



POSSUM PRESS

NEWS FROM JANTIENA

Wow what a change in weather we have had over the past week! While it has been hard to get moving of a morning thankfully the sun's presence is warmly felt throughout the day.

Trivia Night

The P&C Annual Trivia Night was a great success. Tricky questions were pondered, challenges were posed and many laughs were shared. It was a fantastic way to join together and raise funds for our school. Huge thanks to the organising team of Jackie, Rebecca, Jeanette and Ladina and of course our amazing hosts John and Chantal. We appreciate your hard work in making this event such a success. I know this team is already making plans for next year so make sure you keep an eye out for the 2015 date!

Book Week

Next week is Book Week and the children are very excited! In library lessons they been crafting a range of artistic responses to books. These responses show three levels of meaning, what is **here** on the page (literal understanding), what is **hidden** (inferential understanding) and what resonates with our **heart** (evaluative understanding). The learning experiences Keilly designs for our students allows connections to be made across learning areas. This is the way all educators approach curriculum at Maribyrnong Primary.

A culminating celebration of Book Week is the assembly that incorporates the Book Character Parade. This is a great opportunity for our students to embrace a favourite character and dress up as them for the day. The costume does not need to be elaborate or costly. Using recycled materials or old clothes is a great starting point. Once again the educators are planning a special performance for assembly...I wonder what book it will be based on this year? Don't forget that the Book Fair is also running next week from Tuesday to Friday, before and after school. It is a great time to do some Christmas shopping, stock up on some favourites and perhaps even donate a book to the school. At Maribyrnong we LOVE books and LOVE to read!

ACARA Work Samples

In 2012 Maribyrnong was recognised as a Lead School in the Australian Curriculum: English. This required educators to write units of work, design assessment tasks and collect a range of student samples to be sent to Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA). Over the past two years we have continued to provide work samples including recorded speeches and discussions, book reflections, posters and many other quality products. Last week we were excited to be notified that many of our samples are now shared on the Australian Curriculum website in the student portfolios section. While these samples are de-identified to adhere to privacy regulations, we are very proud of the work our teachers and students engage in each day especially when recognised at a national level.

Making Learning Visible

As part of our school priority of making learning visible, all teachers are using learning intentions and success criteria. A learning intention makes the purpose or intent of the lesson clear to students. Learning intentions can be focussed on knowledge or a skill and can be long term or short term. So when you ask your child "What did you learn today?" and their response may not give you the information you are seeking, rephrase the question and ask "What was the learning intention in maths today?" You may be surprised by the answer!



Thursday 7 August, Term 3 Week 3



ACT
Government
Education and Training

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Wednesday to Friday Ph: 6241 5974
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Communities@Work

Breakfast Club and After School Care
0400462086.

Westpac School Bank Account

BSB 032 777
Account 001615
EFTPOS is available with a \$10 minimum.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

AUGUST

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 7 | 6.00 pm Board & 7.00 pm P&C |
| 11-15 | Book Week |
| 12-15 | Book Fair in Library |
| 14 | PSSA Belconnen Athletics Carnival |
| 15 | Book Week Assembly at the special time of 9.15 am
P&C Canteen- B2 snack |
| 18-22 | Science Week |
| 18 | Science Fair Viewing 3.00 pm to 5.00 pm |
| 26 | Birrigai Excursion 4/5 and 5/6 |
| 29 | Assembly 2.15 pm- 1/2 unit item |

Inclusion Protocol

Last newsletter we sent home a brief (two question) survey seeking your input as we update our Inclusion Protocol. Thank you to the families who have already responded. We value your feedback and the time it takes to complete these surveys. I was asked by a parent what definition of inclusion we are using when reviewing this protocol. The simple answer is we are guided by the Education and Training Directorate's (ETD) Policy, Students with a Disability: Meeting their Educational Needs (2008) and current research that is happening in this field. In the ETD policy inclusivity is defined through this statement: *"In education this means including every student in the educational programs offered by the school. It involves personalising the learning program for each student by valuing their uniqueness - their interests, experiences, abilities, prior learning, insights, needs, cultural and ethnic backgrounds, and learning styles."* The principle of inclusion encompasses diversity and excellence. At Maribyrnong we have created and nurtured an environment where all individuals and groups feel welcomed, respected, supported and valued. The role of the Inclusion Protocol is to capture how this is done and explain why we endorse this approach. In simple terms we hope to show the **how** and explain the **why**.

