Dear parent/caregiver  

Welcome back to the second half of 2010. There will be lots of fabulous things happening at Minchinbury PS including Education Week, Book Week, the athletics carnival, the school public speaking competition and Stage 3 camp to name a few. You can check the term planner accompanying this newsletter for dates and other up-coming activities.

Staffing News
Ms Kane will be taking leave for the first four weeks of term. S2K will be taught by Mr Will Dower who has been a long-standing casual teacher with us. Ms D’Arcy is also taking leave and S3D will be taught by another long-standing casual, Mr Geoff Wilkinson.

Welcome to Mrs O’Connor in the office and to Mr Bartlett who will be a part of the behaviour team based at Minchinbury PS. A warm welcome back to Mrs Berwick.

School Development Day
On Monday 19 July, the staff participated in intensive training and development with the other three schools that make up the Learning Neighbourhood – Eastern Creek, Rooty Hill primary and high schools – at Rooty Hill High School. The theme for the day was technology. There were lots of very useful workshops to attend and information and strategies were eagerly shared. These days strengthen our teaching practice and build on the quality teaching and learning programs which operate within the school.

Classroom Construction Update
Kinder classes and S1T have moved into their beautiful new classrooms. We are also using the new toilet facilities. The old demountable classrooms will be removed in the next few weeks and the grounds restored. We have lots of fabulous playing areas and the students seem to be enjoying the extra space.

Rear Entrance
The back gate of the school will be open for student and parent use starting from Monday 23. The gate will be open from 8.30 to 9.30am and then be closed until 2.30pm when it will reopen until 3.30pm. Hopefully this will mean less congestion in McFarlane Drive during peak periods of the day.

Sport in Schools Program
This program started today for all students who have paid to participate. Notes were sent home at the end of last term providing information. The cost of the program is $3.50 per week. This amount needs to be paid in advance of lessons. For families with siblings at school the cost will be $2.50 for a second child and $2.00 for each child there after. The program runs for all of Term 3 and we will be using a payment scheme. Payment for the first four weeks (22 July – 12 August) should have been paid by Wednesday 21 July. However, should you wish for your child to participate, you can pay the first instalment minus the first week’s payment of $3.50. The first payment would then be $10.50. The second instalment (19

August – 2 September) will be due by Wednesday 18 August. The final instalment (9 September – 23 September) will be due by Wednesday 8 September. It is not too late to pay.

PSSA Term 3
Competition starts this term on Friday 23 July. Information about outstanding payment for bus travel has been sent home with competitors.

Primary Athletics Carnival
Students in Stages 2 and 3 will participate in the annual athletics carnival on Tuesday 27 July at Charlie Bali Reserve (Aquilina Reserve) at Doonside. Students will compete in track and field events. Transport to the event will be by bus at a cost of $8.00. Permission notes and information have already been sent home.

Kinder Stage 2 Badge Assemblies
Badges will be presented to Kindergarten and Stage 2 students on Friday 30 July. Invitations to attend these assemblies will be going home in the next few days.

Education Week
This is happening from Monday 2 August through to Friday 6 August. A number of different activities will be occurring across the week – Open Day, Back to School Day, Badge Assemblies. Please keep an eye out for notes advertising these events.

P&C Meeting
The next meeting of the P&C Association will be on Wednesday 4 August (Education Week) at 9.15am in the AV room. We would love to see lots of parents attend.

Art on the Hill
On Wednesday, 4 August, students from K-6 will have their artworks on display at Rooty Hill High School as a part of the Learning Neighbourhood Art on the Hill initiative. Parents, relatives and friends are invited to attend the art show and vote for their favourite artwork in the People’s Choice Awards. Awards will be presented to the winners of each stage for each school in the Learning Neighbourhood as well as the prestigious Hangers Award for the best artwork as identified by the teachers who hang them. Come along at 5.00pm and see some of the wonderful works created by our talented students.

Kindergarten Enrolments 2011
We are currently seeking enrolments of students into Kindergarten in 2011. 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 early so that a place can be reserved for your child.

If your child turns five by 31 July 2011, 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.

Issues at School

From time to time problems arise between students. On most occasions, students are able to sort these problems out for themselves. Sometimes, parents may be concerned that the problem is not being settled as quickly as possible or it is getting more serious. When these difficulties persist, parents should always contact the school so that we can help students work through the problems and come up with an appropriate solution. Parents should never approach other children involved in issues with their child themselves. This could be misinterpreted as intimidation or harassment and could lead to further more difficult problems.

Should you think your child could benefit from some help to solve problems, please contact their class teacher if it is a classroom issue, or the appropriate stage supervisor. They are:

Early Stage 1 Mrs Umback
Stage 1 Mrs Bourke and Miss Nafe
Stage 2 Mr Holstien and Mrs Heywood
Stage 3 Ms D’Arcy and Mrs Jamieson

Mrs Berwick and I are also available to discuss any concerns with you. Please ring the office to make an appointment.

Definitions

**English**

*Indefinite Adjectives:* refer to number but do not give the exact number. *Some, few, many* and *most* are examples of indefinite adjectives in the following sentences:

- **Some** people are very kind.
- **Few** parents would come to the show.
- **Many** children are swimming.
- **Most** cars are shiny.

**Maths**

*Concentric Circles* – two or more circles which have the same centre.

**Technology**

*Monitor:* is the TV like part of the computer that you look at to see information.

Monitors are sometimes called displays or screens. “Screen” refers to the glass front only, while monitor refers to the screen, the case and everything inside the case. Information on a monitor is displayed in pixels.

**Notes This Fortnight**

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**Brain Bender**

This fortnight’s question:

How many times can you multiply 7 by 77?

Answer next issue.

Last issue’s question:

What goes up but never comes down?

Answer: Your age!

**Food for Thought**

"A Sense of humor can help you overlook the unattractive, tolerate the unpleasant, cope with the unexpected and smile through the unbearable."

Moshe Waldoks