



# POSSUM PRESS

## NEWS FROM JEN

As our term nears its end, I would like to extend my thanks to the amazing educators at Maribyrnong. In term 3 we have seen great development in preschool social skills, incredible growth in kindergarten reading levels, improved maths results in year 1/2, great development in year 3/4 writing (focused on writing to entertain) and a very motivated senior school who have been thoroughly engaged learning about the gold rush from Australia's past. Each day our educators aim to provide students with new opportunities, more complex learning experiences, and leadership possibilities. I do hope to see you at our Learning Journey/Grandfriends Day on Monday to celebrate these, and many more, successes.

### ACT Public Education Excellence Awards – The results are in!

It was an absolute privilege to attend the Public Education Excellence Awards last Thursday night with our five nominees: Ni Ceely, Leslie Carr, Kathy Nash, Sarah Baird and Jacque Mengel. The Public Education Excellence Awards were introduced in 2010 to recognise and celebrate outstanding achievement in public education in the ACT. In 2014, A record 123 nominations were received. I would like to congratulate Sarah Baird who was one of three educators shortlisted nominees in the Early Childhood category, Kathy Nash who was one of three educator shortlisted in the Primary Teaching category and Jacque Mengel who was one of three educators shortlisted in the Education Support Category. This is such an outstanding achievement and I am incredibly grateful that we have such high calibre educators at Maribyrnong.



### Sustainable Infrastructure

Last year we had a number of solar panels installed on the roof over the hall. These solar panels are saving around \$7000 for the school over the course of a year. These funds are used to build sustainable infrastructure and enhance school programs which focus on sustainability and environmentally sound practice. As such, we have set up a sustainable team which identifies needs at the school and community level. The first priority set by the team is to build the outdoor learning space around the science centre; we anticipate this work will be completed over the next six months. An additional focus will be to source storage for a set of school bikes as we move towards a more environmentally friendly approach to transport. Our long term goal is to build an outdoor environmental centre complete with vegetable gardens, chickens and perhaps even some fruit plants. We welcome any feedback on our focus areas and look forward to sharing these enhancements to our school environment over the next 18 months.

Thursday 18 September, Term 3 Week 9



**ACT**  
Government

Education and Training

### CONTACTS:

#### Maribyrnong School

Ph: 62055933 Fax: 62055932

[www.maribyrnongps.act.edu.au](http://www.maribyrnongps.act.edu.au)

**FACEBOOK:** Maribyrnong  
Primary School-Kaleen



**Board Chair** Lauren Newman  
[laurennewman\\_13@yahoo.com.au](mailto:laurennewman_13@yahoo.com.au)

**P&C President** Noel Florian  
[maribyrnongpandc@gmail.com](mailto:maribyrnongpandc@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:

#### SEPTEMBER

- 18 Board 6.00 pm and P&C 7.00 pm
- 22 Grandfriends Day and Learning Journey, Assembly 9.15 am
- 23 Kindergarten excursion - National Museum of Australia
- 24 LSU excursion  
P&C Disco
- 26 Assembly 2.15 pm 4/5 and 5/6 item  
Last day of term 3

**First day of Term 4- Monday 13 October.**

## Partnership Group

Within the Belconnen Network, each school belongs to a smaller partnership group; Maribyrnong is part of the Kaleen group working with UC High School, Kaleen Primary and Giralang Primary. Our current area of focus is making learning visible in the classroom. Our partnership group executive meet twice a term to focus on current educational research and areas where we can work together to build the collective capacity of our group. We also have a subset of school executive who are working on developing 'I Can' Statements in English and Mathematics. The statements which have already been developed are currently used by our educators to support student understandings of where to next in their learning. Next term all educators across our partnership group will work together to explore current practices in visible learning. We will also be coordinating a professional learning day for all of our educators in the January stand down. We look forward to the team work ahead!



## Volunteers and Visitors Sign In

We have implemented a new volunteers and visitors sign in process at the front office. When you visit or volunteer at school, please make sure that you check carefully that you are signing into the correct folder. For those who hold a Working with Vulnerable People Card (WWVP), please make sure you have this card on you and that your number is recorded next to your signature. For volunteers and visitors without this card, you will need to sign into the non-registered folder. If you are a regular volunteer, that is volunteering more than 7 hours in a semester, you must have a WWVP card. If you exceed these hours you are in breach of the *Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Act 2011* which commenced on 8 November 2012. This also puts the school at risk of breaching the act and being fined. We certainly appreciate all of our volunteers and your support in this matter is appreciated to ensure we are keeping all of our students safe. If you have any questions around the registration process, you can call the Office of Regulatory Services on 6207 3000 or go online to <http://www.ors.act.gov.au>

## Twilight Fair

Our annual Twilight Fair is just around the corner, with Friday November 7 fast approaching. Our P&C welcomes donations for the book stall, craft stall and white elephant stall. Donations can be left outside the P&C store room (near Kowdinsky) or head to the front office. There are still a number of vacancies on the volunteer roster if you can spare an hour or two; we are particularly in need of volunteers to work on the face painting stall. Our P&C are working on advertising through a number of online noticeboards. If you have a noticeboard in your workplace and would like to share this event with colleagues, please contact Sharon Houston for a flyer or a copy of the advertisement which we are using. Sharon can be contacted via email on [Sharon.houston@education.gov.au](mailto:Sharon.houston@education.gov.au) We are looking forward to this great community event!