Individual Learning Plan (ILP) Reviews

Teachers have enjoyed meeting with families to review the Individual Learning Plans (ILP) for students with additional needs. This is a great opportunity to evaluate progress against both short term and long term goals and negotiate new areas of focus for the rest of the year. We value the formal review process and enjoy hearing about the successes experienced by our students over a range of learning areas and developmental domains.

Hats On

Please remember that from the first of August we are 'Hats On!'. Students will be reminded that they must wear their hats at B1, B2 and when outside for PE or other outdoor learning experiences. If students do not have a hat they will need to play in the shade of the library awning. All students know the rule 'No Hat, Play in the Shade'.

Time to Talk - your thoughts about partnerships between families and schools

Parent engagement in learning and education is all about how families and schools talk to each other, how to bring together learning at home and learning at school, and how families and schools can work together to help our children be the best they can be. There is very strong evidence that children do better and learn more when families and schools work together as partners.

The ACT Government has partnered with the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY) to research parent engagement in the ACT and develop a strategy to strengthen parent engagement into the future. An important aspect of this research is talking with families about what parent engagement means to them. ARACY would like to hear from parents about what they think makes for a good partnership with their child's school and the things they do to help their children learn. ARACY has developed a short online survey to gather parental views, beliefs and understandings about parental engagement in schools. The survey will be available on the ACT Government Time to Talk website from 21 July 2014 to 26 September 2014. www.timetotalk.act.gov.au

Have a wonderful week!
Jantiena.

WRITING MYTHBUSTER

Myth # 2 It is easy to come up with ideas when writing.

Writing can be a complicated task as your child must be able to juggle multiple demands such as generating an idea, transcribing the information so that it is logical and makes sense, and checking that their spelling and punctuation is sufficient enough to relay their message to the reader.

Children learn at a young age that what is **said** can be **written down** and what has been **written down** can be **read** by others. This is the link between oral language and the written word.

Getting started by coming up with an idea is the first step. Often this is called brainstorming or planning. The best way to support your child to do this is to ensure they know why they are writing (purpose) and for whom (audience). Once this is clear in their mind planning their writing is much easier.

If your child is reluctant to write it may be that they are struggling with generating an idea due to:

- Lacking relevant prior experience of knowledge of the topic (e.g. They are writing about visiting a farm but have never actually seen or been to a farm).
- Not recognising that prior experiences are relevant (e.g. They may not have been to a farm but they did see the animals at the Canberra Show).
- Being unable to express relevant thoughts and ideas coherently (e.g. There are too many ideas in their mind and they aren't linked or organised).
- Having a limited vocabulary for expressing thoughts and ideas (e.g. They can't think of the best way to describe the sound a chicken makes).

Supporting your child to generate ideas could involve:

- Selecting topics that are of personal interest to your child.
- Encouraging your child to listen and use other ideas from other family members.
- Using literature and other forms of media as thought starters: "Write a different ending to this story, movie song."
- Talking about the words they may use and writing them down for them.
- Asking your child to draw a picture of what will happen in their writing first.
- Reading, reading, reading to your child and with your child.



So.....this myth is busted! Generating ideas for writing can take time but with support the writing process flows!

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

AROUND THE GROUNDS: MULTI-AGE LEARNING AND TEACHING

Across Australia, there are many schools that have mixed-age classes. That is, the deliberate mixing of children from various age groups of more than one year in the one class. At Maribyrnong, we deliberately use principles of multi-age groupings across the school ie. year 3/4 or year 1/2.

So why do we structure our classes like this?

Research says that there are real benefits to student learning, these include:

- educators concentrating on what children can do, rather than what they can't do
- the encouragement of risk taking and trying new experiences in order to build student confidence
- the minimisation of competition in the classroom as students are always ready to "have a go"
- increased focus on problem solving and creative thinking where students express themselves in a variety of ways
- freedom of choice and exploration of many ideas
- encouragement to work and play together, building cooperative learning skills and good citizenship.

