We certainly have an amazing team of educators at Maribyrnong Primary School and this has been evidenced by further recognition at a system, state and national level.

**Congratulations Jen!**
On the 12 November our amazing principal received an award from the ACT Branch of the Australian Council of Educational Leaders recognising her commitment to achieving excellent outcomes for students, staff and the community. Jen was very humbled to receive this award but we did manage three cheers at the school assembly last week. The school executive wrote the nomination and it was endorsed by Lauren Newman, our board chair. The nomination is below for you to read...and maybe send three cheers out as well!

Jennifer Howard is an outstanding leader who inspires, supports and challenges all educators. Her passion for, and vast experience in, school improvement has allowed Maribyrnong Primary School to engage in a school improvement journey that is dynamic and involves all staff. Realising the need for educators to do more than operationalise school priorities, Jen established ‘Pedagogy Circles’ embedded in our school priorities. These groups allow our educators to analyse data, make recommendations, suggest improvements, construct guides and map the journey using the Plan, Do, Study, Act Model. Educators are empowered to rigorously interrogate data from the school, system and through peer observations. This stance has ensured all members of the team hold each other accountable for the agreed practices and that consistency occurs throughout the school. These teams directly feed into the Board Report and allow educators to see the purpose of these processes. The use of the ‘Pedagogy Circle’ model allows educators to see the integral part they play in the school improvement journey and not feel as though this is being ‘done’ to them. Every educator at Maribyrnong is leading purposeful change under Jen’s leadership. Her ability to nurture and nudge all educators results in a professional learning community that has a clear vision and firm grasp of our moral imperative. Under Jen’s leadership our Response to Intervention Model has been reviewed and targets the needs of students who require further enrichment in key learning areas. Jen has fostered a school climate where collaboration, inclusion and excellence are at the forefront of all decisions. Educators seek her out for her advice as a leader and as a learner. Through her PhD studies she models to us all that learning is valuable and valued at Maribyrnong Primary School.

More Congratulations!
Georgia Richardson and Kelly Perrett from our Early Childhood Intervention Team received a Child Development Award in the ACT Children’s Week Awards. Georgia and Kelly are outstanding educators who meet the needs of all children they work with, support their fellow educators and ensure that families continue to play a vital role in their child’s development. Their passion, commitment and energy for supporting all children is exceptional and we are proud to have them as part of the Maribyrnong team.

The entire preschool team (Elsa, Sally, Ni, Gaby, Georgia and Kelly) were also nominated for an ACT Chief Ministers’ Inclusion Award. These awards acknowledge the achievements of organisations and individuals who have demonstrated their commitment to meeting the needs of everyone in a proactive manner. Most recently our preschool team presented at a network session on Inclusion at Preschool, working with the Early Childhood and Disability Education Sections from the Education and Training Directorate. We look forward to sharing the outcome of the nomination after the awards ceremony on Thursday 11 December.
Kindergarten 2015 Information Session

It was wonderful to see so many families attend the Kindergarten Information Session last Wednesday. Many questions were asked and information was shared regarding preparing your child for kindergarten, the frameworks we use to structure our teaching and much more. It was great to have the 2015 kindergarten team present, with other information shared by our P&C President Noel Florian, uniform coordinator Clare Whittingham and our school banking contact officer Susan. If you were unable to attend the session you should have received the information pack that was given out on the night or via the post. If you haven’t received your package, please contact Anna Thorpe (anna.thorpe@ed.act.edu.au).

Mini-Fete

What a wonderful day for the mini-fete. Games were played, homemade delights consumed, laughter shared and many considered purchases were made. The students made an amazing $1700! The mini-fete is an opportunity for our year six students to display their entrepreneurial skills as they run a business adventure. They were required to plan their event, consider resources, ascertain market demand, design an advertising strategy and then run the stall or event themselves. This annual event, that raises money to subsidise the year six end of year events, sits well with the draft version of the Australian Curriculum: Economics and Business. While this document is still in draft, it does state that students in years five and six will engage in inquiries that address the following economic and business skills:

- determine questions related to local economic and business issues or events
- plan investigations and undertake research; using reasoning and interpretation skills to undertake simple analysis
- apply economic and business concepts and enterprising behaviours and capabilities to hypothetical situations, or situations not previously encountered
- reflect and communicate the conclusions formed.

