



Learning for Life

MINERVA SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

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Donations to Minerva School are now tax deductible.

DATES TO REMEMBER

TERM 1 2017

APRIL
LAST DAY OF
TERM 1 FOR
STUDENTS
AND STAFF

Friday 7th

TERM 2 2017

APRIL
STAFF
DEVELOPMENT
DAY

Monday 24th

ANZAC DAY

Tuesday 25th

FIRST DAY OF
TERM 2 FOR
STUDENTS

Wednesday 26th

MAY
SCHOOL
PHOTO DAY

Tuesday 9th

EASTER RAFFLE

Today we held our Easter Raffle Draw. Principal Sara Swift drew 26 lucky winners. We would like to thank our Minerva Families and friends for their generosity in donating such fabulous prizes and for so many ticket sales. We raised just over \$600. Congratulations to our lucky winners. We also had a visit from the Easter Bunny who delivered a special treat to each of the students. Enjoy!



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear parents/carers,

Term one is drawing to a close; students are thinking of holidays and Easter Eggs and staff are thinking of sleep-ins and rest. Whatever you and your family are doing this holiday period, I hope you are able to spend time together and enjoy a peaceful school break. This term has been a busy one, with staff and families meeting and working together on Individual Learning Plans, our Yr.12 students meeting for their Transition Clinic appointments and the commencement of our 2017 Work Experience Program which will continue throughout most of Term 2. It was wonderful to meet with many of our parents this term at a Parents and Friends get together in week 7. We had a lovely mix of new and established parents, all of whom contributed some great ideas and enthusiasm! We discussed the importance of volunteering at Minerva and the range of opportunities available for helping out at the school.

Particular thanks went to Mr Harry - a long-time volunteer who gives up his time each week to come and work in the classroom with our students and to Patricia Bakouris, whose organisational skills have whipped our resource room into shape! Patricia is now helping out in the Library and we are very grateful. We were also thrilled to have two of our new parents volunteer to help with the running of our Mother's Day stall and our Father's Day stall - many thanks to Helen and Tonia. We understand that many parents have extensive work commitments and are not available to devote regular time slots to the school during the working week therefore we attempt to host many opportunities for parent involvement throughout each term. For example: Parent Coffee and Chat sessions, our Parent Resource Room and our Open Days. We welcome and enjoy working with our families and will keep you posted of any upcoming school events. At the meeting we also discussed our current Minerva School Plan. Each Public School develops a three year strategic plan in collaboration with the school community, as a means of identifying and working towards some school specific and relevant goals. Our current plan is in its final year and so throughout this year I will be seeking input from you all to help inform some new directions for the next planning cycle. The item of biggest concern on our agenda was, of course, fundraising. Last year we had tremendous success with our fundraising efforts and were lucky enough to raise approximately \$13,000 from our major fundraiser, Comedy for a Cause and to receive a \$10,000 grant from the Commonwealth Bank. These funds are enabling us this year to establish a gymnasium in our demountable building, which will house some state of the art cross trainer equipment as well as a rowing machine to build the

cardiovascular fitness and endurance of our students. We are also in the process of constructing our Minerva Community Garden. The willing students from Padstow TAFE Landscaping faculty have been hard at work in the rain and mud building some raised vegetable beds. Once built, our students and the school Green Team will fill, plant, mulch and care for an extensive range of fruit and vegetables. Later down the track we will be building a chicken coop and welcoming our own Minerva chooks - we may even have to have a naming competition for the girls once we're up and running! There were several ideas for fundraising this year and we have decided that we really need to have a fundraiser of sorts each term - two small ones and two larger events, in order to raise a significant amount of money for student learning resources and projects such as those mentioned above. This term we have run an Easter Raffle - many thanks go to those who have donated eggs, gifts and bought raffle tickets. A big thank you also to Patricia and Trish who have sorted and wrapped an extensive range of prizes. Next term we will hold our major fundraiser for the year - Bogan Bingo. It is scheduled for Saturday night, June 24th and will be held at Club on East, so please **SAVE THE DATE!!!** Bogan Bingo is basically a two hour comedy game show that intersperses two bingo games with air guitar competitions and highly competitive Bogan fashion parades. The MC will combine hilarious bingo calls with all the rock songs of the 80s and 90s. So get ready to dress up and get in touch with your inner Bogan. We will keep you posted about ticket sales, raffle prizes and silent auction items. As with any fundraiser, we will need lots of support and assistance so I will be sending out some calls for help early next term.

