



*Learning for Life*

# MINERVA SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER

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Donations to Minerva School are now tax deductible.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

#### TERM 4 2016

#### SEPTEMBER

**LAST DAY OF  
TERM 3 FOR  
STUDENTS  
AND STAFF**

*Friday 23rd*

#### OCTOBER

**FIRST DAY OF  
TERM 4 FOR  
STUDENTS  
AND STAFF**

*Monday 10th*

**SAILING  
PROGRAM  
BEGINS**

*Wednesday 12th*

**VACCINATIONS**

*Monday 17th*

#### NOVEMBER YEAR 12

**FORMAL**

*Thursday 24th*

**PRESENTATION  
DAY**

*Wednesday 30th*

**Class Eucalyptus** were the primary artistic contributors to our recent school fundraising artwork project. The artwork was a major item for our recent Comedy for a Cause fundraiser. The class enjoyed applying beautiful colours and tracing some of the line-work on this fabulous painting of Cronulla Beach. Students from other classes were also invited to add their mark. Chris and Flynn contributed the finishing touches with the happy beach side figures. The painting sold for an undisclosed sum under a million dollars!



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear parents/carers,

What a fabulously busy end to Term 3!

I know that most of the students and certainly all of the staff are ready for a two week breather, so let's hope the Spring weather stays beautiful and we can all get out for some rest, relaxation and re-charge.

In the latter half of this term our students have been immersed in great learning opportunities; from Healthy Harold to visits from the local Police Liaison Officer. In week 10 our Work Experience program concludes for the year, with the students participating in a Presentation Day picnic at Cronulla. Many thanks to Lillian Barter and Jenny Marshall for their ongoing support and coordination of this worthwhile program. It is always rewarding to see our students developing in confidence and maturity. Our student focus has remained on Positive Behaviour for Learning and our school expectations around Safe, Caring Learners. Overall there has been a pleasing improvement in students trying their best to be in the right place at the right time and to interact with each other in a safe and friendly manner.

It was wonderful to meet with parents during our Minerva School Reviews and equally as exciting to read and discuss the great individual progress our students are making against their Individual Learning Goals. During this term our teachers have undertaken assessments across the whole school and I'm sure that the Semester Two reports will outline some progress and achievements.

It is always my very great pleasure to write a small note of thanks to my amazing staff. Every day the Minerva staff go above and beyond to support, challenge and encourage our students and this term in particular I would like to acknowledge a few specific people for their efforts. Trish and Mel (our admin gurus!) have worked incredibly hard this term in preparation for our move to the new Learning Management and Business Reform (LMBR); attending enormous amounts of training and putting in some very long hours to ensure that Minerva School is ready for our Go Live day next term. I'm sure all will go well on October 17<sup>th</sup> (D-Day!!) and I owe them a great big Thank You. This term we also said a fond farewell to Miss Sarah, from Class Wattle, as she left on maternity leave. Sarah is such a dynamic and enthusiastic member of the Minerva Team that we will all miss her dreadfully but we know she will be back soon and wish her all the very best for the new adventures in her life.

Sarah and Mel Hollands have done an exceptional job this term of relieving as Assistant Principals while Russell Hely has been on leave. They have kept the ship sailing smoothly and I have appreciated their professionalism and support.

For me, this term has ended on a particularly bright and encouraging note. Our inaugural Comedy night, which was held last Saturday night, was an outstanding success! I am pleased to report that we raised in excess of \$10,000!! Many, many thanks go to our parents, families, staff and community sponsors for their hard work in selling raffle tickets, donating prizes, raising awareness and attending on the night. Later in this newsletter you will find a list of sponsors and families - please take the time to support these community businesses as a way of extending our mutual thanks. The proceeds of this fantastic fundraiser will go directly towards the establishment of a school vegetable garden, complete with chooks! This will provide another interactive learning space where we can support and encourage lifelong learning skills in our students. On a personal note I would like to wish all our students, families and staff a great Spring holiday. Come back re-energised and full of beans to end the year. I will be taking some medical leave next term (20/10 - 2/12) and I am pleased to say that during my absence Mr Travis Baird will be relieving as Principal for a period of six weeks.

