I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support this term. It has been wonderful to meet many new families and support your children to learn and grow. I look forward to seeing you back at Maribyrnong on Tuesday 28 April. Have a safe and restful break.

Staffing 2015
There will be a number of staffing changes over the coming weeks. Jane Baillie will commence maternity leave on Friday 3 April, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Jane for her contributions to improving student learning this term. We look forward to welcoming Jane back to Maribyrnong in 2016. We will welcome Lyndall Nash to our year 3/4 teaching team. Lyndall is incredibly excited to commence her first teaching position at Maribyrnong. Symone Florian commenced full time work from Monday 30 March. Stacey Hodgson will move to 4 days a week (Tu to Fri) from term 2 and Keilly Pownall will move from teaching in the 3/4 unit on a Monday to the 1/2 unit to share Stacey’s class. We have welcomed Aaron Bartlett to the 1/2 unit on a Monday and Tuesday each week to support our students learning. Kathleen Price-Barnes will continue to work in the K/1 and 1/2 classes as well as the LSUA across the week.

Principals As Literacy Leaders
Our school executive are currently participating in 3 days training called Principals As Literacy Leaders (PALLS). This program was originally implemented in SA, WA and QLD. The aim of the project was to support Principals’ to be literacy leaders in their schools. This was based on the latest research in OECD countries which demonstrated that successful schools are schools where the principal is a leader in teaching and learning. The program was initiated by the Australian Primary Principals Association (APPA). The ACT ETD has adopted the model and made it context specific to meet the needs of ACT leaders and learners. All staff will attend a reading institute on Monday 13 April (stand down) where they will have the opportunity to hear from some of the leading literacy researchers across the world. We look forward to providing you with an update of the changes we make to our practice.

Public Consultation: Reports Student Achievement in ACT Public Schools
The ACT Education and Training Directorate has a current Reporting on Student Achievement and Progress to Student and Parents Policy which was developed in 2006. ACT Minister for Education and Training Joy Burch MLA, announced a review of the current Policy. The ACT Education and Directorate is now seeking public input on the information parents want about their child’s learning and how parents want to receive that information in the form of twice yearly reports. The consultation period runs from Monday 23 March to Friday 15 May.

We encourage all of our families to participate in the review, please use the following link: http://www.timetotalk.act.gov.au/consultations/?engagement-public-consultation-reporting-student-achievement-in-act-public-schools

CONTACTS:
Maribyrnong School
Ph: 62055933    Fax: 62055932
www.maribyrnongps.act.edu.au

FACEBOOK: Maribyrnong Primary School-Kaleen

Board Chair       Lauren Newman
laurennnewman_13@yahoo.com.au

P&C President     Noel Florian
maribyrnongpandc@gmail.com

Possum Pantry Canteen
Wednesday to Friday Ph: 6241 5974
http://www.flexischools.com.au

Communities@Work ph:0400462086
Breakfast Club and After School Care

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

DATES TO REMEMBER:
APRIL
3    Good Friday Public Holiday
6    Easter Monday Public Holiday
8    P&C Disco
10   Assembly 2.15 pm- K & K1 item
     Last day of term 1
28   *TUESDAY* 1st day of term 2

For the full 2015 calendar, please visit: http://www.maribyrnongps.act.edu.au/our_community/calendar
Board 2015
The two vacant parent representative positions on our School Board have been filled by Elizabeth Swann and Fabiola D'Ambrósio, Lauren Newman and appointed community representative Craig Jones are continuing in 2015. Our new teacher representative is Jantiena Batt and Anna and I remain as the final Board members. I look forward to continuing this great partnership with our School Board over the coming year.

Belconnen District Swimming Carnival
Congratulations to the Maribyrnong students who participated in the Belconnen District Swimming Carnival on Friday 27 March. It was fabulous to see each of these students give their absolute best efforts. I am incredibly proud of the way in which they represented Maribyrnong Primary. A huge thank you to Kathy Nash and Anna Thorpe for coordinating this event and to Kathy for supporting our students on the day.

Easter Raffle
A huge thank you to our P&C for coordinating our Easter Raffle on Friday 27 March. Our students thoroughly enjoyed the visit from the Easter Bunny and the wonderful Easter prizes which were on offer. Thank you to our community for all of the donations and for purchasing tickets.