Thank you all for another wonderful term and I hope that you have a safe and happy break. I look forward to seeing you back on October 13.

Thank you for your ongoing support!  
Jenny.

## WRITING MYTHBUSTER

### Myth # 5 Handwriting is the same as writing.

We teach handwriting so that children are able to create legible and fluent print. Over time it becomes an automatic skill....after all when you are writing do you think about each letter you are forming? Of course not, the process for you has become automatic.

Writing on the other hand is about generating ideas, responding to your audience and writing in a purposeful way. Unlike handwriting, writing is **not** about developing automaticity. It is about an adventure you travel on with your audience and should not be routine (although writing should be part of your daily routine!)

Handwriting is a fine motor experience that will build your child's small muscle development. The best way to support your child in strengthening these muscles is by writing!

The following experiences will help your child to develop their fine motor skills:

- Drawing big sweeping circles on a page, over and over again
- Writing huge letters on paper (you can write over the top of each letter as you aren't focusing on conveying a message with handwriting!)
- Helping with jobs around the house ....get your child to fold up the laundry, roll pastry with a rolling pin, and pick up crumbs off the table!
- Ensuring your child does up their buttons, ties their shoelaces and zips their zippers!
- Playing games such as Kerplunk, Pick Up Sticks, Jacks or doing jigsaws together.

**Remember** handwriting is a small part of the writing process and while it has an important role to play it shouldn't be the sole focus of the time you write with your child.



**So.....this myth is busted! Handwriting is about putting words down on paper, while writing is the 'thinking' about the actual words.**

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)

## AROUND THE GROUNDS - BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT Part 2

### What happens if a student chooses an inappropriate behaviour?

Each classroom has 'The Book'. This Book is used to record inappropriate behaviour choices for each individual child. A student will be asked to write their name in the Book if they have chosen a behaviour inconsistent with the school and class rules. These behaviours are considered relatively 'low level' and could be interrupting the class, name calling, being rude, swearing etc. An educator always signs off that the student has written their name and behaviour choice in the Book. There is also a discussion between the educator and student about the behaviour choice and options are encouraged for a different course of action next time.

If a student writes their name in the Book three times in one day or five times in five days then an individual behaviour plan is negotiated. This process is bypassed in instances of violence where an individual plan is negotiated immediately.

If a Plan is required, then an educator and the student engage in the counselling process. The counselling process is a way of helping children to focus on what they want, on what they are doing to get what they want and on evaluating that behaviour. When negotiating the Plan with the student, the teacher acts as a facilitator by asking the following questions:

- What rules are you having problems keeping?
- What behaviour choices are you making which are resulting in you getting your name in the book?
- What can you do to change your behaviour choices so that you can keep these rules?
- How can I help you?

The plan is then completed and a copy is sent home to the child's parents or carers for signature. The plan lasts for three days and during this time each educator signs off at B1, B2 and at the end of the day to acknowledge that the student has chosen more appropriate behaviours. Throughout the three days, the student spends break times in the Reflections Room (R and R). Further counselling takes place which often requires modelled behaviour or acting out more appropriate responses to social situations.

If a student has had two Plans in a term and needs to be placed on a third, then he or she goes to the First Agreement, which lasts for five days. This is negotiated in the same manner as a Plan.

If the student breaks the First Agreement, then he or she goes to a Second Agreement, which lasts for five days. This is negotiated with the teacher, Principal and parents.

If the student breaks the Second Agreement, an in school or out of school suspension period will be negotiated with the parents. Re-entry to school is negotiated with another agreement, which is followed with further suspension if broken.

Direct link to read the school behaviour procedures in full:

[http://www.maribyrnongps.act.edu.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0010/282592/Maribyrnong\\_Primary\\_School\\_Behaviour\\_Management\\_Procedures\\_2014.pdf](http://www.maribyrnongps.act.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/282592/Maribyrnong_Primary_School_Behaviour_Management_Procedures_2014.pdf)



## 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.dorough@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
- leeanne.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

- 2015** 5/6 Camp Cooba- notes and deposit required
- Chess Lessons term 4
- P&C Possum Café news
- P&C Community family appeal
- P&C Halloween Disco
- Kindy excursion to the National Museum of Australia.

