



Learning for Life

MINERVA SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

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Donations to Minerva School are now tax deductible.

DATES TO REMEMBER

TERM 1 2016

APRIL

LAST DAY OF TERM 1
Friday 8th

TERM 2 2016

STUDENTS RETURN TO SCHOOL FOR 1ST DAY OF TERM 2
Wednesday 27th

MAY

SCHOOL PHOTO DAY
Monday 9th

Year 7 VACCINATIONS
Monday 16th

NAPLAN
Tuesday 17th to Thursday 19th

Mr Harry Jessep

Harry Jessep first came to Minerva school thirteen years ago after answering an advertisement in 2004 in the local newspaper for volunteers. He has never left. Mr Harry is a favourite with our students and staff.

Mr Harry volunteers one morning a week without fail. Harry first began by teaching our students the recorder, the students loved this. This musical outlet led to performances at assemblies and presentation days.

Mr Harry has developed countless Powerpoint presentations for our students learning, covering many subjects and KLA's.

Mr Harry is a talented musician. He plays the flute, the clarinet and the piano as well as being in an orchestra.

He also makes beautiful wooden toys that he brings in to show our students.

Mr Harry was nominated a few years ago for a DEC award for being a 'super volunteer' and won. They don't make them like Mr Harry anymore.

From all the Minerva staff and students we would like to extend a big thankyou to our Mr Harry!

See you next week.



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents/Carers, Term 1 has flown by and it has been wonderful to see how well all our students have settled into their new classes and the new school year. This has certainly been a busy term full of great learning, fun excursions, work experience and regular community access to name just a few of the activities in which our students have participated. I would like to extend a big thank you to all my staff for their professionalism, creativity and enthusiasm in all the work they do each and every day to provide rich learning opportunities for all.

This term we have welcomed Karla, from Project Youth. Karla attends Minerva School each week on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday as part of the nationally funded Chaplaincy Program. This term Karla has been getting to know each of the students and has been supporting positive playground interactions. Next term Karla will be involved with some small group work sessions focusing on topics such as: social skills (cooperation, taking turns etc); self-esteem and positive relationships. Karla has proved an invaluable addition to the Minerva team and we look forward to working with her throughout the year. I would like to thank our interested and generous parents and friends who this term have participated in our Open Morning, our Hot Cross Bun drive, our parent information session & the very important Individual Learning Plan meetings which are held at the beginning of each year. We value positive partnerships with parents, families and community and encourage your involvement and input. A special thanks to a group of parent volunteers (Patricia & Costas, Clara, Slavica & Tracey) who have bravely taken on the task of sorting out our school resource room - from counting

puzzle pieces to purchasing storage cubes, toys and resources - we are indebted to you and really appreciate your commitment to Minerva School.

We have warmly welcomed back our longest serving, star volunteer Harry who has worked each week in classes around the school. Harry provides practical engaging activities for our students, creating PowerPoint presentations, capturing their interest through iPad apps and games, bringing in his musical instruments and his handmade wooden toys. Harry is an asset to our school and an inspiring role model for our students.

Minerva School has started the year with a major focus on wellbeing across all of our teaching and learning programs and staff professional learning, as outlined in our School Plan. This term we have started gathering baseline data about positive school behaviours and expectations as part of our implementation of Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) and we have surveyed staff about student social and emotional wellbeing. Next term PBL and Mind Matters will continue to be major programs within the school, with both providing useful frameworks and strategies to support positive behaviour, productive relationships and social and emotional wellbeing. We will continue to ask for your input and provide information for you as we implement these programs. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and enjoyable holiday. Spend time with family and friends and do something that makes you smile. My plan for the break is to read some good books, have at least one sleep-in and enjoy some special nana time with my new granddaughter.

Sara Swift
PRINCIPAL



Mind Matters is the key national mental health initiative for **secondary** schools in Australia.
 KidsMatter is the key national mental health initiative for **primary** schools in Australia.
 Both Mind Matters and KidsMatter provide the same framework to assist schools work effectively with families and the wider community to support children's wellbeing.

