Dear parent/caregiver

Term 3 Week 5

Another busy fortnight has passed. There has been a lot of activity throughout the school – band workshops, first aid courses, soccer gala day, the book fair, grandparents’ day, excursions and fire brigade visit - lots of amazing learning experiences in a short period of time. The coming few weeks should be equally as busy.

Operation Art
A number of students attended workshops at Penrith Regional Gallery throughout July and August. Well done to our budding artists.

Stage 1 - Antonia Adkins 1/2D, Charlotte Brownjohn 2T, Tori Brooks 2M
Stage 3 - Marzia Jafary 5/6J

State Dance Day
Congratulations are also due to the following talented dancers who attended this recent event - Katie Bartlett, Cameron Holmes, Emily Balzan and Brooke Poulley.

Western Sydney Region Pulse Concert
Congratulations to all the students and staff who participated in this magical event last week. From all accounts the performances were simply magnificent. It was truly was a remarkable concert bringing together the region’s best in an absolutely brilliant showcase of our talented students and their wonderful teachers. The performers were given a rousing standing ovation. A huge thank you to Mrs Anderson, Mrs Guerin and Mrs Rolfe for training students for their performances. Well done everyone.

Victory in the Pacific Memorial Service
On Friday 14 August Dylan Betham and Tayla Poulley accompanied Miss Smith to the Victory in the Pacific Memorial service held at the Waterholes by Rooty Hill RSL. This event provided an opportunity to remember those men and women who were killed as a part of the campaign to keep the Pacific region safe from invasion and the end of World War II. Tayla and Dylan laid a floral tribute at the memorial on behalf of all Minchinbury students.

First Aid
Stage 3 students participated in first aid courses last week. These skills could make a difference to someone injured at school or at home. We are pleased that so many students took part.

Australian Youth Choir
A representative from the Australian Youth choir was to have visited on Wednesday last week to hear students sing and encourage potential membership. Unfortunately they have had to reschedule this event for later in the term.

Girls Football Gala Day
Congratulations to the girls who played in the soccer knockout competition on Thursday 20 August. The girls were undefeated on the day through five matches and were each awarded a gold medal on the day. Well done girls and many thanks to Miss Terrazzolo for all her hard work as coach to this very fine group.

Book Week
Book Week has been a huge success this week. The theme is “Book Safari”. We have been running a Book all week from which students and their family can purchase books. On Wednesday we held a Book Safari Dress-Up Day where students came dressed as a jungle animal or just one of their favourite book characters. Prizes were awarded to the following creative costumes:

Grandparents Day
Grandparents Day was held on Tuesday this week. It was terrific to see so many grandparents visiting the school and sharing their time with our students. Thank you to Mrs Umback for organising this activity. We hope to make it an annual event.

Stage 3 Overnight Excursion
Stage 3 students are currently visiting the nation’s capital, Canberra, this week. They are visiting, Parliament House, Questacon, the War memorial and many other places of significance within the area.

Fire Brigade Visit
The fire brigade visited Stage 1 students today as a part of their unit of study about people who help us in the community. It is always very exciting to see the fire truck in the school playground.

District Athletics
Students whose times were the fastest during the athletics carnival participated in the Mt Druitt District athletics carnival on Wednesday and Thursday this week.

Art on the Hill
Next Wednesday, 2 September students from K-6 will have their artworks on display at Rooty Hill High School as a part of the Learning Neighbourhood Art on the Hill initiative. Parents, relatives and friends are invited to attend the art show and vote for their favourite artwork in the People’s Choice Awards. Awards will be presented to the winners of each stage for each school in the Learning Neighbourhood as well as the prestigious Hangers Award for the best artwork as identified by the teachers who hang them. Come along at 5.00pm and see some of the wonderful works created by our talented students.

Spellathon
Last week students took home information about our major fundraiser - a spellathon. Students are asked to find sponsors for successfully spelling 25 words.

Minchinbury PS

A great school….. close to home!
Each child will complete a spelling test for which they can be sponsored for each word correctly spelt eg 10c per word = $2.50 sponsorship. If every child raises $20 in the spellathon, the school will raise nearly $12 000. This will allow us to purchase additional electronic whiteboards for classrooms. The spellathon will be held in Week 6 of this term – National Literacy and Numeracy Week, on Friday 4 September. Classes will complete a spelling test on that day. Your support of this activity will be greatly appreciated.