## RUBIES AND SAPPHIRES (PRESCHOOL)

We are nearing the end of another fantastic term at preschool! The last couple of weeks the preschoolers have been very interested in learning about bugs. And as it is now spring time, we have been finding many bugs in the outdoor learning environment! We have been busy learning about the lifecycle of caterpillars, how bees make honey and how ants are incredible strong insects!

Transitions to kindergarten will commence next term with more information to come. Next term will also see a preschool disco and combined morning tea. So much on the agenda already!! We hope you have a fabulous week and have a safe and restful break!

Elsa, Sally, Kelly, Ni and Gaby 😊

## OPALS (K)

This week we are busy preparing our unit for our school Learning Journey and Grandfriends Day. We have been setting up the Opals Toy Museum and the students are preparing for their roles as museum curators. You will have received an invitation with details for the day. There will be a whole school assembly at 9.15 am followed by classroom visits until 11.10 am. As part of their role as curators, the students have asked if they can wear jackets to distinguish them from museum guests. Please send your child with a jacket they can wear over their school uniform. We also ask that the children bring a **teddy bear** with them on Monday 22 September as part of our Learning Journey assembly item.



We look forward to seeing you all at Learning Journey so that your wonderful, creative children can share their learning with you.

Symone, Sarah and Keilly.

## EMERALD CITY (1/2)

It was so inspiring to see everyone's science entries for the Maribyrnong Science Fair and then the ACT Science Fair. We would like to congratulate all the students who participated and received awards.

This term students have been busy writing narratives. They focused on including orientation, build up, complication and resolutions. Stories are currently being edited and published.

Students are enjoying learning about the Asian country they moved to in their inquiry group. They have been learning about what the flag symbolises, the language spoken in their country and the geographical features of the landscape.



The Emerald City has been buzzing with preparation for Learning Journey and Grandfriend's Day. Students are very excited to be able to share their learning with special visitors. We look forward to seeing you on Monday in Asia (Emerald City).

Only one more week before holidays and sleep ins. We hope you enjoy your holidays.  
Amanda, Naomi, Lianne and Lucy.

## DIAMONDS (3/4)

This is our last newsletter for term 3, the year is going by so fast!

All students have been busy creating their country displays for Learning Journey! Everyone will be so amazed, the students have put in so much effort and have been very motivated.

We hope to see you at Learning Journey, where you will learn about Russia, Thailand, Africa, Iceland, Canada and Malaysia. Miss Apps and Miss Wise hope you are ready to learn LOTS of information!



Thank you to everyone who attended last week's assembly. The students did a fantastic job.

We hope you all have a safe holiday, and look forward to seeing you back at school in term 4.

Kylie and Camille.

## GARNETS (LSU)

Everyone in the LSU has been so busy participating in their inquiry units in their mainstream classes this term. They are all very excited to show off their knowledge and the work they have produced at Monday's Learning Journey. We've got a great mix of toys from kindergarten, information about Singapore in the 1/2's and endless knowledge about the Gold Fields from the 1850's in 4/5/6. We also encourage you to come along to the LSU and plant a sunflower seed with your child to take home and grow throughout the spring and summer. The whole school assembly will begin at 9:15 am and all the children will be participating in their mainstream units performance.

We have still loved our cooking experiences every Friday this term. Be sure to ask your child what they have made! Last week we had our first café trip, where everyone purchased a drink from their wallets. We then sat down together to practise our restaurant etiquette. We had a great time and everyone had lovely manners.

Next week we will be going to Floriade and having a sausage sizzle lunch to celebrate having a fantastic term! Please remember to send in your child's permission note and a car seat if it is required.

Have a great weekend!  
Lee and Jacque.

## MOONSTONES (LSUA)

The Moonstones have been busy rehearsing their play of **Beauty and The Beast** which they will be performing as a *Readers Theatre* during Learning Journey. We have also been furthering our research on Oceans and continents of the World.

The Moonstones are involved in daily writing and reading activities in our classroom. It is important for these skills to be learnt and practised in our structured, educationally supportive environment. Our mainstream classes have been doing an amazing job including us in activities which provide the least stressful environments to support our learning of social behaviours and communication. Thank you to all of our mainstream classes and educators.

We are all exceptionally excited about the progress of our outdoor learning area. It is looking fabulous and we are hoping to perform our play on the back deck next week.

A reminder to all our parents that Learning Journey is next Monday 22 September. The schedule will include going to the hall just after 9.00 am check in. We will need to check our students in and orientate them for the day. Parents may go straight to the hall. We will be in the hall between 9.00 am and 10.00 am, then back to the Moonstones classroom for our play and individual Learning Journeys. Students will have the opportunity to visit their mainstream classes to share some work.

