

POSSUM PRESS



NEWS FROM JANTIENA

FRIDAY 24 NOVEMBER: Term 4 Week 7

What an amazing fortnight we have had. Award Ceremonies, Twilight Fair, transition visits, information nights, excursions and loads of learning! It promises to be a busy end to the year with many more special events planned. Make sure you check out the Skoolbag App, Facebook page and your email for information and notes.

ACT Public Education Awards

On Thursday 9 November, seven of our staff attended the ceremony to support our nominees. It was a huge event at the National Museum of Australia and attracted more than 550 attendees. Congratulations go to our four members of staff who were nominated for the 2017 ACT Public Education awards:

- Jacque Mengel – Education Support Role
- Leeanne Walls – Education Support Role
- Justine Minchin – Education Support Role
- Symone Florian – Primary Teacher of the Year

While our nominees were not the winners on the night, they are all absolutely deserving of their nomination and definitely winners in our eyes! The awards acknowledge principals, teachers, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education leadership, support staff, partnerships and volunteers who help to make our system of education the best that it can be. Congratulations to everyone acknowledged on the night.

Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day is a day of special significance to all Australians, commemorating loss in all wars, conflicts and peace operations. This year Saturday 11 November marked the 99th anniversary of the Armistice which ended the First World War (1914–18). Each year on this day Australians observe two minute's silence at 11.00 am, in memory of those who died or suffered in all wars and armed conflicts. Maribyrnong Primary School observed the occasion in a number of ways in our classrooms, including specific learning opportunities for students. Across the school we also observed two minutes of silence to support the role of Soldier On in recognition of the work they do in supporting our defence families.

Reports

Teachers have been busy writing student reports. Reports are an important part of the teaching and learning cycle, capturing achievement and areas of development. Your child's report will:

- be written in plain English
- provide information about your child's learning in each area
- include comments identifying areas of strength and areas for further development
- provide information about your child's work habits and social skills.

Along with our school-based report students in years 1-6 will also receive an A to E report based on the Commonwealth Government guidelines. These indicate whether your child is on track and learning what is expected in accordance with the achievement standards from the Australian Curriculum for their year level. Students who are making the expected progress will receive a C grade, as this indicates your child is making 'spot on' progress in relation to what he or she was expected to learn over the semester. It is important to recognise that a C grade means your child is doing well. This may be different from when we were at school!



ACT
Government
Education

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FACEBOOK: Maribyrnong
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Board Chair Lauren Newman
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Possum Pantry Canteen

Wednesday to Friday Ph: 6241 5974

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

Communities@Work ph:0405 124 312
Breakfast Club and After School Care

Westpac School Bank Account

BSB 032 777 Account 001615

DATES TO REMEMBER

NOVEMBER

- 29 Preschool Concert 11.20 am to 12.00 pm
- 30 6.00 pm Board and 7.00 pm P&C Final meetings for 2017

DECEMBER

- 1 Assembly 2.15 pm
- 11 School Concert at 12.00 pm and 6.00 pm
- 12 Year 5/6 Day Out
- 13 Year 6 Dinner and Disco
- 15 Graduation Assembly at 9.15 am
Canteen **closed** for cleaning
Last day of term 4!

Twilight Fair

The Twilight Fair was a great success! Huge thanks to our P&C, volunteers on the night, our 5/6 students and teachers who took carriage of Side Show Alley again and our teachers who once again gave their all. It would be remiss of me not to mention Sharon Houston who took carriage of planning the Twilight Fair again this year, thank you Sharon! It is a mammoth effort to stage such a big community event and we are so lucky to have so many volunteers who contribute to the fair. There is a great quote by Elizabeth Andrew that fits nicely with our community approach – “Volunteers do not necessarily have the time, they have the heart!” Thank you all for your hearts! We are excited to announce that over \$10 000 was raised for our school.

Kindergarten 2018 Information Session

Thank you to our families who were able to attend the 2018 Kindergarten Information Session last week. If you were unable to attend please drop by the front office to collect your information pack. Inside is a copy of the powerpoint from the night so that you too can see the information shared with our families. Thank you to our kindergarten team who set the scene for 2018.

