



MINERVA SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Learning for Life

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DATES TO REMEMBER

TERM 1 2015

APRIL

Thursday 1st
LAST DAY OF
TERM 1

TERM 2 2015

APRIL

Tuesday 21st
STUDENTS
RETURN TO
SCHOOL

MAY

Monday 11th
SCHOOL
PHOTOS

Wednesday 27th
Years 7, 11 & 12
VACCINATIONS

SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL FOR 2015

The Student Representative Council plays an important role within the school community. All students are given the opportunity to run in the election. Most students were eager to be elected as they view this position as having importance within the school.

Congratulations to our two new school captains who have been voted in by staff and students for 2015; Michael H and Luke B. Alongside our captains are our newly elected SRC members Sebi D, Andrew S and Kurt G.

The elected students will be encouraged to be good role models for their peers and will be provided with many opportunities to drive initiatives within the school. This year, the SRC are to focus on running the weekly whole-school assemblies, raising money for our school and the community, and encouraging good behaviour across the student body.



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

We are at the end of what has been a Term packed full of student activities, professional learning and whole school planning. Our Senior Students have been engaged with Work Experience to various sites such as Civic Industries, Bunnings Caringbah, Lark Ellen Aged Care and Sylvanvale Garden House. Thank you to our Careers Advisor Jenny Marshall for a fabulous job in placing our students in the most appropriate setting. Many hours of planning and coordination go into this very important activity. Our students have also been involved in Community Access visits to the local shops and Library, excursions to Cronulla and Flip Out Trampolining at Caringbah. The Senior students from Class L have taken on the role of updating the School Sign each week so keep a look out for the latest news. They are also busy conducting weekly activities for whole school involvement as part of their Class Business Plan. Their most recent business venture was the Easter Hot Cross Bun Fundraiser. This has been a great success with the students building on their literacy and numeracy skills. Next Term we will advise you on their decision as to where the profit of \$162 will be spent. Thank you to all our families for your support. We have held a number of combined staff and student activities this Term which have been a great success. The staff vs students Newcombe Ball competition held in Week 8 resulted in a draw and highlighted the skills of both students and staff. This was a highly anticipated event with the students very excited and eager to challenge the staff. It was such a fun and positive event that we have decided to hold further games next Term. Our students showed excellent sharing, participation and good sportsmanlike skills. We have had to postpone the Cross Country Event which was to be held Monday 30th March due to the weather. This will now be held over until Term 2. Thank you to Ms Nicole for organising the Newcombe Ball. To finish off the Term, our SRC held a very

successful Disco and Easter Bonnet Parade. The students enjoyed making their bonnets in class. Thank you to Miss Sarah and the SRC.

IPAD UPDATE The School has recently purchased 8 more I pads, gripcases, adaptors, cords, a portable hard drive and many more educational apps. This was made possible by our hard working P&C who donated the funds raised from the 2014 Trivia Night.

ITP/IEP MEETINGS The Individual Transition Plan/Education Plan meetings were held early this Term. These meetings are a partnership between school and family and form the basis for each individual students' learning needs. Thank you to parents/carers who have attended these meetings. We appreciate your support as we plan together the Individual Learning needs of your child to achieve the best possible educational outcomes.

ANNUAL SCHOOL CONTRIBUTION

LEVIES Thank you to those families who have already made payments. For those families yet to make payments there are a number of payment options available for your convenience. Your prompt payment will enable the school to help meet its financial commitments. I appreciate your support in providing the best possible outcome for your child.

CONGRATULATIONS Congratulations to Bailey P who was entered in the Combined Metropolitan Swimming Carnival held at Cabarita Pool on Wednesday 25th March. Bailey came 3rd in the 50m freestyle and 4th in the 50m Breaststroke events. Well done Bailey, we are very proud of you and your achievements.

GET WELL SOON We would like to wish Mr Harry, a speedy recovery from his surgery. Mr Harry has been a volunteer at Minerva for many years. The staff and students have all missed him this year. Finally, I would like to wish all our students and their families a safe and relaxing Easter Holiday.

