Dear Parents and Caregivers

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.

Swimming Scheme — A great success!
In Week 6, 49 students from our school attended the School Swimming Scheme at Eaglevale pool with Mrs Griffiths and Mrs Burt. Students from Year 2 to Year 6 participated in a 5 day swimming program and learnt many new swimming and safety skills. For many students it was their first time at swimming lessons and it was great to see them enjoy learning in this new environment. All of the students tried their best in the swimming classes and there was great progress shown over the five days. The lessons were lots of fun and taught our students many important safety rules around water. The swimming teachers were very happy with our school’s progress and praised Minto students throughout the week on their cooperative and helpful behaviour. The table below outlines the progress that our students made throughout the week. It is fantastic to see such a great improvement. We look forward to going to swimming lessons again next year!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Freestyle Distance</th>
<th>Number of students</th>
<th>Day 1</th>
<th>Day 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0—4 metres</td>
<td>38 students</td>
<td></td>
<td>22 students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5—9 metres</td>
<td>10 students</td>
<td>15 students</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10—24 metres</td>
<td>1 students</td>
<td>10 students</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25+ metres</td>
<td>0 students</td>
<td>2 students</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total swimmers</td>
<td>49 students</td>
<td>49 students</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Calendar

March
31/3 (Mon) K—2 excursion day to the Aquarium and Maritime Museum

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—2.40pm. All welcome.
9/4 (Wed) 3/4E excursion to Camden Park EEC
10/4 (Thur) Anzac Day Ceremony

April (Term 2)
28/4 (Mon) Staff Development Day
29/4 (Tues) Term 2 begins for students
A note from the P&C...
April 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 Thursday 10 April 2014 at 6.00pm in the library. The meeting concludes at 7.00pm.

Come and view K/1J’s foyer display

We have just had a changeover in our office foyer display. K/1J has mounted their ‘Under the Sea’ writing and creative arts work samples. You are more than welcome to pop up to the office to view the new display. Thank you to Miss Johnson and K/1J!

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.

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 and 5/6B are captured by police visit

This week students in 4/5G and 5/6B were visited by Constable Williams, Youth Liaison Officer from Macquarie Fields police station. Constable Williams shared anti-bullying and cyber safety information with us. Students listened intently and asked a number of well thought out questions.

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.
Kindergarten Capers

This term students in Kindergarten have been learning about animals that live in the sea. Students have researched information about crabs, fish, whales, starfish and seahorses. Kindergarten children have loved creating beautiful artworks for a classroom display called ‘Under the Sea’. Students in K-2 will be attending an excursion to the Sydney Aquarium or the Maritime Museum on Monday 31 March. We are all very excited!

Representing our school on the sporting field

Jayden F, Ben S, and Caine S were all recently selected to be part of the Fields Zone soccer team. The boys participated in a Regional Soccer Carnival yesterday. Well done boys!

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.

School car park

Please do not use the staff car park as a pedestrian zone when dropping off or picking up your children. For the safety of the students and yourselves, please use the top entry and exit gate only (located near the school sign). The car park is only to be used for staff vehicles and DEC deliveries. It is not for public use.

School Day

On Thursday 27 March, Minto will be participating in National Ride to School Day. National Ride 2 School day is an initiative of the Bicycle Network of Victoria.

Students of Minto Public School are encouraged to ride their bicycles to school safely, however, this in NOT compulsory. The different ways students of Minto Public School travel will be recorded for a mathematics data lesson and submitted for a tally to the Bicycle Network. All data is confidential. Names or photographs of students will not be submitted to the Bicycle Network. If your child normally walks to school, or comes via bus or car, please do not feel you need to change your normal routine.

During the day, students will have the opportunity to show and discuss their bicycles and helmets to their class, emphasising the safety features of their bicycles and helmets. Students who have not bought bicycles will be able to see and touch the school bicycles, with older students being offered the opportunity to ride around the back oval. We look forward to promoting safe bicycle travel with your child.
Celebrating Harmony Day!

Working and playing together in harmony. Please enjoy some of our lovely colours and cultural costumes. More photos to come in our next newsletter.