



# POSSUM PRESS

NEWS FROM JANTIENA



Thursday 19 March, Term 1 Week 7

What an amazing fortnight we have had! On top of the quality learning experiences our students have enjoyed we have also made the news, launched new programs and welcomed new staff members to our team.

## 'Most Improved' NAPLAN Results

Maribyrnong was one of 20 ACT schools to be included on a national list of schools showing significant improvement in literacy and numeracy skills among students, based on last year's NAPLAN tests. The list included government, independent and Catholic schools. Maribyrnong's achievement was in the areas of numeracy and reading. In recognition of our school improvement journey and the results to date, ABC News interviewed Jen and filmed our students at work. We hope you enjoyed seeing our school on the news. As Jen mentioned in the interview, we continue to focus on these areas as we have targets within our School Plan that we want to meet. NAPLAN data doesn't capture all of our learning areas nor our targets but it was very satisfying to be acknowledged publicly for the work we are doing. Congratulations to our students who work hard to achieve personal targets, our teachers who reach and teach all students and our families who are our partners in education. This is very much a team effort!

## Preschool and Kindergarten Enrolments for 2016

Enrolments for new students to our school open on Tuesday 28 April, the first day of term two. The process is the same as last year, in that it is completed online at:

[http://www.det.act.gov.au/school\\_education/enrolling\\_in\\_an\\_act\\_public\\_school](http://www.det.act.gov.au/school_education/enrolling_in_an_act_public_school)

In 2016 our preschool groups will be capped at 22 children as we are guided by the National Quality Framework and Standards. This is a change from the last two years where our groups could go up to 25 due to the size of the room. For 2016 that means we will only be able to offer 66 places rather than the 72 places we offered this year. So get in fast! It is imperative that we establish how many places we need for preschool so if a fourth group is required we are able to start the process of requesting this with the Directorate.

Similarly we also need to know about new enrolments from kindergarten to year six so that we can plan accordingly. As a school that is growing it is important for us to get to know our new families and support them in their transition to our community. If you have a child who will be enrolling in preschool next year or if you know of a family who are hoping to do the same please encourage them to complete the online enrolment as soon as the portal opens.

## Welcome Lyndall!

As you would be aware Jane Baillie will be taking leave this term prior to the arrival of her baby. We will miss Jane and look forward to meeting Baby Baillie but we are excited to welcome Lyndall Nash who will replace Jane on 3/4JB. Lyndall has worked at Maribyrnong over the last two years and even attended our school as a student many years ago. Lyndall is passionate about meeting the needs of all students and has a keen interest in using quality literature in the classroom. We are very excited to have Lyndall joining us in our learning community. Lyndall and Jane are ensuring a smooth transition through sharing information and assessment data in the lead up to the changeover.



**ACT**  
Government

Education and Training

## CONTACTS:

### Maribyrnong School

Ph: 62055933 Fax: 62055932

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

**FACEBOOK:** Maribyrnong  
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**Board Chair** Lauren Newman  
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**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:

MARCH

20\* CEIS (Christian Education in Schools)  
\*please note the change of day  
26 P&C 7.00 pm  
27 Assembly 2.15 pm EASTER RAFFLE  
Earth Hour at School

For the full 2015 calendar, please visit:  
[http://www.maribyrnongps.act.edu.au/our\\_community/calendar](http://www.maribyrnongps.act.edu.au/our_community/calendar)

## Term Two Start Date

Please be advised that due to ANZAC Day (25 April) falling on a Saturday, term 2 2015 will commence for all ACT Public Schools on Tuesday 28 April.

## Cross Country

What an amazing event we all enjoyed last Friday. Thank you to the organising team, led by Mr Deane, and also to our fabulous volunteers. It was wonderful to see all of our students trying their hardest and achieving personal bests. It was also great to see so many of our students helping out their younger buddies as they navigated the course. This is the Maribyrnong spirit in action!

