Dear parent/caregiver  

Term 1 Week 3

Our Kindergarten students have all enrolled at school and appear to be happily joining with most games and activities. Teachers have completed the Best Start assessments and are working on collating the data. We are looking at scheduling interviews with Kinder parents in Week 5 of this term (first week in March). Information about dates and times will go home later this term.

Excellence Assembly
Last Friday the School Captains – Jack Clifton and Brittany Menolotto accompanied me to the Rooty Hill HS Excellence Assembly to celebrate the outstanding achievements of the high school students in 2009. It was wonderful to see a large number of our ex Minchinbury students receiving recognition for their achievements. Of particular note was the presentation of the 2009 Dux which was awarded to Patricia Kumar who attended Minchinbury PS. Congratulations to all recipients and to Rooty Hill HS on another successful year.

Classroom Construction
The roof sheeting has been put in place on our five new classrooms and the internal fit out has begun. The brickwork should commence in the next two weeks. A tentative completion date has been given for between six and eight weeks. The rooms should be ready for Kindergarten to move into at the start of Term 2, all being well.

P&C Meeting
The first meeting of the P&C was held on Wednesday morning. It was wonderful to see so many new faces in our group. We hope that those who attended will talk to other parents and encourage them to attend our next meeting in March. Many issues were discussed including school uniform, homework, the school website and fundraising activities for items such as permanent interactive whiteboards, air conditioning in the new classrooms, blinds / shutters for the library and new stage curtains for the hall.

The next meeting of the P&C will be on Wednesday 10 March in the staffroom starting at 7.00pm. We hope to see you then.

Learning Neighbourhood Student Leadership Conference
The school captains and prefects will be attending the Learning Neighbourhood Student Leadership Conference at Rooty Hill HS on Tuesday 16 and Wednesday 17 February. They will learn about what makes a good leader and develop skills that will assist them as leaders in our school. Those students participating in the swimming carnival will only attend one day of the conference.

Student Leaders Investiture
On Thursday our student leaders were inducted into their new positions. We welcome the school captains, prefects, house captains, SRC members and library monitors to our leadership team. Throughout the year they will receive training about the responsibilities their roles entail and the expectations of their behaviour. Thank you to Mrs Bourke and Miss Smith for organising the ceremony. It was lovely to see so many proud parents and relatives in attendance. Congratulations to all members of the student leadership team.

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.

If the antecedent is plural, the pronoun is plural.

P

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

**Maths**

*Column:* A vertical arrangement of figures.

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**Technology**

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

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."

Learn to Swim

Minchinbury Public School

A great school….. close to home!
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.

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.

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

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. Information for the 2010 Premier’s Reading Challenge is at: www.schools.nsw.edu.au/premiersreadingchallenge/

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:

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

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

Notes Home This Fortnight

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Minchinbury Public School

A great school….. close to home!