



MINERVA SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Learning for Life

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

**DATES TO
REMEMBER
TERM 4 2013**

**DECEMBER
PRESENTATION
DAY**

Wednesday 11th

**TERM 4 ENDS
Last Day for**

Students

Wednesday 18th

**JANUARY
Students Return
FIRST DAY OF**

TERM 1

Thursday 30th

PRESENTATION DAY 2014

Our Presentation Day was held on Wednesday 11th December and I hope you enjoyed the day. The students were very excited to receive their awards. Our Band was spectacular with their performance as was our Dance Group. I would like to thank our special guests, family, friends and carers who helped us to celebrate our student's many achievements. I would also like to thank all of the staff for ensuring the day went smoothly and for their continued dedication and commitment to our students.



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS 2013 and 2014

Staff will also be undergoing 2 consecutive Professional Development Training Days on Tuesday 28th and Wednesday 29th January 2014. Students will return to school for the new year on Thursday 30th January.

STUDENT TRANSPORT

Please note—it is parents responsibility to contact their transport provider to confirm their child's first day back at school in 2014 is Thursday 30th January.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

This year after feedback from parents and staff, we changed school photographers. The end result I hope you agree is much improved. Your feedback so far has been very positive. We look forward to using the same Company next year.

QUIET ACHIEVERS

My sincere thanks goes to the Office Staff who I consider the backbone of our school. They are the quiet achievers who support the entire school community. We couldn't do it without you. Thank you.

THANK YOU

I would like to acknowledge the teaching and support staff who have worked tirelessly throughout the year to ensure the students have been given every opportunity.

Thank you parents and carers for your ongoing support to assist us in providing these opportunities for your children.

P&C

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our hard working P&C who have continued to make a significant contribution to the school.

Wishing all of our families a wonderful and safe Christmas and holiday time.
I look forward to working with you again in 2014.

Kind regards,
Fiona Young
Principal

COMMONWEALTH BANK 2013 COMMUNITY GRANT

Miss Sarah Ellingham has been successful in her grant application with the Commonwealth Bank 2013 Community Grant. This grant will enable improvements to be made to our Sensory Room. We look forward to the makeover. Congratulations Miss Sarah. Miss Julie Ward from the Sutherland Branch of the Commonwealth Bank was a guest at our School Assembly last Friday where she presented our School Captains, Mason and James and myself with the cheque for \$10,000.



PRIDE OF WORKMANSHIP

Congratulations to Mrs Julie Dimmock, School Learning Support Officer, who recently received the award of Pride of Workmanship presented by Como-Jannali Rotary Club. This award recognises exceptional commitment and work ethic. Mrs Dimmock was nominated for this award by the school as she is a very deserving recipient.



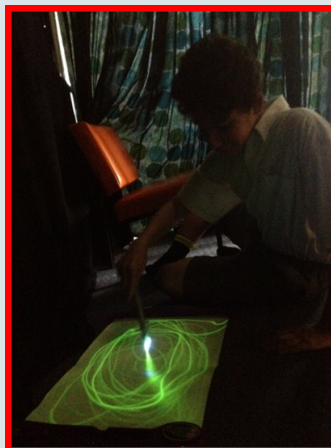
Class A would like to wish you all a Wonderful Christmas and New Year.



Nicholas is adding detail to our class didgeridoo.

C
L
A
S
S

K



Kieran enjoying the special pen in the Sensory Room

CLASS CW WOULD LIKE TO
WISH EVERYBODY A VERY
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR !!



Relaxation time in Class CS
and
Craft Time. Class CS constructed planes from
pegs and paddle pop sticks.

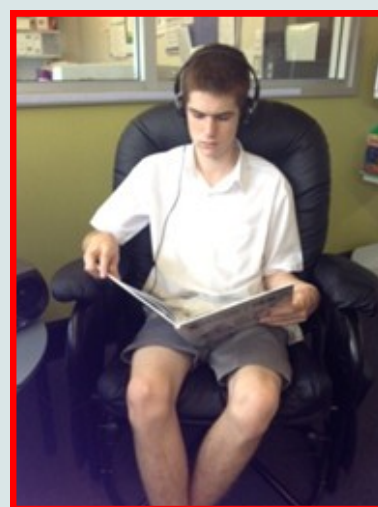


LIBRARY

The theme for Term 4 "Library Leisure", has brought a very relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere for all classes. Reading e-books at oxford owl, researching from the non-fiction section (Class L was particularly inspired by cicadas), being an illustrator, sharing interactive white board stories at storyline online and story box, listening to audio stories, finding a special book, or creating fun voki characters, are just a few of the favourite choices made. (Links for websites can be found below.)



