Dear parent/caregiver

Term 2 Week 5

Lots of exciting things are happening at Minchinbury PS. The Life Education van has arrived and students will be participating in learning sessions with Life Education teachers. This is an important part of our PDHPE curriculum where students explore how to keep themselves healthy and those things that can cause problems. The Young Writers competition winners will be announced next week and a number of musical workshops will be held over the coming weeks. Kindergarten students will also have the opportunity of attending two excursions. It will be quite busy before the end of term.

Zone Cross Country
Thankfully the weather was much better this year for the running of the zone carnival. Rain only postponed the event once, which was a great relief. The students from Minchinbury Public School who attended the carnival did extremely well. Overall the school came fifth in the district, with all students behaving and performing well on the day. We would also like to acknowledge the parents who attended the day and helped with the transport of students – thank you for support.

Six students performed exceptionally well and have been selected for the upcoming regional cross country carnival on Wednesday 15 June, 2011. Our regional representatives are: Jazmin Taylor, Maddison Harris, Charlotte Brownjohn, Mitchell Hutchings, Cameron Brooke and Blake Maybury. Congratulations to these students. We wish you continued success at this next, higher level of competition.

Athletics Carnival
Our Years 3 to 6 students participated in the annual athletics carnival last Wednesday 18 May at Charlie Bali Reserve. The weather was perfect and the students participated very energetically in both track and field event. The relay races were very exciting as were the two races senior students ran against two good sports – Miss Roberts and Mr Brough. It was a great day! Thanks to Mrs Charlton for organising this event for us.

Debating
For our first debate we travelled to Eastern Creek Public School to debate the topic “School Uniforms Should be Abolished”. As the visiting school we were the negative team. For our first debate the girls did a brilliant job and the team presented a united and strong team case. A point to note was Laura’s idea to rebut the team line of the opposing team. “Very clever” noted the adjudicator. Kaela summed up our team’s case beautifully. We had won our first debate for the year!

Our second debate was held at Minchinbury Public School and the debate topic was “Dogs Make Better Pets than Cats”. We took on the affirmative role. We rebutted well and all speakers spoke clearly and confidently. We were awarded winners for our second debate. Congratulations to the team! Our next debate is in Week 6 and the topic is “Mobile Phones are a Nuisance”. We will be taking on the negative case.

PSSA Rugby League
We have had a great start to the PSSA rugby league season with all boys now remembering to bring all their gear, including mouth guards. Remember, No mouth guard – No play! A HUGE THANK YOU must go to Mr and Mrs David who supplied the junior team with green socks, white shorts and drink bottles! The team looks fantastic! THANK YOU again!

Year 5 Science and Technology Day
Last Monday, students in Year 5 attended a Science and Technology Day at Rooty Hill HS. Many students were very excited about creating their own web pages and the experiment they completed resulted in ‘flubber’ being made. Many thanks to the students and staff of Rooty Hill HS for providing this excellent opportunity for our students.

Got It! Program (Getting on Track in Time!) Last week we sent home invitations to K – 2 parents to attend an information session about the Got It! Program. This is an early intervention program that is being implemented jointly by the Department of Education and Communities and NSW Health. It is designed to assist students who are having difficulty in managing their behaviour learn some additional strategies that may help them have greater success at school. The program will be delivered jointly by teachers and members of the Health team and will involve students and parents in a weekly two-hour session during Term 3.

We were extremely impressed with the more than 60 parents who attended either the morning or evening session. Your response and feedback is greatly appreciated. From the turn out, it is obvious that parents are interested in finding out ways of managing their child’s behaviour at home as well as what can be done at school. For those parents whose child may not be selected for the initial program, the team will consider some further learning opportunities for parents over the coming terms.

Parents are urged to complete the survey sent to homes last week and return it to school as soon as possible. You don’t need to have attended either of the information sessions to do this. All information is confidential and will be used to help identify the most suitable students to participate in the program.

Life Education
Lessons in the Life Education van started yesterday and students will be rostered to visit the education centre van over the next few days.

Young Writers
Each year, our students enter the Young Writers competition. This year, students had to write an exposition (argument or discussion) about
rainforests. The presentation ceremony will be held at Rooty Hill HS on Wednesday 1 June. We will be announcing the winners in our next issue and will publish their winning entries.

Honour Assembly
The first of our Honour Award assemblies will be held on Friday 3 June for Stages 1 and 3. Parents will be sent home information about this event in the next few days.

Student Assistance Scheme
Each year, the school receives a small grant to support students with the purchase of uniforms or the attendance on excursions. The school can provide a small amount of financial assistance for these two areas. Parents needing help are asked to put their application in writing and address it to Mrs Baker for consideration of the Student Assistance Committee.

Excursion Deadlines
Every activity that the school organises is advertised through notes and the newsletter well in advance. These activities have final dates for payments. These dates have been given so that we can finalise payments to bus companies, venues or presenters for materials to be used. Should you become aware that your child has neglected to give you a note at some time, please contact the office to make arrangement for another note to be issued or to organise payment prior to the closing date for payments. Don’t wait til after this date, as you may be disappointed when we can’t accept your money.

If you are experiencing financial hardship, please contact the school before the closing date so we can make other arrangements for example, payment in instalments.

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Definitions

**English**

Perfect Continuous Form of Tense: combines the perfect and the continuous forms in the present, past and future tenses.

Present Perfect Continuous Tense
She has been helped by many people.

Past Perfect Continuous Tense
She had been helped by many people.

Future Perfect Continuous Tense
She will have been helped by many people.

Maths

*Deduct*: to take away from.

*Deduct $4 from your pay (take $4 away from your pay).*

Technology

Amplitude Modulation (AM) that's the "AM" Band on your Radio: A signalling method that varies the amplitude of the carrier frequencies to send information. The carrier frequency would be like 910 (kHz) AM on your AM dial. Your radio antenna receives this signal and then decodes it and plays the song.

**Brain Bender**

It’s short when early
Long when late.
From something tangible (real)
It takes its shape.

What is it?

**Answer next issue.**

Last issue’s question:

Why do the inhabitants of Antarctica not hunt Polar Bear as a food source?

Answer: Polar bears live in the North Pole not the South Pole

**Food for Thought**

“Time is the scarcest resource and, unless it is managed, nothing else can be managed”.

Peter Drucker

Pauline Baker
Principal

Minchinbury Public School

A great school….. close to home!
Useful Websites for Parents

Fresh new Healthy Kids Website
www.healthykids.nsw.gov.au

With a new design, the Healthy Kids website is now a central point for teachers, childcare workers, parents and children to find information and resources on healthy eating and physical activity. The Healthy Kids website is an initiative of NSW Department of Health; NSW Department of Education and Communities and the Heart Foundation.

‘5 Ways to a Healthy Lifestyle’ provides the overall theme for the website: Get active each day; choose water as a drink; eat more fruits and vegetables; switch off the screen and get active; and eat fewer snacks and select healthier alternatives.

Positive Behaviour for Learning

This week’s target is:

‘We complete our work on time!’

This week we are looking at completing work on time. This means that students should be able to complete an activity in the time allowed by the teacher. There are obvious things that stop students from being able to do this. They include not having the right equipment eg pens, pencils, books, rulers. Time spent searching for replacement items or sharpening pencils means that the student has less time to complete the task.

The same thing can happen at home when students are trying to complete homework or any jobs parents may want their child to complete. Being prepared reduces time wasted in getting organised. When your child sits down to do their homework, make sure they have everything they need before they start and keep distractions to a minimum.