## Preservice Teachers

A vital part of preservice teacher training is practice teaching in a school. Maribyrnong teachers are always enthusiastic to have student teachers, and student teachers always learn so much from our dedicated and highly professional staff. Maribyrnong will see many preservice teachers at our school this year. In all instances the classroom teacher mentors and coaches the preservice teacher to master the curriculum, pedagogy and practices we value at Maribyrnong.

## Fire Evacuation and Lockdown Drills

Two weeks ago we had our first fire evacuation practice. It is essential that all students, staff, volunteers and visitors learn what to do in an evacuation so in the unlikely event of a real evacuation the process is familiar and easy to follow. Our students managed very well and teachers explained the purpose of the practice afterwards. This term we will also run through a lockdown drill. This is where students remain inside with the teachers and remain quiet. The blinds are drawn, doors locked and the objective is to minimise our presence to the outside world. This is also explained to students to ensure they understand the procedure.

## Triple J Unearthed visits Maribyrnong

Declan, Lachie and Tim from Triple J visited Rhys from 5/6SD to discuss his musical talent as a DJ extraordinaire. The team are filming a documentary highlighting the talents of up and coming musical artists. Rhys, Jen and Mr Deane were all interviewed and Rhys was filmed at school and at home. We look forward to seeing the special in the coming weeks. What talented students we have at Maribyrnong.

## Bike Program at Maribyrnong

Last Friday our new Bike Program was launched at our school assembly. All of the students were excited by the delivery of the bikes. As part of this program we will have 15 bikes that will be used to engage students in a bike riding program where they will learn the benefits of bike riding and how to care for and maintain the bikes. More information will be sent out in the coming weeks. Thank you Mr Deane for leading this initiative. We are all very excited to see the program in action!

## Helmets for Riders

It is important that children riding scooters or bikes to school wear their helmet and that this helmet is secured. Unfortunately we have had reports of Maribyrnong students not wearing their helmets or riding with it unsecured. We will continue to remind them of the safe way to ride to school and ask for your support to do the same. It is fantastic to see so many children ride to school, let's just make sure they are doing it safely.

Keep smiling!  
Jantiena.

## WRITING MYTHBUSTERS



### MYTH #13

***Quantity is more important than quality when writing .***

It is important for students to write regularly as part of their daily routine. This will happen at school and at home. The best present you can give a child is to read and write with them every day. While this regular practice is important, the amount of writing is not as important as the quality of the writing. Knowing who their audience is and the purpose for their writing allows your child to write creatively and responsively.

Many people assume that it is important for children to write copious amounts in order for them to develop as a writer. While this is partly true, in that it is vital for teachers to see what a child can do in their writing, it is essential that writers learn that it is the message they convey that is of major importance. Some of the best written work is less than 50 words!

Teachers demonstrate this approach by offering routine practice in writing but are aware that practice doesn't make perfect, rather perfect practice makes perfect! This is why your child will talk about the many opportunities they have to write at school and how this takes on many forms. Sometimes they will write in their journal, at other times they may write a recipe or even present a debate about a topical issue. They may respond to a question, natural phenomenon, a call for action or they may use a 'seed' to stimulate their thinking and then choose the social purpose for their writing. In this instance they are not responding to a prompt but allowing their knowledge of different text forms to be crafted to one social purpose. At Maribyrnong we teach writers, not just the task of writing.

When writing at home remember to write for lots of different purposes such as shopping lists, telephone messages, birthday cards, stories and recipes to name just a few. Encourage your child to vary the length of their writing, it may be very appropriate to have a long story but a message may be only one sentence. This allows your child to see how their writing changes to suit the different purposes.



**So.....this myth is busted!**

**Quality is far more important than quantity.**

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)

## AROUND THE GROUNDS

As a result of a careful selection process, Maribyrnong Primary is excited to announce that we have been included in the Ride or Walk to School program. As part of this we have received 15 bikes, helmets and tools in order to run the program. Initially this program will operate in grades 5/6 but there are plans to extend the program to include students in all other grades. This will hopefully include lunch time rides and special ride to school days.

