



Learning for Life

MINERVA SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

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DATES TO REMEMBER TERM 3 & 4 2013

SEPTEMBER
TERM 3 ENDS
Last Day for
Students
Friday 20th

OCTOBER
TERM 4
BEGINS

STUDENTS & STAFF
RETURN
Tuesday 8th

COMBINED HS
ATHLETICS
CARNIVAL
Monday 21st

SCHOOL
PHOTOS
Tuesday 22nd

NOVEMBER
P&C DISCO
Friday 1st

DECEMBER
PRESENTATION
DAY
Wednesday 11th

TERM 4 ENDS
Last Day for
Students
Wednesday 18th

MATES WITH A MISSION

We have been very fortunate this Term to be supported by the charity **Mates with a Mission**. They have funded the purchase and installation of blackout blinds in 4 of our classrooms. Having custom made blinds in the classrooms will help control the heat and blackout direct sunlight which has been interfering with the clarity of the student learning programs running on the Interactive Whiteboards. Now the students are able to get the full benefit and use of the Interactive Whiteboards. I had the pleasure of meeting Charlie and his wife Sarah from Mates with a Mission when they visited Minerva last week. They were delighted to meet the staff and students and have committed to continue to support our school in the future. On behalf of the school community I would like to thank Mates with a Mission for their generosity.



Belle PROPERTY FUNDRAISER DINNER



Last Thursday evening Minerva staff and parents attended a fundraising dinner at Grissini's restaurant Menai. This event was organised by Natasha Nagle of Belle Property Menai and Mrs Tracey Youssef (parent of Minerva student and P&C Committee member) which raised \$1200 on the night. Minerva

School is very lucky and very appreciative of the support from Belle Property. It was a fabulous opportunity to raise the profile of Minerva and a great night was had by all.

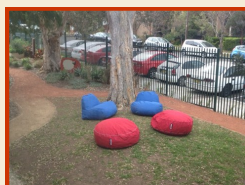


PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Once again we are at the end of a busy Term. Everybody is looking forward to a hard earned rest to recharge their batteries. I will be taking Long Service Leave during the holidays and will return to school at the beginning of Week 3. Corinne Feldmann from Sydney Region will be relieving in my absence. Corinne has a background in Special Education and is looking forward to working with our families, staff and students.

SENSORY GARDEN

We have been very fortunate to have recently received a donation from Bunnings Kirrawee of some outdoor bean bags and a water feature. Thank you also to Mrs Tracey Youssef for organising this donation and for personally donating some colourful flags and windchimes. They are all a wonderful addition to our Garden.



CLEVER CLIMATE GRANT

Miss Laura as part of the Clever Climate Energy Savers Team has applied for a grant focussed on energy saving within the school. She was successful in her submission and received a grant of \$2062 which will be used for energy saving devices that the students have nominated within their Clever Climate Project. Well Done Miss Laura.

SASS RECOGNITION WEEK

A special Morning Tea was held last week to celebrate SASS Recognition Week. This is an opportunity for the school community to acknowledge and thank our SASS Staff for the wonderful work they do every day to support the students and teaching staff. They are an intrinsic and very important part of Minerva.

MATERNITY LEAVE

Miss Michelle returns to school on the 18th October from Maternity Leave. Michelle will be working 1 day a week on Friday's until the end of Term 4. Miss Sarah will continue on Class M Monday to Thursday.

I would like to wish everybody a wonderful holiday break and look forward to seeing you in Week 3 next Term.

Kind regards,
Fiona Young
Principal

LIBRARY

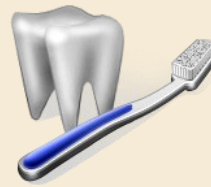
The whole school has launched into space at Library time with our book week theme 'Read Across The Universe.' Crazy aliens have invaded earth and can be found in the newspaper **The Daily Alien**. Check out our library wiki at <http://minervalibrary.wikispaces.com> to see Jayden's 'Read Across The Universe' research on glogster. (More student projects will be posted on the wiki soon)



Commonwealth Bank Community Grant

In June this year, Miss Sarah, a teacher at Minerva school applied for a Grant from the Commonwealth Bank. At the end of August we received some fantastic news that the school had been selected as one of the recipients of \$10,000 from The Commonwealth Bank Staff Community Fund. Since 1917 The Commonwealth Bank Staff Community Fund has been supporting the health and wellbeing of Australian children. Thanks to the generosity of their staff who donate to the Fund, they are able to assist thousands of Aussie kids each year. This Grant will pay for the improvement of Minerva School's sensory room, including the purchase of audio-visual equipment, an acoustic tactile wall panel, a sling swing and other sensory items. This will help provide students with exciting and stimulating sensory activities, designed to encourage learning and development.