Kristian & Ronan our talented illustrators from Class D are inspired by Shaun Tan and Maurice Sendak .



Bailey enjoys audio books during 'Library Leisure' time.



Jake helping out with borrowing at the circulation desk, James is one very happy customer.

A big thanks to Jake & Luke from Class A, and Michael & Mitchell from Class D for help during a busy stocktake time and for library monitor duties during the year.

Check out our new P&C Disco page on the Minerva library wiki, which can be viewed at <http://minervalibrary.wikispaces.com>

<http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/>
<http://www.storylineonline.net/>
<http://www.storyboxlibrary.com.au/>
<http://www.voki.com/>

2013 Minerva P&C Highlights:

Parents, as partners in the education process, (Education Act 1990), have a responsibility and a right to play an active role in the education of their children. Family & Community engagement (Local Schools Local Decisions framework) is one way to further maximise your child's learning outcomes.

Minerva P&C are delighted to announce that 3 major school projects as identified in the Minerva School Plan (2012 -14) have been addressed through our **external and internal "innovative" fundraising activities**.

1. the purchase of **3 IWB's** for the remaining 3 classrooms in early term 1- Honda grant
 2. securing funds in terms 3 & 4, for **Sensory Garden completion** for early 2014 , and provision of funds raised through community involvement to implement **iPad Technology**
- Unanticipated expenditure for an **air conditioner**- \$3000, **school blinds for 3 classrooms** \$3,300 and payment towards **sail covers**- \$500 were also addressed by the P&C through community networking and fundraising. An outstanding effort!

Term 4, Minerva P&C Update:

Your P&C has continued the Minerva tradition to pay for the **end of year trophies** awarded at Presentation Day to every student at a cost of **\$467.14**.

In term 4, the **Friendly Halloween Disco**, (coordinated by Barbara Ward) was an outstanding success. This event was an absolute P&C team effort! All Profits - **\$ 379.85** will be given to the SRC to decide on playground equipment for lunchtime activities.

Thank you to our wonderful DJ's- Josh and Orion who worked for free and have indicated that they wish to help out next year!. Call Rob Nixon on 95254950 for details.

Thank you to Fiona and her staff who made a special effort to attend, it is greatly appreciated and sends a strong message that this school supports all P&C events.

Thank you to all the enthusiastic P&C members and parents who helped on the night, Mark W, Mason and his sister Charlie, Kristian and his mum Vicki, Mitchell D's aunt and uncle, James S's dad, James' mum who helped sweep the floor and lastly, Chris D's neighbours - the Cowell family who served food all night.

Feedback from Minerva families suggested that this should be an annual event! Hopefully Scooby and Co will return next year in 2014 to help organise this event!

Thank you to Barbara (coordinator), Deb, Chris F, Rosemary for organising the **Loftus Xmas Pie drive fundraiser**. A total of **\$148** was raised.

In terms 2, 3 and 4, your P&C, (Christine D and Tracey Y) have closely collaborated with sensory garden coordinator, Miss Carolyn to secure the necessary funds to **complete the sensory garden** for early term 1, 2014.

Thank you to **Variety Children's Charity** who contributed **\$5,000** towards our outdoor interactive music instruments for the sensory garden. The **P&C** will pay the balance **\$462** and organise installation in early 2014.

Thank you again to the charity, **Mates on a Mission**, who have generously donated **\$5,300** towards the completion of the sensory garden ie. outdoor blackboard, a bridge and spiral hedge with seating.

A local artist, **Sam Shennan**, has generously agreed to donate his time to paint the mural in early next year.

Thank you again to Carly, from **Bunnings**, who has generously donated **\$500** worth of materials and paints for the outdoor mural.

Your P&C have also coordinated the Year 6 graduation t.shirts (Christine) and Year 12 bomber jackets (Barbara) for 2014.

Thank you to Deb (coordinator), Barb, and Charlie for organising another successful **Xmas raffle**. A total of \$ 434.90 was raised. Thank you everyone - staff and families, for all your generous donations towards the hampers.

The **Trivia Night organisation** is slowly progressing. Remember our target is to **raise \$20 000 towards iPad technology / management / teacher training for 2014**.

This event has required the involvement of many people from the P&C, who have spent considerable time on networking with other SSP schools, sourcing gifts, finding sponsors, creating Trivia Poster / Tickets / Certificates, organising internet banking, attending business meetings, numerous emails and telephone calls throughout the year. As always our motivation has been to think BIG and dare to DREAM! Our kids are worth it!!!

