Dear Parents and Caregivers

Welcome back to the 2014 school year. I hope you had a happy and restful break. It is with great pleasure that I am writing to you as the Principal of Minto Public School, after returning from my maternity leave. This year I have returned for four days per week and will be at school Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. I will be spending Friday at home with my young family. In my absence on Fridays, Mrs Benotic, Assistant Principal, will be relieving as Principal. I appreciate your support in this arrangement and will strive to make this transition as smooth as possible.

Welcome to our readership

We are delighted to welcome the parents of Minto Public School to our 2014 newsletter readership. We want you to get to know us better and we look forward to having you visit our school regularly throughout the year, continuing to forge a strong partnership with our school. A special welcome to our new families.

Welcome from our school leaders

School Captains: Jasmine T and Jayden F
School Leaders: Rebecca L, Caine S, Samiha A and Manjot K.

Term 1 is off to a great start

Our year of learning is well underway and each of our classes has commenced their structures and routines that will underpin the quality teaching and learning that occurs each day.

I am pleased to confirm that we have been able to maintain 8 classes. Permanent class structures were formed on Tuesday 4 February 2014. The new class structures are as follows;

- KH – Mrs Harris
- K/1J – Miss Johnson
- 1/2M – Mr McDonald
- 1/2T – Miss Tishler
- 2C – Mrs Ivsic
- 3/4E – Mrs Burt
- 4/5G – Mrs Griffiths
- 5/6B – Mrs Benotic

I have had some enquires about why we have two classes of 1/2 students. This is because we have made our classes as even in number as possible. This benefits all students in their learning as it ensures maximum teaching time per student.

I have also had enquires about the other composite classes (K/1, 3/4, 4/5, 5/6) and their make up. I must stress that classes are NOT made up on academic ability, that is, the highest achievers are NOT those in the younger grade of the composite. I ask our parents and families to remember that we are a small school and this is the reason we have composite classes. I assure all parents that classes are made up based on having a range of academic abilities, student backgrounds and boys and girls in each group. Consideration is also given to student behaviour and interactions.

If you would like to discuss further your child’s class placement, you are more than welcome to come and see me in the office.

Support program structures are as follows;

- Learning and Support Teacher (LaST) and Reading Recovery (RR) teacher—Mrs Harvey
- English as an Additional Language or Dialect (EAL/D) teacher—Mrs Robinson
- Release from Face to Face (RFF) teacher—Mrs Grigson
- Teacher Librarian—Mrs Stewart

Administration

- School Administration Manager – Mrs Howie
- School Administration Officer – Mrs Lander
- General Assistant – Mr Barlow
- Cleaner – Mrs Edmonston

Calendar

February

- 24/2 Community of Schools Swimming Carnival—COMPETITORS ONLY
- 17/2-21/2 Whole School Assembly—date to be confirmed
- 25/2 Zone Swimming Carnival
- 26/2 Student Leader Conference
- 27/2 Zone Swimming Finals

March

- 4/3-8/3 Swimming Scheme—5 day intensive program for students in Years 2—6
- 13/3 Year 6 Selective High School Test
- 20/3 School Photos
Newsletter schedule

Newsletters will go home each fortnight and will be filled with information about what is happening at the school. In Term 1, this will be in Week 3, Week 5, Week 7, Week 9 and Week 11. In particular, please note the calendar dates for your diary.

A note from the P&C...

On behalf of the P&C, I would like to welcome our families for 2014. Yesterday evening the P&C held their AGM and the first meeting for the year. I would like to extend a sincere congratulations to Mrs Donna Sheddon who was elected as P&C President for 2014. Congratulations also to Ms Anna Grocholsky who was elected as Vice President and Mrs Donna Hitchcock who was elected as Treasurer. The position of Secretary remains vacant. If you would like to know more about this role and how you can help the school and P&C, please come and see me.

To encourage greater participation and to cater to for as many families as possible, a survey was sent home requiring parents / carers to indicate the best days and times they are available to attend meetings. I ask that you return this slip to the office as soon as possible. Alternatively, additional surveys are available from the office. A warm invitation is extended to all Minto community members to attend the next P&C meeting to be held Thursday 13 March 2014 at 6.00pm in the library. The meeting concludes at 7.00pm.

Canteen

The canteen, under the management of the P&C and manned by very dedicated volunteers, has commenced operation for 2014. Please find following information regarding the canteen;

The canteen is open four days, Tuesday to Friday – open in the morning, prior to school starting, to take lunch orders and then open at lunch for snacks, drinks and ice blocks.