Whole School Transition Visits

This week we saw all of our students visit their 2018 learning space with the peers they will be working with next year. This allowed educators to observe interactions between students that will feed into our class formation process. While students couldn't meet their teachers yet (staffing is still being finalised), they will receive a letter from their teacher in early January introducing themselves. Both the transition visit and letters are wonderful traditions at Maribyrnong and another example of how we support the social and emotional needs for our students.

It was also great to meet many of our 2018 preschoolers at the Stay and Play session. It is wonderful to see their curious dispositions and eagerness to start preschool. Please remember that if your preschool child has an NDIS package, attends an early intervention program or has engaged with the Child Development Service to email me (jantiena.batt@ed.act.edu.au) if you haven't done so already. It will allow us to arrange a time to discuss your child's needs and to plan a transition program.

Social Concern

A large part of our inquiry units is the focus on developing and acting on social concern. While each unit has this element embedded within it, we also encourage students to take action. One of our new students, Luka in the LSUA, shared how he wrote a letter to the Prime Minister explaining his concern about the decisions being made about the environment. He recently received a letter back from Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull thanking him for his letter and the call for action he articulated. Well done Luka for standing up for what you believe in.

Eco-Bus Tour

Last Friday we saw 90 teachers and students visit Maribyrnong as part of the Eco-Bus Tour. Mrs Carr was asked to host this special visit to showcase our sustainability practices and how the little things we do can make a big difference. Mrs Carr and several students presented our practices to our visitors. Then the 5/6 student enrichment group led groups of teachers and students around the school. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive with students and teachers taking many ideas away with them.

Chief Minister's Reading Challenge

Jenny, Ms Pownall, Ryan, Emma and Hannah attended the Chief Minister's Reading Challenge Award ceremony yesterday and Maribyrnong received prizes for the following sections :

- Preschool – Year 2
- Years 3-4
- Years 5-6

This speaks to our commitment to foster a love of reading for all students. We know that students who enjoy reading and regularly partake in doing so, achieve better academic results than those who don't. Ms Pownall takes great care in selecting a wide range of books to engage all readers in our school library. In fact I could go so far as to say that Ms Pownall takes on the personal challenge of finding the right book for each student. What a fabulous resource we have there (the books and Ms Pownall)!

Concert

With only a few weeks until the school concert excitement levels are on the rise. This is a time of high energy in our school and brings much enjoyment to our community. At school rehearsals are underway, choreography is being finalised, costumes designed and scripts learned. How can you help out with all of this? There are two areas you can focus on. The first one is to allow the excitement to be shared at home. Some students might like to show you the dance, or sing their song while others may look to you for reassurance as they consider what it could be like to perform in front of a full hall. So let them dance, sing or talk about it all and let them know that the concert is a joint effort – we work together to make this a special event. The second way you can help is for you to consider how you will travel to the concert. With so many families attending both the matinee and night concert it is imperative that we adhere to the road rules and parking regulations. As a school who values all members of our community, please carefully consider the way you will travel to the concert. Parking options include utilising the shop car park, the overflow car park, Shannon Circuit, walking to the event, riding your bike or carpooling with others. By working together we can enjoy this event and celebrate our wonderful learning community.

Jantiena.

Looking for something to do? Here is a list of just a few of the things going on in and around Canberra.

HMAS Harman Christmas Party: The annual Christmas Party for all Defence families living in the Canberra region will be held on Friday 1 December from 5.00 – 9.00 pm. Tickets can be purchased in person at the *Harman* command building, Building 150 HMAS *Harman* or via email to (harman.christmasparty@defence.gov.au.)

Duntroon Community Centre: The centre is located on the grounds of Royal Military College Duntroon and offers a diverse array of programs and activities, available to tri-military and civilian families. A family membership costs \$27.50 per calendar year, and provides access to a number of programs including some exciting Christmas themed events coming up including Gingerbread House Workshops and their Christmas Party on Friday 1 December. To find out more visit <http://duntrooncommunitycentre.org.au/> or contact the centre on 02 6265 9411 or admin@duntrooncommunitycentre.org.au

AMW Choir: Christmas Open Rehearsal **Save the Date** The AMW Choir Canberra and DCO are holding a Christmas Open Rehearsal on Thursday 7 December from 6:45 – 8:30 pm at the Duntroon Chapel. Bring your voices, children and Christmas cheer. We will provide song booklets and supper.

