



Learning for Life

MINERVA SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

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Donations to Minerva School are now tax deductible.

DATES TO REMEMBER

TERM 2 2016
JULY

**LAST DAY OF
TERM FOR
STUDENTS
AND STAFF**
Friday 1st

**STAFF
DEVELOPMENT
DAY**
Monday 18th

**FIRST DAY OF
TERM 3 FOR
STUDENTS**
Tuesday 19th

AUGUST

**TARONGA
ZOOMOBILE
INCURSION**
Thursday 11th

**HEALTHY
HAROLD
INCURSION**
*Tuesday 23rd to
Thursday 25th*

Bunnings BBQ Fundraiser

On Sunday 12th June Minerva held a BBQ Fundraiser at the Bunnings Kirrawee store.

We had many parents/grandparents, staff and their family members all come together to help out.

We would especially like to thank the following businesses for their generous donations and please keep them in mind when you are next shopping. Support them if you can.

- Bickfords for donating cartons of aqua pure water
- IGA Sutherland for donating 70 loaves of bread
- Best Fresh Sutherland for donating the 20kilo bag of onions

These donations helped to significantly keep our costs down and maximise our profit. A successful day with \$1800 raised.



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents/carers,

Well here we are, almost half way through the year already! Term 2 has been an extremely productive term, with students and staff working hard and learning new and exciting things along the way.

Senior students this term have participated in Work Experience and we have had some wonderful reports about their enthusiasm and engagement with the various programs. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our careers teacher, Jenny Marshall, and our Transition teacher, Lilian Barter, for the great work they do in organising and supporting the many different placements offered to our students. Some of our students participated in the Nationwide NAPLAN assessments this term and all of our students have made some progress and gains against their Individual Education Plans and goals. Also this term our students have been fortunate to have participated in some outstanding sporting opportunities, such as: swimming, cricket, softball and staff versus students whole school matches in football and volleyball. Many thanks are due to Sarah Ellingham for organising these sessions and making sure our students access plenty of sport and activity options in a fun and supportive environment. Our Release From Face to Face (RFF) teacher, Margot Smith, has also worked exceptionally hard to develop a differentiated sport curriculum which has encouraged each student to set realistic sport and activity goals aimed at improving overall health, fitness and participation. I am sure you will all be pleased with the comments about individual student progress when you receive your Semester One reports in the next week or so and I would like to acknowledge my appreciation

of all the hard work of my teachers and executive staff, School Learning and Support Officers, office staff (Trish and Mel) and General Assistant in ensuring Minerva School runs in a smooth and orderly fashion and is able to provide an environment which maximises student learning outcomes.

Staff this term have undertaken some challenging and rewarding professional learning, including courses on: assistive communication (ProLoquo2Go), Trauma Informed Care, Mind Matters, Growth Coaching, Learning and Business Management Reform and OLIVER (new library system). All of this professional learning will result in improved student learning outcomes and up to date school systems which reflect best practice in NSW.

I am immensely grateful to the generous crew of staff, parents and families who took part in our recent Bunnings BBQ fundraiser on Sunday 12th June. People donated their time, money and resources to support our school and the final result was a whopping \$1800!! Fantastic work everyone. These funds will go directly towards resources and equipment for our students.



At our staff Mind Matters Day this term we were able to collate and cross reference all the

data we have received to date from parents and staff and feedback from and about students. The results were very encouraging and show that all groups are positive about the programs and supports we have in place to promote mental health wellbeing for our students. Across the four

components of the Mind Matters Framework, it would seem that satisfaction is high in the areas of: respectful relationships and belonging; student skills for resilience and supporting students with mental health difficulties. The area which was identified as needing some development was component three - Parents and Families. There was feedback which suggested that parents and families would appreciate some information support and some communication about youth development and mental health issues. With these results in mind, our action team met with other special schools from the area to discuss and plan some forward actions. Our team has developed an implementation plan which is looking to:

1. Establish a parent resource room up in the school administration block, which would provide a meeting hub for parents as well as brochures and websites which contain relevant information around topics of interest.
2. Schedule a once per term Parent Coffee and Chat information session on current and relevant topics around youth development and youth mental health issues.