So what does learning look like in a multi-age classroom?

Students, teachers and parents and carers working in partnership to provide learning experiences focused on:

- building cooperative learning skills such as sharing, listening, negotiating and resolving conflict in social situations
- exploring learning experiences in a range of groupings such as pairs, small group and the whole class
- learning with others at times who have similar or different capabilities, needs and interests to deepen and extend understanding considering their roles as members of a "community of learners" where risk taking, making choices, making mistakes and challenging thinking are seen as important
- reflect on their sense of self as lifelong learners.

So what does teaching look like in a multi-age classroom?

Students, teachers and parents and carers working in partnership to:

- create links between the different levels of the curriculum
- focus on developing inquisitive learners who construct meanings implement authentic assessment practices which engage with children's diverse understandings and capabilities
- place an emphasis on how children learn and the types of learning environments that support and extend this learning
- investigate alternative teaching approaches and strategies through action research and professional learning as part of critical reflection on teaching practices
- actively facilitate children's learning by investigating diverse ways of knowing, thinking and doing
- work purposefully with children in selected groups or individually to scaffold their learning
- create learning experiences using explicit and varied techniques
- support the development of independent, lifelong learners.

So using multi-age classes has many benefits to maximising student learning, the physical learning environment at Maribyrnong is an enabler for this approach as it naturally lends itself to cooperative learning principles.

Research so far has failed to find any significant negatives about the use of multi-age groupings at school. Certainly class sizes remain relatively similar across the school and educators are still required to differentiate learning experiences to cater for the needs of all learners.

What is differentiation? We will leave that for next time!

Jen.

SCHOOL NEWS



We are lucky enough to have some wonderful parents and carers who listen to students read every day in the junior school. We would love to expand this band of happy volunteers! We are looking for more people to assist with our morning reading program (9.00 am - 10:30 am). If you are able to give an hour any weekday morning to support individual readers, please come and see Naomi (1/2ND), Sarah (KSB) or Anna. All volunteers will require a WWVP check.

COMMUNITIES @ WORK 2015

Before And After School Care.

Please enrol now for 2015 (current families must re-enrol) .

The enrolment form can be found at the website www.commsatwork.org Please note that numbers are capped and once filled, families will be placed on a waiting list for 2015.

NOTES SENT HOME

- ✓ Birrigai Excursion 4/5 and 5/6
Tuesday 26 August
- ✓ Canteen- Book Week B2 snack
- ✓ Preschool Bus Wash
- ✓ Inclusion Protocol review
- ✓ P&C Twilight Fair Book Stall & White Elephant collections.

COMMUNITY NEWS

New ACTION School Services Network from 1 September 2014. ACTION encourage all schools, parents and students to familiarise themselves with changes and new school service network routes, maps and start /finish times, available at <http://www.action.act.gov.au/> A dedicated schools information hotline has also been established to handle enquiries. Call [6205 5033](tel:62055033), Monday to Friday 8 am – 5 pm until Friday 12 September 2014.

'STORYLINE' IN TERM 3 AT MARIBYRNONG

This term all units at Maribyrnong Primary School are taking a creative approach to our inquiry unit learning. Students in class K to 6 will be learning through the 'Storyline' method. The principles of this learning are many yet simple; that learning is presented through the elements of a story. You will see all our learners being presented with a setting in which they create characters to learn through different events created by an educator. The scenario will be different for different year groups, for example a toy museum for Canberra, or a member of a town during the Gold Rush.

Why are we taking this approach? Primarily we acknowledge that one of the most important resources available to classroom teachers is the knowledge already contained in the heads of their students. Children's own ideas and prior experience provide the starting point for any learning. By creating a 'world' for the students to learn, we are giving their learning meaning. The 'Storyline' method also prompts students to think deeply, pose questions, and pursue 'big ideas' from many perspectives. It will allow students to show their understanding of essential Australian Curriculum concepts in their own ways.

We look forward to sharing the students' learning with you at our Learning Journey at the end of term. If you have any questions around the Storyline Method, please feel free to email me at anna.thorpe@ed.act.edu.au or go to www.storyline-scotland.com Anna.