Questacon's Colour Exhibition Opening: Questacon's newest exhibition *Colour – see the world in a new light* highlights how we all experience colour differently and the power colour has on the choices we make every day! Questacon is open 9.00 am to 5.00 pm every day (Closed 25 December). Admission fees apply. For further information visit <https://www.questacon.edu.au/>

Sunset Cinema Gather your friends and family, sit back, relax and watch the stars at your new summer local. Open multiple nights each week in November and December at the Australian National Botanic Gardens, the season is packed with new release blockbusters, quirky comedies, award-winning features and cult classics. Screenings from 16 November to 23 December. For ticketing: <https://www.sunsetcinema.com.au/canberra>

Information taken from: DCO Canberra eNews: November 2017

Email dco.canberra@defence.gov.au Website <http://www.defence.gov.au/dco/>
Facebook Search Defence Community Organisation Twitter @DCO_AusDefence

Jackie Sampson – Defence School Transition Aide.

MARIBYRNONG VOLLEYBALL NEWS

On Sunday 19 November, students from the Maribyrnong Volleyball Team were invited to play at the AIS during the Canberra Heat's home round game against the Queensland Pirates. Much to the delight of the students, the Canberra Heat players got involved in the exhibition matches, held up the volleyball nets and cheered along with the spectators as their exhibition match was live streamed for the world to see!

Congratulations to the students who participated and we also wish the whole Maribyrnong Volleyball Team luck in the upcoming Junior Beach Volleyball Tournament which will be held on Sunday 10 December. The Junior Volleyball Trophy is up for grabs at this tournament and we're hoping to win it for the school.

Good luck Maribyrnong! Rachel Uren.



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VIEWING MYTHBUSTER

Myth # 8 Viewing is not impacted by context.

Context refers to the immediate situational, cultural and social aspects of an environment. Meaning is derived from the situational and sociocultural contexts in which a text is produced and read or viewed, as well as from the actual structural elements of the text itself.

John Callow (1999) reminds us that, “all visual texts are influenced by the cultures, values, ideologies and world views in which they are created and consumed.”

Producers and consumers of multimodal texts within these contexts each contribute to the meaning of the text through their personal experiences. Producers of visual texts will be affected by a range of influences, while the viewers of the same text will be subject to a whole range of other factors. Meaning is constructed on both sides. Ultimately, meaning is co-constructed; it is a ‘coming together’ of the ideas and influences of the producer of the text with the influences and knowledge of the viewer. This may result in quite different responses to texts.

It is important that teachers provide students with opportunities to develop an understanding of how context affects the meaning of any text. Context can be considered at two levels: a broad sociocultural context and a more specific situational context.

The situational context is the immediate environment in which a text is constructed or viewed. The sociocultural context is one in which a person makes meaning of texts from their knowledge of the values, beliefs, experience and behaviours of a particular cultural group. Over time, cultural groups develop certain accepted ways and predictable structures for using language for particular purposes. Within a cultural group these ways of using language are easily recognised by all members. However, it must be realised that they are not static or singular in nature and will rarely occur in isolation.

We all bring baggage to any reading event, including viewing. This is why a group of learners can view a text and each person takes away a different understanding of what they have perceived. It is the situational and sociocultural contexts in play!



So.....this myth is BUSTED! Viewing is absolutely impacted by context. That is what makes viewing such a diverse learning experience!

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

KIDSMATTER UNPACKED

Neuroplasticity and the Brain

The mental health and wellbeing of our students is a significant consideration to our work as educators. Just like parents and caregivers, we are acutely aware of the accelerated pace of activity that consumes us in contemporary society. Somewhat dependent on technology, we schedule appointments, dates and activities into our 24/7 schedule. With limitless access to social media, email and text messaging, it is easy to see how a full and happy life, can quickly become a frenetic race against the clock, leaving us drained and fatigued.

