Dear parent/caregiver

Term 2 Week 7

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.

Young Writers Awards

On 30 May our Learning Neighbourhood celebrated the writing achievements of students in our schools. Congratulations to the following students who achieved a Young Writers Award:

Grade winners:
Kindy- Christopher Lyttelton KT
Year 1- Marissa Carney S1W
Year 2- Joshua Gange S1V
Year 3- Aman Chahal S2J
Year 4- Ben Gange S2L
Year 5- Anton Milnaric S3R
Year 6- Kaela Tavares S3H

Class winners:

Runner-up Class winners:

A special congratulations must go to Benjamin Gange from S2L who was the overall school winner.

'H' Day

On Tuesday 5 June students at our school came dressed as something beginning with the letter 'H'. The contributions of these students raised $408.55. All proceeds will go towards stage 3 fundraising.

P&C Committee

A P&C Association is a school-based organisation consisting of parents, teachers and citizens residing within the school drawing enrolment area. The Education Act 1990 states that P&C Associations are established to:

- Promote the interest of the school by bringing parents, citizens, students and teaching staff into close co-operation;
- Assist in providing facilities and equipment for the school and promoting the recreation and welfare of the students at the school;
- Encourage parent and community participation in curriculum and other education issues in schools;
- Report, when requested by the Minister, on the material requirements of the school and advise on the subject of maintenance of the school, alterations and additions to school facilities and the selection of new sites;
- Assist and co-operate with teaching staff at public functions associated with the school; and
- Be responsible for the election of parent representatives to any school council constituted at the school in consultation with the principal of the school.

The Department of Education and Communities issued a statement 'The Partnership Between School and Established Parent Bodies' which outlines the proper place of parent organisations in school and places special emphasis on the P&C Association's role in providing "a forum in which parents can develop their partnership with the school and articulate their aspirations for their children's education."

Our P&C Executive will be seeking your feedback about how our P&C Committee currently works and supports the school. You will soon receive a survey asking for your thoughts so please help us by ensuring you complete it with honest responses and return it by the due date. We truly value your ideas and look forward to reading them.

Student and Family Details

Our school is going through the process of updating the student and family details information stored on our database. A blue slip will be sent home this week. Please ensure you complete the form and return it to the school office as soon as possible.
NAIDOC Week
NAIDOC stands for the National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee. Its origins can be traced to the emergence of Aboriginal groups in the 1920s, which sought to increase awareness in the wider community of the status and treatment of Indigenous Australians. NAIDOC is a celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and an opportunity to recognise the contributions of Indigenous Australians in various fields. Activities take place across the nation during NAIDOC Week in the first full week of July.

At our school, we will be celebrating NAIDOC Week between 11 and 15 June. During this time, teachers and students will be involved in lessons and activities based on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures to celebrate National Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week. These lessons might include singing and dancing, cooking, reading and writing and arts and crafts. We believe it is a time for all Australian’s to learn about our shared histories, cultures and achievements and to explore how each of us can join the national reconciliation effort. On Thursday 14 June, our school will be hosting a NAIDOC Week BBQ to celebrate. K-2 classes will be having a sausage sandwich at recess and Years 3-6 at lunchtime. On this day, students are asked to wear mufti clothes in the colours of the Aboriginal (black, yellow and red) or Torres Strait Islander (green, blue, white and black) flags. A note will be going home this week with further information.

Woolworths Earn and Learn Program
This promotion is currently being conducted by Woolworths supermarkets. Last year we took part and received valuable teaching resources including programs for our interactive whiteboards. All you need to do is collect stickers at the checkout of your local Woolworths supermarket (self-service too) to place on your child’s sticker card. There’ll be one sticker for every $10 spent, excluding purchases of liquor, smoking/tobacco products and gift cards. Once completed, simply drop the sticker card into a collection box, either at your school or at your local Woolworths.

A sticker card has been sent home. Spare cards are available at the office.

*Note* Home This Fortnight

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<th>Australian Educational Development Index (AED!)</th>
<th>S2B</th>
<th>Staff Update</th>
<th>Dance Group</th>
<th>Reach Concert Permission</th>
<th>All</th>
<th>P&amp;C Change of Meeting Time</th>
<th>All</th>
<th>Staff Update (Mrs Baker’s Absence)</th>
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Brain Bender

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 next issue*

Last issue’s question:
*I have 6 marbles in a bag. I give 2 to Billy, 2 to James and 2 to John. At the end there are still 2 marbles in the bag. How is that possible?*

*Answer:*
*I gave 2 marbles to John in the bag.*

A great school… close to home!
Useful Websites for Parents

School A to Z
A website established by NSW Department of Education and Communities to provide practical help for parents. Join the conversation at our exciting new online school community for parents where you can also get expert guidance on a range of issues facing your child, or look up the great list of homework and assignment starters.
School A to Z can be accessed at:
http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/home

Positive Behaviour for Learning

This week’s target is:

‘We put our rubbish in the bin!’

Our school encourages students to be respectful and considerate of others. One way we do this is by maintaining a clean and tidy school environment. Students are expected to put their rubbish in the bins provided, both in the classroom and playground. In addition, we all sometimes make the effort to put other rubbish in the bin as a way of taking responsibility for our shared space.

