What a wet February it has been! We thank all of you for your support with ensuring our students are dressed warmly and prepared for the wet weather over the past few weeks. Let’s hope we have a little bit of sunshine for the upcoming senior school camp!

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 26 February. What an amazing day it was! The sun was shining (for some 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 and of course the support of our community. Congratulations to all of our students who competed and to those who won ribbons. 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 are entering a school team into the Annual Women and Girls’ 5km Fun Run/Walk coordinated by the YMCA. Deb Livermore has kindly offered to coordinate the Maribyrnong Team. Please add this important date to your diary – Sunday 6 April from 9.00 am until 11.00 am at Stage 88. This is a wonderful opportunity to take part in a community event and raise some much needed funds for OvCan. There are also a number of great prizes available including the major prize of $500 for the school with the greatest female representation. We have won this prize for the last six years; we hope to do it again in 2014! Further information is on the last page of this edition.

Hall Markets
Thank you to everyone who came out to the Hall Markets on Sunday to visit us at stall 37. It was wonderful to see so many familiar faces pop by and enjoy the festivities. A huge thank you to Leeanne Walls and Keilly Pownall who donated many of the crafty items we had for sale and who braved the early morning Sunday to set up our stall. I would also like to thank all of the staff who stopped by and helped out or made a purchase. Over the last twelve months we have raised over $1300 for the school. Last year the funds were spent to subsidise the Kulture Break Canberra Centennial Dance Program. This year we will be upgrading all of the digital cameras in our classrooms. We hope to be back at the Hall Markets in early May; watch this space!

Cross Country
Our school Cross Country Carnival will be held next Friday 14 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 having a special lunch on the day and notes were sent this week. If you are able to come along and assist please complete the form and return it by next Wednesday.
Individual Learning Plans (ILPs)

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 or have been identified as gifted and talented, we develop formal Individual Learning Plans. Our educators are currently in the process of drafting these ILPs 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 during 2014. For more information, please head to the ACT Government Education and Training website (www.det.act.gov.au).

5c Friday

Please remember that tomorrow is 5c Friday. Students are welcome to wear their PJs to school (no singlets, boxers, shoestring straps on clothes) and bring along their 5c coins as a donation towards the costs of the Twilight Fair set for November. The class that weighs in the most 5c pieces will receive a prize!!

School Crossing

We are currently in negotiations with TAMS to install a school crossing within the 40km school zone. In order to determine the best place for the crossing, we need to collect some information from our community. This includes information regarding how students travel to and from school and where they cross the road in order to determine the high use areas. Further information will be sent home in the next fortnight; I look forward to your feedback.

Jen

READING MYTHBUSTER

Myth # 2 Children should sound out all unknown words when reading.

Teachers encourage children to use a variety of strategies to ‘decode’ words in their reading. ‘Sounding out’ actually has very limited value because many of the words in the English language cannot be worked out this way. Have a look at the words love, the or school; sounding out the individual letters in these words does not help at all. Sounding out is an effective strategy for beginning readers for many words but not all. As adults we know that we cannot sound out words when trying to read unknown words for the first time (think of macabre or pneumonia)...this strategy simply doesn’t work for all the words in the English language.

Looking at the first letter of a word and using this to get your mouth ready to say that word is a strategy we use with early readers. This allows them to use their letter knowledge while maintaining the meaning of the text when reading.

Sounding out is a strategy we can use for some words but when it is the major strategy a reader uses it is ineffective. This is because it can take so much time that the reader has forgotten the meaning of what came before the unknown word. Comprehension (meaning) as well as fluency (the flow of the reading) is affected.

Tips for Supporting your Child’s Reading

• Make reading fun, read outside on a picnic rug or under the dining room table for a change.
• Read every day by reading signs when you are out and about, reading the shopping list, reading food labels, or reading street signs on the way to school. This highlights why it is important for everyone to read.
• Go to a public library and borrow books together. You can also borrow CDs of authors reading their books (we have some in our school library). These are great to listen to at home and while driving home from the shops. The best part of this experience is reading along with the book.

So.....this myth is BUSTED!

Children should NOT rely on sounding out as the only strategy when reading unknown words.

