Dear Minchinbury Public School families

ABOUT OUR SCHOOL
The year has flown by so quickly. There are only two more weeks left. There will be a few special events coming up in that time – student reports will be issued, Celebration Days will be held, Presentation Assemblies will be completed and the Year 6 Farewell and Graduation will take place. It is a very busy and exciting time of year.

Honour Assemblies
All students who achieved nine merit awards – three respect awards, three safety awards and three learning awards – received their gold award and badge over the last two weeks. We congratulate all the students who received bronze, silver and gold awards across the year and encourage them to strive to achieve bigger and better things next year.

Library Stocktake
Mrs Elliott is completing the stocktake of library books and resources. All library books borrowed by students need to be returned as soon as possible. Teaching resources are also returned during this process so that they can be accounted for. All missing items are identified and students may be reminded over a number of days to keep looking for missing books at home. Teachers are also reminded to look for books in the classroom.

Band Information Evening
Many thanks to the parents and students who attended the information evening on Monday 26 November. We have about 42 students interested in taking part in the band program which is really fantastic. Mrs Anderson is currently reviewing the preferences and instrument availability. She will be contacting students and parents soon about the organization for next year.

Principal’s Morning Tea
On Wednesday 12 December, students who have received their gold award on three occasions will be invited to attend the Principal’s Morning Tea in the library. There are 25 students attending this celebration and one of them has received a gold award every year since starting Kindergarten. Special congratulations to Brittany Ford who leaves us to go to high school next year.

Stage 3 Celebration Day Excursion
Next Thursday, December 13, Stage 3 Celebration Day will take place at Luna Park, Sydney. They will be departing from the school at 8:45am and leaving Luna Park at approximately 2:30pm for arrival back at school by 4:00pm. All information regarding this activity has already been sent home. If you have any enquiries, please contact Mr McKenzie.

Student Reports
Teachers have completed reports and these are currently being printed. They will be issued to students to take home on Friday 14 December. Students absent on this day will need to collect them from their teacher before the last day of term – Wednesday 19 December. Any reports not collected will be posted home to parents.

Presentation Assemblies
On Monday 17 December we will be holding three Presentation Assemblies to recognise student achievement across the school. Parents of students receiving awards have been personally invited to attend the relevant assembly. Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 assembly will take place from 9.30am. Stage 3 assembly will be from 11.45 and Stage 2 assembly will start at 2.00pm.
Year 6 Farewell
On Monday evening, December 17, we will be farewelling our Year 6 students who will be leaving us at the end of the year. The farewell will be held at St Marys Leagues Club starting at 6.00pm.

P&C Christmas Raffle
This monster raffle will be drawn after our assembly on Monday 10 December. There are lots of great prizes. Thanks to everyone who has bought tickets. We appreciate your support.

Celebration Day
Students in Kindergarten and Stages 1 and 2 will be celebrating the end of 2012 on Tuesday 18 December. Each stage will be sending home information about planned activities on this day.

Year 6 Graduation
Our Year 6 students will receive their graduation packs at an informal assembly on Wednesday 19 December. The assembly will start at 11.45am.

School Development Days
After students finish on Wednesday 19 December, teachers will remain at school for a further two days engaging in professional learning. On Thursday and Friday 20 and 21 December, we will be looking at the following topics – developing school action plans, stage team planning for 2013, implementation of Live Life Well @ School program, and understanding the National Professional Teaching Standards. It will be a busy few days for staff.

Kindergarten 2013 Enrolments
We are continuing to take enrolments for students who live in the suburb of Minchinbury and will be starting Kindergarten next year. We currently have 65 new Kindergarten students for next year. If your child turns five before 31 July 2013, they are eligible to enrol. Please collect an enrolment package from the school office and return it completed as soon as possible. Your child’s enrolment will only be accepted if the appropriate supporting information is provided (birth certificate or passport and proof of address). Your child’s immunisation history is also requested and if not supplied, your child is considered unimmunised and in the case of a disease breakout, your child will be excluded from attending school until it has passed.

School Canteen
Our canteen is looking for volunteers to help with serving and preparing lunches. If you can spare an hour or so on any day through the week, please contact Marina French. We would also like you to consider your availability to help in the canteen in 2013. You might like to book in now a regular day for next year.

