WELCOME
Welcome back to Term 1 2015. I hope you have all enjoyed a restful holiday with family and friends. The staff are well rested from the break and are eager to start the new year. It was lovely to see all the students arriving this morning with smiling faces and a bounce in their step. Obviously very pleased to be back! I am happy to report that all students have managed their new year changes very well.
This Term we welcome 3 new students and their families to the Minerva Community - Mikayla, Ethan and Mark.

STAFFING CHANGES
We say goodbye to Ms Diane who has accepted a transfer during the holidays. We wish her every success in her new school and thank her for her valued contribution to Minerva.
We welcome Mrs Melanie Hollands who comes to us very experienced in Special Education.
We also welcome back Miss Mel to the office on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

PARENTS MEET THE TEACHERS NIGHT
In the coming weeks you will receive an invitation to meet the staff. This year we will have a short tour of the School and its facilities followed by a visit to your child’s classroom where you can meet your child’s Teacher and School Learning Support Officer/s. This will be followed by a light supper provided by the school. Further details will follow.

LEARNING SUPPORT & INDIVIDUAL EDUCATION PLAN MEETINGS will also take place this Term. Notes will be sent home in the coming weeks.

HOLIDAY WORKS
During the recent holidays the School has undergone some minor building works. Works carried out included the replacement of external doors and locks, painting of and replacement of courtyard windows and the annual pest control program throughout the school. The installation of 2 new air conditioning units did not go ahead as planned due to supply and demand issues. We hope to have them installed in the coming weeks. Installation of new blinds in the demountable building were also delayed, hopefully this will be completed shortly.
PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE CONTINUED

P&C AGM
The Annual General Meeting of the P&C will be held on the 23rd February. Don’t forget to mark this date in your calendar. Further details regarding times to follow.

THANK YOU
Thank you to Youssef Family for their generosity in donating bubble machines and an iPod docking station. These items will be used by the students in their classrooms and Sensory Garden.

CONTACT
Just a reminder to our parents regarding the correct procedure for contacting either myself or staff. We have several means of communication available for parents such as phone, email or your child’s Communication Book. Please refrain from using personal staff DEC email addresses and direct your email to the school email address—:
minerva-s.school@det.nsw.edu.au. Alternatively, you can phone the office. This is to avoid any confusion and to ensure your enquiry is directed to the appropriate staff member. The best method of contact with your child’s teacher is via their Communication Book. I am always happy to meet with parents to discuss your child so please contact the office if you wish to speak with me to make arrangements.

I look forward to working with you for another busy successful year

Regards
Fiona Young
Principal

MINERVA’S POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR REWARD SYSTEM

At Minerva we have many opportunities whereby students are encouraged & rewarded for their positive behaviour. Such as ..... The Student Achievement Award System where
- 6 Achievement Certificates = 1 Excellence Award
- 3 Excellence Awards = 1 Medallion
- 5 Medallions = 1 Plaque

And the Principal Award Stickers where
- 6 Principal Stickers = Blue Dot
- 12 Stickers = Green Dot
- 18 Stickers = Yellow Dot

The coloured dots represent a particular shelf in the Principals Prize Cabinet. Students look forward to collecting their Principal Award stickers so they can then choose from the many wonderful items in Mrs Young’s Prize Cabinet. Additionally all classes have individual reward systems in place designed by their teacher.
MINERVA STAFF 2015

Principal: Fiona Young
Assistant Principals: Travis Baird, Russell Hely, Katrina Shacallis
School Counsellor: Bernadette Rooney (Wednesday and Thursday)
Librarian & Careers Advisor: Jenny Marshall
RFF Teacher: Ms Crystal Simmons

Class A
Teacher: Mr Aris Kartsonas
School Learning Support Officer/s: Mrs Jane Wilkie and Mrs Merrel McAfee

Class C
Teacher: Ms Carolyn Wemyss
School Learning Support Officer: Mrs Tracey Mapstone

Class K
Teacher: Ms Katrina Shacallis
School Learning Support Officer: Mrs Sharon Gutteridge

Class L
Teacher: Mrs Laura Faber
School Learning Support Officer: Mrs Karen Woods

Class M
Teacher/s: Mrs Melanie Hollands and Ms Edie McCrystal
School Learning Support Officer/s: Mrs Francine Parker and Ms Catherine Milverton

Class N
Teacher: Ms Nicole Allsopp
School Learning Support Officer: Ms Cammy Savage

Class R
Teacher: Mr Russell Hely
School Learning Support Officer/s: Mrs Katie Scotland and Ms Catherine Milverton

Class S
Teacher: Ms Sarah Ellingham
School Learning Support Officer/s: Mrs Julie Dimmock and Ms Catherine Milverton

Class T
Teacher/s: Mr Travis Baird and Ms Edie McCrystal
School Learning Support Officer: Mrs Kylie Fooks

Administration Staff: Mrs Trish Palmer and Mrs Melissa Allen
General Assistant: Mr Garry Newton

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to the following students for the month of January:

Jack W
and
Gregory K