Dear Parents,

We remain committed to providing your children with quality educational and extra-curricular programs this term. We are continuing to implement the Focus on Reading – “Super 6” strategies that we use in our Reading sessions. Also we are using the Fantastic 5 and Awesome 8 Writing Checklists, to assist our students to identify their strengths and areas of need in writing. An explanation of both of these programs is outlined in this Bulletin.

We are lucky to have committed teachers and parents who are giving up their lunchtimes to provide our students with opportunities to participate in Soccer and Dance this term.

Our P&C have met for their AGM yesterday. You should all be extremely proud of the great team of parents we have in our P&C. They are already busy, working hard to ensure that our students are getting extra funding to support their learning and fun experiences to enjoy. They have lots of things planned, but I won’t spoil the surprises coming up throughout the year.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR:
Events can also be followed on our school website calendar.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 1 Events</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Interrelate</strong> – Tuesday 3rd March</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>School Council Annual General Meeting</strong> – Thursday 5th March</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>P&amp;C Jacket Potato Special Lunch Day</strong> – Friday 6th March</td>
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<td><strong>Young Leaders Day – Captains</strong> – Monday 23rd March</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Out of Uniform Day – Easter Egg Donation</strong> – Wednesday 25th March</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>P &amp; C Easter Raffle &amp; Hot Cross Bun order pick up</strong> – Thursday 2nd April</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Last day of school Term 1</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Good Friday</strong> – 3rd April</td>
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NOTES SENT HOME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meganote</th>
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<tr>
<td>Hazard Reduction Fire notice</td>
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<tr>
<td>In a Nutshell – Student Information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Rules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacket Potato Day note</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Wellbeing Contract</td>
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ZONE SWIMMING CARNIVAL
Sixteen children attended the Zone Swimming Carnival at Speers Point pool last Thursday, 19th February. They all swam like sharks were chasing them, with two children qualifying for the first final by swimming a “PB”, Tayla H and Griffyn S. Well done!

Thankyou Mrs Comerford for the time and commitment you are making to helping our kids in sport this term.

PSSA SOCCER
Training for our boys’ soccer team has begun. They are learning skills on Wednesdays at lunchtime and having a practice game on Fridays. Thank you to Ms Delforce and Mr Sullivan for organising this for our students. Thank you also to our great parent coaches Mr Woweries and Mrs Mortimer for volunteering their time to help our students.

STAR STRUCK DANCE SUBMISSION
Our Star Struck group has been practising their item, ready to videotape their submission. They are attempting to gain a place this year in the dance section of the performance. We wish them good luck and hope we see them in Star Struck again this year. Thankyou Ms Delforce for your commitment to ensuring they have learnt their dance steps to the best of their ability.
MEGA NOTE
Our Meganotes have been sent home with your child. Please complete and return these promptly so we can ensure our records on your child are up to date. This is especially important in the case of an emergency situation. Thank you to the families who have already returned their Meganotes.

SCHOOL RULES AND STUDENT WELL BEING CONTRACT
We have had a great start to 2015, with the vast majority of students following our school rules. Today we have sent home a Student Wellbeing Contract for you to sign with your child. This is a positive contract for students to sign, to remind themselves of our rules. Also parents are asked to sign as a witness, to show us you have discussed our school rules with your child. The contract will then be returned to school and kept as a reminder of each student’s commitment to their own and other’s wellbeing at school. At Minmi Public School we are committed to keeping your children safe and happy while they are learning at our wonderful school.

TEACHING READING – Super 6 Strategies
During Reading Groups sessions, our teachers use the “Super 6” strategies to help students comprehend what they are reading. These strategies and a brief explanation of how we discuss them with the students are listed below. They will be sent home in the form of a laminated bookmark next week. Please use the bookmark as a reminder to help you to focus your child’s learning as they read with you at home.  
Making Connections: What do you already know about the topic / title?  
Predicting: What do you think the book / text will be about? What clues have you used?  
Monitoring: Does it make sense? Does it look right?  
Visualising: Are you painting a picture in your head while you read?  
Summarising: What is this about? What facts have you learnt? What are the main events?  
Questioning: What are you wondering about? + Ask your child questions that they can find answers to in the text. Or ask them questions related to the themes in the text.

