

Marong Primary School Newsletter

Volume 30, Issue 38, 28th November, 2025

<https://www.marongps.vic.edu.au/>

	December		January
8th	Student Free Day	27th	Statewide Student Free Day (Teachers Return)
9th	Statewide Transition Day	28th	MPS Curriculum Day (Student Free)
11th	Grade 6 Graduation	29th	First Day of School for ALL GRADES
12th	Grade 6 Big Day Out	4th	Foundation Students Day Off (assessments begin)
19th	Last Day of Term 4	11th	Foundation Students Day Off (assessments continue)

RESPECT RESPONSIBILITY HONESTY

From the Principal

Acknowledgement of Country

*On behalf of the staff and students of Marong Primary School, we would like to acknowledge the Dja Dja Wurrung as the Traditional Custodians of the land that we are on and pay our respects to their Elders past and present. We are grateful to learn, play, and grow, surrounded by the **plants, animals & waterways** that the Djaara people have watched over and cared for, over thousands of years.*

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Statewide Transition Day

On Tuesday 9th December students in years Foundation to 5 will have their 'Step-Up to 2026' day as traditionally undertaken between 9:00 -11:00am. Students will return to their 2025 classes once the transition session has concluded. Our grade 6 students will spend the entire day at their respective 2026 secondary schools.

2026 Grade Structure

In 2026 Marong Primary School will again run 11 classrooms. Our predicted student enrolment numbers are 250 with 38 Foundation (Prep) students currently enrolled. Teachers will continue to finalise classroom student lists over the coming weeks in the lead up to the statewide transition day.

The following outlines the grade structure for the 2026 school year.

Foundation classrooms	2
Grade 1/ 2 classrooms	3
Grade 3/ 4 classrooms	3
Grade 5/ 6 classrooms	3

Reminders and Updates

Tuesday 27th January, 2026	Statewide Student Free Day (teachers return to school) Staff involved in professional development.
Wednesday 28th January 2026	Marong PS curriculum day – Student Free Day. Staff involved in professional development.
Thursday 29th January, 2026	School begins for all grades foundation to 6. 9:00am start.

2026 payments: Our 2026 curriculum, voluntary and extra-curricular payments for next year are all currently available for families. These payments are all the QKR app under accounts and can be paid at the office also.

Consent forms: Parent/ carers are also encouraged to return the consent forms for local excursions, media consent and ICT Acceptable use policy document as soon as possible please, along with CSEF (camps -sports-excursion) application forms.

Whooping Cough: Can I please encourage parents and carers to notify the school if your child is absent from school due to displaying whooping cough symptoms.

Curriculum Day – Monday 8th December: Our staff will be undertaking a professional learning day on Monday 8th December. Consequently, no students are required to attend school on this day.

After the bell are now taking bookings if you require a space in OSHC on this day.

Jake Saddler



HOUSE COLOUR DRESS UP DAY 2025



Friday, December 5th.

Come dressed in your
craziest house colour costumes!



House points up for grabs

Gold coin donation to go
towards



The Royal **Children's**
Hospital Melbourne



Grade Prep & 1

We were incredibly proud of the way our Prep/One students conducted themselves on our excursion to the Ballarat Wildlife Park. The students were fantastic on the bus and brilliant at the wildlife park. The Prep/Ones thoroughly enjoyed seeing all the various animals and the short presentations by the animal keepers. The Kangaroos were a highlight for most of the students as they were able to see them and pat them up close. All in all it was super fun and successful excursion!

This week in Sounds-Write, students have been building and reading the target words and have been revising sounds from the Initial Code and Extended Code.

Students have been experimenting with these spellings through word building, games, and sentence writing.

In Writing, we are learning about procedural writing. Students have practiced writing step by step instructions for various tasks such as, how to make fairy bread.

In Math, Preps and Grade One's are revising how to use tally marks, all aspects data collection and creating data displays.



Please remember to pack reader bags on Monday and for students to remember to bring hats and water bottles each day.

Mrs Cook, Jess, Miss Maddern, Mr Riordan, Miss Williams, Beth, Brandi, Christine and Jai.



Grade 4/5

Hello this is Laura and Sophie,

This week in the 4/5 unit we have been busy covering a bunch of new topics in every subject here is some of the stuff that we have been doing this week.



