



MINERVA SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Learning for Life

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WEBSITE: www.minerva-s.schools.nsw.edu.au

**DATES TO
REMEMBER
TERM 2 2014**

JUNE

**PUBLIC
HOLIDAY
QUEEN'S
BIRTHDAY
Monday 9th**

**STUDENT
REPORTS GO
HOME
Thursday 26th**

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

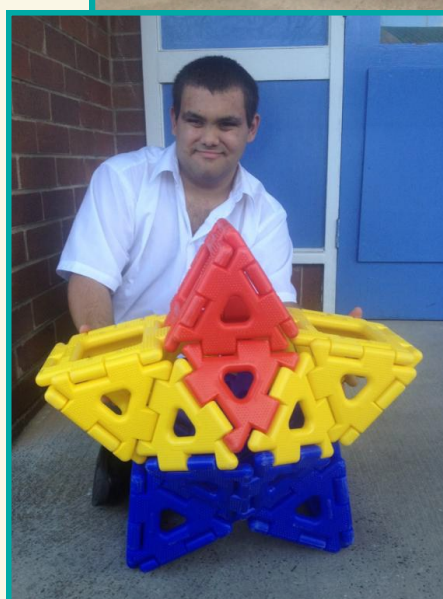
JULY

**FIRST DAY OF
TERM 3
FOR STAFF
AND
STUDENTS
Monday 14th**

Combined P&C & SRC Initiative

Over the last few terms our hard working P&C have been busy fundraising to provide funds for the purchase of new and alternate equipment for the students to use during recess and lunch breaks. Our SRC have been busy making important decisions on what equipment they would like. The pictures below are a sample of our students actively engaged in a range of activities including creating and building some very complex constructions. We look forward to the arrival of more equipment in the future.

Thank you to our P&C and Congratulations to the SRC.



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome back to Term 2 everyone. We also welcome a new student, Perry and his family to the Minerva Community.

Fiona Young has confirmed that she will continue with her leave until the end of this Term.

Sensory Room

The Sensory Room move is now almost complete with just a few minor touches required. New equipment has been ordered, courtesy of the Commonwealth Bank Grant.

Nationally consistent collection of data on school students with disability—2014.

Recently you were notified by us that our school is participating in the collection of data. This information is already available in the school about the support that is being provided to students with a disability. Better data will help the Government plan for students with a disability. All information is protected by privacy laws which regulate the collection, storage and disclosure of personal information. If you **DO NOT** want your child to be counted in the collection data please complete the form on the following pages of this newsletter and return to the school office before the end of Term 2 2014.

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 work highlighted in the recent Tree Assessment has been carried out during the school holidays.

P&C

Thank you to our hard working P&C Committee. They have recently funded the replacement of one of our trampoline mats. The trampolines are a very important part of our Students' Program and are a vital piece of equipment. They are also supporting our Student Representative Council by funding the purchase of

various items for use in the playground. Staff and students have been busy choosing various equipment. The students now have a greater variety and are actively engaged on the playground.

iPads

Our Ipad Team are busily planning for the implementation and acquisition of iPads in the school. They have been gathering information from various sources and attending training. We are all very excited.

Reminder

If your child is not at school for any reason, it is the parent/carer's responsibility to notify the school promptly of their child's absence. This is a legal requirement under the guidelines of the DEC Supporting Student's Attendance Policy.

School Sign

Don't forget to read our school sign each week. The Senior Students in Miss Diane's Class have taken on the role of changing the sign each week. Part of this role involves the boys deciding what message they would like to go up on the board in relation to activities in the school. The boys are doing a fabulous job, keep up the good work!

Reminder Annual School Contribution

Levies are Now Overdue

Thank you to the families who have already sent in their child's Annual School Contribution. There are still a number of outstanding payments. The school has a number of payment options available for your convenience. If you are experiencing difficulties in meeting your financial obligations please do not hesitate to contact me for further discussion.

Kind regards,

Cathy Wortley

Relieving Principal



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ABN: 917 1265 1809

7th May 2014

Dear Parents/Carers

Nationally consistent collection of data on school students with disability – 2014

Our school is participating in the collection of nationally consistent data on school students with disability.

We will be collecting information already available in the school about the support that is being provided to students with disability. Better data will help the Government plan for students with disability.

The data collection will have no direct impact on your child and they will not be involved in any testing process.

The NSW Department of Education and Communities will provide data to the Australian Government from all NSW public schools in such a way that no individual student or school will be able to be identified. In this way, we will ensure the privacy and confidentiality of all students.

All information is protected by privacy laws which regulate the collection, storage and disclosure of personal information. Information about the Australian Government's Privacy Policy can be found here:

<http://education.gov.au/condensed-privacy-policy>. Information about the NSW Government's privacy policies can be found here: <http://www.ipc.nsw.gov.au/>

If you do not want your child to be counted in the data collection you must complete the attached form and return it to the school before the end of Term 2, 2014. A decision to exclude your child will not affect the support they currently receive.

Further information about the data collection can be found on the Australian Government Department of Education website:

<http://education.gov.au/nationally-consistent-collection-data-school-students-disability>

If you have any questions about your child being included in the data collection please contact the school.

