



POSSUM PRESS

NEWS FROM JANTIENA

What a busy fortnight we have had! All classes are now in full swing with their differentiated groups across a range of learning areas. It is wonderful to hear our students talking about their learning, identifying the learning intentions of their lessons and self-assessing their own capability and confidence level. This is powerful learning and ensures that learning is visible to all!

Gifted and Talented Students in ACT Public Schools: Information Session

Families and members of the community are invited to attend an information session focusing on how ACT public schools and families can work in partnership to support gifted and talented students in ACT public schools.

This information session will take place at 5:30– 6:30 pm on Tuesday 8 April at the Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning, Fremantle Drive, Stirling ACT. Registration for this session is not required and tea, coffee, water and juice will be provided beforehand.

On Friday 28 February 2014 the Minister for Education and Training launched the Gifted and Talented Students Policy 2014. A copy of the policy is available at <http://www.det.act.gov.au>. At our school the Gifted and Talented Liaison Officer is Kathy Nash. Kathy brings a wealth of experience to this role and we are very lucky to have her as part of our team. At Maribyrnong Primary we ensure that appropriate strategies and provisions are made for all gifted and talented students. Educators work with families, students and community members to support the process of identifying and meeting the needs of all gifted and talented students and we are active in engaging families and the community throughout the process.

Enrolment Procedures

Enrolment procedures for ACT Schools for 2015 have changed.

- All enrolments need to be submitted **online**. If you or someone you know has difficulty in accessing a computer to enrol, then please see Leanne or Ros at the front office and they can organise a time for you to use a school computer to complete the enrolment process. If you need help with a translator, please let us know.
- All preschool enrolment requests are stored electronically and sent to the first choice school after 30 May. No decisions regarding placements are made until after the closing date.
- There will be a Parent Guide on the ETD website to help you with the process.
- Students living in our priority placement area will still have priority. Students with siblings at the school already will also have priority.
- Students living in NSW will have their placement allocated by the Office for Schools. They will send schools a list of applicants from NSW who have nominated a school as their first preference. NSW applicants will only be offered places if there is a vacancy at their nominated school.
- If you are already enrolled in Maribyrnong Preschool, you do not need to do anything; you already have a guaranteed place in our kindergarten classes in 2015.

Congratulations Lauren!

Huge thanks and congratulations to Lauren Newman who participated in the World's Greatest Shave on the weekend. Thank you to all those who sponsored and supported this worthy cause.



Thursday 20 March, Term 1 Week 7



ACT
Government

Education and Training

CONTACTS:

Maribyrnong School

Ph: 62055933 Fax: 62055932

www.maribyrnongps.act.edu.au



**FACEBOOK: Maribyrnong Primary School-
Kaleen**

Board Chair To be advised

P&C President Noel Florian
maribyrnongpandc@gmail.com

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:

MARCH

24 Christian Education in School-CEIS
27 P&C 7.00 pm
28 Assembly 2.15 pm-1/2 unit

APRIL

2 P&C Disco (week 9)
7-9 5/6 Camp Tathra
11 Assembly 2.15 pm **Easter Raffle**
Last day of term 1
12-27 SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
28 Term 2 starts



Curriculum at Maribyrnong Primary School

The Australian Curriculum sets out what all Australian states and territories have agreed that young people should be taught through specific curriculum content (K-10) and the learning expected at points in their schooling through achievement standards.

The Australian Curriculum provides a suggested scope and sequence for student learning each year. However, Maribyrnong Primary School is responsible for deciding how to organise the curriculum to maximise opportunities for students across learning areas. We use abstract foundational concepts to support our approach. Put simply our inquiry units are based on a concept, such as freedom, perception, family or connections, rather than on a learning area such as Science or Geography. This approach allows inquiry units to be developed that incorporate all learning areas in response to the concept. For example an inquiry unit on changes could pose questions about land uses in the environment (Geography), the changes in land uses (History) and how ecosystems adapt (Science). We are committed to this practice as we know that by making meaningful connections our learners are ably prepared for their future.

Cross Country

A huge thank you to the amazing team who organised our Cross Country event last Friday. The students were keen and fast! Best behaviour and positive attitudes were present at every turn. To our parent helpers we also extend our thanks. Events like these rely on the support of our school community and we are very fortunate at Maribyrnong to have a helpful and hardworking community. It would be remiss of me not to thank our educators who ensured our students were trained for the Cross Country – so thank you team!

P&C Meeting

Speaking of parents, we highly value the contribution of our P&C association. Parents and citizens are the life-blood of a school. In partnership, parents and educators combine their talents to engage children in the wonders of learning. You've all received a very cordial invitation to next Thursday's P&C meeting, where the AGM will continue. We are looking forward to filling the remaining positions so that we can start on a year of community events designed to enrich everyone's school experience. Remember, parent involvement is a strong indicator of student success.

