Dear parent/caregiver

Term 1 Week 4

Term 1 is well under way and most of our students have happily settled back into the routine of school life. The students are to be commended for their good behaviour, eagerness to work hard and their efforts to wear school uniform. We currently have 562 beautiful students enrolled at our school who are being comfortably accommodated in 22 classes.

Staffing Information
Mrs Umback is on leave this week and Mrs Samuels is taking KU. Mrs Bray will be taking leave from 28 February until 18 March. Mrs Samuels will take KB for this period. Mrs Berwick will also begin maternity leave on 28 February. We wish her well for the new arrival in her family. Mrs Bourke will be relieving Deputy Principal on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesdays and Mr Holstein will relieve on Thursdays and Fridays.

Excellence Assembly
On Friday 4 February School Captain Cameron Holmes and Vice Captain Brooke Paulley accompanied me to the Rooty Hill HS Excellence Assembly to celebrate the outstanding achievements of the high school students in 2010. It was wonderful to see a large number of our ex Minchinbury students receiving recognition for their achievements. Congratulations to all recipients and to Rooty Hill HS on another successful year.

Swimming Carnival
The swimming carnival was attended by 130 students. Hinkler were the winning house scoring 380 points (Hargraves 330, Bird 228, and Smithy 226). There was great participation by all involved. House areas were clean and great cheering was heard throughout the day. The new house captains and vice captains did an outstanding job. Thank you to all of our parent helpers for their assistance on a very hot day. Thanks to Mr McKenzie and Mrs Zuber for their fantastic organisation of this event. The Zone Carnival will be on Wednesday 23 February. Good luck to our zone team.

Kindergarten News
All of our Kinder students have now enrolled at school and they appear very settled. Teachers will be going over the school expectations of behaviour and the routines of the classroom over the coming weeks. It is really pleasing to see how well they are responding to school. Parents will also be pleased to know that the school has just accepted a quote to install air conditioning in the Kindergarten rooms and S2R room. This should occur within the next two weeks and will cost the school $13,000.

Student Leaders Investiture
On Wednesday 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 Mr Holstein 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.

Active After-school Communities
This year Mrs Charlton and Miss Terrazzolo will be running the Active After-school Communities program. This program operates on Mondays and Fridays this term for Stage 1 students commencing at 3.15pm and finishing at 4.15pm. The program started this week and students appeared to be enjoying the different games and activities being taught.

Maroon Mufti Day
Today students wore a range of maroon items to school in support of the Maroon Mufti Day. This day was held across NSW to raise money for flood affected schools in Queensland. Many thanks to all those who participated and donated a gold coin to the appeal.

P&C Meeting
As we were unable to fill the executive positions of the P&C last year, we will be holding a public meeting to see if there is interest in re-establishing the Association at the school. This will be held at 9.15am in the AV room at the bottom of the library stairs on Wednesday 23 February. All interested parties are welcome to attend. Pre-schoolers are welcome.

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 1 and Wednesday 2 March. They will learn about what makes a good leader and develop skills that will assist them as leaders in our school. Information about this activity has already been sent home.

Rooty Hill HS Information Evening
This information evening has been postponed until Monday 7 March. A note has gone home to Stage 3 students this week.

Back Gate Closures
From time to time we have slight emergencies that require closing the back gate. This could be because trades people are using the entrance, there has been a hazard detected or we are in lockdown. The gate will be open till 9.10am when it will be closed for the remainder of the day. It will be reopened at 2.30pm for afternoon dismissal.

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.

Minchinbury PS

A great school….. close to home!
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. Parents should consider using this facility when they need to leave for work early. There have been a number of students who have been at school as early as 7.30am. There is no supervision until 8.30am. It is not safe to leave your child somewhere where they cannot be supervised. Please consider using the centre for your before and after childcare needs.

**Special Announcement**

Congratulations to Cameron Holmes S3M on his successful audition for the role of Michael Banks in the Sydney cast of Mary Poppins. Cameron has begun rehearsals and will travel to Melbourne for performances later this term before the show opens its Sydney season. We wish him great success and many best wishes.

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**Definitions**

**English**

*Mood*: This refers to the way the process or action is expressed by the verb. There are three moods: the indicative mood, the imperative mood and the subjunctive mood.

The indicative mood of sentences gives facts (statement).

The dog *bit* the policeman.

The imperative mood is a command.

Come inside and have your tea.

The subjunctive mood expresses some doubt, possibility or wish.

If your cousin *should come*, he would be welcome.

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**Maths**

*Data*: a collection of information such as facts or measurements.

What are the most popular fruits eaten by your friends?

This is the data.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fruit</th>
<th>Number of People</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>orange</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>apple</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>plum</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>peach</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>grape</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>watermelon</td>
<td>12</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Technology**

*Virus*: a virus is a computer program that has been written to purposely damage computer systems. Your computer can get a virus from another computer, through modems, networks or disks. You can protect your computer from viruses by using virus protection software, and by only downloading programs from sources you can trust.

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**Brain Bender**

This fortnight’s question:

If five men can install 100 fireplaces in four days, how many men of equal skill would be needed to install 150 fireplaces in just one day?

*Answer next issue.*

Last issue’s question:

What is usually filled in the morning and emptied at night, except during Christmas when it is filled at night and emptied in the morning?

Answer: A stocking.
Notes Home This Fortnight

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<th>Whole School</th>
<th>Stage Newsletters</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Whole School</td>
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<td>Whole School</td>
<td>Maroon Mufti Day</td>
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<td>Whole School</td>
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<td>Colonial Walking Tour Excursion</td>
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<td>Zone Swimming Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individuals</td>
<td>Personalised Learning Plans</td>
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</tbody>
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Positive Behaviour for Learning

This week’s target is:

‘We follow classroom rules’.

At the beginning of every year, teachers work to develop classroom expectations of student behaviour which are in line with our school expectations of students as respectful, safe learners. Students and teachers jointly construct the classroom rules and talk about the rewards for following the rules and possible consequences for non-compliance.

Every class is involved in the process and the expected behaviours are explicitly taught, practised and monitored throughout the year. You might like to discuss with your child their class rules and what they are doing to ensure they are meeting the expected standards.

A revised version of the school’s discipline policy is being printed for all families and will be sent home in the next few weeks.

Food for Thought

“You can teach a student a lesson for a day; but if you can teach him to learn by creating curiosity, he will continue the learning process as long as he lives”. ~ Clay P. Bedford

Have a great week!

Pauline Baker 17.2.11