In math this week we have been working on volume we found out multiple different strategies to work out how much volume is in a shape.

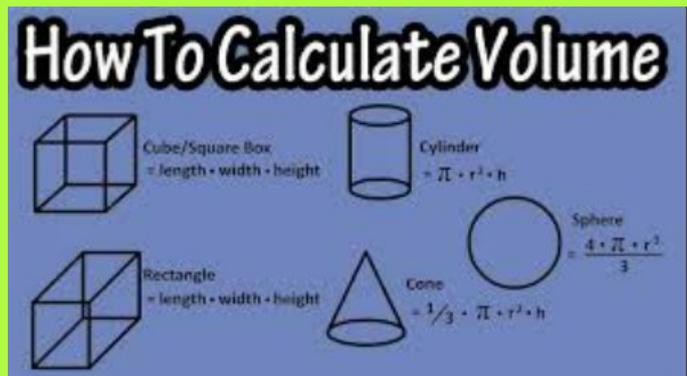


In writing this week we are still working on our Australian Inventors projects and inventions they created.

In integrated, we have been watching videos on different Australian inventors and inventions for example the ute and Akubra hat.

Specialist has been full of fun this week! In STEM, we learned all about static electricity using balloons and water. In PE we played group games to work on our teamwork, and in Art we made aurora art with oil pastels!

We are looking forward to the first day of December and Summer on Monday, although looking at the weather report we don't think it will feel like it!



STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Prep/1 Mrs Cook & Jess

Freya M – Freya has had a wonderful week at school demonstrating all of our school values. On our excursion to Ballarat, she showed great leadership and how to be kind to other students and also the animals. Well done on a very successful week Freya, keep up the AWESOME work!

Prep/1 Williams

Harrison S - Harrison has been on fire over the last couple of weeks! With Jai being away, Harrison adapted incredibly well to the change and worked super hard at everything thrown at him. I am also super proud of how he has been approaching developmental play with a positive attitude each day. Well Done on an amazing year Harrison. We are very proud of you!

Prep/1 Maddern

Charlotte C - Charlotte has demonstrated our school values of respect, honesty and responsibility this week. She is such a kind and caring person and we absolutely love having her as part of our class. Keep being amazing, Charlotte!

2/3 Westcott

Archie G - Archie has had a fantastic week, showing great enthusiasm in class. He confidently demonstrated Kung Fu Punctuation and presented his Japan project with pride. Archie's positive participation in discussions makes him a valued member of our class.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

2/3 Lamb

Maisy K - Maisy has had a fantastic week! She's becoming more independent and is putting excellent effort into all areas of her learning, especially her Japan project. Maisy's also doing a great job asking for help when she needs it. Well done, Maisy! Keep believing in yourself, you're capable of amazing things!

2/3 Thorn & Gallagher

Charlotte H - For demonstrating all our school values. Charlotte is a kind and hard working member of our classroom who always gives her best effort! Keep up the great work Charlotte!

4/5 Burton

Like L - Like brings a positive attitude and big smile to school each day. He has learnt so much this semester and continues to impress us with his effort. He is responsible and respectful, no matter who he is working with. Your classmates in 4/5 B are incredibly proud of you! Great work, Like!

4/5 Fry

Tempie W - Tempie is a great friend who is always kind, caring and funny, bringing positivity to our classroom every day. This week, she has shown fantastic perseverance and effort in her learning, working hard to strengthen her understanding of volume and two-digit multiplication. Her determination and willingness to challenge herself have been outstanding. Well done, Tempie!

4/5 Johnstone

Sienna N - Sienna is always a superstar, but she's consistently puts in great effort and displays a fantastic attitude towards her learning. Great work, Sienna!

6 O'Donoghue

Stevie W- Stevie was wonderful on our excursion, she participated enthusiastically and enjoyed the day. Stevie was a putting legend in this week's golf sessions and wrote a wonderful graduation speech that had us all emotional. Congratulations Stevie!

SCHOOL BREAKFAST CLUBS PROGRAM

BREAKFAST CLUB



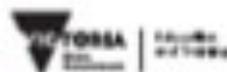
ALL STUDENTS WELCOME

DAYS: Wednesday mornings

TIME: 8:20am-8:45am

ROOM: Big Deck

EAT. LEARN. SUCCEED.





