for 2014 as set by our Board:

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.

## CHESS LESSONS

Chess is a valuable activity for children as well as being a source of much enjoyment. What better way to combine learning and fun. This year our chess coach is Cameron Dicks from the Sydney Academy of Chess. Chess lessons occur in B1 every Monday from 11.20 – 12.00 pm in the Library.

What are the educational benefits of Chess?

- Improves concentration and focus
- Develops logical thinking and problem solving skills
- Enhances memory
- Encourages creative and lateral thinking
- Expands visualisation and spatial awareness
- Demonstrates actions and consequences
- Rewards correct decision making
- Increases self-confidence

If your child is interested in joining the Chess lessons for next term look out for the information and permission note that is sent home in week 7 or 8 of this term. Payment is due the first week back after the holidays. Next term the fee for chess lessons is \$70 (ten lessons).



Keilly Pownall  
Chess Coordinator

## FRENCH

Salut! Bienvenue à 2014!



Welcome to French in 2014. It is very exciting to be teaching in *La boîte*, the new French classroom full of French resources in the 3/4 unit of the senior school. All students will be having their French lessons in *La boîte*.

Last year Maribyrnong Primary students won the Semaine de la Francophonie competition organised by the French speaking embassies in Canberra and the Alliance Francaise. This year we will again be entering the competition. In classes this week students from years 3 to 6 will be invited to volunteer to work during lunch break on Thursdays over 7 weeks to make either a poster (years 5 and 6) or a hat (years 3 and 4), that represents Vietnam, the francophone country we have been allocated for this year.

The concept around which our learning will be based for first semester across the school is *universality*. Our learning focus will be the language that is common to children wherever they live in the world, including social introductions, questions to seek information, and verbs of daily life. The vocabulary of school and classroom objects will also be introduced.



Lyn Lisacek

## STAFF EMAIL

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## NOTES SENT HOME

- ✓ Westpac Quickweb payment information for families
- ✓ 2014 Admin pack- containing 2014 permissions, information check sheets and information for families. Due back by Friday 21 February
- ✓ Christian Education in Schools note
- ✓ 5/6 T-shirt order form
- ✓ 5/6 Camp
- ✓ Canteen menu –updated for term 1

## P&C NEWS

The Maribyrnong Canteen, the Possum Café, has a vacancy for a Canteen Manager to work with Bec on alternate days (to be determined by the successful applicant and Bec). The Canteen is currently open on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday each week so the number of days you would be required to work each week would be between 1-4, depending on arrangements. Those who are interested in applying for the position, please send your CV and a short description of your experience and skills to:

[maribyrnongpandc@gmail.com](mailto:maribyrnongpandc@gmail.com)

Expressions of Interest should be in by the Friday 7 March.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### MEDICARE

New to Canberra? From 25 January to 2 March 2014, anyone who updates their address after moving to Canberra from interstate will be eligible to enter the competition to win \$10,000! To update your address visit [www.humanservices.gov.au/medicare](http://www.humanservices.gov.au/medicare) and then enter the competition at [www.updateyouraddress.com.au](http://www.updateyouraddress.com.au)

### 26th CANBERRA MODEL TRAIN EXPO

Saturday 29 March 2014 9.00 am-5.00 pm and Sunday 30 March 2014, 9.00 am-4.00pm  
University of Canberra High School, 104 Baldwin Dr Kaleen.

ADMISSION Adults \$10.00, Children / Seniors \$5.00 Family Ticket \$20.00

[www.canberra-model-railway-club.webs.com](http://www.canberra-model-railway-club.webs.com)

### RUGBY LEAGUE - NORTH CANBERRA BEARS 2014 Registration Day

Sunday 23 February, 10.00 am-2.00 pm at the Sports Club Kaleen, Georgina Circuit Kaleen.

### INNER NORTH NETBALL

Interested in playing Netball? Then Inner North Netball Club is looking for you! We are a community-minded club and have teams in the modified through to senior divisions and play in the North Canberra Winter Netball Competition at the CNA Netball Courts, Southwell Park, Northbourne Ave, Lyneham. Registration day on Saturday 22 February (10.00 am to 2.00 pm) at the CNA Courts. For more information contact us at:

[innetball@gmail.com](mailto:innetball@gmail.com) or visit us at [www.innc.asn.au](http://www.innc.asn.au)

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### **A year to remember: Canberra turns 100**

There are copies of the 2013 end of year concert available at the front office for just \$5.00.



### Uniform shop

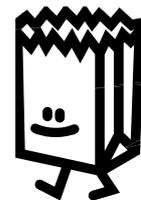
Uniform shop is open every Monday morning 8.45am - 9.30 am in the Canteen. We have a great range of both new and 2<sup>nd</sup> hand uniforms.

You can download our uniform order form at:

[http://www.maribyrnongps.act.edu.au/our\\_community/school\\_uniform](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](mailto:madden_clare@hotmail.com) or 0408 252736.

### POSSUM PANTRY CAFÉ



Got a few hours to spare on **Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays?** We would love you to volunteer in the canteen. It's a great way to help and get to know some other parents and carers in the school. For more information, pop in and talk to Bec in the canteen.



## Presented by CANBERRA TOY & HOBBY FAIR

A show the whole family can enjoy  
**6th April 2014**

Kaleen High School  
104 Baldwin Drive, Kaleen  
9am - 3pm



- Australiana
- Lego mini figures

Admission:  
Adults - \$4



Maribyrnong Primary School-Kaleen