

# POSSUM PRESS



## NEWS FROM JANTIENA

What a foggy few mornings we have had where the sun didn't make an appearance until the afternoon. You just have to love Canberra in winter! It has been great to see our students rugged up for the colder weather. Please make sure all items are labelled so that they can be returned as soon as they are found.

### Tania McCartney visits Maribyrnong

We were very fortunate to have author and illustrator extraordinaire visit Maribyrnong last Thursday. Tania is one of the ambassadors for the Chief Minister's Reading Challenge. Maribyrnong has been involved in the challenge for many years. Our senior students asked questions, played games (including catching cheeky characters that kept on popping up on the slides) and engaged in lots of learning throughout the session. Students further investigated writing for an audience and different social purposes such as writing to entertain or describe. We even discussed the books squirrels might like to read. Tania kindly donated two of her books to our library - hot off the press! Thank you Tania! Thank you to Ms Pownall for organising this wonderful event for our students.



### Nationally Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD)

In 2017, all schools across Australia are taking part in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD). The data collected will allow all Australian Governments to better target support and resources for students who need adjustments to access and participate in education. As part of this process, we are looking at the adjustments made at the school for students so they can participate in learning on the same basis as their peers. These adjustments might include extra teacher support, flexibility around assessment tasks, modifications to class work, changes to the physical environment or specialised equipment. Families whose child has been identified in this process will receive a letter this week outlining the process. A significant change that has occurred in recent years is that parents do not have to provide consent for this data collection. Instead they have the opportunity to withdraw their consent. If you have questions regarding this process please email me at [jantienna.batt@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:jantienna.batt@ed.act.edu.au) or contact me via the front office.

### The Future of Education

The ACT Department of Education are providing everyone with the opportunity to share their thoughts, opinions and concerns about the education system in the ACT. You can help shape every student's future. Your insight could have a major impact on education in the ACT. What would you like to see change or improve? What could we be doing, as a system of schools, better? What hopes do you hold for your children that can be achieved at school? To share your thoughts, visit <http://www.yoursay.act.gov.au/> or email [futureofeducation@act.gov.au](mailto:futureofeducation@act.gov.au). Alternatively I am happy to collate, de-identify and email in your responses for you. Your voice is vital in this process!

THURSDAY 22 JUNE : Term 2 Week 9



**ACT**  
Government  
Education

## CONTACTS

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**Board Chair** Lauren Newman  
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**P&C President** Meg Holesgrove  
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### 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

### JUNE

- 23 School Athletics Carnival K to 6
- 27 Year 6 Mini Fete
- 28 P&C Disco
- 30 Assembly at 9.15am\* Please note this assembly has been cancelled.



### JULY

- 1-16 Winter Holidays
- 17 Term 3 starts

## School Review

As mentioned in earlier newsletters, 2017 is a review year for Maribyrnong. We are excited to welcome two educational leaders to our school to share our continuous improvement journey next term. At Maribyrnong we use the Plan, Study, Do and Act (PDSA) cycle as our action learning model. This means that there is a shared responsibility for identifying areas of improvement and in implementing recommendations based on current research. The use of the PDSA cycle ensures that there is a clear and sustained improvement agenda over the life of the school plan with all educators contributing. This occurs through another structure called Pedagogy Circles. This structure embeds the PDSA cycle through a culture of high expectations and a learning environment that is committed to excellence. All teachers belong to a Pedagogy Circle and are required to analyse data, review goals, consider the implication of what the data is showing us and plan the way forward. Meeting times occur over the term and the result of their work is shared across the teams. This has resulted in pedagogical guides that articulate our shared beliefs, how we enact them, assessment strategies and how this data is analysed. Teachers regularly review these guides to ensure our practice is reflected accurately.

The SRC has also been working on a Student Handbook that would be given to new students when they enrol at our school, other than at the start of preschool and kindergarten. This is another example of our students actively contributing to our school processes and ensuring that their voices are heard. The handbook will be on our website very soon for you to look at.