Early next term I will be sending home a request for your views on topics of interest and on preferred times for our parent information sessions. Further down the track we would like to develop a school Social Media Policy, set up a school Facebook page for the greater sharing of school information and celebrations of school success stories and update our current school website. We see all of these actions as a means of encouraging parent involvement and improving communications. We will continue to keep you posted about our great Mind Matters stories along the

way - keep an eye out for the Mind Matters logo in each newsletter. ☺



Next term - apart from all the fun learning opportunities

and incursions - we have scheduled our major fundraiser for the year - Comedy for a Cause!! Comedy for a Cause is a show featuring comedians from the Sydney and Melbourne International Comedy Festival. A number of comedians come together for a night of fun and fundraising for Minerva School. The evening will be an adults only event and is booked for Saturday September 10th at Club on Easts in Sutherland. More information with posters, tickets and raffle tickets will follow from the beginning of next term. These shows are a great platform for substantial fundraising and are usually a great fun night where you can get out and socialise with other parents and families. At this early stage I am looking for people - parents, friends, and staff - who are interested in working together as a planning party in the lead up to the night. We will need people to manage ticket sales; gift donations; prizes for silent auction; raffle and more. I will send home a note early next term so we can get started with our planning and organisation.

Thank you all for your ongoing and wonderful support this term. I wish you all a happy, relaxing and safe holiday break. School resumes for staff on Monday July 18th and for students on Tuesday July 19th.

Sara Swift
PRINCIPAL

CROSS COUNTRY RUN

On Wednesday 29th June we held our rescheduled Cross Country Run in perfect weather conditions. It was very pleasing to see many of our parents come and cheer on the students. Congratulations to our winners -:
Adam Hunt - Senior Division and Flynn Harris - Junior Division.
Congratulations also to all our students for displaying such good sportsmanship.





Making Online Payments

Dear Parents/Carers

Minerva School now has an additional payment option for parents to make payments to our school. This payment option has been introduced as the Department moves all schools into a new Finance System. From Term 4 our parents will not have the option of making payments by direct deposit (EFT). Payments can still be made by cash or cheque. More details will follow in the coming term.

The new option of **online payments** is via a secure payment page hosted by Westpac. Payments can be made using either a Visa / MasterCard credit OR a Debit card.

The payment page is accessed from the front page of our School website: www.minerva-s.schools.nsw.edu.au and by selecting **\$ Make a payment.**

Items that can be paid for include the student learning resource levy, voluntary contributions, sales to students and the information technology levy. There is also a category called **Other** which covers items such as building fund contributions, donations and Year 12 senior jackets. Specific instructions for using the new payment option will be given each time you are invoiced.

This is a secure payment system hosted by Westpac to ensure your credit/debit card details are captured in a secure manner. These details are not passed back onto the school.

You have the ability to check and change any details of the payment before the payment is processed. Receipts can be emailed and/or printed.

Details of payments are passed onto the school daily where they will be receipted against your child's account. As a receipt has been issued from the Westpac payment page, a further receipt will NOT be issued by the school.

For any enquiries regarding the **new online payment process** please contact the school office on 9521 3433.



Thank you to Como Jannali Rotary Club for their recent donation of \$1000. They are always very generous in their support of our students and school.

Eucalyptus Class has been looking at **Living Things** in and around our school. It is a part of our Science unit.

Out in the Sensory Garden and on the top oval, we have been on nature walks, counting trees and collecting data on how many different types and sized trees we have at Minerva.

We explored the features of trees, how they feel, what they need to grow and what trees do for us.

Back in the classroom, we planted our own seeds, giving them water and sunlight and hypothesised what would happen next. They are now little seedlings.

Here are our pictures of rainbow lorikeets. We have been learning about some animals that live in trees.





Happy Birthday

to the following students for the
month of July
Anthony, Kane, Michael, and Mark

Great reasons to be active for children and parents

- boosts confidence
- improves fitness
- makes bones and muscles stronger
- improves posture
- helps maintain a healthy weight
- lowers the risk of heart disease
- reduces stress
- improves sleep
- reduces the risk of cancer
- improves self confidence
- teaches you new skills
- develops better motor skills
- makes a person happier with their body
- lower risk of disease including heart disease and cancer later in life

