Dear Minchinbury Public School families,

I have noticed throughout this term that there appears to be some negativity on the rise. I’m sure if you have noticed it, that it would upset you as much as it does me. I know staff are doing their best to provide a quality education for your children and work very hard in the process of doing this. I also know that you as families are doing your very best to provide for your children and raise them to be people you are proud of. We all really want the same thing – the best for the children.

"Home and school—everyone shares the goal of helping children learn and feel successful. Research has proven that when parents and teachers work together, everyone benefits: students tend to earn higher grades, perform better on tests, attend school more regularly, have better behavior, and show more positive attitudes toward themselves and toward school." Andrea Canter, Ph.D., NCSP

ABOUT OUR SCHOOL
PULSE 2012
On 4 August, selected students from our school participated in The 2012 PULSE: Showcase of Excellence in the Art. It is a multi-arts event featuring students from Western Sydney Region in choir, music, dance, drama and public speaking. Our students formed part of the massed choir and performed at the Sydney Opera House. More than 700 students and their teachers were the backbone of this dynamic performing arts event, which played to an audience of approximately 2,600 people. Congratulations to our representatives on your outstanding performance and thank you to Mrs Guerin and Mrs Anderson for your leadership and commitment.

Stage 3 Honour Assembly
This assembly would normally be held in Week 9 this term. As our stage 3 students and teachers will be on the Yarramundi camp excursion at this time, this assembly has been moved to Thursday 20 September. It will be held at the usual time of 2pm.

LIBRARY NEWS
Book Week – Champions Read

Last week Book Week was celebrated in schools and public libraries around Australia. At our school, we held a highly successful Book Fair, during which staff, students and families spent close to $7000. Wow! As a result, our school will get over $1500 in commission. Thanks everyone for making this possible as it helps provide valuable library resources.
CANTEEN NEWS
The canteen helpers are working hard to ensure the service delivered to our students is the best possible. The canteen supervisors, Marina French and Nicole McKechnie will be meeting regularly with the Principal to discuss what is happening on the canteen front (the good and the not so good) in order for issues of concern to be addressed and successes to be celebrated. If you have any suggestions on improving the service offered by our canteen, please talk with Marina or Nicole.

STUDENT WELFARE NEWS
Positive Behaviour for Learning
Our target this week has been to listen to and follow teacher instructions. This means we do as we are asked. This behaviour demonstrates respect for the teacher and also ensures that all people in the classroom have the best opportunity to learn. Our target next week will be listening attentively. Particular focus will be on responding when we are needed.

White Slips
You may have heard your child talk about white slips. Teachers on playground duty will write out a white slip when students have demonstrated minor or major problem behaviours (as listed in our Discipline Policy). These slips are not a punishment - they are used as a data collection tool. Class teachers enter the information from the slip onto a database so we can identify any trends in behaviour, such as a common area the behaviours are occurring in or a common time. Class teachers may also use the information to address issues in their class, which may be happening often. Teachers on duty will implement consequences for problem behaviours at their discretion.

Sunsafe Practice
Our school has a Sunsafe Policy, which details how we will work to maximise student protection from the sun. One expectation is that students will wear a hat at all times when outside. If they do not have a hat, they are expected to play in the shade. As we are required to provide adequate access to shaded areas, all students without a hat during play times will be sent to Area A or the COLA to play. Students are encouraged to wear a broad brimmed hat as they provide the greatest level of sun protection. School hats can be purchased from the uniform shop.

Student Attendance
Regular school attendance is important in helping your child succeed in later life. Attending school every day makes learning easier for your child and helps build and maintain friendships with other children. If your child misses basic learning in the early years of school, they may develop learning problems in later years. If you are having difficulty getting your child to school, here are some suggestions, based on setting regular routines, that may help:
- Have a set time to go to bed.
- Have a set time to be out of bed.
- Have uniform and school bag ready the night before.
- Make lunches the night before.
- Have a set time for starting/ending breakfast.
- Set time for daily homework activities.
- Turn the television on for a limited time and only if content is age appropriate.
- Be firm - children must go to school.
- Provide lots of positive encouragement.
- Time arrival at school to coincide with bell time and leave quickly. If arranged with the teacher beforehand, ‘handover’ your child to their teacher and then leave.

If you need ideas on how to use systems of positive encouragement with your child, such as a rewards chart or goal setting, please make an appointment with the Deputy Principal to discuss.

