



*Learning for Life*

# MINERVA SCHOOL

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# NEWSLETTER

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Donations to Minerva School are now tax deductible.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### TERM 3 2015

*Friday 18th  
Last Day of Term  
for students and  
staff*

### TERM 4 2015 OCTOBER

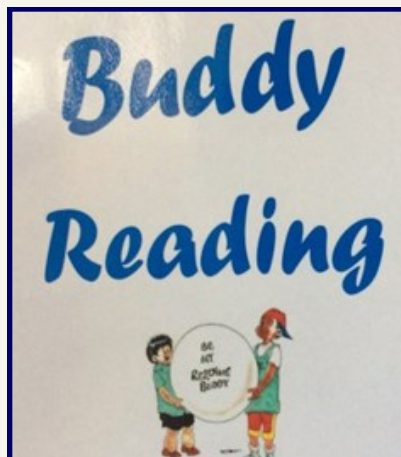
*Tuesday 7th  
Staff and  
Students return  
to school for the  
beginning of  
Term 4*

*Wednesday 8th  
Sailing begins*

*Wednesday 21st  
Vaccinations  
Years 7 and 8*

**NOVEMBER**  
*Wednesday 25th  
Presentation Day*

**DECEMBER**  
*Thursday 3rd  
Year 12 Formal*



A big thank you to all the parents and grandparents and carers who attended the Buddy Reading Program which was held in our Library this week. It was fantastic to see so many helpers. Your continued support for Minerva School and our students is greatly appreciated.



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

### Cook Community Classic

We still have booklets of raffle tickets to sell. Just send a note or contact the office if you would like some more tickets. The proceeds from all tickets sold goes directly to the school. Please don't forget to return the stubs and money next term.

### Principal Position Update

The interviews for the Principal position were held this week on the 17<sup>th</sup> September. When I know the outcome of the selection panel I will inform the school community.

### WOOLWORTHS EARN & LEARN

So far we have counted 27,600 stickers and still counting! I will let you know what the final tally is early next Term. Thank you to everyone who has collected the stickers for our school. Your support of our students is appreciated.

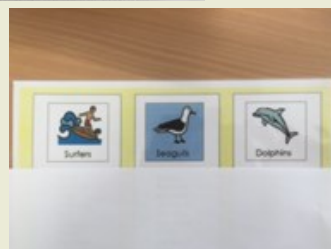
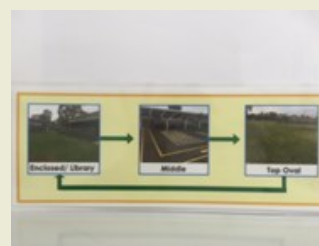
### PLAYGROUND PROGRAM

The staff have begun trialling a new playground initiative during recess and lunch every Tuesday and Wednesday. The students are divided into 3 groups: Surfers, Dolphins and Seagulls where they rotate through a program of structured activities. The pictures below are the visual supports each student has to assist their successful engagement in the program. The aim of the program is to reduce inappropriate interactions which occur on the playground and to provide further opportunities to teach appropriate social skills, play skills, peer support skills and develop areas of interest in leisure skills. So far this has been a great success.

Time	Area	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
Recess	E					
	M					
	T					
Lunch	E					
	M					
	T					

E - Enclosed/Library M - Middle/Trampoline T - Tap and

\*Students have a learning opportunity to read a visual table. Can be incorporated into their weekly program for reading and following information.  
\*Can be placed on their desks as they can look to see what area they are in.



### Welcome back Mr Harry

We welcome back our much loved, long term volunteer Mr Harry, having recovered from his foot operation. The students were particularly excited to see him. He is supporting Class T on alternate Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

### School uniform

Just a reminder to families with the warmer weather approaching and a sunsafe school, please ensure your child has a bottle green wide brim hat. A splash of sunscreen before leaving home is also a good idea.

### Congratulations to Miss Mel

Miss Mel in the office has been successful in gaining a permanent appointment at Minerva School. The position is 2 days per week. Congratulations Miss Mel.