Sara Swift  
Principal



Minerva students working  
on the Fundraising  
Artwork project

**WARATAH CLASS** have been working on their personal fitness this term, as part of our Olympics unit.

The students have been working hard to improve their resilience and perseverance in a range of activities that help to increase their flexibility, endurance, strength and balance.

They have been steadily improving throughout the term, in all exercises, and with only one week left of school to go, they are hoping to achieve their personal best.

Flexibility (Sit & Reach)



Endurance (Step-ups)

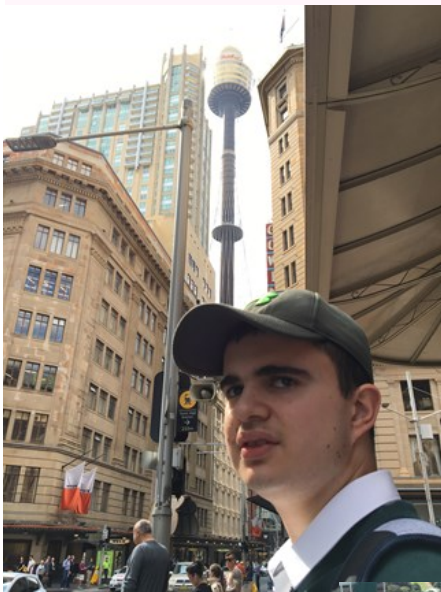


Balance and Strength





**CLASS PROTEA'S** community access outing last week was to Sydney tower eye. What a view! We could see for a very long way and buildings, cars and people looked so small from way up high in the air. We had a surprise visit from Dad for morning tea, which bought a very big smile to Perry's face.



## THE GREEN TEAM

The Green Team have been visiting Sylvanvale Garden House this Term. We made concrete pots, painted them and planted little succulents. The Sylvanvale clientele made us pizza for lunch on the last day!



*Comedy for a Cause*  
*Thank you .....*

Thank you to the following Businesses for your generous support:

- Greater Union Cinemas
- Pontifex Jewellers
- The Cronulla Sharks
- BWS Sutherland
- Male Perfection Menswear
- Rubyniks Miranda
- QVB Tearoom
- Camelia Gardens
- Australian Cruise ship
- Captain Cook Cruises
- Sydney Cooking school
- Regallo Homewares
- Christine Griffiths
- Captain Corelli's restaurant at Club Menai
- Menai eyecare
- Beauty addiction by Jodi at Cronulla
- Bath n Linen Menai
- In House Menai
- Qudos Bank
- Taronga Zoo
- Crest Hotel
- Seaweed and Sand Homewares
- Rebel Miranda
- Abbey Engraving & Gifts
- Bunnings Kirawee
- Whale watching Sydney
- Sydney Swans
- Essenze Chocolates
- Mates on a Mission
- Southern Framing

Thank you also to the following families for their support and donations:

- The Ashford-Cox Family
- The Bakouris Family
- The Damcevski Family
- The Cowell Family
- The Filipovski Family
- The Wilkie Family
- The Youssef Family
- Silvana Ristevski
- The Dimmock Family
- Karla's mum





## Happy Birthday

to the following students for the month of September and October  
Malachi, Ewan, Kurt, Joshua and Mitchell.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

Congratulations to all the work experience students for a very successful year; we look forward to our picnic at Gunnamatta Bay to acknowledge student achievements.

Mitchell had a very successful independent placement at Hanrob Pet Hotels, Heathcote and Anthony worked well at Bunning's Caringbah with the Cross District Supported program.

## SAILABILITY

All classes will be going sailing early in Term 4. This is always a fun event on the Minerva School calendar.

Sailability operates from the Kogarah Bay Sailing Club at Dover Park in Blakehurst. Keep an eye out for permission notes and keep your fingers crossed for blue skies!



## GREVILLIA CLASS

For the last 3 weeks Grevillia has been reading the text, *Where the Wild Things Are*. The students have enjoyed reading the book on the interactive whiteboard and engaging in some fun lessons. We have made 'Wild Things', discussed and completed work on our 'dreams'. We have even incorporated some maths work on shapes into the unit. Grevillia students all looked excellent in the crowns they made last week.



