

# POSSUM PRESS



## NEWS FROM JANTIENA

THURSDAY 16 MARCH: Term 1 Week 7

What an amazing fortnight we have had, with a wonderful long weekend as we celebrated Canberra's birthday! On top of the quality learning experiences our students have enjoyed, we have also made the news celebrating the successful implementation of one of our sustainability initiatives – The Power Rangers! Congratulations to all students involved and to Mrs Carr. We look forward to hearing the ABC News segment next Wednesday on the radio between 1.00 pm and 3.00 pm. This is yet another fantastic Maribyrnong story!

### Differentiated Reading, Spelling and Number Groups

Our differentiated groups are in full swing from year one to six. These groupings are one way we target teaching and learning at Maribyrnong. Use of the whole school assessment schedule with common tasks allow us to analyse the data (information) and consider the best way to group and teach students (implication). Additional educators are utilised for these targeted groups. Differentiation is defined by the Training and Development Agency for Schools as 'the process by which differences between learners are accommodated so that all students in a group have the best possible chance of learning.'

Why do we use this approach at Maribyrnong? Our teaching practices across the school reflect the belief that, although students are at different stages in their learning and may be progressing at different rates, all students are capable of learning successfully when motivated and given appropriate learning opportunities and necessary support. Our educators ensure that all students, including those that require extension, are appropriately engaged, challenged and enriched by designing learning experiences to meet students' learning needs, levels of readiness and learning goals. Our teachers closely monitor the progress of individual students and continually adjust their teaching in response to the improvement each child is making.

On top of our differentiated learning groups, students engage with reading, spelling and number in their home class. This ensures connections are made across the strands of each learning area and that these areas remain connected.

### 5c Friday

Thank you to all our families who participated in 5c Friday. An amazing \$1050.85 was raised. This money goes towards set up costs for the Twilight Fair in November. Congratulations to 2SF who brought in the most 5c pieces, so much so that the scales couldn't weigh them all in one go! A big thank you to our SRC for coordinating this event.

### Playground reminders

Children at Maribyrnong have a variety of options for play time at recess and lunch. This includes specific activities for different groups of children such as Chess, DSTA Craft Club, Bike Club, library, ukulele, Power Rangers and Garden Club. Please remember that children should not bring their precious and much loved toys to school as they can be misplaced or lost. This can be quite heartbreaking to the child so please ensure toys stay at home, ready for playing with outside of school hours.

During recess and lunch play when outside it is essential that children have a sunsmart hat. We encourage our Maribyrnong value of responsibility in all children to remember to bring their sunsmart hat and also a drink bottle each day to school, to ensure they are safe in the sun and well hydrated.



**ACT**  
Government  
Education

## CONTACTS

### Maribyrnong School

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

**FACEBOOK:** Maribyrnong  
Primary School-Kaleen



**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

### MARCH

- 17 Christian Education In Schools (opt-in only)
- 21 Namadgi and Wallaroo to Canberra Museum and Gallery
- 23 Budawang and Kakadu to Canberra Museum and Gallery Board 6.00 pm and P&C 7.00 pm in the school library
- 24 Assembly at 2.15 pm.
- 27-31 Year 2 AQUASAFE: week 1
- 31 School Cross Country

### APRIL

- 3-7 Year 2 AQUASAFE: week 2

## Supporting your Child's Education

There has been much discussion in the press recently about school fees, government funding and voluntary contributions. We aim to provide the best possible education for every child enrolled at Maribyrnong Primary. In order to meet the needs of every child, class teachers continually participate in professional learning and discussions, assess and group students and of course plan, teach and review lessons. To support this at our school **all voluntary contributions go directly towards providing resources for students**. As stated the contribution is voluntary and payment details are confidential. No child misses out because their parent is unable to make the contribution. Having said this, the more money we receive from parents the more money we spend on classroom resources. You can make a contribution towards your child's education even if you cannot pay the full amount. You may also choose to set up a payment schedule with regular payments made over the year or term. Please see Leanne to discuss how to set this arrangement up. If you would like to pay a larger amount it will most certainly be gratefully received.

## Let Kids be Kids Campaign

On 28 February 2017, Minister Berry jointly released the Let Kids be Kids campaign. The campaign is a national initiative focused on letting kids play and enjoy sport without extra pressure from the sidelines, the grandstands or at home. The campaign also sends messages direct from children to their parents, reminding them that kids want to play sport because they love playing with friends, trying their hardest and being active outside. Information about the campaign and the toolkit can be downloaded from [www.playbytherules.net.au](http://www.playbytherules.net.au)

## NAPLAN

There will be significant changes to the way NAPLAN tests are administered this year. The aim for the ACT is that all NAPLAN tests this year will be done online, with the single exception of year 3 writing, which will still be a paper and pencil test. While all states and territories are moving to online tests, each may have a different timeline. One of the main benefits should be a shorter timeframe for receiving the results, which makes the assessment data more timely and useful for teachers.

