Dear parent/caregiver  

Term 4 Week 3

As the warmer months are rapidly approaching, parents are reminded of the need to send their children to school with plenty of fluids to drink and apply sunscreen before leaving home. Reminders to make sure that hats are in school bags ready for recess and lunch breaks would be greatly appreciated. Labelling jackets or jumpers that get taken off as the temperature rises will help us to get these things back to students if they get lost. Hopefully, the weather will not be too hot before the school year ends.

Cyclical Review

The review team is being finalised and will have representation from other schools in Western Sydney Region as well as regional personnel. Representing the school will be Mrs Bourke, Ms Dayhew and Mrs O’Connor.

The review will happen on **Thursday 17, Friday 18 and Monday 21 November** (Term 4 Week 6). Parents will be able to participate in the review by completing a survey on line. This can be done by typing the following web address into your browser

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ParentSurveyMPS

We hope as many parents as possible will participate in this survey. We will have paper versions available for those parents who are unable to access the Internet. Please call into the office and pick one up or call and ask for one to be sent home with your child.

Public Speaking

Last Wednesday, Mrs Bourke had the pleasure of accompanying our school winners of the public speaking competition to the district final at Madang Ave Public School. Evan Adamovic spoke very well in the Year 3 competition. Chelsea Zammit came third in the Year 4 section, Leilani Betham came first in the Year 5 division and Madeline Sams came second. An outstanding effort by every member of our team! So fabulous were our speakers that Minchinbury PS was the overall winner on the day for the **sixth** year in a row! This is very impressive and congratulations to our wonderful speakers for their efforts in this competition. They are amazing!

Swim School

Students in Stages 1 and 2 participated in this program at Mt Druitt Pool. The weather remained good and the students learnt many new skills and had an opportunity to practise skills in which they were not confident. Thanks to Mrs Cook for coordinating this event and to Mr Brough, Ms Dayhew, Miss Roberts, Mrs Troy and Mrs Vasek for taking students for their lessons.

Fitness-a-thon

Last week students completed their fitness tasks for the Fitness-a-thon. Cards have been tallied and distributed to students for money collection. Please talk to friends and neighbours who sponsored students and let them know that we are ready to collect and process money. The student who raises the most money will receive an Apple 13” Mac Book Pro. All students who raise $20 or more will receive a ticket for every $20 raised to go into a draw for some fabulous prizes. These are as follows:

1st prize
iPad WiFi

2nd prize
81cm 32” HD LCD TV

3rd prize
Playstation 3

4th prize
iPod Touch

5th prize
Nintendo 3DS

6th prize
iPod / CD Micro Sound System

7th prize
Gold Parker Pen

8th prize
Digital Camera

9th prize
AFL Football

10th prize
Tennis Racquet

All donations will be gratefully accepted.

Interactive Whiteboards

Last Friday five interactive whiteboards (IWBS) were installed in every classroom in J Block under the Building Education Revolution (BER) program. These boards will be a fantastic resource for our school and the Kindergarten teachers and Miss Roberts are looking forward to using these as a part of their lessons. We feel sure that the students will be highly motivated and engaged in learning with this new resource. Many thanks to the federal government for providing this program for our students.

Garden Beds

The school is establishing some new gardens in the front of the school. We have had concrete edging installed and in the next few weeks we will be preparing the beds by purchasing soil and plants. We hope to make the entry to our school more attractive.

Supermarket Promotions

Both the Coles and Woolworths promotions have closed. We appreciate all the effort that parents and friends went to in collecting vouchers and docket cards. We collected over 25,000 Coles vouchers and 6966
points from Woolworths dockets. We hope to receive lots of great resources from both companies.

P&C Meeting
The P&C Association held a meeting on Wednesday 26 October. At this meeting we discussed the school cyclical review surveys, the disco and Christmas Raffle. The AGM will be held on Wednesday 23 November at 7.00pm in the staffroom. At this meeting all positions on the P&C Executive will be declared vacant and an election will be held for 2012 office bearers. We hope you can join us on this evening.

Real Men Read
This activity will be happening again on Monday 31 October. We are seeking dads, grandfathers, uncles and brothers to participate in this activity to promote boys and men as readers. If you think you might be able to spare some time during the school day and would like to share a book with students please contact Mrs Bourke. We are looking for volunteers from any parents of students in any stake across the school. Even if you don’t share a book with your child’s class, you will be able to share a book with them over morning tea.

Interrelate
The school will be hosting human sexuality lessons (old Family Life sessions) on Monday 31 October here at the school for students in Stages 2 and 3. Information about times and costs has been sent home. A copy is included in this newsletter.

School Self-Evaluation Committee
The next meeting of the Self-Evaluation Committee will be on Monday 31 October. We are seeking your thoughts on how well we are teaching paragraph writing to students. Please complete and return your survey as soon as possible. This information helps us to plan programs for the next three years.

2011 Kindergarten Information Evening
This evening, Thursday 27 October, we will be holding an information evening for new Kindergarten parents in the hall. This session will provide some information about our school and the Kindergarten program. Orientation sessions for new Kindies will be on Thursdays – 17 November, 24 November and 1 December.

World Teachers’ Day
Friday 28 October is World Teachers’ Day. It is a day where we can acknowledge the wonderful work done by teachers in educating children and adults. I would like to publically thank all of the teachers at Minchinbury PS for their outstanding contribution to public education and the ongoing development of students as life long learners. The dedication and professionalism of the Minchinbury teaching staff is tremendous. I appreciate and value their commitment to making Minchinbury PS a great school.....close to home.

