



# MINERVA SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER

*Learning for Life*

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**DATES TO  
REMEMBER  
TERM 1 2013**

**TERM 2 2013**

**MAY**

**NAPLAN**

Tuesday 14th  
Wednesday 15th  
Thursday 16th

**SWIM SCHOOL**

Monday 27th to  
Friday 7th June

**JUNE**

**MINERVA  
SCHOOL BAND  
PERFORMANCE  
At Special Ed.  
Conference**

**Brighton**  
Wednesday 5th

**BUNNINGS  
KIRRAWEE BBQ  
FUNDRAISER**

Saturday 8th

**QUEENS  
BIRTHDAY  
LONG  
WEEKEND  
PUBLIC  
HOLIDAY**

Monday 10th

**LAST DAY OF  
TERM 2**  
Friday 28th

### **TYNAN HONDA supports MINERVA SCHOOL's \$10 000 GRANT.**

Minerva School was a deserving recipient of a \$10,000 grant from the Honda Foundation. The grant will enable the award winning Minerva School to install Interactive White Boards (IWB) in the remaining classrooms. Minerva school caters to children with mild and moderate intellectual disabilities, autism, emotional disturbance and challenging behaviours.

The nomination which was prepared by Minerva School P&C in collaboration with teaching staff, was strongly supported by Managing Director of TYNAN Motors, Mr Michael Tynan who said "Minerva School and the wonderful Staff, have allowed a remarkable and dedicated service to the Shires Community. During my time as Mayor and Councillor of Sutherland Shire, I was fortunate to be closely involved and hence, my admiration for your endeavours".

Minerva School Principal Mrs Fiona Young said "We are absolutely delighted to receive this grant and truly appreciate the support given to us by Tynan Motors. Mrs Young went on to say with the grant from the Honda Foundation every classroom will now have an Interactive Whiteboard to support every students learning program. Due to the interactive nature of the programs studies have shown this technology significantly improves access to the curriculum, learning outcomes, student engagement and motivation.

"One of our teachers, Michelle Cooney, won a scholarship to travel overseas to observe best practice in the use of IWB technologies and special needs software programs for children with learning disabilities. Michelle has embedded her knowledge within the school and now every teacher will be able to deliver classroom programs tailored to meet the individual needs of their students. Such wonderful support from the local business community assists the school and staff to continue to provide opportunities for each student to reach their individual potential and become 'lifelong learners and successful members of the community'.



**Minerva School Principal Mrs Fiona Young accepting the cheque from Managing Director Michael Tynan with P&C Member Mrs Christine Damcevski.**

#### **Minerva School's recent excellence awards include:**

- 2011 NSW Premiers Adobe Award for Technology,
  - 2012 State NEITA Finalist for Outstanding Leadership
  - 2012 NSW Sydney Region Awards for Outstanding Student Learning outcomes.
- This school was the first special needs school to be acknowledged in a mainstream category.

Minerva School is currently seeking financial assistance from other community organisations to fund its sensory garden, to acquire specialised software for use with IWB's and also to repair an outdoor playground 'sail' (recently damaged by vandals and extreme weather). Please contact Peter from Minerva School P&C on 9543 0319 for details on how your organisation can assist in Minerva's fundraising efforts.

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

### Community Support

Here at Minerva we are fortunate to have support from various organisations within our community. Recently Tynan Honda, Bunnings Kirrawee, Sutherland and Como-Jannali Rotary Clubs and our own hard working P&C have come together on 2 major projects for our school. The purchase of Interactive Whiteboards for the remainder of our classrooms and a garden makeover have been made possible by the generosity and support of these organisations. Our Fabulous P&C purchased a new air conditioning unit for a classroom and what a difference this has made. We are grateful for the enhanced learning opportunities that have been provided for our students.

### Bunnings Kirrawee BBQ Fundraiser

Thank you to those parents who have volunteered with either their time or donated cash/drinks to help with our BBQ on Saturday 8th June. This is a great opportunity for our school community to come together and I look forward to catching up with you.

### Special Education Conference at Novotel Brighton

Our school Band have been invited to perform on Wednesday 5th June at the Special Education Conference. This is a great chance to showcase our school. Mr K has been working hard getting the Band ready and they are sounding fantastic. I am looking forward to seeing them perform. Thank you to the staff who have been organising outfits for our students.

