Dear Parents and Caregivers

Working together in partnership with our parents and families

Congratulations and a thank you!

Congratulations to Mrs Donna Shedden who was elected our 2015 P&C President at the recently held P&C meeting. We appreciate the support you, and all our families, give the school.

I would like to extend warm thanks to Mrs Nisa Tonogbanua who volunteered her time and expertise to audit the 2014 P&C records. It was very much appreciated. Thank you again.

P&C Easter raffle fundraiser

Raffle books were sent home earlier this month. Please return these as soon as possible and by next Thursday 2 April. There are some fabulous prizes including Taronga Park Zoo tickets, Featherdale Wildlife Park tickets and a ‘golden ticket’ (family pass) to the Term 3 school extravaganza, as well as baskets of Easter goodies! One book of 15 tickets was given per family. The cost is 3 tickets for $2.00. Donations of Easter Eggs would be much appreciated. Please bring them to the canteen. For extra raffle books, please see the ladies in the canteen.

Can you help?

The P&C will be hosting fundraising activities at tonight’s disco and, as Minto PS is a polling place, also at this Saturday’s election. At both events the canteen will be open and there will also be a BBQ. If you able to volunteer one hour of your time for the Saturday Election Day stalls, that would be fantastic. Please see Ingrid in the canteen or pop into the office for more details.

Learning outside the classroom

There are a number of excursions and extra activities planned 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 procedure is to ensure the smooth organisation of the event including student attendance, transport, finance and WHS risk assessment. These due dates must be enforced. 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.

The school has an app!

Just a reminder that the school has its own Skoolbag iPhone and Android App to help us communicate more effectively with you. Thank you to the P&C for continuing to support this school initiative.

Have you downloaded it? What you need to do...

We are asking parents and caregivers to install our Skoolbag School App, if you have not already done so. To install it, just search for our school name ‘Minto Public School’ in either the Apple App Store, or Google Play Store. When you download the app please make sure that you allow push notifications. This means that any notifications we send through will appear on your phone or iPad. Once the app has been downloaded you will need to choose a category.

* Click on more at the bottom of the screen.
* Click on setup.
* Turn on the class or classes that you wish to be a part of. (Please note, to receive whole school notifications you will need to turn on at least one class.)

Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>March</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26/3 (Thur)</td>
<td>School and family disco—4:30-6:00pm Everyone welcome!</td>
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<tr>
<td>28/3 (Sat)</td>
<td>P&amp;C Election Day fundraising BBQ and canteen</td>
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<tr>
<td>30/3 (Mon)</td>
<td>Whole School Assembly—led by 2Z</td>
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<tr>
<td>April</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/4 (Thur)</td>
<td>Easter Hat Parade 2:30pm in the hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/4 (Thur)</td>
<td>End of Term 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>21/4 (Tue)</td>
<td>Start of Term 2 for students</td>
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<tr>
<td>22/4 (Wed)</td>
<td>School Anzac Day Ceremony—9:45am</td>
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<tr>
<td>23/4 (Thur)</td>
<td>5/6B ANZAC Commemoration Service, Hyde Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>24/4 (Fri)</td>
<td>4/5M Campbelltown ANZAC Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>27/4 (Mon)</td>
<td>Whole School Assembly—led by student leaders</td>
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<td>May</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/5 (Fri)</td>
<td>Zone Cross Country</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/5 (Wed)</td>
<td>Mother’s Day stall</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/5 (Thur)</td>
<td>P&amp;C meeting 6pm. Everyone welcome.</td>
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<td>8/5 (Fri)</td>
<td>Zone Cross Country—wet weather back up date</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/5 (Mon)</td>
<td>Whole School Assembly—led by 2/3E</td>
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<td>12/5 - 14/5</td>
<td>NAPLAN—Years 3 and 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>18/5 (Mon)</td>
<td>UWS First Foot Forward visit 4/5M &amp; 5/6B</td>
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School car park and bus zone—important safety messages

For the safety of students, their families and staff, please do not use the staff car park as a pedestrian zone when dropping off or picking up your children. Similarly, please do not use the staff car park as a place to make a 3-point turn. The top entry and exit gate is the only safe way for pedestrians to enter the school (located near the school sign and adjacent to the traffic lights). The car park is only to be used for staff vehicles and department deliveries. It is not for public use. Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

Also, I request that you ensure you park in the correct parking areas to drop off and pick your child/ren. Do not park in the bus zone (located directly outside the school entry gate). Strict penalties apply for parking in a bus zone (see fines below).