## Community Signs and Symbols

Grevillia have been doing some great work on community signs and symbols. The students enjoy playing community sign memory on the interactive whiteboard. Students completed great work, matching signs to their descriptions.



## WATTLE CLASS

This term Wattle Class participated in an NRL and T-ball clinic here at School as well as completing a work experience program. The students were separated into groups and had the opportunity to experience a variety of challenging work environments catered to their abilities. We also went to Hogs breath Café to farewell Miss Sarah. We travelled by train to Cronulla then walked to the restaurant for lunch. We are sad to see Miss Sarah leave but we wish her all the very best on her new journey of parenthood.



## Civic Lifestyles Work experience 2016

This year some of our Work Experience students had the opportunity to work at Civic Lifestyles in Caringbah. There the students worked in the packaging section either assembling boxes, placing labels on confectionary or packing sand for pet stores. Congratulations to all the students involved who successfully completed Work Experience for 2016.



## LIBRARY

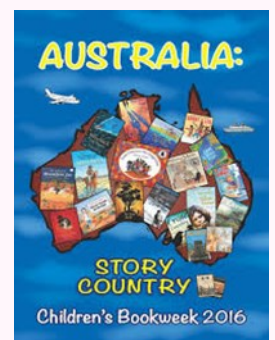


The beautiful spring weather has made us appreciate our fantastic library veranda space for reading and relaxing.



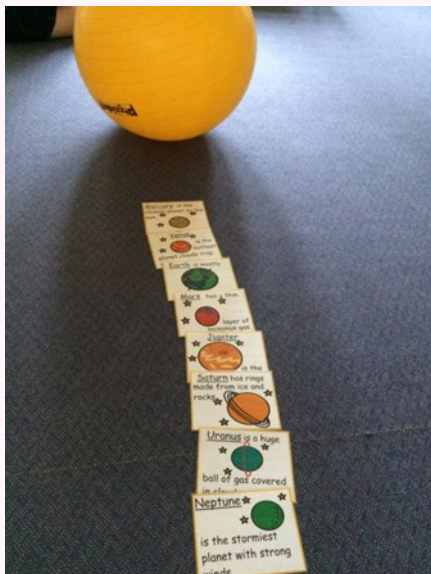
Big congratulations to 30 students who completed their Premiers Reading Challenge and a thank you to parents who supported at home to help complete the challenge. Certificates will be out later in term 4.

'Australia: Story Country' has been our focus this term, students have been enjoying many great Australian authors.



## BOTTLEBRUSH CLASS

Class Bottlebrush have been learning about the solar system this term.



Malachi and Michael  
are experts at  
remembering the  
order of the planets.



Cooper and Kane  
inflated the planets  
for our classroom  
display.



## MEDIA LAUNCH WITH CANCER COUNCIL AND EFTPOS

As you know Minerva School was recently selected for the 2016 Shade for Secondary Schools Program and was awarded a \$25,000 grant. The program is supported by the Cancer Council and eftpos. A media launch was held last Thursday with some of our students to promote sun safe awareness. This grant will be used to construct a much needed shade shelter in our playground.



## SQUEEZEY CHEESEY UPDATE

A big Thank you to all the parents and staff who have supported Banksia class business venture 'Squeezy Cheeseys' throughout this year, which we carried on from Class L in 2015. Your continued support will allow Banksia class to visit the Aquarium in Term 4 and have a yummy lunch. We will also be donating some money to all classes at Minerva to put towards something fun in Term 4. Also, a huge thank you to Jo Ashford - Cox for donating cheese slices and margarine every week and to Teresa Ngo for the bread from Box Village Bakery, Sylvania. Your support is invaluable.

Katrina Shacallis

## The Australian parenting website



**Black Dog Institute**

Presentation: Navigating Teen Depression



20% of teens will endure teen depression before they become adults.

Everyone at some moment in their life will experience depression.

**Tuesday 11th October 2016**  
**10.00am-11am**

Guest Speaker from the Black Dog Institute speaking from experience.