### Mothers Day Stall

Once again our Mothers Day Stall was a great success this year. The students thoroughly enjoyed shopping for that special gift. I enjoyed hearing them tell me how much Mum loved their gift. Thank you to our hard working Mums from the P&C who helped to make it a wonderful experience for our students.

### Staff Changes

Ms Laura has been doing a wonderful job this Term as Relieving Assistant Principal in Mr Hely's absence. She will continue in this position for the remainder of the Term.

Kind regards,  
**Fiona Young**  
Principal

## EYESORE BECOMES CHILDREN'S SENSORY AREA

The Minerva School for students with special needs at Sutherland has had a makeover. The school, which caters for primary and secondary aged students, previously had an area of unusable bush growth, which the school's Principal, Fiona Young, said was an eyesore.

Ms Young said the school had been slowly cleaning out the site for some time.

Rotary clubs of Sutherland and Como-Jannali nominated Minerva School for a local community involvement grant run by Bunnings Warehouse at Kirrawee. Ms Young said Bunnings would supply the plants and equipment and the Rotary volunteers the manpower. "The area really distracts from the rest of the school, and the aim is to make it look presentable," she said. "Our long term plan is to turn it into a sensory area for the students. It will help the students to learn how to self-regulate themselves. And it will be an area where the students can take a break from their learning environment where they can actively engage in self-calming. We are a very small school and we greatly appreciate the support from the Rotary Clubs and Bunnings."



Helping Hand: Community spirit and elbow grease will see this school's unusable area become a tranquil setting for students. Pictures are Lyn Bates from Bunnings, Peter Damcevski President Minerva P &C, Mrs Fiona Young, Principal and volunteers from Sutherland and Como-Jannali Rotary Clubs.

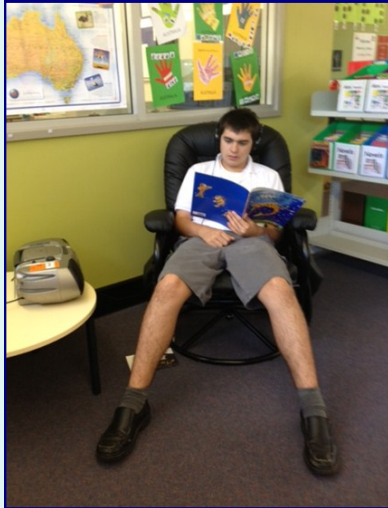


## LIBRARY WITH CLASS CS

Class CS enjoy library time - listening to stories, finding books to borrow and quiet reading. Great work class CS.

To share some library action, go to the Minerva library wiki. You can share online stories enjoyed by each class, and other fun work created by students.

<http://minervalibrary.wikispaces.com>



## WORK EXPERIENCE

James and Jake work hard at Bunning's Kirrawee, polishing barbecues and stocking shelves. They are part of the Cross District Supported Work Experience Program. Well done boys.



**CLASS CW** - Here is part of our "Surfing in Australia" mural we did as part of our HSIE/ Australian Geography program.







### ACTIVE AFTER SCHOOL COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

The Australian Government's Active After-school Communities (AASC) program is a national initiative that provides school children with access to free sport and other structured physical activity programs.

The program aims to engage traditionally inactive children in sport and other structured physical activities. Through a positive and fun experience it helps develop a love of sport in children that inspires them to join a local sporting club and develop lifelong healthy attitudes to sport and physical activities..

Minerva has been successful with the biannual grant application and has been involved with the program for many years. In 2013 it continues to be a very effective program which provides many positive benefits for Minerva students. Some of the sports that students have engaged in include: swimming, surf awareness, ball sports, yoga, dance, Marshall arts and athletics.





**CLASS A** celebrating Luke's Birthday



**CLASS A** learning about 4 - 4 time

### **My holidays**

During the holidays I went to my Nan's and helped dust the furniture, vacuum the house and sweep the floors.

On Saturday I went with my Nan and Pop to see my cousin Elly play soccer. Later that day I played soccer with my friend's Sebi, Jesse, Ryan, Jay, Dane, Alex, Rory, Liam [Coach], Annaliese and Keegan.

On Wednesday, I went with Hayden down to footy practice and saw Michael, Sebi, Malachi and Jack.

I had a great holiday and I can't wait for the next holidays. The end.

