Dear parent/caregiver

Term 4 Week 9

We are in the final week of the school year and hasn't it been a busy term! The students have been working hard, finalising specific projects, finishing work and preparing for our special events. This week, we will have a particular focus on celebrating a wonderful year of learning here at Minchinbury P.S.

**Presentation Day Assemblies**

On Monday, students in all stages celebrated their progress and achievements for 2009. Selected students in each class were presented with awards for their achievements in learning. Specific awards were given to those students who reached the goal of joining the 250 Reading Club, for those who had 100% attendance at school, and for those who reached the level of Principal's Medallion. Additional awards were presented to our sports champions and our Public Speaking Competition winners. During the Stage 3 assembly, the following special awards were presented:

- **Dux** – Megan Varley
- **Citizenship** – Nicole Portelli
- **Clive Matthews’ Award** – Justin McCormick
- **Chris Bowen Community Spirit Award** – Rhys Smith
- **Rooty Hill HS Scholarship** – Bailey Phillips

Also, the elected members of Student Leadership Team for 2010 were announced. We were all entertained by wonderful items from the Intermediate School Band, Year 6 Band members and Tyler Moody and Lauren Adams. The atmosphere established in our K-2 assembly by the students and teachers through their vibrant singing was just fabulous. The Stage 2 and 3 assemblies set a high standard of expectation and presentation. Once again, our students have given us a reason to be proud!

**2010 Student Leadership Team**

The nominated students have worked hard over the last few weeks as part of their election campaign. All students should feel proud of their efforts. Their posters and speech presentations showcased their skills in using technology and in public speaking.

Congratulations to the following students on their election as our 2010 Student Leaders:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Captains:</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brittany Menolotto</td>
<td>Jack Clifton</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vice Captains:</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Madeline Romero</td>
<td>Nico Sandaga</td>
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We look forward to working with you all to make a difference for our students, staff and community next year.

**P&C Christmas Raffle**

The P&C raffle was drawn last Wednesday with over 100 prizes given out to students and parents. Congratulations to all winners and many thanks to the P&C for organising this fundraising activity. Good luck to everyone who has purchased tickets!

**Staffing News**

Congratulations to Miss Donegan who has received a transfer to Baulkham Hills North PS. Miss Donegan has been a wonderful teacher at Minchinbury PS over the past five years and we wish her much success at her new school. She will be greatly missed.

**Definitions**

**English**

- **Pronoun Number**: Pronouns have number. Some are singular and some are plural. If the antecedent (forerunner) is singular, the pronoun is singular. In the examples that follow, the antecedents are included in brackets with an ‘S’ for singular and ‘P’ for plural put above each antecedent.

  - **S**
    - It (the bike) is made of aluminium.

  - **P**
    - They (the boys) left their bikes at the park.

**Maths**

- **Column**: a vertical arrangement of figures.

| 93 | 42 | 7 | 19 |

**Technology**

- **Cursor**: A blinking line or shape on the screen that tells you where the next character will go.

Minchinbury Public School

A great school….. close to home!
**Explanation:**

In the example above, the I-beam is used to put the **cursor** in place. The definition of cursor is changing; I-beams and other pointers are often called cursors.

**Sentence:**

"Put the cursor before the letter N."

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**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.

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**Before and After School Care**

CubbyHouse Australia provide excellent before and after school care for our students. They operate from 7.00am to 8.30am and then again from 3.00pm to 6.00pm daily. Their programs provide a range of interesting and varied activities for all students as well as nutritious snacks. Lately there has been a decline in the number of students attending the centre. If this trend continues, the CubbyHouse may not be able to run next year and this would be a great loss to the school and community. Please consider using the centre for your before and after childcare needs and help to keep this valuable resource at the school.

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**Changing schools**

Many children move schools at some point in their education. While any move is stressful, moving schools also has the potential to impact on a child’s learning in both positive and negative ways. There are lots of different ways you can help your child settle into a new school, such as meeting with the new teacher and principal and finding out about school activities.

For more information about how to help your child settle in at a new school check out the article at: [www.schools.nsw.edu.au/ezine](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/ezine)

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**Holiday reading**

With holidays approaching fast it’s time to stock up on some good books for you and the kids. In the current edition of the *School Parents* ezine the Premier’s Reading Challenge team talks about their favourite books for children and teenagers of all ages. Whether it’s Ursula Dubosarsky’s *The terrible plop!* for K-2’s or Shakespeare in pictures in Gareth Hinds’s graphic novel of *King Lear*, there is something for everyone, even parents! Go to: [www.schools.nsw.edu.au/ezine](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/ezine). Information for the 2010 Premier’s Reading Challenge is at: [www.schools.nsw.edu.au/premiersreadingchallenge/](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/premiersreadingchallenge/)

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**Happy holidays!**

With a long summer holiday ahead of you, here are some ideas to ensure the whole family has a fun and relaxing time:

- [www.noleavenolife.com](http://www.noleavenolife.com)
- [www.visitnsw.com/](http://www.visitnsw.com/)

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**Food for Thought**

“Those that say ‘you can’t take it with you’ never saw a car packed for a vacation trip.”

**Author Unknown**

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**A Final Wish…**

On behalf of the staff at Minchinbury P.S., I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your families for a wonderful year. I wish you the best for the holiday season and hope all your hopes and dreams for the New Year come true.

Pauline Baker  
Principal  
15.12.09

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