Dear parent/caregiver

Term 2 Week 1

It is great to be back for another exciting term at Minchinbury PS. This term will be a long and busy one. There are many things happening across the term including an Anzac Day ceremony, performing arts activities, PSSA competition, NAPLAN testing, excursions and student reports. Please see the attached term planner for details.

Staffing
As a result of transfers and retirements, there have been a few changes to our staff this term. Miss Doherty will continue to teach S1BH with Mrs Bell for the remainder of the year. Mrs Lee, who retired last Friday, has been permanently replaced by Miss Terrazzolo who has been a long-standing casual in our school for many years. We are delighted that she has been permanently appointed.

Our school has been fortunate to also have a new teacher appointed, Miss Amy Woodbury who will be working as a member of our support team. Mrs Sylvia Pope also joins us as our School Learning Support Coordinator. She will work with teachers to assist them in meeting the diverse needs of some of our students. We are very happy to have so many wonderful additions to our staff.

Cross Country Results
On Thursday 7 April Stage 2 and 3 students competed in our annual cross country carnival. It was a great day for a run and our students performed well. The results are as follows:

8/9 Years Boys (1st-10th): Leyton Holmes, Tyrell Bergan, Nathan Carroll, Lachlan Watson, Bradley Davies, Corey Harris, (equal 7th) Iqaan Ahmad and Logan Maybury, Michael McEwan, Joshua Pandey, Simon Lie.

8/9 Years Girls (1st-10th): Jazmin Taylor, Maddison Harris, Erin Cahalane, Kiara White, Beverly Misionare, Hannah McDonald, Jade O’Keeffe, Amanda Mills, Kathleen Sikuea, Steffany Carvalho.

10 Years Boys (1st-10th): Mitchell Hutchings, Sam Gregory, Bailey Wyatt, Petrit Hoxha, Aasir Khan, Anthony Da Silva, Rafay Farrukh, Jake Arman, Samet Sahim, Kaya Ibrahim.

10 Years Girls (1st-10th): Charlotte Brownjohn, Olivia Carrol, Isabella Flancia, Micaela Myles, Emma Harvey, Jada Sims, Chelsea Grima, Shania Fenech, Deniz Kahvecioglu, Monique Portelli.


Combined Overall House Points and Carnival

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>House</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bird</td>
<td>381</td>
<td>1st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hinkler</td>
<td>338</td>
<td>2nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smithy</td>
<td>316</td>
<td>3rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hargraves</td>
<td>274</td>
<td>4th</td>
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School Photos
These were given out to students on Thursday. If you have any concerns about the photos or would like to order additional copies, please contact the photographers, MSP.

Anzac Day Service
On Friday we held an Anzac Day Service under the COLA where we remembered our past and how our country has been shaped. Many thanks to the students who brought some flowers so we could make some floral tributes to use during the service. These were taken to the memorial at Rooty Hill RSL. Thank you to Ms Zuber and Mr Brough for organising this moving event.

Mothers’ Day Stall
The P&C will be holding a Mothers’ Day stall on Wednesday 4 May. Students will be able to bring in some money to purchase gifts for a range of prices for mums, grandparents and those special ladies in their lives.

Voluntary Contributions
Thank you to those parents who have paid their voluntary contribution of $30 per student. Those families who paid by the end of Term 1 were placed into a draw for a full winter uniform and gift pack. Congratulations to Cristabel Gonzalez and her family for winning the draw. We appreciate your support and the support of all our families.

PSSA Competition
Students who were successful in gaining a place on one of our PSSA teams will begin competition on Friday 6 May. Information about requirements will be sent home this week.

Active After-school Communities
This term Mrs Charlton and Miss Terrazzolo will be running the Active After-school Communities....

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Program. This program will be operating on Mondays and Fridays this term for Stage 2 students commencing at 3.15pm and finishing at 4.15pm. Places are still available on both days so if you are interested in participating please complete the permission note and return it to the school as soon as possible.

Dance Nova
Unfortunately we did not get sufficient numbers of students to participate in this program. Final numbers had to be sent in on the last day of Term 1. Despite many reminders, we were unable to get the required numbers to go ahead. Even on the last day for payment, we only received 23 payments which was still well short of the number needed to run the program. Those students who have paid for this activity will have their money transferred to the next school activity – Life Education. We apologise for any inconvenience.

Uniform Shop
The uniform shop will open every second week on even weeks during Terms 2 and 3. It will be open again next on Wednesday 4 May.

NAPLAN Testing
The NAPLAN 2010 Tests for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will be held from Tuesday 10 May to Thursday 12 May 2011. For more information and test samples, see www.naplan.edu.au/parents/parents.html

P&C Meeting
The first meeting for this term will be on Wednesday 11 May at 9.15am in the AV room near the library. Members and guests are welcome to attend.

Walk Safely to School Day
Friday 20 May 2011 is Walk Safely to School Day. On this day the Pedestrian Council of Australia is encouraging all primary school students to walk with their parents and carers to school to promote road safety, and individual and environmental health. Key road safety messages that this event promotes are:

• Hold a grown up’s hand when crossing the road.
• Hold a grown up’s hand when you’re on the footpath.
• Use a safe place to cross the road.
• Stop! Look! Listen! Think! every time you cross the road.

Walk Safely to School Day also enables the promotion of walking as a regular form of physical activity and an opportunity to raise awareness about the benefits of reduced traffic on our roads, particularly around schools.

Definitions

English
Continuous Form of Tense: tells us that the action or process is, was or will be continuing. The continuous tenses use the verb to be together with the present participle.

Present Continuous Tense
He is helping my mum this weekend.

Past Continuous Tense
He was helping my mum last weekend.

Future Continuous Tense
He will be helping my mum next weekend.

Maths
Decimal fraction: is a fraction written with a decimal point.

0.65 and 4.8 are decimal fractions

Technology
Access Charges: This is a fee charged by local phone companies for use of their networks.

Brain Bender
How many times can you multiply 7 by 77?
Answer next issue.

Last issue’s question:
Which is the odd one out?
February, July, November, December

Answer: July – all the others have 8 letters.

Notes This Fortnight

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<th>Active After-school Communities</th>
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<td>Stage 2</td>
<td>Athletics Carnival</td>
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<td>Stage 2 &amp; 3</td>
<td>NAPLAN Information</td>
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<td>Stage 2 &amp; 3</td>
<td>After-School Lego Club</td>
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<td>Stage 2 &amp; 3</td>
<td>Drumming Group</td>
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<td>Whole School</td>
<td>ANZAC Service</td>
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Positive Behaviour for Learning

This week’s target is:

‘We come prepared for school!’

In order to be good learners, students need to be organised each day for school. Having all the necessary items that they need to use in the classroom is important – pens, pencils, rulers, glue, homework, notes, library books, lunches, drinks and hats.

It might be useful to pack bags the night before so that everything is ready to go in the morning. Encourage student to be responsible for packing their bags. This helps them learn responsibility and independence. It also stops mums being blamed for everything!

Useful Websites for Parents

http://raisingchildren.net.au/

This is an Australian website that provides useful information on parenting children of all ages from newborns to early teens.

Food for Thought

“Most of all the other beautiful things in life come by twos and threes, by dozens and hundreds. Plenty of roses, stars, sunsets, rainbows, brothers and sisters, aunts and cousins, comrades and friends - but only one mother in the whole world”.

~Kate Douglas Wiggin

Pauline Baker
Principal
3.5.10