



POSSUM PRESS

NEWS FROM

Welcome back for the final term of the 2014 school year. I hope you were able to take some time to enjoy the many wonderful things on offer in Canberra and the surrounding area in the warmer weather during the break. Term 4 is shaping up to be another fun filled term with excursions, transition visits and concert rehearsals; I am sure your diaries are filling up quickly. We will endeavour to keep you as up to date as possible!

Portfolios

Thank you to all of the families who have returned their child's portfolio. If you have not already done so, please return all portfolios by Friday 24 October so our educators can prepare them for the end of the year.



World Teachers' Day – Friday 31 October

Friday October 5 marked World Teachers' Day, in Canberra celebrations will be held on October 31. This day marks the role teachers play in providing quality education at all levels. We also take the time to celebrate the contributions our teachers make towards enabling children and adults of all ages to learn to take part in and contribute to their local community and global society. On behalf of the School Leadership Team I would like to thank all teachers at Maribyrnong for the exceptional work they continue to do to maximise the learning outcomes for all of our students.

Twilight Fair

With less than 3 weeks to go, the excitement is building for our Twilight Fair on November 7. Please note there will not be an assembly on this day. Our P&C fundraising committee have worked tirelessly coordinating this event. There are many silent auction items available to bid on, items such as cakes and craft goods to purchase, and of course sideshow alley which our year 5/6 students and staff are running. This year there will be fun activities including laser tag and water balls (those giant inflatable balls that you climb into and then walk on water!) There will also be some special performances, and food, books and white elephant stall items for purchase. If you haven't signed up to volunteer on a stall it isn't too late. Please come to the front office and find a spot of time you can support our wonderful school. Please remember if you are a regular volunteer, you will need to register for a Working With Vulnerable People card with the Office of Regulatory Services. There will be a special sign in station next to the cake stand for all volunteers on the night. I look forward to seeing you all here for a great afternoon of fun!

PIPS Testing

Kindergarten end of year testing is coming up in the next two weeks. The students are tested individually in literacy and numeracy by the class teacher while another teacher takes the whole class. The PIPS report is separate from the school report and usually comes out later in term 4. The report identifies areas of growth and allows the teacher to see areas for future focus. If you have any questions about PIPS please contact your child's teacher or see Anna Thorpe.



Thursday 16 October, Term 4 Week 1



ACT
Government

Education and Training

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P&C President Noel Florian
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:

OCTOBER

- 21 Rubies- SRC Dress like an Animal Day
- 22 Preschool 2015 information night 5.30 - 6.30 pm in the Library.
- 24 SRC Dress like an Animal Day Assembly 2.15 pm - 3/4 item
- 30 Board 6.00 pm and P&C 7.00 pm

NOVEMBER

- 7 P&CTwilight Fair

For future dates, please look at the full calendar on our school website.

Class Formation

This term we will be working as a staff to plan our classes for 2015. A great deal of time and effort is involved in planning our classes each year. Staff have an in-depth knowledge of student combinations that enhance learning and they will use this knowledge to support the placement of students in classes for 2015. This information is combined with student strengths, personalities, friendships and student support requirements. Each year students complete a sociogram where they are asked to list four people they work well with for the following year. Students are placed into classes with at least one child from their list. We work closely with our preschool educators, Elsa, Sally, Ni and Gaby, to best plan for kindergarten placements as well. If you believe your child's placement needs special consideration please let me know in writing as soon as possible. This can be done via email, note or by making an appointment at the front office for a meeting time. By all requests coming to me, we are able to ensure appropriate considerations are made. Families will once more be informed mid-January through teacher introductory letters as to staffing arrangements and class placements for 2015.

Preschool to Kindergarten Orientation Program

Our formal orientation program for preschool starts on Wednesday 12 November. In this session the preschoolers come into the kindergarten classrooms and engage in lessons with students from both preschool groups. This is a great opportunity for them to meet new friends and have a 'taste' of kindy.

Of course our transition program actually starts in week one of term one where the students have formal science lessons with Mrs Carr and literacy lessons with Jantiena and Justine. This means that they know a few faces when they start kindy and that we get to know them!

Senior Camp 2015

In an effort to keep you informed of expenses which may impact your family budgeting over the next 6 months; a note was sent out last term with details about the 5/6 camp for 2015. Please contact the front office if you did not receive this information.

Jen.

Voluntary Contributions and Book Packs.

