Dear Parents and Caregivers

Student leadership in the sporting arena
Congratulations to the following students who are the Sports House Captains for 2014:
- Red Backs— Siana U and Alejandro O
- Tigers— James L and Grace A
- Geckos— Roberta E and Dannie E
- Kangaroos— Isabel P and Siam R

I’m sure that all of these students will be excellent leaders and role models to each of the house groups!

Student leadership in the library
Thank you to all the students who put in applications to be library monitors this year. The eight library monitors are Alia T, Jaya S, Isabel P, Sebastian T, Nishita C, Shruti K, Unity L and Tahrima Z. Congratulations to these students who put in excellent applications! The library badges were presented at assembly in February.

I’m sure that all these students will be excellent monitors, supporting Mrs Stewart and their fellow students in the library.

School website update
We are striving to improve our school’s website and make it more informative and interactive, reflecting the fantastic work we do here at Minto. We have updated and uploaded some new information and photo galleries to the website yesterday. To continue to do this, we need to ensure we have permission for each child for 2014 and beyond. We have 37 students who have not returned their note. I ask that if you have not yet completed the ‘Authority to Publish’ note then to please do so as soon as possible. We look forward to improving this area of communication for our families and the community!

Senior students do us proud
Congratulations to Year 5 and 6, and in particular to the eight Endicott Cup team members, for their excellent participation in the recently held first round of the Endicott Cup. The teams were up against the other local primary schools—Campbellfield, Sarah Redfern and The Grange and were being challenged in areas of literacy, including public speaking and spelling. We look forward to the next round which will be held at the end of May.

Supporting the school in afternoon ‘pick up’
To support the Kindergarten students being safely handed over to their parents / carers, as well as assisting the smooth dismissal of all students, I request that all parents and carers wait adjacent to the blue seats to avoid congestion. This will allow the teachers to escort their classes along the path determined by the covered walkway and dismiss them. Please do not stand and wait on the path that leads out of the school or in front of the brick wall as this adds to the afternoon congestion. Your support in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Calendar

**March**
- 13/3 (Thur) Year 6 Selective High School Test
- 13/3 (Thur) P&C Meeting 6pm—7pm in the library.
- 18/3 (Tue) Police visit—Constable Williams—Year 5 and 6
- 19/3 (Wed) School Photos
- 24/3 (Mon) Whole School Assembly—2.30pm. All welcome.
- 25/3 (Tue) TIMSS Assessment—Year 5

**April**
- 2/4 (Wed) School Athletics Carnival
- 3/4 (Thur) ‘Think Outside’ Sports Program—Year 3—6
- 7/4 (Mon) Whole School Assembly—2.30pm. All welcome.
- 8/4 (Tue) Easter Hat Parade
- 9/4 (Wed) 3/4E excursion to Camden Park EEC
- 10/4 (Thur) Anzac Day Ceremony
A note from the P&C...

P&C Day—A special time to say thank you

The Federation of Parents and Citizens’ Association of NSW celebrates the annual P&C Day, held last Wednesday 5 March 2014. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Minto Public School’s P&C for their tireless work in support of our school. Just some of the many ways our P&C have supported us have been on merit selection panels, school promotion, the uniform pool, canteen and fundraising. Last year the P&C donated approximately $20,000 to the school in support of our programs. Simply amazing! On behalf of the staff and students, I extend my appreciation of the work and time you dedicate to our school and also for the strong partnership we have in making Minto PS the very best school it can be.

March P&C meeting

To encourage greater participation and to cater 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. We 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 this Thursday 13 March 2014 at 6.00pm in the library. The meeting concludes at 7.00pm.

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.

Learning outside the classroom

There are a number of excursions each term. These are valuable experiences for students as they enhance and support classroom programs. As part of school procedures, each excursion or special activity note has a due date for return to school. This is to ensure the smooth organisation of the event including student attendance, transport, finance and WHS risk assessment. These due dates must be enforced to assist in the completion of these tasks. Unfortunately, we will not be able to accept late notes / payments. Any concerns regarding the due date of activities should be discussed with your child’s class teacher, the Assistant Principals or myself, prior to the last day for permission / payment. Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

They also did a fantastic job with the smooth running of the assembly. It was lovely to see how confident each of the speakers were using the microphone. Thank you to our parents and friends who attended. We appreciate your support of our special school activities. The next whole school assembly will be held Monday 24 March 2014 and will be led by the school leaders. The Minto Community of Schools swimming carnival certificates will be awarded as will the Swimming Scheme certificates from classes 1/2M, 1/2T and 2C. Everyone is warmly invited to attend.

Other Term 1 assembly dates:
- Monday 7 April 2014 at 2.30pm – led by 1/2M, including a class item

Awards

Congratulations to the following students who have received an award.

