



MINERVA SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Learning for Life

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**DATES TO
REMEMBER
TERM 2 2014**

APRIL

**LAST DAY OF
TERM 1
Friday 11th**

**TERM 2 2014
STAFF
DEVELOPMENT
DAY
Monday 28th**

**STUDENTS
RETURN TO
SCHOOL
Tuesday 29th**

JUNE

**Public Holiday
QUEEN'S
BIRTHDAY
Monday 9th**

**LAST DAY OF
TERM 2
Friday 27th**

TRIVIA NIGHT

On Saturday 1st March, Minerva P&C, hosted a fabulous Trivia Night at Club Menai, to raise funds for the purchase of iPads for our school. It was a wonderful success with over \$21 000 raised and it highlighted the significant level of support we have within the school (staff and parents) and the local community. Congratulations P&C on a great outcome!



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

I can't believe it's the end of Term already. What a busy Term we have had—swimming carnival, work experience, excursions, community access, Sensory Room move, Easter Raffle, SRC and Captain elections. It is lovely to see our elected students taking on their roles and responsibilities with such enthusiasm.

Staff

Congratulations to Miss Jackie, one of our casual teachers, on the birth of her beautiful daughter Lila. We farewell Miss Mel from the office who will be sorely missed. We hope to see her back in another capacity soon.

Survey

Thank you to our parents and carers who took the time to complete the recent survey on communication. It was pleasing to have such positive feedback about school communication. There were also some good suggestions which have been taken on board.

Capital Works

During the holidays there will be a lot of work carried out replacing gutters and painting of fascia boards on Block C.

Sensory Room

We will also be finalising the move of our Sensory Room to a new location and with the Commonwealth Bank Grant, new equipment will be purchased to expand the program.

Staff Development Day

Teaching staff will be doing Professional Learning on the National Teaching standards and WH&S practices. The Support staff will also be doing WH&S, Nutrition and Epilepsy training. Office staff will be training in developing and implementing a Professional Learning Plan.

Sensory Garden

The Sensory Garden unfortunately still remains out of bounds. The Department is working with the school to resolve this issue. You will be kept up to date with the progress.

Tree Assessment

The Tree Assessment has now been completed. It highlighted 1 tree in the Sensory Garden and 1 tree in the playground that requires lopping. Both areas have been barricaded until this work is carried out, hopefully this will occur in the holidays. I will keep you informed of the progress.

P&C

Thank you to the P&C for the time and effort they committed to the recent Trivia Night. The results were outstanding and we are now in the process of planning for implementation and acquisition of iPads in the school. We are all very excited.

Have a lovely and safe holiday with your families. We will see you back at school on Tuesday 29th April for Term 2.

Kind regards,
Fiona Young
Principal



Farewell Morning Tea for Miss Mel, Thank you to Miss Kylie for making and decorating the beautiful cake.

Miss Jackie with her gorgeous baby girl Lila.





Class D had a very informative and enjoyable excursion to the Sydney War Memorial in Hyde Park. They saw the Flame of Remembrance, The Stars of Memory and The Pool of Reflections.



COMBINED SWIMMING CARNIVAL

The Annual School Carnival was held in brilliant sunshine at Sutherland Pool on Monday 17th March.

Other competing schools were Endeavour and Engadine High Schools

The day is all about participation and engaging in the community. Minerva students got into the swim of things with a record number of entries. Well done to all of our students who did their best.





Minerva School Tree Levy Grant 2013

Last year, Miss Sarah and Class M conducted some research on our school surroundings and entered a bid into the NSW Teachers Federation Tree Levy Grant to purchase some native trees and shrubs for our school. These trees and shrubs will not only brighten the school up with flowers and fruits, but also provide valuable shade to some of our classrooms that do not currently have blinds.

We were fortunate enough to win our bid and received a cheque for \$352.

On behalf of Minerva School I wish to thank the NSW Teachers Federation for choosing our school to receive this grant.

CLASS R



Nicholas participating in the daily calendar activity.

Warwick does a good job putting the balls in the ball pitt.



Kieran likes using the class interactive whiteboard.



CLASS A on Community Access gaining greater confidence with their shopping skills.



Mitchell is shopping for the family at IGA and Patrick is making healthy choices at the local fruit market.





