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 (12/13/14 May) and with the ‘Born to Move’ program scheduled to commence next week. All classes have commenced new units of work and are continuing their literacy and numeracy focuses.

As we do not have a newsletter again before Mother’s Day, 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 10 May. I hope you are all spoilt with love! The information flier for the P&C’s Mother’s Day stall is on page 4 of this newsletter.

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 Thursday 2 April 2015. 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 Miss Johnson and Miss Vaughn, 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.

Website Update

In keeping with our commitment to deliver great communication to our parents and to most effectively share the fantastic things we do at Minto Public School, we have recently updated our website.

We have also listened to your feedback about wanting to enjoy our school’s activities on the school’s website, with notifications on the school’s app, as soon as possible after the activity. To do this we have put in place arrangements so that the electronic communications continue to be regularly updated. This has been planned for Weeks 3, 6 and 9 of this term.

After a big update late in Term 1 which included photos, newsletters, notes and some videos we were thrilled to see our website had 1246 views that week! Almost four times the usual traffic! Just a reminder, so that we are able to safely share videos of school events and excursions, these are uploaded in the tab called ‘School Videos’. To watch the video you will need to enter the password ‘mps’ then click on the ‘watch video’ button. Recent videos include class assembly items and the choir singing at our Anzac Day service.

Calendar

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<th>May</th>
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<tr>
<td>1/5 (Fri) Zone Cross Country</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/5 (Mon) Born to Move commences for K—2</td>
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<td>5/5 (Tue) Born to Move commences for 3—6 (incl. 2/3E)</td>
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<td>6/5 (Wed) Mother’s Day stall—see flier on page 4</td>
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<td>7/5 (Thur) P&amp;C meeting 6pm. Everyone welcome.</td>
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<td>8/5 (Fri) Zone Cross Country—wet weather back up date</td>
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<td>11/5 (Mon) Whole School Assembly—led by 2/3E</td>
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<td>12/5 - 14/5 NAPLAN—Years 3 and 5</td>
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<td>18/5 (Mon) UWS First Foot Forward visit 4/5M &amp; 5/6B</td>
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<td>20/5 (Wed) Endicott Cup 3—6pm</td>
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<td>21/5 (Thurs) Harmony Day celebrations K—6</td>
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<td>22/5 (Fri) Gala Day—Round 1</td>
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Staff Development Day
A focus on school excellence...
The Term Two Staff Development Day was dedicated to professional learning based on the Department’s School Excellence Framework and using this framework to support our new 2015—2017 School Plan. Also, staff engaged in learning in the area of English, specifically discussing and reflecting on the teaching activity ‘Literature Circles’. Literature circles are when small groups of students gather to discuss a piece of literature in depth. It is guided by the children themselves where they respond to what has been read. You may hear talk about events and characters in a book, new or interesting words, the author’s craft or a personal experience related to the story. Literatures circles can be used with all ages. You can help at home by reading with your child and talking about an item of interest with them. Use the ideas listed above. Great books to read together can be borrowed from our school library. Look out for class sharing in Literature Circles in upcoming newsletters.

Whole school assembly
Congratulations and well done to 2Z, who ran the whole school assembly held on Monday 30 March. Your song, ‘Keep On’, was very uplifting and a great message about being yourself! Congratulations also to the school leaders who capably ran yesterday’s assembly. 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 2/3E, will be held Monday 11 May 2015 at 2.30pm. The Swimming Scheme certificates for classes 3/4T, 4/5M and 5/6B will be handed out as will the K—2 Cross Country ribbons. Everyone is warmly invited to attend.

Other Term 2 assembly dates:
- Monday 25 May 2015 at 2.30pm - led by school leaders
- Monday 22 June 2015 at 2.30pm - led by 1/2C, including a class item

‘Born to Move’ comes to Minto
Born to Move will commence next Monday 4 May for K—2 classes and next Tuesday 5 May for 3—6 classes (including 2/3E). The lessons are very active and incorporate a variety of fitness activities. Outstanding permission notes and money for Born to Move will be accepted until Friday 1 May.