Student Enrolment in 2012
Parents should have received a note in Week 1 asking them to indicate if their child/children will be returning to Minchinbury PS next year. This information will assist us in organising classes for 2012 and making plans for other special programs. Please return this information by Friday 4 November.

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. We will begin to finalise enrolments for next year during Term 4. Call in at the office for enrolment forms now, so you don’t miss out on a place 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.

Proof of Birth
Parents seeking enrolment for their child in Kindergarten need to supply proof of birth in the form of a birth certificate. We have been advised by the NSW Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages that they are flooded with requests for birth certificates in January and February each year and that there is often a delay in processing requests. Children are not to be enrolled until proof of birth has been provided. To avoid delays and disappointment, parents are urged to make application now for birth certificates. Parents also need to check that their child has actually been registered.

Nominations for the Position of School Captain or Prefect
Nominations for these positions close on 18 November. To be considered for the position of School Captain or Prefect, Year 5 students MUST have achieved a minimum of the Silver Award and:

1. Be a respectful, safe learner;
2. Be seen as a positive role model for other students. This includes wearing school uniform;
3. Show initiative;

Minchinbury Public School

A great school..... close to home!
4. Be trustworthy and reliable;
5. Be well organised and able to follow directions;
6. Be able to work cooperatively as a member of a team;
7. Look after the school environment;
8. Treat others with respect;
9. Demonstrate good sportsmanship;
10. Speak confidently in public; and
11. Seek to help others.

It should be noted that a student issued with a Yellow Slip during Year 5, will have his/her eligibility for nomination determined by the Student Welfare Committee.

**Definitions**

*English*

*Types of Adverbs*

Adverbs tell *how*, *when* and *where*. They are often called adverbs of *manner*, *time* and *place*.

- **MANNER** - *how* something is done
  
  I ran *quickly*.

- **TIME** - *when* something is done
  
  I ran *yesterday*.

- **PLACE** - *where* something is done
  
  I ran *there*.

*Maths*

*Difference*: the amount by which one number is bigger or smaller than another number.

The difference between 7 and 11 is 4.

*Technology*

*Digital Television*: A new technology for transmitting and receiving broadcast television signals. DTV provides clearer resolution and improved sound quality.

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**Positive Behaviour for Learning**

This week’s target is:

‘We speak politely and clearly’.

The school doesn’t tolerate students swearing, using offensive language or talking about matters of a sexual nature. Teachers model good language choices for many different situations. It’s helpful if parent don’t curse or swear in front of their children especially if there’s an expectation that children do not swear in front of you. One thing we see very early on is that kids mimic parents by saying words they don’t understand. In that case, the best thing a parent can do with their younger children is calmly and pleasantly correct them, and try to teach them that what they’ve said is a bad word. The way you might explain this is by saying, “It’s a bad word because people don’t like that word.” If your child says, “but you use that word,” you can say, “You tell me “no” when I say it. Tell Mummy, too. Remind me that it’s a bad word.” And when they remind you, say you’re sorry and use a different word.

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**Brain Bender**

It’s something often soaked
And something often squeezed
Original and natural
From the ocean it is seized.

What is it?

*Answer next issue.*

Last issue’s question:

I am not straight, but somewhat bent
And often return from where I was sent.

What am I?

*Answer: A boomerang*
Interesting Websites
www.det.nsw.edu.au

NSW Department of Education and Communities (DEC)
(previously Department of Education and Training)

This website has a section for parents with information about preschools, starting school, curriculum, caring for students and families, transition to high school as well as links to other useful related sites eg the Board of Studies.

Changes to DEC Preschools
You may be aware that the NSW government has decided to introduce fees for Department of Education and Communities' Preschools. This has been done to bring preschools run by the Department of Education and Communities into line with community based preschools. Fees will be introduced from next year (2012). The new fee structure will protect low income and disadvantaged families.

Included in this newsletter are some frequently asked questions which may assist you as you prepare for your child to start at a DEC preschool next year. The fees for DEC preschools will go directly to the NSW government and not to schools. It is advisable to contact the principal of your child’s DEC preschool to discuss this fee structure. Schools with preschools attached in Western Sydney include:
Bidwill PS, Cambridge Park PS, Dawson PS, Doonside PS, Eastern Creek PS, Kingswood Park PS, Lalar Park PS, Lethbridge Park PS, Madang Ave PS, Marayong PS, Mount Druitt PS, Oxley Park PS, Pendle Hill PS, Riverstone PS, Rosehill PS, Rydalmere East PS, Rydalmere PS, Seven Hills West PS, St Marys PS, Whalan PS and Yates Ave PS.

Food for Thought
"True friendship is like sound health; the value of it is seldom known until it be lost".
Charles Caleb Colton

Pauline Baker
Principal
27.9.11

Minchinbury Public School
Child’s name: ______________________

Class______ Date/s absent: __________

My child was absent from school on the following date/s:

Reason for absence:

Signed: ________________________________________

(parent/caregiver)

Teacher: __________________________

Minchinbury Public School
Child’s name: ______________________

Class______ Date/s absent: __________

My child was absent from school on the following date/s:

Reason for absence:

Signed: ________________________________________

(parent/caregiver)

Teacher: __________________________

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