I would like to wish everyone a wonderful and relaxing holiday.

Regards

Fiona Young,

PRINCIPAL



## Footy Colours Day & Staff vs Students Basketball Game

In week 8 students and staff celebrated Footy Colours Day with a dazzling display of AFL, NRL, Soccer and Rugby Union uniforms being worn.

Through gold coin donations the school raised over \$50 for the Fight Cancer Foundation.

The day also featured a Staff vs Students basketball game.

The students started the game well and took a commanding lead early on as the staff struggled with the frenetic pace and some inaccurate shooting.

A change of ends saw the teachers rediscover some form and finish strongly but the students were able to hold on for a rousing victory!

Well done everyone who participated and displayed great sportsmanship!



Two of our Minerva students were lucky enough to run out and play a game of Rugby League at Remondis Stadium before the last home match of the sharks. Sebi (22) and Jake (10) lined up for the Engadine Dragons. Both students were very excited and thrilled to play before the main game.



## POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING (PBL)

As part of the Minerva School Plan for 2015-2017 we will be implementing Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL).

### What is PBL?

PBL is a whole-school approach to teaching and supporting positive behaviors and aims to support the welfare of students of all ages and abilities. It is also known as Positive Behavioural Interventions & Supports (PBIS).

There are many elements of PBL already in place at Minerva School. For example a focus on teaching and rewarding appropriate behaviours through our star and merit reward systems and direct family involvement in developing Learning & Support Plans which meet the additional needs of students.

**Through PBL we are aiming to continue building a positive and encouraging school climate where:**

Students know what is expected of them and choose to do so because they:

- Know what to do

- Have the skills to do it

- See the natural benefits for acting responsibly

Adults and students have more time to:

- Focus on relationships

- Focus on classroom instruction

There is an instructional approach to discipline. Instances of problem behaviour are opportunities to learn and practise pro-social behaviour.

A **Minerva PBL Leadership Team** has now been formed. The team will be responsible for developing and maintaining effective learning and discipline procedures and resources that reflect the context of our school and its community.

The team recently participated in training days and we will be seeking parent and community input during Term 4 as we review our school values and expectations.

For more information about PBL, you may wish to visit [www.pbis.org](http://www.pbis.org)

**CONGRATULATIONS** to the following students who have received awards during the month of September

#### Principal Medallion

Dalyan, Michael P

#### Excellence Awards

Dante, Michael, Daylan, Luke B, Peter

#### Prize Cabinet

Alessandro, James G



**Happy Birthday** to the following students for the month of September

James G, Malachi, Ewan, Kurt, James F & Joshua.



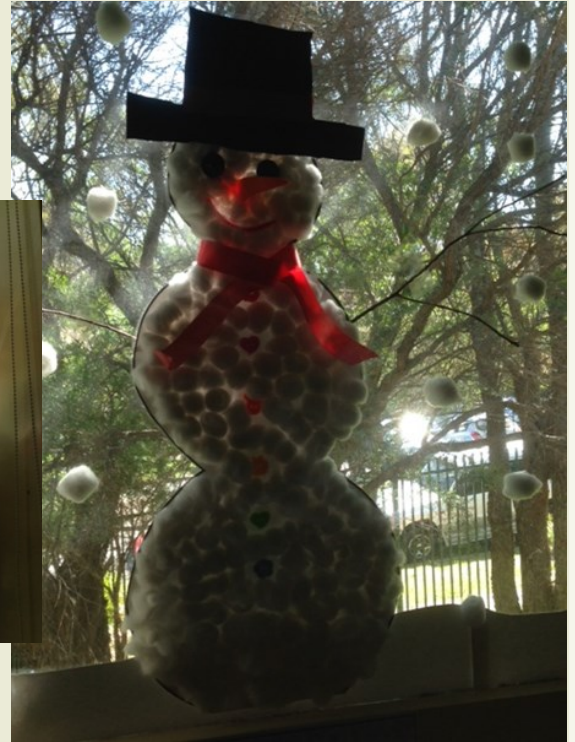




During the week **CLASS K** celebrated with James G his 18th Birthday.