P&C News
Our P&C has once more organised a special end of term disco celebration for all students in kindergarten to year 6. The disco will be held next Wednesday 8 April from 6.30 pm until 8.00 pm. There will not be a dinner available this year, however there will be glow sticks and fruit for students as well as a number of treats which are available as part of this ‘red’ event. A big thank you to our volunteers who have offered to assist on the night.

I do hope you enjoy the long weekend to come.

Jen.

We’re fundraising with Entertainment™
Order now for only $60 Entertainment™ Memberships are packed with hundreds of up to 50% off and 2-for-1 offers for the best local restaurants, cafés, attractions, hotel accommodation, travel, and much more! Available as a traditional Entertainment™ Book -or- Digital Membership on your smartphone, your Membership gives you over $20,000 worth of valuable offers valid through to 1 June 2016!

Order either Membership type before 29 April 2015, and you’ll receive over $200 worth of Early Bird Offers which you can use straight away!

Order now for Early Bird Offers

WRITING MYTHBUSTERS

Myth # 13 Writing is a solitary activity
For hundreds of years we have seen pictures of writers hunched over a desk, crafting their masterpiece in isolation. While this may have been the case in the past, writing is now a very social experience with many layers of interaction.

In the modern day classroom writing occurs throughout the day and uses a variety of structures. We use the Gradual Release of Responsibility Model to target teaching and slowly release control over to the student. Within this model students engage in the following approaches to writing:

- modelled writing
- shared writing
- interactive writing
- guided writing
- independent writing.

Each approach has a specific purpose and end result.

Modelled Writing is the explicit demonstration of writing behaviours and the verbalisation of the thinking processes involved. The teacher is showing the students how effective writers think about and craft texts.

Shared Writing is a teacher-managed process in which a piece of text is composed and constructed jointly. The teacher responds to students’ contributions with comments and questions, using the results to shape the written text.

Interactive Writing is a teacher-managed process in which a piece of text is composed and constructed collaboratively. The teacher makes the decisions about where students can take over the pen to write parts of the text. Students are invited to ‘share the pen’ at strategic points so that they can actively participate at the instructional level.

Guided Writing is the provision of scaffolded support to a group of students with similar needs, as they develop writing behaviours and understandings.

Independent Writing is the application of previously learned writing understandings, processes and strategies to compose own texts. It can happen within a group structure of independently.

As you can see from the approaches used, writing is rarely done is isolation or as a solitary experience. Interactions with teachers, peers and quality literature shapes our thinking and allows us to craft texts that reflect our current understandings.

So.....this myth is busted!
Writing is a solitary activity best done in groups!

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
Voluntary Contributions
This week in ‘Around the Grounds’ we are focusing on voluntary contributions and what we use these funds for. Public education is free. Schools may offer or facilitate some specific optional items, activities and services for which parents may be required to pay if they want their child to access them. Such activities and items could include: non-essential school camps and excursions, class photos, the canteen, private tutoring and uniforms. Student support funds are maintained in all public schools to support the needs of students who might not otherwise be in a position to take advantage of the opportunities provided by their schools.

So what exactly are voluntary contributions used for at Maribyrnong? The funds that we receive through voluntary contributions are used to support the purchase of resources for everyday use. Our voluntary contributions are set at $150.00 a year. Of this money, $83.00 is tax deductible for families. This money is sanctioned for the library trust fund and can only be spent by the school to purchase new resources for students to use. These resources must be added to the library catalogue; therefore these funds are generally used to purchase new resources such as library books and computer software.

The remaining $67.00 is used to purchase basic equipment such as pencils, erasers, rulers, coloured pencils, books to write in. It costs a minimum of $80 per student, per year for these resources. We ask our families to purchase a $40 book pack for each child, the other $40 is covered by the school from money we receive through voluntary contributions. Any funds remaining (up to $27.00) is then spent on art supplies such as paint and paper and resources for our science and French programs.

I would like to thank parents who have paid part or all of their 2015 Voluntary Contributions. If you have not yet paid I encourage you to do so. We accept payments at any time!

