Dear Parents and Caregivers

Education Week—‘Celebrating Local Heroes’
Open Day a great success!

On Wednesday 29 July, Minto Public School welcomed the school community to share in the learning of their child/ren and the school. This special day was just a glimpse of what we do here every day and every week at Minto Public School. I would like to thank all of the parents and friends who joined us for part or all of Open Day. We were thrilled to see close to 100 attendees at our assembly. The staff and myself were very pleased, and the children were excited, to have their family visit and take part in their learning. Thank you again to the whole staff for their hard work and commitment to the school, its students and their families. In particular, thank you to Miss Tishler and the choir for their beautiful songs and Mrs Burt and Mrs Stewart for the extravaganza excerpt during the Open Day assembly. I would also like to thank Mrs Laurie Porter, Life Member of the P&C, who undertook research of WW1 soldiers who came from Minto, that contributed to part of my address. Please enjoy the beautiful photos capturing the joy of children sharing their learning.

Calendar

August
7/8 (Fri) Zone Athletics—Day 1 (Track)
11/8 (Tue) ICAS Mathematics
11/8 (Tue) Whole School Assembly—led by K/1V—2.30pm
12/8 (Wed) Casula Powerhouse drama excursion—students with speaking roles in the extravaganza attending
14/8 (Fri) Zone Athletics—Day 2 (Field)
20/8 (Thur) NAIDOC celebrations at Ingleburn PS—Indigenous students and 3/4T attending
25/8 (Tue) Whole School Assembly—led by school leaders—2.30pm
26/8 (Wed) Book Week author sessions via Skype—K—6
27/8 (Thur) Book Week Parade 9.35am—wear your favourite book character costume
28/8 (Fri) Gala Day—Round 4
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 3—Enhancing community engagement and partnerships.

This strategic direction is important because it’s about building stronger partnerships as an educational community, fostering good communication and consultation. The community includes the students, staff, parents and carers as well as our community partners.

One process that we have employed was having student representation on our recent Education Week planning committee. We will endeavour to include student representation on other whole school activities, as appropriate.

P&C news
Meeting rescheduled

The next P&C meeting will be tomorrow, Thursday 6 August 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!

Book Fair a huge success!

As part of our Education Week celebrations, parents and students were able to visit the library and purchase books and a variety of novelty items. This year just over $2000 was spent at the Book Fair, raising a total of $900 for the school to spend on books for our library. A big thank you to the community for their generous support and Mrs Stewart for her organisation of this fundraising activity.

An opportunity to dress up…
Book Week 2015

This year we will be holding the Book Week Parade and assembly on Thursday 27 August. Students are invited to come along wearing a costume to represent any book character. The parade and assembly will begin at 9.35am in the hall. We are looking forward to seeing some fabulous costumes and we hope to see you there! Mrs Stewart

Honour Boards

Our school Honour Boards have been updated and are proudly displayed in the foyer of the office. You are more than welcome to come in and view the updated boards that document our school's most recent history of outstanding students.

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.

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.
5/6B develops a group of mad scientists!

On Wednesday 29 July, 5/6B conducted a range of experiments as part of our Education Week activities. Students got to dress up as scientists by wearing lab coats and work in small groups to hypothesise, carry out the experiment and discuss their findings. We managed to make a soft drink can move using the static electricity that was created by rubbing an inflated balloon on our hair. A chemical reaction was created by mixing vinegar and bi-carb soda together in a bottle. This created carbon dioxide that inflated a balloon. We also looked at water tension by dropping food colouring in a small amount of milk and then adding a tiny amount of dishwashing detergent, which broke the water tension and moved the colours around. We thought the experiments were fun and interesting.

Whole school assembly

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 ICAS Science certificates and 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 earlier in the term. 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.

Special education in ethics

Thank you to the families who have registered interest in the ethics classes. At the moment, we are awaiting confirmation of teacher availability. Look out for more details in upcoming newsletters.

Woolworths Earn and Learn 2015

We are participating in the Woolworths Earn and Learn program. Thank you for your support so far. The sticker sheets have been coming in on a regular basis which is wonderful. We have a box in the school foyer for you to place your completed sticker sheets in. If you shop at Woolworths, we appreciate your support in collecting the ‘Earn and Learn’ stickers for our school. If you shop locally at the Minto Marketplace Woolworths, you may have noticed that Minto PS also has a box to drop your stickers in there as well. If you have any queries, Mrs Robinson and Mrs Harvey are coordinating this activity. Happy shopping, Minto!

Gala Day and using the school canteen

The last of the winter sports Gala Days will be held on Friday 28 August. All students participating need to be at school at 9.00am to meet their coach. All teams will be walking to their venue.

Our school canteen will be open from 9.00am for the purchase of drinks, snacks and sandwiches for students to take with them to sport. Please note, lunches and hot food cannot be ordered, nor can it be delivered to the sporting grounds. As a canteen is also not available at the sports grounds, please ensure your child has lunch with them when they depart school in the morning. Your support in this matter is appreciated.
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 went home earlier this term.

School Contribution Payment Details.

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

Child’s name ____________________________  (please print) class __________

OR

Family name _____________________________  (please print)