CLASS CS— Learning about Dental Hygiene



Class M have been very busy this term!

We have been catching the train to Cronulla. We go for a long walk, play games, complete outdoor science and art based tasks. We also visit the Library to choose and read new books.

We have also been completing fine motor skill activities every morning including puzzles, threading and working on patterns using building blocks. Here are our finished results.



Primary Athletics

Corey E, Daylan B and Chris D attended the Sydney East Athletics carnival on Wednesday 4th September at the Homebush Athletics Centre as part of the Sutherland Zone team.

Congratulations to the boys on their wonderful effort, on a very hot day, entering five or more events each. All three boys qualified to compete at the PSSA - state carnival.



NSW Combined High School Athletics Carnival

On Thursday and Friday 12th & 13th September Michael H represented Minerva and Sydney East Region at the Combined State High School Athletics Carnival at Homebush Athletics Track. He competed in three events - Discus, Shot Put and the Long Jump. He did personal best in all events and improved his Discus performance by 5 metres. Congratulations to Michael on your marvellous achievements.

Soccer team

During term 3 Minerva has been participating in a combined soccer competition at Endeavour High School. Participating schools are; Endeavour, Engadine, James Cook and Sir Joseph Banks High Schools.

This is organised in conjunction with the Sydney Area Special Olympics Committee and is a wonderful opportunity for students to interact with other students in the area, develop their motor skills, and improve their fitness.

The boys thoroughly enjoyed playing each week and showed a marked improvement in their individual skills and team cooperation by the end of the competition.

Congratulations to all the boys: Michael H, Ronan B, Mason W, James S, Sebi D & Anthony A special mention goes to Michael H who was awarded the "Fairest Player" award for his outstanding sportsmanship and valuable contribution to the team.

Minerva Gala Day Athletics Carnival

Last week Miss Diane organised a fantastic afternoon of athletic events at Minerva. It was pleasing to see all the students involved in the activities. The students and staff thoroughly enjoyed themselves.



Fathers Day Shopping

Thank you to Minerva P&C helpers for organising a wonderful shopping experience for our students. They thoroughly enjoyed finding that special gift for their Dad's and Grandfather's.



Minerva's Master Chefs

This term many of the classes at Minerva have been participating in weekly cooking lessons as part of the TAS programme. The theme this term focused on cooking practical breakfast meals, including eggs on toast, pancakes, French toast, and muffins. The students have been slowly collecting their weekly recipes, so that by the end of the year they will have developed their own cook book. Their cooking and cleaning skills have been very impressive, so don't be afraid to ask for their help at home. Happy cooking over the holidays!



Sam from **CLASS K** enjoying the ball pit in the Sensory Room
and

Nicholas trying out a mushroom seat in the Sensory Garden





Return2Sport EXPO - 2013 -

2 DAYS OF INDOOR ACTIVITY
 Thursday 10 October 12pm - 5pm
 Friday 11 October 10am - 5pm

CHALLENGE YOUR ABILITY
 Explore over 30 recreation, sport & leisure activities!
 Information and advice for people with a disability from athletes and sporting organisations.

Paralympic Talent Search
 A search for the next generation of athletes in both summer and winter sports.

FREE ADMISSION & PARKING

Sydney Olympic Park Sports Centre

For more information contact:
 E: retum2sport@royalrehab.com.au
 T: Jessa Fershar 02 9808 9377 Rob Price 02 9808 0549

Logos: ROYAL REHABILITATION CENTRE SYDNEY, AUSTRALIAN PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE, NSW Office of Communities Sport & Recreation

RETURN 2SPORT EXPO

The Return2Sport Expo in October is a free event that provides useful information & advice on sport & recreation opportunities for people with a disability.

