



POSSUM PRESS

NEWS FROM JEN

Thursday 11 December, Term 4 Week 9

What an exciting term we have had! Kindergarten transition visits, music scheme concert, kindergarten and preschool information sessions, combined preschool concerts, ECIU end of year concerts, our last Board and P&C Meetings for the year; and we still have more exciting events before the school year ends!

As our school year comes to an end, it's important to take a few moments to reflect on the year that was 2014. Our students have had wonderful achievements in science, winning many awards in the SEA ACT Science Fair and winning many competitions organised by UC Lake Ginninderra College. Two of our students won second place in the Alliance Française poetry competition outperforming students from across the ACT. All of our students participated in and won major awards in the Chief Minister's Reading Challenge, and our students were recognised for their sporting talents at Belconnen, ACT and National sporting events.

Semester Two Reports

Reports have been sent home this week. These reports highlight the achievement and developments made by your child and also provide information on areas that will be focused on in future teaching.

The semester 2 report includes an A to E report that outlines the grades your child has obtained for each subject area. Kindergarten students do not receive an A to E report. It is important to remember that teachers will award a 'C' grade to students who are achieving **at the expected level for their year group**. This is a positive and competent achievement for students.

The school based report outlines student achievement in each subject area in more detail, has a learning habits checklist, a targeted intervention list, a general teacher comment and a list of extracurricular activities that your child may have participated in during the semester. If you wish to discuss the report or any aspect of your child's learning please contact your child's teacher.

Board Position

There will be two parent vacancies for the School Board for a two year period, commencing April 2015. This is due to the parent representatives having fulfilled two years in office. We need to declare the positions vacant so that an election can be held if required; in 2015. The Returning Officer will be Leanne Rankine, our Business Manager. Membership of the School Board is a wonderful opportunity for parents to participate in the ongoing management of the school and to contribute to the determination of the school's future directions. These positions are part of a seven-member group of three parents, two teachers, a nominee of the Directorate and the Principal. The current Board meets on a Thursday evening twice a term, just before the P&C meeting, in weeks 3 and 8. If you are interested in a position on the School Board and would like more information about the roles and responsibilities of School Board members, please feel free to contact me or you can talk with one of the current parent representatives – Lauren Newman, Kyla Limmer or Sharon Ding.



ACT
Government
Education and Training

CONTACTS:

Maribyrnong School

Ph: 62055933 Fax: 62055932

www.maribyrnongs.act.edu.au

FACEBOOK: Maribyrnong Primary School-Kaleen



Board Chair Lauren Newman
laurennewman_13@yahoo.com.au

P&C President Noel Florian
maribynongpandc@gmail.com

Possum Pantry Canteen

Wednesday to Friday Ph: 6241 5974

<http://www.flexischools.com.au>

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

Westpac School Bank Account

BSB 032 777 Account 001615

EFTPOS is available with a \$10 minimum



DATES TO REMEMBER:

DECEMBER

- 12 Year 5/6 Big Day Out
- 15 School Concert at 12.00 pm and 6.30 pm
- 16 Ken's Community Farewell Special Assembly 9.15 am
- 17 Year 6 Graduation Assembly 9.15 am
Last Day of term 4.

Concert

We hope all families can attend either the matinee or the night performance of our concert, with performances at 12.00 pm and 6.30 pm. Be prepared to be amazed! Mari byrnong is well known for the outstanding concerts we write and perform; being our major culminating end of year celebration. I know you will be blown away by the talent of our students and teachers again this year!

Once more the costumes were simply amazing thanks to the talents of Leanne and Justine. Thank you also to the many volunteers who have supported our educators, Ros Riddle, Sally Longworth and Bec McMillan, for all of their support to finalise the amazing creations! A big thank you to Anna Thorpe who so capably led our concert team to write an amazing script and entertaining finale song; each year continues to bring something unique. My thanks also to Kathy Nash for her work with our lead actors; her strength to nurture the best in each child is admirable. Finally, my thanks to our staff for the amazing dance routines and unwavering dedication to produce such high quality and imaginative dances.

