Dear Parents and Carers

We have had our ‘Learning Pathways’ start this week with very positive feedback from our students, parents and staff.

Learning pathways is an afternoon of student selected workshops that run for 5 weeks. These are delivered Wednesday afternoons from 2pm-3pm.

For the next 5 weeks we are offering:

- Debating workshops
- Drama workshops
- Soccer clinics and
- Chess

Students in years 2-6 will remain in their chosen activity for 5 weeks and then a new round of opportunities will be offered.

This is another initiative that our staff should be very proud of and have put a lot of time into. This year one of our goals is to expand our opportunities for all students.

We have applied for a creative arts grant. If we are successful in receiving this grant we will integrate other exciting options for students to participate in. This grant will subsidise costs associated with elective activities.

If your child missed out on drumming or you only want to trial drumming, you may actually find that options coming up throughout the year are also of interest for your children.

COMMUNITY SKILLS WANTED

You spoke and we listened! We are trying to engage our community members as much as we can this year. We are on the look-out for community members who have skills we might be able to use in teaching and learning. We have had two people return our data base survey that was sent out a few weeks ago.

These skills could be anything. You could be a keen scrap booker, card maker, informal sports coach etc. Please let us know. The information we gather is for our use only. We might find a great opportunity for a new learning pathways activity or skill to teach our students. There are spare forms at the front office if this sounds like you.

SAFETY ON OUR ROADS

For the safety of our whole school community, please use the crossing at all times. It can be tempting to cross a little further down, however our little road can get quite busy before and after school and it sets a great example for our students if we all model the appropriate use of the crossing.

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

We are streamlining our communication with parents this year. One of the improvements we are making is to offer an opportunity early in term 1 for parents and teachers to touch base. Opportunities for Parent -Teacher Interviews will now occur in week 9 this term and then again later term 2 or early term 3.

Staff feel that term 4 is too late to discuss or raise any concerns about students. You will still get a report at the end of term 2 and 4 and we will still be doing portfolios.

The only variation is that in week 9 this term, you will receive a one page report that will indicate your child’s progress so far and any concerns the classroom teacher may have. A teacher or parent may then request an interview. We really enjoy working with you to support your child and this gives us an opportunity to start conversations early and for you to have more regular feedback about your child.

NOTES FOR SCHOOL EVENTS

We want to thank our families this year for being so organised with returning notes and paying money on time. It takes a lot of time to organise events and your co-operation makes a huge difference. We are hoping that our ‘note day Thursday’ and ‘Term calendars’ make these easier for you.

In order for us to be more organised in 2016, all staff have decided that we can no longer accept late notes for excursions or activities. At times we need to order buses, organise food, pay upfront for activities per child. Late notes and late payments can mean this is still being finalised late the day before, or the morning of an event. Please help all staff by bringing in notes by the due date. If note and money aren’t in, the students will have to miss that activity.
2/3 PHOTOS

Miss Minogue is doing some artist studies with 2/3 in visual arts. We are going to start our own self-portraits on Monday. Please assist us by sending your 2/3 child in with a recent photo of themselves. They are loving the opportunity to critique Picasso, da Vinci and van Gough. They will be using some techniques from these artists to produce a series of portraits and self-portraits.

SCRIPTURE TIMETABLE 2016

This year’s timetable is:
K, K/1 & 5/6 - 1.55pm – 2.25pm
2/3 & 3 / 4 – 2.25pm till 2.55pm

MINMI SCHOOL APP

Does everyone have the school app on their phone? You can look at upcoming events on the calendar, send absences via the app and also look at Bulletins. We also send important text messages via the app to notify parents of events. An example of this was when we had the storm disaster. Parents were notified of school closures via the app.** Don’t forget to allow notifications**

DRUMMING

Drumming has started today. An Expression of Interest went home in week 3. We responded to those students who returned notes by sending an enrolment form home from Col. If you didn’t receive an actual enrolment form, it could be because we didn’t receive an expression of interest from you. If you have decided you would like your child to join in, please contact the office for a note. Cost is $10 per session =$100 per term. Students who participate for a full year will perform on presentation day. This was a decision made by Col based on his experiences and how he can support all students. Col explained to us today that a production takes him all year to put together and it would be extremely complex to do it in a condensed timeframe and across students at different skill levels. He explained that last year was a taster and not anywhere near the level that he usually builds up to with schools. We have discussed the possibility of putting on a showcase of skills for parents and the community late term 2, for those doing drumming for only a few terms.

Upcoming Important Dates for Your Calendar:
Events can also be followed on our school website/app calendar.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 1 Events</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 25th February – 1st Parent Focus Group session 5:30-6:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Halogen National Young Leaders Day – 29th February 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 1st – League Tag</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 29th – Zone Cross Country, West Wallsend</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday May 25th - Cook and Phillip Day (athletics carnival)</td>
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Class Awards

**Term 1 – Week 3 – 2016**

MRS BRADSHAW

Violet P – Excellent Listening
Jesse B – Excellent Listening
MRS BELLAMY/MR GRIFFITHS
Kenadee D – Hardwork in Maths
Jake J – Excellent listening
Charlie M – Always working hard

MS DELFORCE
Hayley L, Lachlan M – Great job with Homework

MR SULLIVAN
Georgia S & Fletcher M – displaying excellent listening skills

MRS CORRIGAN
Joshua R – for excellent work application during Spelling Groups
Chantelle WB – enjoy your new school and thank you for being such a delight to teach

PREMIERE’S READING CHALLENGE

CERTIFICATE 1
Dylan J, Charli J, Kalamnah W, Deklen A

CERTIFICATE 2
Deklen A

Class Awards

Term 1 – Week 4 – 2016

MRS BRADSHAW
Jasmine J – Quality work
Mae N – Quality work

MRS BELLAMY/MR GRIFFITHS
Kingston G – excellent work in Maths
Abigail B – excellent work in Reading Groups

MS DELFORCE
Jacqueline M, Macarthur S & Eve N – Great attitude and commitment to learning

MR SULLIVAN
Elaina M & Jake G – Pride in Bookwork

PREMIERE’S READING CHALLENGE

CERTIFICATE 1
Breanna B, Sam R, Lucas J, Seth A

CERTIFICATE 2
Dylan J, Lucas J

CERTIFICATE 3
Lucas J

Little Taeks Taekwondo
For children 3-5 year olds
Training in Martial arts can be beneficial for children in a number of ways. These classes give children a positive introduction to Taekwondo in a fun and active learning environment structured to suit littlies. Parents are encouraged to come and join in the action and have some fun. Classes are 45 min during school terms and your FIRST CLASS IS FREE.
Places are limited so make sure you book in.

Newcastle Maryland Dojang
Maryland Neighbourhood Centre
207 Maryland Drive Maryland
Wednesdays 4pm

Please Contact Instructor Leanne Rance 0407578798 for further information.
Offering Kids Fitness- Fun- Co-ordination- strength- flexibility- Self Confidence- Self Defence, & more.

Minmi Wanderers Football Club
2016 Registrations
Open Now

Age Group 2016 Fees
Under 6-7 $120
Under 6-11 $150
Under 12-18 $165
All Age $220
Over 35 $260

Registration Fees include Affiliation and Ground Fees for All Players and Referee Fees for Under 6 to Under 11 Players only

Registration & Payment online is now available at
www.myfootballclub.com.au
If you require further information please message via our Facebook page