Bronze
- Shreeya K 3/4E
- Sara B 4/5G
- Sheenala K 3/4E
- Roberta E 5/6B
- Brody R 3/4E
- Dannie E 5/6B
- Kaitlyn R 1/2T
- Shaheel P 3/4E
- Shaniya P 1/2T
- Ella M 2C

Silver
- Dannie E 5/6B
- Liana T 3/4E
- Jake W 2C

4/5G sings about being Australian

Congratulations and well done to 4/5G who entertained us at the last assembly with their ‘I am Australian’ song.
Kindergarten students have been learning to write a sentence using capital letters and full stops. Each week, students participate in ‘Interactive Writing’. Students take part in an activity such as cooking, drama or painting and students write about this experience. This week students had fun making and eating jelly. Students wrote the sentence ‘On Monday we made red jelly.’ We are very proud of our Kindergarten students. We look forward to sharing more exciting work from Kindergarten in our next newsletter!

Anzac Dawn Service 2014
Minto Public School sends representatives to the Ingleburn RSL’s Anzac Day Dawn Service. This tradition was started in 2011 when students from families who usually attend laid a wreath on behalf of our school and its students and families. We would like to extend the opportunity for other students to also know of this valuable learning experience and to possibly represent our school by laying a wreath as part of the ceremony. I request that any interested students and families come and see me for more details.

Come and view 5/6B’s foyer display
We have just had a changeover in our office foyer display. 5/6B has mounted their ‘Onion Tears’ characterisations, sharing some of their learning in English. You are more than welcome to pop up to the office to view the new display. Thank you to Mrs Benotic and 5/6B.

Caring for your child’s health and safety
Student details—green card
All students have recently taken home a blank green student details card. These green cards, once completed, confirm each student’s details and update our records if items such as phone numbers or emergency contacts have changed since 2013. Students are requested to return the card to school as soon as possible. It is very important that the school has up-to-date information for all students, especially in case of emergency.

Taking holidays during school time
Parents and caregivers are encouraged to not withdraw their children from school for family holidays. Occasionally it may be necessary for students to accompany their parents on family holidays during the school term. Parents should discuss these absences with myself and an application for a Certificate of Exemption from attendance at school will need to be completed to ensure these absences are not permanently recorded as unjustified. Your support in this matter is appreciated.

Community of Schools Zone Swimming Carnival
On Monday 24 February, 13 students competed in the Community of Schools Swimming Carnival. All students participated extremely well in their events. I would like to thank the families and friends that attended the carnival and supported the students. The students competing were Alia, Ben, Anthony, Jayden, Luca, Riley, Krystal, Shubh, Ashleigh, Jessica, Annabelle, Tia and Manjot. Well done to all of our swimmers.

Congratulations to Krystal who finished sixth in the zone freestyle final and to Ashleigh who finished second in the freestyle final. Ashleigh will now go on to represent Minto Public School at the Area Swimming Carnival. Good luck Ashleigh!
**Boys to Men**

FREE Parent/Teen session

A free 90 minute presentation for teen boys 14-18 years and their parents, careers, educators and health professionals. Covering gender identity facts and statistics for this age group, communication, CRUSERS and sexual health first aid.

**WHEN:** Monday 17 March 2014
**TIME:** 6:00-7:30pm
**FREE:** Limited places.

**VENUE:** Marrickville Library
1342 Enmore Road
Enmore, NSW 2041

**BOOKING DETAILS:**

**FOR MORE INFO CONTACT:**
Marrickville Library 9660 3009
Limited copies of ‘The other side of blue’ will be for sale on the night - $15

> Do you know a young man? The other side of blue, is a book that explores the challenges of being a young man in today’s world. Important statistics amongst boys and young men, and information on how boys can develop healthy lifestyles.

> Information and visuals are intended to help young men identify the signs of abuse, bullying and social isolation.

> A workbook is also available for purchase $15.

> Call 9660 3009 to order.

Proudly supported by

**JAMES COURT**  TENNIS

Michael Mullaney 36 years Experience

We will be conducting our 98th Tennis camp to be held 14th - 17th April, 2014 inclusive at Glenquarie Tennis Centre. Fees are $30 for the 4 days which includes a Free Sausage Sizzle on Thursday.

Tennis Coaching- Lessons are conducted 7 days a week at Ingleburn for group and private lessons that cater both beginners and advanced, All Ages. Price - $5 per lessons maximum 4 children in a group. $25 for Private Lessons.

Please call Michael Mullaney on 0408 448 618 for an enrolment form.

Proudly sponsored by

**Minto Early Learning Centre**

Caring for children 0-6 years in the Campbelltown community

- Educating babies and children up to 6 years of age
- Educational preschool programs based on children’s interest and planned and delivered by University trained teachers
- Qualified and experienced educators - supported by Council coordinators
- Access to qualified support workers for children with additional needs
- Safe, caring environment with full air conditioning
- Nutritious meals including breakfast, morning and afternoon tea
- Half day morning and afternoon sessions available
- Service adheres to National Quality Framework
- Child Care Benefit available*

*Please phone the Family Assistance Office on 136 130 to assess your eligibility for Child Care Benefit.

Enrolling now! Call 4645 4443 or email childcare@campbelltown.nsw.gov.au

**Personalised Fitness Training**

Now available in Minto

Have a program designed just for you that fits your schedule and lifestyle.

Learn how to get fit at home, with minimal equipment.

www.shyne4life.com.au

Phone 0425 225 961 to find out more.

**Studion Sessions**

- 45 Min Session
- Studio Props
- 2 x Outfit Changes
- 5 x Digital Photos

$150