If you have any topics for ‘Around the Grounds’ please email them through to Jennifer.howard@ed.act.edu.au

Voluntary Contributions
to date are at 25%

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AROUND THE GROUNDS

Dairy Australia colouring competition
P&C Disco Wednesday 8 April
P&C Family Portrait Fundraiser with Ladina Photography
P&C uniforms- 5/6 Tshirt 2nd order
**GLIMMERS, DAZZLERS, SPARKLERS (PRESCHOOL)**

Wow, week 9 of term 1 already! What a fantastic start to the preschool year the Dazzlers, Glimmers and Sparklers have had. So far this term we have learnt about staying healthy, making friends, sharing and turn-taking, nature, singing and dancing and mostly having fun!

Thanks so much to all the wonderful volunteers we have had that have helped out with our preschool classes. We enjoy having parents in, so please remember you are always welcome.

Last week all the children thoroughly enjoyed learning about Possum Magic, Australian food and Australian places. Our ‘Possum Magic’ morning tea was a huge success and we all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

We hope you all have a lovely break over Easter!
Elsa, Sally, Ni and Gaby, Georgia and Kelly 😊

**NEONS (1/2)**

We have had a fun-filled term 1 learning about our community in IU, practicing our good questioning skills in ‘Writing to Inquire’ lessons and remembering that EVERY Wednesday is a ‘waste free’ Wednesday now at Maribyrnong. Students have enjoyed whole unit activities throughout the term including singing and gross motor rotations.

Last week we marked the importance of our impact on our global home with Earth Hour. Students in the Neon Unit learnt about sustainability and how to be responsible consumers of our Earth’s resources. They enjoyed learning throughout the day with natural light and without relying on the use of electrical technologies to assist their learning.

It is almost the end of term and the time will fly by with the Easter long weekend starting tomorrow. We wish you a safe and enjoyable long weekend.
Camille, Daniel, Kathleen, Aaron, Keilly, Lucy, Stacey and Amanda.

**AURORAS (K and K/1)**

We have enjoyed getting to know your families as we have worked through our unit of inquiry on the stories of our families. It has been very exciting listening to the students share their stories about where their families are from. They have greatly enjoyed finding and displaying their countries of origin on our world map.

In maths this week, we have been learning all about addition. The children have been creating, solving and recording addition problems. We have also investigated 3D shapes and have found items in our school environment that represent these shapes. During writing time we have been learning all about writing to socialise. The children have been experimenting with and creating letters, cards and invitations.

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers who have been helping to change our home readers and listening to children read. We really appreciate your help.

Don’t forget that kindergarten will be presenting an item at our assembly in week 10.

We hope you enjoy your holidays. We look forward to hearing all about them next term.
Jess, Sarah, Naomi, Leeanne and Kathleen.

**BEAMERS (3/4)**

As this is the last newsletter for the term we would like to pass on our congratulations to all students for the wonderful term they have had. We have seen many new friendships form and grow, new routines establish and a tremendous amount of learning has occurred. We look forward to another exciting and fun filled term ahead.

Term two is already shaping up to be a busy one. NAPLAN is in week three. Notes were sent home with all year three students providing parents with the option to withdraw their child from some or all of the NAPLAN assessments. If you are choosing to withdraw your child, these forms are now due. If you do wish for your child to take part in NAPLAN no action is required.

Camp is in week four. Permission notes are due now. If you have any queries about camp please contact your child’s teacher via email or the front office.

We farewell Jane this Thursday as she awaits the arrival of her third child. We welcome Lyndall on Tuesday. Lyndall is very excited about teaching the students across the unit.

Kylie, Keilly, Symone, Jane and Justine.

It is with mixed emotions that I say goodbye to the students in the Beamers. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know all the students and look forward to hearing of their continued success throughout the rest of the year. I am returning to Maribyrnong in 2016 and hope to teach some of the familiar faces from this year again. All the best for the rest of the year!
Jane Baillie.
The bike program is scheduled to start early next term. The program will be an exciting addition to Maribyrnong. More details will be sent out regarding the program next term.

It has also been confirmed that the year 5/6 will take part in tennis clinics in term two. Students are to wear appropriate footwear and to make sure they bring a drink bottle. The clinics will be scheduled into our PE time.