Minerva is mainly using the Mind Matters framework and resources, although at times we may find some of the KidsMatter resources more relevant for our school. At the beginning of term 2 we will invite parents and carers to complete a KidsMatter survey. It is a short survey which asks for your perceptions of Minerva in relation to our work in the area of mental health and wellbeing. Keep your eyes on this spot for updates!

Positive Behaviour Learning

Thanks to all the parents & families who attended the Minerva School Open Day in Week 8. The day included a short presentation to introduce Positive Behaviour for Learning and the results of the parent and staff surveys which gave us our updated school expectations:

SAFETY - CARING - LEARNING

Next term we will start seeing these expectations appear in large signs around the playground and in classrooms, as we continue to teach students exactly what it means to be safe, caring learners at Minerva School.

Congratulations

to Mr Travis and Yvette on the birth of their first child, a beautiful daughter, Elliott Sue.

All 3 are doing well. We wish them all the happiness as they begin their journey together as a family.



Happy Birthday

to the following students for
 March and April

Jarnte, Sam, Daylan, Cooper, Jimmy and
 Peter Z.

Ability Links NSW



Linking people with disability to their local communities

Ability Links NSW is for:

- people with disability (6-64 years and who are generally not accessing specialist disability services)
- carers and families of people with disability
- the community

Ability Links Coordinators (Linkers) can assist you to:

- set goals and plan for your future
- build your confidence to achieve your goals
- develop your existing support networks and create new networks
- look at ways you can participate in and be part of your community

Contact your local linker for more information about the mainstream and community based supports and services in your community.

KURRANULLA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

Ph: 9528-0287

Fax: 9528-0528

Email: manager@kurrnulla.org.au

www.kurrnulla.org.au

abilitylinksnsw@lscs.nsw.gov.au

www.adhc.nsw.gov.au



Ability Links NSW is an initiative of the NSW State Government's Department of Family and Community Services, Ageing, Disability & Home Care.

Start thinking about a good life

- **Hear** about changes to the disability support system and what it will mean for you
- **Talk** about planning and things to consider for your life
- **See** what some people are already doing.



Lunch will be provided.

My Choice Matters workshops are fully accessible.

my **choice** matters
NSW Consumer Development Fund

Living Life
My Way

Get More Skills



HURSTVILLE WORKSHOP
Wednesday 13th April

10.30am-2.30pm

Club Central Hurstville
2 Crofts Avenue,
Hurstville, NSW 2220

For people with disability, their families and carers. Registration essential. Get in touch if you have any support or dietary needs.

To Register

- ☎ 1800 144 653
- ✉ info@mychoicematters.org.au
- @ www.mychoicematters.org.au

To Connect

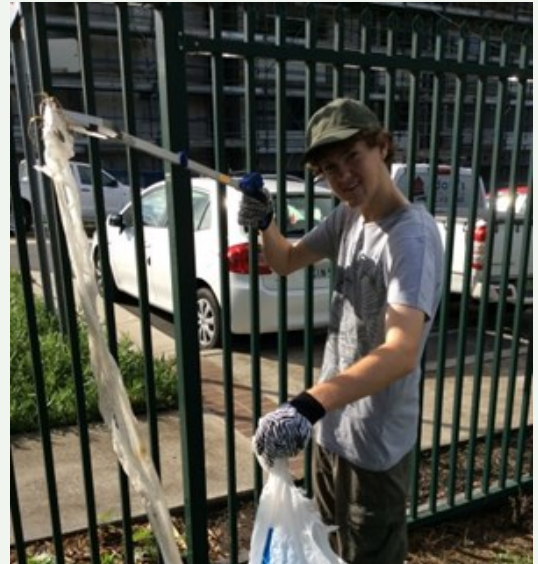
- f /mychoicematters
- 🐦 @mcmnsw

Find out more

Head to www.mychoicematters.org.au

Green Team Work Experience

The green team has had a great start to work experience completing many jobs around the school and at Sylvanvale Garden House. Students have been participating in jobs such as lawn mowing, olive picking, feeding chickens, weeding, mulching, watering and litter picking to name a few. Here we are in action.