The expo provides information from a variety of different sport, recreation & leisure providers. Sport demonstrations will also provide 'come & try' opportunities, the Australian Paralympic Committee will be hosting a talent search, and Paralympians will be at the Expo to share their own stories.

Event Details: Thursday 10th October 12-5pm.

Friday 11th October 9am - 5pm

Sydney Olympic Park Sports Centre

We hope to see you there!



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




Autism Community Network

**INFORMATION AND SUPPORT
 FOR FAMILIES OF CHILDREN
 WITH AUTISM**



ACN is a charity organisation for families with children on the autism spectrum.

We run parent / carer support groups as well as social groups to help children on the spectrum and their siblings make friends and improve their social skills.

Groups are available across various Sydney areas, and our regular newsletter and website provide updates on events and information to help families escape the isolation.

For more information please contact Steve on 0431 724 229 or via email below.

autismcommunity@yahoo.com
www.autismcommunity.org.au

Registered charity ABN 64 103 662 535

CLASS L— showing off their body painting skills.



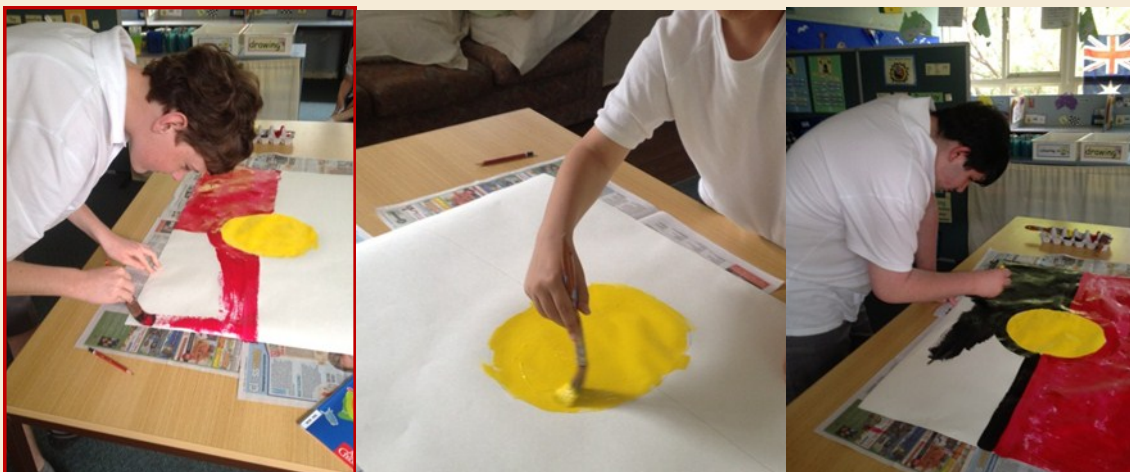
Class A

Luke B of Class A painted and presented our fabulous office staff Miss Trish and Miss Michelle with a beautiful canvas painting of flowers. This will be hung in the office for all to see and appreciate. Well done Luke.

Thank you Luke. We love our beautiful painting you did for us. We have hung it on the wall in our office. We felt very special indeed when you presented it to us at Assembly. From Miss Michelle and Miss Trish.



Class CW—For History Class CW are doing a unit of work on Australian aboriginals. The students have been learning about the colours of the aboriginal flag and what each colour represents.



Minerva P&C Highlights for Term 3

We thank all our sponsors for their passion and overwhelming generous support. This will greatly help in maximising our children's learning outcomes at our award winning school.

Farewell to Miss Tracey. Last term, your P&C organised a gift of appreciation for Tracey. She has provided vital support to the staff, parents and children at Minerva School. Tracey has made a significant contribution in such a short space of time and we wish her well in her teaching career. It has been a pleasure working collaboratively on many school projects.

Miss Carolyn and Miss Laura were both nominated for **2013 Neita Awards for Inspirational Teaching. Thank you to Deb, Chris F and Christine D** for writing the nominations. This is a huge endorsement supporting the wonderful work all our teachers perform at Minerva School. Fingers crossed that Carolyn or Laura make it to the next round! *You are stars in our eyes!*

Thank you to Chris F (coordinator) for organising the Woolies Earn & Learn Fundraiser. An astonishing total of **18060 stickers** were collected. The order has been finalised and much needed learning resources will be delivered early 2014. A wonderful effort Chris!