A good time was had by all as we enjoyed some chocolate cake, hot chips and cupcakes. Congratulations James on this important milestone

Our Winter and Spring Window Artwork



## WORK EXPERIENCE

Some of our students working hard at Pet Care 2000



Kane builds a solar powered helicopter



Class A learns about related colours to produce a cool colour scheme landscape painting.

## CLASS A NEWS

Malachi and Jonathan having fun on bass and drums.





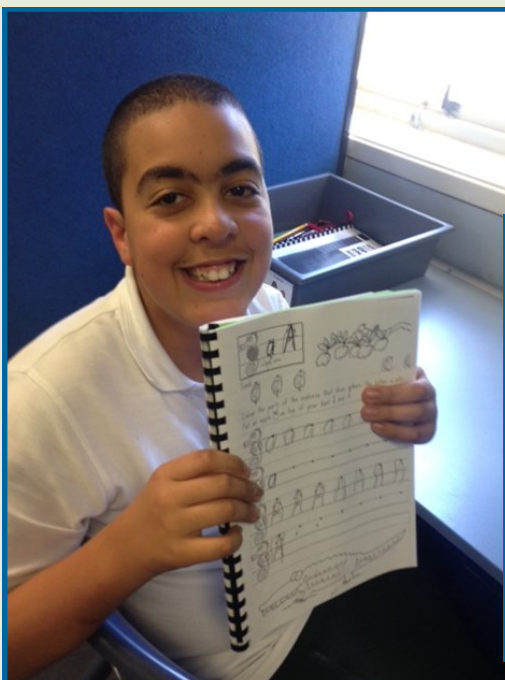
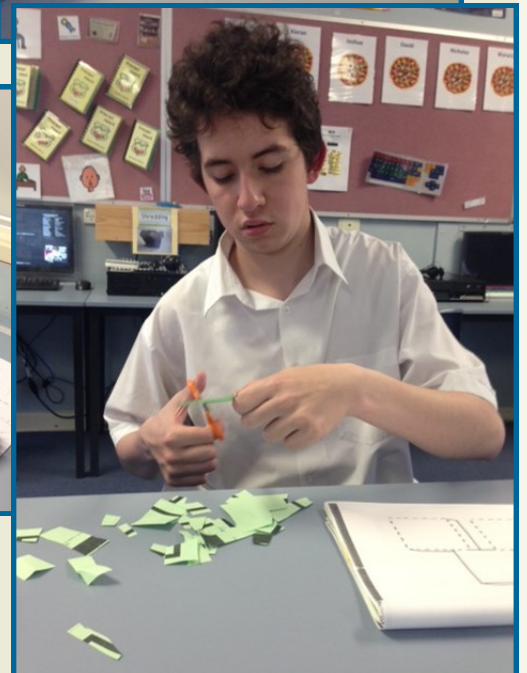


Nicholas enjoys outdoor activities whilst Ewan focuses on his reading

## NEWS FROM CLASS R



Joshua creates interesting sentences and Kieran completes his activity.



David enjoys his letter writing whilst Warwick concentrates on his counting.







## Year 12 Formal Fundraisers

Over the last few weeks, we have been raising money for the upcoming Year 12 Formal, through our cupcake drive and sausage sizzle. I would like to acknowledge and thank the Minerva staff who are contributing their time and effort in cooking the cupcakes, as they have proven to be very popular each Wednesday. Also a huge thank you to Woolworth's Caringbah & Bella Bakery Sutherland for their generous donation in support of our sausage sizzle. Mr Scott and Jack were master chefs on the BBQ tools, they managed to cook up 72 sausages. More importantly I would like to thank the students and parents for supporting our fundraising efforts. We will continue to sell cupcakes each Wednesday in Term 4.

Miss Julie



## WORK EXPERIENCE

Students working hard at the Chocolate Factory - IDF at Arncliffe.