Uniform Shop
The uniform shop will be open one last time this year – Wednesday 12 December. Next year the uniform shop will be opening on a Tuesday. However, the shop will be open on the first day students return to school next year, Wednesday 30 January 2013. It will open every Tuesday in Term 1 and 4, and then every fortnight in Terms 2 and 3. Uniform shop trading hours are 8.45am – 10.00am. Please note, as of December 1 2012, surf or bucket hats will now cost $12.

STUDENT WELFARE NEWS
Positive Behaviour for Learning
This week’s target behaviour relates to the expectation of students being sun safe. The target is for students to act sensibly by ‘wearing a hat. As our school is a ‘SunSmart’ school, all students should wear a broad brimmed hat (cricket, bucket or surf) when at school. These hats are recommended by the Cancer Council as offering the best protection.
from the harsh rays of the sun. Research tells us that most damage to the skin occurs during childhood. Our policy at school is 'No Hat – Play in the Shade'. We have lots of shady places for students to play if they forget their hat. We also encourage the wearing of sunscreen. Baseball caps do not offer protection to the neck and ears which are at great risk of damage if unprotected.

School Crossing
A number of students and their parents are ignoring the pedestrian crossing in McFarlane Drive outside the school and crossing at the entry to Barossa Drive or in the bus bay area. This is happening mostly at the end of school. Parents are reminded to set a good example for their children by using the pedestrian crossing which on most occasions, is manned by a crossing supervisor. By not following the rules for safe crossing of the road, you are putting yourself and your child at risk. Your assistance in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

INTERESTING INFORMATION

Parking Problems
Our neighbours from Minchinbury shops have asked us to remind parents that there is no parking behind the shops. By parking at the rear entrances to the shops, you are blocking emergency exits and limiting access by shop owners as well as delivery vans. Please be considerate of our neighbours and park in the parking spaces provided at the shops or legally in the street.

Useful Educational Apps – Mathletics Student - iTunes - Free - by 3P Learning
Mathletics is evolving... right into your hands. The multi award-winning e-learning platform has arrived on iPad. Now you can take your Mathletics with you anywhere with the new (and incredibly good looking) app for iPad. Mathletics is the world's leading educational resource for mathematics, created by the team behind the World Education Games. Over 4 million students in schools across the world are a part of our global learning community.

iPAD FEATURES:
- A brand new look to Live Mathletics- including TEN levels for students to play others across the world in a head-to-head arithmetic battle.
- A slick and exciting student interface (custom designed for the iPad)
- Students can now access their Mathletics directly via the app, with all results and points recorded in real time for teachers/parents to track.
- Download new curriculum activities to your app in real-time, as they become available.

Leaving Your Child at Home Alone
Making some clear 'home alone' rules with your child gives them an understanding of their boundaries and can also keep you from worrying. Most kids will be fine on their own when the appropriate time comes, so long as some guidelines are followed. Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/en/wellbeing/development/leaving-your-children-at-home-alone

Developing A Team Spirit
Team sports help kids to learn that things don't go their way all the time, and that they need to respect their peers. They also help kids with resilience and how to respond to setbacks. Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/fitness/benefits-of-team-sports

Confidence in Public
Kids need to develop their skills for speaking in front of others long before their 21st birthday. If your tips for keeping nerves at bay during public speaking are limited to imagining your audience in their underwear, here is some advice to help your child prepare for their big moment in the spotlight. http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/english/english-tips/public-speaking-in-primary-school

Minchinbury PS

A great school….. close to home!
DIARY DATES

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<th>Monday 10 December</th>
<th>School Self-Evaluation Meeting 3.15pm</th>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Principal’s Gold Medallion Morning Tea</td>
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<td>Stage 3 Celebration Day – Luna Park</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Reports Go Home</td>
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<td>TERM 4 Week 11</td>
<td>Monday 17 December</td>
<td>Presentation Assemblies</td>
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<td>18</td>
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NOTES HOME THIS WEEK

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<th>Celebration Day – Luna Park</th>
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<td>Yr 6</td>
<td>Graduation DVD Photos</td>
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<td>Stage 2</td>
<td>Celebration Day</td>
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<td>KT</td>
<td>Class Evaluation</td>
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Food for Thought

LISTEN TO YOUR TEACHER
TREAT OTHERS KINDLY
TAKE TURNS
READ

DONT GET DISCOURAGED
ALWAYS DO YOUR BEST
BE A GOOD FRIEND
PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

Have a great week!

Pauline Baker
Principal
6.12.12

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