Dear Parents and Caregivers

Planning for a strong future
School Plan 2015—2017

Minto Public School’s School Plan 2015—2017 has been finalised and uploaded to our school’s website. You can find it under the ‘Our School’ tab.

The school has set strategic directions using the data collected in term four 2014, including analysis of student data from a variety of sources, the feedback received from the community survey and the staff survey as well as staff evaluation and reflection. Additionally, a parent focus group was held on Tuesday 31 March 2015. Students in Years 4, 5 and 6 completed the Department’s ‘Tell Them From Me’ survey late last term. The three strategic directions are;

- Challenging, engaging and inclusive curriculum
- Building teacher and leader capacity
- Enhancing community engagement and partnerships

We are inviting your input...

At the next P&C meeting, to be held Thursday 11 June at 6pm in the library, there will be further discussion in the strategic direction of ‘Enhancing community engagement and partnerships’. I warmly invite all parents and caregivers to the meeting to be part of this planned discussion. Just a reminder that P&C meetings are child friendly! You are more than welcome to bring your child/ren along. Books, pencils, paper and quiet games will be available to play. We hope to see you there!

Extravaganza meeting for parents—correction to the publicised date

Please note the correction of date for the upcoming extravaganza meeting inviting parent helpers. The meeting will be held on Thursday 4 June 2015 from 3:00—3:25pm. Everyone is welcome. We apologise for our error.

Sporting success

Last Friday, the Fields Zone Cross Country Carnival was successfully run at Eschol Park.

The superstar team from Minto conquered mud, trees, the monster hill and the pain barrier, to come away with perhaps the most successful results ever.

Incredibly, Minto had 4 children finish in the top 10! (Consider how many children participate in the Cross Country—16 schools each bringing 6 runners = 96 runners!)

Ashleigh T finished 3rd with Astrid G completing the pairing finishing 4th in the 10 years girls.

Jayden M cruised into 5th with Ben S hot on his heels in 6th in the 12 years boys.

They will compete in the Area Carnival at Hurlstone Agricultural High School to be held Thursday 11 June. All children ran to the best of their abilities, with many thrilled at their performance. I was extremely proud of the effort and behaviour of Minto students.

Please see the last page of this newsletter for some photos from our school cross country carnival.

Mr McDonald

Calendar

May
12/5 - 14/5 NAPLAN—Years 3 and 5
18/5 (Mon) UWS First Foot Forward visit 4/5M & 5/6B
20/5 (Wed) Endicott Cup 3—6pm, Stage 2 & Stage 3 teams
22/5 (Fri) Gala Day—Round 1. Year 3—6 students
27/5 (Wed) National Simultaneous Storytime K—6. Hall

June
3/6 (Wed) Pyjama Day—Year 6 fundraiser. All students.
4/6 (Thur) Extravaganza meeting for parents—3pm. Hall
5/6 (Fri) Gala Day—Round 2. Year 3—6.
8/6 (Mon) Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday
10/6 (Wed) Harmony Day celebrations and activities
11/6 (Thur) P&C meeting—6pm. All welcome. Library
19/6 (Fri) Gala Day—Wet weather day
25/6 (Thur) Lunchtime movie—Year 6 fundraiser
26/6 (Fri) Last day of Term 2

July
13/7 (Mon) Staff Development Day
14/7 (Tue) Students return—first day of Term 3
Whole school assembly

Congratulations and well done to 2/3E, who ran the whole school assembly held on Monday 11 May. Your song, ‘Surfin’ USA, was very bright and colourfull! 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 school leaders, will be held Monday 25 May 2015 at 2.30pm. The 3 - 6 Cross Country ribbons will be handed out. Everyone is warmly invited to attend.

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

Please note, there is no Week 8 assembly scheduled due to the Queen's Birthday Public Holiday.

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 proud to announce that the poem written by Siana U in 5/6B was chosen as the winning entry. Congratulations Siana! Siana was invited to attend the ANZAC Day Dawn Service at Ingleburn RSL to read her poem and be presented with her $250 prize. Siana's poem is included below for you to read.

