Dear parent/caregiver  

Term 1 Week 7

Last week the federal government released the draft of the Australian Curriculum for consultation. This curriculum outlines the proposed content that all schools across Australia will be teaching from 2011. This has been agreed to by all states in the country. The first phase of development includes curriculum for English, mathematics, science and history. The second phase, to be released later, will include geography, arts and languages. The third phase will involve the rest of the curriculum.

Each learning area includes content descriptions and achievement standards. The content descriptions specify what teachers are expected to teach. An achievement standard describes the quality of learning (the depth of understanding, extent of knowledge and sophistication of skill) expected of students at each year level.

The draft curriculum for these learning areas is available for parents to view online at the Australian Curriculum consultation website www.australiancurriculum.edu.au. The easiest way to provide feedback is by visiting the consultation website. Teachers in many schools across the country will also be examining the curriculum materials in detail and providing feedback on the appropriateness and usefulness of the online curriculum. This practical application will provide very useful feedback to help review and improve the draft curriculum. The NSW Board of Studies will be advising the Department of Education and Training as to how the Australian Curriculum is to be implemented in NSW schools. Please consider visiting the website and providing feedback.

District Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to all of our swimmers who attended the district carnival Wednesday 24 February. They swam brilliantly and as a result, Minchinbury PS won the carnival for the third year in a row. We will now be sending a large team of Minchinbury students to represent our district at the Sydney West PSSA Carnival which will be held at the Aquatic Centre, Homebush on Tuesday 23 March. Congratulations to our team of swimmers. Good luck at the carnival!

Jadd Munzer       Maile Haumono       Aydan Houeis
Luke Marshall     Emma Harvey        Monique Portelli
Caitlin Bradley   Leilani Betham     Cameron Holmes
Jack Clifton      Daniel Kinsey      Laythan Boreham
Sharray Brown     Tori Wallace       Alex Petersen
Taylor Harvey     Anthony Surace     Amy Houeis
Jazmin Taylor

Rooty Hill High School Visit

On Wednesday 3 March, student ambassadors, teachers and performance groups from Rooty Hill HS visited our Stage 3 students and shared with them information about the high school and about the students’ experiences starting Year 7. Our students were very impressed with the information they received and the high school ambassadors gave excellent presentations.

School Website

Earlier this term our school launched its website. You can find out about our school by entering the following web address: http://web1.minchinbury.p.schools.nsw.edu.au/internet/Internet/Home.html

As new things happen in the school additional pages will be added to the website. We hope that you will visit our site often to learn about all the exciting things we do.

P&C Meeting

At the P&C meeting held on Wednesday 10 March discussion focused around the Australian Curriculum, school website, electronic whiteboard demonstration, upcoming events and fundraising activities. The next meeting will be in Term 2 on Wednesday 28 April at 9.15am in the AV room. We hope you can join us.

Harmony Day

Friday 12 March is Harmony Day. On this day we celebrate the unified and inclusive nature of our nation and look to promote the benefits of cultural diversity. The key message of Harmony Day is ‘Everyone Belongs’. On Friday, students are encouraged to wear the colour ORANGE which is the official Harmony Day colour. If they do not have orange clothing, then an orange ribbon will be sufficient. We hope many students will participate. Stage 2 students visiting Rooty Hill HS need to wear school uniform.

Commonwealth Bank Visit

On Monday 15 March, a representative from the Commonwealth Bank will be visiting our assembly to talk to students about the new School Banking Program. This year the bank will be introducing a system that gives out tokens to students as rewards for regular saving. These can then be swapped for gifts. The aim is to get students into the habit of saving. No deposit is too small. For every new Youthsaver account opened, the Commonwealth Bank gives the school $5 plus 5% of the value of each deposit. Each term there is a draw for participating schools for a chance to win a junior cricket equipment pack. Belinda Russell, the Commonwealth Bank Liaison Officer, will be available after this presentation to answer questions and open accounts for parents and students.