THANK YOU

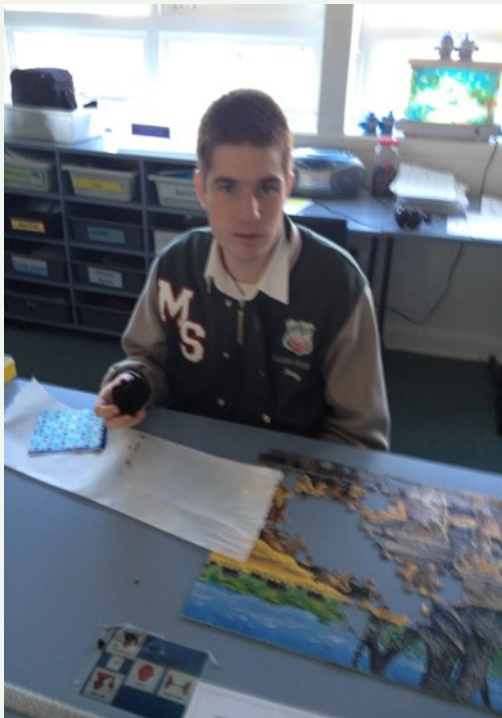
Mr Harry, our long standing volunteer, has very generously donated a tablet with various educational games and activities for student use. The students in Eucalyptus class have been enjoying these activities. We are most grateful to Mr Harry for his time and generosity.

We would also like to thank Mrs Youssef who continues to donate wonderful resources for our Library and classroom use.

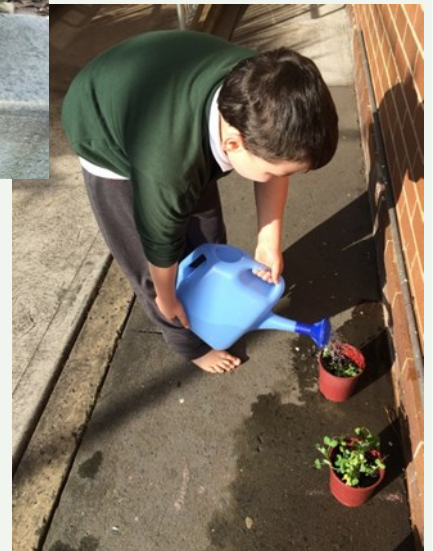
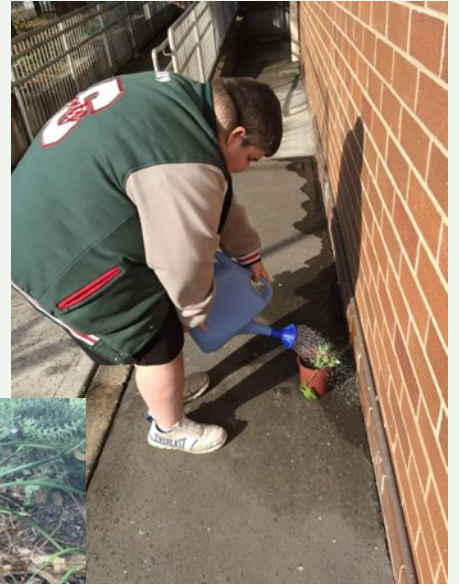
We are very fortunate to have such a generous and thoughtful community.

Bunnings BBQ Kirrawee





Sebi celebrated his 18th Birthday on the 12th of June. Banksia Class, Adam, Alex, Bailey, Jimmy, Jake and James, celebrated with Sebi with some chocolate cake, chocolate biscuits and hot chips. A good time was had by all. Happy Birthday Sebi!



Class Bottlebrush have been growing dwarf peas from seeds. They started as seeds in a pot with some water. First the roots began to grow, then the leaves. They are so big now and we have moved them into bigger pots in the garden. They need lots of sunlight and water to keep them healthy. We love looking after our plants and the environment!



Seasons for Growth

This is an eight-week program for children aged 6 to 10 years that have experienced grief and loss in their lives due to a significant change such as death, separation of parents or a natural disaster.

Children will learn:

- to understand and talk about the normal range of emotions experienced during major change, grief and loss
- how to build positive relationships with family and friends
- how they can participate in a caring and confidential network of peers and adults
- about resiliency
- how to plan for a realistic and hope-filled future

Wednesday, 4:00pm – 5:00pm

27 Jul | 3 Aug | 10 Aug | 17 Aug | 24 Aug

31 Aug | 7 Sep | 14 Sep 2016

Cost: \$50 per child

Venue: Caringbah Interrelate

Address: 383-385 Port Hacking Rd
Caringbah

Bookings Essential – Phone 8522 4408

Note: This program is developed by Good Grief and facilitated by Interrelate



Talking Together & Fighting Fair

Conflict is a normal part of any relationship, however it is how conflict is managed that really counts.

This six-session program will assist couples to communicate more effectively and avoid misunderstandings, even about difficult topics.