## CLASS T NEWS

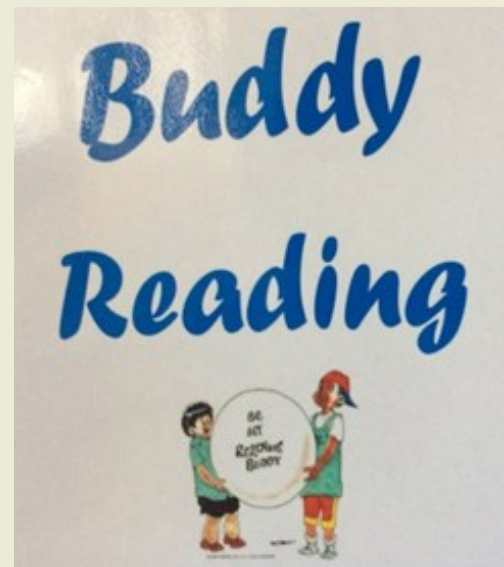
This Term we have been continuing our Science explorations, using different house hold items to conduct experiments and learn more about simple science in a fun and creative way. We have had fun building volcanos to create simple chemical reactions to form an eruption, popping lunch bags with, invisible eggs, coloured flowers, lava lamps and soap powered boats.

We have also been enjoying our new topic of Living and Non Living Things, and have been given the opportunity to select and research our own favourite animal in our Animal Project. We have all shown a lot of interest in our choices and did a great job in researching our answers.

We look forward to the new term, and continuing our research and explorations!  
Miss Edie, Miss Kylie, Miss Nicole and  
Mr Scott







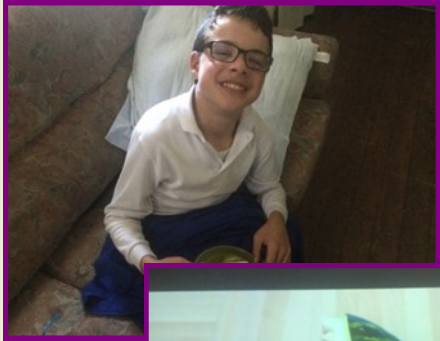


## CLASS L

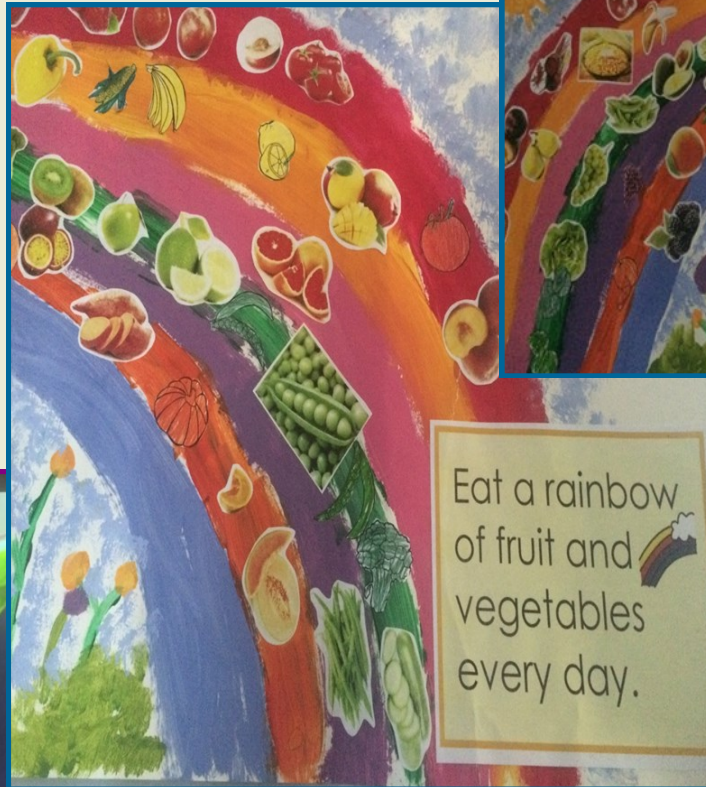
During this term, Class L has been busy learning about elements in art. Part of our class's art making, the students have been using stencils to create artworks. We have also been making a recipe folder with all the delicious food and even making Play-dough for other classes. The Students have learnt about the importance of hygiene in the cooking room and the dangers associated with the kitchen equipment. Class L students have made a great effort. We are looking forward to a fun filled term 4.