Literacy and Numeracy Week
Week 6, Monday 31 August to Friday 4 September, is National Literacy and Numeracy Week. We have a number of different activities planned for parents and students.
Stage 3 Maths Fun Day – Tuesday 1 September
Real Men Read – Wednesday 2 September for Stage 3 fathers and male carers
Kindergarten and Stage 1 Maths Fun Day – Thursday 3 September
Stage 1 Maths Fun Day – Friday 4 September
Spellathon – K-6 on Friday 4 September

We would also like to start our four-week parent course called Talk to a Literacy Learner. Notes have already been sent home with information about this activity.

Homework Policy Review
We are currently reviewing our homework policy. A draft of the revised policy can be collected from the front office for your perusal. A survey has been attached for you to make comment. Please call in and pick up a copy. We would really appreciate your comments.

P&C Meeting
The next P&C meeting will be held on Wednesday 9 September at 7.00pm in the staffroom in the administration block. We hope you can make it.

Public Speaking Competition
Once again, our school is holding a school-wide Public Speaking Competition this term. Each stage will have a different topic upon which to develop a speech and different criteria which will be used to judge the speech presentations. Every student will participate in the class competitions. Students will be selected based on class presentations to participate in the stage finals which will be held in Weeks 7 and 8. The school final will be held in Week 10. Being able to communicate effectively with others is one of the key competencies students are expected to achieve by the time they finish their years of schooling. Oral presentations form a part of primary school assessments and are a much larger part of high school tasks. Individual and group oral presentations form part of the School Certificate and Higher School Certificate assessment programs.

School Uniform
Thank you to parents for ensuring students wear school uniform. There has been a big improvement since our last newsletter. We will be developing an award for the class that wears school uniform the most consistently for the rest of the term.

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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<th>English Possessive Pronouns: show ownership.</th>
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<td><em>That book is mine.</em></td>
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The possessive pronouns are:

- mine
- yours
- his
- hers
- its (singular)
- ours
- yours
- theirs
- (plural)

*The dog is ours.*

Maths

Centre: the middle; a midpoint of a circle.

Technology

Backup: An extra copy of a document, file or program. You should make backups of all important work. A backup of a file on the hard drive can be saved on a floppy or zip disk. A backup of a floppy disk file can be on the hard drive or another floppy or zip disk.
Food for Thought
"Learning is an active process. We learn by doing". Dale Carnegie

Pauline Baker 27.8.09
Principal

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<th>Notes Home This Week</th>
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2009 Athletics Carnival

On Thursday, 30th July 2009, Stage 2 and 3 children from Minchinbury Public went to the Athletics Carnival at the Charlie Bali Reserve. They go every year to compete against children of the same age. The winners are selected for the District Carnival.

First Stage 2 and 3 had to catch buses to the reserve. While they were waiting for the bus, the children were really bored. When they arrived at their destination, they had to go through a loud, dark and gloomy tunnel.

Once they arrived at the oval, they were told to sit in their house groups and listen to all the announcements. The first announcement was when the 8, 9 and 10 year old boys were called to the marshalling area to race the 800m race. When the boys’ race had finished, the girls were called to start their race.

Later on was the 200m event. One person from each house group raced. The 200m contest was half of the track. When they were running, their house group friends were cheering them on.

After that, the junior boys were called for the 100m race. There were eight children – two each from Bird, Smithy, Hargraves and Hinkler. After the boys raced, it was the girls turn and eight girls ran.

Finally the last track race was the relay. Four people from each house group raced. They all ran 100m each - that equals 400m. As they were running, their houses were cheering for their reps. They also did some war cries to earn points for their house.

When junior high jump was called, children who wanted to participate lined up behind their house colour cones. Everyone that joined in had to jump over a particular height. Alex and Jonathan were able to jump over like a Jack in a box, however, they still did not qualify for District.

People who were interested in shot-put were called to the marshalling area. Quite a few people qualified, but to compete in the next round, competitors had to be able to aim and push a heavy ball into the circular rink.

There were many novelty events. One of them was the sack races. The children lined up, ready to have a funny race. The first two in line were called up. They hopped into the itchy sacks and off they went, tumbling and tripping over the damp grass. Luckily they made it through the course.

Nearly everybody participated in the carnival and everyone had an absolutely fantastic day. The carnival felt like the exhilarating 2008 Olympics.

By 4V