Dear parent/caregiver

Student Attendance
Did you know that if a student misses as little as eight days in a school term, by the end of primary school they will have missed over a year of education?

In New South Wales, all children from six years of age are legally required to attend school or be registered for home schooling. Children are expected to attend all school activities, on time. Regular attendance helps your child:
- develop the skills needed to access the world of work and other opportunities;
- to learn the importance of punctuality and routine; and
- make and keep friendships.

If your child has to be absent from school, you must tell the school and provide a reason for your child’s absence. To explain an absence parents and carers may be required to:
* send a note to the school, or contact the school via electronic means such as fax or email, or
* telephone the school, or
* visit the school.

A small number of absences may be accepted by the principal. For example, if your child:
- has to go to a special religious ceremony;
- is required to attend a serious or urgent family situation (a funeral);
- is too sick to go to school or has an infectious illness.

It is important to understand that the Department of Education may take further action where children of compulsory school age have unexplained or unacceptable absences from school. Some of the following actions may be undertaken:
- attendance meetings
- compulsory attendance conferences
- applications to the Children’s Court – a compulsory schooling order
- prosecution in local court.

This information has been obtained from the DEC brochure “Compulsory school attendance – information for parents”

Annual School Report

Annual school reports constitute a record of the school self-evaluation process. All schools are required to produce an Annual School Report every year according to templates and specifications provided by the Department of Education. These reports:
- are conducted annually;
- focus on student learning outcomes;
- are part of the ongoing cycle of planning and evaluation;
- contain in-depth analysis of student performance data (state and school level);
- report on school evaluations and achievements on targets;
- are validated by senior regional officers; and
- have future targets endorsed by their School Education Directors.

Our Annual School Report for 2011 is currently available for all interested parents/caregivers on request through the school office.

NAIDOC Week

Last week we celebrated NAIDOC and Reconciliation week. Students were involved in activities that fostered an awareness and understanding of Aboriginal culture, Aboriginal people and Australia’s history. The school hosted a NAIDOC week barbeque and all students received a free sausage sandwich if they wanted one. The barbeque was a huge success with teachers and volunteers pitching in to help cook for and serve the students. A big thank you goes to all the helpers on the day. We could not have done it without you.

NAIDOC week is celebrated in the community in the first weekend of July and there are many local community events organised. The official NAIDOC week website has details on local events: http://www.naidoc.org.au/naidoc-events/

Coles Sports For Schools Program

This promotion is currently being conducted by Coles supermarkets. To help our school raise points to purchase sport equipment, all you need to do is collect vouchers. You will earn one voucher for every $10 spent in a Coles, Coles Online, BI-LO or Pick ‘n’ Pay store from June 13th to August 14th 2012. Bonus vouchers will be on offer throughout the program. So keep an eye out in store, online and on TV. We ask that all vouchers be placed in the collection box located in the school office.

Payment Cut Off Dates

When our school is organising an event, such as an excursion, we have to set a final date for payment. The reason for this is there are a number of tasks that administration and teaching staff have to complete before the event happens. These things include, but are not limited to, developing risk assessment plans, preparing medical supply kits, and finalising bus bookings. In order to do these tasks effectively we need to have final details about which students are attending or participating. Having a final date for payment allows staff to do this. Parents/caregivers are made aware of the final date for payment in the note sent home about an event. We ask that you abide by this date, otherwise, your child will be excluded from participating. If you are finding it difficult to make the payment by the final date given, please contact the event organiser before the payment period expires.

Minchinbury PS
A great school..... close to home!
Crazy Hair Day
Our school has a number of students with cystic fibrosis and we are hosting a Crazy Hair Day to raise awareness of the condition and funds to go towards further research. Students are being invited to come to school with "crazy hair" on Thursday 28 June and contribute a gold coin donation (or greater) for this privilege. All proceeds will go to Cystic Fibrosis New South Wales.
Thank you in advance for your support of this worthy cause.

Student Progress Reports
Teachers have been working hard to construct student progress reports for semester one. The final adjustments are currently being made before they are printed. Reports will go home with students who are present at school on the last day of this term, Friday 29 June. If your child is absent on this day, they will receive their report when they return to school in Term 3. Please note, no reports will be sent home early and we will not be making any reports available for collection from the school office. Distribution of reports will remain the responsibility of the class teacher on the final day of term.

Definitions

English
Dash (-): A punctuation marker used to indicate a break or pause in a sentence or to begin or end a clause. They enclose extra information.
eg; Have an orange – or would you prefer a peach?

Maths
Divisor: the number used to divide by.
eg; \(36 \div 9 = 4\) (9 is the divisor)

Technology
Plug-In: A helper application for a program that expands the program’s capabilities. Web browsers are a good example of programs that use plug-ins.
eg; Macromedia’s Shockwave plug-in allows web browsers to display Shockwave files.

Brain Bender
What has four legs, a tail, eats cat food and sees equally well from both ends?

Answer next issue

Last issue’s question:

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

Where is this place?

Answer:
Venus. On Venus a day is longer than a year.

Useful Websites for Parents

National Year of Reading 2012
The National Year of Reading 2012 is about children learning to read and keen readers finding new sources of inspiration. It’s about supporting reading initiatives while respecting the oral tradition of storytelling. It’s about helping people discover and rediscover the magic of books. And most of all, it’s about Australians becoming a nation of readers.

This website details the amazing, fun, reading activities taking place around Australia and online, so people of all ages, from different backgrounds, can discover and rediscover the joy of reading.

National Year of Reading 2012 can be accessed at:


Food for Thought
“A capacity and taste for reading gives access to whatever has already been discovered by others.”

Abraham Lincoln

Have a great week!

Mrs E. Berwick
Relieving Principal

School resumes Tuesday, 17 July, 2012

Minchinbury PS

A great school….. close to home!