



MINERVA SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Learning for Life

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DATES TO REMEMBER TERM 1 2013

APRIL

LAST DAY OF TERM 1 FOR STUDENTS

Thursday 11th

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

(Pupil Free)
Friday 12th

TERM 2 2013

APRIL STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS

Monday 29th

STUDENTS RETURN

Tuesday 30th

MAY NAPLAN

Tuesday 14th
Wednesday 15th
Thursday 16th

COMBINED SWIMMING CARNIVAL

On Monday 25th March, Minerva students were joined by students from Endeavour and Engadine High School for the traditional annual swimming carnival at Sutherland Pool.

It was held in brilliant sunshine and participation rates were at an all-time high.

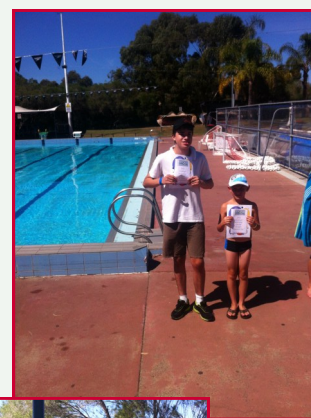
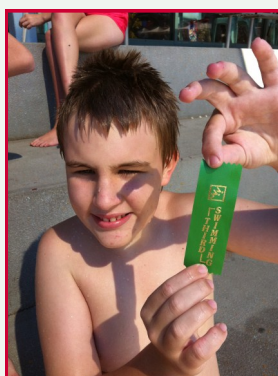
Many thanks to the hard working staff who gave up recess and lunch breaks to ensure students had a safe and enjoyable day.

Thank you also to the parents who attended and supported our school, with a special mention to Mrs Damcevski who did a marvellous job as a poolside judge.

However, the most important thanks go to all the students who took part. The talent, effort, perseverance and sportsmanship they demonstrated on the day were a joy to watch and be part of.

Congratulations to all students, with some outstanding individual results for both Sebi D who is the 14 yrs Individual Age Champion and Greg K who is the 13 yrs and Under

Individual Age
Champion.



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

School Development Day - REMINDER Implementing the Australian curriculum

Over the next three years NSW schools will be implementing new syllabuses in all curriculum areas. To assist with teacher professional learning, the NSW Government has gazetted an additional school development day (pupil free) for 2013. At Minerva we will be taking this on the last day of this term, **Friday 12th April 2013** and working with other local schools and regional consultants. There will also be our regular school development day on **Monday 29th April**. That means the students last day for Term 1 will be **Thursday 11th April** and their first day for Term 2 will be **Tuesday 30th April**.

The Honda Foundation

The P&C in conjunction with the teaching staff from the Engagement Team have been working on grant applications this Term. One of those applications was submitted to the Honda Foundation and Tynan Honda for a \$10,000 grant to purchase Interactive Whiteboards. (IWB's). I am thrilled to announce the application was supported. The installation of 3 Interactive Whiteboards will go ahead in the holidays. This is very exciting as every classroom in the school will now have an IWB. Congratulations to the P&C and Engagement Team for their team work and successful result

Local Business Support

At the end of last year, Carolyn Wemyss sent letters to local clubs and businesses seeking financial support to assist with the cost of upgrading of the Sensory Garden. We are extremely fortunate to have received \$5,000 from the Trade Union Club of Gympie. We have also received donations from Engadine Lions Club, Engadine Bowling Club, Sutherland Bowling Club and Woronora River RSL. On behalf of the Minerva Community I would like to say thank you for your generous support.

Annual School Contribution Levies

Thank you to the families who have sent in their child's Annual School Contribution. Payment at your earliest convenience is appreciated. This assists the school to meet its financial obligations. A number of

payment options have been provided for your convenience. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss this further.

Professional Development

Laura Gaunt and Diane Slater recently attended a professional development course with the *School Sport Unit on Rebound Therapy*. This is a program used in conjunction with the trampolines to provide sensory activities and skills for students with disabilities. We look forward to Diane and Laura providing staff training on the Staff Development Day at the beginning of Term 2.

Laura Gaunt, Michelle Cooney and Tracey Gocher attended the *Clever Climate Energy Saver's* professional development sessions at the Royal National Park. This program is designed to assist the staff in establishing student programs and improve whole school practices to reduce energy consumption.

