Dear parent/caregiver

Term 3 Week 1

A warm welcome back to school to all students and parents. We will once again face an exciting and busy term. In Term 3, students will participate in activities including the PULSE concert at the Opera House, the Learning Neighbourhood Reach! concert, K - 2 sports day, Book Week, Art on the Hill, Stage 3 Canberra excursion, a fitness-a-thon and public speaking competition. All of the activities and events should be very exciting.

Staffing News
At the very end of last term, Mrs Pope, our School Learning Support Coordinator (SLSC), was promoted to Assistant Principal of Palm Avenue School for Effective Reading. We wish her great success in her new position. Mr Daniel Elvidge will be replacing Mrs Pope as the school's SLSC in the next few weeks.

Miss Doherty was successfully interviewed for a permanent teaching position at Surveyor's Creek PS which she started on Monday this week. Replacing Miss Doherty on S1BH from Wednesday to Thursday is Mrs Ingrid Jacobs who has worked casually for our school over many years. Our congratulations to Miss Doherty and a big welcome to Mrs Jacobs.

We also welcome back Mrs Sullivan this term who will be teaching S2J with Mrs Leitch on Thursdays and Fridays.

School Development Day
On Monday 18 July, the staff participated in intensive training and development with the other three schools that make up the Learning Neighbourhood – Eastern Creek, Rooty Hill primary and high schools – at Rooty Hill High School. We looked at the skills students need for life in the 21st century. The Learning Neighbourhood will be developing plans that reflect the development of these skills across the four schools. Minchinbury staff then returned to school for further training in PBL, the Premier’s Sporting Challenge and the Maths Continuum. These days strengthen our teaching practice and build on the quality teaching and learning programs which operate within the school.

Kinder Goes to High School
Our Kindergarten students had a great day visiting Rooty Hill HS last term. The high school students paid a lot of attention to the Kindie students and they appeared to enjoy participating in the different activities.

Kindergarten Excursion
On Thursday 30 June, Kindergarten students travelled by coach to The Australian Reptile Park at Gosford. This was a fantastic experience for the students. They were able to experience first-hand the different reptiles on display. Some students even had the snakes draped around their shoulders. They had such a great day that they’re still talking about it after the holidays.

Premier’s Sporting Challenge
This term our students will be able to participate in the Premier’s Sporting Challenge. Students need to record how much exercise they have participated in on a daily and weekly basis. The amount of exercise completed will be totalled and an average given that will be used to determine if students have achieved a bronze, silver or gold award. Activities can include things such as walking to and from school, playing games during recess and lunch as well as after school and weekend endeavours – dance, swimming, team sports and the like. We encourage all students to become involved in recording their physical activity this term. Information about the Challenge has been sent home this week.

PSSA Term 3
Competition starts this term on Friday 22 July – weather permitting. Information about outstanding payment for bus travel has been sent home with competitors. Finals should commence in Week 4.

School Self-Evaluation Committee
Every year the school reviews curriculum and management practices across the school. A committee is formed with representatives from the staff and the community. We value greatly the input of our community as to participating in this process and making recommendations for planning across the next three year. Information about participating in this committee has been sent home this week.

Public Speaking Competition
This year students in all grades will be participating in public speaking as a part of Talking and Listening programs across the stages. Students will be working on speeches during class and for homework. They will be practising presentation skills and may ask parents to listen to speeches at home. There will be class competitions, grade competitions and a school final which will be held later this term. Look out for this activity in the future. The best speakers will go on to represent our school at the district competition in Term 4.

Supermarket Promotions
Over the coming weeks both Coles and Woolworths supermarkets will be holding promotional challenges from which schools can benefit. Coles will once again mount their Sport in Schools promotion which allows shoppers to collect vouchers which can be presented to the school and at the end of the promotion period the number of vouchers collected is exchanged for sporting equipment. Last year we received several sets of stopwatches and a first aid kit for sport use.