‘Frenemies’ and toxic friendships

(The following article can be found at www.raisingchildren.net.au)

Frenemies and toxic friendships: what you need to know

Pre-Teen and teenage friendships can sometimes turn ‘toxic’. Or sometimes toxic friendships can develop if your child hangs out with ‘frenemies’ – Peers who act like friends but are mean to them.

Instead of making your child feel good – like they belong and are accepted – **toxic friendships can lead to your child feeling bad about themselves** or others. That’s because frenemies often put people down, manipulate them, leave them out or behave in other mean ways, both face to face and on social media.

Pre-Teens and teenagers sometimes need help to avoid, manage or end toxic friendships.

Positive, accepting and supportive teenage friendships are an important part of your child’s journey to adulthood. They can help your child learn important social and emotional skills, like understanding and being sensitive to other people’s thoughts, feelings and wellbeing.

Helping pre-teens and teenagers avoid frenemies and toxic friendships

To help your child avoid toxic friendships, you can try **talking with your child about what ‘good’ or ‘best’ friends are like** – they’re the friends who look out for your child, care about them, include them in activities and treat them with respect. This will help your child work out which people might be good to hang out with.

It also helps to encourage your child to have **a wide range of friends from a variety of places**, like school, sports or social clubs, family friends and neighbours. This gives your child other people to turn to if a friendship turns toxic.

Getting to know your child’s friends is important too. This gives you the chance to quietly observe your child’s interactions with their friends and pick up on any issues. You could encourage your child to have friends over and give them space in your home.

You could also try **talking with your child** about how they’re going with their friends, both face to face and online. Listen to your child and use open-ended questions. When you keep the lines of communication open, your child is more likely to talk with you about any problems that come up.

When you talk, you could describe **your own friendship history**. If you had friendship difficulties, it can help your child feel that you understand what they’re going through.

Finally, you can be a role model for forming and maintaining positive relationships – with your own friends, partner and colleagues. Your child will learn from observing relationships where there's respect, empathy and positive ways of resolving conflict.

When your child feels confident and comfortable with themselves, they're less likely to accept bad treatment from frenemies. You can help your child feel this way by encouraging them to focus on their strengths and by naming and praising their strengths yourself. You can also try to get your child interested in activities that build their confidence.

Dealing with frenemies and toxic friendships: how to help your child

It's a good idea to give your child the chance to sort out friendship issues themselves before you step in. This can help your child learn valuable life skills like conflict resolution, assertiveness and problem-solving. But when you feel you need to step in, here are ideas.

Changing toxic friendships

If your child really wants to keep the friendship, help them find ways to change it.

For example, your child might have a friend who keeps suggesting that your child should change the way they dress or do their hair. Perhaps your child could tell their friend they don't need the advice. Your child could practise what to say by role-playing the conversation with you.

Also, frenemies sometimes act in negative ways because they get a reaction they like. You can use our problem-solving steps with your child to work out what the frenemy is getting out of the behaviour. Then you might be able to work out a solution. Using a witty comeback, being assertive, or walking away without comment can change the dynamic.

Ending toxic friendships

If your child is prepared to end the friendship, they need to decide how to tell the frenemy. Your child might need to say something like, 'I don't like the way you gossip about me behind my back. Unless that changes, I can't be your friend anymore'.

Be prepared for the fall-out from the end of a toxic friendship. The frenemy might try to make life difficult for your child. Watch out for any harassment, bullying or cyberbullying. If this happens, contact the school or organisation where the bullying is happening, and support your child at home.

Finding new friends

Your child might need to find new friends:

Encourage your child to list all the other peers they could link up with. For example, does your child sit with other students in class? Do they have friends in another friendship circle, sporting club or activity outside school?

Encourage your child to find ways to spend time with these other peers. This could be sitting together at lunch, working on assignments, or doing social or sporting activities.

Find out about clubs at school – for example, drama, sports, chess and so on.

Your child might be able to find others with shared interests.

If you can, encourage new friendships by organising lifts to school, making friends welcome at home, or driving your child to extracurricular activities.

It might take time for your child to find a new group of friends, and they might find this process stressful. Your child might feel less alone if you support them and are ready to talk whenever they need to.

It might help your child to know that pre-teen and teenage friendships often change. Your child might hang out with a few people for a while and have closer and more stable friendships with others in the future.