A sample of the new online format can be found at the NAPLAN Online Public Demonstration site: <http://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/naplan-online/naplan-online-public-demonstration-site>

An information session which details the changes will be held at the school in the coming weeks. Keep your eye out for the flyer early next week.

## Heartkids and the SRC

The SRC are coordinating an awareness project for Heartkids – as part of our curriculum and value focus on social concern. We have a few families in our community who have experienced being or having a Heartkid. Anna is working with the SRC to create awareness of the work of Heartkids and how they help families in times of crisis and fundraise on their behalf. They have set up a giving page to Heartkids. The link is [https://sweetheartday17schools.everydayhero.com/au/maribyrnong-heart-kids-giving-page#/?\\_k=w8owb2](https://sweetheartday17schools.everydayhero.com/au/maribyrnong-heart-kids-giving-page#/?_k=w8owb2). If you are looking for more information around the organisation please check them out at <https://www.heartkids.org.au/>

## Chief Minister's Reading Challenge

The Chief Minister's Reading Challenge has now begun and Maribyrnong Primary School students from preschool to year 6 will be participating. Students are given a reading log to list the books they have read. To complete the Challenge they must read at least 15 books by 8 September 2017. They can choose any books they wish to read to complete the Challenge. Minister Barr's challenge is that every young person in the ACT discovers the joy reading can bring. To get the most out of the Challenge, he encourages students to try reading books from different social purposes, sharing their favourite books and stories with classmates, or exceeding the 15 books set by the Challenge. By participating, students can win book vouchers for our school library. We have so many voracious readers at Maribyrnong that we know they will meet this challenge again!

## Cross Country

This year's school Cross Country Carnival will be held at the school on Friday 31 March. To enable us to run a successful event, we need volunteers to assist with a variety of roles. If you have some time on that Friday between 9.15 am and 11.30 am, and are willing to act as a route monitor, place judge or recorder please return the note emailed out last week or email [kylie.apps@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:kylie.apps@ed.act.edu.au) with your availability.

Keep smiling!

Jantiena

## Speaking and Listening Mythbuster

### Myth # 4 Spoken language is not as developmentally important as written language.

Spoken language plays an important role in students' personal and social development. It allows them to gain an understanding of themselves and others and strengthens social relationships. Students draw on their social skills to express their ideas, opinions and feelings with peers and teachers.

While most students will engage in social interaction without much conscious effort, such interactions are governed by intricate 'rules'. Many of these rules are assumed and will not be discussed as they are learnt through interacting with other speakers. Students learn through experience how to take turns in a conversation and how to repair a misunderstanding. Parents and teachers teach students about polite and acceptable behaviour. Students learn how to listen for various purposes, and are taught to respond according to the situation and expectations of those participating in the interaction. However, there are cultural and individual differences. Some cultures subscribe to different rules and some individuals may not acquire the 'rules' to the same extent as others.

Teachers help build students' awareness of the way conversation works by considering the 'rules', which are often unconscious. We describe these rules as:

- turn-taking
- floor (the person who is currently speaking is said to 'hold the floor')
- adjacency pairs (sequences of two utterances next to each other, produced by two different speakers, e.g. a greeting and a response or a question and answer)
- repair (clarifying what has been said)
- politeness.

Spoken language impacts on a child's ability to engage in many tasks both at home and at school. These tasks often translate into written tasks and are essential for a child's development in all strands of learning (reading, viewing, speaking, listening, writing and spelling!).



**So.....this myth is BUSTED!**

**The connection between spoken and written language is strong and is just as developmentally important.**

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)

## Home-school Partnerships

Home-school collaboration is an important component in supporting a child's positive engagement in the learning and social aspects of school life. Parents and schools ultimately have common overarching goals to see children develop the skills for lifelong learning, to see children succeed, to see children make safe choices and to see children happy. The goal of enhancing children's competence, participation and positive learning and social behaviours cannot be achieved by teachers alone. Active partnerships with families enable the role of learning to be collaboratively crafted and facilitated by key stakeholders.

Common learning goals are a reference point that can be reviewed and collectively worked towards at both home and school. Children are supported in their progression towards goal acquisition by those who share responsibility for learning. This has been an area of focus at Maribyrnong for several years as teachers ensure that they are making the learning visible to all and that students are able to articulate their own learning goals and thinking.