TEACHING WRITING – Fantastic 5 and Awesome 8
During Writing sessions our teachers use the Fantastic 5 and Awesome 8 checklists with your child. These are to help them understand what they already know about writing and what they still need to learn. The Fantastics 5 are mostly used for K-2 and the Awesome 8 are mostly used for Yrs 3-6. I have included a copy of both checklists with this Bulletin and a list of what the Fantastic 5 and Awesome 8 are below.

**Fantastic 5**
1. Capital Letters
2. Punctuation
3. Finger Spaces
4. Does it make sense?
5. Spelling

**Awesome 8 (= Fantastic 5 + 3 extras)**
1. Capital Letters
2. Punctuation
3. Finger Spaces
4. Does it make sense?
5. Spelling
6. Descriptive and Interesting Language
7. Sentence Structure
8. Edit and Reflect

INTERRELATE
On Tuesday 3rd March Minmi Public School are hosting an Interrelate presentation. Interrelate is a specialist organisation with over 85 years experience teaching sexuality education in NSW schools. Interrelate educators are highly trained and skilled presenters.

The topic of sexuality will be handled with sensitivity, openness and humour. The programs offer an interactive approach to learning, with a variety of audio-visual materials, discussion and games. A range of books on sexuality education and parenting will be for sale.

**Session 1:** “Where Did I Come From?”
6:00pm – Years 3, 4, 5 & 6
In this session children learn about how their bodies work and the differences between males and females.

**Session 2:** “Preparing for Puberty”
7:15pm – Years 5 & 6
This session helps to prepare children and parents/caregivers for the physical, social and emotional changes associated with puberty. Changing emotions and relationships with families and peers are addressed.

If you need a new note please come to the office.

HOME READING and PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE
Just a small note to clarify our Home Reading changes this term. Each night of Reading is to be recorded in the Home Reading Section. In addition to this, if the book you are reading each night is also a Premier’s Reading Challenge book, then once you have finished reading the book, it can also be added as 1 entry on your Premier’s Reading Challenge Log. E.g. If you are reading Roald Dahl’s book “The Witches,” you would enter the book name each night it was read, as it may...
take you and your child several nights to read the book. Then, once the book was finished, it would be added as one book on your Premier’s Reading Challenge Log.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK
Volunteers working in our schools now have to undertake a proof of identity check and sign a Working with Children declaration. This is a requirement of the Department Of Education. Please come to the office to fill out the paperwork. Thank you to those who have already completed their forms.

AFTERNOON BELL PROCEDURES, STAFF CARPARK and OOSH pick up point
Teachers will dismiss their own classes as they reach the COLA and are responsible for ensuring their students reach their parents, the OOSH teacher or the line for students who walk home in a safe manner. OOSH students will sit on the silver seat near the wooden verandah, waiting for their OOSH teacher to escort them to the OOSH buses. The staff carpark entrance is strictly out of bounds of an afternoon. This is to ensure your safety while cars are entering or leaving through the staff carpark. Please only use the gate near the K/1 classrooms to enter or leave the school grounds.

TRANSPORTING CHILDREN
For parents who transport our children to various school related events please see the office to update your information. There are some Green Slips, regos and licenses that have expired.

ALL PARENTS PLEASE NOTE
At this stage P&C and Uniform Shop payments must be made to the office, not online. Our online payment system is currently set up for school payments only. We will let you know if this system changes.

FRESH EGGS
Our chooks are doing a great job laying fresh eggs for us. If you would like to donate $5.00 towards their feed, you can receive 1 dozen fresh eggs. Please forward your money to the office in an envelope with your name on it.

