Dear Parents

Welcome back after the holidays. I hope you have all had a wonderful break with your children.

We have a very busy term planned and we are all keen to see them achieve their full potential.

FOR YOUR DIARY

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

Term 1 Events

Wed 12th Feb – Swimming Carnival

NOTES SENT HOME

Mega note
Swimming Carnival note
Interrelate note
Class Requirements Notes – K, Yr1, 2/3, 5/6

YEAR 6 INFORMATION

Year 6 parent meeting – Monday 17th March

CLASSES

Kindergarten – Mrs Claire Bradshaw
Year 1 – Mrs Ingrid Belamy and Ms Sharon Delforce
Year 2/3 – Mrs Allyson Corrigan
Year 3/4 – Mr Steve Sullivan
Year 5/6 – Mrs Lyn McAllister
Library Teacher – Mrs Ingrid Bellamy (Thursdays)

Support Staff

Learning and Support Teacher – Mrs Lesley Comerford
Release from face to face (RFF) – Ms Sharon Delforce
School Learning Support Officer - Mrs Linda Shorney-Perks
School Chaplain – Mrs Shondell Williams

Office Staff

School Administrative Manager – Mrs Bronwyn Stacey
School Administrative Officer – Mrs Dianne Carr
Grounds Assistant- Mr Alan Lavell

MEGA NOTE

As you will have noticed there is a new section on the Meganote. This is entitled School Evacuation Permission and is self-explanatory.

In case of any emergency it is essential that we have current contact information. Please read the details carefully, edit where necessary and return the Meganote as a matter of urgency.

PARENT INFORMATION EVENING

A parent information evening will be held on Monday the 17th February. This will be an opportunity to meet your child’s teacher, discuss the general class routines and any other general class and school information. There will not be time for a personal interview about your child during this session; however if you need to see your child’s teacher for a more specific discussion, please organise an interview with them through the office. We look forward to meeting you at our Parent Information Session. The times and classes are outlined below.

PARENT INFORMATION EVENING TIMES

5:30 – 6:00pm – 5/6, Year 1 and Years 3/4
6:00 – 6:30pm – Kinder and 2/3

NOTE FOLDERS

Red note folders have been sent home with the students who have paid their workbook package today. These will have the Bulletins and any other relevant notes sent home in them. Please ensure that your child’s note folder is returned promptly as their next lot of notes will not be sent home unless they have returned their red folder to put them in.

WORKBOOK PACKAGES and SCHOOL EQUIPMENT

At the end of last year a letter was sent home regarding the cost of the workbook packages. We have attached a copy of this letter to the Bulletin. Please pay for your packages as soon as possible as your child will not be able to use their text books, or have their Reading Eggs
or Mathletics passwords, (for use at home) until they are paid for.

Please see your class teacher for any additional requirements for your class.

STAFF CARPARK
Please adhere to our request that no parents or students travel through the staff carpark to and from school. This is a matter of safety for our students and our parents.

INTERRELATE FAMILY PROGRAM
A Family Evening Program will be conducted at our school on Wednesday 19th March. Notes were sent home last week.

2014 SWIMMING TRIALS
This year’s swimming trials will be held at Beresfield Pool on Wednesday 12th February. All primary students, Years 3-6, are expected to attend. Travel to and from the pool will be by bus. All students are expected to travel to and from the pool by bus. Buses will leave from school by 9am and return to school for lunch at 1pm. Ribbons and trophies will be presented at school at the lunchtime assembly at the end of lunch, not the end of school time assembly as it was in previous years.

HEAD LICE
Just a reminder to continue to be vigilant about checking your child/children’s head for lice.

PARENTS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS
We have attached a copy of our Parents on School Grounds Policy for your information. Please help us to keep your child safe by following the procedures outlined in the policy.

