Dear parent/caregiver Term 3 Week 7

We are beginning to feel the effects of spring. As the days grow warmer, students tend to take off their jackets and jumpers especially while they play in the playground. Please make sure your child’s name and class is clearly written on all items of clothing. Later in the term there will also be a need to ensure that sunscreen is being worn to school and that students have their hats and plenty of water to drink.

Staffing News
Ms Smith (Mrs Berkwith) has commenced maternity leave. Her position as deputy principal will be filled by Mr Holstein. Mrs Jamieson will relieve as assistant principal responsible for Stage 3. 5H will be taught by Ms Natalie Walsh for the remainder of the term.

At the end of this term, Mrs Sullivan will also commence maternity leave. Mrs Oxley will continue to teach 4/5O on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Mrs White will teach them on Thursday and Friday.

Mrs Umback will be taking leave for the next three weeks. Mrs Ingrid Jacobs will take KU for this time.

Whooping Cough
There has been an outbreak of whooping cough in our school community. A note was sent home this week reminding parents about the symptoms of the disease and to monitor their children’s health checking persistent coughs with the doctor. Children with whooping cough are not permitted to attend school until at least five days of prescribed antibiotics have been taken.

Spellathon
Last week students completed their spelling test for our major fundraiser – the spellathon. Completed sponsorship cards should have been returned to students this week for them to collect money from their sponsors. Money can now be returned to school. Prizes will be presented during the last week of term. Your support of this activity is greatly appreciated. Funds go towards the purchase of electronic whiteboards for classrooms.

Book Week
A special thank you to the parents and grandparents who supported the book fair. Your generous purchases generated sales totalling $6281. Scholastic, who provide the fair, give us a percentage of the sales in either cash or books. This will help add to our reading materials for our students’ enjoyment.

Special Thanks
We would like to extend a special thank you to the Stage 3 teachers who attended the two-night excursion to Canberra. These type of activities are very beneficial for students but we would not be able to run them without the dedication and good will of teachers. While away for such a long period of time, the teachers are on duty, 24 hours per day without a break. They are not paid any extra during this time and often have a lot to manage, especially when students become distressed by homesickness or from illness.

Grandparents Day
We have had a lot of positive feedback from grandparents who visited our school on this special day. One such letter was from Julie and Jim Partridge (grandparents of Heather in 4V).

Dear Mrs Baker
We are Heather Partridge’s grandparents. This note is to say congratulations to the school for the very successful ‘grandparents’ day.

Melissa from 6M escorted us to 4V room where we were excited viewing Heather’s books and meeting her very busy teacher, Mrs Rendes. The classroom was very colourful, displaying energy and education.

We shared fruit and smiles with others around us on the steps while Heather prepared for the concert. In the hall, we were very impressed with all of the performers. Surely this was a display of commitment from all the staff and students. We were very happy to have enjoyed such a lovely day and experienced this very important day in the school’s calendar with Heather.

We wish to thank you and your staff for efforts in making this day for us to remember and we wish the school continued success and excellence in education.

It is lovely to receive positive feedback about the things we do. We hope that all grandparents had a similar experience to Mr and Mrs Partridge!

Art on the Hill
Last Wednesday, artworks from every class were displayed at Rooty Hill HS along with works from students at Eastern Creek PS, Rooty Hill PS and Rooty Hill HS. It is amazing to see just how talented our students are. Congratulations to Kaitlin Mitchell who was selected as Minchinbury’s overall school winner. Annabel Damarli 2K won a People’s Choice Award and Ryan Pedro 4V won a Quality Award. Our stage winners were:

- Kindergarten: Ebony Hardman
- Stage 1: Jeremy Woodward
- Stage 2 Kaitlin Mitchell
- Stage 3: Megan Varley

Well done to all participants and a huge thank you to parents and friends who attended the evening.

P&C Fathers’ Day Stall
Many thanks to the P&C for holding a Fathers’ Day stall for students to purchase for their dads and granddads. Your support of this activity raised xx for the P&C which will go towards the purchase of electronic whiteboards for classrooms.

Minchinbury PS A great school….. close to home!
Real Men Read
A huge thank you to our male parents and caregivers who participated in the Real Men Read initiative with Stage 3 students last week. You were fabulous! It was wonderful to see so many dads giving up their time to read to students and engage in activities to promote reading. We also were pleased that you could come to the morning tea. Many thanks to Mrs Heywood and Ms Rendes for organising this outstanding activity.

