Dear parent/caregiver

Term 3 Week 1

It is wonderful to be back at school full time this term. I have missed the students, teachers and parents greatly and am looking forward to catching up with everyone. Despite some remaining symptoms of my illness, I am feeling well and ready for the challenges the term may bring. My deepest thanks go to Miss Smith and Mr Holsten who both did outstanding jobs running the school in my absence. I am also sincerely grateful for the wonderful staff who were so supportive of them. While I was ill, I was inundated by cards, messages and gifts from the students which was very uplifting. I am very proud to be a part of such a great school and its community.

School Development Day
On Monday 27 July, the staff participated in intensive training and development with the other three schools that make up the Learning Neighbourhood – Eastern Creek, Rooty Hill primary and high schools – at Rooty Hill High School. The theme for the day was meeting student needs and teachers across the schools attended workshops on technology, literacy, differentiating the curriculum, gifted and talented education, report writing, learning and the brain. It was a jam-packed day with lots of very useful information and strategies shared. These days strengthen our teaching practice and build on the quality teaching and learning programs which operate within the school.

Staffing News
Mrs Howell is taking long service leave for all of this term. Mrs Munoz will continue to teach 3MH on Monday to Thursday and Mrs Garcia will teach them every Friday for the remainder of the term.

NSW Cricket Visits
On Wednesday 29 July, NSW Cricket visited the school and held workshops for students in Stage 2. This was a fabulous opportunity for students to develop their throwing, catching and batting skills as well as develop their knowledge of cricket.

Athletics Carnival
Students in Years 3 to 6 participated in the athletics carnival on Thursday 30 July at Charlie Bali Reserve (Aquílina Reserve) at Doonside. Students competed in track and field events. Results will be published in future newsletters.

Badge Assemblies
Congratulations to all of the students in Stage 1 and 3 who received the bronze and silver badges on Friday. Kindergarten and Stage 2 badge assemblies will be on Friday 7 August.

Tree Day
On Friday 31 July, our students will be participating in Tree Day to help improve the environment. They will be involved in the weeding of gardens and planting of trees and shrubs in the school grounds. We would like students to come to school with some gardening gloves (if they have them) and a plastic bag for the collection of weeds.

Brewongle Environmental Education Centre Visit
Staff from the Centre will be visiting the school on Tuesday 4 August and Thursday 6 August to hold workshops for students in Stage 2. Results will be available later in the year.

English Competition
The UNSW English Competition will be held on Tuesday 4 August for all students who have paid to participate. Results will be available later in the year.

Reach for the Stars Drummers
Drumming students from Rooty Hill High School will be visiting our school on Tuesday 4 August to mentor our drummers in preparation for the ‘Reach for The Stars’ concert later this term.

PULSE Choir Rehearsal
The PULSE choir will be participating in a rehearsal on Thursday 6 August. Mrs Guerin will be accompanying them.

Active After-School Communities
Students in Stage 2 have been offered participation in the Active After-School Communities Program to be run by Mrs Charlton and Miss Terrazzolo during Term 3. The program will start on Friday 7 August and will run for 7 weeks from 3.15pm to 4.15 pm on Fridays. The program can only cater for 40 students so the first 40 forms received will be included. This program is free of charge. Please refer to the note already issued for further information. Expressions of interest in participating close on Friday 31 July.

P&C Meeting
The next meeting of the P&C will be Wednesday 12 August at 9.15am in the AV room which is part of the library complex. All parents are welcome to attend. Stop by and join us for a coffee and a chat.

PULSE Concert
The Western Sydney Region PULSE Concert will be held at the Sydney Opera House on Thursday 13 August. Participating students will attend the dress rehearsal during the day and then participate in the evening performance. We wish all performers great success on the night!

P&C Coin Drive
The P&C will be holding a 5 cent coin drive in Week 3 of this term. They will be collecting 5 cent coins across the week and graphing the number and amount of coins brought in by each class.

Minchinbury PS

A great school….. close to home!
Special Congratulations
One of our ex-students, Amber Brown (now in Year 7 at Erskine Park High School), has been invited to perform with the Western Sydney Region School Concert Band in Ningbo, China during the October school holidays. What a wonderful experience for Amber! Her participation in our school band over the last few years has certainly stood her in good stead for her current level of achievement. We wish her a fantastic trip and performance. Well done, Amber!

Kindergarten Enrolments 2010
We are currently seeking enrolments of students into Kindergarten in 2010. We have an excellent Kindergarten program and need to establish how many students we can accept next year. It is important to complete enrolment forms early so that a place can be reserved for your child.

If your child turns five by 31 July 2010, then he/she is eligible to start school next year. Parents are urged to get enrolment forms from the school and complete them now, ready for next year. You might like to share this information with your neighbours. Please contact the office for enrolment forms.

Definitions

**English**

**Pronoun:** A word that is used in place of a noun.

Mary is a girl. *She* will be ten on Monday.

The word *Mary* is a noun. The word *she* is used in its place. She is a *pronoun*. There are different kinds of pronouns — personal, possessive, relative, interrogative, demonstrative, reflexive, emphatic, indefinite, distributive.

**Maths**

*Centicube:* a block that is 1 cm wide, 1 cm long and 1 cm deep.

**Technology**

*Spam:* unwanted, bulk e-mail. Similar to how your mailing address is used, an e-mail address gets on to one or more mailing lists which are then used repeatedly to send advertising.

Education Tax Refund

Eligible parents and carers can now claim the Education Tax Refund for certain education expenses incurred from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009. This means you could get 50 percent back on a range of primary and secondary school education expenses. The maximum refund is $375 per primary school student and $750 per secondary school student. Go to www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au/home/ for all the details.

New Click! Now Online

The latest issue of the Department of Education and Training’s web-based technology guide for parents, Click!, is now online. Topics include cyber-bullying and how to protect your child; the pitfalls to avoid when sharing private photos to the net; whether kids can really study while listening to music, texting and chatting online; and how to avoid ‘phishing’ scams. Complete with vodcasts and podcasts and an informative blog by industry experts, keep up with your kids at: www.schools.nsw.edu.au/click. You can also subscribe by email so you never miss an issue.

Food for Thought

“If your body’s not right, the rest of your day will go all wrong. Take care of yourself.” ~ V.L. Allineare

Pauline Baker
Principal
30.7.09

Notes Home This Week

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TAFE Courses

Getting back into work or changing the work you do is just not that simple for women, especially when you have responsibilities for children and/or elderly parents. Sometimes knowing what work suits you is a puzzle. TAFENSW Western Sydney -Nepean College offers a free course just for women in your situation. Design a pathway into that work — tailored to suit your particular circumstances. It is between school hours with a day off each week. Ph Liz Agars on 9208 9416 for more information or to secure a place. Course starting soon!

Minchinbury PS

A great school….. close to home!