



MINERVA SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Learning for Life

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Donations to Minerva School are now tax deductible.

DATES TO REMEMBER

TERM 4 2015

DECEMBER

*Wednesday 16th
Last Day of
Term 4 2015
for Students*

*Thursday 17th
Staff
Development
Day
(No students)*

2016 TERM I

JANUARY

*Wednesday 27th
Staff
Development
Day
(No students)*

*Thursday 28th
Students return
for the first day
of Term I.*

The Minerva Yr 12 Formal.

What a wonderful night! The atmosphere was relaxed but charged with a great sense of accomplishment and thankfulness.

Our young men arrived in style. Every family member felt proud and all of the staff felt privileged to be in partnership with their education. They have been the heart and soul of our school and we are thankful. That alone is a good and satisfying reason for celebration and boy did we celebrate!

Our best wishes for the future goes to our fine young men who have successfully completed their schooling.

Congratulations Ronan, James F, Roland, Nicholas, Michael, Luke, Kieran, Jonathan, James G, and Jack.



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

How quickly time flies! Here we are at the end of another year and now I find myself writing my last Principal message for the School newsletter.

As an educator I have always aspired to see that our students are seen, known, encouraged and challenged to 'be the best that they can be'. My time at Minerva has shown the value of this, and the power that can happen when all stakeholders are working together in partnership to achieve the best outcomes for the child. As my journey at Minerva comes to an end I know Sara Swift will bring fresh ideas and new energy as Principal.

I leave the school knowing that we have worked hard and achieved a great deal as a staff, along with the P&C and wider school community to do everything we could to make Minerva an excellent school.

I want to again thank all of you for your support and confidence in me throughout the past 5 years as Principal. I will certainly miss working in this close knit community.

I would like to wish all of our 2015 **School leavers**, the very best of luck and good wishes for their future endeavours.

We were delighted to be advised that our application for the **2016 Chaplaincy Programme** was successful. The school will receive \$20,000 to support this initiative. More information will be provided to the school community next year.

Staff. Laura Faber will remain on maternity leave for Term 1 2016. Mr Bill Tsekas will be replacing her. Nicolle Allsopp finishes her 2 year engagement at the end of the year. I would like to acknowledge

and thank Nicole for her many contributions to the school during this time.

Best Wishes to everyone for a happy and safe Christmas

Sincerely,
Fiona Young,

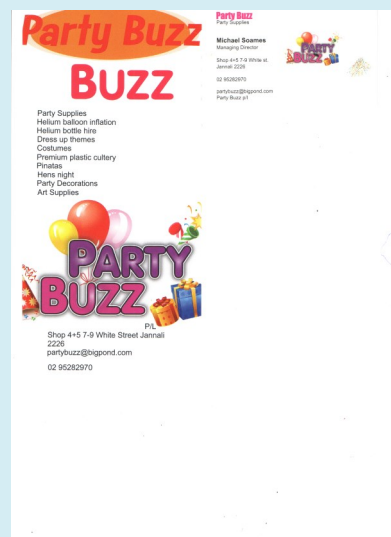
PRINCIPAL

THANK YOU

We would like to thank **Party Buzz** at Jannali for their generosity. They provided the balloons and table decorations for our Year 12 Formal. Please consider supporting them next time you are having a party.

On Friday 11th December, **Como—Jannali Rotary Club** very generously hosted a Christmas Party for our students here at Minerva. There was sausage sizzle, ice blocks and a disco. We also had a visit from Santa and the students enjoyed having their photo taken with him. We would also like to thank Como Jannali Rotary for their very generous donation of \$2,500.00.

We would also like to thank all the families and mum's who have donated and made some much needed **playdough**.





Year 12 Formal



Class N Hits The High Seas.

Perry has been exploring the sights of Sydney. We have walked the esplanade all the way around to Darook Park. We caught the ferry to Bundeena and also caught a ferry to Manly.