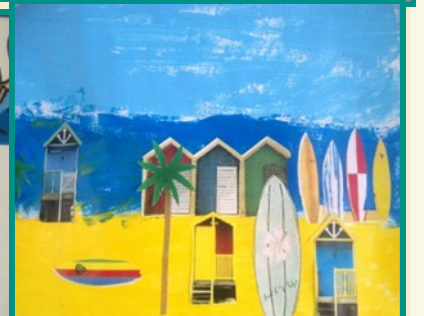
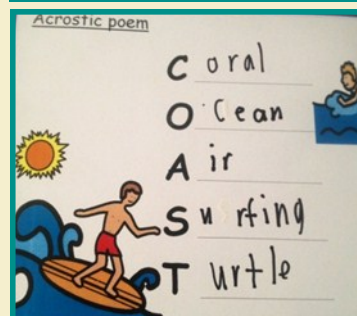
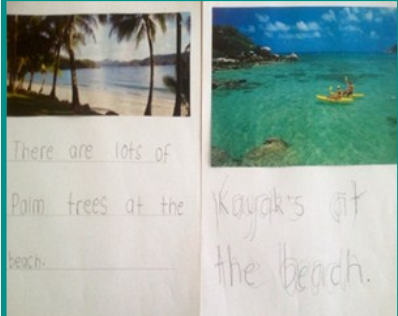
Class Z have been enjoying following the NRL. We are competing against other students at Minerva. Every Tuesday we get very excited when we find out how many games we have each won.



Sebi from Class Z has started at Civic for work experience. He is enjoying his time working with other senior students from Minerva. Jake and Conrad are also enjoying participating in their in school work experience program.

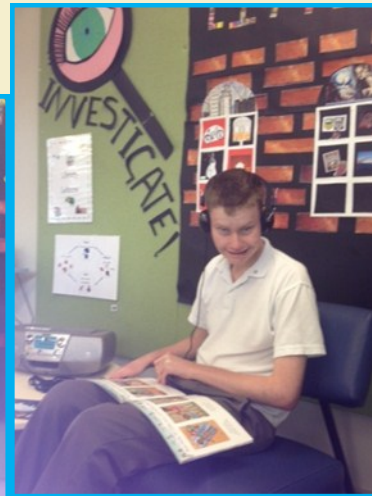


Class C have had a very productive term completing activities based around their theme on Coastal regions and sea life.

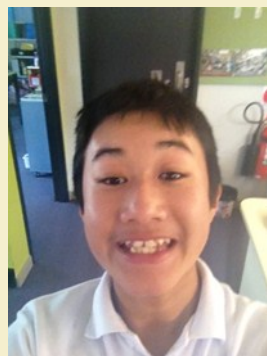
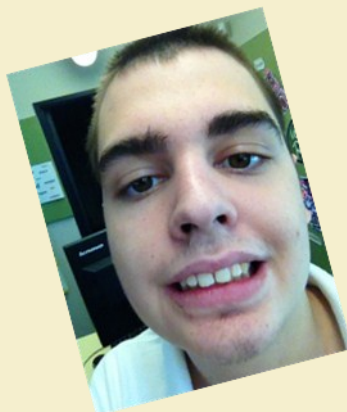


LIBRARY

What better place than the library to INVESTIGATE our personal interests.

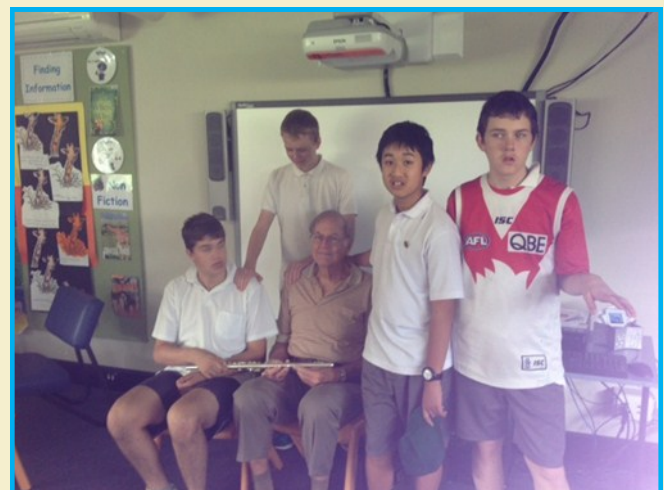


Here are three of the many great 'SELFIES' we have taken to go with our PIPS. (Personal interest pictures)



If you haven't had a chance to access the Minerva library wiki, just cut and paste the following link into your address bar. Check out the new swimming carnival page. Luke from class D has put together an amazing glogster (online poster) of the day. <http://minervalibrary.wikispaces.com>

Mr Harry sharing his flute playing with class Z at library time.



