Dear parent/caregiver

Our recent bad weather has caused many problems for families – both getting to and from school and work. Our thoughts are with those families and schools affected by floodwaters. We hope the weather improves and stays fine for quite awhile so that everyone has a chance to recover and finally get the lawns mowed!

Class Restructure
Many thanks for the smooth transition of students into their new classes this week. We welcome Mrs Rolfe back to our school to teach S2R. Mrs Umback is now teaching the Year 4/5 composite, S2/3U and Mrs Guerin has a class made up of just Year 6 students. We appreciate parents' support in this matter.

Staffing News
Welcome back to Mrs Llewellyn who has returned from leave. She will now be teaching S1S from Tuesday to Thursday. Ms D'Arcy has retired from the teaching service. This now means we have a vacant Assistant Principal position to fill. This will be advertised for eligible staff from across the state to apply.

Zone Swimming Carnival
Congratulations to all of our competitors who went to the zone carnival. Your excellent swimming skills ensured that Minchinbury PS won the carnival again for the sixth year in a row. Well done, everyone! Special congratulations to Amy Houeis (Junior Girls) and Leilani Betham (Girls 12/13) who were named Zone Swimming Age Champions.

P&C Meeting
At the P&C Association meeting held on Tuesday 13 March we discussed many issues. These included:

- Representative shirts
- Toilets
- Air conditioners in the hall
- A data projector for the hall
- 40 kph speed limit for Barossa Drive
- Local Schools, Local Decisions
- Fundraising activities and future purchases.

The next meeting of the P&C will be on Tuesday 8 May at 9.15am in the AV room. We hope you can join us.

Working Bee
On Saturday 17 March the school will be holding a working bee starting at 8.00am. We will be looking at removing dead plants and shrubs, tidying up areas around the fence line as well as general garden beautification and minor maintenance. If you would like to assist for the whole or part of the day, please complete the participation note that was sent home a few weeks ago and return it to the school tomorrow. We would really love to see as many parents as possible attending so we can help make our school look great. Don’t forget your gardening tools!

Harmony Day
Students in Stage 2 will be attending Harmony Day celebrations at Rooty Hill HS on Friday 16 March. The high school will also be holding its 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.

Minchinbury PS will be celebrating Harmony Day on Wednesday 21 March. This year’s theme is ‘Sport – play, engage, inspire’. We are asking all students to wear something orange on this day to show our support for harmony across our school, community, state, country and world.

Regional Swimming Carnival
Our school will be represented at the Western Sydney Region carnival on Tuesday 20 March at the Aquatic Centre, Homebush. We wish all our competitors the best of luck.

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

Voluntary Contributions
Thanks to those parents who have already paid the Voluntary Contribution. We really appreciate your support. Contributions are unchanged at $30 per

Minchinbury PS

21 MARCH
CELEBRATE AUSTRALIA'S DIVERSITY

www.harmony.gov.au
EVERYONE BELONGS

A great school..... close to home!

Minchinbury PS
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. If contributions are received from every student, the school would have enough money to purchase two permanent IWBs ($16,500). Don’t forget, payments can now be made via eftpos from the school office.

School Merit Awards Parent Survey
Thank you to the 75 parents who returned their Merit Awards survey for Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) team that is looking at our school’s awards structure. We appreciate your thoughts and feedback. 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.

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. 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.

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. If this practice continues, we will be forced to lock gates to prohibit parents entering the staff car park.

Definitions

English
Prepositions and Adverbs: It is important not to confuse adverbs with prepositions. They may look exactly the same. You will know the difference because of the way the word is used.

In “I fell down”, down is an adverb of place: it tells where I fell.

In “I rowed down the river”, down is a preposition governing river in the objective case.

Another useful point is that the preposition usually has a noun or pronoun after it.

I fell down. [adverb]
I rowed down the river. [preposition]

Maths
Distance: the length between two points

The distance between the children is two metres.

Technology
Global Positioning System (GPS): A US satellite system that lets those on the ground, on the water or in the air determine their position with extreme accuracy.

Useful Websites for Parents
Premier’s Reading Challenge
The Premier’s Reading Challenge (PRC) is available for all NSW students in Kindergarten to Year 9, in government, independent, Catholic and home schools. Participation by schools and students is voluntary.

The Challenge aims to encourage in students a love of reading for leisure and pleasure, and to enable students to experience quality literature. It is not a competition but a challenge to each student to read, to read more and to read more widely.

The Premier’s Reading Challenge is an initiative of the NSW State government with principal support from the Dymocks Literacy Foundation and OPSM and media partner, The Sun-Herald.

Notes Home This Fortnight

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**Brain Bender**

Can I take 1 away from 29 and have a total of 30 left? If so, why?

*Answer next issue.*

Last issue’s question:

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: On Venus a day is longer than one year.

**Positive Behaviour for Learning**

This week’s target is:

‘We move safely!’

Teachers establish routines for entering and leaving classrooms. Most teachers ask for two lines, a mixture of boys and girls. On Monday mornings we have a whole school assembly where we acknowledge our Aboriginal community, say our school pledge, sing the National Anthem and make school announcements. When the bell rings for Monday assembly, students need to walk sensibly to their class lines and wait quietly for the assembly to begin.

On other mornings, students line up at designated places given by teachers. This could be at the classroom door, under the COLA or in the main playground. All students have been given clear instructions on where this is. When the bell rings, students are expected to walk to these places, line up in two lines and wait quietly for the teacher to send them into the classroom. Parents should not wait around doorways with their children as this can often lead to congestion and problems for students trying to move safely.

**Family Astronomy Night – UWS Penrith Observatory**

*Saturday 31 March – 8pm – 10pm*

Stellar Evolution – What are stars and how are they formed? These questions and a lot more will be discussed, with an emphasis on our own star, the Sun. The evening will also include stargazing through the University’s computerised telescopes.

Cost: $15 adult, $10 child/concession or $40 family

Bookings Essential: Phone (02) 4736 0135 (Mon, Wed or Thurs), email: r.mccourt@uws.edu.au.

**Food for Thought**

“Children are born naturalists. They explore the world with all of their senses, experiment in the environment, and communicate their discoveries to those around them.”

The Audubon Nature Preschool

Have a great week!

有一個偉大周!

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Pauline Baker
Principal

15.3.12