If you need help with English to make an enquiry contact the Telephone Interpreter Service on 131 450 and ask for an interpreter in your language. The operator will call the number you provide and get an interpreter on the line to assist you with your conversation. You will not be charged for this service.

Kind regards

Catherine Wortley
Relieving Principal



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If you **do not** want your child to be counted in the data collection, please complete the attached form and return it to the school before the end of Term 2, 2014.

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability – 2014

I/we _____
Name of parent/carer

do not wish my child _____ to be counted
Name of child

for the purposes of the collection of nationally consistent data on school students with disability.

Parent/Carer signature: _____ date: _____

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data School Students with Disability



Information for Parents/Carers

Schools across Australia are taking part in a new national data collection on school students with disability.

The data collection is being introduced in stages over three years, and started in 2013. From 2015, this information will be collected in every school across Australia, every year.

All Australian governments have agreed to this.

WHAT IS THE BENEFIT FOR MY CHILD?

All Australian governments agree that every child in an Australian school should have a high quality education. It shouldn't matter what the individual child's circumstances are – every child should have the same opportunity to succeed at school.

The aim of this new data collection is to have better information about school students with disability in Australia.

Better information about school students with disability will help teachers, principals and education authorities to support students with disability to take part in school on the same basis as students without disability.

WHY IS THIS DATA BEING COLLECTED?

There is nothing new about schools collecting information about students with disability – in fact, schools have had to do this by law for some time. But the type of information currently collected varies between each state and territory.

With the new data collection, every school in Australia will use the same method to collect this information – that is, a government school in suburban Sydney will collect and report data in the same way as a Catholic school in country Victoria and an independent school in the Northern Territory.

The information provided through this new national data collection will enable all Australian governments to better target support and resources to benefit students with

disability. It will help to put the right supports in place for students with disability so that they have the same opportunities for a high quality education as students without a disability.

WHAT ARE SCHOOLS REQUIRED TO DO?

Every school in Australia is likely to have a student with disability at some point. Schools need to be able to support students with disability by removing any obstacles for them to participate in their education.

By law, schools are required to make reasonable adjustments where needed to assist students with disability. These responsibilities are outlined in the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and the *Disability Standards for Education 2005*. This means that schools need to talk to the student and/or their parent/carers about reasonable adjustments. These are things the schools do now and this won't change.

The new data collection will record students who have been identified by a school team as meeting the definition of disability under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and provided with an adjustment.

WHAT IS AN ADJUSTMENT?

An adjustment is a measure or action taken to help a student with disability participate in education on the same basis as other students. Adjustments can be made across the whole school setting (like ramps into classrooms), in the classroom and at an individual student level (like extra tuition for a student with a learning difficulty).

Class L enjoying fresh fruit salad and yoghurt. The students are making healthy recipes each week as part of their 'Farm to Fridge' unit of work.



Class A have been doing a Music Assignment on famous singers, past and present.

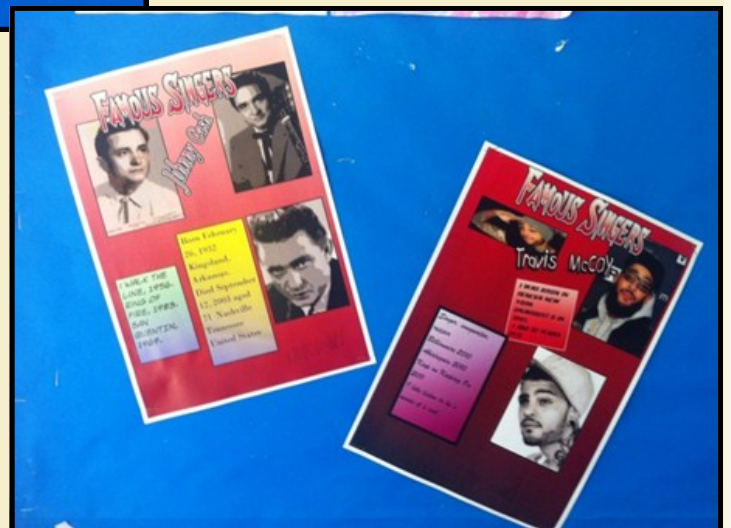
James C



Patrick A



Michael H



LIBRARY

Celebrating reconciliation week has been the focus in library this term. Many students designed their own Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dot painting postcard, as part of the Anti-Discrimination Board of NSW art competition. They all looked amazing!! Let's hope for a winner.



Mitchell from Class D

You can view photos of all postcard entries on our Indigenous Education page on the library wiki.

