Dear parent/caregiver

Term 1 Week 6

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
It is with much sadness that we announce that Mrs Howell has been successful in gaining a transfer to Glenbrook PS which is closer to her home. Mrs Howell has been a member of Minchinbury PS staff for almost 20 years and has been an active, dedicated and committed teacher and staff member. We wish her every happiness in her new school. A replacement for Mrs Howell is still being finalised.

Maroon Mufti Day
A huge thank you to all the students who participated in Maroon Mufti Day to raise funds for schools affected by flood damage in Queensland. Our students raised $562 for this cause. This is a tremendous effort!

P&C Meeting
On Wednesday 23 February the school held a public meeting to discuss the re-establishment of the P&C Association in the school. Thank you to the 21 parents who attended who voted in support of the P&C continuing this year. An election was held at this meeting to fill the vacant executive positions. The following are the new P&C executive for 2011:

- President: Karly Ozturk
- Vice President: Caitlyn Wignell
- Treasurer: Liahne Papworth

The P&C still has two vacant positions – the second vice president and the secretary. If you would like to be considered for either of these positions, please feel free to attend the next meeting of the P&C which will be held on Wednesday 9 March at 7.00pm in the staffroom of the school.

District Swimming Carnival
On Wednesday our school took a team of 27 swimmers to the district carnival. Our students did a great job and performed brilliantly. Their behaviour and manners were excellent and they were fantastic ambassadors for our school. Congratulations to all competitors and thanks to parents who assisted with transportation. Our appreciation to Mr McKenzie and Mrs Bourke who accompanied the students on the day.

Learning Neighbourhood Student Leadership Conference
The school captains and prefects attended the Learning Neighbourhood Student Leadership Conference at Rooty Hill HS on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week. They discussed the characteristics of good leaders and worked with other students from the Learning Neighbourhood. The prefects have indicated that they thought the days were very interesting and helpful for them in their new roles as school leaders.

Stage 3 ‘Hattitude’ Award
In promoting sun safety while students are in the playground, Stage 3 teachers have introduced the ‘Hattitude’ award. Stage 3 students need to wear a hat when in the playground at recess and lunch. The number of students wearing hats is collected and the class with the greatest percentage wins the award. This week’s winner is S3W with 80% of students wearing hats. We are aiming for 100% participation.

Schools Clean Up Day
Our school will be participating in this event on Monday 7 March. Through participation, students learn first-hand how to reduce the impact of waste on our school environment and make a difference within our school community. All classes are participating and we encourage students to bring along a pair of disposable gardening gloves.

Best Start for Kindy
All Kindergarten students in NSW public schools take part in the Best Start literacy and numeracy assessment program. Research shows that early intervention gets the best results when it comes to improving literacy and numeracy skills and under the Best Start program 2,300 specially trained teachers assessed students’ reading and writing, their communication skills and recognition of the sounds and letters of the English language. They also looked at students’ early numeracy skills in counting, number recognition and how they work with groups and patterns. The program allows teachers to assess and diagnose the starting point of a child’s education and gives students the best start to their formal education by allowing teachers to plan their lessons to cater to each child’s level of proficiency in literacy and numeracy. Our teachers have completed these assessments and are ready to discuss their findings with parents.

Kindergarten teachers will be available to discuss these results next Monday and Thursday afternoons – 7 and 10 March. Interview booking sheets have already been sent home with information about the interview times. More information about Best Start is available at: http://www.curticulumsupport.education.nsw.gov.au/beststart/parents.htm

ACARA MySchool Website
This website will be available again for viewing on Friday 4 March. Updated information about our school can be viewed from this time. Information

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about this year’s changes and additional information. Parents should note that the information about recurrent income and capital includes the cost of teacher salaries, costs incurred in cleaning the school, school maintenance, professional learning, IT support, utilities and resources. A fact sheet is provided for your information.

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.

Rooty Hill High School Visit
On Wednesday 9 March, student ambassadors, teachers and performance groups from Rooty Hill HS will be visiting our Stage 3 students and sharing with them information about the high school and about the students’ experiences starting Year 7. They will answer questions from students. This will happen between 9.30 and 11.00am.

