Minchinbury Public School

Dear parent/caregiver

This week has seen the celebration of Education Week. This year’s theme is ‘NSW Public Schools – creating the future’. Our school strives to equip our students with the skills necessary for the 21st century. It is difficult to imagine what exactly those will be – just like it was hard to imagine in 1919 that a man would walk on the moon in 1969 and in 1969 that there would be such a thing as the Internet being an integral part of our lives.

Some of the things that have been identified as important for living in this rapidly changing century are:

- Ways of thinking: creativity and innovation; critical thinking, problem solving, decision making; learning to learn, meta-cognition;
- Ways of working: communication; collaboration (teambuilding);
- Tools for working: information literacy, ICT literacy; and
- Living in the world: citizenship – local and global; life and career; personal and social responsibility – including cultural awareness and competence.


As a school, we look for ways to help students gain a range of skills and strategies that they can use to be responsible and contributing global citizens. We embed critical thinking and problem solving into the curriculum. Working individually, with a partner and as a group are parts of our normal classroom practices. Increasing and improving the use of technology is at the forefront of our teaching and learning. Our impact on our environment and how we share our world with others are always in our hearts and minds.

The future has all kinds of amazing possibilities. Our students, your children will make it happen. We hope you have had an opportunity to visit our school and experience learning for the 21st century.

Activities this week included:

- **Monday**   PULSE Concert, Opera House
- **Tuesday**   Open Day Afternoon
- **Wednesday**   Art on the Hill
- **Thursday**   Back to School Day
- **Friday**   Kinder and Stage 2 Merit Assemblies

**PULSE Concert**

Our wonderful choir performed at this spectacular concert on Monday 1 August. Students in our choir are Leilani Betham, Jasmine Chan, Alexa Cruz, Anthony Da Silva, Princess Emeryn Emperado, Brittany Ford, Patricia Holt, Maysa Kabbout, Deniz Kahvecioglu, Auana Mahatariki, Harrison Myles, Zoe Pappas, Georgia Sabellico, Helen Sikuea, Nicole Singh, Swetah Singh, Danika Svidron, Ceyda White and Rayanne Zreika.

Cameron Holmes was a soloist, singing and dancing to ‘Electricity’ from Billy Elliott. Caitlyn Bradley performed as a member of the Western Sydney Region State Schools Concert Band. Emily Balzan and Kaela Tavares are members of the Western Sydney Dance Off! Troupe. It is amazing to see how talented the students of western Sydney are. Congratulations to all our students who participated in this fabulous show. Thanks to Mrs Anderson, Mrs Guerin and Mrs Booth who work with our students to perfect their performances for this event and supervise them throughout this very busy day.

**Open Day**

Thank you to the many parents who visited the school on Open Day. Students enjoyed lunching together with their parents and sharing their classrooms with them in the afternoon. It was wonderful to see so many parents and grandparents visiting the school.

**P&C Meeting**

The P&C Association has postponed its meeting until next Wednesday, 10 August at 9.15am in the AV room.

**Art on the Hill**

On Wednesday, 3 August, our creative students had their artworks on display at Rooty Hill High School as a part of the Learning Neighbourhood Art on the Hill initiative. Lots of parents, relatives and friends attended the art show and voted for their favourite artwork in the People’s Choice Awards. Our overall school winner was Bianca Nuqui in S2D. Congratulations to all award winners.

**Back to School Day**

Thank you to all the parents who took part in back to school day. There were 20 fabulous parents in the class of 2011. Our parent-students were taught lessons in grammar, technology, reading, science and PE. They were mostly well behaved and many of them demonstrated how to be respectful, safe learners.

Many thanks to Mrs Vyse, Mr Holstein, Mrs Leitch, Mrs Umback, Mrs Jamieson and Mr McKenzie who taught our curious and enthusiastic parents.

**Choir Rehearsals**

Students in the Reach choir will be attending a rehearsal at Eastern Creek PS in preparation for their upcoming concert this term. The rehearsal is on Tuesday 9 August.
Responsible Pet Ownership
K – 2 students will be participating in pet ownership talks on Thursday 11 August. This is a NSW government initiative. A guest speaker will talk to students about what it means to own and look after a pet. The students will get to observe a dog and its owner looking after it. This activity should help the students understand their responsibilities as pet owners.

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.

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 years. Information about participating in this committee has already been sent home. If you would like to participate, the first meeting will be Monday 8 August at 3.15pm in the staffroom.

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

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.

Notes This Fortnight

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Definitions

**English**

**Compound and Auxiliary Verbs**

Compound verbs are made up of more than one word. They are made up from auxiliary verbs and non-finite verbs (infinitives or participles). They are also known as **verb phrases**.

They are **going** to the movies

John **has been helping** for some weeks.

Some auxiliary verbs that are used to show tenses are:

- **have** I have seen a lion.
- **be** He is looking for his bag.
- **shall / will** I will be finishing work soon.
- **may** They may win a prize.
- **do** I do not see it that way.

**Maths**

**Diagonal:** a straight line that is drawn inside a shape from one vertex to another.
Positive Behaviour for Learning
This week's target is:
‘We stay in the right place!’

This week we are focusing on students always being in the right place. Some areas are ‘out of bounds’ for students, for example, being in the classroom when the teacher is not there, walking through the car park, walking through garden beds. These areas could be unsafe for students unsupervised, could lead to an accident occurring or damage to school property.

Students are reminded regularly of the safe areas to play in and how to move in and around the school. Having boundaries in which to work and play teach students about the rules that exist in our community and how to respect the property of others.

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

Brain Bender
What has three hands?

Answer next issue.

Last issue’s question:
Tied up in this a thing to avoid; But useful too when well employed.

What am I?

Answer: A knot.

Children and the Media
At present there is a lot of discussion around children and their exposure to violent media. Most parents adopt a ‘common sense’ approach to allowing exposure to anti-social material but there is a lot of misinformation in this area.

Media that has pro-social (good behaviour) themes is linked with pro-social behaviour and attitudes. Media with anti-social themes is linked with anti-social thoughts, feelings and behaviours.

Research consistently finds that excessive exposure to media violence can lead to:
1. increased aggressive behaviour, both in short term (immediately after exposure) and long-term (increase in aggressive tendencies overall);
2. increased hostility (long-term). This includes an exaggerated belief that the world is a frightening place, and a tendency to want to see others hurt;
3. an increased desensitisation to violence and decreased empathy for the suffering of others, both in the short-term (immediately after exposure) and long-term;
4. an increase in strategies for solving interpersonal conflict that involve aggression or violence and a decrease in the ability to access non-violent strategies when faced with conflict (long-term); and
5. an increase in beliefs suggesting that aggression is a normal and socially acceptable behaviour (long-term).

Keeping in mind this information, parents should carefully monitor what their children watch on television, but also the video games they play and material downloaded from the Internet.

Food for Thought
“The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn”. ~ Alvin Toffler

Pauline Baker
Principal