Dear parent/caregiver

It's another great week at Minchinbury PS! Our students are working hard and demonstrating that they are respectful, safe learners. This makes teachers and students very happy. The Book Fair will be coming to our school soon and there will be lots of activities happening in the coming weeks. We are looking forward to learning lots of new things!

Lockdown Drill
Our school has an active Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) Committee. The committee is responsible for working out and implementing emergency evacuation plans. These also include what to do in the event of intruders coming into the school. This is known as a lockdown. Last Monday our students and teachers practised what to do in this situation. The drill ran smoothly and the students responded very well to teacher instructions. The OH&S Committee will evaluate this drill and modify our procedures as appropriate. We will conduct other drills throughout the remainder of the year.

Choir Rehearsals
Students in the Reach! choir attended a rehearsal at Eastern Creek PS last week in preparation for their upcoming concerts on September 6 and 7 at St Albans Church at Rooty Hill. Ticket information has been sent home to participating students.

P&C Meeting
The P&C Association held a meeting last Wednesday morning. However, there were not enough members for a quorum to vote on actions to be taken. The next meeting of the P&C Association will be Wednesday 31 August at 7.00pm in the staffroom. All parents are welcome. We are planning for a disco next term and discussing ideas for future school purchases.

Stage 2 Maths Fun Day
Stage 2 students participated in a Maths Fun Day on Wednesday 10 August. During the day, they participated in a number of practical and interactive maths activities designed to show the link between maths and how it is applied in real-life situations.

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.

Drumming Workshop
Our drumming group also attended a workshop

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
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. Call in at the office for enrolment forms now, so you don’t miss out.

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.

**Technology**

**Broadcast**: to transmit (a radio or television program) for public or general use. In other words, send out or communicate, especially by radio or television.

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 4.8.11
Principal