MINERVA SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Week 5 Term 4 2015

Eton Street SUTHERLAND NSW 2232 Telephone: 9521 3433 Fax: 9545 3316
E-mail: minerva-s.school@det.nsw.edu.au
WEBSITE: www.minerva-s.schools.nsw.edu.au
Donations to Minerva School are now tax deductible.

DATES TO REMEMBER

TERM 4 2015

NOVEMBER

Wednesday 25th Presentation Day Midday

DECEMBER

Thursday 3rd Year 12 Formal

Wednesday 16th Last Day of Term 4 2015 for Students

2016 TERM 1

JANUARY

Thursday 28th Students return for the first day of Term 1.

We are sailing...

In term 4 all classes have participated in Sailability. Sailability is run by friendly and experienced volunteers and operates from the Kogarah Bay Sailing Club (located at Dover Park, Blakehurst.) Sailability organisations are not for profit, volunteer-based and enrich the lives of people of all abilities through the activity of sailing. For any interested families, Sailability also operates between 10am-2pm on Saturdays, twice a month, for a small cost. For further information, contact Peter Hogan on 0401 080 740.

Peter very kindly painted and donated this wonderful scene to our school. Thank you Peter for your generosity and for thinking of our Minerva students.
PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Welcome
This Term we give a very warm welcome to Jimmy, Year 10 and his family to Minerva School. Jimmy has joined Mr K’s class.

Cook Community Classic
Thank you to our families and staff who have bought and sold raffle tickets. All proceeds from the sale of the tickets goes directly to Minerva School. With your help and generosity we have collected $1900. The Raffle will be drawn on Saturday 28th November. Good luck to everyone.

Principal Position Update
On Monday 26th October Ms Sara Swift the new Principal for 2016 came to visit Minerva. Miss Sara was given a warm Minerva welcome by the staff, students and parents. Miss Sara is looking forward to taking up her new position at Minerva.

WOOLWORTHS EARN & LEARN
Thank you to all our families for collecting the Earn and Learn stickers. It was a great effort by all with just over 27,000 stickers collected. We have placed our order for various equipment and games and look forward to their arrival.

PLAYGROUND PROGRAM
The new playground program is proving to be successful with the staff and students. The students are actively engaged in a variety of activities at both recess and lunch. The program is now running 3 days - Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Data is recorded to assist staff to inform future directions for 2016 and beyond.

Professional Learning
This term staff professional learning has incorporated:
- Epilepsy Essentials & Midazolam Administration, Annual Financial Rollover Training, School Excellence Framework, Personalised Development Plans for Teachers, Executive Observation Protocols, Library software—Oliver implementation,
- Revised Sport & Physical Activity Policy

Principal Professional learning including effective use of evidence and reading the RAM reports.

Class C
Thank you to Ms Kathryn, Miss Jaclyn and Ms Edie who are currently relieving in Miss Carolyn’s absence while she is taking up further professional development opportunities. Miss Carolyn will return to class on the 3rd December 2015.

Regards
Fiona Young,
PRINCIPAL
This year Presentation day is being held on Wednesday 25th November starting at Midday.

We look forward to family and friends coming along to celebrate in the successes of our students throughout this year.

As a variation to the program we are including selected video presentations highlighting new programs and improvements within the school, as well as a video presentation from each class.

This year each student will receive a portfolio with relevant certificates acknowledging that students’ achievements and participation for 2015 in place of the individual trophy (as was previously awarded in recent years).

Special awards include the Minerva School Most Improved Student(s), The Heathcote Parliamentary Award, The NSW Premier’s Sporting Challenge, The Caltex Best all Rounder, The Reuben F Scarf Award and the Minerva Learning for Life award.

Regards

Russell Hely
Assistant Principal

THANK YOU to those parents and carers who sent in play dough for our playground program. We are replacing the play dough each week to ensure it stays fresh and clean. Students enjoy the tactile and creative nature of the play dough. Regards - Miss Mel
POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING (PBL)

PBL team members will complete a second day of training in week 7. The team is presently collecting data to determine the strengths and needs of our community, including our reward initiatives (such as merit awards), the recently introduced playground program as well as student behaviour. Additionally the school will be examining our current set of school rules, values and expectations and it is hoped we will complete consultation with staff, students and families during Term 4. The aim of this process is to create a behaviour ‘matrix’ that clearly defines the positive behaviour expectations for students. We look forward to sharing some of these results with you soon.