Please remember that with most families attending, parking will be at a premium. It is essential that we work together to ensure the safety of our families and also our local community neighbours. If parking in neighbouring streets, please be mindful and respectful of the law. The bike racks remain open for families choosing to cycle to the event.

End of the Year

As the end of the year approaches teachers will be maintaining normal class programs as much as possible. Our regular literacy and numeracy groups have just finished for the year at the end of last week. There are however some special end of year events and jobs such as library stock take, concert practice and classroom clean-ups that will require additional flexibility and patience. We seem to, at this time of year, have an increase of tiredness around the school. We ask that wherever possible students maintain regular school night bedtimes and routines and be considerate of one another. If there are any concerns please don't hesitate to contact class teachers or one of the school executive.

Staff 2014/2015

It is with great sadness that we will say goodbye to our fabulous Ken this year. Ken has been part of the Mari byrnong community for over 10 years, working daily to ensure the environment which your children grow and learn is safe, engaging and exceptionally well maintained. Ken is an integral member of our community, he knows every child, and he is always there for supporting our community at events and enjoys sharing students' learning progress with them. Ken is a truly giving person who always puts the needs of others as top priority. We will miss seeing him daily at school and I will certainly miss working side by side each day. I thank Ken for the generosity and care he has shown each of our students and look forward to hearing of the adventures yet to come. I do hope you can join us at Ken's farewell assembly on Tuesday 16 December at 9.15 am.

It has been such a privilege to work with our entire staff that thrive on providing the best possible opportunities for each and every child. I would also like to thank Jantiena Batt and Anna Thorpe for all of their support this year. Their energy and enthusiasm to develop a strong, collaborative vision for our wonderful school has been greatly appreciated. I look forward to building on our successes next year. In 2015, we will welcome Stacey Hodgson and Emma Wild to our school, and congratulations to Glen Massey who will commence as our BSO mid January.

Classes 2015

Thank you to all of the parents and carers, who have contacted me regarding classes for next year. We are currently working through the class structure for next year. You will receive a letter mid-January from the school outlining the classes and teachers for 2015 as well as a letter addressed to your child from their teacher. The letter will outline a little bit about each teacher as well as provide some important information about starting the school year and will include a photo of the teacher. We trust that this will make for a smooth transition back to school. On our first day back, all students should line up in the hall and wait for their teacher.

STAFF EMAILS

- jennifer.howard@ed.act.edu.au
- jantiena.batt@ed.act.edu.au
- anna.thorpe@ed.act.edu.au
- leanne.rankine@ed.act.edu.au
- roslyn.riddle@ed.act.edu.au
- keilly.pownall@ed.act.edu.au
- jane.baillie@ed.act.edu.au
- shane.deane@ed.act.edu.au
- sarah.dorrough@ed.act.edu.au
- elissa.penfold@ed.act.edu.au
- justine.minchin@ed.act.edu.au
- lynette.lisacek@ed.act.edu.au
- kathy.nash@ed.act.edu.au
- leslie.carr@ed.act.edu.au
- kylie.apps@ed.act.edu.au
- camille.wise@ed.act.edu.au
- symone.chipreo@ed.act.edu.au
- sarah.baird@ed.act.edu.au
- amanda.peake@ed.act.edu.au
- lucy.perfect@ed.act.edu.au
- naomi.devlin@ed.act.edu.au
- leanne.walls@ed.act.edu.au
- lee.amer@ed.act.edu.au
- jacque.mengel@ed.act.edu.au
- virginia.norris@ed.act.edu.au
- nicola.toms@ed.act.edu.au
- niomi.ceely@ed.act.edu.au
- elsa.hendry@ed.act.edu.au
- sally.longworth@ed.act.edu.au
- georgia.richardson@ed.act.edu.au
- kelly.perrett@ed.act.edu.au
- ken.warland@ed.act.edu.au
- judy.marriott@ed.act.edu.au

NOTES SENT HOME

Payments can be made through the holidays by internet banking or by Quickweb.