The P&C purchased a flat screen TV (\$388) for the front foyer. Slideshows highlighting student achievement can now be viewed by our visitors (DEC personnel, Businesses, families and children). A small way to help lift our school profile. **Thank you to Peter and Deb** (coordinators).

Thank you to Deb and Chris F (coordinators), **Rose, Barb & her daughter Charlie**, who had a successful Father's Day Stall and Raffle. **Profit raised was \$489.75. Thanks especially to Barb** who generously donated the car wash products, one for each class. Importantly, our children enjoyed practising their counting and social skills.

Thank you to Peter for organising the community sponsorship letters, for creating the Trivia Sponsors Web Page for our 2014 Trivia Evening and press releases etc. Your passion and energy in establishing Business relationships with Minerva School, aims to provide this school with annual financial support that is unprecedented! *Engagement of school community and the wider community is now encouraged under the DEC framework for Local Schools, Local Decisions.* This initiative, with the Deductible Gift Recipient status, allows for grant applications eg \$10,000 Honda Foundation grant 2013 and in seeking sponsorship from businesses.

Thank you to **Natasha Nagle from Belle Property Menai** who generously donated **\$1,200** towards ICT to the P&C, from the Belle Property Dinner & raffle. **Thank you also to Tracey** who helped coordinate the raffle. Importantly this event provided yet another opportunity to promote our school and develop new relationships within the business sector.

Thank you to Tracey who organised the cheapest quote for school curtains, then approached the charity, **Mates on a Mission**, who donated **\$3,300** to pay for the installation of 16 curtains (4 classes). An outstanding effort!

Thank you to Christine for writing the **Variety Grant \$5,000 and the St George Foundation Grant \$7,000**. If successful, this money will purchase outdoor interactive musical instruments for the sensory garden. **Thank you to Tracey** who collected outdoor beanbags from **Bunnings** for the sensory garden.

Mates on a Mission are also keen to support the completion of the sensory garden. **Your P&C are working collaboratively with Miss Carolyn** (coordinator) to complete this garden by the end of this year. Masonite for chalkboard/murals and paint will be sourced from Bunnings and proceeds from the upcoming Halloween Disco will purchase a bird bath.

2014 Minerva P&C Trivia & Gala Fundraiser Evening will be held at Club Menai, on 1st March, 2014. *Our goal is to raise \$20 000 for a BIG ticket item! Our dream is to stimulate on going sponsorship support for our school.*

Our Major Sponsors : Platinum- Tynans, **Gold-** Natasha Nagle from Belle Property, **Silver-** Qantas Staff Credit Union Miranda and **Southside Paediatric Dentistry.**

Major supporters include: Avnet, Luke Priddis Foundation, Snapshots Caringbah, Le Creuset and the Sharks Leagues Club. (Tickets to go on sale \$35pp next term, details to follow.)

Thank you especially to Barb, Jade, Tracey and Laura (Chris D's neighbour). Our efforts collectively, are resulting in amazing prizes. **Thank you to Deb** who is coordinating electronic banking coordination **with Peter, Christine** (Event coordinator.)

Finally, thank you to Avnet, who donated a HID Printer \$4,800 to the school. Laura will inservice the staff on the many applications it offers. **Thanks Laura**, especially as you do not have a child enrolled at Minerva School. Laura has also submitted a proposal for ipads for our school. She has several other projects on the go. Wait and see!

What an exciting and productive term! We wish our all families and staff a happy, relaxed and safe holidays. REMEMBER....HALLOWEEN FRIENDLY FANCY DRESS DISCO is coming...Lock in Friday, 1st November. Time: 6.00 -8.00 Venue: School Hall . Note to go home next term.

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

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	Accor Hotels Australia & NZ
Apple iTunes	Expedia
Rebel Sport	Ezibuy
Clinique	Wanted Shoes
Booktopia	Zuji Australia
Thrifty	Marks & Spencer
Weight Watchers	Flowers for Everyone
Intercontinental Hotel Group	Ferrero Roche Boutique