Food for Thought

“Let them have a green sky and blue grass for as long as they can because then they’ll realise it’s OK to be little bit interesting.”

Andrew Daddo

Have a great week!

Mrs E. Berwick
Relieving Principal

Minchinbury PS

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: ________________________________________________

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: ________________________________________________

Minchinbury PS

A great school..... close to home!
Training for parents

ENROL NOW

Study while your children are at school.
Locally run, in partnership with a Registered Training Organisation, nationally accredited certificate courses.

Commencements ongoing

- Face to face and self-paced study options
- Enrolment costs covered
- No classes during school holidays
- Programs can be tailored to suit your language, literacy and education levels.

To be eligible* you must be:

- in receipt of a Parenting Payment Single, Parenting Payment Partnered, Newstart, Youth Allowance (other) or Special Benefit, and
- have a disability, injury or health condition, and
- be an Australian citizen or a permanent resident.

ENROL NOW! Call our Mount Druitt office on 9208 6100

*Additional eligibility criteria may apply
Dear parents / caregivers,

A few children in our school have been found to be suffering from pediculosis (head lice) infestation.

Head lice infestation is a problem that affects most schools at some time or another because it is so highly contagious.

Treating head lice can become a time consuming task. It is much simpler if the condition is discovered in the early stages.

To eradicate both lice and their eggs (nits), products are available from pharmacies without prescription, and your local supermarket. Head lice are only pin size, and very difficult to see. Their presence causes itchy scalp. Eggs, however, are white, cling to the hair near the scalp and are more easily seen.

We seek your co-operation in the examination and possible treatment of your child's hair. It appears to also help if pillow cases etc are treated, as the eggs can be transferred from these back to the child's head.

Thanking you for your support.

Mrs P Baker
Principal
HEADLICE

WHAT ARE HEAD LICE?
- Head lice are tiny insects that live in hair, where they breed and feed on blood from the scalp. They are about the size of a sesame seed, have six legs, and range from tan to greyish-white in colour. They live up to 30 days and cannot survive for more than two days away from the human scalp.
- Nits are the eggs of the head lice. They look like small whitish specks about the size of a pinhead and are glued to the hair shaft. Nits are first laid very close to the scalp, and then grow out with the hair. Nits hatch within seven to 10 days and mature into adult lice in about seven days.
- Head lice crawl; they cannot fly or jump and they do not live on animals. They hang on to the hair with hook-like claws at the end of each leg.
- Nits are usually found on the hair shaft at the nape of the neck, under the fringe and behind the ears.

HOW ARE THEY SPREAD?
- Lice are spread by head-to-head contact, or sometimes from sharing hats, headgear, combs or brushes with an infested person.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?
Symptoms may be absent, or may include:
- A tickling feeling in the hair
- Itchy scalp from lice bites
- Sores can develop from scratching and these can sometimes become infected
- Fine black powder (lice faeces) or pale grey lice skins may be seen on the pillow.

TO CHECK FOR HEAD LICE AND NITS:
- Look closely through the hair and scalp for nits and lice with a bright light, magnifying glass and fine-tooth comb.
- Nits are usually noticed first and are easier to see. They are glued to the hair shaft, behind the ears and at the back of the neck. Unlike dandruff they cannot be brushed off.

IF YOU FIND HEAD LICE:
Check the rest of the household for head lice, and only treat if they are detected.
- Treat everyone found to be infested on the same day.
- Treat again in seven days.
- Tell any possible close contacts, such as friends and work mates.
- After the first treatment, the affected person can return to school or work.

HOW DO YOU TREAT HEAD LICE?
- For a baby under 12 months of age, or if you are pregnant, or breast feeding, or have sensitive skin, consult a health professional for advice. Manual removal may be recommended in preference to chemical disinfection.
- Head lice treatments can be purchased from a chemist without a prescription. Follow the instructions.
- Avoid getting the product into eyes; cover eyes with a towel or washer and wear gloves when applying the product. Wash your hands thoroughly after use.

HELPFUL HINTS
- Do not use a conditioner on hair before (or after) applying the treatment.
- Do not blow dry hair after treatment as the heat may inactivate the product.
- Do not re-wash hair for one to two days after treatment.

AFTER TREATMENT
- Check that the product worked. Comb hair with a fine-tooth comb, wipe contents onto a tissue or cloth, and look for any movement. If lice are still active, the head lice could be resistant to the insecticide. Wash hair and treat again using a product with a different insecticide base (ask your pharmacist).
- If the other preparation fails, daily inspection and removal of eggs and lice with a fine-tooth comb or fingernails is the only option left. This procedure is tedious but, if followed strictly, will eventually clear the hair of lice. A magnifying glass may help you to see the eggs and lice more easily.
- Check combs, brushes, headgear and bedding for lice. Combs and brushes may be soaked in hot water (>=50°C) and detergent for 10 minutes. Bed linen, clothes, and towels can be washed in the hot cycle in the washing machine or in a hot drier. Items that cannot be washed or dry-cleaned (for example, hats) can be placed in a plastic bag for a minimum of four days.
- Nit removal is not necessary.
- To help minimise levels of head lice within the community, it is a good idea to check your child’s hair on a weekly basis.

For more information please contact your local public health unit, community health centre, pharmacist or doctor.