Dates for your Diary

Monday April 24th School development Day

Tuesday April 25th ANZAC Day

Wednesday April 26th Students commence school for Term 2

Wednesday May 3rd Personal Development Health and Physical Education (PDHPE) Open Morning for parents/families

Monday May 8th Parent Coffee and Chat 10a.m, NDIS information workshop

Tuesday May 9th School Photos

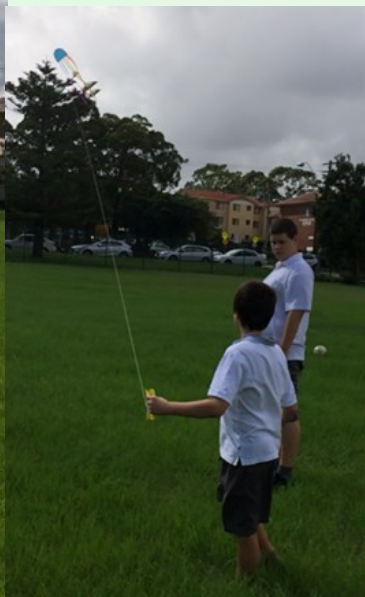
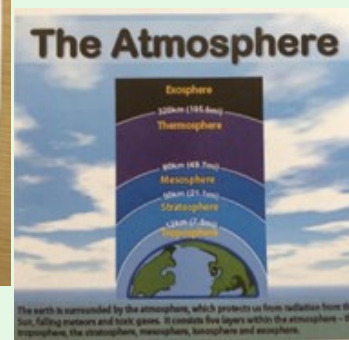
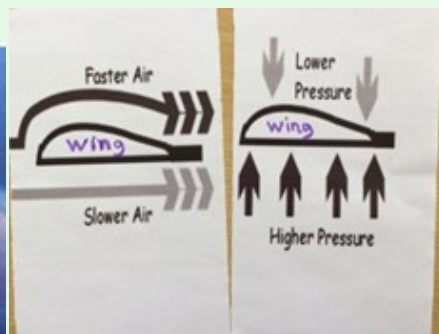
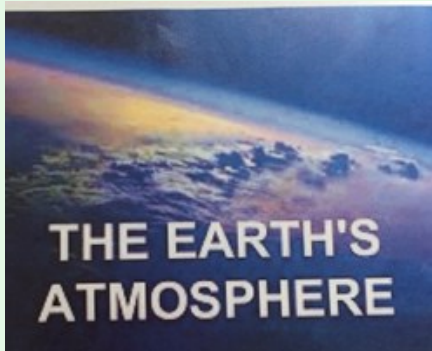
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday May 9th, 10th, 11th NAPLAN

As always, I have thoroughly enjoyed working with you all this term and I look forward to an exciting and challenging term two full of learning, living and laughter.

