Dear parent/caregiver

Term 4 Week 7

The last few weeks have been extremely busy for everyone here at Minchinbury PS. The Cyclical Review concluded on Monday with a report delivered to staff at a meeting after school. The review team has found many wonderful things about our school including that ‘teachers, students and parents agree that Minchinbury PS provides a safe, inclusive and supportive environment for students’. The findings of the review are attached in summary with this newsletter. Details of the recommendations will be explained in the school’s annual report. We are very pleased with the outcome of the review and are looking forward to adopting the recommendations made over the coming years.

Cyclical Review
Sincere thanks to 22 parents, 44 students, 24 staff who participated in the review through interviews. We really appreciate the time you took out of your busy days to share your thoughts with the team members. Thanks also to the 72 parents who returned surveys to the school and the 13 who completed the surveys on-line. This information was highly valued.

Tremendous thanks to the Review Team – Howard Leader, Cheryl Ballantyne, Joanne Campbell, Phil Harris, Dale Bruce, Jennifer Tume, Natalie Bourke, Angela Dayhew and Dianne O’Connor for spending three solid days collecting data, analysing it and then drawing the information together to acknowledge achievements and make recommendations for the future.

This process has been extremely valuable for the school. There are lots to celebrate about being a part of our school. The team were extremely impressed by our students who were friendly, polite, respectful and very articulate in giving their opinions of the school. All the parents, who were randomly selected, also gave very positive feedback about how great our school is.

Evacuation Drill
Last Wednesday, the school conducted an evacuation drill. All classes, teachers, parent volunteers and visitors evacuated to the playground. It took just on four minutes for everyone to get to the playground which is exceptionally good. All students remained calm and followed instructions cooperatively. It is important for us to hold these drills regularly so that students and staff know what to do in a real emergency situation.

Fitness-a-thon
The Fitness-a-thon prizes will be presented on Monday 28 November during the morning assembly, weather permitting. 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. To date we have collected just over $9672.25. There is still some money to be collected and sent in. We hope that all money will be returned by Friday 25 November.

P&C Meeting
The last meeting of the P&C for 2011 was held last Wednesday evening. The AGM was also held and new office bearers for 2012 were elected. Office Bearers for 2012 are:

President Emma Davis
Vice President Kelly Maybury
Vice President Vacant
Secretary Caitlin Wignell
Treasurer Julie Mills

Many thanks to the previous committee for all of their tireless work in raising funds for projects in our school. Congratulations to the new executive.

Reading Club
The final date for the submission of Reading Club cards is Friday 25 November. Cards handed in after this date will not be included in the presentation of awards during our presentation assemblies at the end of the year.

School Self-Evaluation Committee
The next meeting of the Self-Evaluation Committee will be on Monday 28 November. We are well collating the data collected to date and will be discussing recommendation to make for improvement next year.

Kindergarten Orientation Days
The orientation sessions for new Kindies have been going very well. The new Kindies appear keen and eager to be at school. The final session will be on Thursday 1 December. If you know of someone new.
to the area or a neighbour who hasn’t enrolled their child yet, please remind them that our orientation program has started and they should make enquiries now about participating.

Student Classes 2012
We have started the planning process for next year. There are still things to finalise and changes may occur as a result of increasing or decreasing enrolments. Some things might not be finalised until next year when all students return. The placement of students into classes is given the highest priority and consideration. We know that you may have requested placements in relation to your child, however, we are not able to meet everyone’s request. Please rest assured that all student placements are carefully considered.

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 December 3. 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;
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**

*Numerical Adverbs*: tell how often something took place.

*He pushed her twice.*

*Adverbs of Degree*: Words like *almost, hardly, enough, and extremely* tell us to *what extent* something happens. They also tell us *how*, so they are really adverbs of manner, too.

**Maths**

*Digital clock (or watch)*: a clock or watch that has no hands. They use numerals to show the time.

**Technology**

*E-Mail*: Short for electronic mail. It is a system for sending and receiving messages electronically over a computer network, as between personal computers.

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<th>Notes Home This Fortnight</th>
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*Minchinbury Public School*  
*A great school ... close to home!*
Positive Behaviour for Learning

This week’s target is:

‘We are respectful of personal space’.