FRESH VEGIES
Our vegie patch will have new produce planted in the next few weeks as we establish our Garden Group. In the meantime, our Year 5/6 students will be picking and sending home what produce we have now to each class member. Look out for recipes to accompany our produce in the coming Bulletins. Also, if you have a free lunchtime and would like to work on our garden with our Garden Group please leave your name, contact details and days that your are available with the office. Also if you can donate seedlings of produce for planting, please send them to the office. Include your child’s name clearly written on the plant and we will ensure that the Garden Group assists your child as they plant their vegetable or herb.

NEW SCHOOL COUNSELLOR
We have a new and highly respected school counsellor this year. He is an ex District Guidance Officer and brings with him a wealth of experience. Mr Stephen Lynn will be here every second Thursday to work with teachers, students and parents. We warmly welcome him to our school team.

STUDENT MENTOR PROGRAM
We are very fortunate this term to have been able to employ Mr Bruce Jeffrey, former Itinerant Support Teacher Behaviour, to work with our students. Mr Jeffrey is a student wellbeing expert. He is working with some of our students as a positive mentor, to help them learn strategies and learn to better manage situations that they are having difficulty with. We welcome his expertise and are looking forward to seeing the positive outcomes that his program will provide our students.

STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
We are always raising the bar at Minmi and continue to have high expectations for our students and staff. Staff are constantly networking with other schools to find out about programs that may benefit our students. Mrs Corrigan and Mrs Bradshaw will be visiting Morpeth Public School in the coming weeks to see a “Flip Classroom” and work with a teacher who is doing great things at their school with technology. We love “borrowing” ideas from other expert teachers. The entire staff have just completed their 3rd module of the Child Protection update for 2015. Mrs Stacey and Mrs Bradshaw are attending a Financial Planning Workshop today as the schools in this region prepare for the changes to financial management that all schools will be involved with from Term 2 this year. Mrs Corrigan has been attending various Principal workshops and meetings. Discussions at these meetings have involved planning for 2015-2017 and forming partnerships to complete training and development, utilising expert people and programs from various schools.
ASSEMBLY ITEM TIMETABLE
This term each class will present an item at our Friday assembly. The timetable is listed below:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Class</th>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2/3</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Kinder</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>3/4</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>5/6</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>2/3</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Kinder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Please come along and watch your child proudly present their work or perform an item.

SCHOLASTIC BOOKCLUB
Book Club brochures have been handed out. If you would like to order please send your order and money to school before Monday 9th March.

VALUES
Minmi Public School is committed to ensuring that its students are equipped with the social skills to help them mature into responsible citizens. We are looking at implementing a new Values program in our school for Term 2. We will be visiting another school to see how this program works, before deciding whether or not it will suit our students. We will keep you posted.

Kind Regards,
Allyson Corrigan
Relieving Principal

TERM 1 – Week 3 – 2015

MRS BRADSHAW
Jack B & Kenadee D –
Always completing quality work

MRS BELLAMY/MS DELFORCE
Kolbi C – lovely neat homework
Giselle P – great sentence writing in homework

MR SULLIVAN
Riley M – effort in handwriting
Emily S – effort in reading

MRS COMERFORD
Casey B & Hunter H –
Great effort in art

PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE

CERTIFICATE 1
Caerwyn B

CERTIFICATE 2
Caerwyn B

CERTIFICATE 3
Caerwyn B

CERTIFICATE 4
Caerwyn B

TERM 1 – Week 4 – 2015

MRS BRADSHAW
Jack B & Indy H –
Kind and caring students

MRS BELLAMY/MS DELFORCE
Dominic P, Jacqueline M & Adam P –
Consistent effort

MRS CORRIGAN
Lucas W & Kiara R –
Good listeners

MRS COMERFORD
Wyatt W – excellent co-operation all week
Aidan S – huge improvement in work and attitude

PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE

CERTIFICATE 1
Charli J & Paris P

CERTIFICATE 2
Charli J, Paris P & Dylan C

Page 4
CERTIFICATE 3
Charli J & Dylan C

CERTIFICATE 4
Charli J& Dylan C

P&C NEWS
Thank you to everyone who came along to the school disco. It was a great night.
We raised approximately $250.00 which will be put towards the purchase of Ipads.
Thank you to our helpers on the night.