A huge THANK YOU especially to Barbara Ward, who created the wonderful Trivia Posters , Tickets and Certificates of Appreciation for this event during term 3, school holidays.

A special thank you also to Sebi's Dad - **Mike Dalton** who has volunteered as Emcee, **Greg Young** who has volunteered as Trivia Emcee. Your expertise is appreciated and welcomed! We wish to **acknowledge all the wonderful sponsors** mentioned on the poster and on the website.

Pls contact Christine or Peter on capd6@bigpond.com or 95430319 for tickets. The more the merrier, please help spread the word! Think about other sporting organisations, work colleagues, friends or families you could invite.

Finally, Minerva P&C wish to especially thank our wonderful Minerva school community for supporting all P&C fundraisers throughout the year. Thank you also to the outstanding support given by our local business community and finally to the P&C members themselves, who tried new initiatives for "innovative " fundraising in 2013 - community door knocks, fundraiser letters - IT / Sensory Garden upgrade, donations, grants - Honda & Variety, fundraising dinner - Natasha Nagle, school / garden improvements - P&C/ Bunnings/ Rotary, Neita nominations X 2, Bunnings BBQ, Loftus Pies fundraiser, Farmers Direct , Stalls & Raffles . What a busy year!

Please consider getting involved next year, we can all make a difference in 2014. New faces, new ideas are most welcomed! Together we can...together we will.

Merry Christmas from Minerva P&C Association





DJ FOR HIRE

If you need a good DJ, Minerva School can highly recommend DJ's Josh and Orion. These young boys provided the music to our P&C Halloween Disco on Friday 1st November. The disco was a huge success due in large part to the musical efforts of these 2 young boys. If you would like to hire their services in the future, give them a call on 9525 4950 / 0409 321 131 (Josh's Dad Rob Nixon).

Josh has a mix set on facebook, the link is <https://soundcloud.com/josh-nixon-2> and <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Dj-Nixon/255448337938458>



Class D enjoying the rewards of a hard working term - a day in the water and sunshine at beautiful Gunnamatta Bay. Merry Christmas to all!!!



Wishing the families of **Class L** a Merry Christmas and a relaxing holiday break.



Mobile Phone Recycling Fundraiser

Dear Parents and Carers,

Just a reminder that we are still collecting any unwanted mobile phones (working or not) for recycling. For each phone collected the school receives \$3.00. Funds raised will be used to purchase specialised equipment and technology for our students.

Thank you to those who have already sent in their unwanted mobile phones. If you would like to collect mobile phones at your work place, please contact the office and we will help set you up.

Royal Blinds & Carpets
 "giving you the royal service"
Jake
 ABN: 5814 7009 345
 M: 0450 111 900 P: 02 9681 2727

Ritchies Supermarket Community Benefit Program

Ritchies Supermarket at Taren Point run a Community Benefit Program whereby donations are made to a nominated School. Minerva School has been nominated by a few of their customers. So, spread the word to family and friends, to shop at Ritchies and get a community benefit card linked to our school. This is an easy way for family and friends to help support our school. Just use your card each time you shop at Ritchies and the store will donate to our School.

PILATES

FOR CARERS - 10.30AM THURSDAY

Are you a Carer who would like to try Pilates?



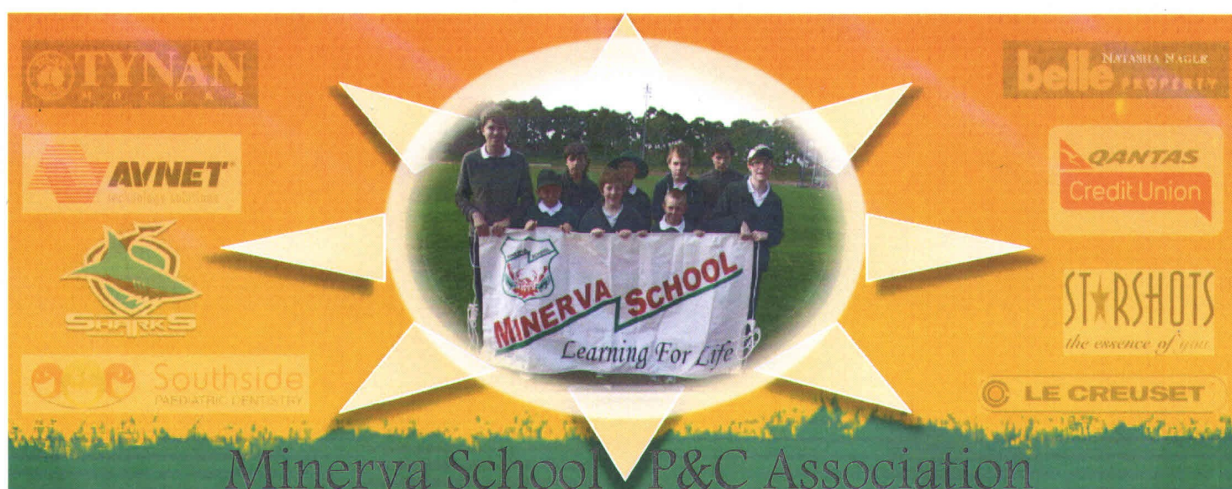
Benefits of Pilates:

