Dear Minchinbury Public School families,

ABOUT OUR SCHOOL
Welcome back to Term 4. As we move towards the end of the school year, there will be many important things happening involving our students, teachers and school community. We look forward to continuing the learning journey and to celebrating our students’ achievements with you.

Staff Update
Mrs Carriero, a long-standing member of our teaching team, is taking leave for the remainder of this year. In her place, we are lucky to have Mrs Oxley working as a teacher supporting students with learning difficulties. Mrs Garcia will not be returning to work with S1G this term as she is still required to care for her husband. She will, however, endeavour to work some days casual teaching here at our school and Mrs Razay will continue doing a fabulous job with S1G students. Mrs Macgregor, one of our school counsellors, has not yet returned to work as she sustained an injury last term that prevents her from driving. She is slowly mending and we look forward to her speedy recovery and return. Finally, Mrs Baker has not returned to our school, however, she is making plans to do so very soon. We will provide more definitive details as they become available.

Kindergarten Transition
Our new Transition to School program Minchinbury Explorers - Discovering School for our 2013 Kindergarten students began this week. This transition program aims to develop positive relationships between teachers, students and families, and to ensure that the children's transition into school is as enjoyable and exciting as possible. The Minchinbury Explorers program will run for 8 weeks, every Thursday. All new Kindergarten students are invited to attend a one-hour session each week, either from 9:30-10:30am, or from 12:00-1:00pm. Students already enrolled have received their invitation to join the program. Other students will receive their invitation upon submitting their enrolment. We look forward to meeting all our new Minchinbury Explorers and their families.

Kindergarten 2013 Enrolments
We are continuing to take enrolments for students beginning Kindergarten 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 immunization 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.

Our Trip To Camp Yarramundi
During week 9 last term, our stage 3 students attended their annual stage 3 camp at Yarramundi. At the time, they participated in a number of activities that pushed the students out of their comfort zone to their benefit. Stage 3 students were involved in various activities such as the giant swing, flying fox, caving, orienteering, bush craft, alpine rescue, archery and rock climbing. The accommodation was at a high standard and the instructors helped the students become more aware of situations that may have to be overcome.

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Overall, the camp was a fun and exciting way to teach students more skills and to give them more opportunities to learn in a unique way.

Written By Kaela Tavares & Joseph Todaro

STUDENT WELFARE NEWS
Positive Behaviour for Learning
Our school will again be focusing on one behaviour target each week. This is a way teachers can reinforce the school’s behaviour expectations. Teachers also reinforce the behaviour expectations as part of daily activities and reward students for demonstrating these behaviours. One reward used is a ‘Respectful Safe Learner’ card, which go into a barrel for a weekly prize draw of a canteen voucher and a once per term prize draw for play equipment. It is pleasing to see the huge number of cards in these draws as it serves to indicate that the majority of students are behaving as expected.

Fruit ‘n’ Veg Month
During the last four weeks of term 3, our school participated in Fruit ‘n’ Veg Month. Students were encouraged to bring fruit or vegetables to school to eat with their recess or lunch. Also, the canteen provided pieces of fruit with each lunch order. The school has also adopted the Crunch and Sip program and is currently seeking accreditation as a Crunch and Sip school. Students are encouraged to bring fruit or vegetables and a drink of water each day to have at around 10am in class. Students are also encouraged to bring fruit and/or vegetables to school each day to have with their recess or lunch.
On the first day of this term, the Fruit ‘n’ Veg month raffle was drawn and the following students won a package containing a sports ball, a water bottle and containers to bring fruit and vegetables to school: Kaya Ibrahim, Ethan Pule and Candice Cowgill. Congratulations to these students for their win!

Signing Students Out
Our school often holds or participates in special events both inside and outside of school hours. We have set procedures in place for signing children out at these events as a measure to protect the children. We expect parents/carers will sign a child out in the presence of the teacher who is supervising them, as this is our way of ensuring a safe hand over to an appropriate person. Until this hand over has occurred, the duty of care for the child remains with the teacher. We also require that each child be signed out by their own parent/carer unless a prior arrangement has been made and the supervising teacher is notified of this in writing. We ask that you abide by our procedures so we can work together to ensure the safety of all children at our school.

INTERESTING INFORMATION
School Self Evaluation
As part of our school planning cycle, we undertake a school self-evaluation process every year. We are required to conduct at least two annual evaluations – one related to educational and management practice and the other related to curriculum. We will complete these evaluations in Term 4 and need to establish a committee of staff and community representatives to do this. If you are interested in working on the School Self Evaluation Committee, please contact the principal by Tuesday 16 October 2012.

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Preparing for High School
It can be quite daunting for children, and their parents, to start high school. Here are some suggestions that may help to make this a positive experience:

- ensure your child participates in the high school orientation
- find out about the school uniform, start and finish times, transport options, required supplies
- find out the name of the Year 7 adviser and discuss with them any concerns you have
- teach your child how to read and understand the school timetable and any transport timetables
- talk positively to your child about the move to high school
- allow your child to tell you what excite them about high school and what worries them
- discuss what options your child has for seeking help when they need it
- decide what your child will do before and after school
- discuss emergency and safety issues with your child
- provide a clear, organised space for your child to work quietly and store the equipment they need for high school
- stay involved and interested in your child’s high school life

For more information, you can visit www.schools.nsw.edu.au/highschool to watch videos about high school.

“Sometimes parents think that when their child comes to high school they need to take a step back, we say not a step back but a different step. That they’re still there supporting their child and our experience would be that those children that do really well in high school, their parents have been there in some way, shape or form, supporting them through their six years at high school.” Amanda Harris

DIARY DATES

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<th>TERM 4 Week 3</th>
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<td>Kindergarten 2013 Information Evening</td>
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NOTES HOME THIS WEEK

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<tr>
<td>Stage 3</td>
<td>Excursion Payment Reminder</td>
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“It only takes one cat – or person – to make another feel welcome and special.”
Laura C. Monteiro

Mrs E. Berwick
Relieving Principal

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