In March we hosted a combined professional development session on the *Disability Discrimination Act and the DSA—Disability Standards for Education*. The presentation was given by the DEC Legal Branch and Disabilities. Helen Wyatt, our School Education Director, along with the Executive, Teaching and Support Staff from Minerva and Bates Drive School attended this very informative presentation.

In Term 2, Georgina Loughnan from the Prince of Wales Hospital will be presenting a refresher workshop to the whole staff on Prada Willi Syndrome.

Have a wonderful holiday break with your families and I'll see you back at school on Tuesday 30th April for Term 2.

Kind regards,
Fiona Young
Principal



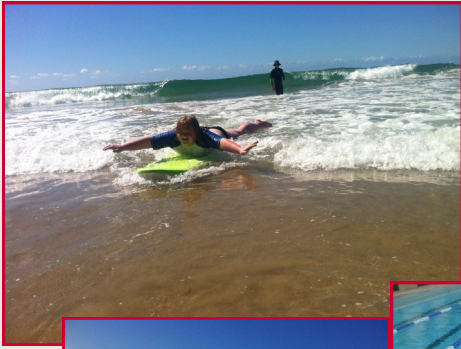
CLASS A - produced a 9 metre seascape painting! It was cut into eight panels and mounted as a mural onto the classroom windows .

CLASS CW

Congratulations to James And Adam who both placed in the top 3 of their race at the Combined Swimming Carnival !!!



More pictures from **SURF AWARENESS** with the students from **Class D & A**



IN THE PLAYGROUND

Roland and Gregory enjoying each other's company.

CLASS CS - enjoyed water play with their friends.



CLASS K - having fun with bubbles!



LIBRARY

Class L are just one of the classes who have been enjoying the fiction story 'Giraffes Can't Dance' by Giles Andrea & Guy Parker-Rees.

Many students have been showing their research skills and looking up information to learn about giraffes, or other personal interest topics.

Free e-readers are available on the 'Oxford Owls' site, this is a good one to share at home.



CLASS M The Class M boys are learning about Ancient Egypt. Can you guess which mummy is which?



SYDNEY EAST SECONDARY SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Congratulations to Michael H who was placed 3rd in the Boys 16-19yrs multi class 50m Freestyle which was held on 11th March at Homebush Aquatic Centre.

Michael then went on to compete at the **NSW Combined High School Swimming Championships** on 5th April at Homebush Aquatic Centre. He swam in the 50m Freestyle event and came 6th in his heat. Michael had a fantastic result as he beat his personal best time by 3 seconds. Well done and congratulations!

MINERVA P&C—Parents and Citizens Association

What is the P&C?

Parents, as partners in the education process, have a responsibility and a right to play an active role in the education of their children. The P&C is a vital forum to formalise parent contributions to the school. It allows parents to become an integral participant in school life, organisation and support.

When does the P&C meet?

Minerva School P&C meetings are held twice a term on 2 mornings per term at 9:15—10:45am in the Principal's office. Dates are advertised in the newsletter or noticeboard.

The main functions of the P&C are to:

Promote the interest of the community in the school and to promote the school in the community, by bringing about closer cooperation between parents, students, teachers, citizens and community organisations.

Assist in providing facilities and equipment for the school through fundraising and improvement programs.

Promote the recreation and welfare of the students at the school.

2013 Minerva P&C members are:

President: Peter Damcevski and Barbara Ward
 Vice President: Jade Kenyon
 Secretary: Chris Farrell
 Treasurer: Deb Hunt
 General Members: Rosemary Connor, Christine Damcevski

Term 1 Events:

- Updating Minerva P&C website
- Bakers Delight Hot Cross Bun Fundraiser raised \$154.50
- Chocolate Easter Egg parcels for students—gift to students cost of \$53
- Bowling at Southgate, Sylvania—held on 24th March and in the future, once a term
- Community Fundraising links emailed to teachers

- Networked with St George Special School to discuss best practice re fundraising ideas
- Business Community Draft re ICT, software, school equipment donations ready to go
- Medical Professionals Draft re Sensory Garden donations ready to go
- P&C Public Liability Insurance paid re Bunnings BBQ—cost \$223
- P&C's successful application re Honda Foundation Grant for \$10,000 to be used to purchase IWB's for remaining 3 classrooms. School to pay additional cost. Total cost \$14,000.
- Draft for press release re Honda Foundation grant ready to go. Newspaper article on Honda Foundation grant, promoting Minerva School as a centre of innovation and excellence.
- Mother's Day gifts purchased.
- Library Books covered.
- Helping at Combined Swimming Carnival.

