Dear parent/caregiver

Welcome back to the final term of the 2011 school year. Students will continue to work industriously across the term right up to the very last day. This term we are looking forward to a range of activities including the Kindergarten Orientation Program, Year 6 high school orientation visits, swim school, school cyclical review, student reports, presentation assemblies, Year 6 farewell, celebration day and graduation. We hope you can join us for some of these events.

**Cyclical Review**
The school will participate in an external cyclical review this term. The review panel made up of educators from outside of the school will be coming in to evaluate our practices in the areas of:

- School Purpose, Leadership, Performance, Planning and Practices;
- Teaching and Learning; and
- Professional Practice and Learning.

This will happen on **Thursday 17, Friday 18 and Monday 21 November** (Term 4 Week 6). Students, teachers and parents will be asked for their thoughts on our performance in these areas identified above. At the end of the review, the school will receive a report outlining strengths and areas for improvement. We believe this will be an invaluable process and will provide us with a tremendous amount of relevant information that can be used in the development of the next Strategic Plan and associated action plans.

**Public Speaking**
Congratulations to the following students who won their level in our school’s public speaking competition.

- **Kindergarten:** Sarvesh Mysore KP
- **Year 1:** Joshua Gange S1F
- **Year 2:** Esa Khan S1F
- **Year 3:** Evan Ademovic S2J
- **Year 4:** Chelsea Zammit S2R
- **Year 5:** Leilani Betham S3J
- **Year 6:** Madeline Sams S3R

Evan, Chelsea, Leilani and Madeline will now go on to represent Minchinbury PS in the district competition to be held on Wednesday 19 October.

**K-2 Sports Day**
K-2 students had a fabulous sports day on Thursday 22 September here at school. The P&C held a sausage sizzle for K-2 students and their parents which was very welcomed. Thanks to Mrs Vyse and Mrs Llewellyn for organising this successful event and for all the friends and relatives who came along to join in the fun.

**Footy Fever Multi Day**
Thank you to students, teachers and parents for supporting our footy fever multi day on the last day of Term 3. We raised $174.75 which will go towards Year 6 fundraising. Great work everyone!

**Premier’s Sports Challenge**
The Premier’s Sports Challenge will conclude this week. It is amazing how much sport and physical activity our students are participating in. Well done to everyone who completed their cards each week and placed the results on their class chart. We are pleased to announce that all of our classes have achieved at a silver or gold level throughout this term.

**Fitness-a-thon**
Linking in with the Premier’s Sporting Challenge the school will be holding a **fitness-a-thon fundraiser**. A circuit of fitness activities will be conducted in early Term 4. The number of activities completed will be tallied and the sponsorship cards returned to students for sponsorship money to be collected and returned to school. Prizes for the most money raised overall as well as in each class will be presented midway through Term 4. Your support of this activity will go towards the purchase of another permanent interactive whiteboard for classrooms or a set of iPads.

**Fitness-a-thon**
All classes will be completing their fitness challenges next week. Prizes include:

- **1st prize** iPad WiFi
- **2nd prize** 81cm 32” HD LCD TV
- **3rd prize** Playstation 3
- **4th prize** iPod Touch
- **5th prize** Nintendo 3DS
- **6th prize** iPod / CD Micro Sound System
- **7th prize** Gold Parker Pen
- **8th prize** Digital Camera
- **9th prize** AFL Football
- **10th prize** Tennis Racquet

The student who raises the most money will receive an Apple 13’ Mac Book Pro. There will be prizes for the highest money earner in each class as well as a prize for the class that raises the most money.

**Uniform Shop**
The uniform shop will be open every Wednesday this term from 8.45 – 10.00am. However, in Weeks 6 and 7, it will open on Thursdays 17 and 24 November to accommodate parents attending Kinder Orientation days. On those two days, they will open from 9am – 1pm.

Minchinbury Public School

**A great school….. close to home!**
School Self-Evaluation
The next meeting of the self-evaluation committee will be Monday 17 October at 3.15pm in the staffroom. We will be sending home a survey about writing in the next few weeks and we would really appreciate you views on this topic. The responses will be carefully analysed to provide a clear picture of where the school is at and what we may need to do to make improvements.