A note regarding the payment for 2015 book packs has been sent home today. A reminder also that it is not too late to pay your 2014 voluntary contribution if it had slipped your mind. Please talk to us in the office if you have any questions or wish to set up a payment plan.

Number of Children at the school	Voluntary Contribution		
	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

WRITING MYTHBUSTER

Myth # 6 Marking is the same as feedback

The marking of work is an important aspect of assessing a child's understanding in all learning areas. Marking often involves focusing on what a child is able to do and the areas they need further development in.

Feedback on the other hand can be written or verbal. It still focuses on what the child is able to do and where they need support but it also addresses the goals the child has been working on or the goal the class has set together. Goals are linked to the learning intention of the lesson and are reflected in the success criteria that is shared with students. Feedback may incorporate a written element but it is essential that there is a supportive conversation that happens as the marking occurs.

Teachers give students descriptive feedback so that they are able to have a window into quality writing. That is why when you look through your child's workbooks you will find some work that has marks on the page (and perhaps even a smiley face and a sticker) but other pages may have a comment or sticker that says "This work has been conferenced with the teacher." You may even see the goal of the lesson (the learning intention) highlighted in traffic light colours to indicate their success in achieving this goal. Feedback is often a conversation between your child and their teacher about the goals they have achieved and what they are still working on (the next step).

Remember that while we have high expectations for our students, this does not mean we expect perfection. Every mistake or misunderstanding is a learning opportunity. Feedback shares the 'why' and the 'how' with your child (and you too!). So when you are looking at your child's work remember to ask "what did you learn in doing this?"



So.....this myth is busted! Marking is an aspect of feedback but isn't an essential element for every piece of writing.....the learning is in the conversation!



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

School Uniform and School Colour Code

The topic of school uniforms and school colour code can be a complex one, with so many different views to take into consideration. At Maribyrnong, we encourage all of our students to wear school uniform or school colour code and we aim to support families as best we can to achieve this. Each ACT Public School, in conjunction with their School Board, is responsible for developing and implementing a School Dress Standard and Colour Code policy.

There are a number of policies and procedures which guide our practice, including:

- ACT ETD Dress Standards and Colour Codes in Public Schools 2010
http://www.det.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/120537/Dress_Standards_and_Colour_Codes_in_Public_Schools_2010_updated.pdf
- ACT ETD Sun Protection Policy 2006
http://www.det.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/19515/sunpro.pdf
- Maribyrnong UV Protection Procedures 2013
http://www.maribyrnongps.act.edu.au/principals_message/polices

Why do we prefer school uniforms and colour code?

We consider the following points important in regards to school uniform and colour code:

- Fulfilling our duty of care to ensure that sun protection is provided for students while they are on school premises during school hours or undertaking school activities. School uniform assists us to ensure students wear UV appropriate and protective clothing (i.e. sleeves and a collar).
- Reflecting school community standards in line with occupational health and safety, anti-discrimination and equal opportunity legislation.
- Wearing a uniform or colour code can be a badge of pride and assist students to develop a sense of belonging, ownership and responsibility for their peers, learning and physical environment. This approach to developing a sense of team is important if we are to support each other to learn.
- Reducing the potential impact of peer pressure at school. Having a school uniform or colour code means students don't have to worry about peer pressure when it comes to their clothes. There is less competition about being dressed in the latest trend, which could put financial pressure on families.
- Protecting our students' safety through the identification of visitors to the school which is made easier through the provision of school uniform and colour code.
- Easing the morning rush for families as the expectations regarding uniform and colour code is made clear.

What about student self-expression?

At Maribyrnong, developing creative, self confident, individual learners is important to us. We therefore provide opportunities through special dress up days such as the book week celebrations, non-uniform days and dress like a particular animal for a day. We also strive to provide a variety of experiences through our creative arts program including visual and performing arts.

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NOTES SENT HOME

- 2015 5/6 Camp Cooba**- notes and deposit required asap
- 2015 Book Packs** due 12 December
- 5/6 Twilight Fair note regarding sideshow alley
- 5/6 Personal development
- Scholastic Book club due Monday 27 October
- P&C Twilight Fair information
- P&C Mango fundraiser

Redgum Book Club brochures are at the office if you wish to collect one.

EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTION UNIT (ECIU)

It's party time.....

The Dolphins and Sapphires are enjoying being party planners. They created their own party invitations and party hats using a variety of materials and stamps. Home corner was transformed into a vibrant party room.



The best part of having a party is making party food. We all enjoyed making and eating fairy bread. It was delicious!