Friday 6th March - Jacket Potato and drink $5.00
Notes were sent home on Wednesday. Please fill individual notes out if you have more than one child at the school. The students will be given the potato and can go along the table and add their own toppings.
Some of the fillings include baked beans, mince, corn, cheese and sour cream.
Please note: The canteen will be OPEN ONLY for recess orders on this day.
The canteen will be CLOSED for lunch.
Please return notes back by Wednesday 4th March.

Wednesday 25th March - Out of uniform Easter Egg Day
Bring along an Easter egg to go towards our Easter raffle. You can have a freshly made milkshake and hot x bun for $5.00 on this day.

Thursday 2nd April - Easter raffle
Pick up Hot x Bun orders from the Hot x Bun fundraiser.

Keep up to date - Like us on Facebook
Cherie Reed
P&C President

CANTEEN NEWS
Volunteers: Thank you to the new members of our canteen team. It is fantastic to have you on board and see some new faces. If anyone else would like to come and join the fun, we would love to have any time you can spare. We will be starting our $5 meal days again soon. Anyone available to help for about an hour from 12.30 on those days would be very much appreciated.
New items: We unfortunately need to remove the Cornitos from our menu as they are no longer available. We now stock Chicken Jumpys at 80c and BBQ Zombie snacks for 60c. These are proving popular with the children.

Menu: Our menu is available on the school website under P&C documents.

Canteen Supervisor
Lara Wheatley

UNIFORM SHOP
At Minmi we strive to look good and take pride in our uniform. Please be aware that black shorts and tights are NOT part of the school uniform.

Monday to Thursday
Girls navy skorts or boys navy cargos
Blue school shirt
White socks
ALL Black school shoes
School hat

Fridays
Navy sport shorts
Red school shirt
White socks
White joggers
School hat

Uniform shop is open Thursdays 8.30-9am or send an envelope into the office with the details and payment and we will send it home

Thank you
Natalie Chambers

BANKING NEWS
Welcome back to 2015. We have a great year ahead.
I will be the new banking coordinator this year, so if you need any help with your rewards or you would like to sign up please let me know.
There are lots of new awards. They are displayed in the notice board outside the year 1 room.
We will also have Bronze, Gold and Silver awards. Also there is a family trip to Disneyland to be won, and you only have to bank 25 times to receive an entry.

DON’T FORGET BANKING DAY IS WEDNESDAY

Mel Johnson
School Banking Rewards now available! Term 1

These new rewards have just been released for Term 1, and are available while stocks last:

- ET DVD
- Planet Handball

For every deposit made at school, no matter how big or small, students will receive a cool Dollarmites token. Once students have individually collected 10 tokens they can redeem them for these exclusive School Banking reward items in recognition of their continued savings behaviour. There are 2 new items to come in Term 2 as well!

Remember our school earns 5% commission on every deposit made (to a maximum of $10 per individual deposit).

If your children are not currently involved in the School Banking program and you would like to know more, please ask for a 2015 School Banking program Information Pack from the School office.

Thank you for supporting the School Banking program and don’t forget that Wednesday is School Banking day.
### Minmi Public School Rules

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rule</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hands off</td>
<td>Only use your hands to be kind and helpful.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friendly talk</td>
<td>Speak nicely to everyone in the school with a friendly face, a friendly voice and friendly words.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respect</td>
<td>Be caring to yourself, teachers, classmates, peers, adults and your belongings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the right place</td>
<td>Keep yourself safe. Stay in the right place. Avoid out of bounds areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do as you are asked</td>
<td>Make our school a happy and safe place by always following directions given by teachers or other staff members.</td>
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