Dear Parents and Caregivers

Exciting news!
The school is launching its own app!

At Minto Public School, we are striving to improve our communication with our parents and families. It is with great excitement that we share that our school now has its own Skoolbag iPhone and Android App to help us communicate more effectively with you. Thank you to the P&C for supporting this school initiative.

What you need to do...
We are asking parents and caregivers to install our Skoolbag School App. To install it, just search for our school name ‘Minto Public School’ in either the Apple App Store, or Google Play Store. When you download the app please make sure that you allow push notifications. This means that any notifications we send through will appear on your phone or iPad. Once the app has been downloaded you will need to choose a category:
* Click on more at the bottom of the screen.
* Click on setup.
* Turn on the class or classes that you wish to be a part of. (Please note, to receive whole school notifications you will need to turn on at least one class.)

In our next newsletter we will share some more of the features to help you get the most out of the new app.

Working with technology
Minto PS iPads

Since last term, classes have been using iPads to support their literacy and numeracy learning in the classroom. Currently we are using the following apps which you may like to download at home for your child.
* Targeting Maths (there is one for each year level)
* National Geographic World Atlas (K—6 students)
* Grammar Wonderland—Primary (K—2 students)
* Grammar Wonderland—Elementary (3—6 students)
* Winning Words – homophones, antonyms, double letters, synonyms and compound words (Year 3-6 students)

Throughout this term, students will also be using ‘Book Creator’ and ‘Comic Life’.

As we add more apps to our school iPads we will keep you updated.

Website Update

In keeping with our commitment to deliver great communication to our parents and to most effectively share the fantastic things we do at Minto Public School, we have recently updated our website so that we are able to safely share videos of school events and excursions. Across the top of the webpage there is a new tab called ‘School Videos’. Any video that we upload will appear in this tab. To watch the video you will need to enter the password. Please contact office. Then click on the ‘watch video’ button. Our first video is of 3/4E rounding up sheep while on their excursion to the Camden Environmental Centre.

Mini Fair

Our Year 6 Mini Fair will be held on Friday 12 December 2014. The fair will begin at 2pm and conclude at 3:25pm. To assist Year 6 in their organisation we are asking for donations for the white elephant stall. Donated items may include: books, games and toys. If you can assist us with any of these items, please being them in to school and give them to Ms Benotic or send them to 5/6B’s classroom. Thank you for your support. From Year 6.

P & C Movie Night Fundraiser

Would your family be interested in attending a ‘Movie Night’ Fundraiser. The fundraiser will be held at Dumaresq Street Cinemas in Campbelltown in Term 4. Due to the cost of hiring the cinema, we would like to get an indication of how many families may be interested in attending the fundraiser. The cost of the tickets will be approximately $10 per person. This will include a ticket, popcorn and a drink or choc top. The funds raised will be supporting our children in various areas of their education.

Calendar

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>October</td>
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<td>20/10 (Mon) District Public Speaking competition</td>
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<td>23/10 (Thur) P&amp;C meeting 6pm. All welcome.</td>
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<td>29/10 (Wed) School and family disco 5—6.30pm. Everyone welcome.</td>
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<td>End of year dates!</td>
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<td>2/12 (Tue) Participation Assembly</td>
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<td>4/12 (Thur) Presentation Day</td>
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<td>10/12 (Wed) Year 6 Farewell</td>
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<td>11/12 (Thur) Year 6 McDonald’s breakfast</td>
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<td>12/12 (Fri) Mini Fair</td>
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<td>16/12 (Tue) Whole school movie day</td>
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<td>18/12 (Wed) Last day of Term 4 for students</td>
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Asia Day at Minto
During Asia Day at Minto Public School, the community was invited to our whole school assembly. Students were encouraged to wear traditional dress or colours, so the assembly was very colourful! During the assembly, we showcased the dances we had learnt with Dance2BFit. We also heard some students speak in languages other than English. Students, during library lessons with Mrs Stewart, learnt short conversations in this language, which they presented at the Asia Day assembly. This is how some students felt about speaking in a different language in front of a large audience.

“I had fun learning Filipino. It was easy to get up on the stage and speak to my partner!” Jasmeen 1/2T

“I loved having my dad at the assembly to hear me speak Vietnamese.” Liyana 1/2M

“I was very nervous getting up to speak Vietnamese but I liked it when everyone clapped.” Jessica 1/2M

“It was really hard to get up and speak Hindi because I thought I would make a mistake.” Bree 2C

“I had butterflies in my tummy at the start but it was actually really fun especially when everyone clapped at the end!” Tia-Rainbow 2C

“I loved learning Mandarin. I remembered my whole speech up on the stage. I like speaking into the microphone.” Hannah KH

“I tried really hard to learn Filipino and I was really excited to go up on the stage in front of everyone! My mum was so proud when she saw me on the stage.” Kaitlyn 1/2T

After the Asia Day at Minto Assembly, we split into rotational activities. Teachers have shared the activities undertaken by students on Asia Day.

