Dear parent/caregiver

Term 1 Week 3

Our Kindergarten students have all enrolled at school and appear to be happily joining in 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 Britany 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.

Swimming Carnival

Students in Years 3-6 will participate in the annual swimming carnival on Wednesday 17 February. Only students who can swim and will be participating in races will be attending. Assessment of all competitors’ swimming ability will be conducted before any races are swum. This is as per the Departments new Aquatic Guidelines. Permission notes and money must be returned to school by Friday 12 February. Students who pay after this day will not be permitted to attend.

Student Leaders Investiture

On Thursday 18 February our student leaders will be inducted into their new positions. We will 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. Parents are invited to attend this event.

Active After-school Communities

This year Mrs Charlton and Miss Terrazzolo will be running the Active After-school Communities program. This program will be operating on Thursdays and Fridays this term for Stage 2 students commencing at 3.15pm and finishing at 4.15pm. Places are still available on both days so if you are interested in participating please complete the permission note and return it to the school as soon as possible.

School Merit Awards

Throughout the year, students will be working towards meeting school expectations in relation to behaviour and achieving merit awards in the areas of respect, safety and learning. Our school expects students to be respectful, safe learners. Our merit awards will be awarded to students who have demonstrated appropriate behaviour under these areas. The awards will recognise students who have shown the expected behaviours in each area. These behaviours are outlined in our Discipline Policy, a copy of which can be obtained from the office.

In order to receive a bronze badge, students need to achieve an award from each of the three areas – respect, safety and learning. Once they have achieved their three awards they will be presented with their bronze badge. They then need to receive another three awards in each of the three areas to receive their silver badge and then likewise for gold. In all, students need to achieve nine awards by the end of the year to receive their gold badge.

Students are reminded that they are to return their badges when they achieve the next level, that is, if receiving a silver badge, students bring their bronze badge to school on badge assembly day and hand it to the teacher when they are presented with their new silver badge. Students may keep the badge they earn by the end of the year. It appears that many students do not seem to value the wearing of badges as they have been achieved. Many teachers and parents noted that they were not being worn on a regular basis. We will be monitoring this very closely throughout the year. If we find that only a small number of students are wearing their bronze and
silver badges, we will consider no longer giving badges at these two award levels and we will only give certificates. We would maintain both the gold badge and the certificate at the highest award level. This would not happen until 2011.

**Canteen News**
Many thanks to Mrs Alie Nuqui for her kind donation of new lunch baskets for the canteen. They are fabulous and the students are very appreciative. Don’t forget if you can spare a few hours to help in the canteen, please see Mrs French our canteen manager. We still need some extra helpers on Fridays.

**School Sun-Safe Policy**
Our school has a policy of ‘no hat – play in the shade’ to protect students from the damage that can be caused by the sun. Our school uniform offers parents and students the choice of either a surf hat or a cricket hat in school colours. These hats provide the best protection for your child and are what we prefer students to wear. Please ensure your child wears a hat to school every day and that you have applied sun-screen to them before coming to school.

**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.

**Definitions**

### English

**Pronouns** - Person: A pronoun has different forms depending on its person. There are three persons. They are:

- **FIRST PERSON** – This refers to the person speaking.
  - I am an athlete (personal pronoun singular)
  - We all run in the City to Surf (personal pronoun, plural).
  - It is mine (possessive pronoun, singular).

- **SECOND PERSON** – This refers to the person being spoken to.
  - You will be late, Tom (personal pronoun, singular).
  - You will be late, children (personal pronoun, plural).
  - You have won the prize. It is yours (possessive pronoun, singular).

- **THIRD PERSON** – This refers to the person being spoken about.
  - I wouldn’t trust them (personal pronoun, singular).

### Maths

**Column graph:** a graph that represents the data in a series of vertical or horizontal columns.

### Technology

**Database:** an organized collection of information. It is like a box of 3x5 cards that you can search, sort and analyse rapidly with a database program.

A database program lets you add, delete and change data in the database. You can create reports, lists, labels, etc.

"I have my recipes on a database."

### Parking in School Grounds
Parents are reminded once again that there is no parking in school grounds for the purpose of picking up and dropping off of students in the mornings and afternoons. There are only a limited number of parking spaces and these are for staff and deliveries.

### Food for Thought

"Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere".  
Chinese Proverb

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Pauline Baker  
Principal  
11.2.10

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