Whole school assembly

Congratulations and well done to 3/4T, who ran the whole school assembly held on Monday 16 March. Thank you to our parents and friends who attended. We appreciate your support of our special school activities. The next whole school assembly, led by 2Z, will be held Monday 30 March 2015 at 2.30pm. The Swimming Scheme certificates for classes 1/2C, 2Z and 2/3E will be handed out as will the GRIP student leadership certificates. Everyone is warmly invited to attend.

Other Term 2 assembly dates:
- Monday 27 April 2015 at 2.30pm - led by school leaders
- Monday 11 May 2015 at 2.30pm - led by 2/3E, including a class item

2/3E are great mathematicians!

Four times a week 2/3E undertakes practical mathematics activities. For many of us, this is our favourite time of the school day. Each day our mixed ability groups have a different activity to complete.

The activities we do are aligned to the new mathematics syllabus. These include:
- Timetables competitions, using stopwatches and mini whiteboards
- Drawing 3D objects
- Volume and capacity measurement using sand, cups and jugs
- Place value sort using Multi Attribute Blocks (MAB)
- Tessellating patterns using shape blocks
- Building
- Reflection journals

The practical mathematics activities run for approximately 25 minutes and these, combined with a theory lesson and TEN time, make for an enjoyable numeracy block in 2/3E.
Stewart House Day
Friday 8 May 2015

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 18 May 2015. (Clothing bags will be going home next week—1 per family.)
- returning the Donation Drive envelope, with a $2 coin on or before Friday 8 May 2015. Note—you will be eligible to go in a draw for a holiday valued at $4,000. (Envelopes will be going home Week 2, Term 2—1 per child.)
- Purchasing the Stewart House keyring torch with Stewart House logo and LED miniature torch for $3. These will be available to purchase in Week 3, Term 2, Monday 4 May—Friday 8 May, during first half lunch, until sold. Be quick—limited supply!

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

Awards

Congratulations to the following students who have received an award.

Bronze

Jayden M 5/6B
Riley M 4/5M
Jessica M 3/4T
Tia B 3/4T
Ariya B 3/4T
Abkar N 3/4T
Raina A 3/4T
Anoka T 3/4T
Jake S 3/4T
Ethan A 1/2C
Peter F 2Z
Rhyanna M 3/4T
Elizabeth C 3/4T
Lidija F 5/6B
Alia T 5/6B
Phoebe G 3/4T
Sheenala K 4/5M

Silver

Riley M 4/5M
Sohan I 2Z
Sela B 2Z
Lidija F 5/6B
Peter F 2Z
Ariya B 3/4T
Jayden M 5/6B
Jessica M 3/4T
Elizabeth C 3/4T
Talha K 3/4T
Romina A 2/3E

Keeping you informed

School attendance policy

I would like to inform parents and carers that there has been a change to the Department of Education and Communities (DEC) School Attendance Policy. As part of the implementation of the National Standards for Student Attendance Data Reporting, holidays taken by students outside of school vacation periods will now be included as absences. A Certificate of Exemption can no longer be granted for this purpose. Families are encouraged to holiday or travel during school vacations. If travel outside of school vacation periods is necessary, parents need to complete an Application for Extended Leave—Travel, at the school office for approval of the Principal. If the application is approved your child’s absence will be marked as Leave. If you have any questions regarding the new DEC procedures, please contact our school office.

Ben was ‘brave and shaved’!

Every day, 31 people in Australia are diagnosed with leukaemia, lymphoma, myeloma or a related blood disorder. One of the ways to help fight this devastating statistic is to join the Leukaemia Foundation’s ‘World’s Greatest Shave’.

I would like to extend congratulations to Ben S who was ‘brave and shaved’ on Saturday 14 March. The recently held ‘Crazy Hair Mufti Day’ was in support of Ben ‘being brave and shaving’. Thank you very much for your generous donations. The school collected $278 towards Ben’s fundraising endeavours. Outside of school, Ben raised an additional $914.35, altogether totaling $1192.35! That is absolutely fantastic Ben, congratulations again!

Please see the link below to the local newspaper online article.

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.