Dealing with challenging behaviour from toxic friendships

You might feel that your child's behaviour is being influenced negatively by frenemies or toxic friendships. If you feel you need to address this, it's important to **focus on the way your child is acting**, not on their personality or the personalities of their friends.

For example, you could say, 'Whenever you spend time with Josh, you come home angry and upset'. A statement like this focuses on what needs to change in the friendship. It's better than saying, 'I don't want you hanging around with Josh'.

There are also 'positive' toxic friendships. Your child's friend treats them well and they have a strong bond, but **the friend might be leading your child into anti-social behaviour** like stealing or drinking.

To address this, you could say, 'When you hang around with Janine, you get into a lot of trouble. If you keep stealing, you could get arrested'. This statement picks up on the consequences of the behaviour and gives your child the chance to change it. It's better than saying, 'I don't want you hanging around with Janine'.

What not to do with toxic friendships

It's **best not to confront the other young people** involved or to call their parents. This might only make things worse for your child.

In some cases – for example, if drugs are involved – you might need to tell the parents or another adult. If the behaviour is happening at school or relates to school-based friendships, it's best to speak to school staff.

Also avoid banning or criticising your child's friends. This might make your child feel even more closely attached to those friends.

If you're worried about the influence of friends on your child's behaviour, it might help to know that you influence your child's long-term decisions, like career choices, values and morals. Your child's friends are more likely to influence short-term choices, like appearance and interests.

Getting help for toxic friendships and frenemies

If your child is having ongoing friendship difficulties that are really upsetting them and aren't changing despite your child's best efforts, **consider seeking professional advice.**

Teenagers sometimes find it helpful to have someone other than a parent to talk to. You could try:

- a school counsellor or other counsellor
- a psychologist
- a youth worker
- a GP

a confidential telephone counselling service for young people, like Kids Helpline – **phone 1800 551 800.**



Lunchboxes

\$12 regular \$16 large

All lunches are nut free.

Other dietary requirements upon request

Monday 1st

- Sushi- crispy chicken, tuna, California or veg
- Fruit salad
- Apple crumble muffin
- Cheese rice crackers
- Choc popcorn with mini m&m's

Tuesday 2nd

- Pizza bites - Hawaiian, bbq meatlover or cheese and bacon
- Vanilla yoghurt with fresh mango and passionfruit
- Choc chip truffle balls
- Mini pretzels with mini marshmallows
- Apple slices

To place an order, or to go on the weekly mailing list,
message me on:

Facebook @ Zeds kitchen or text 0402626253

Payment via bank transfer

CHRISTMAS *Carols*

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND SEE YOU AT THE MARONG
COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP CAROLS
AT MALONE PARK, MARONG

ENJOY VARIOUS SPECIAL ACTIVITIES:

- LIVE MUSIC & CAROL SINGING
- SAUSAGE SIZZLE & FOOD VANS
- A SPECIAL VISIT FROM SANTA!

ENTRY: VOLUNTARY
CHARITABLE GOLD
COIN DONATION

14 DECEMBER 2025
FROM 5.00PM

COME AND ENJOY THIS FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT.

THANKYOU TO OUR PROUD SPONSORS
CITY OF GREATER BENDIGO
BIRCHGROVE PROPERTY





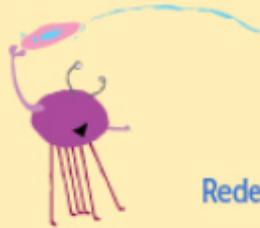
Every
Book Club
LOOP order
earns a



PROMO CODE

Included with order confirmation

to spend on our
next Issue.



Conditions apply. LOOP orders only.
Redeemable once per Issue when you spend \$19.50.
1% surcharge applies to credit card payments.

BOOKS BELONG ON EVERY WISHLIST!

GET UP TO
3 Free Books

Redeemable on LOOP orders only, once per customer.

- 3 FREE BOOKS when you spend \$75
- 2 FREE BOOKS when you spend \$50
- 1 FREE BOOK when you spend \$25



See LOOP for the full list!

PLUS, get a

\$5 PROMO CODE

to spend on Issue 8!



AND don't forget to spend your **\$5 PROMO CODE** if you ordered on Issue 6!