## Parent Teacher Interviews

Thank you to all of our families who attended parent teacher interviews this week. We know that there is substantial evidence showing that parent involvement benefits students, including raising their academic achievement. There are other advantages for children when parents become involved — namely, increased motivation for learning, improved behaviour, more regular attendance and a more positive attitude about learning and school in general. If you didn't lock in an interview with your child's teacher perhaps send them an email and touch base.

## Athletics Carnival

We are hoping that the sun continues to shine for us tomorrow at the Athletics Carnival. This is always a great event at our school with students displaying our school values of respect, inclusion, resilience, responsibility and excellence. This is a whole school event so all students and staff from kindergarten to year six will be in attendance. If you haven't signed up to volunteer there is still time. Check in with Ms Howard at Dickson ovals tomorrow and she will sign you in as a volunteer and ensure you have a group to support. Huge thanks in advance to our organising team of Ms Brown, Ms Pownall and Ms Baillie and to our wonderful volunteers who support our school in so many ways.

## Parking

At our last P&C meeting our parents raised their concern for the way people are parking in an unsafe manner, particularly in regards to double (or even triple) parking in the no parking zones. We are so lucky at Maribyrnong to have many options for parking, including:

- the school carpark
- the shop carpark
- the overflow shop carpark
- the scout hall carpark
- parking in our surrounding streets such as Shannon Circuit, Alberga Street, Brunswick Circuit and Lyndon Street.

We know we all care for the safety of our children so please follow the road rules when parking, including when parking near nature strips or close to our neighbour's property. If you are not sure of where to park, please drop by the front office and we will happily show you on a marked map of the ideal parking spots.

Do you have an idea that could help address parking? Be bold, think outside of the box and send your ideas into our P&C president Meg Holesgrove ([megholesgrove@hotmail.com](mailto:megholesgrove@hotmail.com)). Perhaps you are keen to lead an initiative like the Walking School Bus or re-energise the Ride and Walk to School program. Do you know of a partnership we could establish or seek out? We are open to your creative and caring ideas. The safety of our children is of paramount importance to us all. We can do this together!

## School Psychologist

Our amazing school psychologist Judy Marriott will be travelling to the UK visiting family next week and the first three weeks of next term. We will miss her but look forward to hearing about her travels and adventures on her return.

## Assembly in week 10

Our assembly in week 10 has been postponed until term 3. Some correspondence will be emailed out to families in the coming days with further information.

Keep smiling!  
*Jantiëna.*

## DSTA NEWS FROM JACKIE

We are nearly half way through the year!

Life is always busy in a school and so it is important to make sure we are taking time out to look after ourselves and each other.

Recently I participated in a Lifeline Canberra Course. A large part of the day was spent working on skills relating to effective communication. The most important part of being an effective communicator is being a good listener.

To be a good listener we need to commit to listening and really hearing what the other person has to say. It also means making sure we understand the meaning of the message. To really understand someone we might need to clarify with statements like "So, what you are saying is..." It is also important to reflect back your own understanding of the conversation with a comment like "I am hearing that..." (Lifeline Canberra)

So much happens in a busy day at school that sometimes it is hard to know where to begin. Talking about what is happening at school and how you feel about it on a regular basis can help to open up those lines of communication and put in place some solid foundations for talking about all sorts of things particularly when you or your family are experiencing difficulty or times of change.

With the midyear break coming up make time to talk and enjoy all the wonderful things that Canberra in winter has to offer.

Jackie Sampson – Defence School Transition Aide.



## P&C GIVE AN HOUR OF POWER



Maribyrnong's Twilight Fair is definitely a highlight of our school year. It is an opportunity for our community to come together to celebrate our wonderful school, enjoy some entertainment and wonder through the great variety of stalls that are set up for the evening.

There are many things that need to happen to pull together such a large whole school event. Our biggest challenge on the night is making sure we have enough volunteers, particularly on all the stalls. This year each class will be given a stall to operate. This means that each class will be responsible for the set-up / pack up and roster of parents for their stall.

The Twilight Fair truly is the best example of many hands makes light work. Over the next few weeks families in our community will be approached regarding helping at Twilight Fair. We need your help! As well as assisting on a stall, requests will begin to come home for donation of goods such as raffle items, baked goods and other items to sell. Every little bit helps.

