Dear parent/caregiver

Term 3 Week 1

Staffing Update
As we return to school this term, Mrs Baker remains at another school, supporting the staff and students there through a difficult situation. As a result, the relieving arrangements that were in place last term will continue as they were last term. We are glad to have Mr Brough back, working with Ms Marcozzi on S2B. We are also glad to have Miss Jessica Evans returning to work with us in the school counsellor role. She will be working Tuesdays and Thursdays at our school. Mrs Macgregor has returned to work on a part time basis. She will be working in her District Guidance Officer role but will still be based at our school.
Unfortunately, Mrs Garcia has been unable to return to work yet as her husband remains unwell. We hope to see her back here at Minchinbury P.S. soon.

Crazy Hair Day
On Thursday 28 June our students participated in Crazy Hair Day as a fundraising event for Cystic Fibrosis NSW. Our school raised a total of $450 for this worthy cause. Thank you kindly for your contribution.

Student Progress Reports
On the last day of Term 3, Friday 29 June, teachers distributed student progress reports for Semester 1. If your child was absent on this day, they should have received their report upon returning to school this term. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child’s report, please make an appointment to see their class teacher.

NAIDOC Gala Day
On Friday 29 June, the last day of term, 13 students from our school attended a NAIDOC AFL Gala day. Students travelled by bus to Blacktown International Sports Park where they participated in a modified version of AFL against other local schools. Students also participated in art and craft activities, including painting boomerangs and rocks using the colours of the Aboriginal flag. One of the highlights of the day was throwing a real returning boomerang! TWICE! Students met players from the GWS Giants and the team mascot. The event was organised by NSW/ACT Indigenous programs and Transfield Services. There was no cost for the students who also enjoyed morning tea and a bbq lunch. All students who attended had a great day, represented Minchinbury public school with pride and behaved perfectly.
NAIDOC Week is an opportunity for the whole community to come together, reflect and celebrate the rich Indigenous culture of Australia.

A Special Thank You
Last term, Bunnings at Minchinbury very kindly donated four raised garden beds, soil, children’s shovels, gloves and rakes, a wheelbarrow, watering cans, herbs and vegetables. Staff from Bunnings then set the gardens up in front of the Kindergarten classrooms and the Kindergarten students then planted the herbs and vegetables. This has made a huge improvement to the presentation of the Kindergarten area. We would like to thank Bunnings for their generous support.

Kindergarten Enrolments
We are currently taking enrolments for students starting Kindergarten in 2013. If you have a child turning 5 before 31 July 2013, they are eligible to enrol at school. We are planning an extended transition to school program this year, which will give children a more detailed introduction to school life at Minchinbury P.S. We would like all children starting school to have this transition opportunity so please complete an enrolment form as soon as possible. These forms can be collected from the school office or downloaded from our school website in the ‘notes’ section.

Education Week
This year Education Week is being celebrated across all public schools in NSW from 30 July to 3 August. This a time to celebrate the quality teaching and learning occurring every day in our schools.
At Minchinbury P.S. we are participating in a number of activities that we would like families to join us for. These include Art on the Hill, the PULSE concert, Olympic Day and Honour Assemblies for stage 1 and 3. In addition, our P&C Association is holding their regular meeting on Tuesday 31 July starting at 9:15am. We look forward to seeing you throughout the week in the AV room.

Olympics Day
We are hosting an Olympics Day here at school on Thursday 2 August as part of our Education Week celebrations. All students K-6 will be participating in opening and closing ceremonies and sport sessions. There will even be a medal presentation. Students have been asked to contribute $4 in order to participate. This payment needs to be made by Friday 27 July.
Parents and families are welcome to join us for this special day. If you are able to volunteer some time as a helper, please contact Mrs Troy. Our P&C Association is planning to hold a sausage sizzle on the day so be on the look-out for a note about pre-ordering.