NAPLAN will take place for our year five students in week three of term two. We will send out a reminder letter closer to the date.

We hope everyone has a happy and safe school holiday and we look forward to seeing all of your bright smiling faces when school returns.

Shane, Elissa, Sarah, Emma and Justine.

GLOW WORMS (LSUA)

Who can believe we are nearly through the whole of term 1 already!
We are starting to get some colder days now so please make sure your children are wearing warm clothes to school and that jumpers are clearly named so they don’t get lost.
Last week we made pigs in the blanket in our cooking lesson. It was so much fun and we loved making pastry patterns on the top and watching how big the pastry grew in the oven.

The playground is becoming more successful for our students as each week goes by. We have been utilising the courtyard and the new special duty to have extra supervision which gives us all great social opportunities.

We have loved seeing the start of homework this term across the class.
Well done to those students who have requested it and attempted it each week. Next term we are going to start a homework chart and prize box!

Have a fantastic weekend long weekend!

Don’t forget that clocks go back an hour on Saturday night so it will be nice and light in the mornings again. A great time to start squeezing in some morning exercise before school 😊.

Lee and Jacque.

FRENCH NEWS

Salut!
The year has started with a focus on intercultural understandings in our French classes, with a specific focus on Canada. The French first arrived in Canada in 1534, claiming it for France. Canada still has the second largest French speaking population outside of France. This term in the senior school we have been learning lots of interesting facts about Canada. Did you know that Canada produces 80% of the world’s maple syrup? And that basketball and peanut butter were invented in Canada? Ask your child for the names of some Canadian landmarks, French-Canadian foods and inventions. All students in the senior school produced a poster incorporating French labels that demonstrated their understanding of an aspect of Canadian life. Fourteen of these posters contributed to our school entry for this year’s La semaine de la francophonie competition at the Alliance Française. Congratulations to all students for their excellent work. Maribyrnong Primary won third prize!

In the junior school we have started the year learning and revising topics including colours, introductions, numbers and the weather through songs, games and activities. Rowena King is teaching French to KJL this year. We are working together and following the same curriculum.

À bientôt! Lyn Lisacek.
POSSUM PANTRY ROSTER

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<tr>
<th>Week 10 Term 1</th>
<th>Wednesday 8 April</th>
<th>Thursday 9 April</th>
<th>Friday 10 April</th>
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<tr>
<td>9.00 am - 2.30 pm</td>
<td>Laura</td>
<td>Sharon F</td>
<td>Kerry</td>
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<td>9.00 am - 12 noon</td>
<td>Kim</td>
<td>Wendy</td>
<td>Kerry</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.00pm - 3.00 pm</td>
<td>Emma</td>
<td>Michael</td>
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<th>Friday 1 May</th>
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The canteen has been getting busier and we would love to get some more volunteers, if you are available to help 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 or Rouvaye in the canteen or call them on 62415974. Any help would be greatly appreciated, either for a whole shift or any time you can spare. Volunteers who help out for a shift will be issued with a voucher for 1 Meal Deal. We look forward to seeing you in the canteen. Thank you.

NATIONAL YOUTH WEEK

KOWDINSKY’S MAKEOVER

In last week’s assembly students were informed that our beautiful dairy cow, Kowdinsky, is about to have a makeover! Maribyrnong is once again part of the Picasso Cows program run by Dairy Australia. Through decorating our cow with the theme ‘Farm to Plate’, Dairy Australia invites Australian schools to learn about the dairy industry and that dairy can be consumed as part of a balanced, healthy diet. Over 80 schools across the country will be working to give their iconic cows a brand new look over terms 2 and 3. Small teams of students will be working to complete the new design and painting of Kowdinsky, as well as making a portfolio of learning to share. The finished work will be judged in September, with Maribyrnong in the running to win cash prizes.

To launch our makeover students have been given the opportunity to enter a school colouring competition. Cow colouring sheets were sent home last week and students are invited to submit their best colouring efforts by 28 April. These will be dairy themed prizes for the favourite entries in each class. Drop your entries, including name and class, in the tray at the front office to enter. Extra colouring sheets can also be collected from the front office.

Have an a-moooooosing holiday!
Anna Thorpe.