National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

We're excited at Maribyrnong Primary School to be part of the dialogue surrounding the implementation of the NDIS in the ACT. The NDIS is a new way of funding individualised support for people with disability. It involves more choice and control and is a lifetime approach to a person's reasonable and necessary needs. The NDIS will begin in the ACT from July 2014. People will be gradually phased into the scheme over two years. The NDIS website www.ndis.gov.au is a valuable source of information on all aspects of the scheme. We're looking forward to bringing you more information in the coming months as it becomes available.

Jantiena

READING MYTHBUSTER

Myth # 3 Children need to learn 'sight words' before they can read effectively.

There are many words that occur repeatedly in texts. These are called high frequency words or sight words and include words such as *a, the, is, about, and look*. Being able to read these words automatically is beneficial to readers as it is the sight words that hold sentences together. The quicker they are learned, the quicker your child will be able to read complete sentences that make sense to their ears.....but these words must be learned in context.

Children learn these words by reading them over and over again while gaining 'reading mileage' (reading many books, many times). Practising sight words can be helpful as long as they are related back to a text so the child can see why they need to learn them. Using this approach allows their brain to **fire together** and **wire together**.

Think of the word 'love'. The first time a child reads the word 'love', they may struggle and have some difficulty. Gradually the child becomes more and more familiar with the word, and eventually is able to read the word without hesitation or conscious thought. At the end of this evolution, the word becomes one of that child's sight words.

Tips for Supporting your Child's Reading

- Encourage children's curiosity about language and their experimentation with it. Look at patterns in the book and then ask your child to think of all the words that rhyme with a word in the book or that start with the same letter as their name. Make it fun!
- Don't worry if your child has a favourite book that they like to read every day.....enjoy reading this with them. Each reading of the book allows them to delve deeper into the story.
- Read different materials. The cereal box can be great to read in the morning! You can discuss the different fonts and the choice of words on the packaging.
- Help your child start a home library; paperback books are fine. Encourage your child to swap books with friends. Check used book stores. Give books as gifts.



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

While knowing 'sight words' will support your child in their reading, it must be applied through reading. Isolated practice won't allow connections to be made in their learning.

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

RUBIES AND SAPPHIRES - PRESCHOOL

Over the term our aim has been to get to know our children and to help them get to know each other. It's been really great to see how this is starting to pay off. Most children are now able to name everyone in the class and there is an increasing sense of belonging to the preschool and to each other. This week we have continue to support the children to reflect on who they are, what they are like and how they share similarities and differences with other children in the class.

We would like to say a big thank you to all our parent volunteers who have been spending time with us at preschool. We really appreciate all your help.



Dates for your diaries:

- Tuesday 25 March - Possum Magic Morning Tea (Rubies)
- Thursday 27 March - Possum Magic Morning Tea (Sapphires)
- Monday 31 March - Constable Kenny Koala visit (Rubies)

We hope you have a fabulous week!
Elsa, Sally, Ni and Gaby ☺

EMERALD CITY (1/2)

This week we started practising for our assembly item which we will be performing in week 8. The children are very excited and we hope to see you there at 2.15 pm on Friday 28 March.

Last Friday the Emerald City took part in our school Cross Country. It was great to see everyone participate and we are so proud of everyone that ran the distance. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our parents who came in and helped during the Cross Country. We would also like to thank those parents who come in to help with guided reading and Daily 5. You are all invaluable to us.



During the last couple of weeks students have been learning about poetry and are currently writing their own sense poem. Students have chosen a topic and are writing about how it feels, looks, sounds, tastes and smells. Have a chat to your child about their poem and see if you can write one together.

Well done to the students that represented Maribyrnong Primary School and the Emerald City at the Belconnen Swimming Carnival, we are very proud of your effort.

Amanda, Naomi, Lucy and Leeanne.

OPALS (K)

We have had a very busy two weeks in the Opals unit! We are continuing to learn all about special places and homes and we have started to apply our knowledge to animal habitats. If you have a chance, come on in and see our trioramas – they are quite spectacular!

Well done to the children in our unit who have already read for 25 nights! Congratulations! Look out for a little award in your child's reader when they reach their target. We are very proud of the reading our students are doing at home and in the classroom. They are trying really hard.

Thank you for coming to cheer us on when we performed our assembly item last week. The students did a wonderful job.

We have started number groups in the middle session on Mondays and Tuesdays and the students are enjoying them. In our smaller groups we are able to target areas of need in maths and play lots of games and activities. Ask your child who their maths teacher is.

We are still looking for volunteers to assist with Daily 5 from 9.30 - 10.00 am Monday to Thursday. Thank you to those wonderful parents who are changing our readers. We really appreciate it!