Georgia and Kelly ☺

OPALS (K)

Welcome back. It is going to be an exciting and busy term.

This term our unit of inquiry will focus on traditions and special events. We will look at how we commemorate special events and how traditions begin. This week we have looked at New Year celebrations around the world and we have created some wonderful firework artworks that are displayed in our pit. We have made some changes to our program this term. Our morning sessions will now include two rotations of our Daily Five program to focus on extending our reading and writing skills and strategies. Please let us know if you are able to volunteer your time to assist with this program.



This week we will be review patterning and finding out about different types of patterns. Maybe you can find some patterns around your home or create some of your own patterns together.

As the weather is getting warmer it is important all children have a broad brimmed hat with them every day. They need to wear a hat to play outside and to participate in daily fitness activities.

Thankyou
Symone, Keilly, and Sarah.

EMERALD CITY (1/2)

Students have started the term off as designers of bookshelves. As part of this term's technology unit students will design and make a bookshelf each to hold two chapter books. Please send in any newspaper or recycled printer paper as these are the only materials the bookshelves will be made out of.

This term will be busy with assembly practice, end of year concert rehearsals, reporting and Christmas mixed in with our daily learning. The Emerald City will be performing their last assembly item in week 8, leaving you plenty of time to get this in your diary.

Portfolios were sent out at the end of last term. Please return your child's portfolio if you haven't already done so.

We look forward to this last term as it is sure to be a busy time filled with fun festive learning.

Naomi, Leeanne, Lucy and Amanda.



DIAMONDS (3/4)

Wow! We can not believe that it is already term 4!! The year has gone by so fast. We hope everyone had a fantastic holiday, all students have come back to school enthusiastic and ready to learn!

This term for our inquiry unit we are learning about the Indigenous Dreamtime and the local Aboriginal language. We have found some interesting stories to share with the students, and have come up with some fun and exciting activities for the unit.

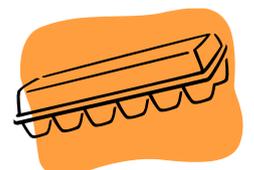
This week in art, the students have created a dot painting piece that centred around their hands. Students put in a lot of effort and the outcome is outstanding. We have some very creative students in this unit!

The 3/4 unit will be performing at assembly in week two, please come and watch our item.

It would be great if students could bring in any old shirts the family might have – these will be great to use as painting smocks. Please bring in an empty egg cartons that you have. These are very useful when using paint for art.

We are looking forward to having an amazing term four!

Kylie and Camille.



GARNETS (LSU)

We are so excited to start our term 4 adventure here in the LSU! We celebrated having a wonderful term 3 and welcomed Spring with a trip to Floriade in the last week of term before the holidays. Everyone had such a wonderful time and we even got to celebrate Kathleen's birthday at our BBQ picnic!

On Monday we enjoyed listening to everyone's news from the holidays. It seems a lot can happen in 2 weeks! Charlotte and Catherine brought in some exciting news which was 3 baby chicks they have as a new addition to their family. Thanks so much for sharing with us!

This term we will be participating in social skills with all the other kindergarten children every Tuesday. Make sure you ask us about it at home so we can share our knowledge.

Have a great weekend!
Lee and Jacque.

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

Welcome back to term four! It's hard to believe we are in the final term of the year, and what a busy one we have ahead of us. Twilight Fair, mini fete, concert and graduation are just a few of the events which are planned to take place. In regards to graduation, all year six students have been requested to bring in photos (baby, toddler, kindergarten and year 6) for the graduation slideshow presentation. They can be original photos which we will scan, or already saved on a thumb drive. We would appreciate if they were brought in by the end of week two.



We still have some students who have not returned their portfolio from term two. If your child's portfolio is still at home, it needs to be returned so we can continue filling them with work samples. They will be returned at the end of the year for you to keep.

Our Inquiry unit focus for this term is based on Indigenous perspectives. We are learning about the Stolen Generation through the use of picture books. It will be quite a powerful learning experience for students and one which we are looking forward to.

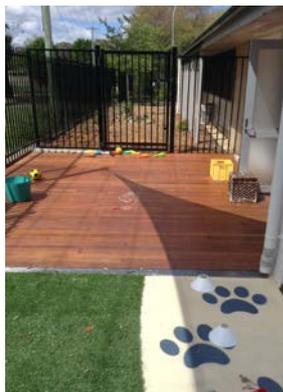
As always, please feel free to contact us at any time. We look forward to a busy and exciting term.
Shane, Jane, Keilly, Elissa, Sarah and Justine.