### Does this sound like your hour of power?

By giving an hour to the Twilight Fair you will be ensuring that this fantastic community event will continue to be something that we all look forward to each year.

## STAFF EMAILS

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**Myth # 10 Building vocabulary is easy!**

Vocabulary is more than learning new words. Rather they need to develop their understanding of words in a complex way. Knowledge of a word includes:

1. its meaning
2. what it sounds like
3. how to say it
4. how it is used in a sentence
5. how to read and write it.

Young children gradually refine their understanding and use of a new word as they encounter it in different contexts and learn to differentiate it from words that are nearly the same. The more words we store, the finer the differentiations must be. This is especially seen in the mastery of longer multi-syllabled words. Consider these words and give thought to how close they are in sound structure and in the way we say them and yet how diverse their meanings are:

- constitution
- constellation
- conversation
- conservation
- constipation
- compensation.

Our aim should be to develop vocabulary use that is both specific and flexible. Some children appear to have an adequate vocabulary for conversational purposes, especially when they are talking about events or topics shared by the listeners. It is only when more literate language is called for that their 'system is stressed' and an underlying weakness in word knowledge is revealed. English is a particularly rich language having many words to represent nearly the same meaning. This is true for verbs, adjectives and adverbs as well as nouns. Specific word use adds colour and clarity to expression and more accurately conveys the intended meaning. Flexibility demonstrates that meanings of words change with context and many words have more than one meaning. Children need to be flexible in word knowledge and able to transfer from one meaning to another. This skill often involves the shift from concrete word meanings to more abstract and idiomatic use.



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

**Developing and building vocabulary is a challenging task but one that supports a child's development across many areas.**

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)

**Helping children to take responsibility**

Children often focus on immediate wants and don't consider long-term consequences. This is completely normal and developmentally appropriate. Children need adult guidance to develop their decision making skills. Parents and carers can prompt good decision-making by identifying appropriate choices for children to make and using questions to help them think through the steps (we looked at these in the last newsletter). To learn to use decision-making skills children need to be shown how to use the steps and be given opportunities to practise them. Practice and experience are necessary for building skills. It is important to remember that children's thinking skills develop gradually and so does their capacity for planning ahead and weighing up options in order to make decisions. Children do not learn to make good decisions overnight. They need to start with simple things.

How can parents and carers help?

- Give children a choice between two options (binary choice). This helps to make decisions manageable.
- Limit the number of choices to ones that are realistic for children to make (depending on their age and ability).
- Encourage children to give reasons for their choices. This teaches them to think through their decisions.
- Ask, "Is that a good idea?" or "Do you think that will work?" Instead of saying, "This is what you should do," ask "What about this?" Asking encourages children to develop their own judgment.
- Listen with interest to children's explanations. Learning to explain their thinking helps children think better.
- Give children a role in family decisions, for example, when planning activities or deciding on household jobs. This helps children learn how to make decisions that take others into account.

The following examples do not give children an opportunity to practice decision making and can make it difficult for children to develop the confidence and skills for good decision making.

- Choices that are too hard for their reasoning abilities. Very young children (two and under) don't yet have a good understanding of concepts like time and space or that when something disappears it may not come back.
- Choices between an activity and a consequence. A statement such as "Do you want to stop throwing that ball in here or do you want me to take away your ball?" is a warning of what the consequence will be if the child does not obey you, rather than an opportunity for the child to make a decision. This kind of choice just confuses children. It would be an actual choice if you said "Your ball might break something in here. Do you want to play with it outside or would you like to have a story here with me?"
- Statements that are not choices. Don't offer a choice if there really is no decision to be made. For example, "Do you want to come to school in the car to pick up your big brother?" is not a choice if the child has to come because there is no one to care for them at home.

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.

# Lights on Learning!

## *Focusing on 5/6*

We have had many exciting and engaging learning experiences this term in The Rangers.