There are noticeable effects on the brain development of a child who lives an over-stimulated life, and this is becoming increasingly evident in many schools today. Children who struggle to calm themselves down, wait their turn, sustain their attention, follow basic rules and self-manage, can benefit significantly from a few minor adjustments. Consistent expectations and routines that provide children with the opportunity to be less impulsive and more mindful, supports them to develop self-regulation: a well-researched area of modern psychology.

Self-regulation is the ability to control spontaneous reactions on one’s own. Good self-regulation can minimise the occurrence of emotional outbursts, anxiety, distractions and aggression. Clinical psychologist and former teacher Dr Judith Locke says that parents, caregivers and teachers can help children regulate their feelings and behaviours by having steady expectations of age-appropriate, responsible behaviour using rules and consequences.

Perhaps you are thinking that the described behaviours are already in place so it is too late to change your approach. The good news is, the human brain is an astoundingly fertile organ that can experience rapid renewal in a very short period of time. When a child thinks in a certain way or feels a particular emotion, a neural pathway is built in the brain. When this path is regularly travelled, it is strengthened and it becomes a habit. If we think about something differently, learn a new task or choose an altered emotion, we build a new road. Our brains begin to use this pathway and when it is regularly travelled, eventually this new way of thinking, feeling or doing becomes second nature. This process of rewiring our brains by forming new connections and weakening old ones is called neuroplasticity. We all have the ability to learn and change our thinking and reactions by rewiring our brains. Children do this particularly well, especially when adults are consistent with their expectations and follow-up.

Put simply the brain can learn new ways of learning by letting go of old ineffective learning. You can teach an old dog new tricks!



What would you like to know about KidsMatter or BOUNCE BACK? Send your questions to Jantiena.batt@ed.act.edu.au and it will be answered in the next KidsMatter Update.

Lights on Learning!

Focusing on Galapagos Islands - 3/4

It has been a terrific start to term 4 for the Galapagos Islands. Students have participated in Tennis Clinics and working with their preschool and kindergarten buddies.



In Literacy, students have been focusing on how to write an information report. They have chosen a topic to research and have written an information report in groups and independently using the Chrome books.

In number, students have been learning about fractions of collections and objects as well as how to calculate change to five cents. In shape, space and measurement, students have been investigating angles, symmetry and 3D shapes. To explore these topics further, they are planning and creating a geometric city.



Our inquiry unit this term was 'If only one person makes a rule, is it fair?' Students explored the types of rules and the purpose of rules within the school and broader community. They were able to recognise the relationship between rights and responsibilities. They participated in drama activities to demonstrate their knowledge of the impact of rules not being followed.

Rehearsals for the end of year concert are in full swing. The level of effort students have been applying has been amazing and will be evident at their performance. The following clothing is needed:

3/4KA: Girls require long black tights.

3/4MA: 'Golden Ticket' group long black pants.

3ND: Long black pants.

3TM: Denim shorts, skirts, overalls or jeans.



Michelle, Kylie, Justine, Naomi and Tanya.

Lights on Learning!

Focusing on the Library!

BRING BACK BOOKS



Yes, it is that time of the year again. The Great School Library Book Hunt has begun! Please have a good look at home and return any school library books. Regular Library borrowing has ceased for the year and all books are due back by **tomorrow**. If your child has lost their Library book please come and see me so we can discuss replacement options.

A couple of interesting statistics for you: this year we have received **1669** new books into the Library and there have been **8855** loans.

Once again this year, all students at the school completed the Chief Minister's Reading Challenge. Ms Howard and I attended the award ceremony on Wednesday with three of our year six students who received our prize.

As the year draws to a close I would like to thank all the parents who spent time helping in Library this year, especially those who braved the world of contacting books. I would also like to thank Ana Stokic who organises the Scholastic Bookclub for the school.



Summer Reading

TOP 5 REASONS WHY BOOKS MAKE GREAT GIFTS

1. NO SMALL PIECES.
2. They do not require assembly or batteries.
3. They are educational and promote literacy!
4. Easy to wrap and mail!
5. They don't go out of style!