Recess can be ordered in the morning or at lunch time. The Canteen Committee students, led by the Student Leaders, will deliver recess orders each day. A menu and price list has been sent home with this newsletter.

The Canteen will be closed on Monday until further notice. If anyone would like to volunteer their services, please leave your name with the canteen ladies. Please note, due to Department of Education and Communities’ policy, young children are not allowed in the canteen.

Uniform

The last of our new uniforms, as well as second-hand uniforms are available for purchase from the canteen. Requests can be made through the canteen and will be processed as soon as possible, and within 5 school days.

Banking

Student banking will recommence this Friday 14 February. Students need to bring in their bankbook on this day which will be collected from each classroom by our banking coordinators. Please enquire at the school canteen if you require additional information.

Working together in partnership with our parents and families

The P&C engage an auditor to review their financial position on an annual basis. The P&C need to complete an audit for 2013 and I ask if any member of our school community may be able to assist, please come and see me.

Whole School Assembly

The first assembly will be hosted by the Year 6 school leaders during Week 5 (24/2 - 28/2) with the date and time to be advised. All classes will be in attendance. The Sports House Captain badges will be presented. Everyone is warmly invited to attend.

Parents and carers will be advised of additional Term 1 assembly dates and times in the next newsletter.

Auditions for Year 7 2015 Campbelltown Performing Arts High School

Auditions for Year 7 2015 will be held on 24, 25 and 26 March 2014. Talented students with a strong interest in Dance, Drama, Circus, Instrumental Music and Vocal are encouraged to apply.

Campbelltown Performing Arts HS is a specialist high school offering a broad comprehensive curriculum. Students selected into the school benefit from a range of curriculum and welfare initiatives, specialist teachers, modern performance and technical production facilities and a supportive whole school ethos towards promoting excellence in the Performing Arts.

Audition application forms can be obtained by phoning the high school on 4625 1403.

Kindergarten settling in to school routines.
Caring for your child’s health and safety

Head lice
To assist us with dealing with outbreaks, please check your child’s hair regularly for head lice, taking particular note around the ears and under the hair at the nape of the neck. If you find any eggs or lice please commence treatment with any of the solutions available from the chemist or by using the ‘white conditioner’ method. Please note, siblings will also need to be treated. A second treatment may be required in 7 days. The school will send home notes to the whole class when there is a head lice outbreak. Please let the office or myself know if your child has head lice. You can assist by ensuring that your child’s hair is tied back.


If you do not have internet access at home, copies of this information is available from the office. I appreciate your assistance in this regard.

Walking to and from school
As we are at the start of the new school year, it is a great time to remind students of safe travel to school. I ask for your support to discuss with your child/ren safe walking along the footpaths and safe crossing of the very busy Pembroke and Redfern Roads. I also request that you discuss with your child/ren stranger danger and safe travel to and from school. In particular, please ensure you enter and exit the school via the pedestrian gate only. For the safety of all students, their families and staff, at no time should the staff car park be used for access.

Campbelltown Council is also seeking our support in safe motoring in school zones. The safe conduct of motorists either driving through or parking in school zones is of paramount importance to our local community to ensure the welfare and safety of school children and other pedestrians during starting and finishing times.

Stage 1 students working hard during writing tasks.

A reminder to parents to notify the school about your child’s health

We welcome information from parents about your child's health, even if you are not requesting specific support from our school. Our school asks for medical information when you enrol your child. It is also important that you let us know if your child’s health care needs change or if a new health condition develops.

Information about allergies, medical conditions such as asthma and diabetes and other health care related issues (including prior conditions such as medical procedures in the last 12 months) should be provided to the school by parents. Please provide this information in writing to myself. This will greatly assist our school in planning to support your child’s health and wellbeing. Please also remember to notify staff in the school office of any changes to your contact details or to the contact details of other people nominated as emergency contacts.

We appreciate your assistance in this regard and assure you that any information you provide the school will be stored securely and will only be used or disclosed in order to support your son or daughter’s health needs or as otherwise required by law.

More writing from Stage 1
Kindergarten learning together
First confession and Holy Communion

Catholic children in State (Public) Schools, in Year 3 or above, are due to be prepared to receive the Sacraments of Forgiveness and Holy Communion. An enrolment and information meeting for parents will be held on Monday 17 February at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre of the Holy Family Church, Oxford Road, Ingleburn. Baptism Certificates are required for enrolment. For enquiries, please contact Father Peter on 9605 2785.