EMERALD CITY (1/2)

The Emerald City has been buzzing over the last two weeks as students are creating their characters for our storyline inquiry unit. These characters will take us on a journey over the next term.

On Monday students were given the task to create an Australian landscape for our characters. They were given only a small part of the landscape to create using any medium they like. We can't wait to put this together. Please come in and check out our pit to see what we have created.

Thank you to all the parents and carers who came to help and support the children at the athletics carnival. It was a fun day.

We are very excited about Book Week coming up. Lots of discussion has been going on in our office and we can't wait to dress up. We look forward to seeing you at the assembly next Friday at 9.15 am.

Our assembly item is coming up in week 6. We have started to practice and the children are excited about performing at the assembly.

Thankyou to the parents who have volunteered their time in the morning to read with the children in the Emerald City. We would still love more helpers. If you can help please come and see us. Amanda, Naomi, Leeanne and Lucy.

OPALS (K)

We have had an interesting and informative fortnight in the kindergarten unit as we begin to learn about toys from the past and museums. We have investigated what museums look like and their purpose. We are beginning to set up our own toy museum. The children are very excited about being involved in this process.



In maths, we have been copying and creating patterns using shape and colour. The children have created some wonderful crayon patterns to display in our classroom.

Last week the children presented a wonderful singing performance at our school assembly. They chose three of their favourite songs we have been learning in pit time. Congratulations Opals!

Don't forget our Book Week Assembly next week. The children are encouraged to come dressed as their favourite character from a book.

It is also time to remember to pack a hat to bring to school. It's time to put our hats back on as we come to the end of winter.

Thankyou for your ongoing support, Symone, Sarah and Keilly.

DIAMONDS (3/4)

Students have been looking at a range of documentaries about life in Africa. We have looked at how Africans live in rural villages and compared that to life in Australia. Students have been surprised with how different life is for other children around the world.



Well done to all students who participated in the school's athletics carnival. It was fantastic to see students enjoying themselves and trying their best.

This term we have been looking at leaping in our PE activities. The students have learnt a game called 'fly'. Maybe your child could explain this game to you.

A reminder that Book Week is coming up! Come to school next Friday dressed as a favourite book character.

Science Fair projects are due in at the end of week 4, please hand them in to Mrs Carr.

A **BIG** reminder that hats are back on!! Please remember to send your child to school with a hat so they are protected from the sun. Kylie and Camille.

GARNETS (LSU)

It has been a very busy time of learning in our unit. We had so much fun at the athletics carnival in week 1. We tried all the different events and it made us feel so good to participate.

We are looking forward to a few exciting weeks ahead.

- ✓ Week 4 is Book Week and a reminder that the Book Week assembly is on Friday 15 August at 9.15 am.
- ✓ There is also a Canteen special snack to celebrate at B2 on that Friday.
- ✓ Science week is in week 5.



Have a great week,
Lee and Jacque.

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

Years 4, 5 and 6 have shown tremendous enthusiasm for the beginning of our inquiry unit on 'The Australian Gold Rush'. Last week the students studied gold, its properties and why it is so valuable. The students also learnt that besides the bling factor, gold is also used in medicine, technology like computers and electronics, that's because it's a great electrical conductor and it doesn't corrode. It even gets used for cake decorations. All students have been busy sewing their pouches for their gold license, and money and getting ready for the commencement of the gold game.



Congratulations to all students for their enthusiasm and participation in our athletics carnival on Friday 25 July. The weather was superb and the students and teachers had a great time.

Each classroom has voted for two new SRC representatives for semester 2. Congratulations to our winners:

4/5DP: Natalie and Cody

5/6BP: Erin H and Harry

5/6SD: Erin S and Peter.

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

RUBIES & SAPPHIRES (PRESCHOOL)

What a wonderful start to the term! The Rubies and the Sapphires have been busy learning through many new indoor and outdoor investigations. The children are thoroughly enjoying the new 'look' to the outdoor play area. The deck has now been used for shared fruit, quiet reading time, singing and dancing, and art and craft, just to name a few things.