Anzac Day
The ANZAC Day ceremony was held last Wednesday 22 April 2015. Thank you to the committee of dedicated teachers who coordinated the ceremony. It was very informative for students and respectful of this special day. A special thanks to Mr McDonald and Miss Tishler and 4/5M and 3/4T who performed the ANZAC Day play. It gave the students 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 Miss Tishler who led the school choir. A special thank you to the parents and friends who attended.

Representing Minto with pride
Ben S, Jake S, Tia B, Chloe D, Ethan A, Krystal C, Jayden M, Riley M, Jessica M, Joshua H and Emily H 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.

Student excellence
Siana’s Anzac poetry recognised
Last term, a number of poems written by students in Years 4, 5 and 6 were entered in the Ingleburn RSL Sub Branch ANZAC Poetry Competition. We are very proud to announce that the poem written by Siana U in 5/6B was chosen as the winning entry. Congratulations! Siana was extended the honour to read her poem at the Dawn Service. We will publish Siana’s poem, along with her receiving her award, in the next newsletter.
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. (Spare bags available at the office.)
- 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 today —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

Does your child excel in one of these sports?
PSSA Fields Zone Team Trials

To ensure we give all students the opportunity to participate at the highest level possible of sporting representation, below is a list of the upcoming sports being trialled in The Fields Zone PSSA. If your child is highly skilled in one or more of these sports, please see Miss Johnson to ensure they can be considered to attend the trials.

Term 2
Girls Softball
Boys Softball
Netball
Golf

Term 3
Girls Cricket
Boys Cricket

NAPLAN

This year is the seventh 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 12, Wednesday 13 and Thursday 14 May 2015 (Term 2, Week 4). Parents of these students had a note sent home with them last term. Any questions can be directed to myself or Mrs Benotic, who will be coordinating the tests.

Opportunity Class (OC) TEST
Year 4, 2015 for Year 5, 2016

The opportunity class test is set for Wednesday 22 July. All applications to sit this test should be made online. An information note is being sent home with all Year 4 students today. Online applications should be completed between now and Friday 15 May. Please see Ms Craze or Ms Benotic for further information.

Awards

Congratulations to the following students who have received an award.

Bronze
Raifah R  2Z
Krystal C  4/5M
Ethan A  1/2C
Pratik B  2Z
Shivra R  2Z
Tahrima Z  5/6B
Hasan M  3/4T
Siana U x 4  5/6B
Shreeya K  4/5M
Dominic S  3/4T

Silver
Sheenala K  4/5M
Pratik B  2Z
Jarrod C  5/6B
Chloe D  3/4T
Ethan A  1/2C
Anoka T  1/2C

Gold
Sheenala K  4/5M

P&C Easter Raffle winners!
1st  Julie Mangan
2nd  Carol Oliver
3rd  Jesse S  K/1V
4th  Neil N  2/3E
5th  Peter F  2Z
6th  Kaitlyn A  5/6B
7th  Pranish  2/3E
8th  Aresha  2Z
9th  Tryan M  2Z
10th Shao-Leung  K/1V
11th  L Harkin
12th  Colleen Triance
13th  Grandma Shedden
14th  Phoebe G  3/4T
15th  Tashkin  KJ
16th  Mindy Vaughn (Miss Vaughn’s dog!)
17th  Archer S (brother of Jesse S K/1V)
18th  Shruti K  5/6B
19th  Balpreet K  KJ
20th Shao-Leung  K/1V

Congratulations to the 20 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.
Minto Playgroup

Where: Minto Public School
Corner of Pembroke and Redfern Roads Minto
Day: Wednesday
Time: 9:30am to 11am
What to bring: Already prepared /cut fruit to share at morning tea please

For more information about the group please call
Margaret on: 02 4629 2000 or 0434 566 572

A Free Playgroup for Children 0-5 yrs. and their Parents and Carers

Celebrate
Mother's Day

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: 6 May 2015
Gifts range from 50c—$10
Additional gifts can be purchased from the canteen on Thursday 7/5/15 and Friday 8/5/15

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