Voluntary Contributions
Each year the school receives a grant to pay for a range of classroom equipment which students use. These include things like paper, exercise books, pencils, scissors and other consumable materials. The amount we receive works out to be approximately $50 per student. This is not a lot of money for each student and does not provide for additional resources like library books, computer equipment and software, sporting equipment, and other resources we regularly use. Information has been sent home regarding voluntary school contributions. Contributions are $30 per child. Please send your voluntary contribution as soon as possible and be eligible for an entry into the prize draw. We rely on this support from our school community to assist with purchasing resources for our students and making our learning environment exciting and inviting for everyone.

Late Arrival to School
When students arrive to school in the morning after the bell, Mrs Bourke, Mrs Moore and Mr Holstein distribute late passes to all latecomers. Parents are asked not to try and sneak in while they are writing passes. It is a Departmental requirement that we record late arrivals. Please demonstrate responsible behaviour for your child by graciously accepting the late passes from our staff and following school procedures.

School Diaries
The school still has a few diaries left for students in Stages 2 and 3. A reminder note has been sent home this week.

Parents Visiting the School
All visitors must report to the office to sign the visitor’s register and take a visitor’s identification card before going to classrooms. Please make sure you follow these procedures when visiting the school so that we can account for all people in an emergency situation.

There should not be any need for parents to visit classrooms during learning times, especially between 9.00am and 11.00am. All birthday cakes can be left at the office and they will be sent to classrooms just before recess as this is the most appropriate time to cut and distribute treats.

School Website
Last year 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.

Entering and Leaving the School
Parents are advised that the gates nearest to the shopping centre are for vehicles and are not meant for pedestrian access. Please do not bring your child to school through these gates or go home in the afternoon through the car park. This can be quite dangerous for young children as cars are often entering and leaving the school at this time.

Morning Assemblies
Thank you to the parents who escort their children to the COLA for the Monday morning assembly when the bell rings. However, we would ask parents to move away from the stairs and ramps once their children have gone to their designated lining up area so that others coming to the COLA have clear access. Parents are requested to begin leaving when the first bell goes. As we are trying to get to rooms and start work as soon as possible, we ask parents to leave promptly, not to talk and distract students, to keep preschoolers quiet and with you, and not to block the entry ways. Please do not go to students to kiss them ‘goodbye’ as this is very disruptive to our assembly.

On other days, when the bell goes, students are to walk to their designated lining up area. It would be appreciated if parents did not take students directly to classrooms, or come to rooms at the end of the day and wait outside of rooms to collect students. K – 2 students will be taken to the COLA area where they will be dismissed by their teacher.

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**Brain Bender**

This fortnight’s question:

If a clock chimes once every 15 minutes, how many times will it chime between 1pm and 7pm?

*Answer next issue.*

Last issue’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: 30 men as they install 5 each per day.

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**Useful Websites for Parents**

  
  Students have been given a username and password for this site. Parents can log on using their child’s name and password that was given to them by the teacher.

  
  Students in K-2 have received information about how to log on to this site and the individual password to use.

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**Positive Behaviour for Learning**

This week’s target is:

‘Travel to and from school in a safe way’.

All students in NSW government schools are expected to behave safely, considerately and responsibly, including when travelling to and from school. This is one of the core rules in all NSW government schools.

Students are expected to come directly to school in the morning and go straight home in the afternoon. Stopping at the shops unsupervised can lead to problems developing and it is not a recommended practice.

Parents need to discuss with their children how they should behave on the way to and from school – walking on footpaths (not in the middle of the road), not going to friends’ houses without parental permission, speaking respectfully to friends and neighbours, not speaking to anyone they don’t know, stay seated on the bus, cooperate with the bus driver, always wear a seatbelt when travelling in the car.

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**Food for Thought**

“A student never forgets an encouraging private word, when it is given with sincere respect and admiration”.

~ William Lyon Phelps

Have a great week!

Pauline Baker
Principal

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