Minerva School aims to ensure that students are engaged in appropriate, individualised and meaningful learning experiences. (School Plan Strategic Direction 1)
CONGRATULATIONS to the following students who have received awards during the month of December.

Principal Medallion Michael P

Excellence Awards Ewan, Andrew, Dante, James G, James H, Kane, Sebi, Daylan, Jack, Malachi

Prize Cabinet Daylan, Andrew, Jarnte, Mikayla.



Happy Birthday to the following students for the months of December and January.
Warwick and Jack.



Class S have been studying sustainability within HSIE lessons including ways to care for our planet and save energy as well as remembering to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

As part of the SRC good choice of the week, all classes collected recycling for the week from lunchboxes and general classroom waste. Class S recycled their paper, yoghurt pots, plastic bottles, foil and plastic bags. We then had the tough job of sorting and separating the collected items into paper, metal, plastic, glass and carrier bags. We crushed empty drink cans using the school can crusher and sent all that we had collected to be recycled. We also up cycled some of the collected items into desk tidies, a football holder and a rainbow drum.



National School Chaplaincy Program (NSCP) update

The NSCP is a Department of Education funded program which offers schools a grant of up to \$20,000 per annum over 3 years (2016-2018) to employ a School Chaplain in their school.

We have applied for this funding but at this date schools have not been informed of the success of their applications.

The school requested feedback from our parent community in regards to application for the NSCP.

We received 19 responses from parents and 100% of responses were supportive of Minerva School's application for the NSCP.

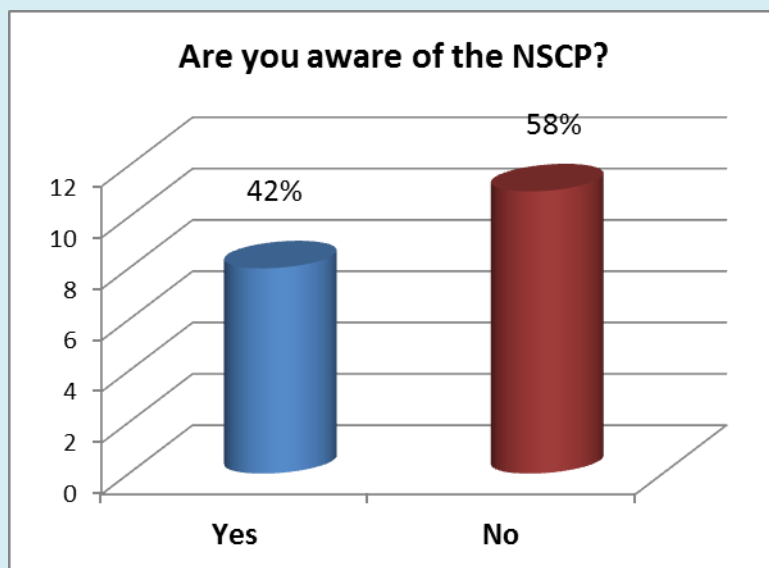
Some parent feedback from our survey:

"We believe it is good for the whole school community to have access to someone other than staff, especially in difficult times. We have seen chaplains assisting students in the playground which also in turn reduces the workload for teachers. Definitely apply!"

"Our boys need as many positive 'male' role models as possible- modelling positive behaviour, listening to and assisting boys navigate issues of concern (bullies, adolescence, fitting-in and tolerance), especially on the playground."

"This is a fantastic opportunity to get some more care, expertise and support for our students who have so many needs."

"Another resource to support our hard-working teachers."