**Class C** have been learning about eating a rainbow of fruit and vegetables to be healthy. We enjoy crunching on fruit every day as part of our 'sip & crunch' program and next term are going to be getting creative as we make things out of fruit to eat.



This term **Class S** have been using their investigative skills and performing science experiments. They have enjoyed this tremendously as you can see by the pictures below. These experiments have included chemical reactions with water, oil, eggs, food colouring, baking soda and vinegar.





## FATHERS DAY THANK YOU

Minerva staff and students would like to thank Gifts4U for their continued support of our school



**Class N** have been studying ancient cultures and animals this term. Perry has been enjoying learning about the different animals and their habitats. We have made life size replicas of different species. The ancient culture we have been learning about is Egypt. This involves learning about cartouches, mummies, hieroglyphics and made a sarcophagus.

## FREE FOOD PANTRY

When: Wednesdays from 9.30 to 12.30pm.

Who: Southside Care aid to people on Centrelink or low income.

Where: At 175 Port Hacking Rd Miranda

Contact: Phone 9522 4300 for more details



## LOW COST FOOD PANTRY

When: Wednesdays

Who: Free fruit, vegies, bread for people on Centrelink or low income.

Where: Hub Community Centre 38/52 President Avenue, Caringbah.

Contact: 9525 4971 for more details.



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  
 5/154 Broadarrow Rd Riverwood NSW  
 PO Box 188 Riverwood NSW 2210  
[info@autismcommunity.org.au](mailto:info@autismcommunity.org.au)  
[www.autismcommunity.org.au](http://www.autismcommunity.org.au)  
 ABN: 64 103 662 535





## NDIS Update –

### A FREE Information Session for people with disability and their families

- Hear about changes to the disability support system and what the NDIS will mean for you
- An opportunity to ask questions

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September

7pm - 8.30pm

Miranda Community Centre (95 Karimbla Rd, Miranda)

Our guest speakers **Rob Watkins** and **Andrew Richardson** are both highly qualified to talk on the subject having being involved in the NDIS launch process.

Rob is the Executive General Manager, NSW & ACT for House with No Steps and previously was the NDIS NSW Launch Manager with responsibility for establishing the NDIS in NSW.

Andrew is the Managing Director of House with No Steps and a Director and Vice President of National Disability Services, the peak body which led the *Every Australian Counts* campaign for the NDIS. Andrew is also a dad and is able to give an account of what families accessing the NDIS may encounter.

RSVP to 9522 8016 by 16 Sept

PARENT TO PARENT TRADING AS REC ABILITY  
PO BOX 348, SUTHERLAND 1499

PH. 9522 8016 FAX. 9522 8046  
EMAIL: [admin@recability.org.au](mailto:admin@recability.org.au)

## 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.

Friendship Banners - Vinyl Banners  
Table Cloths - Bow & Teardrop Banners  
Pennants & Ribbons - Stickers & Posters



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# Live Life Your Way

We help people with disabilities live the life they choose.

We provide a wide range of services and programs for people of all ages, their families and carers and the wider community.

## We offer:

- support for individualised or self managed funding packages
- group and independent living
- work ready and life skills
- children and youth services
- rest and recreation
- community programs

For more information, please contact **Jayson De Oliveira**, RAC Manager, on **0438 236 715**.



## Call Out for Cooks!

Do you love to cook dishes from your homeland?

Would you like prepare a meal for people with an intellectual disability?

Sylvanvale's Rockdale Activity Centre (RAC) is looking for people who have a couple of hours to spare over lunchtime on a Tuesday or Thursday to cook and share a meal with us.

We can provide the ingredients, pots and pans, cooking facilities... and great company!

We hope you will join us.