MOONSTONES (LSUA)

Welcome to term 4! We hope everyone has had a restful holiday break.

This term the moonstones are spiralling onto a unit of work about Natural Disasters, called 'Our Earth is Alive!'. This compliments our learning about oceans and seas last term. We have many budding scientists in our class who are looking forward to investigating earthquakes, volcanoes, landslides, storms, tornadoes cyclones, tsunamis and bushfires. Our unit of work is a vehicle for supporting our literacy and numeracy learnings, which are connected to each student's ILP.

We are extremely excited to be using our beautiful outdoor learning space. The plants, shade sail etc are a lovely extension to our classroom. Hooray for Spring!!! Nicola has been working on some outdoor Art decorations for this area. Watch this space!



Cheers
Virginia & Nicola.

SRC NEWS

Dress like an Animal Day to support the RSPCA

Each year the SRC representatives choose a charity to support and this year the RSPCA has been chosen through class voting sessions.

Students can dress up as any animal they like and, in return, bring in a gold coin donation for the RSPCA. Outfits must be appropriate and Sunsmart. Students must be able to wear a broad brimmed hat when outside as well. Outfits do not need to be elaborate. Ideas can include headbands, masks, tails or wearing an animal print. These suggestions use recycled materials such as old stockings, scraps of material and newspaper.

When: Friday 24 October (next Friday)

What: Bring in a gold coin donation and dress up like an animal

Many thanks,
The SRC.



STUDENTS OF THE WEEK – Term 3 Week 9

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



Garage Sale/Moving House Sale!

Saturday 18 October
8.00 am – 1.00 pm at Funder Street
Bruce.

8 homes have collaborated for a Garage Sale EXTRAVAGANZA!!! Quality homewares, clothing, baby goods, sporting gear and much more.

P&C NEWS

TWILIGHT FAIR

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



Twilight Fair Volunteers wanted

McMaribyrnongs Cafe (our school canteen) is one of our biggest stalls at the Twilight Fair. To have this stall run at it best, we need more volunteers to help run the cafe on the night, as well as helping with the preparation during the day of the Twilight Fair. If you could spare anytime (day or night) on Friday 7 November to help in the cafe, could you please contact Bec or Rouvaye in the Canteen or Bec on 0419513386.

Twilight Fair Stall Rosters

A note will be coming home next week to remind parents when they have volunteered and on what stall. If you have not volunteered and would still like to, please contact Clare Whittingham 0408 252736 or madden_clare@hotmail.com

Fantastic Five - Now available on Flexischools, these **can only be pre-purchased**. This will get you a drink and a BBQ sausage, fairy floss or popcorn, a lucky dip and one go on the Waterballs. For more information see the note sent home this week.

Raffle tickets due the morning of the Twilight Fair, Friday 7 November. More tickets are available at the front office.

Preschool and ECIU Tea Towel Fundraiser

The 2014 Preschool and ECIU tea towel fundraiser is underway, with drawings and other contributions by the Rubies, Sapphires, Dolphins and Starfish. The artwork will be brought together, and screen printed in black onto high quality white tea towels. The tea towels are a wonderful memento, and can be a meaningful gift for relatives and friends. The limited edition tea towels are **ONLY \$12.50 or SAVE by ordering 5 for \$60.00**. Complete your order form and return with payment to the school front office in an envelope clearly marked "TEA TOWEL ORDER" (payments can be made by cash, Flexischools, or cheque made payable to Maribyrnong P&C Association). For more information contact Liz Swann on 0410 485 883, or email lizswanschool@gmail.com.

POSSUM PANTRY - CANTEEN ROSTER

Week 2 Term 4	Wednesday 22 October	Thursday 23 October	Friday 24 October
9.15am-12.00noon	Laura		Terri
			Micheal
12.00noon-3.00pm	Laura		Terri
Week 3 Term 4	Wednesday 29 October	Thursday 30 October	Friday 31 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.

All over the counter food at the canteen is now Halal. For further information, please contact Bec or Rouvaye in the Canteen Wednesday to Fridays.

Schools Chess Challenge at Westfield Belconnen, Benjamin Way, Belconnen

Date: Sunday 2nd November, 2014

Time: 9.30am-3.15pm

Cost: \$15 per player

For more information call (02) 9745 1170 or email info@sydneyacademyofchess.com.au