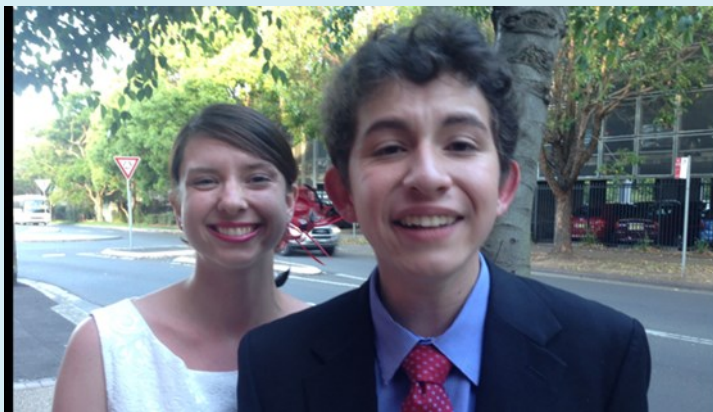


Class R

David enjoyed the Swim School lessons



Nicholas enjoyed going out in the big boat at Sailability



Kieran had a great time at his Year 12 Formal



Class R boys are looking forward to Christmas and have enjoyed 'Elf Yourself' on the computer.



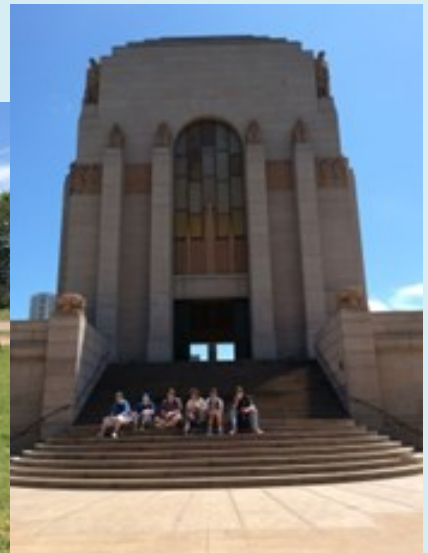


It's that time of the year again. **Class L** has had a productive and adventurous year, thanks to our Super Senior Snacks program. As of recently we had the opportunity to visit the city to experience lunch at Sydney Tower Buffet where we indulged in fine dining whilst enjoying the breath taking views of our beautiful city.

While in the city we also visited Hyde Park and the War Memorial which linked with our Australian History program.

On behalf of the class, we would like to thank everyone who supported the Squeazy Cheesy program.

We would like to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer break.



LIBRARY

Classes have been enjoying library leisure this semester and posting to our Minerva library wiki.

This includes personal interest projects (PIPS) by class L and T where they chose a web 2 tool to share their information in a creative way; crazy voki characters by class S & K; and online story favourites by other classes.

To view our efforts cut and paste the following link into your address bar to access the Minerva library wiki. (For better viewing don't use a student login as You tubes are blocked)

<http://minervalibrary.wikispaces.com> Enjoy.

Have a safe and fabulous festive season



Class T has had a great term! We have each enjoyed our Art Therapy time, expressing our emotions through portraiture, and our Science time, working with different solids, liquids and gases.

We have also enjoyed our Music Program, learning the science behind sound waves. We have all grown together as a class, and have enjoyed the end of our year, ready for new adventures next year! Many Thanks, Miss Edie, Miss Nicole, Miss Cammy and Mr Scott





Class K is very proud of our two Year 12 boys Roland C and James G who graduated this year. We had a lovely year with these delightful students. We wish them all the best in their future endeavours...

Love from Miss Kat, Miss Sharon, Miss Jane,
Adam, Alex, Bailey, James H and Lachlan.

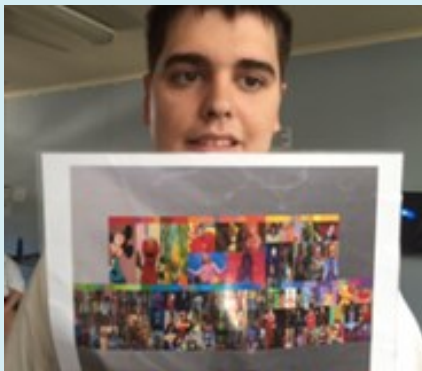
Merry Christmas and a Joyful New Year, with love from Class K



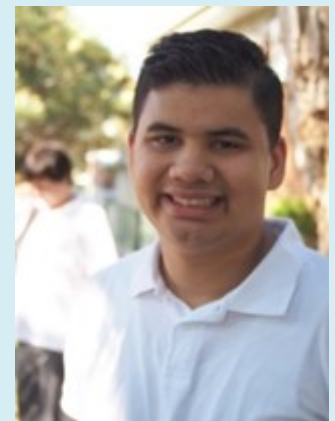
Class A would like to wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a happy new year.