Should you wish to become involved, want to make a difference, meet new parents, come along to our next meeting. We meet in Fiona's office at 9: 15 to 10:30am.

Meeting dates for Term 2 are: Wednesday 1st May and Monday 27th May.

Minerva Friends having fun
Bowling at Southgate, Sylvania



P &C Fundraiser—Easter Hot Cross Buns from Bakers Delight Miranda.



CLASS L practiced their manners while they ate Daylan's birthday cake. Happy birthday Daylan!



2012 WOOLWORTHS EARN & LEARN And COLES SPORTS FOR SCHOOLS PROGRAMS

Our fabulous Woolworths and Coles Resources have arrived. The staff and students are very excited to have such a wide variety of books and games to enjoy. Thank you again for supporting our school.

Minerva P & C have registered our school for the **2013 Woolworths Earn and Learn Rewards Program**. The program begins this week from **Monday 8th April** so start collecting those stickers. Send them in with your child or drop them into the box at the office.



MOTHERS DAY RAFFLE PRIZES

Minerva P & C will be organising a Mothers Day Stall and Raffle again this year. Gifts will be on sale for \$6.

Raffle tickets will go home early next Term with 14 great prizes generously donated by a local Sutherland Shire Business.

NEWS FLASH

Minerva School Family Fun Disco Night
coming soon! Watch this space!





BAKERS DELIGHT EASTER HOT CROSS BUNS

Thank you to those who supported our fundraising with Easter Hot Cross Buns from Bakers Delight. We would also like to thank Bakers Delight Miranda for donating \$2 from every packet sold.

We sold over 70 packets so this was a wonderful result.

Also thank you to Minerva P & C for generously donating the Easter Eggs for each of our students and to Christine Farrell for her efforts in making up the individual bags. I'm sure all the students enjoyed them.

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.

Our tally so far is over 60 phones for recycling so keep sending those old phones in!

Online Fundraising with Redflarez

Dear Parents and Carers,

A reminder to remember to look at the Redflarez website next time you need to shop. It doesn't cost any extra to shop online and there are many special offers. Every time you purchase something online from a retailer on the redflarez website, the retailer will donate money to our school.

Here's how you can help our school purchase more learning resources for our students.

1. Go to www.redflarez.com.au and sign up as a supporter
2. Search for the Minerva School Campaign page and click "Support Us"
3. Start shopping !

Here is a list of just some of the participating retailers :

Westfield

Apple iTunes

Rebel Sport

Clinique

Booktopia

Thrifty

Weight Watchers

Intercontinental Hotel Group

Accor Hotels Australia & NZ

Expedia

Ezibuy

Wanted Shoes

Zuji Australia

Marks & Spencer

Flowers for Everyone

Ferrero Roche Boutique



Family &
Community Services
Ageing, Disability & Home Care

SIBS DAY



Junior Master Chef



A fun filled day for siblings of people with an intellectual disability to get together and have some FUN!!!



Contact: Marie Farthing
(9566 5000) to register
or for more information

Who: Siblings aged 10-13 years

When: 9 am - 3.30 pm
Wednesday 24th April 2013

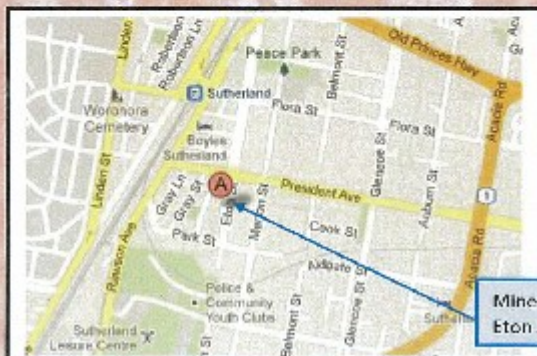
Where: Minerva School

Cost: FREE Morning tea and
lunch included

HURRY

Places limited
Register by

17th April 2013



Minerva School
Eton St, Sutherland

