Dear Parents and Caregivers

An opportunity to learn more about how your child is progressing
Parent / teacher interviews

Semester One student reports will be sent home next week on Thursday 18 June 2015. A note regarding parent/teacher interviews went home in late May. Interviews are for 10 minutes and provide you with an opportunity to share with your child’s teacher both the academic and general developmental progress of your child. Interview times will be confirmed by class teachers and a return confirmation slip will be sent home. If you are unable to attend the scheduled parent / teacher interview time and you would like to make another time to discuss your child’s progress, please indicate that you would like to be telephoned to make a mutually convenient time. We look forward to seeing you!

Learn more about what your child is doing at school...
Education Week Open Day—Save the date!

Education Week is from 27 July—31 July 2015. Throughout the week there will be a variety of activities. To help celebrate this week, parents and friends are invited to Minto Public School on Wednesday 29 July 2015 for our Open Day. This day provides the opportunity for the community to visit classrooms, be entertained by our students and enjoy a picnic lunch with your child/ren. Look out for more details in the upcoming weeks.

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 up your child/ren. Do not park in the bus zone (located directly outside the school entry gate) or in the pick up / drop off zone and leave your vehicle. Strict penalties apply for parking incorrectly in these zones (see fines below). I note that we have recently had a Council Ranger attend our school and that they have booked drivers who have been parked illegally. Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

Calendar

June
11/6 (Thur) P&C meeting—6pm. All welcome. Library
12/6 (Fri) Born to Move K—2 make up session
15/6 (Mon) ICAS Writing Test
16/6 (Tue) ICAS Spelling Test
18/6 ( Thur) Public Speaking competition—class representatives. Hall
19/6 ( Fri) Gala Day—Wet weather day
22/6 (Mon) Whole School Assembly—led by KJ
23/6 (Tue) District Public Speaking Competition—school representatives at Robert Townsend PS
25/6 (Thur) Lunchtime movie—Year 6 fundraiser
25/6 (Thur) Parent / teacher interviews 2.20—5.40pm
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

Save the date!
29/7 (Wed) Education Week Open Day
2Z sharing their learning about ‘Literature Circles’

Following professional learning in this activity from our Term 2 staff development day, students in 2Z have been engaged in learning about ‘Literature Circles’ and how different roles contribute to meaningful discussions when reading a variety of texts. In literature circles, small groups of students gather together to discuss a piece of literature in depth. The discussion is guided by students' responses to what they have read. The discussion is about events and characters in the book, the author's intent, or personal experiences related to the story. Literature circles provide a way for students to engage in critical thinking and reflection as they read, discuss, and respond to books. 2Z has been looking in detail at, and using, four roles within our literature circle activities. These roles include;

Predictor – Predicts what will happen next in the text
Summariser – Gives a summary of what has occurred in the text
Detective – Investigate words (new, interesting or complex) in the text
Connector – Makes a connection to personal experience or other texts

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!

Whole school assembly 1/2C class item rescheduled

Due to Mrs Ivsic’s extended leave, the next whole school assembly, which was scheduled to be led by 1/2C and to include a class item, will now be moved into second semester to allow plenty of time for planning and preparation.

Instead, the upcoming whole school assembly on Monday 22 June at 2.30pm will now be led by KJ, including a class item. As well, the P&C recognition awards for semester one will be announced. Everyone is warmly invited to attend.

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 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!

Something different for lunch... A new canteen menu item for winter!

The canteen has recently introduced two new menu items. A cup of warm corn kernels for $2.50 is now available as is a spinach and ricotta roll for $3.00. Both are vegetarian options and very warming on a cold winter's day!

Merit Award Reminder

When putting merit awards in the box in the foyer of the office, please ensure that they are securely clipped together or in an envelope to help us process them quickly and easily. Your support in this matter is appreciated.
News from the Library...
In the lead up to the Extravaganza students have been learning about Shakespeare. Students in years 3—6 have been learning about Shakespeare's life as well as studying one of his plays "A Midsummer Night's Dream". Students in K—2 have looked at what Shakespeare's life was like when he was a child and have been learning about life in general during the 1500s and 1600s. This week KJ have been looking at the clothes that people used to wear. They have been researching and playing games on the IWB, looking at pictures and books as well as looking at costumes and having a fashion parade.

In a wonderful example of learning, Mrs Harvey reported a student confidently telling her he knew certain letters in an English task he was doing because 'they are the old fashioned 'g' and 'a' - just like in Shakespeare's time!' 

Multicultural Perspectives Public Speaking Competition
Over the next week, students will be busily finalising speeches for the Multicultural Perspectives Public Speaking Competition.

In class competitions will be held followed by stage finals to be held next Thursday 18 June 2015 from 2:30pm in the school hall. Two students from Stage 2 and two students from Stage 3 will be selected to represent Minto PS at the next level. Kindergarten to Year 2 are invited to participate at a school level.

Parents are welcome to attend the stage finals. For more information about this activity, please see your child's class teacher.

Caring for your child’s health and safety
School emergency drills
Next Thursday 18 June 2015, Minto PS will be practising our emergency drills, both evacuation and lockdown. This is in follow up to our recently installed new bell system as it gives staff and students the opportunity to respond to the new alert sounds (we have already listened to them twice in our classrooms). This ensures that the students and teachers are familiar with the procedures in the event of an emergency occurring. Classes will revise the procedures for emergencies in readiness for these drills. I ask for your support of these drills by talking about them with your child/ren. The new evacuation sound is the standard 'whoop whoop'. It will be continuous until shut off. The new lock down sound is a 'beep beep' that fades up slowly for between 30 seconds to 1 minute. 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.

We strongly encourage the wearing of uniform and ask for your support
As we enter the winter months, I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents and caregivers of the winter school uniform. The Uniform Patch, located in Campbelltown, stocks the Minto Public School uniform including the school jumper with logo and track pants as well as warm winter jacket options. At the moment, they are having a 20% off sale. We strongly encourage the wearing of school uniform to promote school pride and to project a whole school image. The school also has a 2nd hand uniform pool if you require additional items for the winter months. The quality of items is excellent. Prices are $5 for a school logo jumper or girl's tunic dress. All other items are $2, making the uniform pool very affordable. Remember also, the canteen sells leftover pieces of uniform stock from our previous supplier. Please note, not all sizes or pieces are available. Please see the ladies in the canteen or pop up to the office for assistance.
Request for 2014 Annual School Report

The 2014 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 and would like a copy, please use the slip below.

Student’s name: ___________________ (oldest child in family) Class: __________

- I request a printed copy of the school's 2014 Annual School Report to be sent home with my child.
- I request an electronic copy be emailed to the following address.

Email address: ________________________________

Signed: ___________________________ Date: __________