Athletics Carnival
Our school athletics carnival is being held at Charlie Ball Reserve, Doonside on Tuesday 7 August. The events on the day include track, high jump, long jump and shot put. This carnival involves all students in stage 2 and 3. The cost of the carnival is $13 and this payment needs to be made by Friday 3 August.

Minchinbury PS

A great school..... close to home!
Art on the Hill
On Wednesday 1 August our Learning Neighbourhood schools are holding the annual Art on the Hill event, beginning at 5pm. One student from each class has been selected as the class winner and their artwork will be on display. The families of these children will receive an invitation to attend the event. These students will be presented with their award at school, however, other awards, including the overall school winner, will be presented on the night. We look forward to sharing a fabulous evening in celebration of our outstanding artists.

Performing Arts Events
This term is quite busy for students and staff in performing arts groups:
This week and again on 31 July, our students in the PULSE choir are rehearsing for the prestigious PULSE concert which is being held on 2 August at Sydney Opera House.
On 23 July and 10 September, our school band is participating in the Showtime band workshops with students from other schools in Western Sydney region. Children will perform in the REACH concert dress rehearsal on Monday 17 September and evening concerts on 18 and 19 September at St Albans Anglican Church, Rooty Hill.
Our Djembe drumming group is participating in workshops with students from other schools in our Learning Neighbourhood on 14 and 28 August, and 11 September. They will attend a dress rehearsal Monday 17 September, culminating in a performance at the REACH concert on 18 and 19 September. Our REACH choir will also be performing at this event.
The Year 2 and senior dance groups will be participating in the REACH concert dress rehearsal and performing at the evening concerts also.
All students involved in the REACH concerts will receive ticket information in Week 4. One ticket only (one person) for each evening performance is available. The cost is $10. If extra tickets become available parents will be notified and may pay at the school office at a later date. These tickets will be available on a first in, first served basis.

Public Speaking
Our school public speaking competition is being held this term. Students from K-6 are working with their teachers to develop public speaking skills. As part of this learning process, students will be asked to present a speech to their class. More information about these speeches, including expectations, due dates and topics will be coming home shortly. The school final of the public speaking competition will be held later in the term, on Monday 3 September. Traditionally, our students have demonstrated great talent in the area of public speaking and we look forward to seeing what fabulous speeches students develop this year.

Brain Bender
Which is the odd one out?
- February, July, November, December

Answer next issue

Last issue’s question:
What has four legs, a tail, eats cat food and sees equally well from both ends?

Answer:
A blind cat

Positive Behaviour for Learning
This week’s target is:
‘Listen attentively’.

Students are expected to look at someone who is speaking. This is a sign of respect, however, it also allows the listener to focus on what is being said. This way, they have the best chance of understanding what is being communicated as they can get the meaning of the words being spoken as well see any facial expressions and gestures.
Useful Websites for Parents

**Kidsafe NSW**
Child safety is an important issue and this website aims to help spread the word about making Australia a safer place for children. The website has specific information related to water safety, road safety, playground safety and home and community safety. It provides current news and events, fact sheets, resources and program information.
Kidsafe NSW can be accessed at:

http://www.kidsafensw.org/index.htm

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**Food for Thought**
"Don't lower your expectations to meet your performance. Raise your level of performance to meet your expectations. Expect the best of yourself, and then do what is necessary to make it a reality."
Ralph Marston

Guten tag!

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**Minchinbury Public School**

Child's name: ______________

Class ______ Date/s absent: ___________________________

My child was absent from school on the following date/s: ___________________________

Reason for absence:

______________________________

______________________________

Signed: ______________________

( parent/caregiver )

Teacher: ____________________

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**Minchinbury Public School**

Child's name: ______________

Class ______ Date/s absent: ___________________________

My child was absent from school on the following date/s: ___________________________

Reason for absence:

______________________________

______________________________

Signed: ______________________

( parent/caregiver )

Teacher: ____________________

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E Berwick
Mrs E. Berwick
Relieving Principal

19.7.12

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