Class M have been getting into the Easter Spirit by making egg holders shaped into Roosters and Easter Chicks. We had a great time painting them and sticking on wings and beaks.



Keeping with the Easter theme, in cooking classes with Miss Sarah students have been making Easter cupcakes. We baked the cupcakes then decorated them with green icing, chocolate sprinkles to make nests and placed eggs in the centre. Here is how a few turned out.



Class K. We have been learning about machines, the importance of recycling and looking after our environment. We combined all these and Class K had fun making Robots from recycled materials.



MINERVA P&C EXECUTIVE & MEMBERS for Term 2, 2014

President - Peter Damcevski, **Treasurer** - Deb Hunt, **Secretary** - Peter Damcevski

General members - Barb Ward, Jade Kenyon, Tracey Youssef & Christine Damcevski

The functions of any P&C is to provide a formal platform where parents participate in decision making at school level, review school policies, school practices, support learning experiences in the classroom, provide social experiences and fundraise to pay for big ticket items (eg in 2013 - installation 3 IWB's, Sensory garden completion funds and Ipads endorsement for 2014). Interested and want to make a difference to your child's learning outcomes ?(see further examples below)

Halloween Disco Funds & proposed Easter Raffle funds

Barbara Ward,(Halloween Disco coordinator), had asked the SRC staff coordinators to list playground equipment/games to be purchased with the \$432 profit raised in Nov, 2013. Easter Chocolate Raffle proceeds have also been allocated by the P&C in 2014 towards this SRC project. This money - \$800 will provide our children with new activities to further stimulate positive outdoor play. A wonderful outcome!

Sensory Garden project completion funds update

As you may recall, the outdoor musical instruments (Variety grant), plants, bridge and bench (Mates on a Mission), and artist, Sam Shennan (mural materials provided by Bunnings) were coordinated by the P&C in terms 3 & 4, 2013, with the view to commence stages 3 & 4, in February, 2014. Tracey Youssef (coordinator), had networked closely with the various organisations eg Mates on a Mission, Bunnings, Sam Shennan, during the Christmas holidays 2013 & in term 1, 2014, on the P&C's behalf! Unfortunately, all access & work in the sensory garden has ceased in term 1, 2014 due to OHS safety issues. Fiona to advise Tracey when work can commence. Fingers crossed, as our target for completion has now been moved to the end of term 2. This initiative will compliment the sensory room, which helps our children to regulate their bodies throughout the day.

Meet the Teacher Evening

What a wonderful way for our families to meet their child's teacher, visit the classroom, discuss class organisation, review the weekly timetable and conclude the formalities with a wonderful P&C - Sausage Sizzle, generously provided by Peter Damcevski (coordinator). Feedback particularly from the new families, provided to the P&C, was very positive, as is the practice many schools use to develop stronger partnerships between home and school at the start of each year. This is especially important as Minerva Families live out of area & welcome events that promote school spirit. Hopefully the start of a new tradition.

Easter Fundraiser & Mother's Day Stall

Thank you to Deb Hunt,(coordinator), for her wonderful organisation of the Easter Chocolate Raffle and to all the Minerva families who donated Chocolate Eggs & Easter decorations for the raffle prizes. The money raised has been allocated towards further playground equipment (mentioned above). Deb have also already organised the Mother's Day Stall, which just keeps getting better each year. Deb Hunt and Barbara Ward are organising wonderful gifts for the Mother's Day raffle. More information to follow shortly. Again, all money raised will be used to improve our children's learning outcomes. Please support this and all P&C fundraisers in 2014. Minerva P&C wish to support SRC initiatives in 2014.

2014 Trivia Gala Fundraiser raised \$21 000.

Minerva P&C Trivia Sub Committee members were : Christine Damcevski, (Trivia coordinator), Peter Damcevski, Barb Ward, Deb Hunt (Treasurer), Tracey Youssef, Jade Kenyon, Laura Cowell. The outstanding success of the 2014 Trivia Gala Fundraiser held at Club Menai on 1/3/14, raised \$21,500.