The mini-fete is the authentic application of these skills and a great tradition at Maribyrnong Primary School. Thank you to Mrs Baillie, Mr Deane and Ms Pownall for their leadership of this event.

Concert

With only a few weeks until the school concert, rehearsals are underway. This is a very exciting time in our school and brings much enjoyment to our community. Choreography is being mapped out, costumes sewn and scripts rehearsed. All of these tasks are being done at school, so what can you do at home? There are two areas you can focus on. Firstly allow your child to be excited, talk about their concert and upcoming events. Secondly, help your child to think about patterns in the English language and to become aware of the spelling strategies they use. Spelling is a complex cognitive process, not a simple act of memorisation. At Maribyrnong, we have developed a spelling culture that uses a school wide consistent approach based on the belief that spelling is an important skill.

The BEE Spelling program that we use at Maribyrnong Primary School does not rely on regular tests to determine a child’s spelling knowledge. Rather information is systematically gathered and teachers ensure students are transferring their new spelling knowledge to their writing. This is called automaticity and for some children, achieving automaticity takes a lot of intensive practice through word study. In order to improve spelling, we need to spend productive time helping students to think about patterns in the English language and to become aware of the spelling strategies they use. Spelling is a complex cognitive process, not a simple act of memorisation. At Maribyrnong, we have developed a spelling culture that uses a school wide consistent approach based on the belief that spelling is an important skill.

So…..this myth is busted! Spelling is not arote task; it relies on active construction of knowledge based on the three layers of spelling. Spelling is a thinking task.

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
You will have read in the newsletter or heard us talking about the Working with Vulnerable People Card many times over the last two years and may be wondering what all of the fuss is about.

**Who is a vulnerable person?**
The Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Act 2011 (WWVP Act) defines a person as being vulnerable if they are a child under the age of 18 years or an adult who is experiencing disadvantage, and is accessing a service related to the disadvantage. This definition forms the basis for the types of services or activities that might require registration. The definition also recognises people's changing circumstances as they will not be considered vulnerable at all times.

**Who is a volunteer?**
For the purposes of the WWVP Act, a person is a volunteer if the person is engaged to provide a regulated activity or service to vulnerable people and does not receive payment for providing the activity or service (apart from any payment for expenses).

**So why do you need a Working with Vulnerable People Card?**
The Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Act 2011 commenced on 8 November 2012, with individuals working or volunteering in 'Activities or Services for Children' having until 7 November 2013 to become registered. All educators at Maribyrnong Primary are registered; registration costs $73 for a three year period. Registration for volunteers is free. The Act aims to reduce the risk of harm or neglect to vulnerable people in the ACT, and requires people who have contact with vulnerable people to register with the Office of Regulatory Services (ORS).

**Does everyone need to register?**
No, not everyone needs to have a Working with Vulnerable People Registration card. Only those who are engaged in regulated activities or services with vulnerable people need to be registered. There are also exemptions as described under section 12(2) of the Act. For example, a person is not required to be registered if they engage in a regulated activity (other than an overnight camp) for no more than:
- 3 days in any 4 week period; and,
- 7 days in any 12 month period.

**What are the penalties for not registering?**
The penalty for failing to register and continuing to work in a regulated activity past the registration date is up to $7,000 (50 penalty units). This also means that you cannot volunteer at school.

**How do we ensure we comply with The Act?**
At Maribyrnong we have two sign in books for volunteers, one for registered volunteers and one for non-registered volunteers. If you are registered, we take a copy of your card (front and back) and keep these on file. You will need to sign in at the office with your WWVP registration number and take a volunteer badge. This means that we have acknowledged you are on school grounds working as a volunteer. For non-registered volunteers, you are still required to sign in and take a volunteer badge, this assists us to ensure you do not exceed 3 days in 4 weeks or 7 days in 12 months.