*Conditions apply. Promo codes are redeemable with the Free Book offer. All offers are valid once per Issue on LOOP orders only. See LOOP for all terms and conditions.



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

-  Friday, 5 December 2025
-  11:00 am - 2:00 pm
-  Quiet session from 11am–12.30pm
-  Red Energy Arena
-  Free entry
-  Food, music, chill zone, fun and more!
-  Disability-led

Proudly supported by





MARONG



GROWING CURIOUS MINDS

Christmas

VACATION CARE PROGRAM

DECEMBER 2025

22

Monday

Festive Crafts

Get into the festive spirit! Children will create ornaments, decorate mini trees, and make cards for loved ones using a mix of natural and recycled materials.

23

Tuesday

Jolly Good Time In The Sunshine

Join us for a day packed with festive outdoor games, laughter, and holiday cheer. Children will enjoy friendly competitions, teamwork challenges, and plenty of active fun in the great outdoors.

24

Wednesday

Holiday Movie & PJ Day

Relax in your comfiest pyjamas as we enjoy festive crafts, games, a movie, popcorn, and some downtime before the Christmas rush!

Program finishes at 5pm today-- **Merry Christmas**

Address:

2 Leslie Street
Marong

Program Hours:

7.30am till 5.30pm

Room Location:

Beehive Building

Head Office Contact

1300 977 599

Program Number:

0428 247 072



**Daily Cost \$85.00 per day/ per child

**prices are reduced with the eligible Child Care Subsidy*

Note: Days will operate where 15 or more bookings are made. The account holder will be notified via email on the **5th December 2025** on operational status days.

***Bookings to be made via Kidsoft**

****Terms and conditions have been emailed with the flyer to the account holder**



Cave Hill Creek Summer Camps 2026



LIVE THE OUTDOORS

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

TECH FREE FUN

MEET NEW FRIENDS & MAKE

MEMORIES TO LAST A LIFETIME...



Book Now: www.cavehillcreek.com.au



**Four great programs
for 8-15 year olds!
January 2026**



**Camp #35: 7-9 Jan
Camp #36 & Camp OUT:
12-16 Jan
Camp #37: 19-23 Jan**

LIMITLESS SPORTS

SUNDAY
30TH OF
NOVEMBER

LA BIRPA
ATHLETICS
TRACK
9AM-12PM



JOIN US AT LIMITLESS SPORTS IN BENDIGO ON NOVEMBER 30 FOR A FUN DAY OF INCLUSIVE AND ADAPTIVE SPORTS FOR PEOPLE OF ALL ABILITIES.

TRY INCLUSIVE SPORTS, ENJOY HEALTHY SNACKS, AND DISCOVER EXCITING WAYS TO STAY ACTIVE TOGETHER.

FREE EVENT

- ACCESSIBLE BIKES AND RUNNING FRAMES!
- DANCING, CHEERLEADING AND TUMBLING!
- SENSORY EQUIPMENT AND MUCH MORE!

REGISTER BELOW!

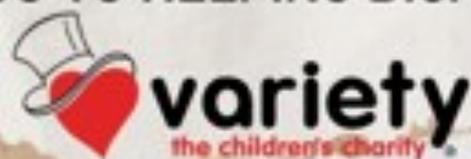


PRESENTED BY



Celebrate the **END** of an **ERA**

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO HELPING DISADVANTAGED KIDS!



29TH NOV
2025

AXEDALE HALL

**DECORATE YOUR
OWN CAKE**

SWIFTIE TRIVIA

SILENT AUCTIONS

BEST DRESSED PRIZE!

SINGALONGS & PHOTO OPS!

Ticket Prices:

ADULT: \$28

CONCESSION: \$21

CHILD 8-13YR: \$17.50



SCAN HERE

 **AXEDALE HALL, 94 HIGH STREET**

 **1 - 3:30PM**



[HTTPS://WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/DGIWR](https://www.trybooking.com/dgiwr)



KIDS GO FREE

MEMBERSHIPS & TICKETS

ALL KIDS AGED 14 & UNDER

THANKS TO
POWERCOR





fresh fruit friday



Celebrating
10 years

Delivering
1,000kg of free
fruit to Bendigo
school children
every week

 mckern steel™
foundation



@mckernsteelfoundation

Made possible thanks to our Foundation Partners