Symone, Sarah, Keilly and Leeanne.

DIAMONDS (3/4)

Wow! We can't believe how quickly the term is going! We would like to congratulate all of our students for a tremendous effort at the school Cross Country last Friday. Everyone did their absolute best and we are both very proud of all of you.

We have been working hard in class on our inquiry unit this past fortnight and have been starting to look at human impact on the environment and its effects. In the coming weeks we will be looking at recycling and landfill and how we can make conscious choices to reduce our environmental footprint.



A big thank you to all of the students who brought back their homework books last week. We have been amazed at the standard of homework that we have been receiving. If your child is unable to complete their homework please make sure that they bring their book back so we can get it ready for the following fortnight.

Emma and Kylie.

GARNETS (LSU)

Wow we can't believe it's already week 7 and the year is just flying by! The students in the LSU have been busy learning how to use their online avatars to complete maths, spelling and reading tasks. Look out for their logins coming home so they can complete the tasks for homework!

Everyone has now started to integrate for lessons with their big classes across the whole school from kinder to the 5/6s. It's great to see them be successful at this, especially for subjects that are their strengths. We have so many great singers and dancers in our class 😊.

Don't forget our library day is Thursdays for those students that do LSU library. For those students that do it with their kinder class it's on Fridays and seniors are on Mondays or Wednesdays. Please remind students to finish reading their books and bring them in to be swapped.

We have cooking lessons in the unit on Fridays so if you would like to try and have less washing for the weekend you are welcome to send your child in with an apron to protect their uniform.



Have a wonderful weekend 😊
Lee and Jacque.

MOONSTONES (LSUA)

The Moonstones have been enjoying learning how to play tee-ball as a team. We have been practising our batting skills as well as the sequence of base running. Some of the hits have been huge!

We have begun our individualised BEE spelling programs which use our Brains, Eyes and Ears to explore phonics and word patterns. The Moonstones have also been using familiar literature (Fairytales) to increase their spoken and written vocabulary.

Our best practice model is taken from many different research bases and theories of learning for children with additional learning needs. This approach incorporates the physical, environment, scheduling /timetabling (Boardmaker), work system (top to bottom or left to right), predictable routines and a highly supportive visual environment.



Nicola, who was previously our Artist in Residence, will be leading three art activities every week!

Virginia and Nicola.

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

What a fantastic day we had last Friday at the Cross Country with wonderful weather and all students participating brilliantly. A huge thankyou to the parents who volunteered on the day, our carnivals would not be possible without your assistance.

The 5/6 shirts have arrived this week and the students look fantastic in them, they sure are hot property.

Students are beginning to wear jumpers in the morning due to cooler weather so can you please ensure that they are labelled with your child's name. A number of students in 4/5/6 are beginning to wear jumpers other than school uniform. As they are the leaders of the school it is imperative that they set the example to the younger students and dress in school uniform. Uniforms are sold at the school canteen on Monday mornings from 8.45 am to 9.30 am. Orders can be left at the canteen any time using the uniform order form. Second hand uniforms are available from the canteen each Monday between 8.45 am and 9.30 am.

This week we had a number of students represent Maribyrnong Primary at the Belconnen Zone Swimming carnival and we are pleased to say that all students were well behaved and were excellent representatives.

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

FRONT OFFICE NEWS

WESTPAC'S QUICKWEB PAYMENT SYSTEM

This is a new option for making payments through a link on our website. We have issued a letter with your **individual Family Key & Student Key(s)** needed for proceeding with payments through Wespac's Quickweb Payment System.

Please contact us if you did not receive this information. Each excursion and payment request notes will have the unique **Fee Code** needed to complete payments in this system.

<http://www.maribyrnongps.act.edu.au/payment>

Maribyrnong Primary School Management Account.
BSB 032 777 Account 001615

Voluntary Contributions for 2014 as set by our Board:

Number of Children at the school	Voluntary Contribution for 2014		
	Consumables	Library Fund (Tax Deductible)	Total
1	\$67.00	\$83.00	\$150.00
2	\$83.00	\$117.00	\$200.00
3	\$100.00	\$150.00	\$250.00
4	\$117.00	\$183.00	\$300.00

Book Packs for 2014 are \$40 per child from preschool to year 6.

WRITING CLUB NEWS

Writing Club is an optional activity that allows students to work on a project for a purpose. In Writing Club we write in many different ways as we craft our very own newspaper for the Maribyrnong community. We do a lot of writing in the 40 minute session!