The Ride or Walk to School program is an exciting initiative run by the Physical Activity Foundation, in collaboration with the Education and Training Directorate and ACT Health. This encompassing and supportive program is provided at no cost to schools and is designed to drive culture change within the school community around riding or walking to school. The program is a key contributor to the ACT Government's Towards Zero Growth Healthy Weight Action plan, encouraging students to be more active and also assists in reducing traffic congestion around schools.



## STAFF EMAILS

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### DIABETES TYPE 2 in children aged 10-17 years

Does your child have Type 2 diabetes?

**Your child may be eligible for the Type 2 Diabetes Study**



Helping your child manage their type 2 diabetes can be difficult. It requires a lot of attention. If diet, exercise and medication are not working well enough for your child, you may be wondering what to do next. It may be time to consider a different approach.

Please contact the Paediatric Research and Clinical Trials Unit at The Canberra Hospital on **61747600** for more information.

This study has been approved by the ACT Health Human Research Ethics Committee.

### DIABETES TYPE 1 STUDY

- Do you have a relative with Diabetes Type 1?
- Are you 1-45 years of age?
- Are you generally healthy?

**You may be eligible for the Type 1 Diabetes (T1D) Prevention Trial**



If you have a relative with Type 1 Diabetes, you could be at risk for this disease. Paediatric Research at Canberra Hospital is participating in studies monitoring the risk of Diabetes in relatives of T1D individuals and is offering an opportunity for you or your child to participate.

Please contact the Paediatric Research and Clinical Trials Unit at The Canberra Hospital on **61747600** for more information.

This study has been approved by the ACT Health Human Research Ethics Committee.

## NOTES SENT HOME

- ✓ 3/4 Camp Information. Forms to complete & request for payment
- ✓ NAPLAN information- year 3 & 5 only
- ✓ Change of Teacher- 3/4 unit only
- ✓ Holiday Happenings

We have been notified of a case of Head Lice in the school. You are advised to examine your child's hair to determine whether or not an infection has occurred.

For a fact sheet please visit <http://www.health.act.gov.au>

## GLIMMERS, DAZZLERS, SPARKLERS (PRESCHOOL)

Teddy Day at preschool

On Friday 6 March, the school participated in Teddy Day. All children brought a soft toy to preschool and donated 5c pieces towards the Twilight Fair. The Dazzlers class won second prize for their contribution. The preschoolers enjoyed stories about teddies, teddy songs and acting out the teddy bears picnic with a basket, rug, and utensils. Great fun was had by all and even the teddies were tired at the end of the day!

Elsa, Sally, Ni, Gaby, Georgia & Kelly 😊



## AURORAS (K and K/1)

Greetings from the Auroras,

The students are becoming more settled and confident as we enter the second half of term one. They are enjoying sharing information and stories about our different families. The children have created a flag for their own family. This week we have looked at maps of the world and have begun to discuss where our families are from. We have encouraged the children to ask you all about their family history to share with the group. In maths we have been comparing the capacity of a variety of objects. We are also learning about different times of the day and the activities we do at those times.

As part of our unit of inquiry we often participate in art and craft activities using a variety of materials. It can be quite messy and creative! It would be great if all students could bring in their own paint smock to use during these times. An old shirt or t-shirt would be fine.

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

Jess, Sarah, Naomi, Leanne, Kathleen.

## NEONS (1/2)

The Neon Unit can hardly believe that it is the end of week 7 already! In the last two weeks we have ventured into the world of science, circus, distance running and place value – just to mention a few.

In week 7 the Neon Unit went to the hall to take part in the Questacon Circus. Students were amazed by two scientists who posed some interesting questions that we then tested through experimentation. Student volunteers stood on an upturned table perched on a layer of balloons, fired a water rocket, sat under an upside down cup of water and so much more.