- 2015 - Book Packs due now!
- 2015 - 5/6 Camp Cooba
- 2015 - Voluntary Contributions.



Have a wonderful break everyone!

Leanne & Ros ☺

Happy Holidays

On behalf of all our staff, I would like to wish all of our families a very happy and safe holiday. We have had another wonderful year at Maribyrnong. We have consolidated our BEE spelling program and writing programs, strengthened our new approach to maths teaching and assessment through the introduction of a spiralling curriculum and thoroughly embraced the storyline planning approach for our inquiry units. We have completed our self-assessment for the National Quality Standard and have developed a new operational plan for 2015. I commend the work of our wonderful teaching staff who work so hard every day to bring about the best possible outcomes for our students. I feel very fortunate indeed to have the privilege of leading such an outstanding team of dedicated professionals. Many thanks also to our brilliant administrative staff who give us all such strong support every day. I hope you all enjoy a very well deserved holiday. I look forward to seeing everyone in term 1, 2015.

If you are returning to school after February 3 in 2015, we kindly request that you advise us in writing to Jennifer.howard@ed.act.edu.au

So for the last time in 2014, have a safe and happy holiday!

Thank you for your ongoing support. Have a wonderful six weeks everyone,

Jen Howard.



WRITING MYTHBUSTER

Myth # 10 Doing lots of worksheets creates a good speller

Spelling is a complex thinking task that occurs when writing. Your child does not learn to spell by completing worksheets. Rather, the discussion with their teacher allows them to make connections between the patterns, meaning and alphabetic principles in our language. When spelling it is all about the powerful talk that accompanies word study instruction.

Through writing a speller has the chance to apply spelling patterns in context. It gives them the opportunity to think about the spelling choices they are making. You might even hear them say 'that doesn't look right' as they process their spelling choice. This visual check is where they check their understanding and make reasonable approximations. They then apply their knowledge and will ask themselves, 'What do I know about the sound /ow/ in cow?'. By asking this question they are reflecting back on their reading experiences too (that vital reading/writing link). When a child practises spelling within the context of writing they learn to spell.

Recognising this, how can you help your child with their spelling?

- If your child is anxious about having a go at spelling words support them to have a go and be prepared to give them the answer. Spelling, like other homework, should not cause stress in the parenting relationship. It is OK to just tell them the correct spelling when they are writing! Finding the balance is important. We do not want to slow the flow of writing but we may have a discussion at another time about the spelling choices they have made.
- Support your child to develop an interest in words. For example words that rhyme, words that start with the same letter of their name, or words they are curious about. Make it a game and see if they can think of a new word and use it in a sentence throughout the day. Having fun with spelling and vocabulary helps children to learn.
- Encourage your child to write what they want to write even if they don't know how to spell that word. Remind them that this is how we learn to spell new words!
- Write for enjoyment together without them fearing that they will be corrected. Take turns writing words or even individual letters so that it is an enjoyable experience.



So.....this myth is busted! Worksheets do not support the thinking process that is essential in supporting your child's spelling development.

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

EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTION UNIT (ECIU)



This week marks the end of an era for Early Intervention services run by the Education and Training Directorate in the ACT. On behalf of Kelly and I, I would like to thank Jennifer Howard, Jantiena Batt, the entire preschool team at Maribyrnong, Ken Warland, Ros Riddle, Leanne Rankine, Leeanne Walls, the Vision team, the Hearing team, the early intervention counsellors and also Jean Walker, Kathy Vicol, and Sheryl O'Brien from Disability Education. These wonderful people have made working in Early Intervention rewarding and memorable. We have both enjoyed the challenges and successes in working with so many wonderful children and families. We wish those who have attended early intervention all the very best in the future.

Georgia and Kelly.

OPALS (K)

We would like to take this opportunity to say congratulations to all our wonderful kindergarten students for all their hard work and the fantastic progress they have made this year. They are all ready for the big move to year one. We would also like to thank our families for your help and support during the year. It has been wonderful to have parent helpers in the classroom. We also appreciate the time you take to listen to your children read and help them with homework tasks.