Student Enrolment in 2012
Parents should have received a note this week asking them to indicate if their child/children will be returning to Minchinbury PS next year. This information will assist us in organising classes for 2012 and making plans for other special programs. Please return this information by Friday 4 November.

Interrelate
The school will be hosting human sexuality lessons (old Family Life sessions) on Monday 31 October here at the school. An information note has been sent home this week. The session for Stage 2 students is 6.00pm and the Stage 3 session will be 7.15pm. The cost for attending one session is $17, attending two is $22.

P&C Meeting
The next meeting of the P&C will be on Wednesday 26 October at 9.15am in the AV room. We hope you will be able to join us for a cuppa and to discuss the many different happenings around the school including the school’s cyclical review.

Supermarket Promotions
Coles Sport in Schools Vouchers – Thank you to those parents and friends who have been collecting theses vouchers for our school. We have well over 10,000 vouchers! That is significantly more than last year and we still have a few weeks of the promotion to go. Keep up the great work! Maybe we’ll get close to 20,000 by the time the promotion closes.

Kindergarten Enrolments 2012
There have been lots of enrolments so far for Kindergarten next year. We have an excellent Kindergarten program and need to confirm 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. We will begin to finalise enrolments for next year during Term 4. Call in at the office for enrolment forms now, so you don’t miss out on a place for your child.

If your child turns five by 31 July 2012, then he/she is eligible to start school next year. You might like to share this information with your neighbours. Please contact the office for enrolment forms.

Proof of Birth
Parents seeking enrolment for their child in Kindergarten need to supply proof of birth in the form of a birth certificate. We have been advised by the NSW Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages that they are flooded with requests for birth certificates in January and February each year and that there is often a delay in processing requests. Children are not to be enrolled until proof of birth has been provided. To avoid delays and disappointment, parents are urged to make application now for birth certificates. Parents also need to check that their child has actually been registered. Applications can be downloaded from http://www.bdm.nsw.gov.au

Definitions

**English**

**Adverbs**: add meaning to verbs, adjectives and other acverbs.

*Quickly* is an adverb in: I ran **quickly**.

*Quickly* tells how I ran.

*Very* is an adverb in: I am a **very** fast runner.

*Very* tells how fast I ran.

*Too* is an adverb in: You run **too** quickly for me.

*Too* tells how quickly I ran.

In the first example *quickly* adds meaning to the verb, *ran*. In the second, *very* adds meaning to the adjective, fast. In the third, *too* adds meaning to the adverb, *quickly*.

**Maths**

*Die* (plural of dice): a numbered cube that is used in games

**Technology**

*Closed Captioning*: A service for persons with hearing disabilities that translates television program dialog into written words on the television screen.

**Positive Behaviour for Learning**

This week’s target is:

‘We wear our hats or play in the shade’.

Minchinbury Public School

A great school... close to home!
The major cause of the common skin cancers is cumulative unprotected exposure to the sun. Research shows that most skin damage occurs during childhood and adolescence. As such, there is a need to raise awareness within the whole school community about precautions needed to maximise protection from the sun. With the support of parents, students can be encouraged to take precautions when exposed to the sun.

Our school’s policy is for students to wear a hat when playing in the sun, preferably a wide-brim or surf style hat. If they do not have a hat, students are asked to play in shade areas of the school. This will need reinforcing as we head into the hotter parts of the year.

Brain Bender
I am not straight, but somewhat bent.
And often return from where I was sent.

What am I?

Answer next issue.

Last issue’s question:
Look at the Roman Numeral for 9: IX
Can you add one character to this figure so that it is turned into an even number?

Answer: SIX

Notes This Fortnight

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Food for Thought
"Take the attitude of a student, never be too big to ask questions, never know too much to learn something new".  

Og Mandino

Pauline Baker  
Principal  
20.9.11

Snake Population

It would appear that recent rains and warmer weather has encouraged a number of snakes to become quite active. There have been several sightings of a variety of snakes in and around the creeks and causeways in the Minchinbury area.

Please discuss with your child/children what to do if they encounter a snake when walking to and from school.

Interesting Websites
www.healthykids.nsw.gov.au

The new Healthy Kids website provides information, resources and ideas on physical activity and healthy eating for children and young people.