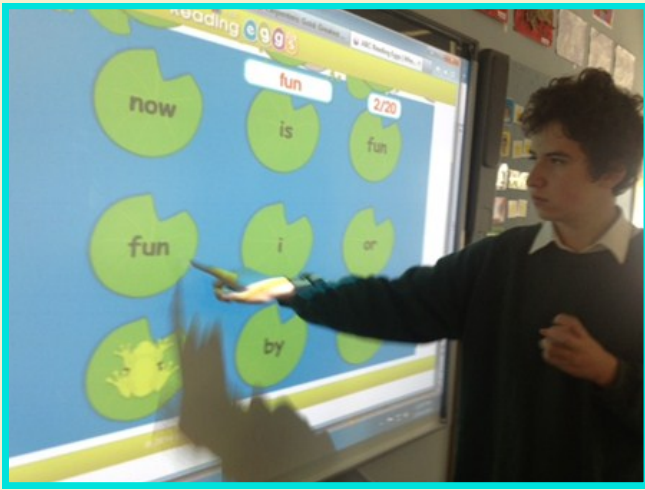
<http://minervalibrary.wikispaces.com>



Class D have been enjoying creating artistic master pieces. Here are some examples of using the spray guns.

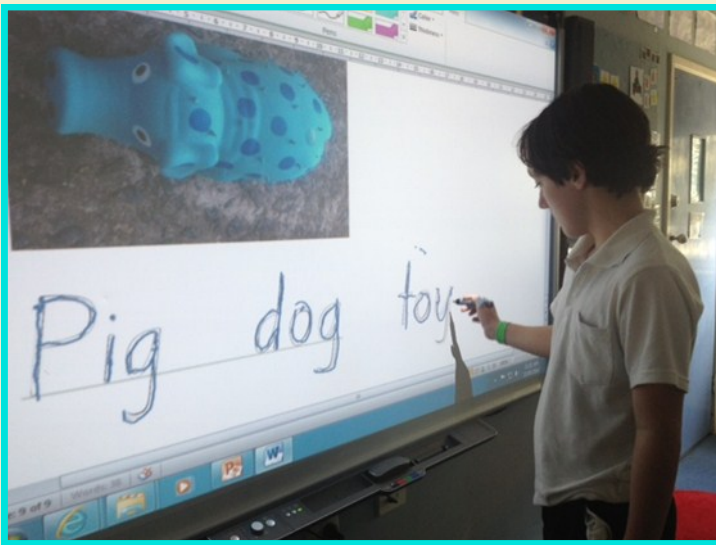


CLASS R



Kieran completing the Reading Eggs Program on the Smart Board

David enjoys Friday's "What is it" - a cross KLA activity involving guessing a mystery item, what it would be used for, and then how it's spelt

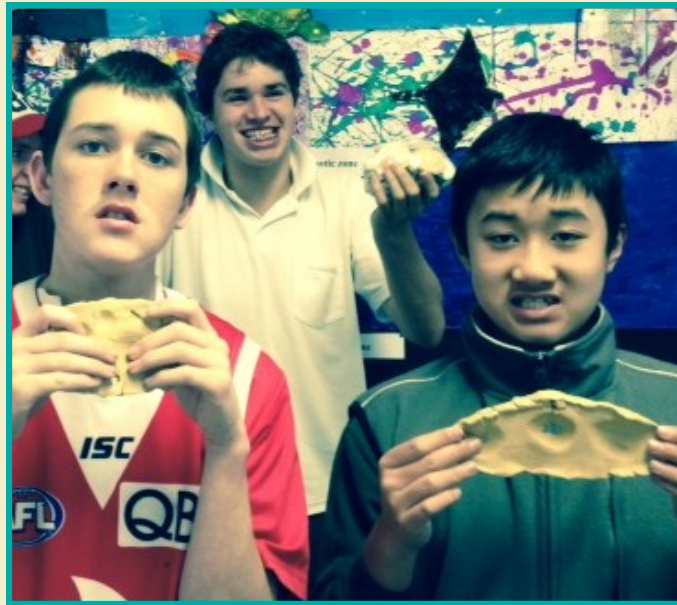
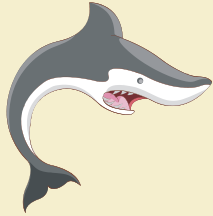


Joshua successfully spelling the "What is it" item

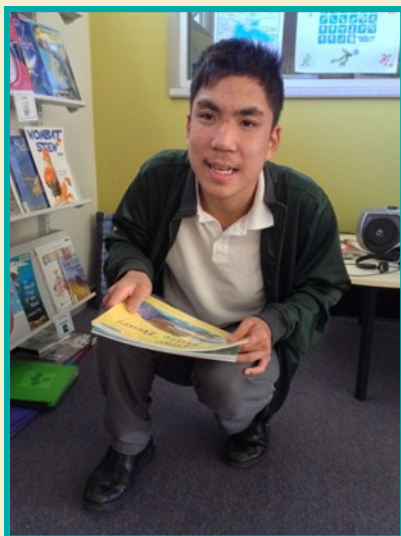
Friday Circus fun for **Class M**



Class Z have been busy in class learning all about 'The Ocean'. They have been researching all about different marine animals such as the Great White Shark and thoroughly enjoyed making their own marine fossils. They have also created a very colourful wall display in their classroom.



Students from **Class C** enjoying reading time in the school Library.





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

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.



Royal Blinds & Carpets

"giving you the royal service"



Jake

ABN: 5814 7009 345

M: 0450 111 900 P: 02 9681 2727

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