We are greatly looking forward to presenting our performance at this year's spectacular school concert. We have put in hours of rehearsal and we are ready to dance and sing. Don't forget that all students need to be here by 6.00 pm for the evening performance.

We would like to wish you all a very safe and happy holiday.

Sarah, Symone, Keilly, and Kathleen.

RUBIES AND SAPPHIRES (PRESCHOOL)

Wow! We can't believe it's almost the end of term 4. What an amazing year we have had. It has been a privilege to get to know a lot of great families and work with a wonderful bunch of kids this year.

Thank you to everyone who came to our concert. We were so impressed with the childrens' performance. What superstars they are!

We'd also like to take the opportunity to thank you all for your support over the year and we wish you all a very happy and safe holiday and a happy New Year.

We are looking forward to seeing lots of kids running around proudly in new school uniforms, carrying new big bags, packed with new drink bottles and lunch boxes!

Rubies and Sapphires, you have been an absolute delight to teach.

We are very proud of you and will miss your happy smiles.

Elsa, Sally, Kelly, Ni and Gaby 😊

EMERALD CITY (1/2)

The end of the year has arrived and the Emerald City is still alive with activity. We hope you will join us for the last three days to watch the end of year concert, farewell Ken and wish the year 6 students all the best at high school.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents and carers who gave up their time to help out in the unit with reading and other activities - you have been such a great support.

We were fortunate to have the talented Bevan Smith of the Wiradjuri Echoes come in and talk to the students about a aboriginal artefacts. Students were able to get their face painted as traditional aboriginal boys and girls.

To the students who are leaving Maribyrnong Primary School at the end of the year, we wish you all the best at your new schools.

Happy holidays!
Lucy, Naomi, Leeanne and Amanda.



The Maribyrnong Marvel

The Writing Club are pleased to announce the publication of the first edition of the School Newspaper,

The Maribyrnong Marvel.

There will be a limited print run and they will be available at the front office on Monday.

Well done to Jantiena and the talented Maribyrnong writers!



DIAMONDS (3/4)

This is our last newsletter item for the year!

Our school concert is on Monday 15 December, make sure you have it on your calendar, it's going to be an amazing production!!

School books will start to come home on Monday. It would be fantastic if students were able to bring an extra bag (such as a plastic bag), as this will make it easier to carry them.

Miss Apps and Miss Wise have been reflecting on what an amazing journey we have had with all of our students and their families. We are extremely proud of each and every child in our unit. We are also very grateful to all of the parents and caregivers who have offered their support throughout the year.

It has been an absolute honour to contribute to the growth and development of every single child in the year 3 and 4 unit. Miss Apps and Miss Wise would like to wish you all a lovely holiday season. We look forward to hearing about all of the wonderful achievements our students are sure to make in the years to come.

Kylie and Camille.

MOONSTONES (LSUA)

Welcome to our last newsletter item for 2014.

What an amazing year we have all had. Looking back at the Moonstones from the start of the year, it is staggering to see the enormous growth in development, skills and confidence in all our students. We are enormously proud of each student and the efforts they have put in during the year.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our wonderful parents for their ongoing support in our roles as educators in the LSUA.

We are looking forward to performing in the school concert next Monday 15 December. The day performance starts at 12.00 pm. Please be early to get a seat.

We would like to wish all our families a safe, happy and enjoyable break.

Warmest wishes

Virginia & Nicola.



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

As the saying goes 'time flies when you're having fun!' It's hard to believe that another school year is drawing to a close and holidays are just around the corner.

In these last few days there is still a lot happening! The 'day out' is tomorrow! Please ensure your child is wearing comfortable shoes, sun smart clothing and a full brim hat for the walk around the lake to Hoyts, Westfield.

Concert rehearsals are in overdrive. A matinee performance is at midday on Monday and the evening performance will kick off at 6.30 pm. Students are required to be at school by 6.00 pm.

The year six graduation dinner and disco is on Tuesday evening. Year six students are required to be at U&Co café at 5.30 pm. Dinner will finish by 7.00 pm and we will walk to the hall with year six for their graduation disco. All students from year three to six are welcome to attend the disco. Students attending are required to bring a labelled water bottle. Year six will be provided with water.

