Dear Parents and Caregivers

Come and ‘Meet the Teacher!’

At Minto Public School we value the opportunity to get to know our families and to strengthen our partnership for the benefit of our students. We have planned a ‘Meet the Teacher’ session for next Thursday afternoon, 5 March 2015 from 3.45pm to 5.00pm. All parents and caregivers are warmly invited to attend. We have planned a variety of relevant sessions to share and have included time in your child’s classroom. Come and see what we have planned for 2015! We look forward to seeing you there.

Student leadership in the sporting arena

Congratulations to the following students who are the Sports House Captains for 2015:

- Red Backs: Jarrod C and Ankit A
- Tigers: James L and Grace A
- Geckos: Lidija F and Joshua H
- Kangaroos: Unity L and Anthony D

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 of the students who put in applications to be library monitors this year. The six library monitors are Geneva F, Lidiya F, Jaya S, Sara B, Unity L and Tahrima Z. Congratulations to these students who put in excellent applications! I’m sure that these students will be excellent monitors, supporting Mrs Stewart and their fellow students in the library. See photo over—absent Tahrima Z.

Need to chat with your child’s teacher?

Your child’s teacher is always happy to talk to you. As our teachers are usually on class, it is best to phone ahead or send them a note or email to make time for a chat. The best times to phone teachers are before school starts (8.55 - 9.20am), at lunch (11.25 - 12.10pm) or after school.

Contacting your child’s teacher via email is easy, just email the school minto-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au making sure you put the teacher’s name in the subject area.

Calendar

**March**

- 2/3-6/3 Swimming Scheme - 5 day intensive program for students in Years 2 - 6
- 4/3 (Wed) GRIP Student Leadership conference - SRC
- 5/3 (Thur) Meet the Teacher afternoon - 3.45 - 5.00pm
- 11/3 (Wed) Crazy Hair Mufti Day - Cancer Fundraiser
- 12/3 (Thur) Year 6 Selective High School Test
- 17/3 (Tues) Macquarie Fields Police Visit - 5/6B & 4/5M
- 18/3 (Wed) School Photos
- 19/3 (Thur) Cross Country
- 19/3 (Thur) P&C Meeting 6:30pm. All welcome.

**April**

- 2/4 (Thur) End of Term 1
- 21/4 (Tues) Start of Term 2 for students
- 22/4 (Wed) School Anzac Day Ceremony
Working together in partnership with our parents and families

Congratulations to the 2015 P&C executive!
The Minto Public School P&C held their Annual General Meeting (AGM) and their first general meeting for 2015 on Thursday 12 February.

Congratulations to Ms Anna Grocholsky, P&C Vice President; Mrs Donna Hitchcock, P&C Treasurer; Mrs Sunita Cheal, P&C Secretary and Mrs Ingrid Dick, Canteen Manager. The school and its community values your important contribution in this area. Thank you!

The P&C needs your help!
Unfortunately, the vital role of P&C President was not filled. It is imperative that this position is filled at the next general meeting, to be held Thursday 19 March at 6pm, otherwise the P&C will not be able to operate. I encourage all parents and carers to consider this role. The President leads the P&C, however they work closely and are very supported by the other P&C executive as well as the general members. The Federation of the P&C (at State level) also supports local Presidents and there is some fabulous information on their website if you would like to learn more.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the wonderful work of the P&C. The school enjoys the benefits of a very supportive P&C and parent body and the students are the beneficiaries. If you are considering the P&C President role, you are more than welcome to come and see me for a chat to find out more.

P&C meetings are child friendly!
Perhaps you were considering coming to P&C meetings but were unsure about whether you could bring your children? We wanted to clearly communicate that Minto P&C meetings are child friendly! Your child(ren) is/are certainly welcome to attend. At meetings, they have a special area to play, read or draw next to where the adults meet. Everyone is welcome and we hope to see you there!