Talk to a Literacy Learner
Last Thursday afternoon 12 parents attended the first session of our Talk to a Literacy Learner program for parents. We are covering aspects of reading over the coming weeks and lots of useful tips will be given on how you can help at home. The next session is today at 5.00pm in the library.

Band Workshop
Students from across the region will be participating in a final band workshop on Monday 14 September. They will be practising pieces to be played at the Reach concert on the 23 and 24 September at Rooty Hill HS. Ticket sales for the Reach concert close this Friday 11 September. No further money will be accepted after Friday.

The Western Sydney Region PULSE concert band will also be in attendance on Monday and they have agreed to perform for our students in Years 2-6. This performance will be at recess and entry will be via a gold coin donation. Our students have been involved in a range of wonderful performing arts opportunities and there are still more to come. We hope that our students and community will be able to see some of these performances in coming weeks.

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 last P&C meeting was held yesterday evening. Agenda items included the construction of new permanent classrooms, improvement in school uniform wearing, CPR training for parents, the installation of eftpost facilities and the school bicycle policy.

Bicycle and Scooter Policy
We are currently reviewing our bicycle and Scooter Policy. We will be calling on parents to provide feedback on draft policy before changes are enforced. At present, however, the school permits students in Years 3-6 to travel to and from school on their bicycles or scooters. A copy of the current policy is included for your reading.

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
During the month of August, Stage 3 students and teachers monitored the wearing of appropriate school uniform, in particular jackets and jumpers. The winning class with 100% of students wearing correct uniform was 5/6CL. They have received an ice block for their efforts. Thank you to parents for ensuring students wear school uniform. For the rest of the year Stage 3 will be returning to their ‘Hattitude’ award for wearing hats when in the playground.

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.

2010 Kindergarten Information Evening
On Wednesday 11 November we will be holding an information evening for new Kindergarten parents in the hall. This session will provide some information about our school and the Kindergarten program. Orientation sessions for new Kindies will be on Thursday – 19, 26 November, and 3 December. You will need to complete enrolment forms to ensure an invitation to the orientation evening and student visits. These are available from the office.

WiseOnes Term 4
Our school will offer the WiseOnes Program for advanced learners in Term 4. WiseOnes brings fast thinkers and learners together in small groups and they work on a variety of programs developed to be appropriate for their advanced needs. The program for Term 4 is Ancient Greece. There are eight one hour lessons in the Program. The closing date for

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enrolments is 25/09/09. If you are not sure whether the Program would suit your child, please speak with your teacher. If you wish to know more please email Viv and Allan Byrnes vivad@pnc.comau

Definitions

**English**

*Relative Pronouns:* relate to a noun or pronoun. This noun or pronoun is called an *antecedent*. The relative pronoun has to agree with the antecedent in person and number. Some relative pronouns are:

<table>
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<th>who</th>
<th>whom</th>
<th>which</th>
<th>that</th>
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David, **who** is only eight years old, is playing in a band.

**Maths**

*Century:* one hundred years.

We are living in the 21\textsuperscript{st} century (from 2000 – 2009)

**Technology**

*Abend:* short for "Abnormal end." An abend is an unexpected or abnormal end to a process. In computer software, it typically refers to a software crash when a *program* unexpectedly quits. For example, an error in a program’s code may cause it to freeze or crash while running a certain command. The result is an unexpected (and often inconvenient) end to the program.

The term "ABEND" was initially used by IBM OS/360 systems as an error message. It is now used by Novell Netware systems and also as a general programming term.

**Food for Thought**

"Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful". Albert Schweitzer  
Dale Carnegie

**Notes Home This Week**

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<th>K - 6</th>
<th>Whopping Cough</th>
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<td>K - 2</td>
<td>K-2 Sports Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stage 3</td>
<td>Australian Government Assistance</td>
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<tr>
<td>3-6</td>
<td>Drumming Group</td>
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**Environment Eco-tip**

*Did you know?* A tap left running can waste up to 17 litres of water a minute. *What can you do?* Don’t leave your tap running while you brush your teeth!

**Recipes Wanted!**

Have you got a favourite recipe you like to make? Is there a special meal that everyone in your family loves? Yes! Then send a copy to the office for inclusion in the P&C school cook book. We are looking for all kinds of great recipes to include in the cook book which we hope to sell to our school community next term. Get thinking and send in your favourite recipe now!

**Pre-Loved Uniforms**

If you have any uniforms that you no longer use (children have grown out of them), please send them along to the school. We keep spare clothing for students who have accidents through the day and the P&C will sell surplus uniforms at the pre-loved uniform sales for much reduced prices. Please consider the school before donating old uniforms to the Salvation Army!