We extend a heartfelt farewell to our Yr 12 students

Jonathan and James.



By special request! James is a world expert on all things Disney and Dreamworks. He can recall every date and detail from every movie, actor and director. Seriously, Walt Disney himself would have been impressed with his knowledge. All the best James. We will miss you.



Jonathan has been our all round great guy. His sense of humour, his smiling face and greeting (inclusive of an offer of a free shoulder massage!) each morning will be missed. Jonathan loves ancient history, especially Roman history. He loves to draw and his favourite team is the Sea Eagles. You would be hard pressed to meet a gentler soul than Jonathan. All the best Jonathan.

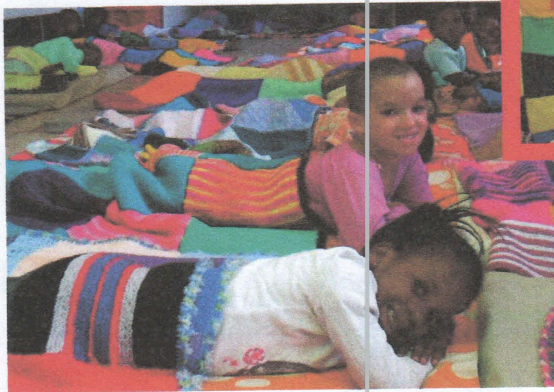


Merry Christmas
from Class C

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR KNITTING BLANKET SQUARES

“Wrap with Love” is a volunteer organisation that distributes blankets within Australia and to over 75 overseas countries, particularly countries that have suffered natural disasters and civil unrest. These blankets are made from 28 squares that are knitted by volunteers. The Rotary Club of Como Jannali has a band of volunteers that knit, crotched and help sew the 28 squares to make beautiful warm blankets. If you would like to help knit and/or sew please Contact Diane Curtis from Como-Jannali Rotary on 0408 125 971

CLUB PROJECTS



ABOVE: Members and friends of the Rotary Club of Como Jannali, NSW, picked up their knitting needles to produce 70 blankets for the Wrap With Love project. LEFT: Kids in Africa sleep warm at night thanks to Wrap With Love.



Spreading the love – one SQUARE at a time

THE ROTARY CLUB of Como Jannali, NSW, has garnered the help of members and friends to knit and crochet thousands of squares to produce colourful blankets for the Wrap With Love organisation.

With the assistance of family, friends, a local school, members of the Probus club and Golf club, the Rotary club was able to supply 70 completed blankets last year and the tally this year should exceed that number.

Wrap With Love is a volunteer organisation and has distributed blankets within Australia and to over 75 countries. They distribute to countries all over the world, particularly countries that have suffered from natural disasters and civil unrest.

Founded by the late Sonia Gidley-King OAM in 1992, the idea has gained considerable momentum, with over

30,000 volunteers around the country knitting and sewing constantly. Over 255,000 wraps have now been shipped all over Australia and around the globe.

Past President of the Rotary Club of Como Jannali Diane Curtis gathers the knitted and crocheted squares and regularly holds sewing days where 28 squares are sewn together to make beautiful, warm blankets. Diane delivers the completed blankets to volunteers at the Wrap With Love warehouse in Alexandria where the blankets are sorted to be deployed to areas where the need arises.

Club President Lyn Bates says the blankets represent the coming together of so many people in the community united in their efforts to provide warmth to those in need.

Your Community. Your Banner

We are proudly licenced to print and manufacture for Rotary in Australia, New Zealand & Papua New Guinea and have been supporting the Rotary community for over 30 years.

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