KH and K/1J have been learning about China.
During our group activity, we focussed on Chinese fortune cookies. We learnt the history of the fortune cookie and discussed the meaning behind the fortunes received by the Chinese people. Students were then able to look at and eat their own fortune cookie. Each class was then required to write their own fortune. Students did a wonderful job coming up with some very positive and creative fortunes.

1/2M have been learning about Vietnam
In 1/2M the groups enjoyed making lanterns and decorating them with symbols from Vietnam. The younger classes created their own patterns. The older classes drew magnificent dragons.

1/2T have been learning about the Philippines
As part of our celebrations for Asia day, 1/2T explored Tinikling. Tinikling is a traditional dance from the Philippines. Dancers jump in between bamboo rods in time to the music. In the hall, 1/2T used wooden rods to have a go participating in this well-known dance type.

“It was fun jumping with the wooden rods and having turns with my friends.” – Kenneth 1/2T

“I liked bouncing up and down on my tippy toes and dancing to the music.” – Sohan 1/2T

“I liked watching the video. I liked how the dancers didn’t even need to look at their feet when they danced!” – Julia 1/2T

“I liked holding the rods and making different sounds with them on the ground.” – Rafah 1/2T

2C have been learning about India
During Term 3, 2C enjoyed exploring the country of India. We had lots of fun sharing our activity of pinpricking rangoli patterns into paper for our class activity. The patterns looked amazing when held up to the light. We thought these artworks would be perfect for the Hindi festival of lights, Diwali. We also had fun trying to have conversations with each other in Hindi. Asia day was lots of fun.

3/4E have been learning about Indonesia
During Term 3, 3/4E studied Indonesia. On Asia Day at Minto, Mrs Burt helped the rest of the school learn three songs – ‘Sepuluh Botol Hijau’ (Ten Green Bottles) ‘Burung Kakatua’ (The cockatoo) and ‘Nona Manis’ (Sweet lady). We also had a special guest come in and cook Mie Goreng (Fried Noodles) for us on the school barbeque.

4/5G have been learning about Japan
Japanese summers are traditionally hot and humid. Using fans are one way Japanese people can stay cool. Students visiting 4/5G made a traditional Sensu Folding Fan while listening to Japanese music. Traditionally these fans are made out of silk and bamboo and are beautifully decorated Students used Japanese characters to write the word peace on their fan and then decorated their fan with symbols of Japanese culture.

5/6B have been learning about South Korea
As a way of sharing our knowledge of Korea, students who visited 5/6B on Asia Day listened to traditional music and learnt a little about the history of Korean masks. Students then used lots of colours to decorate their own Korean paper mask.
Class Corner featuring K/1J
Staying Safe

K/1J have been learning about staying safe at home and in the community. We have been classifying and writing about safe and unsafe situations. We all know what things are safe to touch and play with and what things can harm us.

Awards

Congratulations to the following students who have received an award.

Bronze
Joshua H  x2  1/2M
Bree M  2C
Arsh S  5/6B
Narrah T  KH
Manjot K  5/6B
Reenayna P  KH
Joshua M  1/2M
Connor M  K/1J

Silver
Joshua M  1/2M

Gold
Shreeya K  3/4E

Come and view KH’s foyer display

We have just had a changeover in our office foyer display. KH has mounted their ‘Van Gough’ inspired creative art work samples. You are more than welcome to pop up to the office to view the new display. Thank you to Mrs Harris and KH!

Academic success

Congratulations to the following students who achieved fantastic results on the University Writing and Spelling competitions held recently.

ICAS Writing Competition participants and results

Year 3
Krystal C  Credit
Dominic S  Participation

Year 4
Joshua H  Participation

Year 5
Tania Z  Merit

ICAS Writing Competition participants and results

Year 3
Krystal C  Participation
Sanika M  Distinction
Prapti S  Participation
Dominic S  Participation

Year 4
Nashita C  Credit
Joshua H  Credit

Year 5
Sean T  Participation
Tania Z  Credit

P&C Uniform Pool Stall

Friday 24th October 2014
In front of the school flags
Home time from 3.15pm.

Prices start at $2.
A little more about the Minto Public School Museum

The purpose of the museum is that of collecting, preserving and promoting items relating to the history of NSW public education and Minto's history. Admission is free for members of the general public who are wishing to inspect the Museum. Inspection of the museum is by appointment (although the museum is also open to the general public on certain special school occasions). Community groups and school groups are also welcome by appointment. Educational programs for school groups, run by qualified teachers and experienced school staff, can be arranged for a small fee per student.