As part of our inquiry studies unit, Get Voting, students in 5/6 were lucky enough to visit the Museum of Australian Democracy and the National Electoral Education Office. The excursion was extremely engaging and all students greatly enjoyed the learning experience. We participated in a number of activities that included a mock election to vote for our favourite fruit using the preferential voting system, an interactive tour of the history of voting in Australia and the catalysts for change and we were able to visit the senate and conduct some role plays.



The Rangers were fortunate enough to be visited by the ANU program, Robogals, to work with robotics and talk about programing and creating codes as instructions to guide a robot through a maze. It was fantastic to see the learning take place as students were able to test their code and then adjust as required to ensure that their robot successfully negotiated the challenging maze set out for them.



Students in 5/6 are big fans of hands-on learning and this term we have been working on marble mazes in technology with a view to becoming familiar with the design, make and appraise model associated in technology so that they would be fully prepared for the main technology focus project, a marble race. The marble race project will require students to design and construct a marble race that will take a marble exactly 45 seconds to complete.

The 5/6 teaching team would like to thank parents and carers for their continued support so far this year and we have enjoyed seeing many of you during interview week!

Shane, Emma, Mia and Jasmine.

# Lights on Learning!

## *Focusing on French*

This year the French learning calendar is packed full at Maribyrnong, and term 3 is perhaps the busiest of all. Next term in week two we have the Carrousel Theatre Company coming to Maribyrnong to perform a bilingual play *Histoire du livre de la jungle* or 'Story of the Jungle Book'. Students in years 3 to 6 will be invited to attend the performance on Wednesday 26 July 26 at 10:00 am. In week one of term 3 all students will be introduced to the vocabulary of the play to maximise the learning they gain from this theatre experience. The year 3 classes have already had a sneak peek at the story.



Term 3 is also the term of the French poetry competition. Students are introduced to a poem early in term 3 that is learnt by all participating students at equivalent year levels across the ACT. Each week some class time is spent learning the poem, understanding it, and perfecting accent and expression. At the end of the term all students recite the poem individually, which forms part of student assessment for second semester and allows selection of winners at each year level who then progress to the ACT finals. Each year Maribyrnong has had first and second place winners in the ACT and we look forward to more remarkable performances!



This year we are continuing to learn using principles and resources of the AIM program, with extensive use of gestures as well as stories that use a lot of repetition of a 'pared down' vocabulary. Students in years 3 to 6 have recently been introduced to the play '*L'arbre ungali*', a modified traditional story from Senegal in West Africa which tells of a group of animals' attempts to break a drought. This story will be at the heart of our language learning during terms 3 and 4.

Students in year 2 continue to develop their language skills using the AIM approach of linking gestures with the spoken word, with new vocabulary activities each week. Songs are also used to reinforce learning. If your child loves music and French, find a play list of Alain Le Lait's songs on YouTube. Alain covers multiple topics with brightly animated and often fun videos that the children love in class.

À bientôt!

Lyn Lisacek.

# Book Week

“Escape to Everywhere” is the theme for this year’s Book Week. Once again we will be holding our Book Week assembly on Friday 11 August, week 4, at 9.15 am. Students (and parents) are invited to dress up as their favourite book character for the day.

We are also holding two competitions this year: make a diorama of a scene from your favourite book; and a colouring competition. The winners of these competitions will receive a gift voucher to spend at the Book Fair. Please make sure your diorama entry has the name of the book and your name. Entries for both competitions need to be received by Friday 4 August, week 3, in the library.

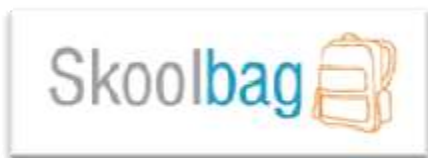
School Holidays is the perfect time to make your diorama, complete your colouring entry and organise your book character costume. I look forward to seeing all the fabulous costumes.

Keep reading,  
Keilly Pownall.



## KEEP CONNECTED @ MARIBYRNONG

- 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)

## NOTES SENT OR EMAILED HOME

- ☑ **Year 3-6 French Theatre Incursion on Wednesday 26 July (Term 3) \$7.00.**

Please complete the note emailed, or on the Skoolbag App or paper copies are available at the office.