Tapor (et al 2011) in their article, *Parent involvement and student academic performance: A multiple mediational analysis* present research findings that suggest parents who have a positive attitude towards their child's education, school and teacher are able to positively influence their child's academic performance by two mechanisms:

- by being engaged with the child to increase the child's self-perception of cognitive competence
- by being engaged with the teacher and school to promote a stronger relationship.

So how can you increase your contact with our school? There are many ways, including:

- swapping over home readers (don't worry if you haven't done this before, you will be shown how to do this)
- sharing your expertise or passion (students love connecting with people who make it all 'real')
- donating your time for school events (the Cross Country is coming up and volunteers are needed)
- coming along to the P&C meeting and supporting our school
- checking in with your Class Carer to see if there is anything the teacher is looking for (such as boxes for technology as an example)
- being a Mystery Reader in kindergarten (what a great way to share your favourite childhood story!)
- helping out in art lessons when many hands make light work (especially when packing up)
- volunteering in the canteen
- helping out with Possum Partners where teachers leave laminating/cutting/copying jobs to be completed for classroom use
- in any way you can! Just come and have a chat with your child's teacher or any of the executive team.

We look forward to continue working with you!

What would you like to know about KidsMatter? Send your questions to [jantiena.batt@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:jantiena.batt@ed.act.edu.au) and it will be answered in the next KidsMatter Update.

## P&C CLASS CARERS

This year we are launching a new parent/ carer initiative called **Class Carers**.

A small group of parents and carers have volunteered to assist classes in coordinating the needs and information from classes and year group units.

If you haven't signed up on the buff coloured form in your information pack, it's not too late. Come and get contact details from the front office, or find your class carer in the playground. They are only too happy to help!

<b>KAA</b>	Bronwyn Davis (Nicolas)	Sophy Greenwood (Archie)
<b>KTA</b>	Lauren Newman (Daisy)	
<b>KCW</b>	Brooke Haysman (Ethan)	Liz Moyle (Darcy)
<b>1LR</b>	Venee Suppiah (Marissa)	
<b>1JB</b>	Gemma Sweaney (Edith)	
<b>1BN</b>	Danny Callaghan (Elora)	
<b>2WP</b>	Liz Swann (Arthur)	
<b>2SF</b>	Lauren Hill (Noah)	
<b>3LB</b>	Clare Whittingham (Kale)	
<b>3ND</b>	Zoe Fellows (Jacob)	
<b>3/4MM</b>	Deb Livermore (Alice)	Kristy Gould (Caitlin)
<b>3/4KA</b>	Naomi Merritt (Astrid)	
<b>5/6 unit</b>	Liesa Bradley (Trent), Jackie Sampson (Emily & Hannah), Rebecca Kirpson-Colley (Zoe)	

## STAFF EMAILS

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## P&C NEWS



### P&C Give an Hour – An Hour of Power

This week in P&C Give an Hour we are going to look at gardening.

Our school has lots of lovely spaces that all require a little bit of work to keep them looking beautiful. If you like spending time in the garden perhaps you might like to give an hour helping to keep Maribyrnong looking great.

With so much warm weather lots of weeds have popped up out the soil. If you have five or ten minutes before or after dropping off or picking up children, bring along your hat, sunscreen and a pair of gloves, sign in at the front office as a volunteer and start making a difference. If you are particularly handy in the garden you might like to come in and discuss adding some plants to our school environment. We even sometimes need jobs done like moving mulch.

If any of these jobs sound like you, then come in and see us for your hour of power! Gardening is just one other simple way to give an hour to your school.





# Lights on Learning!

## *Focusing on 3/4 Galapagos Islands*

The 3/4 children have had an exciting start to the year. All the students spent some time settling into their new classes and doing some getting to know you activities, which have helped to make our unit a bright and cheerful space. Students have now settled into their reading, spelling and maths groups and are confidently moving across the unit and working with a variety of different teachers.

Our first inquiry unit focus has been Indigenous Culture and we have looked at the role that it has played in shaping Australian culture. We've specifically been looking at the power of oral and artistic history through Dreamtime stories and Indigenous Artworks. Ask your child about their favourite Dreamtime story.



Students in 3/4 have embraced our new values program. They have been looking for situations where they can apply these values throughout their school day. Ask your child how they have been displaying these values and how they can show them in your home as well!

Our Cross Country carnival will be held on Friday 31 March. Please make sure you return the volunteer note if you are able to assist on the day. It is important that students wear appropriate shoes, hats and bring water bottles on the day.