This project was the sole responsibility of Minerva P&C who "dared to Dream and think Big!" The response given by the local business community has been outstanding and we have been humbled by their strong support towards this major fundraiser. Collectively, Minerva P&C and local businesses secured Sponsors, goods for auction, advice / support on fundraising, organisation details from other

organisations and hands on assistance - creating poster, certificates, raffle tickets, powerpoint presentation, meetings out of school, emails, phone calls, collection of gifts, selling tickets & electronic banking. An amazing effort given the size of this event and the small number of volunteers involved from the P&C!



All the gifts were generously donated by local and interstate businesses.

Thank you especially to all our wonderful Major Sponsors - Tynans Motors (Platinum) , Natasha Nagle - Belle Property (Gold), Qantas Staff Credit Union (Silver) & Southside Paediatric Dentistry (Silver). Minerva P&C secured corporate sponsorship for the first time ever! Your support has been invaluable and certainly contributed towards this events success & exceeding our target to \$21, 500. Thank you also to our key supporters - Le Creuset & PKC Management, AVNET Technological Solutions, Cronulla Sharks, Starshots Caringbah , Luke Priddis Foundation and to the numerous local & interstate donors for their interest, support and generosity (see below for further details).The professionalism and passion of Mike Dalton - Emcee, Mark Somboli - Auctioneer and Greg Young - Trivia Host to support this fundraiser helped contribute towards the success of this event. A special acknowledgement to Club Menai for offering a discount, donating a prize and their support on the evening. (Club Menai also contributed \$1000 for ICT in 2013.) Thank you to Kellie (ST George SSP P&C), Olivia, Naj (Aspects), Robyne (Lighthouse Foundation), Trish (Learning Links), Michael (Sylvanvale), Karen (Civic Printing), who were willing to share their ideas and Trivia fundraising experience. Thank you to all the families and staff who attended the evening. Your support to this fundraiser and positive feedback was most appreciated.

A special thank you finally to everyone on the Minerva P&C who contributed to the outstanding success of this event. Everyone brought different strengths and skills to this 8 month project which provided many challenges along the way. Thank you all for your hard work before, during and after this event. We exceeded our \$20, 000 target and also achieved our goal to promote Minerva School as a Centre of Excellence to the business & wider community." *This event surpassed the standard of larger schools. Your team showed a high level of professionalism , a wonderful spirit and demonstrated what could be achieved through hard work. I am delighted that your team exceeded their target.*" Michelle Buller, Club Menai. Importantly, the most critical factors were: 1. the outstanding community support given to Minerva P&C and 2. Minerva P&C and businesses shared high expectations to provide Minerva children with IPAD Technology for 2014. Positive feedback in 2013, from Bates Dr, Carinya and ST George SSP schools clearly highlight the benefits in using IPAD technology which helps special needs children to improve their motivation, concentration, work performance & behaviour, while targeting improvements in student literacy & numeracy outcomes.

Minerva staff and their cluster schools also attended a whole day Professional workshop on Ipad's in term 4, 2013 run by Spectronics. Ipad's are a proven learning tool that will only enhance the quality programs being taught in our children's classes at Minerva School. The P&C are delighted to have supported another school priority, ahead of schedule!. Christine Damcevski will represent the P&C and present parent perspectives to the IPAD Committee. Minerva P&C look forward to further collaboration with the school this year to further maximise our children's learning outcomes. Interested in joining Minerva P&C to make a difference? We look forward to new faces and new ideas. Together we can...together we will. Our kids are WORTH the EFFORT!_

Come along and make a difference! \$21, 500 raised !!!!!

Written by Christine Damcevski, Minerva P&C Association

2014 MINERVA P&C TRIVIA GALA FUNDRAISER

MAJOR SPONSORS, KEY SUPPORTERS & DONORS

Platinum Sponsor - Tynans Motors ,

Gold Sponsor - Natasha Nagle, Belle Property,

& Silver Sponsors - Qantas Credit Union & Southside Paediatric Dentistry.

