Dear Parents and Caregivers

As the year draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Minto Public School community, including staff, students and their families for the great year we have had. Minto is a very special place with everyone working together to make the very best learning environment that we can for our students. Thank you! Our school partnership is highly valued and much appreciated.

Farewell

The end of the year is time for us to say goodbye to a dedicated staff member. We wish her all the best of luck and know that she will always carry a little piece of Minto PS in her heart.

Goodbye and thank you to:
- Mrs Renee Griffiths who is expecting her baby in February. Best wishes to Mrs Griffiths and her husband for the special family time ahead. Mrs Griffiths, we will miss your enthusiasm, knowledge and commitment to our school.

Welcome

In 2015, we welcome:
- Miss Tiffany Vaughn who will be taking up a temporary classroom teaching position. Miss Vaughn has been a regular casual at Minto this year and we look forward to having her fulltime in 2015.
- Miss Ting Zhou. Miss Zhou will also be taking up another of our temporary classroom teaching positions. Miss Zhou has a number of years experience and will be coming to us from Kearns Public School.

Please note the calendar for the final end of year dates. Please also mark on your calendar the 2015 return to school dates. Also, for your information, Swim Scheme is scheduled for one week from Monday 2 March 2015—Friday 6 March. This is for students in Years 2 – 6. Please look out for the information note and permission slip in the first week back.

Operation Art

Each year Minto Public School students have the opportunity to have their artwork chosen to represent the school in the Operation Art Competition. At the end of this competition artworks are returned to the school framed. We have received the most recent entries back and they are now proudly displayed in the foyer of the office, above the enquiry window. Please come and have a look at the beautiful work.

Participation Assembly

On Monday 1 December we celebrated the involvement of our students in a wide variety of school activities at the Participation assembly. Congratulations to Miss Johnson and Mrs Lander for their organisation and preparation for the day. It was wonderful to see so many students recognised for their participation in a broad range of extra curricula activities. During the assembly, I was very proud to announce the 2015 Student Leaders.

2015 Student Leaders

Congratulations to the following students who have been elected as our 2015 Student Leaders:

School Captains: Ben S., Siana U.
SRC: Jaya S., Tahrima Z., Jayden M., Aislinn B.

Calendar

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>11/12 (Thur)</td>
<td>Year 6 McDonald’s breakfast</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/12 (Fri)</td>
<td>Mini Fair 2—3.25pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>15/12 (Mon)</td>
<td>Class party day—11.50am</td>
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<tr>
<td>16/12 (Tue)</td>
<td>Whole school movie day</td>
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<tr>
<td>17/12 (Wed)</td>
<td>Last day of Term 4 for students</td>
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<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>Staff Development Day (Teachers only)</td>
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<tr>
<td>27/1 (Tue)</td>
<td>Students’ first day back (Years 1—6)</td>
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<td>28/1 (Wed)</td>
<td>Kindergarten’s first day—following Best Start assessments that are being conducted 28/1 and 29/1</td>
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<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>Swimming Scheme</td>
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<td>2/3—6/3</td>
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Presentation Day Assembly

Congratulations to all award recipients. It was great to see so many families and friends attend the presentation. We had lots of positive comments from community members, who were impressed by the way our students conducted themselves and about the lovely ‘warm feeling’ our school evokes. Well done!

Thank you to all of our staff members who contributed to the organisation of the day. It was a wonderful team effort!

Representing Minto with pride

The Minto Public School community strongly encourages the wearing of school uniform to promote school pride and to project a whole school image. We ask for family support and cooperation in this matter to have all students wearing full school uniform.

In preparation for the 2015 school year, I have included an excerpt below from our uniform outline. If you intend on purchasing new shoes over the summer holidays, I particularly wanted to encourage the purchase of black school shoes as these are part of our everyday school uniform. Thank you for your anticipated support.

Minto Public School Uniform—Shoes
Black leather school shoes or black joggers (without images). White or coloured joggers are not encouraged. Please be advised that this does not include soft canvas shoes.