Couples will develop the skills to:

- express concerns in a helpful and constructive way
- reach an understanding of each other
- communicate clearly about important issues
- deal with differences of opinion more easily and more effectively
- identify differences which cause conflict
- manage conflict constructively
- resolve conflict when emotions are running high
- make decisions and negotiate outcomes which are satisfactory to both partners

Date: 28 Jul | 4 Aug | 11 Aug | 18 Aug |
25 Aug | 1 Sep

Venue: Caringbah Interrelate:
383-385 Port Hacking Rd, Caringbah

RSVP: Ali 8522 4408

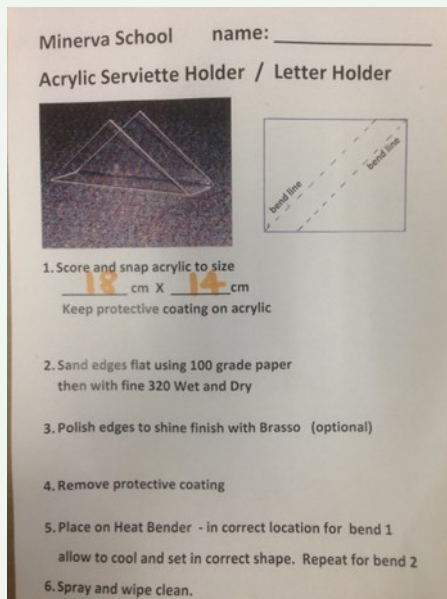
Cost: \$150 per couple



THANK YOU SUTHERLAND SHIRE LIONESS CLUB

We would like to thank the Sutherland Shire Lioness Club for the free tickets for our families to attend the Circus Quirkus show in the coming school holidays. This opportunity would not be possible without the generous support of Sutherland Shire's Business Community —: 7 Eleven stores Sutherland, Caper Credit Union, Van Tai Hot Bread, Heritage Memorials, Spit Roast Sutherland, Lambert Investments, Annette Gibson, Warren Saunders Insurance Brokers, Global Freight Solutions, Nine to 5 Hair Designs, PJP Homes, Mobile Direct Automotive Services Engadine. Please support these businesses if you can or pass on your thanks to them.

Class Grevillea have been busy completing their acrylic serviette / letter holders



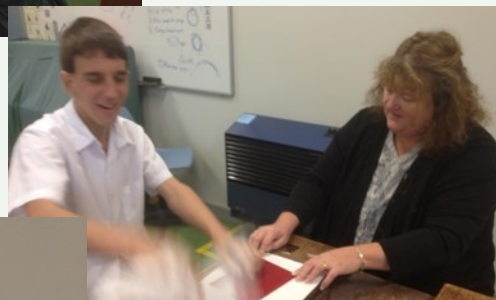
The students had to follow a work sheet of instructions