The graduation assembly will commence at 9.15 am on Wednesday 17 December. Students are required to be in full school uniform. Parents, guests and year six students are invited to a morning tea following the assembly. Parents of year five students who are hosting or speaking at an assembly are very welcome to attend.

We have had a wonderful year with your children! Thank you for your support throughout the year. We wish you all a very safe and happy break over the holidays.

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

GARNETS (LSU)

It only feels like yesterday that we were writing our first newsletter for the year and now here we are writing our last. What a fantastic and successful year it has been!

Well done to all the students for making such great gains, being brave trying new things and trying their best to learn new skills throughout the year. Make sure you add the cookbooks we created to your family cookbook collection and try some of the recipes we have created at home.

Friday was International Day for People with a Disability. The kids in the LSU celebrated the special day by choosing someone who has helped and supported them at school and giving them a special pin.

Matty says thanks to Philip, Fiona says thanks to Weam, Francesca says thanks to Hanadi, Catherine says thanks to Emily, Charlotte says thanks to Rory, Davide says thanks to Cody, Jason says thanks to Cody M and Lui says thanks to Drew. What a lovely opportunity to share their appreciation.

I would like to give a massive thanks to Jacque for all her hard work and making my first year at Maribyrnong great!

Have a great holiday! We will see you all again next year.

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.

CHESS LESSONS IN 2015

Chess is an optional activity for children in kindy to year 6. Lessons are provided by the Sydney Academy of Chess and will commence on Monday of week 2 and the cost for term 1 is \$56. Notes will come home in week 1.



SCIENCE NEWS

The science centre, surrounding garden area and frog pond are looking good. There are already water beetles, tadpoles and at least one frog living in the pond. In the raised beds students have been harvesting lettuce, herbs and strawberries. We have also recently planted maize, pumpkin and tomato plants thanks to generous donations from the Keogh family.

The science rooms need to be tidied for the end of term. I still have a number of science fair posters and some large constructions such as bird feeders, solar cookers and enlightened timers. If students want to keep any of these they need to be collected by the end of week nine please.

If you are looking for activities over the holidays Questacon and the CSIRO Discovery Centre are always worth a visit. There are hands on workshops for 10-15 year olds being run during January at the Ian Potter Foundation Technology Learning Centre in Deakin. These are organised by Questacon and details can be found on the Questacon web site. Some students may be interested in the Surfing Scientist website www.ac.net.au/science/surfingscientist Students in the 4/5/6 classes who have been doing the unit of work on Simple Machines could have fun on the Edheads site www.edheads.org/activities

Leslie Carr.

P&C UNIFORM SHOP

The Uniform Shop will be open the following:

Friday 30 January	8.45 am to 12.00 pm
Monday 2 February	8.45 am to 12.00 pm
Tuesday 3 February	8.45 am to 10.30 am



Have your kids outgrown their uniforms or are they moving onto another school? The uniform shop would gladly accept any uniforms for their 2nd hand shop. Uniforms can be dropped at the canteen or front office. Thank you!

For uniform information, contact Clare Whittingham on 0408 252736 or madden_clare@hotmail.com.

Maribyrnong Primary School

presents

A Night at the Museum

Monday 15 December 2014

12.00pm and 6.30pm



P&C NEWS

POSSUM PANTRY



The last day of trading for the canteen this year is Friday 12 December, we will be closed on Wednesday 17 December. Thank you to our canteen staff and helpers for all their work this year!

COMMUNITY NEWS



Belconnen Christmas in the Park 2014
Festivities and Carols
Saturday 13 December,
5.30pm - 9pm

A carols singing program will begin at 7.00 pm, please bring a rug or chairs. Come and join us in the Page Park (MacAdam St) for a fun, family evening with face painting, jumping castles, petting zoo, food and display stalls, live music and more!

Contact: Mosaic Baptist Church
Web: www.mosaicbaptist.org.au
Phone: 02 6254 6565