Dear parent/caregiver

Term 3 Week 3

This week has been a very sad time for the Minchinbury community. Last week we saw the passing of Mrs Julie Elcock who had been a long-standing parent of the school. Both Melissa and Troy attended Minchinbury PS, and Julie herself worked at the Before and After School Centre before her illness. Our deepest sympathies go to the Elcock family.

We also extend our sincerest condolences to the Piazza family. Mr Guy Piazza was killed in a car accident last Saturday. His sons, Mitchell and Connor (both Minchinbury students) were injured and have been in Westmead Children’s Hospital. We wish them a speedy recovery and offer our support during this difficult time.

Badge Assemblies
Congratulations to all of the students in Kindergarten and Stage 2 who received their bronze and silver badges on Friday.

Tree Day
On Friday 31 July, our students planted new trees and shrubs around the school as a part of Tree Day. They did a great job weeding gardens and planting of trees and shrubs in the school grounds. You might have notice new trees along the front fence as well as those down beside the COLA. Plants were transplanted from around the Year 1 and 2 rooms in readiness for demountable re-positioning owing to the construction of six brand new brick classrooms later in the year. Hopefully some warmer weather in the next few weeks will give them a boost along for spring.

Brewongle Environmental Education Centre Visit
Brewongle staff presented some excellent activities for students during their visits last week. The artefact presentation was extremely informative, and the sand art and ochre face painting allowed students to demonstrate their creative skills. Thank you to Ms D’Arcy for organising these fascinating activities for us.

P&C Meeting
The P&C met yesterday and the following issues were discussed: participation certificates for PSSA team members, wet weather dismissal options for Kinder students, school uniform, and school banking. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 9 September at 7.00pm in the staffroom. At this meeting we will be calling for nominations to fill the vacant Treasurer’s position as a result of the resignation of Alex Herman. We hope you can join us.

PULSE Concert
The Western Sydney Region PULSE Concert will be held at the Sydney Opera House today, Thursday 13 August. Participating students attended the dress rehearsal today and then remained for the evening performance. We wish all performers great success tonight!

P&C Coin Drive
This week the P&C held a 5 cent coin drive. The collected 5 cent coins (and others) across the week and have been graphing the number and amount of coins brought in by each class. There will be an ice block for the winning class.

Stage 3 First Aid Training
This will take place next week for students on Monday 17 and Tuesday 18 August. Students who have paid to do this very useful course will be rostered to complete it on one of these two days.

Australian Youth Choir
A representative from the Australian Youth choir will be visiting on Wednesday 19 August to hear students sing and encourage potential membership.

Book Week
This year Book Week is celebrated between 24 August and 28 August. The theme is “Book Safari”. Our school’s celebrations include the Book Fair which begins on Friday 21 August in the library. Books will be on sale before and after school so please come with your children to view what is available. We benefit from every purchase as they contribute to an allocation our school is given to purchase books for the school library. Your child may bring home a wish list of books that they would like to purchase. Please remember it is a ‘wish list’ only and not something you must purchase.

On Wednesday 26 August we will be holding a Book Safari Dress-Up Day where students can come dressed as a jungle animal or just one of their favourite book characters. There will be prizes for the best costume in each grade.

Grandparents Day
During Book Week on Tuesday 25 August we will be holding Grandparents Day. Grandparents will be able to visit classrooms, share a picnic recess, and view a short performance by our various performing arts groups. We hope lots of grandparents will be able to attend.

Stage 3 Overnight Excursion
Stage 3 students will be travelling by coach to visit the nation’s capital, Canberra on Wednesday 26 – 28 August. Students not going to Canberra are to attend school as normal.

School Uniform
In recent weeks there has been a serious decline in the number of students wearing school uniform. We are seeing lots of different coloured sweat-shirts and jumpers along with coloured shorts and leggings under school dresses. Parents are reminded that our school community strongly supports the wearing of school uniform. The correct uniform and school colours should be worn every day.

Minchinbury PS
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Parents are also reminded that ‘hoodies’ are not a part of the school uniform. They pose a safety issue for several reasons. Firstly, the hood can be caught on something or grabbed by someone and as this pulls the jumper/jacket tightens around the throat causing injury. Secondly, when students wear school colours they are easily identified as belonging to our school community. Intruders and undesirables can be identified by the fact that they are not in school uniform and they can be asked to leave. It is difficult for us to identify intruders if our students are wearing items of clothing of various colours.

In order to maintain the safety of your children, we ask you to support us in ensuring that your child wears correct school uniform every day.

**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**

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<tr>
<th><strong>English</strong></th>
<th><strong>Maths</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Personal Pronouns</strong>: Are used in place of persons or things. Like the nouns they represent, they may be the <strong>subject</strong> or <strong>part of the subject</strong> of the sentence.</td>
<td><em>Centimetre</em>: a measurement used for measuring length. The abbreviation is <strong>cm</strong>.</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>She</em> is ten on Sunday.</td>
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A personal pronoun may also be the **object** or **indirect object** in a sentence.

*Kim saw them.*

Personal pronouns include: *I, you, he, she, it, we, they, them, me, her, him, it, us.*

**Technology**

*Bookmark*: Similar to a real-life bookmark, an Internet bookmark acts as a marker for a Web site. (In Internet Explorer, they're called "Favourites"). When using a Web browser, you can simply select a bookmark from the browser's Bookmarks menu to go to a certain site. This way, you don't have to go through the redundant process of typing in the Internet address each time you visit one of your favourite sites.

In most browsers, to create a bookmark, you simply choose "Add Bookmark" from the Bookmarks menu when you're at a page that you'd like to bookmark.

**Payments Made by Cheques**
Parents are advised that all government schools now have bank accounts with Westpac. If parents write cheques for which they have insufficient funds, Westpac charges the school $9.50 for each dishonoured cheque. Should this occur, we will be passing this charge on to the writer of the cheque. This will be in addition to the fees already charged by your own bank. Please be careful when writing cheques for school payments to ensure that they won't bounce!

**Food for Thought**

"The fact that someone says something doesn't mean it's true. Doesn't mean they're lying, but it doesn't mean it's true."  

---

Pauline Baker 13.8.09  
Principal

**Notes Home This Week**

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