Regards

Fiona Young

PRINCIPAL

MINERVA'S POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR REWARD SYSTEM



At Minerva we have many opportunities whereby students are encouraged & rewarded for their positive behaviour. Such as The **Student Achievement Award** System where

6 Achievement Certificates = 1 Excellence Award

3 Excellence Awards = 1 Medallion

5 Medallions = 1 Plaque

And the **Principal Award Stickers** where

6 Principal Stickers = Blue Dot

12 Stickers = Green Dot

18 Stickers = Yellow Dot

The coloured dots represent a particular shelf in the Principals Prize Cabinet. Students look forward to collecting their Principal Award stickers so they can then choose from the many wonderful items in Mrs Young's Prize Cabinet. Additionally all classes have individual reward systems in place designed by their teacher.

CONGRATULATIONS to the following students who have received the following awards during the month of February And March

Excellence Awards:

Luke B

David

Jake

Perry



The following students had earned enough stickers to choose from Mrs Young's Prize Cabinet

Kurt

Warwick

Corey

Ethan

Perry

Julian

Alessandro

Cooper

Adam

Mikayla



Happy Birthday to the following students for the month of February and March

Mikayla

Jarnte

Andrew

Roland

Alessandro

Sam

Dante

Daylan



Donation of painting from local artist, Liz Donley.

Late last year, I was contacted by local artist Liz Donley. Liz had seen the article about the opening of our Sensory Garden in the St George & Sutherland Shire Leader. Liz felt strongly that she would like to help in the way she knew best by donating one of her paintings that she had produced that year. The subject of her painting—the "Three Kookaburras" is one that our students can easily recognise and identify. I'm sure you will agree that it is a truly lovely painting and a very generous gesture by Liz. The students and staff have all decided that the painting will reside on the wall in my office. They will all get to enjoy the painting when visiting me in my office to collect their Principal stickers and rewards. It has become an added incentive for the students and positive behaviour.!

Mrs Fiona Young

Building Healthy Habits

Children are learning habits that will often last them a lifetime.

Consider the following:

☐ Breakfast is important. Children who eat breakfast have better concentration. Eating breakfast can reduce snacking on high-energy foods in the afternoon in both adults and children.

☐ Be realistic about the size of the serve you offer children. Forcing children to finish what is on their plate when they are not hungry may lead to over eating and/or strong food dislikes.

☐ Avoid giving children processed snack foods high in sugar. Encourage brushing teeth in the morning and before bed to develop good dental habits.



SENIOR JACKETS FOR OUR 2015 YEAR 12 STUDENTS.

Our Year 12 students were presented with their Senior Jackets at a lunch time Assembly. Each student was called out individually by Mrs Young and presented with their jacket. It has become quite a tradition here at Minerva as the students all look forward to receiving their jacket once they reach Year 12. We thank the P&C for ordering the jackets and ensuring they would be ready for the students at the beginning of the year. We also thank them for contributing to the cost.



CLASS K have been working on Australiana.

Here is one of our beautiful artworks.

Class K have also been busy exercising with our morning yoga classes.





Class T



Welcome back to the New Year, we would like to introduce Class T, who has been concentrating on our local and national community and environment. We have been spending time studying the history behind the Sutherland Shire and the original settlers of Australia to get a better understanding of our modern community. We have also been taking time to look after our school environment through watering plants and caring for our school sensory garden. We are also looking forward to spending time in our local community doing grocery shopping for our class cooking and getting lunch at the local park. Looking forward to the New Year!

Thank you
Travis, Edie and Kylie

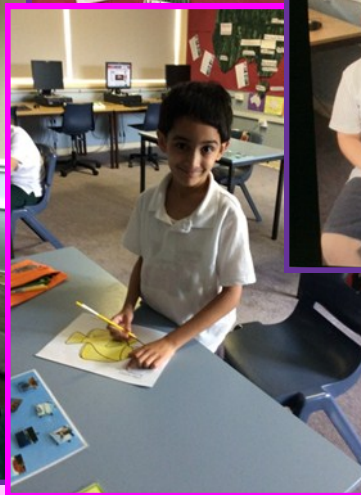


CLASS M

Class M have been practising their money and road crossing skills whilst on community access.

Class S

Class S are studying Australia. We have been finding out about the states, capital cities and various animals that live in Australia. Here we are learning about the fish that live in the barrier reef. We will be creating a barrier reef picture for our classroom board over the next couple of weeks.