Teaching and intervention for the Moonstones is in line with the following 'best practice' elements:

- intensity, timing and duration of intervention & inclusion should be based on individual needs
  - an autism specific curriculum content focusing on attention, compliance, imitation, language, and social skills
  - highly supportive teaching environments which deal with the need for predictability and routine, and with challenging behaviours, obsessions, and ritual behaviours.
- Virginia and Nicola.

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

### Trouble on the Goldfields!

On Thursday 11 September, prospectors in the Thunder Eggs unit were shocked by a villainous crime.

They returned from their lunch break to find Commissioners Deane, Baillie and Penfold tied up on the



Bathurst goldfields. The Commissioner's strong box had been emptied and the goldfields had been looted. This was presumably the work of notorious local bushranger, Ned Hall, who with his gang, have been responsible for several thefts in the area. Thankfully, the Commissioners were released unharmed (thanks to some kindly prospectors), however the contents of the strongbox (several hundred pounds) has not been recovered. This means that though prospectors can mine, they will not be able to assay their gold until additional funds have been received from the Bank of Melbourne. How will this affect their ability to pay for food and licences? Will they be able to survive this hardship?

We would also like to remind families that they are invited to visit our goldfield for an exciting learning journey experience on Monday 22 September. Hope to see you all there.

Many thanks,  
Commissioners Shane, Jane, Keilly, Elissa, Sarah and Justine.

## SRC NEWS

The SRC have had a busy term. We celebrated our achievements with a special morning tea a few weeks ago. This was an opportunity to receive SRC badges and talk about our future plans. Next term the SRC will be running a dress like an animal day to raise funds for the RSPCA so start thinking about your outfit.

We also had our annual Lolly Day last week and received an amazing amount of donations. Thank you! These lollies are used at the Twilight Fair to make mixed lolly bags. They are always popular and a good way to raise funds for our school.

Jantiena and the SRC.

## STUDENTS OF THE WEEK – Term 3 Week 8

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.

## COMMUNITY NEWS



Great job to Milo and Kale for their recent achievements at the ACT Mens Gymnastic Championships with Milo coming 1st overall in national Level 4 open and Kale 1st overall in national level 1.

### FOR SALE

One of our families are leaving to head overseas at the end of the term and have a Mitsubishi Outlander 2009 and Hyundai Getz 2006 for sale. For more information, please contact 0432894141.



## P&C NEWS

### TWILIGHT FAIR

Our annual P&C Twilight Fair is on Friday 7 November 4.00 pm - 8.00 pm.

Rosters for the Twilight Fair are now out, please see Clare Whittingham if you can volunteer your time on a stall especially if you would like to volunteer on the face painting stall, [madden\\_clare@hotmail.com](mailto:madden_clare@hotmail.com) or 0408 252736.

Items for the White Elephant and Book Stall can still be left in the hallway down from the front office. If you have larger items you wish to donate, contact Ben Houston on 0414229185.

### CANBERRA MODEL SHIPWRIGHTS

**SOCIETY - EXPO 2014 Exhibition of Model Ships on 20 -21 September at Mount Rogers Primary School. For further information call 62588399.**

### GUNGAHLIN LITTLE ATHLETICS

The 2014/15 season commences on Saturday 18 October 2014. For more information please go to our website at [www.gunlac.org.au](http://www.gunlac.org.au), visit our Facebook page, call 0420 325 505 or email [president@gunlac.org.au](mailto:president@gunlac.org.au)

## GRANDFRIENDS AND LEARNING JOURNEY MORNING TEA

Please join us on Monday 22 September as the P&C put on morning tea for the parents, carers and grandfriends in the hall for Learning Journey/Grandfriends Day.



## POSSUM PANTRY - CANTEEN ROSTER

Week 10 Term 3	Wednesday 24 September	Thursday 25 September	Friday 26 September
9.15am-12.00noon	Laura		Terri
			Micheal
12.00noon-3.00pm	Laura		Terri
Week 1 Term 4	Wednesday 15 October	Thursday 16 October	Friday 17 October
9.15am-12.00noon	Laura		Wendy (9.15-11.30am)
12.00noon-3.00pm	Laura		Sam (1-3pm)

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.



Walk or run the 3 or 6 km course around Lake Ginninderra on Sunday 2 November. Enter online or for extra information visit us at [www.hawkerc.act.edu.au/runandwalkorfun](http://www.hawkerc.act.edu.au/runandwalkorfun)

### COMMUNITIES @ WORK 2015

#### Before And After School Care

Enrol now for 2015 (current families must re-enrol) at the website [www.commsatwork.org](http://www.commsatwork.org) Numbers are capped and once filled, families will be placed on a waiting list for 2015.