Summer holiday borrowing was a great success last year, so we will continue the program this year. If your child is definitely returning to Maribyrnong Primary next year they may borrow books for the holidays in week 10. I would ask that Library books don't go away on holidays though. There is nothing worse than realising you have to tell Ms Pownall that you have left your school library book on a train, in a hotel, at the beach or that it was damaged because it went swimming in the pool.

Students in year five this year may borrow from the year six only section for the summer holidays with a letter of permission from a parent or carer.

Brigten your mind this summer!
Keilly.



P&C GIVE AN HOUR OF POWER



First of all a huge thank you to all the friends and families who came along and gave an hour to Maribyrnong at our Twilight Fair! What an amazing community evening. We are so grateful to each and every person who came along to help set up, work on a stall and clean up at the end of the night. The Twilight Fair continues to be one of the highlight events on our school calendar and planning for next year is already underway!

Our next P&C meeting will be held here at school on Thursday 30 November starting at 7.00pm. This will be the last P&C meeting for this year. This might be a great opportunity to come along and see what happens at a meeting, meet some new people and share your ideas for the shape that the Twilight Fair might take next year.



Our P & C will also have a few positions vacant for 2018. All members of our school community are encouraged to come along and take a look at what happens at P&C. If you know anyone who might be interested in taking on a role, then please encourage them to come along, ask questions and get a feel for what might be involved. In addition, the current members of the committee are listed on the school website and I'm sure would be happy to discuss what their job is all about: www.maribyrnongps.act.edu.au/ourcommunity/pandc

There are also a number of non-committee roles for people to fill, particularly coordinating various P&C events. Your interest in those positions and any thoughts on P&C events is encouraged and welcomed. We have had a couple of great suggestions over the course of this 2017 (eg. Clothes Swish Night, Family Board Game evening), that we are hoping might get up and running in 2018. The P&C play such an instrumental role in our community. Each event and activity undertaken by the P&C supports our school. Perhaps this could be your "Hour of Power".

NOTES TO COMPLETE

- 5/6 Day Out excursion \$25.00 on Tuesday 12 December
- 5/6 UCHSK day Monday 27 November
- Expression of Interest – **year 5/6 in 2018** Borambola Camp.
- Expression of Interest – **year 4 in 2018** Wombaroo Camp

NOTIFICATION

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

For more information and to access the fact sheet – Head Lice, visit:

<http://www.health.act.gov.au>

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

P&C NEWS - UNIFORMS

The Preloved uniform shop is open every Wednesday morning from 8.30am.



We are in need of more 2nd hand uniforms to sell and are accepting all preloved, washed, re-sellable uniforms. If anyone has any coat hangers they'd like to get rid of, we would happily accept them also.

New bucket hats can be purchased through the canteen. Liz Moyle.



MARIBYRNONG UNIFORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT WORKIN'GEAR SCHOOLS
(Please note the change of name)

2 Luke Street, Holt ACT 2615
Phone: (02) 6255 1029

Open 8.30 am to 5.00 pm Monday-Friday and
9.00 am to 4.00 pm Saturday.

<http://workingearschools.com.au/uniforms/>

POSSUM CAFÉ NEWS

Week 8	29-November	30-November	1-December
Volunteers:		Maryanne Jing	Beth
Week 9	6-December	7-December	8-December
Volunteers:		Jing	Jane Beth

On Friday 15 December, the Canteen will be closed for end of year clean down – Volunteers are welcome to come along – Lunch will be provided.

Thank you to everyone who donated a slow cooker, rice cooker (or both), for the twilight fair. The cookers are ready for collection and can be collected Monday morning at drop off, or Wednesday, Thursday or Friday during Canteen hours. Thanks again!