Your personal space is like an invisible bubble that surrounds you. If people move inside this bubble when they are talking to you, it may make you feel uncomfortable.

Everyone’s personal space is different. How close you normally stand to someone else when you are talking to them will depend on who it is you are talking to, and under what circumstances.

Here are some facts about personal space bubbles:

- The bubble is larger if you are talking to a stranger.
- The better you know the person you’re talking to, the smaller the bubble may be.
- The bubble is usually larger for two men than for two women.
- The bubble may be very small for a man and a woman if they are in a relationship.
- The bubble may be larger than normal for a man and a woman who are strangers to each other.
- The bubble size may differ for different cultures.

When two people are having an argument, often the first thing one of them will do is move in close, invading the other person’s personal space. This is interpreted by that other person as aggression. The term for this, in fact, is ‘getting in someone’s face’.

There are many things that can affect how big a person’s personal space is at any given time. As well as the individual factors mentioned above, the circumstances in which you find yourself may also affect the size of your bubble. You might find yourself much closer to a stranger you are talking to at a dance, for instance, or in a line-up at a bank.

You might also have a very large bubble if you are not used to talking to strangers, but have a much smaller bubble if you are an extrovert. Culture plays a role in determining personal space. For example, the personal space for people in Japan might be much larger than for people in Italy.

Understanding personal space helps students become aware of their own preferences and when their personal space is being invaded. They then have a better understanding of what may upset their friends and this can have a positive effect on the relationships with their peers.

Brain Bender

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

What am I?

Answer next issue.

Last issue’s question:

Lclosely suspended
By hand it is ended.

What is it?

Answer: An arm.

Interesting Websites

www.det.nsw.edu.au/languagesupport

NSW Public Schools
Translated documents arranged by language

This site has a range of useful documents for teachers, parents and caregivers, translated into over 40 languages.

You can choose the language required to view the documents available in that language.

Food for Thought

“Most people never run far enough on their first wind to find out they’ve got a second. Give your dreams all you’ve got and you’ll be amazed at the energy that comes out of you”.

William James

Have a great week!

Pauline Baker
Principal

Minchinbury Public School  
A great school….. close to home!
Minchinbury PS Cyclical Review Report

School Purpose, Leadership, Planning, Performance and Practices

Achievements

- Teachers, students and parents agree that Minchinbury PS provides a safe, inclusive and supportive environment for students. This is supported by data from observations.

- The majority of teachers and parents interviewed commended the Principal for her dedication, support and professionalism.

- All parents interviewed spoke highly of and endorsed the school in the wider community.

- Minchinbury PS provides a range of opportunities for parents to be involved in school activities e.g. award ceremonies, “Real Men Read”, grandparents’ day, back to school day.

Summary Statement

Minchinbury PS is a supportive environment, led by a dedicated Principal, where students feel safe and happy. Parents commend the school for the wide range of opportunities for students. An area for further development is the expansion of the leadership capacity of staff.

Teaching for Learning

Achievements

- Student, parent and staff interviews and review team observations indicate that expectations of behaviour and learning are clear and understood, evidence that the PBL framework is being implemented effectively.

- Classroom observations revealed evidence of elements of the QT framework.

- Classroom observations and interviews with parents and students indicate positive, productive relationships between students and teachers that focus on learning.

Summary Statement

At Minchinbury PS student learning is supported by PBL processes. Students have a respect for learning and benefit from positive relationships with their teachers. Further development of the QT framework, including a focus on assessment for learning and student-centred approaches, will enhance the quality of the learning environment.

Professional Practice and Learning

Achievements

- Parents, students and teachers stated that staff at Minchinbury PS are dedicated and supportive of students’ learning.

- Staff and parents are actively encouraged to be involved in school self-evaluation activities.

- Teachers and parents agree that the SASS staff at Minchinbury PS are consistently friendly, helpful, informed and professional in their interaction with the school community.

Summary Statement

Minchinbury PS has a dedicated staff who are supportive of student learning. School administration staff are respected for their professional manner and work ethic. Future directions for the school include processes to raise the professional standard of teaching staff and development of respectful relationships.
Hand Foot and Mouth Disease

Time from exposure to illness
3 to 7 days.

