Dear Parents and Caregivers

Welcome back!

Welcome back to another great term of learning. I hope that all our Minto families had a relaxing and happy holiday. We look forward to the busy term ahead, filled with lots of exciting learning experiences and opportunities!

Staff Development Day
A focus on the new history syllabus and in quality literacy teaching...

The Term Three Staff Development Day was dedicated to professional learning based on the new NSW Board of Studies History syllabus, which will commence mandatory implementation in 2016. Additionally, the school’s ‘Focus on Reading’ program and approach was revised through the delivery of a three hour module called ‘Quality Literacy Teaching’. The teachers were extremely positive about the sessions and are continuing to develop, apply and refine their knowledge and understanding of the new syllabus and of the teaching of English and literacy.

Learn more about what your child is doing at school...
Education Week Open Day

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. See more details in our Education Week flier accompanying this newsletter.

In response to parent feedback to know more about the key learning areas (KLAs) that students work in, please note that each class will be focusing on a different KLA during the classroom visit time. This organisation is designed so that parents and families can visit their own child/ren’s class, as well as other classrooms, to see the key learning areas in action. A handout will be prepared for each key learning area detailing more information. You can pick this up when you are visiting each classroom. We look forward to sharing our learning areas with you!

Dance2BFit comes to Minto

Dance2BFit will commence next Monday 27 July. The lessons will incorporate teaching the choreography for the Minto PS Extravaganza performance. Outstanding permission notes and money for Dance2BFit will be accepted until Friday 31 July.

What light through yonder window breaks? Is it the east? No, it’s the Extravaganza!

Extravaganza is coming!

Wednesday 16 September 2015
1:30pm MATINEE performance
7:00pm EVENING performance

Calendar

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<tr>
<th>July</th>
<th>August</th>
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<tr>
<td>22/7 (Wed) OC Placement test (Year 4 for Year 5 2016)</td>
<td>5/8 (Wed) Footy Colours Mufti Day—Year 6 Fundraiser</td>
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<td>22/7 (Wed) Fire in the Fields—6pm—Choir performing</td>
<td>7/8 (Fri) Zone Athletics—Day 1</td>
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<td>23/7 (Thur) K—6 Athletics Carnival</td>
<td>11/8 (Tue) Whole School Assembly—led by K/1V</td>
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<td>24/7 (Fri) Gala Day—Years 3—6</td>
<td>14/8 (Fri) Zone Athletics—Day 2</td>
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<td>27/7 (Mon) Campbelltown Academic Challenge</td>
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<td>27/7 (Mon) Dance2BFit commences K—6</td>
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<td>28/7 (Tue) ICAS English</td>
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<td>29/7 (Wed) Education Week Open Day</td>
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<td>30/7 (Thur) P&amp;C Meeting—6pm in the library. All welcome.</td>
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Planning for a strong future
School Plan 2015 –2017

Minto Public School's School Plan 2015—2017 is available on our school's website. You can find it under the 'Our School' tab. To support strong communication to our families about what the school is doing in our priority areas, this article will be a regular feature in our fortnightly newsletter. Each fortnight a different strategic direction will be highlighted and shared.

The three strategic directions are:

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

A little bit more about Strategic Direction 2—Building teacher and leader capacity.

This strategic direction is important because it’s about building stronger relationships as an educational community. It involves nurturing our school's culture of collaboration, deep reflection and engaged communication.

The team for this strategic direction have developed a survey to assist in identifying future directions for the teaching staff in the area of the Australian Professional Teaching Standards. This in turn will support each teacher in their ongoing professional learning.

Special education in ethics

Ethics classes are now available in NSW public primary schools as an option for children whose parents / caregivers have withdrawn them from special religious education (scripture).

Special education in ethics is a program in ethical decision making, action and reflection within a secular framework, based on a branch of philosophy. Classes are inquiry based and children use dialogue and discussion to learn how to think about ethical matters through the give-and-take of reasoned argument. Special education in ethics is delivered by providers that have the approval of the Minister for Education for that purpose. Persons authorised by approved providers teach special education in ethics. The curriculum is available for children from K – 6.

We can start ethics classes at Minto Public School if there is enough demand. As per departmental guidelines, a letter went home late last term to students who are currently NOT attending Special Religious Education classes (scripture). If you would like further information regarding Special Education in Ethics, or require another note, please see your child’s class teacher or pop into the office.

