



Learning for Life

MINERVA SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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DATES TO REMEMBER

2011

Monday 6 June
P&C Meeting 7.00pm
All welcome!

Monday 13 June
Queen's Birthday Public
Holiday

Friday 1 July
Last day of Term 2

Tuesday 19 July
Students' first day of
Term 3

P&C ASSOCIATION—Easter Raffle



MINERVA SCHOOL P&C ASSOCIATION (Continued)

Minerva students are treated with such respect and dignity, despite their differences or the challenges they may face. The staff here are just so professional, committed and are special individuals that do make a huge difference to our childrens' lives.

This school inspires the P&C Association to make sure our children do not miss out. Minerva P&C hope to continue the wonderful legacy left by Ms Jay Hernandez. We wish to try out some new ideas and will also try and brainstorm more ideas generated by our school community into continuing to strive for excellence—Minerva students deserve no less!

Minerva P&C wish to thank everyone who has contributed in some way in improving the social and learning opportunities for our children. A total of \$700 has been raised through your continued generosity and support.
Thank You.

EASTER UPDATE—with such short notice an Easter Raffle was organised one week before the event! Minerva P&C were simply delighted with the generosity shown by our school community. We need to thank **Slav**, who donated those two huge bunnies and other items from her workplace. **Deb** also made and donated five baskets. This generosity meant that we now had sixteen baskets, two per class. Each child who did not win a major prize went home with a small prize. An amazing effort considering we only have a school population of 55 families.

MOTHERS' DAY RAFFLE & STALL

Our children were given a meaningful learning opportunity to bring money to school and independently buy a gift. Visuals were prepared by **Miss Michelle** so that non-verbal students could easily identify their choice. All students pointed to the money symbol \$5 or \$2 and again had to match the amount with real money. The Captains, **Luke** and **Holly** managed the money transaction. A special thank you to **Chris**, **Deb** and **Rosemary**, who assisted me by setting up the stall and supervising both stall and raffle activities. The excitement was clearly evident by these images.



This year we tried something slightly different for the Raffle. Donated community gifts were part of our raffle and ticket were again \$1 each. Again, we did not have much time and promise to give everyone more time with Fathers' Day Raffle activities. Minerva P&C wish to thank the following businesses and individuals who donated a prize.

Skin Expressions Menai—One hour facial.

Prouds Jewellers Menai—Vase & plates.

Big W Menai—Britney Spears Perfume.

Menai Floral Creations, -Fresh Flowers

Mrs Fiona Young—Handmade Jewellery, Wine & Chocolates.

Sophie Manus (Chris D's Grandmother)—Hand Knitted Scarf.

Nina's Chocolates Gynea—Chocolates

Gloria Jeans Menai & Minerva Parents—Coffee Plunger, Chocolates & Biscuits.

Deb Hunt (Parent) - Surprise Gifts.



Organised 5 Luxury

SENSORY GARDEN—Draft plans are proceeding well. **Mr Geoff** is busy coordinating this project. The Sensory Garden will be used as another teaching/learning space in the school. We are in the early stages of writing a submission explaining the therapeutic benefits such a garden would have in helping our children to relax and self regulate. **Tanya Williamson**, my son's occupational therapist who specialises in Sensory Integration is assisting in explaining the benefits to gain sponsorship to help reduce costs.

PARENT SURVEY—more details to follow after the next P&C Meeting.

THANK YOU—Finally, Minerva P&C wish to thank everyone who has contributed in some way in improving the social and learning opportunities for our children.. A total of just over \$700 has been raised through your continued generosity and support.

Thank you
Christine & Peter Damcevski
P&C Presidents

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

SCHOOL PARKING

I would like to remind all families and carers, to be aware of the parking restrictions on Eton Street near the School.

There are different rules near each school gate. Parking inspectors monitor these areas vigilantly and you may be issued with a parking infringement if you do not adhere to the instructions.

Remember, 'P10 Minutes' - means you **cannot** alight from your vehicle while parked at this particular zone.

THANK YOU

To our wonderful P&C, thank you for the exceptional way in which you co-ordinated and delivered the Easter Raffle and Mother's Day Stall. Both events were a huge success and enjoyable events for the students.

ACTIVE AFTER-SCHOOL COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

The Federal Government in the Budget decided to continue funding for the Active After-school Communities program, which we run, to keep our students involved in sport and physical activities.

Continued funding means we will have the chance to participate again in the program in 2012. The success of the program depends on the commitment and hard work of the staff, teachers, parents and community and sporting coaches who deliver it and I thank everyone involved for their efforts.

While a lot of students are already members of sports clubs, the Government has developed a website that can assist parents in locating sporting clubs in our local community. For more information go to: ausport.gov.au/findaclub

BUILDING WORKS

I am pleased to announce the proposed building works for the lower playground have now been scheduled to begin. If the rain stops long enough this week, a construction fence will be erected closing off the entire area of the lower part of the school.

The expected time frame from start to finish is approximately 12 weeks. During the construction students will not have access to the sandpit, play equipment. On completion we will have; a new sandpit and cover, a new library building in place of the existing library demountable and the demountable classroom and disabled toilet are being relocated into the place of the old library.