By Jake W

Class A

13<sup>th</sup> Of May 2013





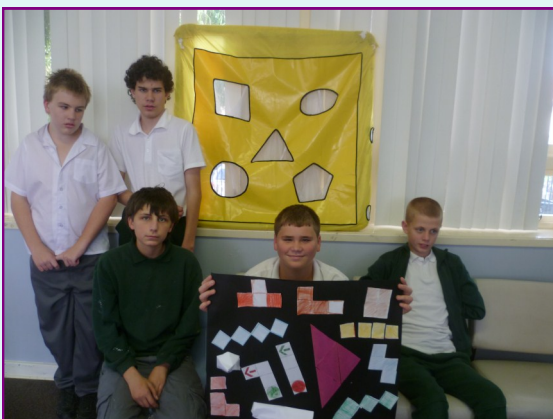
**Class K** have been making lava lamps for science. We have been exploring the senses as part of the human body topic. We enjoyed creating bubbles by placing salt in oil and water and watching the various colours arise. We could stare at these formations all day long.



**Class K** has been enjoying maintaining the sensory garden.



**CLASS M** have been working on Saving Energy and The Environment. The boys have been turning off lights, whiteboards and air conditioning systems when not needed. We have all made promises to save as much water and electricity as we can to help our planet.



## CLASS D

Here are students from Class D with examples of the 3D shapes they have been learning about in their Geometry unit.



**Class L** is having a great time learning new skills at Swim School



learning links

Helping Kids Learn

## PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE OF YOUNG PEOPLE WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS

This workshop is for parents of high school students with additional needs.

**EVENING ONE** discusses

- future planning tools and support agencies
- information on training, employment, accommodation and income support

**EVENING TWO** discusses

- strategies to support families and individuals
- information on recreation, relationships and carer support
- how to get support when health needs change

Date: Thursday 13 & 20 June, 2013

Time: 6.00pm-9.00pm

Venue: Learning Links Penhurst– 10 Railway Parade, Penhurst 2222

Cost: FREE\*

Suitable for: Parents and Carers ONLY

For enquiries and bookings please phone Dana on 8568 8200.

\* This workshop is funded by the Department of Education and Communities.



## Could you be a foster carer?

As a foster carer for Key Assets, we offer you:

- 24 hour support, 7 days a week
- Regular contact from your supervising social worker
- A fee that reflects the demands of the role
- Paid supportive respite
- Ongoing training

If you have the experience, or interest needed to care for children and a spare bedroom, we would love to hear from you.

call: **1300 646 568** visit: **[www.keyassets.com.au](http://www.keyassets.com.au)**



## 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





## Bunnings Kirrawee Fundraising BBQ

Dear Parents and Carers

Just a reminder that our Fundraising BBQ is on Saturday 8th June at Bunnings Kirrawee. This is a major fundraising opportunity for our school and your support is needed. Please contact the office if you haven't already done so, if you can help out at any time. The BBQ will run from 8.00am to 4.00pm. Alternatively if you cannot help on the day, you may like to donate some drinks (boxes of 375ml cans of coke, coke zero, sprite, solo or bottled water) or make a monetary (tax deductible) donation which will help to keep our costs down.

## 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](http://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**

**FOURTEENTH ANNUAL TRANSITION CAREERS EXPO 2013**  
**For Senior Students & School Leavers with Disabilities**  
**Sutherland District Basketball Stadium**

Rawson Ave., behind Sutherland Leisure Centre / Pool complex

**Free admission**

***Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2013***

**EXPO : 9am - 2pm in the Stadium**

**Discussion Session: 11.00 – 11.30am in the adjoining Conference Room**  
**A speaker has been invited to speak on the NDIS.**

The venue is wheelchair accessible and free day long parking is available on site.

At the **Transition Careers EXPO**, service providers representing employment, further education, day services and community support groups, will provide information about :

*Options for school leavers*

*ADHC Post School Programs*

*Specialist Employment Services (DES) and support*

*Further Education and Training – TAFE and University*

*Community support services and agencies*

*Recreation and Leisure options*

*Residential and Respite care services and Parent / Carer support networks*

*Therapy and Support services*

For more information contact

Lilian Barter - Support Teacher Transition Sydney Region, South Zone (Sutherland LGA).

Ph: 9524 0615 ext 140

or

Linda McGovern - Support Teacher Transition Sydney Region, Central South Zone (St George LGA).

Ph: 9567 1338.