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

School Banking

School banking will now be done on Monday mornings in the library. Jeanette Krah is the new co-coordinator. If you have any questions please e-mail jeannettekrah@yahoo.com.au

Caltex - Kaleen

Earn the school 1c per litre each time you fill up at our local Caltex. Just mention when paying that you are from Maribyrnong Primary School and the P&C receive a donation.
**EARLY INTERVENTION UNIT (ECIU)**

The Starfish and Dolphin children are off to a very healthy start to the school year. Last week they enjoyed making dry and fresh fruit skewers. They are also learning the names, colours, textures and parts of many different fruits. They like to talk about the healthy fruits in their lunchboxes. We will also be making scones and orange juice during the term.

We are thoroughly enjoying our shared outside playtimes with the Sapphires preschool group. This is a wonderful opportunity for all of the children to develop appropriate interactions, language and communication skills, pretend play and gross motor skills. The children are also enjoying songs and story time under the trees on Friday afternoons. We also look forward to our Possum Magic picnics and a pirate dress up day later in the term.

Georgia & Kelly.

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**OPALS (K)**

We have had another exciting and productive fortnight in the kindergarten opals. We are settling in to the routines of school, getting to know each other and making new friends.

Over the past few weeks we have been setting up our Daily Five literacy program. This includes activities to practice phonics and sight words, guided reading lessons with the teacher, listening to reading and reading with a buddy. The students are becoming more confident and independent as they engage in these tasks. Thankyou very much to the parents who have volunteered to help during these daily activities.

Many students are already in the routine of changing their home readers daily. Well done everyone! Remember to keep practising your sight words every day. Thank you to the parents who have helped us change the readers every day.

As we continue our inquiry unit on homes and special places, the students will be designing and making a collage house for one of the three little pigs! We have greatly enjoyed acting out the story with masks and props. We certainly have some confident actors and actresses in our group.

We would also like to remind you that our school has a nut free policy as we have a number of students with severe allergies.

Thankyou Symone, Sarah, Keilly and Leeanne.

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**EMERALD CITY (1/2)**

We can hardly believe we are half way through first term. The weeks have been filled with lots of learning and laughter. Last week the Emerald City were lucky to have some guest speakers share with them what Maribyrnong was like when they were school aged. A big thank you to Mick, Rhys and Kath. We were all very surprised about the things that have changed like different buildings were used as classrooms and the LSU as a cooking room. We also learnt that some things have not changed like if you made an inappropriate behaviour choice your name would go in the behaviour book.

As part of our inquiry unit, we are looking at family trees. Please have a discussion with your child about who is in your family tree and help them write down the names of your parents and your parents’ parents. The family tree will look at both maternal and paternal sides of your child’s family tree.

Our school cross country is coming up on Friday 14 March. Please return the volunteer note if you are able to assist.

We look forward to continuing the learning and laughter for the second part of term 1.

Amanda, Naomi, Lucy and Leeanne.

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**DIAMONDS (3/4)**

Thank you to everyone who attended our assembly last week. The students did a fantastic performance, and they definitely did rock!!

The students have begun to learn about The Great Barrier Reef in inquiry. We are going to start to look at how human interactions is affecting the reef. All students have shown a strong interest in this subject, and are VERY enthusiastic about our inquiry unit this term.

The Cross Country Carnival is on next Friday, many students have already started practising! If you are able to volunteer some time to assist at the carnival, please return the note that has been sent home.

Thank you to all students who returned ALL their books to their teacher (contacted or not).

Kylie and Emma.
**GARNETS (LSU)**

The LSU Garnets are really getting into the swing of things now!

The students have been learning to use the wonderful studyladder as an educational tool on the computer. They all have their own logons and set tasks from their teacher. If you are interested in utilising this in their home environment as well please send me an email and I will send you a copy of their logons.

Many of the Garnets have begun spending valuable literacy time with their mainstream classes. It has been fabulous to see them do this with so much confidence!

Now that it is Autumn we are going to have to start digging out the jumpers and long pants again. Please make sure jumpers are clearly named. They tend to be the biggest victims of the drop and run here at Primary School!

Please also remember to make sure you send your child to school with a drink bottle and any LSU hats they may have accidentally taken home with them.

We hope you have a fabulous weekend!

Lee and Jacque.

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**MOONSTONES (LSUA)**

The Moonstones have been working hard and have all settled into their new school environment very well.

We have been looking at social stories and using drama to clarify and rehearse key concepts. So far we have looked at friends, feeling safe and change.