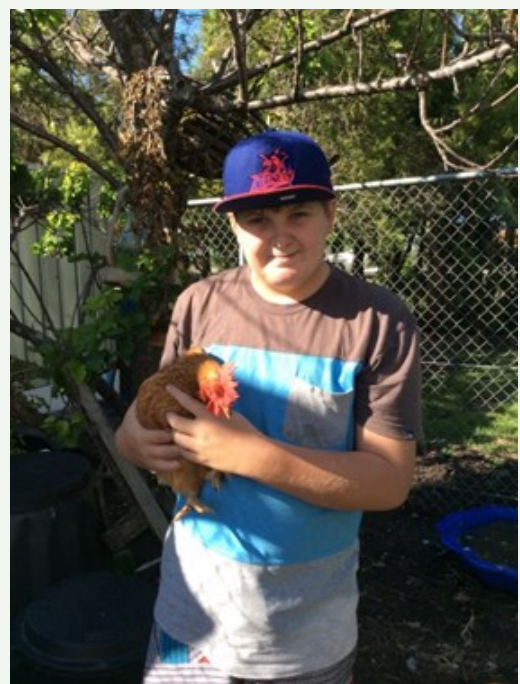
Work Experience

The first semester of Work Experience has got off to a great start with students at several different sites. We have a group of 7 students at Civic Industries where work is flowing and students are enjoying tapping ON & OFF with their new Opal cards.

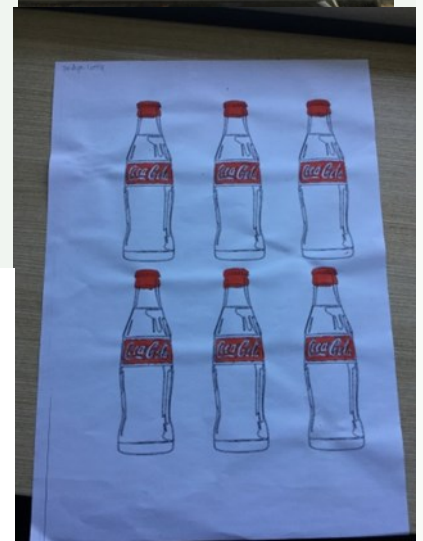
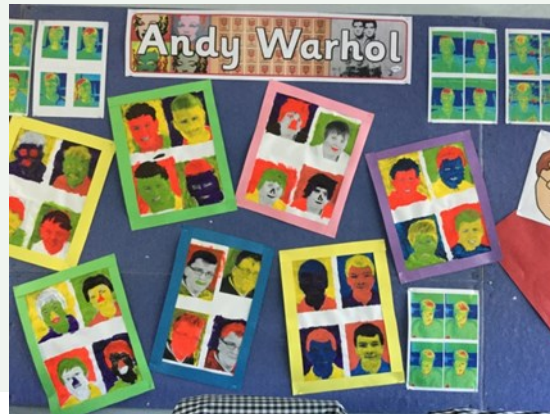
Mitchell and Anthony are supporting their TVET courses with related work placements. Mitchell studying Animal Studies by Correspondence is working independently at the 'Dog Wash Café' in Caringbah. Anthony is working at Coles Westfield Miranda with a supported group as part of his Retail Access course.

Peter E has a placement at the Caringbah Craft Centre, where he is involved in skills used to make wooden toys.

Our new initiative this semester is the 'Green Team' in the capable hands of Miss Sarah. This includes taking ownership and pride in their own back yard by helping with the Minerva grounds & School Sensory garden; learning about bush regeneration, with 3 visits to join a group at Joseph Banks Reserve at Kareela; Visits to a local horticulture project the 'inclusive classroom,' at the Sylvanvale Garden House Sutherland; and local bush ranger walks to conduct environmental surveys.



Class Wattle has been learning about famous 21st Century artists; Julian Opie, Andy Warhol and Chuck Close. We have created self-portraits in the style of Julian Opie using both tracing and digital computer generated art. We have looked at Andy Warhol's use of repetition and colour creating portraits using painting skills and ipad photography apps. This week we started looking at Chuck Close and his use of grids. Here is some of our artwork.



Woolworths earn and learn.