INTERESTING INFORMATION
Parent Website
The Children's Book Council of Australia web site offers a range of information about books and reading. Most recently, it lists the winners of the Book of the Year Awards, announced as part of Book Week. It also has lists of winners from previous years. Using these lists is a great way to identify quality books if you want to purchase some new ones of borrow from the school or public library. To have a look visit: http://cbca.org.au/index.htm

Minchinbury PS A great school..... close to home!
Making Complaints (as per DEC Complaints Handling Policy Guidelines 2011)
It is best to discuss your concerns with the relevant teacher first. Make an appropriate time to meet with
them or phone the school and ask for an appointment with the teacher. If you are not happy with the
result, phone and make an appointment to discuss your concerns with the principal. You may bring a
friend or relative to be your support.
If your complaint is about the principal you will need to contact the school education director in your area.
Ask the school office staff at your school for their name and number.
If your complaint cannot be resolved in an informal way, we may ask you to put it in writing. It is important
that you include specific details of the situation and tell us what you would like to happen as a result of
your complaint. Alternatively a complaint form may also be used. These are available at the school office.
Complete the form and send it to the principal, or the school education director in your area.

DIARY DATES

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<tr>
<th>TERM 3</th>
<th>Monday 3 September</th>
<th>Public Speaking School Final</th>
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<td>100 Schools Planting Program</td>
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<td>ES1 &amp; S2 Assemblies</td>
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<td>Saturday 8 September</td>
<td>Local Government Elections in hall</td>
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<td>TERM 3</td>
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<td>Stage 3 Yarramundi Camp</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Stage 3 Yarramundi Camp</td>
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<td></td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Stage 3 Yarramundi Camp</td>
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<td>S1 Honour Assembly</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Saturday 15 September</td>
<td>Family Photos in hall (run by P&amp;C)</td>
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NOTES HOME THIS FORTNIGHT

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<tr>
<th>School Reps</th>
<th>District Athletics Carnival</th>
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<tr>
<td>School Reps</td>
<td>PSSA Semi Finals</td>
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<tr>
<td>ES1</td>
<td>Parent Survey - Workshops</td>
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<td>All</td>
<td>Fruit n Veg Month</td>
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<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>Parent Survey – Our School</td>
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<td>School Reps</td>
<td>Reach Concert Tickets</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Reps</td>
<td>PSSA Grand Finals</td>
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<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Swim School</td>
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“Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.”
Henry Ford

EBerwick
Mrs E. Berwick
Relieving Principal

Minchinbury Explorers
Discovering School

KINDERGARTEN TRANSITION PROGRAM
Aims:
- develop student confidence in coming to school
- collect accurate information about student needs and backgrounds
- build strong relationships with parents/carers

Features:
- 8 week program run on Thursdays in Term 4
- two separate sessions (9.30-10.30am) (12.00-1.00pm)
- maximum of 40 students each session
- delivered by two MPS staff members
- students invited to attend one session per week
- parents/carers invited to stay with their child
- several parent workshops offered (Weeks 4-7)
- observations conducted by teacher support team
- special awards for good manners and great work
- focus on learning school expected behaviours
- range of activities related to literacy, numeracy and being creative
- program content linked to Early Years Learning Framework outcomes

Enrol now for Kindergarten 2013

Minchinbury PS
A great school..... close to home!
No Parking
Kiss and Ride

You can stop only if you drop off or pick up passengers, or goods. AND
you must not stop for more than 2 minutes AND
the driver must not be more than 3 metres from the vehicle.

Stopping includes when the vehicle is not moving but the engine is still running

School Zone
Fine from $143 + 2 demerit points

All other roads
Fine from $86
Having one of those days?

Practical tips for everyday parenting

There's no such thing as 'one size fits all' when it comes to parenting.

Every child is different, but sometimes small changes and new ways of doing things can make a big difference to the everyday routine. If you have children between the ages of 3 and 8, Families NSW has a range of Triple P positive parenting programs to suit your family.

Triple P is an approach to parenting that emphasises the positive. We can help you:

- Encourage behaviour you like from your child
- Deal consistently and decisively with problem behaviour
- Take the stress out of parenting

Triple P helps you to be the best parent you can be. To find Triple P in your local area, call us or visit the website today.

FREE for all parents

1800 789 123
families.nsw.gov.au
Bedtime antics wearing you out?

Practical tips for everyday parenting

FREE for all parents

1800 789 123 families.nsw.gov.au

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