Dear parent/caregiver

Term 1 Week 6

It is amazing how fast the days go by. Our summer has come and gone so fast that we really didn’t notice any hot weather. Hopefully our autumn will be less wet and contain more days of sunshine.

Class Restructure
Our enrolments have increased quite unexpectedly since the end of the year where our anticipated enrolments indicated a reduction of one class. The number of incoming students now requires us to form an additional class. This will be as cross-stage class – a Year 4 and 5 composite. The teacher taking this class will be identified shortly.

Students for this class will be selected from the Year 4 component of S2B, S2J, S2K and S2U to join the new class as well as the Year 5 students from S3C, S3G, S3M and S3R.

This change will also necessitate the forming of a Year 6 only class. Students will be selected from the Year 6 component of S3C, S3G, S3M and S3R to join the Year 6. Classes S2L and S3H will remain unchanged.

Parents of students affected by these changes will receive a letter explaining the changes. We hope the transition to the new classes will be smooth and trouble-free for all concerned. Should you have any concerns or questions about this reorganisation, please feel free to contact the school.

Zone Swimming Carnival
Last Wednesday, students who placed first and second in the various swimming events at our school carnival, represented Minchinbury PS at the Zone carnival at Mt Druitt Pool. Minchinbury PS was the organising school for the Zone Carnival and it ran very successfully. Many thanks to Mr McKenzie, Mr Brough, Ms Zuber, Mrs Bourke and Mr Holstein who ensured the carnival ran smoothly and efficiently.

Student Leaders Investiture
On Thursday 23 February, our student leaders were presented with their badges. Our leaders include, school captains and vice captains, prefects, those captains and vice captains, members of the Student Representative Council (SRC) and library monitors. A big thank you to Mrs Berwick for organising this auspicious occasion.

Best Start Kindergarten Interviews
This week Kindergarten teachers have met with parents to provide feedback about the skills and competencies that students have begun school with. This is done to let parents know how they can build on their child’s learning and assist them to have a successful first year at school. Many thanks to the Kinder teachers for staying back to talk to parents this week.

Rooty Hill HS Ambassadors Visit
On Wednesday 7 March, Ambassadors from Rooty Hill HS will visit our Stage 3 students and share with them some of the outstanding opportunities that exist at the high school. There will be presentations from some different cultural groups from the high school as well. During the year, Rooty Hill HS will host a number of exciting activities for our students.

P&C Mufti Day
The P&C will be holding a mufti day (come to school out of uniform) on Thursday 8 March. They are raising money to help purchase prizes for the Easter raffle. Students who come dressed in summer colours will need to pay a gold coin for the privilege.

P&C Meeting
The next meeting of the P&C Association will be on Tuesday 13 March at 7.00pm in the staffroom. We hope you are able to join us.

Selective High Schools Test
Year 6 students who have applied for enrolment in a Selective High School in 2013 will sit for an examination on Thursday 15 March at St Marys Senior High School. All information about this process has already been sent to parents.

Harmony Day
Students in Stage 2 will be attending Harmony Day celebrations at Rooty Hill HS who will also be holding their 50th Anniversary celebrations at the same time. Our students will be visiting from 11.30am onwards and will return to school by 3.00pm. Information and permission notes have been sent home with students.

School Photos
MSP Photography will be visiting the school again to take class, individual and family photos. Information will be sent home to parents about the photo packs that can be purchased. All orders and money will

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need to be brought in on this day and paid directly to the photographers.

Useful Websites for Parents

Parents’ Guide to the NSW Primary Syllabuses
The NSW Board of Studies has created a guide to help parents follow their child’s learning and to inform discussions with teachers about their child’s learning and progress. Some key ideas explained in the guide include how much time is spent on different subjects, the general content of each Key Learning Area and what an integrated unit of work is. Copies of the guide were provided for parents of Kindergarten students and these were distributed last week.

If you are interested in accessing your own copy, it can be viewed and printed from the Parent’s Page of the Board of Studies website: [www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/parents](http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/parents)

Voluntary Contributions
Each year the school receives a grant to pay for a range of classroom equipment which students use. These include things like paper, exercise books, pencils, scissors and other consumable materials. The amount we receive works out to be approximately $50 per student. This is not a lot of money for each student and does not provide for additional resources like library books, computer equipment and software, sporting equipment, and other resources we regularly use.