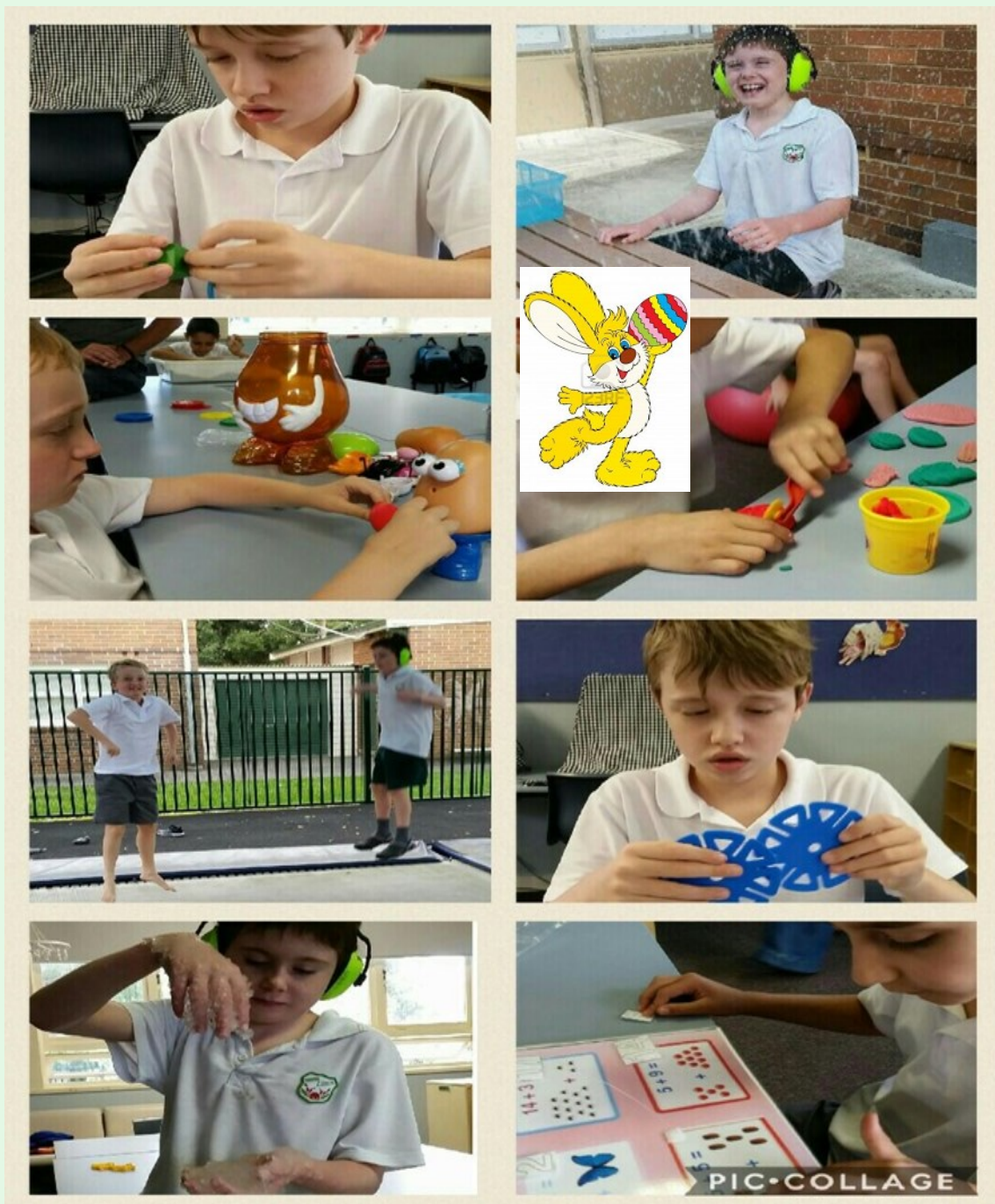
Sara Swift, Principal.



Class **Bottlebrush** has been learning about the Earth's atmosphere and air pressure. We have conducted experiments to show how the difference in air pressure inside and outside a glass can hold up a piece of paper. Mark, Preston and Kane have used a kite to show how wind pressure can hold a kite up in the air for a long time.



It's been a busy and fun term joining **Class Eucalyptus** and replacing Miss Melanie since week five. We have been continuing the gardening program in Science, have started the Whole School Reading Program in Literacy as well as an ocean themed unit of work encompassing the Arts with lots of music and dance. The students are also enjoying lots of sensory and fine motor activities. Wishing you all a happy and safe holiday and will look forward to seeing you in term two.