Lest We Forget
The boats are sailing on the moor,  
They finally arrive on the Turkish shore,  
Craving for the sweet victory,  
But their loss was no big mystery.

Once again they fought together like a team,  
Fighting for their country was their dream,  
Poppies were scattered on the ground,  
They were the only things that were found.

These are the things that we remember,  
And let us say it proudly together,  
Let us stand side by side,  
As we hear the words of pride.

   Let us say,  
   Lest We Forget.

‘Born to Move’ comes to Minto

‘Born to Move’ commenced this week. Monday sessions are scheduled for KJ, K/1V, 1/2C and 2Z. Tuesday sessions are scheduled for 2/3E, 3/4T, 4/5M and 5/6B. The students have really enjoyed the fast-paced and engaging exercises.

In support of this fitness activity, it is requested that all students wear their sports uniform and joggers/sneakers. For boys, this is royal blue shorts or track pants and the striped royal blue, light blue and white polo shirt (with Minto PS emblem). For girls, this is the royal blue skirt or track pants and the striped royal blue, light blue and white polo shirt (with Minto PS emblem).

Campbelltown Anzac Day Commemoration Service 2015
4/5M sharing

4/5M, along with the school captains, attended the Campbelltown Anzac Day Commemoration Service on Friday 24 April 2015.

Riley M writes…
I remember the men who wore shiny medals on the side of their shirts. I also remember that the room smelt of rosemary. There were lots of displays including army vehicles and artefacts. One of the artefacts was an ammunition pocket, another was a soldier’s hat that was green and dirty and a little rusty. Our school received a handmade plaque (on display in the office) and Siana and Ben, our school captains laid a wreath on behalf of our school.

A new canteen menu item for winter!

The canteen will be introducing two new menu items from Tuesday 2 June 2015. A cup of warm corn kernels will be available as will a spinach and ricotta roll. Both are vegetarian options and very warming on a cold winter’s day! Prices will be confirmed in the next newsletter.

Minto Public School Playgroup

Minto Playgroup, run by the Benevolent Society, continues to be well attended. The playgroup runs in the hall each Wednesday from 9.30—11.30. More details in the flier on page 4 of this newsletter. All welcome.
Supporting Stewart House

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 help us by:
- returning the Stewart House clothing bags by Monday 18 May 2015. (Spare bags available at the office.)
- purchasing the Stewart House keyring torch with Stewart House logo and LED miniature torch for $3. There are 8 keyring torches left! They are available at the canteen until sold.

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

Caring for your child’s health and safety

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.

Student safety—school departure

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.

Awards

Congratulations to the following students who have received an award this term.

Bronze
- Chloe D  3/4T
- Anthony B  2/3E
- Jake S  3/4T
- Ben S  5/6B
- Sohan I  2Z
- Phoebe G  3/4T
- Aresha H x 2  2Z
- Joshua H x 2  4/5M
- Ella M  2/3M
- Anoka T  3/4C
- Raifah R  2Z
- Bree M  2/3E
- Julie T  2/3E
- Emily H  2/3E
- Cooper T  2/3E
- Hugo G  1/2C
- Raina A  3/4T
- Ali M  5/6B
- Sarah R  K/1V
- Shaniya P  2/3E
- Elizabeth C  3/4T
- Sohan I  2Z
- Karim S  3/4T
- Nirvana S  2/3E

Silver
- Dominic S  3/4T
- Phoebe G  3/4T
- Bree M  2/3E
- Ella M  2/3E
- Hugo G  1/2C

Gold
- Anoka T  3/4T
- Phoebe G  3/4T

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 was sent home with all Year 4 students on 28 April. Online applications should be completed by this Friday 15 May. Please see Ms Craze or Ms Benotic for further information.

NAPLAN

The National Assessment Program for Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) commenced today for Year 3 and Year 5 and went very smoothly. The teachers reported that all students applied themselves well and also tried their best. The testing dates are (today) 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 Ms Benotic, who will be coordinating the tests.
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

Bow Bowing
World of Learning

At: 6 Carnarvon Street, Bow Bowing
P: 9820 3701
E: bowbowing@worldoflearning.com.au
F: /WorldofLearningChildCare

www.worldoflearning.com.au