Dear Parents and Caregivers

It’s a boy!

On behalf of the Minto Public School community I would like to extend a warm congratulations to Mrs Harris and her husband on the safe arrival of baby Oliver Flynn! Fabulous news!

Other staffing updates

Welcome to Miss Wickham who commenced on KH on Wednesday 19 November. She will be continuing until the end of the year, Wednesday 17 December.

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.

Participation assembly

The 2014 Participation Assembly will be held on Tuesday 2 December. This assembly recognises the efforts of students in a variety of extra-curricular activities over the year. The 2015 school leaders and captains will also be announced. We hope to see you there!

Christmas activities

As we begin to finish up our 2014 school year and enter the Christmas festive season, teachers are planning end of year activities. Some of the activities include Christmas themes and motifs. This work focuses on Christmas as a celebration. If you would prefer your child not to be involved in specific activities involving Christmas, please inform your class teacher in writing.

Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27/11 (Thurs)</td>
<td>P &amp; C Meeting 6pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/12 (Tue)</td>
<td>Participation Assembly 9.45am</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/12 (Thur)</td>
<td>Presentation Day 9.45am</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/12 (Thur)</td>
<td>Community of Schools Choir Performance, Minto Marketplace, 6.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/12 (Mon)</td>
<td>Music Club Concert 9.40am in the hall. Everyone welcome</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/12 (Tue)</td>
<td>Reports Home</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/12 (Mon)</td>
<td>Scripture concludes</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/12 (Wed)</td>
<td>Year 6 Farewell</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>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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January 2015

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27/1 (Tue)</td>
<td>Staff Development Day (Teachers only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28/1 (Wed)</td>
<td>Students first day back (Years 1—6)</td>
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Striving to communicate better with our families
Using Minto Public School’s App to access information

At Minto Public School, we are striving to improve our communication with our parents and families. 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. Currently, we have 44 downloads of our app. So if you haven’t already downloaded the app, we strongly encourage you to do so. It is FREE and it is a convenient method to have all of Minto Public School’s information, activities and happenings in the palm of your hand! Simply go to your phone’s ‘app’ provider and search ‘Minto Public School’.

A feature I would like to highlight this fortnight, is the way you can access uploaded school information. For example, this week the school uploaded a flier promoting the P&C’s end of year raffle. This flier has valuable information about when the raffle is drawn, the exciting prizes to be won, a list of generous donors and how to get extra books of tickets. It serves as an easy reference point in the palm of your hand! Similarly, other documents such as the school newsletter are also available to view. Please see the photographs below reflecting this information.

Example
1. Select ‘P&C’.
2. Select ‘End of year raffle’.
3. Read information about the activity and select ‘View Document’ (in the top right corner).
4. The uploaded document will open for viewing. (The P&C flier is over the page for your information.)

Library books

It is now time to return any overdue library books. If you still have a borrowed library book at home, could you please return it as soon as possible. The library will be closed after this week so that Mrs Stewart can complete her annual stocktakes.

Sporting success

Congratulations to the following students who were presented with their Fields Zone PSSA certificates for representing the Fields Zone at South Western Sydney Area carnivals throughout the 2014 sporting year; Ashleigh T, Caine S, Jayden F and Ben S. These students received their certificate at a formal award ceremony held Monday 17 November 2014 at Ingleburn RSL. Congratulations again.

Presentation Day assembly

On Thursday 4 December, Minto Public School would like to invite you to our end of year Presentation Day Assembly. This assembly will be an opportunity to celebrate many student achievements. The assembly will commence at 9.45am in the school hall. We hope to see you there!
4/5G have green thumbs!

This term in Science and Technology, 4/5G are learning about living and non-living things.

Students have been busy learning about the seven characteristics that all living things possess and have also been conducting experiments on plants to see if they breathe.

To study what plants need to grow, students have planted some plants in the garden and are now busy taking care of them. Each day we observe them and record any changes in our note books. We are excited about our plants and hope they grow!

While we wait for our plants to grow, students have been busy learning about the lifecycles of plants and animals. Students are learning about how seeds germinate into seedlings and how these seedlings grow into plants.

Working together in partnership with our parents and families

Canteen
The canteen will be in operation Tuesday to Friday until the students finish school (17.12.14). As the holiday period gets closer there may be some items that will be unavailable.

End of year raffle—Over $700 worth of prizes!
A wonderful raffle has been put together for the P&C end of year fundraiser. With the generous support of Minto Marketplace Management and store owners there are some amazing prizes! On behalf of the school community, I would like to thank our kind donors. Their support of our school is very much appreciated. I encourage all families to contribute to this fabulous fundraiser by purchasing their book of tickets sent home last week and by patronising, if possible, the wonderful stores at Minto Marketplace who donated to our raffle.

If you are in a position to sell additional books of raffle tickets, that would be great! Please see the canteen for those. Also, if you are able, the P&C are asking for donations of food items to make additional hampers for the raffle. Food needs to be non-perishable with a use by date of 2015. All donations can be dropped off at the canteen. Thank you for your anticipated support!

Opportunity Class (OC) selection

Congratulations to Nashita C on her selection to an opportunity class placement at St Andrews Public School. This class is accessed through a state-wide test held last term. Well done!
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.