Class Grevillea have won the Wii reward prize for the week twice this term for the SRC Good Choices of using Computers appropriately and Sharing and taking turns.



Brittany had a Birthday and we all enjoyed the cakes!

David enjoys handwriting on the smartboard





Class Wattle was lucky enough to celebrate Jarnte's 15th Birthday party. During Work and the community, the students have been learning how to service the schools bicycles.



Class Protea Out and About



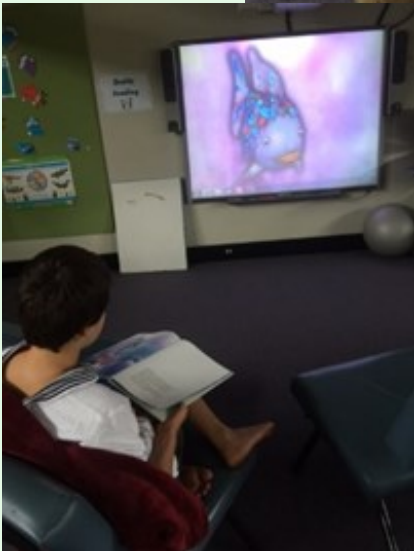
This term I have enjoyed going on outings to Cronulla, Bundeena, Kiama & Woronora river. I am looking forward to visiting many more places during term 2!! ☺



"HAPPY EASTER"

from Class Protea!





Following a very successful Premier's Reading Challenge last year, students at Minerva have again been entered into the Premier's Reading Challenge for 2017. This is a whole school initiative to promote reading and literacy in the classroom and at home.

You will be seeing your child borrowing books from the library and we would hope to have your support to encourage them to read these books independently or read them with your child. Our goal for each student is 20 books aimed at their reading level, 14 from the PRC list and 4 personal choice books. Our PRC books are marked with a yellow dot.

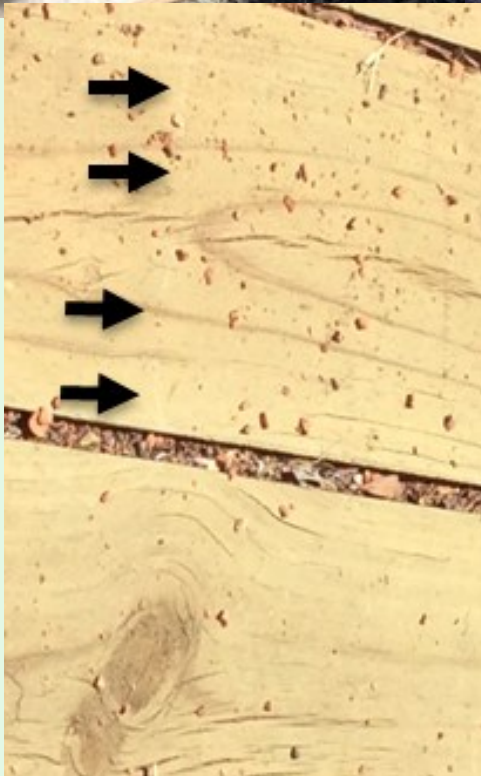
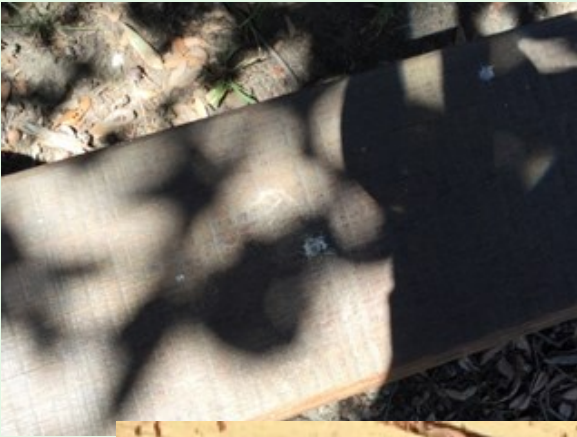
A note and reading log will be sent home, any books that your child has read or you have read with them can be included on this log.