Regards
Travis Baird
Assistant Principal

Whooping Cough
There is an outbreak of whooping cough (pertussis) in NSW, mainly affecting school-aged children. Coughing spreads the infection to others nearby. Whooping cough can spread to anyone at home, including younger brothers and sisters. Whooping cough can be especially dangerous for babies. Whooping cough starts like a cold and progresses to bouts of coughing that can last for many weeks. The infection can occur even in fully-vaccinated children. Older children may just have a cough that is persistent and may be worse at night.

Children with these symptoms should see a doctor. If your doctor diagnoses whooping cough in your school-aged child, please let the school know and keep your child at home until they have taken 5 days of antibiotics. Keep coughing children away from babies. Whooping cough vaccines give good protection against infection but immunity fades with time. Check that all your children are up to date with their vaccines, due at 6 weeks, 4 months, 6 months, 4 years and 12 years of age (offered to all Year 7 students through the NSW school-based vaccination program). A booster is also recommended at 18 months of age. A booster dose of vaccine is also recommended for adults that are in contact with young children, such as school staff and parents. Your local public health unit can provide advice about whooping cough on 1300 066 055

Minerva School aims to ensure that students are engaged in appropriate, individualised and meaningful learning experiences. (School Plan Strategic Direction 1)

CONGRATULATIONS to the following students who have received awards during the month of October/November

Principal Medallion    Daylan, Mikayla, Mitchell
Excellence Awards      Michael P, Kane, Mikayla, Ethan, Ewan, Jack, Peter
Prize Cabinet          Dante, Ethan, Kurt, Mikayla

Keep up the good work! Fiona Young, Principal
Class R

Nicholas shared his chocolate Birthday Cake with the boys in Class R.
Warwick loves getting his stars for good choices.
Ewan is proud of his healthy lunch.
David concentrates on his handwriting.
Kieran enjoys the trampoline during his choice time.
And Joshua enjoys some Sensory fun with the bubbles.
Wrap with Love

Thank you to our talented and generous Mums, Rachel and Debbie who have been very busy knitting squares for the Wrap with Love volunteer organisation. Como Jannali Rotary club collects the squares or blankets and organises for the distribution to needy families in Australia or to overseas countries. Here is a beautiful blanket made by Rachel. Debbie recently donated a very large bag of beautifully knitted squares.
Live Life well at School-

Strawberries are always a favourite with children due to their sweet taste. To keep them sweet and looking their best, remove them from their punnets, when you get home, and place them on a paper towel on a plate and cover it with cling wrap.

Blueberries are little super fruit bombs of juiciness. They are rich in antioxidants and their benefits are said to outweigh all other berries combined! Kids love ‘em, so why not pack some for morning tea?
Class T have entered a new term, enjoying our new program based around sound and science. We have been looking at how sound waves work, the different pitches in sound and we have been able to use the tuning fork with some simple sound science experiments. Some of us have also enjoyed work experience, and have enjoyed developing our work force skills and knowledge. We have also been sailing this term, and thoroughly enjoyed our time out at sea.

We are excited about the rest of our year, and the science and sound explorations to come!

Mrs Edie, Mrs Nicole, Mrs Cammy and Mr Scott.
Throughout this Year, **Class L** have been successfully running a Senior Super Snacks Programme called Cheesy squeezy. This Activity has taught the students about hygiene, time management, stocktaking, production, delivery and finances. The class have supplied many students and teachers around the school with piping hot Cheese Toasted sandwiches. Due to the success of this program, the students have been able to go on an awesome excursion to Luna Park and to CentrePoint Tower for Lunch.
Class S

have been very busy this term! We have been learning about caring for the natural environment around our school and in our local community including recycling and lowering our carbon footprint. In Numeracy we are learning about data handling and have been collecting data about the traffic that passes our school. We have also been attending weekly intensive swim school lessons at Sutherland pool with Miss Nicole and we all loved sailing with Kogarah Sailability.
What a great celebration of **Work Experience** achievements was had at Gunnamatta Bay picnic.