We will also have new fencing and a garden area. Photos of each stage of the building process will be on the school website for you to follow

www.minerva-s.schools.nsw.edu.au

FIONA YOUNG
Principal

ANNUAL TRANSITION EXPO 2011

EXPO for School Leavers with Disabilities

9am – 3pm

6th June, 2011

Sutherland District Basketball Stadium

For more information contact

Lilian Barter-

Support Teacher Transition

Sydney Region

PH 9524 0615 ext 140

CLASS H with Miss Keltie

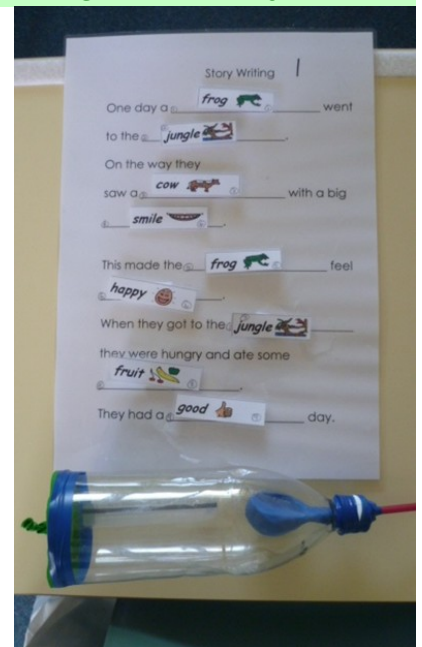


Class H is learning about plant life cycles and painted flower pots for Mother's Day.

CLASS S

Class S have been enjoying their story writing and Science.

What do you think they're doing for science?



CLASS C



Class C look forward to music lessons with Mr Harry each Thursday. The boys are learning about the different families and different types of instruments in the orchestra

CLASS T



Class T is learning all about the systems of the body.



CLASS K

Class K learns the basics of rhythm. The boys are successfully keeping in 4-4 time and sounding good !



Class K exploring colour and faces using mixed media.



CLASS G



Jake is our newest edition to class G.

He is enjoying the fruit kebab he made in cooking. Yum!

CLASS D



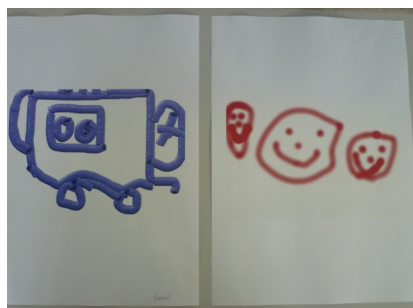
Class D students heading off to Work Experience for 2011!

CLASS W



Conrade's 'Lines'.

Students have been creative using the 'Art Rage' computer program.



Daniel's 'Car' and Jonathan's 'Feelings'.



Mitchell's 'Volcano'.

CLASS T

Mason's
'Second Poem'

Crash went the bottles
Beep Beep went the Clock
Woof Woof went the dogs on
the block
On went the lights
Bang went the door
And out came the family
One, Two, Three, Four

A poem by Mason using
rhyme and onomatopoeia.

2011 School Leavers EXPO

@ Minerva School

In May, Minerva School was the venue for the 2011 School Leavers EXPO. This was for applicants to ADHC "Transition to Work" and "Community Participation" programs. Parents and carers had the opportunity to talk to a comprehensive range of potential service providers about the programs available for their Yr 12 student who leave school at the end of the year.

Lilian Barter and Linda McGovern, Sydney Region Transition Support Teachers welcomed all visitors providing guidance and morning tea.



This newsletter can be viewed online at
www.minerva-s.schools.nsw.edu.au

Or, 'Google' our website on
'Minerva School Home'

Add this address to your Favourites!

MINERVA POSTAL ADDRESS

Please note:
All correspondence should be addressed to

Eton Street
SUTHERLAND NSW 2232
(The PO Box no longer exists).



PEER SUPPORT GROUP FOR LOCAL PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH A DISABILITY

Local parents and carers of children with a disability or chronic illness can access support and information at the My Time peer support group in Sans Souci. The group is jointly provided by Learning Links and the Parenting Research Centre.

My Time is a national program of facilitated peer support groups for mothers, fathers, grandparents and anyone caring for a child with a disability or chronic illness, such as Down syndrome, autism or cystic fibrosis.

The groups provide a place for parents and carers to get together, talk about issues and ideas, get up-to-date, research-based information, and support each other.

Each My Time group has a facilitator and a play helper. The facilitator helps parents get to know each other and offers information and ideas for group discussion. The play helper leads the children in activities, so that parents and carers are free to engage with each other.

My Time groups provide parents with an opportunity to become more connected to their local community.

My Time is funded by the Australian Government through the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and nationally coordinated by the Parenting Research Centre.

To find out more about this My Time group, please contact group facilitator **Ann Chantini** on 85258 239 or visit the My Time website: www.mytime.net.au

Dyslexia Support Group

Do you have a child with Dyslexia?

Do you want to meet other families who are in a similar situation?

The Dyslexia Support Group for the Sutherland Shire and St George area is a forum where parents can talk, exchange ideas, information, resources and experiences with other parents. This support group keeps in contact via email, phone and meeting over coffee on the 4th Monday of the month at 10.30am at a café in Sutherland.

If you are interested as a parent or as professional in attending the meetings or going on the email list please call Paula Goulden on 9528 4638 or email psgoulden@tpg.com.au