This is a list of some of the writing that happened last year:

Interviewing teachers	Creating crosswords
Writing stories to entertain us	Crafting jokes
Designing word puzzles	Making puzzles
Creating logos	Designing ads

We also have a Pen Pal writing group made up of 12 girls who are writing to Girl Scout Troop in Manitowoc, Wisconsin, USA. This connection started last year and we are enjoying receiving letters in the snail mail. Thank you to Amy McGuire who made this connection for us! All students are welcome to attend Writing Club but once you join you must come until your writing piece is finished!

Jantiena.

SCIENCE NEWS

The new Science Centre is proving to be a great success with students quickly getting used to working in the new area. Moving all the science resources across from the main school building has been a challenge; a staff team effort got everything over to the Science Centre a few weeks ago and now I just need to find homes for it all in the new science store room. Meanwhile the walls are rapidly filling with student work and various projects and investigations are under way in the front room.

The senior classes (5/6SD, 5/6BP,4/5DP) are studying a unit of work called 'Desert Survivors' looking at animals and plants in the outback and working out how they are adapted to survive in such harsh conditions. The 3/4 classes are studying plants in a unit called 'Plants in Action' and are currently each propagating a broad bean and documenting its growth.

In the junior school the 1/2 classes are looking at the mini beasts found in backyards at home and school with a focus on the different habitats animals live in. The kindy classes are looking at a unit called 'Staying Alive' and working out what animals need to stay alive; whether it is themselves or the goldfish they are looking after.

The preschool students have been doing a variety of exciting science investigations aimed at developing their powers of observation and their ability to record what they have learned using drawings and diagrams.

Leslie Carr.

COMMUNITY NEWS

PARENT EFFECTIVENESS TRAINING (P.E.T)

Supported by Parentline ACT

Communication skills for peaceful parenting and resilient children, without the use of punishment or reward. Powerful, proven and practical. Yell less, laugh more. Building relationships that last a lifetime.

The course consists of three-hour sessions, once per week, for eight weeks. Booking is essential. \$290 pp for the course (investment includes a workbook and textbook).

Course begins: Thursday, 8th May, 2014; **Time:** 6.30 pm to 9.45 pm; **Place:** Weston, ACT. Enjoy with **Larissa**, Canberra's most experienced P.E.T. instructor.

0413 451 607 www.parentskills.com.au info@parentskills.com.au

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NOTES SENT HOME

- ✓ School car park letter from Jen Howard
- ✓ P&C Disco **WEEK 9** on Wednesday 2 April
- ✓ 5/6 T-shirt information for return of damaged shirts
- ✓ 5/6 T-shirt **RE-ORDER** form due Monday 31 March for additional orders.

P&C SCHOOL BANKING

School banking is now on Monday mornings in the library. Save money and collect cool rewards while helping the school at the same time!

Contact Jeanette Krah if you have any questions jeanettekrah@yahoo.com.au



STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

We do not publish students of the week photographs online. Please request a hard copy of this newsletter from the front office.

COMMUNITY NEWS

YMCA WOMENS AND GIRLS' FUN

Maribyrnong is once again entering a team in the YMCA Women and Girls' Fun Run/Walk on Sunday 6 April.

To enter, follow the link below:
<http://www.canberra.ymca.org.au/runnersclub/events/Pages/Women-and-Girls-Fun-Run.aspx>
 When prompted, please look for the team name '**Maribyrnong Primary**'.

If you have any questions or need assistance with your entry, please get in touch with Deb Livermore on 0425 163 161 or debintheact@gmail.com

SHAVE FOR A CURE



Lauren Newman, mum to Lily (year 3), Jacob (year 1) and little Daisy, participated in the World's Greatest Shave on Saturday 15 March.

She would like to thank:

- **Michael and the team at U&Co Cafe** for hosting the event
- **Jen & Maribyrnong PS and community** for their support
- **Sheryn O'Connor Hairdressing** for doing the shave
- **Martine & Ryan Cappello** for their generous dollar matching
- **Brooke Pearson Facepainting**
- **Hair by Jo**
- **SupaExpress Kaleen** for other Generous donations that made the day fun.

The total to date is \$8270.65 but you can still donate at

<http://my.leukaemiafoundation.org.au/laurennewman>

Well done Lauren and team!



POSSUM PANTRY-CANTEEN ROSTER

Week 8	Wednesday 26 March	Thursday 27 March	Friday 28 March
9.15am-12.00noon			Terri
			Micheal
12.00noon-3.00pm			Terri
			Micheal
Week 9	Wednesday 2 April	Thursday 3 April	Friday 4 April
9.15am-12.00noon			Rouvaye
12.00noon-3.00pm			Rouvaye

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 future canteen rosters please see Bec in the canteen or call her on 62415974 Wednesday to Friday. If you are unable to make a rostered shift please call Bec in the canteen &/or try to arrange someone to cover your shift. Thank you.