For more information:

To register:
Maribyrnong Primary School
presents
A Night at the Museum
Monday 15 December 2014
12.00pm and 6.30pm

We were lucky to have a visit from the fire department this week! The students were very excited to learn what to do if there’s a fire in their house. They had A LOT of questions, got to walk through the fire engine and have a turn of using the fire hose. Afterwards when we recapped on what the fire fighters had talked about they remembered to “stop, drop, cover your face and roll” if they’re on fire to “get down low and go, go, go” and to evacuate to the letter box if their smoke alarm sounds. They were asked by the fire fighters to come home and learn their address and check their smoke alarms.

We are starting to send books and other school belongings home with your child so expect an extra book or two coming home in school bags. We are doing this gradually to avoid the end of year school material explosion!

We have been very occupied with concert rehearsals. The students are so very excited for the end of year concert! Please remember that the concert is on Monday the 15 of December at 12.00 pm and 6.30 pm. It would be fantastic if children could be available to perform in both concerts.

Symone, Sarah and Keilley.

EMERALD CITY (1/2)

Emerald City has been working up a sweat with concert practice in full swing – get excited! The unit is filled with mummies, mammoths and flyers.

The whole school took part in a transition session on Wednesday. Students spent an hour in the unit they will be in next year. The year 2 students headed over to the senior building to experience life as a year 3 student and the year 1 students stayed in the 1/2 unit and were fantastic mentors to the soon to be year 1 students. All feedback from students was positive.

Don’t forget to put next week’s assembly in your diary as the Emerald City will be showcasing some work they are proud of.

On Monday Duncan Smith of the Wiradjuri Echoes will be presenting to the Emerald City as part of our *Me in Place and Time* inquiry unit.

Leanne, Lucy, Amanda and Naomi.

OPALS (K)

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Symone, Sarah and Keilley.

SPECIALIST PROGRAMS - LIBRARY

All library books are due back this week. Thank you to everyone who has already returned their books.

What a great year we have had in the library. We have 2274 new books this year. The majority of these came from Bookfair, Bookclub and the Chief Minister’s Reading Challenge prizes. Many thanks to Jackie Sampson and Janette Krah who have had a very busy year, contacting these books.

We have had 6646 books borrowed through the library this year. What a terrific amount of reading. Keep up the reading over the summer holidays. Borrowing will resume from the first library lesson next year.

Keilley.
MOONSTONES (LSUA)

What a productive term we have had! The Moonstones have been continuing their work on natural disasters; they have enjoyed learning about the water cycle and how natural disasters are linked to it.

We have been working on our individual literacy work every morning. These activities are based on each student’s ILP and focus on areas of need. Activities include phonic work, phonemic awareness, spelling, writing, reading, sentence structures & grammar. These activities are helping our students to become strong literate individuals. Our overarching aim for all our students is to become independently literate and numerate to enable independent function as they mature.

Our token behaviour system has been hugely successful. Our target behaviours include:
- do as the teachers ask
- use a kind voice & words
- do your work to the best of your ability
- hands off, feet off.

Looking forward to the last three weeks!
Virginia & Nicola.

DIAMONDS (3/4)

There are only two and a half weeks left of the year!!!!

All students have been working hard and are enjoying learning about the Indigenous Dreamtime. Students have created illustrations from one of the books the unit read.

Both classes have been SUPER busy practicing their dance for the concert. All students are trying their best and are very motivated and energetic.

As the weather is getting quite hot, please make sure your child comes to school with a labelled drink bottle...and not to forget a broad brimmed hat!

Please return portfolios ASAP if you have not done so already.

We hope you enjoy the last few weeks left of the school term! Kylie and Camille.

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

The Mini-Fete held last Thursday was a great success! It enabled the year 6’s to demonstrate their excellent organisational skills and also raise money for the year 6 dinner and disco. Thank you to everyone who contributed cakes and helped to make this event such a success.

As per the note sent home, we have begun our Personal Development session for year 5 and 6. The students are finding this interesting and educational and may come home with lots of questions.