Thank you to all the family that sent in there earn and learn stickers. We have received some wonderful new resources that we hope the students will enjoy using. Here is just a selection.



Classes for Term 2

We are always working towards achieving the best outcomes for each of our students and at times that may mean that we need to move students from one class to another in response to the arrival of incoming new students. Minerva accepts new students each term and we aim to ensure that class groupings are supportive, challenging and afford the best opportunities for everyone. Next term in order to accommodate and welcome the arrival of a new student there will be a few class changes. Parents of the students concerned have been spoken with individually. Thank you for your support.

Protea class

Every Monday and Friday Protea Class host a "lunch buddy" program. We have two students come in and join us for hots chips. It is a wonderful chance to work on our social skills and interact with other members of the school.



We have been enjoying the trampoline every morning. It seems to help with concentration during desk work time and completing listening activities on the IWB. Communication is a very important goal for the protea class this year. Using a program such as Proloqu2go is a very important skill.

Do an hour of physical activity everyday

Children need at least 60 minutes of activity each day. Children are not going to have enough physical activity while at school. Families can plan extra activity into their lives to make up the difference.



Keep active in the colder months

Don't be a winter wannabe and let you and your children be sedentary this winter. Encourage children to engage in active play such as bush walking, bike riding, kicking the footy, or playing a game of tag all year round.



Grevillea class students having been learning the Australian States & Territories
The boys enjoyed cutting out the States & Territories and arranging them in the correct place



We are all standing in Australia

Waratah Class has had a great start to 2016 with lots of interesting lessons and fun activities to learn from. The students have been learning about the importance of friendship and getting along with others. As part of our friendship program, the students have been participating in group activities, working together completing large puzzles and helping each other with desk work. Miss Julie, Miss Francine and I hope everyone has a safe and relaxing break. Hoping to see everyone refreshed and ready for a new term with both Miss Laura and I in term 2.



Banksia Class are lucky enough (every second Tuesday) to have the company of our favourite volunteer Mr Harry Jessep. So far, we have used Mr Harry's powerpoint presentation to learn about Captain Cook and his travels. Mr Harry also played his clarinet for us and made up some short tunes to match our names. Mr Harry also makes wonderful, old fashioned wooden toys. Here are some photos of some of our Banksia boys playing with these.

Thanks Mr Harry!



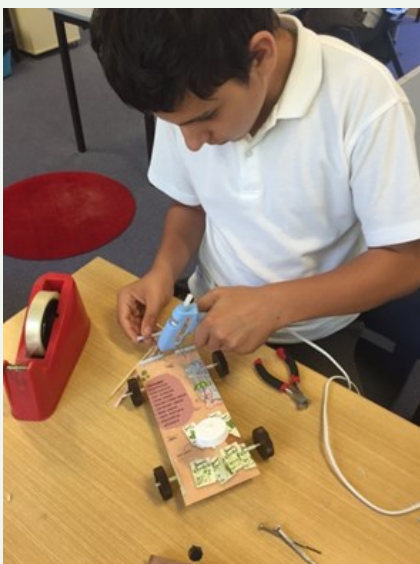


EUCALYPTUS CLASS

Three birthday boys in March !



Preston making Aussie Damper the way early Australian swagmen made it using flour, water and a stick for mixing.



The class have been exploring kinetic energy in science. Here is Chris building a jet (balloon) powered car.

MATES ON A MISSION

We would like to thank Mates on a Mission for their generosity in donating headphones for our students. Headphones are a very important resource for our students which allow them to access various programs on the computer and ipad whilst not distracting other students in the class.

We are very fortunate to have the continued support of Mates on a Mission.



EASTER HOT CROSS BUN FUNDRAISER

Thank you to our Minerva families and staff for supporting our recent fundraiser. With your generosity we have raised \$249. Special thanks go to the Teuma and Filipovski families for their very large orders and also to Miss Julie for collecting all the orders and ensuring the orders were filled.