Key Supporting Organisations:

AVNET Technology Solutions, Le Creuset, PKC Management Sutherland, Cronulla Sharks, Starshots Caringbah,

Gifts generously provided by -

Sporting Memorabilia – Cronulla Shark's, Southern Framing Sylvania Heights, St. George Dragons, Canterbury Bulldogs, Steve Waugh, Erebus Motorsport V8 Yatala Qld, Art & Mirrors Framing Caringbah

Art, Photography & Technology – Family Photography, Starshots Caringbah, Adam Crews Photography Sydney, Cronulla Artist Christine Griffiths, AVNET Technology Solutions, AJ & PM Electrical Kirrawee, Digital Camera Warehouse - Canterbury, Sophi Brown, photographer Accommodation, Restaurants, Food & Wine – Brighton Novotel, Lilianfels Katoomba, Lugarno seafood, Grissini Menai, Rock Salt Menai, Opah Menai, La Cucina Menai, Copperpot Menai, Little Italy Engadine, Imperial Peking Blakehurst, Summersalt Cronulla, Vostro Cafe, Menai, Club Menai. Qantas Credit Union Miranda, Ozegifhampers Sutherland, Nina's Chocolates GyMEA, Stapletons Meat Sutherland, Colin's Meat Illawong. Cookware – Le Creuset, PKC Management Services, Bunnings Kirrawee, King Of Knives Miranda, GyMEA lily, Menai Post Office. Leisure - Southern Biplane Adventures, Flight Centre Sutherland, Kareela Golf club, Goodlife Gym, Captain Cook Cruises, Imax Darling Harbour, Taronga Zoo, Dubbo Western Plains Zoo, Sutherland Leisure centre, AVNET Technology Solutions, Majestic Cruises, Scoobs Massage Penrith. Hair & Beauty, Day Spa's – Gardiners Hairdressing Menai, Bliss Beauty Caringbah, Endota Spa GyMEA, Tamarind Spa Cronulla, Soul Pattinsons Chemist Menai Homewares - Blu Ivy Menai, In-House Habits Menai, Regallo Kirrawee, Distinctions GyMEA, Baysics Homewares GyMEA, Jenuine Therapy. Specialty Products – Aromabotanical, Crabtree & Evelyn, Clarins Hamper by Robyne Norrie, Estee Lauder Hamper, Dr George Williams, Dogue GyMEA, Smiggles, Premier of NSW Mr Barry O'Farrell, Optometrist – Eyecare Plus Menai, Specsavers Menai, Langshaw & Bell GyMEA, Menai Eyecare.

Thank you Sutherland Lioness who did not attend but donated \$350 towards this fundraiser-.

Written by Christine Damcevski, Minerva P&C Association.

Easter Raffle

Thank you to all the families and staff who have donated to the Easter Raffle. A special thanks to the Ward family for their generous contribution.

Deb Hunt ,Minerva P&C Association



Class L have been using the 'Powtoon' website to create animated presentations about Russia.

The Sutherland Hospital



Are you a CARER? Want to find out more information?

CARER INFORMATION SESSIONS

Monthly in the Seminar Room, Education Centre, 1 30 - 2 30 pm

(Entry behind the Volunteers Café, in the Atrium)

Tea/Coffee Provided

Everyone Welcome! (including Staff)

DATES 2014

- 21 Jan 14
- 18 Feb 14
- 18 March 14
- 15 April 14
- 20 May 14
- 17 June 14

♦

More Information contact Social Work Dept on 9540 8300



Teamwork, Honesty, Respect, Excellence, Equity, Caring, Commitment, Courage

Sutherland Dyslexia Support Group



Sutherland Dyslexia Support Group is a forum where parents can talk, exchange ideas, information, resources and experiences with other parents.

The group keeps in contact via a Yahoo group, email, phone and meeting over coffee on the 4th Monday of the month at 10.30am at a café in Sutherland.

For further information or to join the support group contact

Paula Goulden on (02) 9528 4638 or email
psgoulden@tpg.com.au

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Mobile Phone/iPad and Tablet Recycling Fundraiser

Dear Parents and Carers,

Just a reminder that we are still collecting any unwanted mobile phones, iPads and Tablets (working or not) for recycling. The school receives \$2.00 for each mobile phone and \$25 for iPads and tablets.

Funds raised will be used to purchase specialised equipment and technology for our students.

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

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.