Please keep your eye out for camp notes that will be sent out in the coming weeks.

Please ensure that your child has a sun smart hat for daily use at school.

As mentioned in our information session at the beginning of the term chrome books are an exciting part of our curriculum, however students are not able to use these unless they have returned a signed GAFE note. If you have any questions or concerns please contact your classroom teacher.

Enjoy the rest of the term!

Kylie Apps, Lee Brown, Melanie Meadley, Naomi Devlin and Justine Minchin.



# Lights on Learning!

## Focusing on French

*Bonjour à tous et bienvenue à une autre année du français à l'école primaire Maribyrnong.*  
Hello everyone and welcome to another year of French at Maribyrnong Primary.

This year students will continue to learn French using the pared down language and gesture connection to words and phrases that are key features of the Canadian AIM program. Each class commences with students responding to gestures to practise and increase their spoken French.

The international 'La Semaine de la Francophonie' is being celebrated from 18 – 26 March 2017.

*Francophonie* – Francophone in English – describes countries where French is used either routinely or as an official language in government and business. There are more than 40 countries on five continents that are classed as francophone countries. The Alliance Française in Canberra, in collaboration with the Francophone Embassies and High Commissions of Canberra, is hosting a competition for which schools in the ACT are invited to submit posters that represent a designated francophone country. This year Maribyrnong was allocated Belgium. Students in Years 3 to 6 have been busy learning about Belgian culture, and incorporating their learning in to comic strips which will form the basis of our competition entry. Did you know that Belgium is the comic strip centre of the world? Tintin and the Smurfs are the most famous of Belgium's internationally known comic creations. Representatives from the Belgian Embassy will be in the school this week to share and add to our student's learning and to answer questions.



Our focus on intercultural understanding will continue into semester two through the medium of an AIM story set in Senegal in West Africa, *L'arbre ungali*.

Students in year 2 will be using a variety of resources including the AIM program to develop their language skills, broadening their vocabulary through simple topics.

The Alliance Française Open Day and Francophonie Day will be held on 31 March from 2.00 – 6.00 pm. All are welcome to attend this event at the Alliance Française in O'Connor.

Lyn Lisacek.

**ADF Families Survey 2017 – Families get the chance to tell Defence what they think about Military life**

Being a member of the ADF is a unique experience, not only for the individuals in uniform, but for their parents, partners and children who are also asked to accept the unique challenges associated with military life. ADF families have the opportunity to provide feedback about their experiences and views on service life through the 2017 ADF Families Survey. This year's survey will focus on partner employment and support services available for Defence families. If you are a partner or parent of a permanent ADF member or a permanent ADF member looking after dependants on your own, tell Defence about your experiences in the ADF Families Survey.

The survey should only take about 15-20 minutes to complete and is online at:

- Defence Community Organisation <http://www.defence.gov.au/dco/>
- Defence Families of Australia <http://www.dfa.org.au/>

The ADF Families Survey opens on 1 March and will close on 31 March 2017. The results are expected to be available in mid-2017.

**Other Events and Activities:**

**Canberra Balloon Spectacular** Held over 9 days from the 11 – 19 March on the lawns of Old Parliament House, the Canberra Balloon Spectacular is one of the biggest balloon festivals in the world. Balloons launch at sunrise commencing from 6.00 am.  
<http://balloonspectacular.com.au/>

**Connect & Participate Expo** The CAP Expo is a community event that showcases the range of opportunities available for residents of all abilities and ages to join groups and build social connections around common interests. A huge range of groups to connect with will be on display including sport and recreation groups, art, craft, music, leisure, cultural, performing arts, hobby, social and 'special interest' groups. The CAP Expo will be held on Saturday 25 March from 11.00 am – 4.00pm at the Old Bus Depot Markets in Kingston. <http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/wac/community/connect-and-participate-expo>

**Canberra Events** <http://www.events.act.gov.au/>

Lots to see and do!

Jackie Sampson - Defence School Transition Aide.

**NOTES SENT / EMAILED HOME**

- Preschool Excursions to the Canberra Museum and Gallery
- Cross Country Special Lunch at the canteen
- Volunteers needed for the Cross Country
- AQUASAFE year 2 only

**Keep connected to news with:**

- Download the **Skoolbag-Maribyrnong Primary App** to keep up to date with news, alerts, complete absence or excursion notes.



- Like us on **FACEBOOK** for updates:  
Maribyrnong Primary School-Kaleen



- The Maribyrnong website and full calendar:  
[http://www.maribyrnongps.act.edu.au/our\\_community/calendar](http://www.maribyrnongps.act.edu.au/our_community/calendar)

**FREE AUTISM WORKSHOP**

Free workshop for  
parents & carers of  
young people on the  
autism spectrum!