2015 School enrolments

We are currently in the process of planning for next year, which involves reviewing student numbers. Please inform the school in writing if your child/ren will NOT be returning to Minto PS in 2015. It is important that this information is shared as soon as possible so appropriate preparations can be made. Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.
Working together in partnership with our parents and families

**P & C Movie Night Fundraiser**
Thank you for your interest in the proposed ‘Movie Night’ Fundraiser. Given the positive response, it will be organised for Term 1, 2015. The date for this event will be set at the P & C meeting in Term 1, Week 3 Thursday 12 February 2015.

**P & C Annual General Meeting**
Notice of the date for the first P&C meeting and the Annual General Meeting (AGM) – **Thursday 12 February 2015 at 6.00pm**. I would like to take this opportunity to invite all parents and caregivers to attend the P&C meeting to learn more about its role and the fantastic part it plays in supporting our school.

**Canteen news—closed on Movie Day**
As you are aware we are attending a whole school movie day next Tuesday 16 December. Please be advised that the school canteen will be closed on this day and therefore not able to fill lunch or recess orders.

Please note, the canteen will be open on the other days until the students finish school (17.12.14). As the holiday period gets closer there may be some items that will be unavailable.

**Awards**
Congratulations to the following students who have received an award.

**Bronze**
- Sohan I x 2 1/2T
- Sara B 4/5G
- Zorian C 3/4E
- Cooper T 1/2M
- Nathaniel P KH
- Aeron S K/1J
- Talha K 1/2M
- Sela B K/1J
- Ruth A 1/2T
- Anoka T 2C
- Harsimar P 1/2T

**Gold**
- James L 4/5G

**Goodbye and good luck Year 6!**
All parents and friends are warmly invited to come and say goodbye to Year 6 next Wednesday 17 December at 3:10pm as they take their last walk through the Year 6 tunnel and onto High School.

**School holiday security**
The number for school security is 1300 880 021. If you notice any unusual activity over the school holidays, please call the above number. Alternatively, you can call Macquarie Fields Police on 9605 0499.

**Important road safety reminder for parents and carers these holidays**
As the school holidays approach, it is important to remember when walking near roads, on footpaths, near driveways and in car parks always to:

- **hold your child’s hand.** Until they are at least 8 years old children need to hold an adult’s hand. Until they at least 10, children should be closely supervised by an adult and hold hands when crossing the road.
- **talk to your child about road safety.** Talk about how to be safe when near roads. Be a good role model.
- **point out road safety dangers and differences** in new environments. This is especially important when on holidays in different surroundings. Roads, footpaths and pedestrian facilities may look different in holiday areas.

The best way to keep your child safe on or near the road is to hold their hand. Talk with your child daily about road safety. Remind other adults and carers about this too. You can find out more at [http://roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/stayingsafe/children/pedestriansafety.html](http://roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/stayingsafe/children/pedestriansafety.html)

Have a safe holiday break!

**Wonderful support for ‘Sekolah Bisa’ Street School in Indonesia—$900 raised!**
Congratulations to the whole school community on their contribution to our recent mufti day to raise funds for the ‘Sekolah Bisa’ Street School in Indonesia. As you know, 3/4E were learning about ‘Sekolah Bisa’ as part of their studies about Indonesia in Term 3. Ashleigh T. shared more about the school after researching it with her family. Ashleigh also presented this information to the Rotary Club of Ingleburn who generously supported this activity with a $200 donation. We thank them for their generosity. We are extremely pleased to confirm that the $900 raised will fund three students for an entire year of tuition at the school. The gift of education is a wonderful thing. Your support is very much appreciated.
The Minto playgroup will be returning to our school next year! The starting date is Wednesday 4 February at 9.30am. See the details below.

**Minto Playgroup**

**Where:** Minto Public School Hall  
Pembroke and Redfern Roads  
Minto  

**Day:** Wednesday mornings from 9.30–11.15 am  
Come and join a fun playgroup for children aged 0-5 years and their parents and carers.  

Please bring some fruit to share and a drink for your child.  

Have fun playing with:  

- Baby toys  
- Craft  
- Puzzles  
- Parachute play and more  

For more information about the playgroup please call Margaret on: 02 4629 2000 or 0434 566 572