Woolworths is running an ‘Earn and Learn’ campaign. Shoppers send their dockets into school and for every $10 spent, the school receives one point which is totalled at the end of the promotion and then exchanged for teaching and learning resources from Modern Teaching Aids.

Both promotions will provide some usefull resources for our school. Further information will be sent home.
next week. Please start collecting your vouchers and docket now and send them in to the school office for collection. Don’t forget to ask relatives, neighbours and friends to help us too!

**Education Week**
This is happening from Monday 1 August through to Friday 5 August. A number of different activities will be occurring across the week – Open Day, Back to School Day, Merit Assemblies. Please keep an eye out for notes advertising these events.

**English Competition**
The UNSW English Competition will be held on Tuesday 2 August for all students who have paid to participate. Results will be available later in the year.

**Art on the Hill**
On Wednesday, 3 August, students from K-6 will have their artworks on display at Rooty Hill High School as a part of the Learning Neighbourhood Art on the Hill initiative. Parents, relatives and friends are invited to attend the art show and vote for their favourite artwork in the People’s Choice Awards. Awards will be presented to the winners of each stage for each school in the Learning Neighbourhood as well as the prestigious Hangers Award for the best artwork as identified by the teachers who hang them.

Come along at 5.00pm and see some of the wonderful works created by our talented students.

**P&C Meeting**
The next meeting of the P&C Association will be on Wednesday 3 August (Education Week) at 9.15am in the AV room. We would love to see lots of parents attend.

**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.

**Kindergarten Enrolments 2012**
We are currently seeking enrolments of students into Kindergarten in 2012. We have an excellent Kindergarten program and need to establish 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.

If your child turns five by 31 July 2012, then he/she is eligible to start school next year. Parents are urged to get enrolment forms from the school and complete them now, ready for next year. You might like to share this information with your neighbours. Please contact the office for enrolment forms.

**Payments Made by Cheques**
Parents are advised that all government schools now have bank accounts with Westpac. If parents write cheques for which they have insufficient funds, Westpac charges the school $10 for each dishonoured cheque. Should this occur, we will be passing this charge on to the writer of the cheque. This will be in addition to the fees already charged by your own bank. Please be careful when writing cheques for school payments to ensure that they won’t bounce!

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**Definitions**

**English**

Transitive and Intransitive Verbs

**Transitive** verbs need an object. The word *transitive* means ‘passing over’.

The old man *sailed* his yacht.

The action passes over from *sailed* to *yacht*.

**Intransitive** verbs don’t have an object.

The baby *is* still asleep.

**Maths**

*Descending order*: in order from largest to smallest.

204, 189, 132, 87, 31, 13

These numbers are written in *descending* order.

**Technology**

*Broadband*: refers to telecommunication in which a wide band of frequencies is available to transmit information. More services can be provided through broadband in the same way as more lanes on a highway allow more cars to travel on it at the same time.
Positive Behaviour for Learning

This week’s target is:

‘We complete our work on time!’

This week we are focusing on students completing their work on time. Teachers give students tasks to do within a given period of time. The expectation is that students will have the work completed during this time. However, some students find it difficult to do this. It could be that they don’t have the necessary equipment to start the task so unnecessary time is spent looking for missing pens, pencils, books etc. To avoid these types of delays, students need to have all their equipment with them every single day so that valuable learning time is not wasted.

Sometimes students don’t finish work because they have not understood the task. If this is the case, students need to ask the teacher for assistance. Teachers will then explain or reframe the task so that students understand that which is required. However, if students have been talking or not paying attention while instructions are given, teachers may be less than pleased that work has not been completed for this reason. Students need to be attentive during all lessons and follow teacher instructions carefully.

Parents can assist by reminding their children of these things and having similar expectations at home.

Brain Bender

Tied up in this a thing to avoid;  
But useful too when well employed.

What am I?

Answer next issue.

Last issue’s question:

If a brown house is made of brown bricks and a white house is made of white wood, what is a green house made of?

Answer: Glass.

Food for Thought

“The future depends on what we do in the present”.  
Mahatma Gandhi

Pauline Baker
Principal

21.7.11