Dear parent/caregiver

The recent hot weather has left us all feeling drained and tired. It’s hoped that we will be able to recharge our batteries during the cooler conditions. As it looks like being a very hot start to summer, parents are reminded to send their children to school with plenty of frozen drinks, a hat and sunscreen. Small tubes or roll-on sunscreen can be kept in students’ bags for application before going into the sun. Sunscreen is for personal use not sharing with others. When there are extremes of weather forecasted, students remain in their air conditioned classrooms during recess and lunch play periods. This is done to minimise the effect of the heat.

Classroom Construction
The construction of our new classrooms continues with the preparation of formwork in readiness for the concrete slab to be poured later in the week.

Band Auditions
Try outs for the school concert band for students in Years 2 - 4 were held on Monday 9 November. An information session for parents was also held on Monday 23 November. If you are interested in having your child learn an instrument and join the band in 2010 and were unable to attend the information evening, please contact Mrs Anderson at school.

School Self-Evaluation
The school self-evaluation committee will continue to meet each Thursday at 3.15pm in the library for the rest of the year. We have identified how learning support is managed within the school and how we are teaching our students to work mathematically as areas for evaluation. We will be gathering data on our performance in these areas so that we can develop targets to achieve in 2010. All interested parents are welcome to attend.

Library Stocktake
Mrs Elliott will be starting the library stocktake of resources on Monday 30 November. Parents are reminded to begin looking for long-lost library books around the house. Don’t forget to check behind cupboards and under beds for those books that may be in hiding. Students will not be able to borrow books during this period.

P&C Meeting
The last meeting of the P&C for 2009 will be on Wednesday 2 December commencing at 7.00pm. This will be our AGM where office bearers for 2010 will be elected. Please feel free to come along to hear what’s happening in our school.

Canteen News
Parents are reminded that we are unable to reheat food brought in from home. It is an OH&S issue because we are unable to determine the correct heating level and this leads to the growth of harmful bacteria and organisms which develop into food poisoning. Please don’t prepare such meals for students as they will be disappointed when we have to decline their request.

Kindergarten Enrolments 2010
The school has already received over 90 applications for enrolment for 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 as soon as possible so that a place can be reserved for your child. Make sure you have contacted the office so that you and your child don’t miss out on the orientation program that will continue with visits for new Kinder children on Thursday 26 November and 3 December.

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.

Stranger Danger
Parents are reminded to discuss with their children what to do if they are approached by someone they don’t know or appear to be followed by unknown vehicles. Teachers do this on a regular basis at school. If your child confides in you about such an occurrence, you should report the incident to Mt Druitt police on 9625 0000.

Learn to Swim
NSW Sport and Recreation are offering the Swimsafe learn to swim program at local pools during the January school holidays. Children from 18 months to 12 years of age are catered for in this program. An information brochure is available at the front office if you are interested.

Help When You Need It
The current edition of School Parents ezine shows families how they can seek emotional help and support when they need it. Whether it’s face to face, on the phone or via email, there is a service that could help and some are ready to help at any time of day, seven days a week.

If it’s an issue affecting the whole family a good place to start is the school counsellor. School counsellors are available for all students from K to 12 and their families.

For more information and a list of services that can help visit the School Parents ezine at www.schools.nsw.edu.au/news/ezine/yr2009/issue05/help.php

Minchinbury PS

A great school….. close to home!
Get your child’s eyes checked
Along with allergies and asthma, eye disorders are the most common long-term health problems experienced by children. Good vision is important for your child’s educational, physical and social development. Optometrists Association Australia recommends that children have a full eye examination with an optometrist before starting school and regularly as they progress through primary and secondary school. Examinations at the optometrist, which take about 30 minutes, are free and covered by Medicare.

Definitions

**English**
*Indefinite Pronouns*: do not refer to any particular antecedent (forerunner) or stand for any person, place or thing in particular.

No-one is to blame for this mess.

Those indefinite pronouns ending with –one or –body refer to persons while those ending in –thing refer to places or things.

Some indefinite pronouns are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>one</th>
<th>none</th>
<th>somebody</th>
<th>everyone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>someone</td>
<td>everything</td>
<td>anyone</td>
<td>anybody</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>anything</td>
<td>no-one</td>
<td>nobody</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Indefinite pronouns are usually followed by a singular verb.*

**Maths**
*Classify:* means to arrange in groups according to attributes.

These objects have been classified by shape.

**Technology**
*Chat:* is a way people in different places can "talk" to each other by typing their words into a computer.

*Explanation:* People chat on the Internet and on commercial services. Many people can chat at once in a "chat room."

*Sentence:* "I had a chat with Aunt Sue over the Internet."

Note: Did you know that people can surf the Web or play games while they chat? Many websites let you play checkers or bridge, race cars, browse the web, build space cities, or even play Pictionary, while you chat with the people doing these things with you.

**Food for Thought**
"All children are artists. The problem is how to remain an artist once he or she grows up".  
Pablo Picasso

Pauline Baker
Principal
19.11.09

**Notes Home This Week**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years K-6</th>
<th>P&amp;C Meeting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Years K-6</td>
<td>Book Drive for Papua New Guinea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-2</td>
<td>Celebration Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage 2</td>
<td>Celebration Day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>