SCHOOL CAPTAINS
Our new School Captains and Vice Captains did a great job at our Friday assembly last week. We look forward to watching them represent our school for 2014. Our School Captains are Mia Manewell and Riley Matthews and our Vice Captains are Anthony Thomas and Montana Woweries.

HOUSE CAPTAINS
The students have recently voted for their House Captains. Our House colours are red for Cook and blue for Phillip. Congratulations to our new House Captains. Our Captain for Phillip is Connie Taylor and our Vice Captain is Xander Woweries. Our Captain for Phillip is Meagan Needs and our Vice Captain is Mikayla Stewart.

SCHOOL CROSSING SAFETY
Please use the school crossing with your child. Their safety and yours is important to us.
ABSENCES
If your child is absent for any reason we require a verbal or written explanation for their absence. Records of absences are kept by the school as a legal requirement. Please help our office staff by providing an explanation for your child’s absence promptly, following their return to school.

VALUES
Minmi Public School is committed to ensuring that its students are equipped with the social skills to help them mature into responsible citizens.

One of the strategies that we use to do this is to explicitly teach the following values. We do this by having a “Value of the Week,” that we refer to both in class and at our after lunch assemblies. We also reward students for displaying these values throughout the year.

Please discuss our “Value of the Week” with your child to help reinforce their understanding.

Minmi’s “Values” of the Week for weeks 2 and 3 are:

**Week 2**
*Excellence* means to do your best always

**Week 3**
*Democracy* means allowing everyone to have their say and listening to the ideas of others.

Regards
*Lyn McAllister*
Principal

UNIFORM SHOP
Welcome back to 2014. Hope you all had a great holiday and are now ready for another busy year at Minmi.

I would like to start with thanking my volunteers that have put their hand up already to help out in the uniform shop this year.

Thank you Cherie R, Mel J, Claire M and Lara W. Without helpers we couldn’t run.

Thanks to Cherie for opening up yesterday morning as it was a cold day for anyone needing jackets.

Anyone else wishing to help out just leave your name at the office and I will get back to you with details.

Last week was a busy morning with last minute kindy parents getting ready for their big “First Day” last Monday. There is still plenty of stock so if you need anything please place your order and we will fill it a.s.a.p. for you.

If you can’t make it into the shop on a Thursday morning, then place your order at the office in an envelope with your child’s name, class and what it is you required on it, along with the correct money (as change is hard to give back on the same day). Orders will be packed and sent home with your child a.s.a.p.

The uniform shop is located on the verandah outside the year 1 class room and is open every Thursday morning from 8.30am till 9.15. Please if you could have the correct change when attending the shop that would help us out a lot.

If change is unable to be given at the time, we will have it at the office for you to collect later in the day, or we will send it home with your child. Please remember to label your child’s clothes so if they get lost we can find the owner.

Thanks Natalie Chambers
CACTEEN
Thank you to the volunteers for this year. It is fantastic to see some new faces. The rosters were sent out last week. So if you have sent in your volunteer form and not received a roster please let the office know. We are always willing to accept more volunteers so if you have a few hours spare on Monday or Friday once a month we would love to see you.
The canteen has now switched to high fibre white bread as our main bread and we have wholemeal available. If you would like wholemeal please indicate on your order.
We have been able to find a better price for our chicken tenders so you will now be getting 2 for $1.50 when you order the gluten free chicken tenders. (For those of you missing the yummy drummies, give these a try. They are similar).
As you may have seen outside the canteen we now have a letter box. Once we have a padlock on this letterbox this will be where all canteen orders can be placed. If you require change we will securely tape it to your eldest child’s lunch bag and they will receive it with their lunch. If your child is ordering for morning tea there is no need to send a second bag, we will label the item with your child’s name and place it in a chilled esky outside their classroom before recess. Don’t worry if you don’t have a lunch bag at home as we will accept orders in envelopes and zip lock bags as well.
We have had a request that the canteen stock fresh fruit. The challenge with this is making sure we stock fruit the majority of children like. If you would also like to see fresh fruit in the canteen please drop a note in the order box telling us what you would like to see available and how many pieces of fruit a week you would order from the canteen.
If you have any other ideas or suggestions for the canteen please drop us a note or come and have a chat.
Lara Wheatley
Canteen Supervisor

