Dear Parents and Caregivers

Welcome back to Term 2! I hope you and your family had an enjoyable break. Term 2 is shaping up to be a very busy term with the NAPLAN tests for Year 3 and 5 coming up soon (13/14/15 May) and with the gymnastics program commencing yesterday. All classes have commenced new units of work and are continuing their literacy and numeracy focuses.

I’d like to take this opportunity to wish all of our very hard working and highly valued mums an enjoyable and relaxing Mother’s Day on Sunday. I hope you are all spoilt with love!

Staffing updates and information

Mr McDonald is currently on long service leave until Friday 30 May. Miss Vaughn will be taking 1/2M during this time. Welcome Miss Vaughn!

The NSW English Syllabus for the Australian Curriculum
A focus on programming...

The Term Two Staff Development Day was dedicated to further professional learning based on the new NSW Board of Studies English syllabus, which commenced implementation this year. Teachers were actively engaged in a number of professional learning sessions focusing on quality teaching and learning in the area of programming. The teachers were extremely positive about the sessions and are continuing to develop, apply and refine their knowledge and understanding of the new English syllabus.

A parade of bright colours and happy students

The Easter Hat Parade was an enjoyable occasion celebrated by the students, staff, parents and community on Tuesday 8 April 2014. Thank you to all the parents and carers who assisted in the making of hats and who attended the special whole school event. The staff and I were very pleased to see lots of parents and friends in attendance. Thank you to Mrs Harris and Miss Tishler, who led the event, and the teachers for their organisation of hats, their contribution to the smooth running of the event and for their enthusiasm. Thank you also to the P&C who donated eggs for the Easter Bunny to deliver during the parade. The P&C Easter raffle was drawn and was a very successful fundraiser. Winners of the raffle are listed inside this newsletter.

Calendar

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<th>May</th>
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<tr>
<td>5/5 (Mon)</td>
<td>Gymnastics begins</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/5 (Wed)</td>
<td>School and Family Disco—4.45pm—6.15pm</td>
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<td>7/5 (Wed)</td>
<td>Mother’s Day Stall</td>
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<td>8/5 (Thurs)</td>
<td>Whole School Cross Country</td>
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<td>12/5 (Mon)</td>
<td>Whole School Assembly—2.30pm. All welcome.</td>
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<td>13-15/5</td>
<td>NAPALN—Year 3 and Year 5</td>
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<td>20/5 (Tue)</td>
<td>ICAS Computer Test</td>
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<td>22/5 (Thur)</td>
<td>Zone Cross Country</td>
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<td>22/5 (Thur)</td>
<td>GRIP Student Leadership conference for SRC</td>
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<td>26/5 (Mon)</td>
<td>Whole School Assembly—2.30pm. Led by K/1J.</td>
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<td>28/5 (Wed)</td>
<td>4/5G &amp; 5/6B visit to UWS</td>
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<th>June</th>
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<td>4/6 (Wed)</td>
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<td>6/6 (Fri)</td>
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ANZAC Day
The ANZAC Day ceremony was held on Thursday 10 April 2014. Thank you to Miss Johnson who coordinated the assembly. It was very informative for students and respectful of this special day. A special thanks to Mrs Burt and Mrs Griffiths and 3/4E and 4/5G who performed the ANZAC Day play. It gave the students and our audience an opportunity to view an ANZAC story. Well done also, to all students for their attentive listening and excellent behaviour. Thank you as well to Mrs Burt who led the school choir. A special thank you to the parents and friends who attended.

Mother’s Day Stall
On Wednesday 7 May, the P&C will be hosting our Mother’s Day Stall. Children can bring money in a labelled envelope to purchase gifts valued between 50c and $10. Any unsold gifts will be available for purchase from the canteen on Thursday and Friday.

Representing Minto with pride
Ben S, Jake S, Tia B, Chloe D and Caine S represented Minto Public School with pride at the Ingleburn RSL ANZAC Day Dawn Service. I would like to congratulate the students in the way they carried out their duty of wreath laying in a solemn and respectful manner, reminding us how important Anzac Day is to everyone, but especially young people who are charged with always remembering the sacrifices past generations have made so that we can enjoy the freedoms we do.