We will be starting ‘news’ next week to support expressive language development and to identify oral language concepts, such as questions and statements. Each student will have their own day. Information about ‘news’ will be sent home soon.

The Moonstones have science, specialist literacy and library every Thursday.

Virginia and Nicola.

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

Homework has been handed out to all students this week so encourage your child to check their bags for it. We encourage the students to let us know early on if they require any further assistance from us in completing the homework tasks. The percentage of the homework returned last week was most pleasing.

4/5/6’s mornings start with lessons in individual classrooms, our pit times are held later during fruit break. For this reason it is crucial that students arrive to school on time as arriving late often means that they miss the beginning of the lesson where instructions and modelling take place.

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.

Finally, camp is fast approaching. For information to be collated and hand to the camp we require ALL notes to be returned ASAP (they are due 12/3/14). Payment is also due by this date, although, if assistance or a payment plan is required then please contact Leanne Rankine in the front office.

The school cross country is being held next Friday, 14 March, so time for some extra running at home.

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

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**FRONT OFFICE NEWS**

**WESTPAC’S QUICKWEB PAYMENT SYSTEM**

This is a new option for making payments through a link on our website. We have issued a letter with your individual Family Key & Student Key(s) needed for proceeding with payments through Wespac’s Quickweb Payment System.

Please contact us if you did not receive this information. 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:

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<th>Number of Children at the school</th>
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Book Packs for 2014 are $40 per child from preschool to year 6.
Students from 3/4 science club are currently working on an Engquest Challenge to build a water wheel using recycled and readily available materials. We then plan to run a competition amongst ourselves to see which team can lift the furthest using just 2 litres of water to turn their water wheel. Most teams have their prototypes made and now need to test and modify their designs until they are satisfied with their waterwheels performance. Students have also planned a short presentation on recycling for an assembly later this term but this has currently been put on hold until our new recycling bins arrive.

5/6 science club students are busy with their entries for the Sleek Geeks Science Eureka Prize which is a short film competition run by the Australian Museum Sydney. Students have to make a film between 1 and 3 minutes in length about a scientific concept, discovery or invention. Students have chosen a variety of topics including Gravity and Orbits; Making Ice Cream Without a Freezer; Ground Water, Tornadoes and Investigating Melting Rates of Different Varieties of Chocolate. Once their films are completed students will be taking part in the Spectra Awards Scheme. This is a national science awards program developed by the Australian Science Teachers Association to encourage and excite children to do science activities. Students have already chosen a topic they would like to complete activities on.

Leslie.

Once again this year, the school has entered the Chief Minister’s Reading Challenge. For the past two years, Maribyrnong was one of the few school across the ACT that completed the challenge in all three areas. We aim to continue this great record and have all students complete the challenge again this year. Students from preschool to year 2 will be completing the challenge with their class at school. Students from year 3 to year 6 will work on the challenge individually. There are over 1000 books on the list for year 3-4 and year 5-6, and the school library has many hundreds of those listed. Each child is required to read 12 books between February and September, 8 of which need to come from the reading challenge list. They can read books from their grade level or the level above. If you are interested in seeing the booklists they can be found on the internet by searching for Chief Minister’s Reading Challenge and I have copies in the library.

Keep up the great reading everyone.

Keilly.

Children in the junior school now have access to some brilliant new readers from Oxford Reading Tree and Blake Storylands and Pirate Cove. These texts are now available for students from the levelled reading boxes in the space between the kindergarten and 1/2 units.

Both these new reading schemes have some wonderful characters and storylines for our readers to get to know. Both sets of books also have some great tips for parents including questions you can ask to check your child’s comprehension of their reading.

We hope you enjoy the new books and would love your children’s feedback on them. Please feel free to email any comments to anna.thorpe@ed.act.edu.au

Happy reading!
Anna.
(aka Floppy’s biggest fan!)
Week 6

Wednesday 12 March  
9.15am-12.00noon  
Terri

12.00noon-3.00pm  
Michael

Thursday 13 March  
9.15am-12.00noon  
Michael

Friday 14 March  
12.00noon-3.00pm  
Rouvaye

Week 7

Wednesday 19 March  
9.15am-12.00noon  
Rouvaye

12.00noon-3.00pm  
Rouvaye

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 Wednesday to Friday. If you are unable to make a rostered shift please call Bec in the canteen &/or try to arrange someone to cover your shift. Thank you.