If you would like to volunteer in the Canteen, please feel free to either let Rouvaye or Zoe know, we are currently looking for a volunteer for Wednesdays (maribyrnongprimarycanteen@gmail.com) – or alternatively you can sign in and the front desk and pop in for a while on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday between 9.00 am and 2.00 pm. All help is most welcome and valued.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Chief Minister's Canberra Gold Awards

Have you or someone you know lived in Canberra for fifty years or more? What about an organisation or community group that has been contributing to our city for fifty years or more? Then consider nominating them for the Chief Minister's Canberra Gold Awards. Nominations can be made online at www.act.gov.au/cbrgold

Canberra Citizen of the Year Award

Nominate an inspiring member of our community for the 2018 Canberra Citizen of the Year Award. The Canberra Citizen of the Year is someone who makes an outstanding contribution to our community without expectation of remuneration or reward. They act for the good of our city and its people and are an active member of our community. Nominations can be made online at www.act.gov.au/cbrcitizen

FOR SALE

Dear Maribyrnong Campers

Starting February next year we, the Engler family (Lena-Maria, Aaron, Sibylle and Mark), will be heading off on a 3 month road trip across Australia to see as much of Australia as we can before returning to Switzerland in May. As we can't take our beloved campertrailer with us, we will be selling it before we leave – including all the equipment you need to just get up and go. We'd love to sell it to a Maribyrnong family. So if you think you could be interested contact us in person, phone 0491113159 or email mark_engler@yahoo.com
Have a great summer break!



WE NOW WELCOME 2018

BOOK PACK AND VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION PAYMENTS.

Number of Children at School	BOOK PACK	School Based Consumables	Library Trust Fund (Tax Deductible)	Total Contribution (Fee Code VCBP18)
1	\$50.00	\$67.00	\$83.00	\$200.00
2	\$100.00	\$83.00	\$117.00	\$300.00
3	\$150.00	\$100.00	\$150.00	\$400.00
4	\$200.00	\$117.00	\$183.00	\$500.00

Book Packs for 2018 are \$50.00 per child from preschool to year 6 (the school matches your contribution dollar for dollar).

Payments can be made by cash, Eftpos, internet banking (BSB 032 777 Account 001615) and via our website using Quickweb <http://www.maribyrnongps.act.edu.au/payment>

WEEK 10 EVENTS

**MONDAY 11
DECEMBER**



School Concert K-6
12.00 pm and
repeat
performance at
6.00 pm

**TUESDAY 12
DECEMBER**



Year 5/6 Day Out:
Fun day at IPlay and
Hoyts Cinema
Westfield
Belconnen.

**WEDNESDAY 13
DECEMBER**



Year 6 Dinner and
Disco Celebration.
Years 3 to 5 are
welcome to attend
the disco.

**THURSDAY 14
DECEMBER**



Regular school
day ☺
Last canteen day
for 2017.

**FRIDAY 15
DECEMBER**



Year 6
Graduation
Assembly
at 9.15 am.
School ends at
3.00 pm.

Save the Date!

'A Maribyrnong Family Album'

School concert 2017
Monday 11 December
12pm & 6pm
K-6

COMMUNITY NEWS

ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Advisory Group Call for Expressions of Interest – Parent/Caregiver members

Call for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander parents/caregivers to join the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Advisory Group. This is an opportunity to represent your community, provide advice and learn more about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education in the ACT and nationally.

Expressions of Interest close 30 November 2017. For a copy of the application or more information, please call Patrick Chapman on 6205 0156 or email Patrick.Chapman@act.gov.au.

Members of the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community are invited to submit an Expression of Interest to join the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Advisory Group (the Group) as parent/caregiver members. There are currently four positions vacant, representing each ACT school network (South/Weston, North/Gungahlin, Belconnen and Tuggeranong).

This is an opportunity to represent your community, provide advice and learn more about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education. Successful applicants will join representatives from ACT higher education institutions, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and a representative of the ACT Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Education Directorate Staff Network.

The Group will meet four times per year and provide advice to the ACT Government on education matters that affect Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander students, parents and communities.

15 - 19 JANUARY

SWISH TECH WEEK

ORANA SCHOOL

WWW.SWISHTECH.COM.AU



Didn't get a copy of the Holiday Happenings booklet? Download the App

<https://www.holidayhappenings.com.au/>