Ewan, Joshua and Warwick sanding the edges



David helping Peter



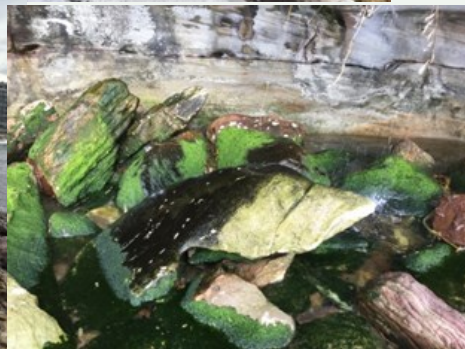
Finished!
Good job Brittany

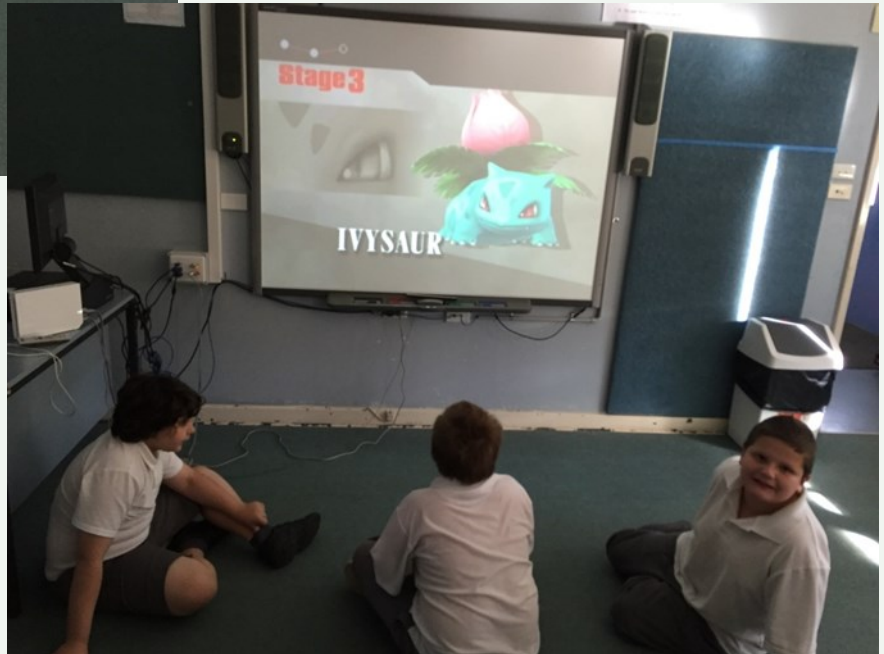




Wattle Class have been trying to be active everyday for at least 20 minutes as part of the NSW Premier Sporting Challenge. Wednesdays we have been swimming at Sutherland Leisure Centre to improve our stroke and to get fit. Here we are in action!

We have also been practicing our photography skills when walking in Cronulla. In week 7 and 8 we observed some of the damage to the beach from the storms. All photography captured by students.





Waratah Class won the SRC good choice of the week award at assembly. They have been caring for school property including using the school computers and iPads appropriately and looking after the sports equipment. They have been rewarded for their efforts by having access to the school Wii during their free-choice time. Well done class Waratah!



THE RHYTHM VILLAGE

MUSIC SPEAKS BEYOND WORDS

July School Holiday Workshop.

Our interactive workshops are specifically designed for fun and engagement, exposing participants to the power of rhythm and music.

Run in a group, each participant is given the opportunity to 'shine', to create sound and music, to explore their own creativity and push their physical boundaries.

The Rhythm Village works at schools throughout greater Sydney bringing our unique music programs to children with special needs.



Workshop Outline

This workshop focuses on fun, excitement and interaction, with singing, guitar and a variety of percussion instruments to ensure all students are engaged.

Date of Workshop	Thursday 7 th July 2016
Location	Kogarah Community Services 49 English St, Kogarah
Time	11am – 12pm
Participant Numbers	Up to 16 participants
Cost	\$25/child, \$40 for child plus 1 sibling



Please note that a carer or parent must be present at all times!

When music is used with a therapeutic approach, we can achieve incredible results in relation to:

- + Increased focus
- + A sense of working as a team
- + Creative Expression
- + Physical Dexterity
- + Brain Development
- + Release of tension

Your call to action:

Please send an email to: info@rhythmvillage.com.au, letting us know a little more about your child (name, age and their specific needs). We will then send you details to book and secure your spot!

We look forward to seeing you and your children on the day for a fun session of creating music and making memories!



The Rhythm Village
0401 597 628 | info@rhythmvillage.com.au | www.rhythmvillage.com.au



We have had a busy end to semester one in Protea class. We saw whales migrating, and created some art work to represent this, it was quiet the bush walk getting to Solander Point! We have been making our own lunch, a great skill to have for when Mum or Dad is busy. We saw Finding Dory and enjoyed sometime in Cronulla library.

NSW Premier's Reading Challenge

Premiers Reading Challenge finishes at the beginning of term 3.



Class Bottlebrush gets into the challenge.

If you have been reading at home please complete your personal reading log and return at the start of next term. Happy holidays

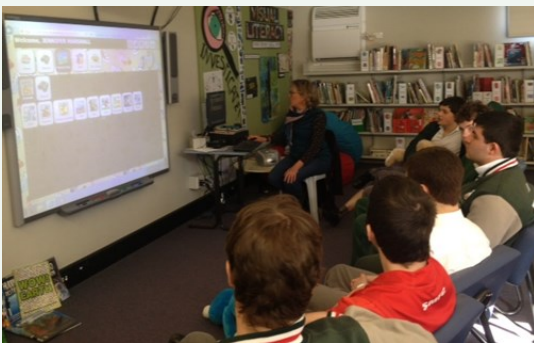


We created a hands poster in the library for **Reconciliation week**, symbolising 'reaching out' and developing our relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. The SRC's good choice of the week focused on this symbol and the importance of 'working together' in harmony with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and with others from our own school community.



Minerva has '**gone live**' with our new library system **Oliver** a Web based learning, teaching, information and library management tool.

Classes spent time learning about the new system, and creating their own 'My Library' page which can be accessed through their portal at school and home. The interactive and visual capacity vastly improves the experience for Minerva students.



Lists can be accessed eg. Premiers Reading Challenge Books.

It delivers digital content such as eBooks and websites to our school.

More complex searching for digital resources is available for staff and students.