Menai Community Centre  
34-40 Allison Crescent  
Menai NSW 2234  
RSVP: 1300 327 434 by 10th Oct 2016




Children's brains have a massive growth spurt when they're very young. By the time they're six, their brains are already about 90-95% of adult size. But the brain still needs a lot of remodelling before it can function as an adult brain. How teenagers spend their time is crucial to brain development. So it's worth thinking about the range of activities and experiences your child is into - music, sports, study, languages, video games. How are these shaping the sort of brain your child takes into adulthood?

This website has a lot of information about how children's brains develop, what behaviours are typical for teenagers and helpful advice about strategies to encourage good behaviour and promoting thinking skills.

[http://m.raisingchildren.net.au/articles/brain\\_development\\_teenagers.html](http://m.raisingchildren.net.au/articles/brain_development_teenagers.html)

JANNALI PUBLIC SCHOOL  
PRESENTS

# MARKET DAY

# FUN FAIR

AND

# TOY BRICK

EXTRAVAGANZA!

**SUNDAY 16 OCTOBER**  
**10AM-3PM**

JANNALI PUBLIC SCHOOL  
SUTHERLAND ROAD, JANNALI

ENTERTAINMENT - FOOD  
MARKET STALLS - PETTING ZOO  
RIDES - FACE PAINTING  
SEE FANTASTIC  
CREATIONS FROM  
SYDNEY LEGO BUILDERS!



2016

## FOCUS ON ABILITY

### SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

YOU'RE INVITED **8** SYDNEY

School Leaver Employment Supports  
**NOVA.ES**  
National Disability Insurance Scheme

NOVA.  
TRANSITION  
NOVA.  
EMPLOYMENT



### "Focus Sydney on ~~dis~~ability"!

Please join the FOA and NOVA Transition/ School Leaver Employment Support teams for a film screening and info session with plenty of ability! We will be showcasing some amazing short films and documentaries as well as providing information on how students with a disability can make the transition from school to employment.

**DATES:** 20/21/24/25/26/27 October, 2016

**VENUES:** 20th - Penrith RSL  
21st - Richmond Club  
24th - Parramatta Novotel  
25th - Campbelltown Catholic Club  
26th - Cronulla Rydges  
27th - Hornsby RSL