Symptoms:
Mild illness, perhaps with a fever, blisters around the mouth, on the hands and feet, and perhaps the nappy area.

Do I need to keep my child home?
Yes, until the blisters have dried.

How can I help prevent spread?
Careful hand washing especially after wiping nose, using the toilet and changing nappies.

MARTIAL ARTS IS A FUN WAY TO GET FIT!

TEMMLE CUBZ

JUDO OR KUNG FU
TRAIN WITH OUR FRIENDLY COACHES!!!
WE OFFER WEEKDAY AND WEEKEND CLASSES.

• BUILD CONFIDENCE
• LEARN SELF-DEFENCE
• ANTI BULLYING STRATEGIES
• ENHANCE CONCENTRATION
• TEACHES YOUR CHILD TRADITIONAL VALUES & DISCIPLINE WHICH THEY WILL CARRY WITH THEM FOR A LIFETIME!

PH: 02 8604 8787
UNIT1/173 POWER ST, GLENDENNING NSW 2761
Minchinbury PS Before and After School Care

Provided by Cubbyhouse Childcare (www.cubbycc.com.au), before and after school care is:
High quality;
Safe and secure;
Experienced (operating for 22 years);
Available each school day on-site.

**Hours:** 7:00am to 8:30am and 3:00pm to 6:00pm  Permanent and Casual bookings welcome.

Activities for children include sport, art, craft, games and reading.
*Homework supervision and nutritious, healthy refreshments are provided each day.*

**Commonwealth Childcare Benefits apply,** providing substantial reduction in cost.

**Enrolment Enquiries:** 1300 553 583 (Head Office), 9677 0249 (Before and After School Care)

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White Bunny Pre-School & Long Day Care

202-204 Minchin Drive
Minchinbury NSW 2770
PH: (02) 9832 1119

Long day care 0-6yr olds
Pre school program 4-6yr olds
Open 7:00am-6:00pm

* Family oriented environment * 2 room purpose built centre*
* Experienced qualified staff * Fun interactive learning environment *
* Individual educational programming * High Quality Accredited Centre*
* Government child care assistance * School readiness program *

**NOW CATERING FOR 0-2YR OLDS**
**LIMITED POSITIONS AVAILABLE**

***** TAKING ENROLMENTS NOW *****
Ditch the workout & Join the party

Just come along, bring a towel, water & yourself. Wear comfy clothes.

Absolute beginners are welcome.

with **Dianna**

**Wednesday Nights**  **Registration: 6.20pm**  **Start: 6.30-7.30pm**

Minchinbury Public School Hall

Enquiries 0434439779  Find us on Facebook  “Lets Zumba with Dianna”
50th B'DAY BASH

“Dive-In Movies”

Family Movie commences @ 8pm.

Venue: Blacktown Aquatic Centre, Boyd Street, Blacktown
Date: Saturday, December 3, 2011
Feature: “Dive-In Movies” - Enjoy all the fun and atmosphere of an Outdoor Cinema experience while relaxing in the pool!
Bring: Chairs or picnic rugs to watch from the grassed area, or small pool inflatables. No Glass, No Alcohol, No Large Pool Inflatables.
Also: BAC Dash for Cash Swimming Event Finals to be held at 7:30pm - Heats commence at 5pm
NOTE: entries close Nov 25, see Centre for details.
Other Activities: Sausage Sizzle, Face Painting, Sporting Personalities.

FREE ENTRY TO CENTRE from 4pm

Blacktown City Council
Ph. 9622 2279

BLACKTOWN AQUATIC CENTRE
ROOTY HILL RSL POWER

We are your friendly local Junior AFL club. Come and join us!

Ages 4 - 14 - there's a team for you.

Sign up before November to receive a huge discount.

Only $80! Including uniform. NO OTHER COSTS IN SEASON!

(concession for multiple children in family. Photos optional extra expense)

Contact Yvonne Blackburn, Club President - Rhrs1p.yblackburn@gmail.com

or Anna Poucher, Auskick Coordinator - annaandneil@hotmail.com

“Our son had never played footy before, but has loved joining Rooty Hill RSL Power. The opportunities to play at the ANZ stadium, and on the Giants home pitch have been incredible. Thank you so much, we look forward to coming back next year!” (2011 Auskick parent)