Contributions are unchanged at $30 per child. Please send your voluntary contribution as soon as possible and be eligible for an entry into the prize draw of a school winter uniform. We rely on this support from our school community to assist with purchasing resources for our students and making our learning environment exciting and inviting for everyone. If contributions were received from every student, the school would have enough money to purchase two permanent IWBs ($16,500). Unfortunately, in past years we only receive between $3000 and $4000. Your cooperation in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

School Merit Awards Parent Survey
The Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) team is looking at our school’s awards structure. Parents will be receiving a survey asking for their views about the value of awards, the number of awards given and how they can be organised. We would really appreciate all parents completing this survey and returning it to school by Friday 9 March. All ideas will be explored and information will be gathered from students, staff and parents. Modifications or changes to the system will not happen until 2013 but parents will be informed throughout the year of the progress of the evaluation.

School Entry
Parents are reminded to enter the school via the pedestrian gates and not the gate to the car park. Some students have almost been injured by parents who have parked in school grounds without permission and have entered or left the school driving at dangerous speeds. Please park safely outside the school and ensure students enter by the pedestrian gates.

Parking in School Grounds
Parents are reminded once again that there is no parking in school grounds for the purpose of picking up and dropping off of students in the mornings and afternoons. There are only a limited number of parking spaces and these are for staff and deliveries.

Student Absences
If your child is absent from school, it is your responsibility as a parent/caregiver to provide an explanation, preferably in writing, for why they could not attend school. If your child is going to be absent for several days, we ask that you make contact with the child’s teacher to indicate this. If your child needs to take leave from school for a period of more than 15 school days, you are able to apply for an exemption from attending school. For this exemption to be granted, you must complete the appropriate application form, available from the school office, giving acceptable reasons. If the reason involves travel overseas, you must provide a copy of travel documents that indicate your child will be out of Australia and unable to attend school. Please be aware that at times conditions, such as completing work set by the class teacher, are imposed as part of an exemption. The application for exemption is considered and approved by the Deputy Principal or the Principal of the school and at times by the School Education Director.

Office Hours
The school office is open for enquiries from 8.30am to 3.30pm. Should you wish to find out information, make appointments, make payments or notify us of absences, please do so during these times.

Canteen Volunteers
The canteen is in urgent need of volunteers – mums, dad, aunties, uncles, grandparents! If you can spare any time on any day we would love your assistance.

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As little as one hour of your time could be of so much help to the canteen and our students. If you can spare any time, please contact Marina French, canteen manager.

**Definitions**

**English**

*Special Prepositions*: some nouns, adjectives and adverbs are followed by particular prepositions.

We say: “The team ran **onto** the field.”

not, “The team ran **into** the field.”

You know which preposition to use in most cases because it sounds right when you say it. We are pleased with things; we rely on things and we bring things under control.

Some need special attention. We say: “different **from**” or “different **to**” not “different **than**” and “between **two**” not “among **two**”.

**Maths**

*Displacement*: how much water rises when an object is placed in it.

The displacement is 100 mL

**Technology**

*Frequency Modulation (FM)* that’s the “FM” band on your radio: A signaling method that varies the carrier frequency as a method to send information. The carrier frequency would be like 97.7 (MHz) FM on your FM dial. Your radio antenna receives this signal and then decodes it and plays the song.

**Notes Home This Fortnight**

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**Brain Bender**

There is a place where you go and stay a day when you return home you will be about a year older.

Where is this place?

*Answer next issue.*

**Last issue’s question:**

Loosely suspended

By hand it is ended.

*Answer: An arm.*

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**Positive Behaviour for Learning**

This week’s target is:

‘We move safely!’

As there are lots of students in the playground at recess and lunch, students are asked to move safely around the school. This means they should be aware of the personal space of others and try to move in and between other students in a way that will minimize accidents. Walking is always good.

During wet weather, when we can’t run on the grass, students need to be particularly mindful of walking from one place to the other and keeping under cover.

**Food for Thought**

“Criticism, like rain, should be gentle enough to nourish a man’s growth without destroying his roots”.  

Frank Howard Clark

Have a great week!

Pauline Baker  
Principa  
1.3.12

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