Well done to all the energetic students who took part in the school cross country last Friday. The unit achieved some outstanding results. Special mention goes to the place getters who pushed themselves exceptionally hard – well done. Thank you to the parent volunteers, it is always lovely to see the Neon Unit represented by volunteers.

The school was fitted with water bottle refill stations during the last holidays. As part of this ACT Government initiative, students were given 'Water on Tap' drink bottles this week. It would be great if students could bring these to school every day.

The Neon Unit has been learning about place value in Number groups – be sure to test your child's knowledge!

The Neon Unit  
Camille, Daniel, Kathleen, Aaron, Keilly, Lucy, Stacey and Amanda.

## BEAMERS (3/4)

Wow! We cannot believe it is already week 7. The term is flying by so quickly!

Last Tuesday the students in the 3/4 unit were treated to a visit from Questacon. We learnt about air pressure and observed bubble experiences. It was lots of fun and enjoyed by all. A big thank you to Mrs Carr for organising such a fun experience for our students.

Well done to all students who participated in our schools cross country last Friday. We are all so proud of their amazing efforts.

On Tuesday morning the students started a tennis clinic which will run into next term. They played lots of games that helped develop their tennis skills. Ask your child what their favourite game was.



Thank you to all the families that have donated to our collection.



Just a quick reminder that camp notes need to be returned to school as soon as possible.

Kylie, Keilly, Symone, Jane and Justine.

## FIREFLIES (LSU)

Hi everyone,

The LSU fireflies have had a great couple of weeks in the LSU and in their mainstream classes.

Nearly all of our students now have set homework to complete. Keep an extra eye out in your child's bag to check for homework and readers. We encourage them to bring their homework in on Monday mornings ready for marking and new homework to go home.

We have celebrated some birthdays recently. Parents are more than welcome to bring cupcakes in on their child's birthday to share with their classmates. We love taking them outside and having birthday picnics!



Have a fantastic weekend!  
Lee and Jacque.



## GLOW WORMS (LSUA)

The Glow Worms had an amazing time at the cross country last Friday. We had been training for a few weeks leading up to this and it certainly paid off. It was wonderful to see everyone participating- well done!

We also enjoyed the Science show last Tuesday, put on by Questacon. There were many interesting things to watch.

Here are some of the responses from our students:

Patrick: "I liked the big, ginormous bubble at the end, and the liquid came down like rain"

Hunter: "I liked the bubble"

Wyatt: "I liked the bubble too"



We have continued our study on medieval/myths legends. At the moment we continue to work on our individual literacy programs, but are getting reading to put together a play about Robin Hood. Wyatt will be Robin Hood, Patrick is the Sherriff Of Nottingham, Hunter is The Beautiful Villager, Toby is Friar Tuck, Jasmin is Maid Marion and Shahbaz is Little John. We will be doing a performance for parents later this term/ early term 2. Watch this space!

Virginia, Nicola and Kathleen.

## SUPERNOVAS (5/6)

A wonderful day was had last Friday as the whole school participated in the cross country carnival. All of the teachers were very happy with the students efforts in their individual race and we were especially impressed with the 5/6 students and the way they took extra special care with their kinder buddies. A big thank you to all of the parents and carers who were able to volunteer their time on the day. Your efforts helped us to make the day run smoothly.

We have had a small number of parents contact us via email regarding attending the Cyber Safety program. Currently we don't have enough parents to run this program, but we think this program is very beneficial. If you're interested please email Shane Deane at [Shane.deane@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:Shane.deane@ed.act.edu.au)



Everyone was excited about the big reveal of the bike program at last Friday's assembly. We hope to have things up and running by term two. Thank you to Shane for organising the program!

Shane, Elissa, Sarah, Emma and Justine.

## SRC NEWS

Congratulations to all the students who were voted into the positions on the Student Representative Council. The role of the SRC is to give students a real voice in the school community. It is an opportunity for them to have their opinions sought and respected.

We have had 3 meetings so far this term, and the students have been enthusiastically participating and engaging in this democratic process. We have had lots of discussions around fundraising, the charity we want to support this year and issues of interest and concern to the students both in the classroom and the broader school community.