**TIME:** 10am - 11.30am

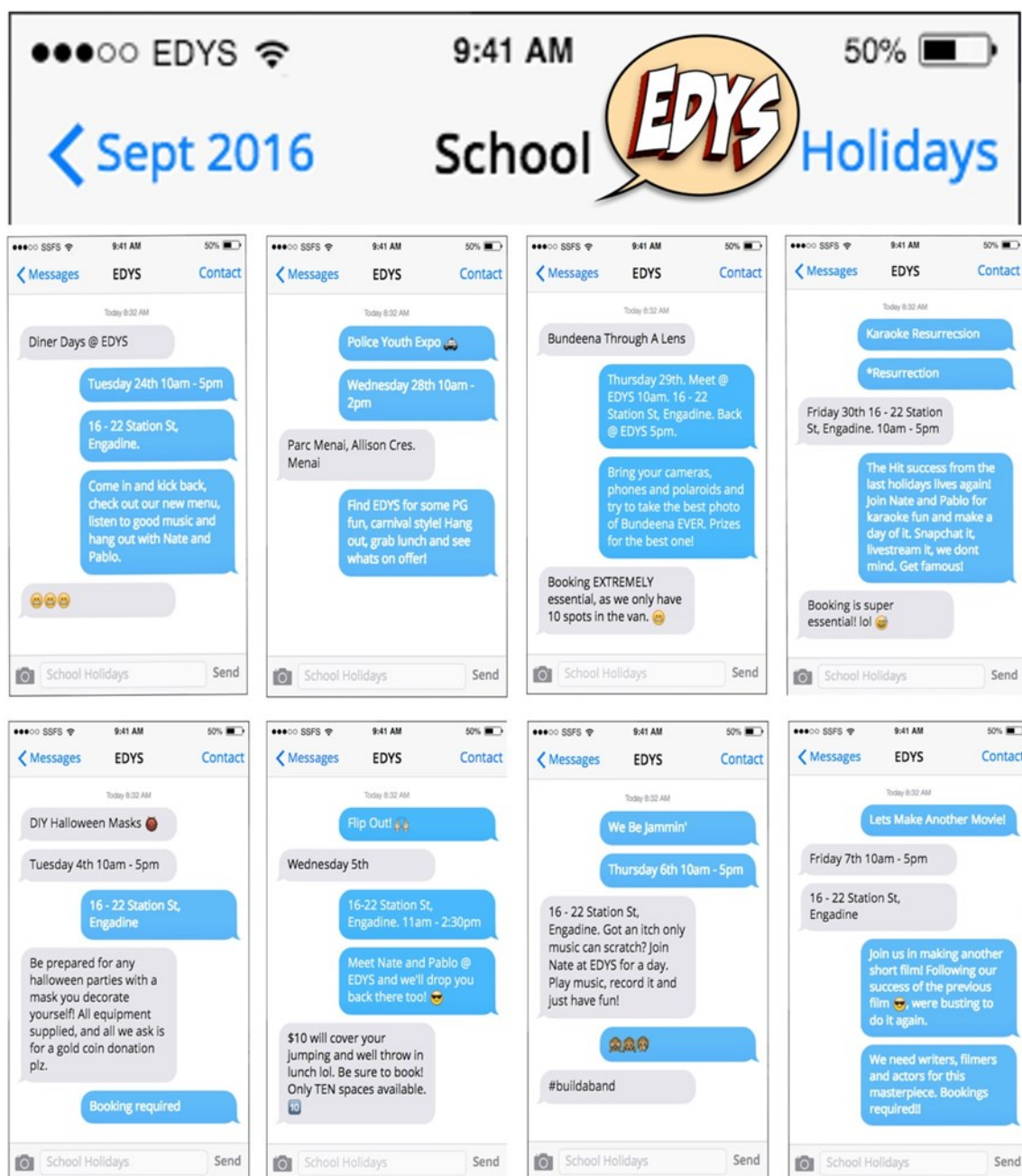
**RSVP:** By 14th October to Donna on (02) 8886 5802 or [svetlana@novatransition.com.au](mailto:svetlana@novatransition.com.au)

(Morning Tea and refreshments provided)  
*These are free events but strictly RSVP*  
Please note any access requirements when you RSVP

[www.transition.com.au](http://www.transition.com.au) [www.focusonability.com.au](http://www.focusonability.com.au)

# School holidays with Engadine District Youth Services (EDYS)

Each School Holidays EDYS runs a comprehensive program of activities, including arts & crafts, Flip Out and karaoke. Have a look at their website or the flyer below for more information.



INFO@EDYS.COM.AU



02 9548 2734



EDYS.ENGADINE



EDYS.COM.AU





One important aspect of Positive Behaviour for Learning is how we **teach expected behaviours**, much like we would teach academic skills.

Each week at assembly our Student Representative Council introduces the "**SRC Good Choice of The Week**". These are usually social skills that relate directly to our classroom rules and schoolwide expectations, such as '*keeping personal space*', '*looking after our school*' or '*using equipment safely*'.

The weekly focus is re-taught and rewarded in classrooms and on the playground throughout the week, giving students the opportunity to practise and receive feedback, both formally and informally.

Individual students received merit awards, ClassDojo points and other classroom rewards for effort and success, and every week the most successful class gets to keep the school's Wii game console in their room to use during free time!

From next term and into 2017 we would like to share with parents and families the schedule for **SRC Good Choice of the Week** so that you can work with us to talk about and reinforce the weekly focus.



*More and more PBL signage is starting to appear around the school. You can see these signs have also got visuals to help our students' understanding.*



# Sutherland Police Youth Expo

Live  
Music

RFS  
SES

BBQ

Food  
Drink

Youth  
Network

Displays  
&  
Demos

Wednesday 28th Sept. 2016

Free Entry



Starts 10am - 2pm

Parc Menai, Allison Crescent Menai