Class L having a great time at Flip Out Trampolining Centre. We practice road safety, travel skills and get a good work out.

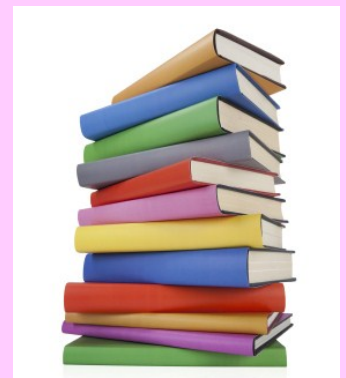


Ethan, Mikayla and Dante from class S get into the library spirit with relaxation and personal reading.



Library News

Last year's Buddy reading is still popular for Roland and Bailey from class K.





Nicholas works on his face artwork



Warwick completes Letter work on an Ipad

CLASS R



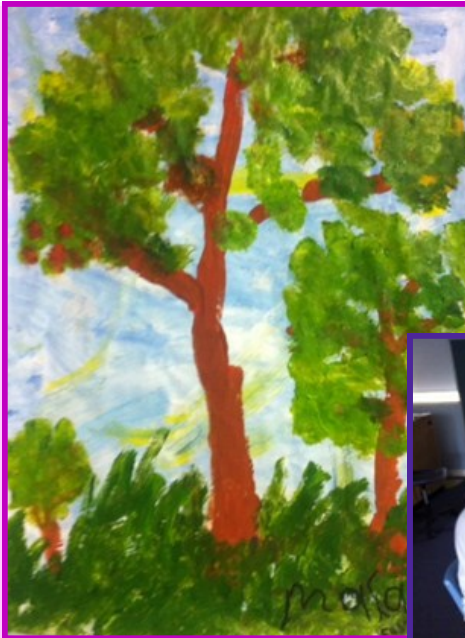
Joshua found his twin brother in the Sensory Garden



Kieran completes letter matching



David enjoys jigsaw puzzles on the Smartboard

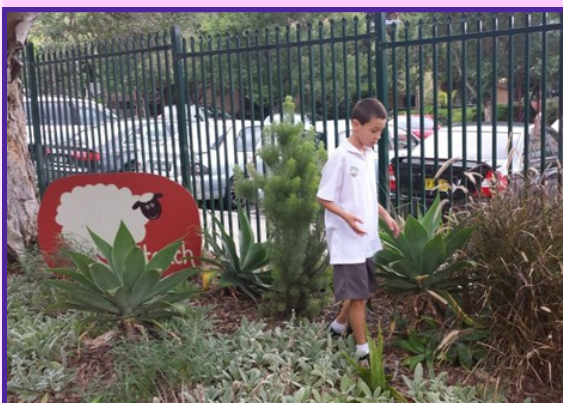


Class A have been identifying trees around the school and producing beautiful paintings.



In PD Health class A have been identifying different emotions and learning how to manage and respond to them appropriately.

Class N have been enjoying all that Minerva has to offer. Visiting the Sensory Garden, trampolines, painting and classwork.



ADHC Hurstville
Presents...
SIBS DAY 2015!

10 – 13 year olds
(Sibs turning 10 years before
September 2015 accepted)

IT'S A FREE FUN DAY!

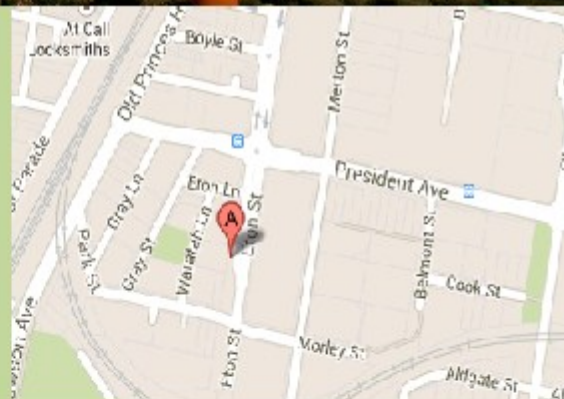
9:00 – 3:30pm
Thursday 16th
April 2015

RSVP: By 2nd April 2015



Minerva School,
Eton Street, Sutherland

For more information:
Contact Leah on (ph):9566 5000
or via email:
Leah.Piazza@facs.nsw.gov.au