We are pleased to announce the total from the 5c Friday Teddy Day was \$723.10! Great job!

We look forward to keeping you up-to-date with the issues that were raised by the SRC.

Sarah Dorrough and the SRC.

**THE 5/6 SHIRTS HAVE ARRIVED!**  
**Thank you to Clare for organising the 2015 senior t-shirts.**

Please contact Clare directly if you have any uniform queries on 0408 252 736.

## POSSUM PANTRY ROSTER

Week 8 Term 1	Wednesday 25 March	Thursday 26 March	Friday 27 March
9.00 am - 2.30 pm	Laura		Sharon F
9.00 am - 12 noon	Kim	Wendy	Michael
			Linda
12.00 pm- 3.00 pm		Emma	
Week 7 Term 1	Wednesday 1 April	Thursday 2 April	Friday 3 April
9.00 am - 2.30 pm	Laura		
9.00 am - 12 noon	Kim	Kerry	
12.00 pm- 3.00 pm		Emma	

The canteen is getting busier and we would love 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.

### CANTEEN MEETING

There will be a Canteen meeting on Tuesday 31 March at 9.10 am in the Canteen. If you are interested in the canteen, how it runs, special lunch planning, want to volunteer or just want to meet some other parents please come along and have a cuppa.



## P&C NEWS

### FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Are you interested in getting involved in the schools P&C fundraising activities? If so, the Fundraising Committee are having their first meeting on Thursday 26 March at 6.00 pm at Lime Leaves Thai Restaurant (at the Gwydir Square shops in front of the school).

Everyone is welcome! Just come along or contact the Fundraising Coordinator directly, Sharon Houston on 0414229185.

### P&C EASTER RAFFLE

Donations can be given in at the front office during school hours until Monday 23 March.

Remember to sell your raffle tickets, which are only 50c each, and return them to school by no later than Wednesday 25 March.

Raffle drawn at Assembly 2.15 pm on Friday 27 March by the Easter Bunny!



## COMMUNITY SPORTS

### GET ACTIVE SPORTS- BASKETBALL FOR JUNIORS

For boys and girls aged 3 to 8 years. This program is held at Kaleen Primary School in term 2, starting Sunday 3 May.

For more information and registration:

Email: [rego@getactivesports.com.au](mailto:rego@getactivesports.com.au)

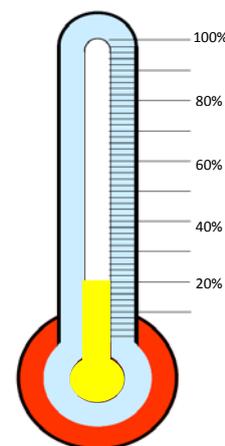
Phone: 1300772106

Website: [www.getactivesports.com.au](http://www.getactivesports.com.au)



## VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

Voluntary Contributions  
to date are at 22%



Payment plans are welcome.  
Please talk to the front office.

## COMMUNITY EVENT

### CONNECT & PARTICIPATE EXPO

Saturday 28 March

11.00 am to 4.00 pm

Old Bus Depot Markets in Kingston.

The EXPO will provide opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to discover the wide range of social groups in Canberra including sport, outdoor recreation, art & craft, music, performing arts, environmental and hobby groups. There will be come-and-try activities, performances, food stalls and more. Entry is free.

For more information:

[www.connectandparticipateexpo.com.au](http://www.connectandparticipateexpo.com.au)

or phone 6207 1092.



### 27<sup>th</sup> CANBERRA



## MODEL TRAIN EXPO

**SATURDAY 28 March 2015 9am-5pm**  
**SUNDAY 29 March 2015 9am-4pm**

University of Canberra High School  
 104 Baldwin Drive  
**KALEEN**



- 30 Scale Model Railways
- Plus
- Displays & Clinics
- Children's U-drive
- Trade stands

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

Presented by the Canberra Model Railway Club

Supported by 