The children have been very interested in learning about farms and are asking many questions about farms. We learnt why chooks are often housed in a yard with a chicken wire fence and what we use wool for. We have also been teaching the children how we can find answers to our questions, and one way is to ask our friends. Encouraging children to ask their friends' questions is a fantastic way for them to learn how to communicate effectively and be an attentive listener.

Don't forget to return your bus wash excursion form so you don't miss out on a fun time! The Rubies are going on 26 August and the Sapphires on 22 August.

Hope you are all keeping warm at this time of year!

Elsa, Sally, Kelly, Ni and Gaby.



MOONSTONES (LSUA)

The Moonstones have been working hard on our Ocean unit of work.

We have enjoyed educational documentaries about the creatures of the deep and have learnt lots of interesting facts. Our literacy focus books have been The Lighthouse Keepers series. The class has thoroughly enjoyed making predictions about the stories and have created some colourful art collages and Aboriginal dot paintings.

Virginia and Nicola.

BOOK WEEK 11-15 August

BOOK WEEK IS ALMOST HERE!

Next week we will be having our annual Book Week celebration and Book Fair sale. The Book Fair will be open in the library on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings from 8.30 am – 8.55 am. It will be open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 3.00 pm – 4.00 pm and for a short time after the assembly on Friday morning. There will be a great variety of books available for purchase and every sale contributes to points for the purchase of library books.

The Book Week assembly will be on Friday morning starting at 9.15 am. Children can come dressed as their favourite book character, but dressing up is not compulsory. Many students have been talking to me about their character and book, and I must say I am extremely excited to see some of their creations.

Once again this year we have our colouring competition. One winner from each category will receive a \$10.00 gift voucher to spend at the Book Fair. Entries must be received by 9.00 am on Monday 11 August to be in the competition.

Keep on reading!
Keilly.

SCIENCE WEEK 18-22 August

The Maribyrnong **SCIENCE FAIR** is on in week 5. Your posters can be brought in to the school in week 4. The Science Fair viewing afternoon and People's Choice Award voting is on Monday 18 August from 3.00 pm to 5.00 pm.



we're taking part in the 2014
Kids Teaching Kids Program
to **Inspire Future Environmental Leaders**

To find out more about Kids Teaching Kids visit
www.kidsteachingkids.com.au

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POSSUM PANTRY-CANTEEN ROSTER

Week 4 Term 3	Wednesday 13 August	Thursday 14 August	Friday 15 August
9.15am-12.00noon	Laura		Terri Micheal
12.00noon-3.00pm	Laura		Terri
Week 5 Term 3	Wednesday 20 August	Thursday 21 August	Friday 22 August
9.15am-12.00noon	Laura		
12.00noon-3.00pm	Laura		

We currently need help on Thursdays and Fridays. If you are available to volunteer in the canteen on any of the shifts not yet covered, or if you would like to be included on the canteen roster please see Bec or Rouvaye 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.

P&C NEWS

Maribyrnong P&C School Trivia Night

A huge thank you to everyone who came along and supported the Maribyrnong School P&C Trivia Night. It was a freezing night but the competition was hot with the teachers table the victors of the competition...but only by a coin toss.



Results for the competition were:

Winners -

- 1st "The Fluffy Ducks" (teachers)
- 2nd "Onesie Warriors"

Mystery Prize -

- "The Barnyard Brains"
- 8th or 1st in reverse -**
- "The New Age Farmers"

Best dressed table -

"Onesie Warriors"

Best dressed woman -

Jeanette Krah

Best dressed man -

Scarecrow from "I Wish I Had a Brain".



We would also like to thank:

Vogue Constructions, National Gallery of Australia, Flip Out Trampoline Arena Sportsman's Warehouse, Canberra Labour Club Group, Grand Prix Karting Fyshwick, Kaleen Pizza and Takeaway, Caltex Service Station Kaleen, The Sports Club Kaleen, Kaleen BWS, Krah Family, Madden Family, Barilaro Family, Ladina Battin, Kirpson-Colley Family, Sampson Family and the Redpath Family for their generous donations and support.

Finally a huge thank you to John and Chantal Flemming who very generously donate their time and energy to run our School Trivia Night. You are amazing and we cannot thank you enough!