**THE GREAT AUSSIE SIBS DAY
CHALLENGE AWAITS YOU!**



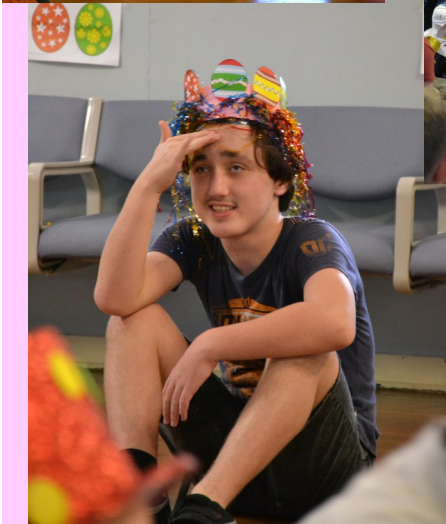
Morning Tea
and Lunch
provided!

How awesome is
that!

STAFF VS STUDENTS NEWCOMBE BALL CHALLENGE



DISCO AND EASTER HAT PARADE



SENSORY SCREENING FOR FAMILIES WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Big Hero 6	Penguins Of Madagascar	Home (In Cinemas 19 Mar)	Tinkerbell: Legend Of The Neverbeast (In Cinemas 2 Apr)	Minions (In Cinemas 18 Jun)
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SUN 15 FEB
SUN 15 MAR
SUN 26 APR
SUN 24 MAY
SUN 28 JUN

Sensory Movie Day is an inclusive event for families with special needs

- Lighting is on dim, sound lowered, volunteers monitoring fire exit doors.
- Sensory Movie Day run once a month on a Sunday at 11am
- Tickets are \$8 each (Except Ipswich \$6 each). Children 2yrs and under are free
- Companion I.D. Cards are accepted

Sensory Movie Day is running at the following Locations:
 Morayfield, Maroochydore, Mackay, Capalaba, Browns Plains, Ipswich,
 Toowoomba, Lismore, Tuggerah and Cronulla
 Any questions email sensorymovieday@hotmail.com

BUY TICKETS NOW AT THE BOX OFFICE




Sensory Movie Day is an inclusive monthly event for families with special needs or sensory processing disorders.

Children are free to roam around the cinema, flap or stim, talk and generally be themselves. This is a non-judgmental session and there is no need for families to feel uncomfortable. Lighting stays on dim (not dark) and sound is lowered. Fire exit doors are monitored by volunteers for those escape artists. Tickets: \$8 each (You will need a membership card to purchase tickets at the cinema, but these are available in the foyer on the day). Children 2 years and under are free. Companion ID cards accepted.

The Cronulla movies are screened at Cronulla Cinemas, 2 - 6 Cronulla St, Cronulla NSW 2230. Movies start at 11am, but there will be free entertainment, such as face painting and balloon sculpting, in the foyer beforehand (from 10am).

For more details, visit <https://www.facebook.com/SensoryMovieDayCronulla> or contact me at sensorymovieday.cronulla@hotmail.com

Dear Parents/Carers

To help increase awareness of mental health services, resources and programs within Sutherland Shire, a Mental Well-Being Initiatives webpage has been created:

<http://gymeacommunityaid.org.au/community-developmenthealthy-minds/>

Any questions, feel free to contact me.

Regards

Rosanna Commisso

Community Development Service Manager

Working Days: Mon, Wed, Fri

Gymea Community Aid and Information Service Inc.

39 Gymea Bay Rd, Gymea NSW 2227

Opening Hours: 9.30am-4pm: Monday - Friday

Phone: 9524 9559 Fax: 9524 1179

www.gymeacommunityaid.org.au



Autism Community Network



**A COMMUNITY OF
SUPPORT FOR AUTISM**

- ✓ Free support groups for parents and carers
- ✓ Social groups to help children with an ASD and their siblings
- ✓ Connecting families with similar interests or situations
- ✓ A regular newsletter and a website to provide information and options

Tel: (02) 9584 0073 | 0431 724 229
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