Socialising - Meeting new friends

......... playing cards, cricket and some circus fun

AND.........receiving certificates.

**Congratulations, well done.**
Class K

Students in Class K have been busy making replica sailing boats after their excursion to Kogarah Sailability.
Class C have been learning about eating healthy snacks. They have been trying and enjoying new fruit and vegetables. They are creating new ways to display and eat their food. Yummy fish and rainbow fruit.
Class A cooking program. Finding a balance between healthy nutrition and great taste for our students is not always easy! The processes are always enjoyable and the food is at least sampled. Sampling fresh fruit and vegies however small the quantities needs to be experienced regularly with the hope and expectation that familiarity will one day switch on the enjoyment of good food. Class A boys have been up for it and surprisingly sometimes go the distance and finish eating the fruit (and vegies) of their labour!

Making a fresh strawberry frappe

Lightly frying beef and vegetable patties

Enjoying Vietnamese style rice rolls

Well done Class A!

Crumbing a pattie

Responsibly cleaning up
Year 12 Formal Fundraiser

Thank you to all who have supported our cupcake fundraiser. The cupcakes have proven to be a hit amongst the students and staff. As the weather has become a little warmer we thought we would have a change and sell fruit sticks (99% fruit juice) as well as cupcakes. Once again a big thank you to the Minerva staff who are continuing to cook cupcakes each week.
Miss Julie

What is Gonski?

There has been much discussion around the Gonski Report, and from the 26th of October to the 31st of October was National Gonski Week. Below is some information about Gonski which briefly explains what Gonski is, and how it can help schools. Feel free to read and find out more information.

Gonski funding is designed to ensure that every Australian child, no matter what their background, can get a high quality education.
This funding began in 2014, after the independent Gonski Review warned too many children were missing out on the education they needed due to a lack of resources.
The review, headed by respected businessman, David Gonski, said Australia was under-investing in education and not delivering funded to where it was needed most.
Under the Gonski plan, all schools are funded according to the individual needs of their students and what is required to educate them to a high level.
Schools can use the additional resources to better meet the individual needs of students.
The ways they can use the funding include:
• Reducing class sizes
• Employing additional specialist teachers in areas such as literacy and numeracy
• Providing greater assistance and support for students with disabilities or behavioural problems
• Building the skills and knowledge of teachers.
Staff vs Students Volleyball
The Staff-Students Sports Challenge Series continued with a volleyball match in Week 2. Great participation and sportsmanship was displayed by the students with lots of encouragement and teamwork on display. In soaring temperatures the teachers turned up the heat to win the game, however students still hold a 3-2 overall lead in the series.
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR KNITTING BLANKET SQUARES

"Wrap with Love" is a volunteer organisation that distributes blankets within Australia and to over 75 overseas countries, particularly countries that have suffered natural disasters and civil unrest. These blankets are made from 28 squares that are knitted by volunteers. The Rotary Club of Como Jannali has a band of volunteers that knit, crotched and help sew the 28 squares to make beautiful warm blankets. If you would like to help knit and/or sew please Contact Diane Curtis from Como-Jannali Rotary on 0408 125 971.
**FREE NDIS WORKSHOP**

You are invited to attend an NDIS workshop hosted by Civic Disability Services.

This event will provide important information to help you plan for the future
- What is the NDIS
- How it will affect you
- What you need to do to prepare
- How Civic can support you

**Friday, 27th November 2015**
11am - 1.00pm
Southern Cross Terrace, Tradies Gymea
57 Manchester Road, Gymea

There will be presentations by CEO Annie Doyle and Civic’s NDIS transition team. Staff will be on hand to provide advice on the NDIS and to discuss your transition.

Questions are welcomed at the end of the presentation. Free resources will be available to take home on the day. Light refreshments will be provided.

**RSVP required by Friday, 20th November.**
Attendees are welcome to suggest topics.

enquiries@civiclifestyles.com.au
1800 253 743

Please advise if you cannot attend but are interested in receiving additional information.