Elizabeth Macquarie history writing competition

This competition invites students in Years 3—6 to research and write about a local pioneer or Aboriginal historical figure from the Macarthur region. Entries must be handwritten on A4 paper and include the student’s name, grade and school on each page of the entry. Students may receive assistance with research but must be the authors of their own writing. Entries need to be handed to Mrs Burt by Wednesday 22 July (tomorrow).

Kindergarten enrolments for 2016

Minto PS is currently accepting student enrolments for Kindergarten 2016. This is in preparation for the orientation program to be held early in November. If you have a child who is turning five by 31 July 2016, they are eligible to enrol for Kindergarten next year. Enrolment forms are available from the office. If you are aware of a family friend or neighbour who is new to the area or who does not currently have children at our school, and has a child eligible for enrolment in Kindergarten next year, please ask them to telephone the school or come up to the office to give their details.

P&C news

The next P&C meeting will be held Thursday 30 July at 6pm in the library. I warmly invite all parents and caregivers to the meeting. 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!

Minto Public School playgroup—Important message

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.

Until Wednesday 12 August, there will be no Minto Playgroup as Margaret, the facilitator, is supporting the relocation of the Benevolent Society offices.
Awards

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

Bronze
Lidija F  5/6B
Armandeep S  2Z
Peter F x2  2Z
Kaitlyn A x2  5/6B
Hannah A  1/2C
Jacob R  4/5M
Chloe D  3/4T
Annabel P  2/3E
Vishaan K  2/3E
Pranish K  2/3E
Hailey A x2  4/5M
Shao-Leung H x2  K/1V
Ankit A  5/6B
Ashleigh T  4/5M
Gia B  K/1V
Nimisha M  K/1V

Silver
Lidija F  5/6B
Sarah R  K/1V
Jake W  3/4T
Iyas B  2/3E
Cooper T  2/3E

Gold
Lidija F  5/6B
Jake W  3/4T
Krystal C  4/5M

Whole school assembly

Following the Education Week Open Day assembly next Wednesday 29 July 2015 at 9.35am, the next whole school assembly will be held on Tuesday 11 August 2015 at 2.30pm. The assembly will be led by K/1V and will include a class item. Athletics Carnival ribbons from the track events will be handed out as will the bronze and silver awards. Everyone is welcome.

Please note, the assemblies for this term have been moved to Tuesdays to support Dance2BFit and the preparations for the Extravaganza.

Other Term 3 assembly dates:
Tuesday 25 August 2015 at 2.30pm—led by school leaders
Tuesday 8 September 2015 at 2.30pm—led by 4/5M, including a class item.

School photos

School photos were distributed to students last week. We now have a variety of additional photos on display in the school office foyer. These photos include a whole school photo, Year 6 leaders, School Captains, the Year 6 ‘muck up’ photo and the Choir. If you would like to purchase any of the displayed photos, order forms are available from the office. Orders are due back by Friday 14 August 2015.

Hooked on learning!

1C are excited about this term’s science unit, ‘Water Works’. Through a sequence of learning activities, 1C have begun discussing the importance of water to every living thing on Earth and that without water all life on Earth would cease to exist.

Students enjoyed watching a YouTube film clip on ‘Why Water?’ In that they learned that water was used for growing our food and for our animals, cooking and for just about everything.

1C are looking forward to using our new interactive whiteboard to watch more educational film clips, learning fun and interesting facts about science, mathematics and much, much more.

We are looking forward to a great term of learning!

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 the photo gallery, newsletter and notes sections on our website.

Child Protection education

During Term 3, all classes will participate in Child Protection education. An overview of the content was sent home last week. The PD/H/PE program aims to encourage students to make informed decisions about their lifestyle taking into account the values of family, culture and religion to which they belong. Lessons will commence from Monday, 27 July. If you do not want your child to participate in Child Protection education, please inform your child’s class teacher in writing.

If you have any issues or concerns please contact your child’s class teacher or Ms Craze.
School contributions

At a recent P&C meeting, the P&C members endorsed the voluntary school contributions for 2015. The donations will be used to provide educational resources and equipment for our students. The contribution is $30.00 for one child or $40.00 for two or more children. Your support of this request would be greatly appreciated. A flier with more information about this request is accompanying this newsletter.

School Contribution Payment Details.

Please find enclosed the sum $ ______________________ being for School Contribution.

Child's name ____________________________  (please print) class __________

OR

Family name _____________________________  (please print)