1. The school with the highest percentage of active students at the end of Term 1 will win a marquee. There are 4 marquees to be won in the Newcastle area. Every student who completes a minimum of 3 school banking deposits in Term 1 will also be in the running to win one of two $50 credits to their School Banking account. Competition opens 28/01/2014 and closes 11/04/2014. For full terms and conditions please visit commbank.com.au/schoolbanking.
Banking day at <……………………> is every <……………………>.

HELP FIGHT MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE
Motor neurone disease is a progressive, terminal neurological disease. You can help to raise funds for research by participating in, Walk to d’feet MND Hunter.

When: Sunday 16th Feb
Time: 10am
Where: Speers Point Park to Warners Bay
You must register by 9th February
For details go to web site: www.mndnsw.asn.au

STAY COOL AT SCHOOL THIS SUMMER
Win a CommBank Marquee for your school and $50 for a student just by depositing to your CommBank School Banking account in Term
The simplest way

to include all 5 food groups in a Lunch Box

A well packed lunch box will provide your kids with the energy they need to learn and play. Remember to include lunch box items from the 5 food groups:

Breads and cereals: Try wholemeal bread, wraps and pita. Or try pikelets, rice cakes or homemade muffins and slices.

Fruit: Should be a lunch box staple as its high in fibre, vitamins and minerals. Serve fruit in fun ways: try fruit kebabs or fruit in jelly.

Veggies: Pack carrot and celery sticks with hummus or salsa, or a cold zucchini slice.

Low Fat Dairy: Cheese slices, yoghurts and custards are all great lunch box items.

Lean Protein: Include a variety of sandwich fillings: cooked chicken, tuna, egg or roast meat. Legumes like red kidney beans and chickpeas are a good source of protein and fibre.

For more information visit: www.eatittobeatit.com.au
or join us at facebook.com/eatittobeatit

The simplest way

to increase your veggies

Eat vegetables throughout the day
It's hard to get all your vegies at dinner. Try veggie sticks with low-fat dip like guacamole or salsa, or veggie pancakes - mic creamed corn, grated zucchini or carrot into pikelet batter before cooking.

Decrease the meat in your meals and add more vegetables
For a family of four all you need is 400g of lean meat, fish or poultry per meal. Top up with lots of extra veg.
Hint: chickpeas, lentils and beans are rich in protein and will help curb big appetites!

Add vegetables to all your meals
Meals that are easy to add extra veg to are casseroles, stews, pizzas, even the humble omelette!

For more information visit: www.eatittobeatit.com.au
or join us at facebook.com/eatittobeatit

Fecha: 06/02/14

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STUDIO LOCATIONS

WALLSEND • CHARLESTOWN • EDGELWOOD • GARDEN SUBURBS

Phone or pop in now with your Name, Email Address and Age for your FREE Information Pack for 2014

Ph: 0412 952 979 Email: makejazzdancestudio@hotmail.com

or check our website:
www.makejazzdancestudio.net for all 2014 information

Welcome all Feedback "Wanted: Dance Studio" to keep updated
Cameron Park Community OOSH 2014

OOSH Blurb
Cameron Park Community OOSH encourages all families to drop into the centre to take a look and pick up an enrolment form to book your children in for a fun filled time for before and after school.

Where will it be?
We will operate from the Cameron Park Community Centre.
(107 Northlakes Drive, Cameron Park)

What times will we open?
Before School: 6:30am – 9:00am
After School: 3:00pm – 6:30pm
Vacation Care: 6:30am – 6:00pm

Who can attend?
All primary school aged children are welcome. We will be offering a drop off and collection service for children that attend Edgeworth, Edgeworth Heights, Barnsley, St Benedict’s, Minmi and Maryland Public Schools.