## 2017/2018 ENTERTAINMENT BOOK

Support Maribyrnong by purchasing your 2017/2018 Entertainment Book for loads of entertainment ideas and discounts for the school holidays:

<https://www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/27692k>

20% of every membership sold contributes to our School. Help us achieve our goal by sharing this link with your Friends and Family.

Thanks for your support!



## CODE CAMP

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

Find out more at:  
[codecamp.com.au/camps](http://codecamp.com.au/camps)

## POSSUM CAFE NEWS

Week 10 Term 2	Wednesday 28 June	Thursday 29 June	Friday 30 June
9.00 am - 1.30 pm			Liz .S Meg Liz. M
9.00 am – 12.00 pm	Kim	Shirley	
11.00 am – 1.30 pm			Jaymee
Week 1 Term 3	Wednesday 19 July	Thursday 20 July	Friday 21 July
9.00 am - 1.30 pm			Meg
9.00 am – 12.00 pm	Kim	Maryanne	Jane
11.00 am – 1.30 pm			
Week 2 Term 3	Wednesday 26 July	Thursday 27 July	Friday 28 July
9.00 am - 1.30 pm			Meg
9.00 am – 12.00 pm	Kim		
11.00 am – 1.30 pm		Wendy	

If you are available to help in the canteen at any other time, or if you would like to be included on future canteen rosters please see Rouvaye or Zoe in the canteen, or email: [Maribyrnongprimarycanteen@gmail.com](mailto:Maribyrnongprimarycanteen@gmail.com)  
Thank you.

### MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE ATHLETICS CARNIVAL!

**If you have time to spare tomorrow to help prepare and serve the special lunch- please join us at Dickson Oval from 9.00 am.**

#### Canteen Wish list

The canteen is setting up a wish list for donations of non-perishable food items – It's another way you can help your school canteen.

This week the wish list includes

- Powdered Gelatine
- 2Ltr Tomato Sauce
- Kitchen Scissors

Your donations can be dropped off between 8.45am and 9am to the School Canteen, Monday to Friday. Thank you for your continued support of the school canteen.

## VOLLEYBALL UPDATE

Congratulations to the following students from the Maribyrnong Primary volleyball team who competed in the Junior Volleyball Tournament over the weekend: Aidan, Ashlin, Ben, Callum, Carolina, Cassius, Chloe, Claire, Hayden, Iris, Jack M, Jack R, Jos, Lena-Maria, Lewis and Nathan. The children made up two teams and enjoyed having current Australian players as their coaches for the tournament! The tournament was a great opportunity for the children to represent the school playing against children from Aranda, Weetangera and St Joseph's Primary and they came away with four wins while also displaying wonderful team spirit throughout the tournament.



### \*\* FREE TICKETS \*\*

**Available to all Maribyrnong families and friends to see International Volleyball matches here in Canberra in July!**

A great opportunity to watch Volleyball being played at the highest level here in Canberra. The Maribyrnong volleyball team is very excited as they will have the opportunity to play in exhibition matches before the International matches begin!

- **Men's World Championship Qualification Tournament**  
-2 games on Saturday 15 July – 5.00 pm and 8.00 pm  
Go to <https://www.eventopia.co/event/FIVB-World-Champs-Qualifying-Tournament/345528>
- **Women's World Grand Prix Finals**  
- 2 games on Saturday 22 July – 4.00 pm and 7.00 pm and - 2 games on Sunday 23 July – 1.00 pm and 4.00 pm  
Go to <https://www.eventopia.co/event/FIVB-World-Grand-Prix-Group-3-Finals/345262>

**To get your tickets please follow these steps:**

1. Go to the website for the game you wish to attend
2. Select "concession" for the ticket type
3. Choose the quantity of tickets you would like (despite the website advising you can select up to 20 tickets, there is a maximum of 10 tickets for this free offer)
4. Enter the following code for the Promo Code:

#### **SCHOOLTICKETS**

5. Select "print at home" option under Shipping
6. Select "Checkout as guest"
7. Enter your details and press "reserve tickets"
8. You will receive an email with your tickets which you can then print to bring with you on the day.