Canberra - 2 May

Register your place:

[positivepartnerships.com.au](http://positivepartnerships.com.au)



The workshops are for parents, carers and grandparents wanting to understand more about autism and learn practical strategies using evidence based resources to help maximise their young person's learning.  
Infoline : 1300 881 971



## P&C CANTEEN ROSTER

If you are available to help in the canteen, or if you would like to be included on future canteen rosters please see Rouvaye or Zoe in the canteen or call on 62415974 or 041784009, or email Zoe on zoefellows123@gmail.com. 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.

Week 8 Term 1	Wednesday 22 March	Thursday 23 March	Friday 24 March
9.00 am - 1.30 pm			
9.00 am – 12.00 pm	Kim	Maryanne	Brooke
11.00 am – 1.30 pm			Jamee
Week 9 Term 1	Wednesday 29 March	Thursday 30 March	Friday 31 March Special Lunch
9.00 am - 1.30 pm	Liz	Shirley	
9.00 am – 12.00 pm	Kim		Leigh Jane Wendy
11.00 am – 1.30 pm		Nicole	Jamee Nicole

## SCHOOL BANKING NEWS

### School Banking Information Session

Maribyrnong primary is excited to offer the Commonwealth Bank School Banking program to all students. School Banking day is **WEDNESDAY**. Each week you need to **bring your deposit book to the canteen before 9.00 am**.

School Banking is a fun, interactive and engaging way for young Australians to learn about money and develop good savings habits. Children who deposit money into their Youthsaver account through School Banking earn Dollarmites tokens, which they can save up and redeem for exciting rewards.

The rewards available during 2017 are:

- Cyber Handball
- Colour Change Markers
- 3D Chalk Set
- Tablet Case
- Smiley Emoji Keyring
- Volt Handball
- Pencil + Tech Case
- Epic Earphones



School Banking is also a great fundraiser for our school. Our school receives \$5 when a student makes their first ever School Banking deposit and 5% on every deposit made through the school (to a maximum of \$10 per individual deposit).

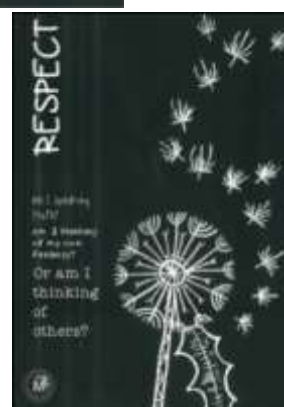
We will be holding a School Banking Information Session at our school:

**Time:** 8.30 am      **Date:** 22 March      **Location:** Outside Hall

Please join us and find out more about the School Banking program and how your child can get involved.

If you are interested in opening a Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account for your child you can visit [commbank.com.au/schoolbanking](http://commbank.com.au/schoolbanking) and click on the link to open a Youthsaver account. A School Banking representative will be available at the Information Session to show you how you can do this. In order to verify yourself and your child, you will need your driver's licence and your child's birth certificate, but if you don't have these with you on the day, you can complete verification online at home.

## OUR VALUES





# Heart Kids Fundraiser



If you wish to purchase any of the pictured Jamberry wraps, Keilly will donate her commission from the sale to Heart Kids. Price: \$22 per sheet. Orders will be accepted until Friday 24 March. Contact the office for more information.



**Come play AFL with the Belconnen Cats in 2017**

**Registration now open!**

Develop skills, coordination, teamwork, and have fun with your mates.

For age groups 5 to 15 yrs



Information and contact details at

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

Nicole Thorne ph: 0419 486 082



Learn to code, have fun, be creative, enjoy using logic and problem solving to build your very own app at Code Camp!

[codecamp.com.au/uchigh](http://codecamp.com.au/uchigh)

10th - 12th April  
8.30am - 4pm

\$350  
For 3 Days

UC High School  
Kaleen

BYOD  
or hire

## Connect & Participate Expo

The CAP Expo is a community event that showcases the range of opportunities available for residents of all abilities and ages to join groups and build social connections around common interests. A huge range of groups to connect with will be on display including sport and recreation groups, art, craft, music, leisure, cultural, performing arts, hobby, social and 'special interest' groups. The CAP Expo will be held on Saturday 25 March from 11.00 am – 4.00pm at the Old Bus Depot Markets in Kingston.

<http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/wac/community/connect-and-participate-expo>

Maribyrnong Primary School does not necessarily endorse the products or services advertised.