How much will it cost?
Before School: $13.00
After School: $17.00
Vacation Care: $45.00
(Child Care Benefit can also be claimed by all families. Excursions are included in daily fee)

What activities will be offered?
There will be a range of recreational, cultural and educational activities such as:
- Sport – Indoor & Outdoor
- Art
- Craft
- Homework centre
- Drama / Dance
- Cooking
- Music
- Games
- Incursions / Excursions
- Wii and X Box

Breakfast & Afternoon Tea
A healthy nutritional breakfast and afternoon tea will be provided each day as well as a Homework Centre for children to have first-hand tutorial with homework tasks.

Enquiries and Bookings:
Email: cameronparkkoosh@gmail.com
Phone Josh on: 0409 286 959
Parents On School Grounds

Being small and an integral part of the community has meant that Minmi Public School has traditionally welcomed and enjoyed the participation of parents and community members and valued their role in the development of programs within the school.

Minmi has an active and ‘hands on’ P&C and the Minmi Public School Council plays an important role in the development of policies and the efficient use of the school’s budget. We are lucky to have parents involved in the operation of our canteen, our uniform shop, as classroom helpers and as sporting coaches.

However, organisational, security and WH&S issues mean that the school has found it necessary to request the assistance and co-operation of parents and community members to ensure the best possible learning environment for students and teachers at Minmi Public School.

We would ask that you be aware of the following policies regarding parents visiting our school. Some policies have been in place for an extended period of time, others have been formulated recently in order to ensure the smooth and efficient operation of our school.

Morning Assemblies

Although many schools no longer hold morning assemblies, the staff of Minmi Public School feel that they fulfil an important role and would like to retain them as part of the daily school routine. The staff feel that, being a small school, morning assemblies allow for the sharing of important messages (to both parents and students) as well as settling children in readiness for the school day. The staff request the following assistance from parents so as to ensure that Morning Assemblies can remain part of our school routine.

- Parents are welcome to watch and listen to our morning assembly but we would request that they NOT stand on or near the path which leads from the assembly area to classrooms.
- Parents are requested to say goodbye to children before the commencement of morning assembly. It is unsettling for students when parents interact with individual students as classes are moving from the assembly area.
- Parents are requested NOT to enter classrooms or in verandah areas after morning assemblies as this also causes congestion and disruption. It is also important that parents DO NOT wait at steps or on verandah areas at 3pm as this also causes congestion.

Parents in Classrooms

The staff of Minmi Public School understand that it is often necessary for a parent to deliver something to a child or request information from a teacher. However, for reasons of security, most schools in NSW now insist that parents do not enter classrooms without first presenting themselves at the School Office. This policy is in place at Minmi Public School. Parents are requested NOT to enter classrooms AT ANY TIME without first visiting the School Office. In most cases office staff will assist by organising the delivery of any item to students or by phoning staff using the school’s internal phone system to request the required information or organise an interview time. This policy extends to BEFORE and AFTER school hours.

Late Arrivals/Early Leave

Staff at Minmi Public School understand that, for a variety of reasons students may be late to arrive at school or may need to leave early. It is important that parents understand that the school has an obligation to ensure the safety and security of all students. It is also important that parents understand that Class Rolls are considered to be a legal document and must be maintained accurately as they can be called upon in a Court of Law. For these reasons the following guidelines are in place:

- Late arrivals (after 9am) MUST be accompanied by an adult to the School Office where office staff can issue a late note and direct a student to the classroom. For reasons of security and child protection a child should never be left ‘at the school gate’ after 9am. Students MUST NOT proceed to the classroom before a late note has been issued.

- When collecting a child from the school before 3pm, parents MUST report to the School Office where an ‘Early Leave’ slip will be issued by Office Staff. Staff will then contact the Class Teacher via the school’s internal phone system and the child will be sent to the office area.