The concert preparations are well underway. Items and choreography have been finalised and we are just sharpening up our performances. We think they are all going to be fabulous.

A quick reminder about notes for the year 5/6 camp next year. Could we please have outstanding notes back ASAP, thanks.

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

GARNETS (LSU)

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All students have been working hard and are enjoying learning about the Indigenous Dreamtime. Students have created illustrations from one of the books the unit read.

Both classes have been SUPER busy practicing their dance for the concert. All students are trying their best and are very motivated and energetic.

As the weather is getting quite hot, please make sure your child comes to school with a labelled drink bottle...and not to forget a broad brimmed hat!

Please return portfolios ASAP if you have not done so already.

We hope you enjoy the last few weeks left of the school term! Kylie and Camille.

As the year is coming to an end all the library books should be returned to the library and home readers should be brought back to the home reader boxes. Please remember to return your child’s portfolio if you haven’t done so. There are so many more beautiful pieces of work to add!

Have a great weekend!
Lee and Jacque.
### Students of the Week

We use the ‘stars’ on children’s faces when we do not have consent to publish photos in the newsletter. If you wish to update or amend this consent for 2014, please contact the front office.

### Science News

The 3/4 science club has been helping extensively with the development of the new raised garden beds outside the science centre. They have been using some of the ideas they were shown at the ACT Kids Teaching Kids event last term. They have made a vertical garden from recycled soft drink bottles and have basil plants growing in it. They have planted the mystery seeds they were given which have all sprouted, although we cannot tell what they are yet! Students have also helped to install worm towers in each garden bed. These are basically mini worm farms where we can feed and grow compost worms but at the same time allowing the worms access to the rest of the bed to help fertilise it.

The 3/4 students recently entered the crazy heads they made last term and the rap song they performed as part of our Kids Teaching Kids workshop into an Art and Innovation Recycling Week competition held by NO Waste ACT. They were awarded a Highly Commended for their efforts with the heads going on public display in Woden for the whole of National Recycling Week.

Last week three teams of students from the 5/6 science club entered the annual Solar Oven Competition held at Lake Ginninderra College. They were all successful in cooking a muffin in their ovens which were made from umbrellas lined with foil. Several students have almost completed their SPECTRA Awards which is exciting. We plan to finish the year making balloon cars and holding a race during the last week of term.

Leslie Carr.

### P&c News

Congratulations to all those who entered their artistic creations in the P&C Twilight Fair Art & Craft Competition. Here is the list of winning entries:

**Preschool**
- 1st Ella B- Merry Christmas
- 2nd Declan R- Monster using hand & foot prints
- 3rd Aodhan S- Space alien

**K-2**
- 1st Meka W- Prancing pony
- 2nd Zac M- The castle of doom
- 3rd Anneliese B- Lady with wheat

**3-4**
- Girls- Hannah S- Pug
- Boys- Milo W- Smaug’s eye

**5-6**
- Girls- Beth M- Lion
- Boys- Rhys T- My pet bird

### School Concert

Please let us know if your child will not be at school Monday 15 December for the concert, as costumes are being finalised. Students are required to be at both the 12.00 pm and 6.30 pm performances. Please advise the office or your child’s teacher ASAP.

### School Pantry - Canteen Roster

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 8 Term 4</th>
<th>Wednesday 3 December</th>
<th>Thursday 4 December</th>
<th>Friday 5 December</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.15am-12.00noon</td>
<td></td>
<td>Terri</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.00noon-3.00pm</td>
<td></td>
<td>Micheal</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 9 Term 4</th>
<th>Wednesday 10 December</th>
<th>Thursday 11 December</th>
<th>Friday 12 December</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.15am-12.00noon</td>
<td></td>
<td>Wendy (9.15am-11.30am)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.00noon-3.00pm</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sam (1pm-3pm)</td>
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We currently need volunteers on most days. If you are available to volunteer in the canteen, or if you would like to be included on the canteen roster please see Bec or Rouvay 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.

### School Pantry

The last day of trading for the canteen this year will be Friday 12 December, we will be closed on Wednesday 17 December.