- Stress relief through body awareness & breathing techniques.
- Create back support through abdominal, core based exercises.
- Stretches, strengthens & tones the whole body.

Please call Cheryl on 0417 417 217 as bookings are essential.
 Cheryl is a Certified Pilates Instructor and Counsellor.

**SPECIAL FOR CARERS
 ONLY \$10 PER CLASS**

Pilates classes are held at Carousel Counselling Services
 13A Eton Street Sutherland



Minerva School P&C Association

Invites you to their

TRIVIA GALA NIGHT

Fundraiser Extravaganza

VENUE : CLUB CENTRAL MENAI, 44-60 Allison Crescent, Menai

DATE : Saturday 1st March, 2014. **TIME :** 7.00pm for 7.30 Start

COST : **Early Bird Special** \$35 Per person. \$315 Per Table of 10. Ends 31st December

From the 1st January \$40 Per person. \$360 Per Table of 10

Assorted platters of finger food included in cost.

Proceeds of this event will help this award winning school obtain much needed extra educational resources required for Special Needs Students.

Platinum Sponsor – TYNAN MOTORS

Gold Sponsor – Natasha Nagle from Belle Property Menai

Silver Sponsors – Qantas Credit Union & Southside Paediatric Dentistry Miranda

Auctions, Silent Auctions & Raffles will include: Television, BBQ, Restaurant & Accommodation Vouchers, Sporting Memorabilia, French Cookware, etc..... All have been generously provided by the following -

Sporting Memorabilia – Cronulla Shark's, Southern Framing Sylvania Heights, St. George Dragons, Canterbury Bulldogs, Steve Waugh.

Art, Photography & Technology – Family Photography, Starshots Caringbah, Leon Bowers Photography Queensland, Cronulla Artist, Christine Griffiths, AVNET Technology Solutions, AJ & PM Electrical Kirrawee

Accommodation, Restaurants, Food & Wine – Brighton Novotel, Liliantels Katoomba, Lugarno seafood, Crissini Menai, Rocksalt Menai, Opah Menai, La Cucina Menai, Copperpot Menai, Little Italy Engadine, Imperial Peking Blakehurst, Summersalt Cronulla, Vostro Menai. Qantas Staff Credit Union Miranda, Ozegilhamper Sutherland, Nina's chocolates Gynea, Stapletons Meat Sutherland, Colin's Meat Illawong.

Cookware – Le Creuset, PKC Management Services, Bunnings Kirrawee, King Of Knives Miranda, Gynea Bly, Menai Post Office.

Leisure – Southern Biplane Adventures, Flight Centre Sutherland, Kareela Golf club, Goodlife Gym, Captain Cook Cruises, Intax Darling Harbour, Taronga Zoo, Dubbo Western Plains Zoo, Sutherland Leisure centre, AVNET Technology Solutions.

Hair & Beauty, Day Spa's – Gardiners Hairdressing Menai, Skin Expressions Menai, Bliss Beauty Caringbah, Endota Spa Gynea, Tamazind Spa Cronulla, Soul Pattinsons Chemist Menai.

Homewares – Blu Ivy Menai, In house Habits Menai, Regallo Kirrawee, Distinctions Gynea, Baysie's Homewares Gynea, Genuine Therapy.

Specialty Products – Aromabotanical, Crabtree & Evelyn, Dr. George Williams, Dogue Gynea, Armada Collections Menai, Smiggles.

Optometrist – Eyecare Plus Menai, Specsavers Menai, Langshaw & Bell Gynea, Menai Eyecare.

BOOK YOUR TICKETS NOW. Contact Christine or Peter on 95430319 or email capd6@bigpond.com



Learning For Life
MAKING THE STUDENT WITH SPECIAL NEEDS
A SUCCESSFUL PART OF THE COMMUNITY



Minerva School, Eton Street, Sutherland
Tel: 95219433 Email: minerva-s.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Website: www.minerva-s.schools.nsw.edu.au