TERM 2 FUNDRAISERS

Next Term we have the **Mother's Day Stall** which will include a raffle prize. Raffle tickets will be sent home with families this week. We are lucky to have some wonderful gifts donated by Minerva families and staff such as a Guest handbag, a dinner voucher at BayBlu Restaurant, a Whale watching Family voucher, champagne, chocolates and other treats for Mum. Special thanks to Silvana and Jakes' Uncle Richard for their generous donations and for organising some wonderful prizes for the raffle and to Deb for her tireless work in organising the stall gifts. The staff and students appreciate your valued support.

We will also be hosting a **Bunnings BBQ** on Sunday the 12th June at the Kirrawee store. A note will go home early next Term seeking your support. Please note this date in your diaries.



Finding it difficult to cope but don't know where to turn?

Call the South Eastern and Northern Sydney Family Referral Service on 1800 066 757.



- We can help you find useful services in your local area
- You can speak to us by telephone, you can visit our offices, we can meet you in your home or somewhere convenient for you
- We link young people, children and families to culturally sensitive services wherever possible
- We provide free interpreters

Your link to support

Tel: 1800 066 757

Email: sensfamilyreferral@barnardos.org.au

Web: www.barnardos.org.au

Hours: 8am-6pm Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays)

We can link you with services to help with:

- Domestic violence
- Migrant and Settlement
- Financial assistance
- Counselling and mediation
- Child and Parenting programs
- Youth support
- Housing and accommodation
- Mental health support and any other services you may need



Family Referral Services are a Keep Them Safe Initiative funded by the NSW Government to improve the safety and wellbeing of children and families in NSW.

Welcome to the Sutherland, St George and surrounding LGAs Mini Mental Health EXPO/Parent Information Session 2016

With a focus on Mental Health – Post School Options: Are there any?

***Blakehurst High School in the school hall – 16th May, 2016.
12 – 2.00pm***

Hi all,

As you will be aware, there will be a Mini Mental Health/Parent Information Session, Monday 16/5/16 at Blakehurst HS from 12 – 2pm.

We believe that the information provided would also be of benefit to Learning Support staff (such as counselors, Transition Advisors and Welfare teams).

A short presentation by the service providers will commence after our welcome and introduction, at approx. 12.30 and run for about 30 minutes.

Each service will then move to a table where people can go and discuss how the service assists with mental health issues.

LIST OF ATTENDING SERVICE PROVIDERS

All of these services have focus programs addressing Mental Health issues.

1. Ability Links, Sutherland and St George teams
2. Break Thru – Sherral Woods
3. Direct Employment – DES ESS - Robert Watson
4. Disability Services Australia – Community Connections – Kimberley Redman
5. Civic Lifestyles – Blagica Stojanova
6. Life Connect – The Disability Trust – Southern Sydney Trusted Care – Jeanette Cato
7. Northcott – Jessica Mayor
8. Nova Employment – Phil Duren

Lilian Barter and Amanda Hurst
Support Teachers Transition
6/4/16

The students of class **Bottle Brush** have enjoyed being involved in a variety of activities this term. Hope all students have a very relaxing and well deserved holiday break. See you next term ☺



FREE EVENTS

Sutherland Shire COUNCIL 

Youth Week 2016 in the Shire

Sutherland Police Youth Expo

MONDAY 11 APRIL
Cooper Street Reserve,
Engadine
10am - 2pm

YOUTH Homelessness Matters Day



WEDNESDAY 13 APRIL

Main Stage,
Cronulla Mall
10am - 2pm

#edys

THURSDAY 14 APRIL
Engadine Youth Centre,
Engadine 1pm - 6pm

YOUTH MAKERSPACE BOOTCAMP

FRIDAY 15 APRIL
13 - 24 years
Sutherland Library
1pm - 5pm

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

MOVIE MARATHON

FRIDAY 15 APRIL
U/18 event
ShireLive, 7 Stapleton Ave,
Sutherland
5.30pm - 10.30pm

BOOMBOX

FRIDAY 15TH APRIL
Hip Hop Event - All Ages
Project Youth Menal
6pm - 10.30pm



MIND GAMES

FRIDAY 22 APRIL
Sutherland Shire Youth Council
Sutherland Library
1pm - 5pm

For more event details



/ShireYouthWeek