NAPLAN
This year is the sixth year of the National Assessment Program for Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). All students in Year 3 and Year 5 will sit the national test. The testing dates are Tuesday 13, Wednesday 14 and Thursday 15 May 2014 (Term 2, Week 3). Parents of these students will have a note sent home with them early next term. Any questions can be directed to myself or Mrs Benotic, who will be coordinating the tests.

Whole school assembly
The first whole school assembly for Term 2 will be held next Monday 12 May 2014. The assembly will be led by the school leaders. The athletics carnival track ribbons will be presented. Also, the bronze and silver awards will be presented.

Other Term 2 assembly dates:
Monday 26 May 2014 at 2.30pm—led by K/1J, including a class item
Monday 23 June 2014 at 2.30pm—led by 1/2T, including a class item

Opportunity Class (OC) TEST – Year 4, 2014 for Year 5, 2015
The opportunity class test is set for Wednesday 23 July. All applications to sit this test should be made online. A limited number of applications will be made available to the school for those parents who do not have internet access. An information note will be sent home with all Year 4 students this week. Online applications should be completed between now and 16 May. Please see Ms Craze for further information.

May P&C Meeting
The next P&C Meeting is scheduled for Thursday 15
Stewart House Day
Friday 9 May 2014

Stewart House is a non-profit organisation that provides respite accommodation for children. Minto Public School has been an ongoing supporter of this organisation for many years and we have had many students enjoy special time there. We ask that you support Public Education’s ‘Charity of Choice’ in a number of ways and help celebrate Stewart House Day.

We ask that you help us by:

- returning the Stewart House clothing bags by Monday 19 May 2014. (Clothing bags went home in the last week of last term —1 per family.)
- returning the Donation Drive envelope, with a $2 coin on or before Friday 9 May 2014. Note—you will be eligible to go in a draw for a holiday valued at $4,000. (Envelopes went home last week —1 per child.)
- purchasing a high bounce handball for $3. These will be available to purchase in Week 2, Term 2, from Monday 5 May—Friday 9 May, during first half lunch, until sold. Be quick—limited supply!

Thank you in anticipation for supporting this worthwhile cause. Mrs Harvey

Caring for your child’s health and safety

Student safety—travel

We take student safety very seriously at Minto PS, particularly in the way students travel to and from school. I would like to take this opportunity to remind all parents and students to please use the pedestrian crossing on Redfern Road when crossing the road and if your child is 10 or under, they should be accompanied by an adult who is holding their hand when crossing. This is for the safety of all students and will also assist motorists when driving near our school. May I also ask for your cooperation to NOT use the staff car park to enter or leave the school.

Student safety—school arrival time

For the safety of your child/ren, I ask that you do not send your child/ren to school prior to 9.00am as there is no teacher supervision. A teacher is rostered on for morning duty at this time. Some students have been arriving as early as 8.20am. If you have special circumstances you need to make me aware of, please call the office.

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.

P&C Easter Raffle winners!

1st Annabel P 1/2M
2nd Chloe D 3/4E
3rd Corey M 5/6B
4th Tyran M 1/2M
5th Amira K K/1J
6th Tyran M 1/2M
7th Hugo G KH
8th Ume R KH
9th Vianl S 1/2M
10th Sriyanti P KH
11th Amira K K/1J
12th Corey M 5/6B
13th Jude D 2C
14th Julia T 1/2T
15th Shao-Leung KH
16th Rachel S KH
17th Neil N 1/2T

Congratulations to the 17 winners! There were so many prizes this year because of the generous Easter egg / chocolate donations. Your support of P&C fundraising activities is very much appreciated.
Request for 2013 Annual School Report

The 2013 Annual School Report can be accessed from the school website www.minto-p.schools.nsw.edu.au. For families that do not have a computer, please use the slip below.

Student’s name: _____________________________ (oldest child in family) Class: ___________

  o I request a printed copy of the school's 2013 Annual School Report to be sent home with my child.

  o I request an electronic copy be emailed to the following address.

Email address: ______________________________________________________________

Signed: ___________________________________     Date: __________

(Parent / Caregiver)

Minto P&C are holding a Mother’s Day Stall for students to purchase gifts for their special mum/carer for Mother’s Day

**Date: 7th May 2014**

Gifts range from 50c—$10