Regional Director's Visit

On Monday 15 March Western Sydney Regional Director, Mr Greg Prior, will be visiting our school. He will be visiting some classrooms, meeting our student leaders, watching some of our talented performers and talking with teachers. We will be very proud to show off our great school!

Stage 3 Fundraiser

On Thursday 25 March Stage 3 will be holding a ‘Snail Trail’. Students are asked to bring in any silver coins that they can on this day to create the longest trail. The class with the longest trail will win a prize.
**WiseOnes**

This program has been operating for several years in our school. WiseOnes is a support program for gifted children. The service is provided by very experienced teachers who are parents of gifted children themselves. All lessons are conducted at school. Each term a program of learning based around a particular theme, eg ancient Egypt, cartooning, engineering, is taught in a one-hour lesson once per week. Parents pay for their child to participate in the program. Unfortunately this term we have not had enough students to run the program. We would like to recommence lessons next term. If you would like to find out more about Wiseones, you can check out their website on [www.wiseones.com.au](http://www.wiseones.com.au).

**School Photos**

These will be taken on Thursday 18 March. Students should come neatly dressed in full summer uniform. **Please send in the pre-paid envelopes on this day.** Family photos will also be taken should you wish. Payment is by cash or cheque only. Payments made after photo day will incur a $20 surcharge.

**Batten Disease Awareness Day – 31 March 2010**

Batten Disease is an inherited neurological disorder that generally begins in early childhood. Children with Batten Disease experience seizures, blindness and loss of motor skills. Over time affected children suffer worsening physical and mental impairment, ending up in a wheelchair and unable to communicate. They become dependent on others in every aspect of their lives. Eventually Batten Disease causes childhood death. It is rare but always fatal.

This Awareness Day the Batten Disease Support and Research Association (BDSRA) are selling maze pens and small teddy bears with proceeds going to fund much needed research into the puzzle that is Batten Disease and ultimately a cure. One of our previous students has been diagnosed with this condition. Our school supports the research into this disease through the selling of teddy bears and maze pens. If you would like to purchase an item, these are available to students at recess in the office. The bears cost $5 each and the maze pens are $2 each. Donations over $2 are tax deductible.

**Splash for Cash**

Aydan Houeis of S3J has registered to participate in the 2010 Splash for Cash which is an event to raise money for the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children. This event will be held on Sunday 11 April at the Olympic Park Aquatic Centre, Homebush. On this day Aydan will join other swimmers to swim as many laps as he can. He is looking for sponsors for the event. Potential sponsors can go to [www.everydayhero.com.au](http://www.everydayhero.com.au) and search for Aydan Houeis or [www.splashforcash.com.au](http://www.splashforcash.com.au) and search from there. All sponsorship will be greatly appreciated.

**Notes This Fortnight**

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**Definitions**

**English**

Adjectives: are describing words. They describe (add meaning to) a noun or pronoun. She is *pretty*. - *Pretty* is an adjective. It describes the pronoun *she*.

A *small cat* - *Small* is an adjective. It describes the noun, *cat*.

A *big boy* – *Big* is an adjective. It describes the noun, *boy*.

Adjectives are said to qualify nouns or pronouns. There are many types of adjectives. They all describe nouns or pronouns.

**Maths**

**Communicative Law:** when adding (or multiplying) numbers it does not matter in what order they are added (or multiplied).

\[
6 + 8 = 8 + 6. \\
17 \times 23 \times 6 = 6 \times 23 \times 17.
\]

**Technology**

**Email:** is a way of sending messages from one computer to another. Email stands for ‘electronic mail’. You send a message to someone with attachments such as photos or files, using a modem or network. The message waits in another computer until the person goes online to get it.

**Food for Thought**

“If we teach today as we taught yesterday, we rob our children of tomorrow”.  

John Dewey

Pauline Baker
Principal

11.3.10

Minchinbury Public School  
A great school..... close to home!