Thank you!
Thank you to Mrs Tonogbanua, a Minto PS parent, who has volunteered to audit and review the P&C's 2014 financial position. We really appreciate your support in this area. Thank you!

Anzac Dawn Service 2015
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. This is very important to ensure your child is included as we pass these student details on to the organising committee at the Ingleburn RSL.

Whole School Assembly
Congratulations and well done to the three student leaders who capably ran the first whole school assembly held Monday 16 February. 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 2 March 2015 at 2.30pm. The school leaders will again be leading the assembly and the Swimming Carnival ribbons will be presented. Everyone is warmly invited to attend.

Other Term 1 assembly dates:
- Monday 16 March 2015 at 2.30pm - led by 3/4T, including a class item
- Monday 30 March 2015 at 2.30pm - led by 2Z, including a class item

‘Shakespeare Rocks’ Minto!
Minto Public School will be holding its biennial School Extravaganza in Term 3 of this year. We are excited to announce that the Extravaganza will be in the form of a play called ‘Shakespeare Rocks’. Each class will participate in a dance, to be facilitated by Dance2BFit. Speaking parts will also be available to students and details about auditions went home Tuesday 24 February to all students in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6. We will be seeking volunteers from the parent community who can sew costumes or donate props. Look out for more details in upcoming newsletters. We look forward to this exciting activity!

Extravaganza Committee

Our wonderful choir after performing at the Campbelltown Principals’ Network meeting hosted at Minto Public School - more details in the next newsletter!
Caring for your child’s health and safety

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.

Student details - pink card

All students have recently taken home a blank pink student details card. These pink cards, once completed, confirm each student’s details and update our records if items such as phone numbers or emergency contacts have changed since 2014. 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 emergency drills

Next Thursday 5 March at 10:45am, Minto PS will be practising our evacuation drill. This is so students and teachers are familiar with the procedures in the event of an emergency occurring. Classes have been revising the procedures for emergencies in readiness for this drill. I ask for your support of these drills by talking about them with your child/ren. The evacuation sound, for students and teachers to leave classrooms, is a continuous blast from the megaphone. It is important for the safety of every member of Minto PS that these procedures are followed in a quiet, orderly and sensible manner. Thank you for your anticipated support.

Come and view 5/6B’s foyer display

We warmly invite you to view our office foyer display. 5/6B has mounted their ‘Belonging’ drawings, sharing some of their learning in Human Society and its Environment. You are more than welcome to pop up to the office to view the new display. Thank you to Mrs Benotic and 5/6B.

Our professional teachers

The Department and school values the learning of its staff and is committed to supporting career-long professional development. This is a vital part of our role as teachers and the research is clear. There is a strong link between the professional qualities of teachers and the learning outcomes of students. High standards of teaching and teacher professionalism are in the best interests of students, of public education and of the teaching profession. Minto Public School’s teacher learning and development takes place in different ways throughout the year. These include:

- electronic learning
- short courses
- conference attendance
- mentoring or coaching; and
- school-based or network-based meetings

We refer to these opportunities through which we learn and develop as professional learning. It is important to understand that much of the learning occurs within the school but also, on occasions and in support of our school priorities, the teachers and myself may be out of the school, at another venue, undertaking our learning. At these times, the school engages a casual teacher to deliver quality instruction to the class. The regular teacher does leave work from their program for the students to continue with. More about our school’s priorities will be shared and discussed at the next P&C meeting, Thursday 19 March 2015 at 6:00pm. Everyone is welcome.
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.

Minto Playgroup

Where: Minto Public School Hall
Pembroke and Redfern Roads
Minto
Day: Wednesday mornings from 9.30 – 11.15 am
Come and join a fun playgroup for children 0-5 years and their Parents and Carers.
Please bring some fruit to share and a drink for your child
Have fun playing with:
Baby toys
Craft
Puzzles
Parachute play and more
For more information about the playgroup please call Margaret on: 02 4629 2000 or 0434 566 572