The challenge runs from Monday 6 March and closes Friday 25 August. Our focus for the challenge is in term 2.

Thanks for your support.

Jenny Marshall

PRC coordinator / Library



This term in **Class Waratah** we have been learning about living and non-living things. We did a field walk in the sensory garden for 'Tracks, Scats and Signs'. Can you work out what these are?

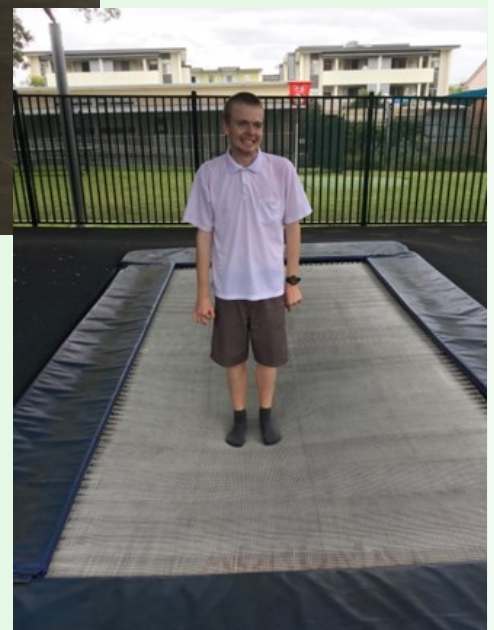
We have also started to grow some bean seeds. Here is Kurt with one of our more successful sprouts.





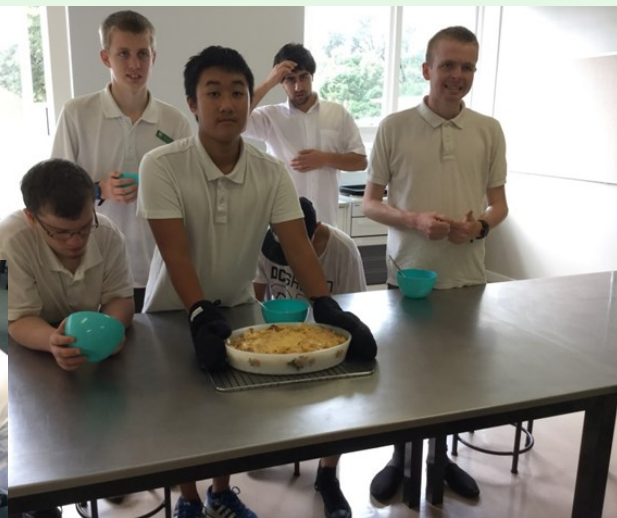
Happy Birthday

to the following students for the month of March and April. Jarnte, Brittany, Daylan, Jimmy and Peter



Banksia class

After all the rain **Banksia class** finally got out into the playground to ride the bikes and scooters, jump on the trampolines and play ball. We've had a busy term in the classroom and the boys have enjoyed their weekly cooking lesson each Wednesday.



School Chaplain and Student Support Officer update

Cannot believe we are already finishing Term 1! Big thanks as always to staff & family who have supported Minerva students through the first term which can be difficult for everyone returning to school.

Term 1 2017 has been used by School Chaplain & Student Support Officer to continue to deliver targeted social skills programs in classrooms, specifically with SRC topic of the week being integrated into the sessions. SRC topics have included;



- Follow staff instructions
- Be in the right place at the right time
- Use kind words
- Let others learn
- Keep hands & feet to yourself
- Use the computers appropriately
- Use equipment safely
- Share and take turns
- Always do your best

School chaplain & Student support officer also continues to provide emotional and practical support to students daily in classroom settings as well as on the playground during recess and lunch. This includes our Girls Group which continues to run weekly to provide a space for our wonderful Minerva girls.

Youth week (31st March-9th April)

National Youth Week is the largest celebration of young people in the country, providing a platform for young people to share their ideas, host events, have their voices heard on issues important to them and celebrate their contribution to the community. Have a look at some of the events that are happening in Sutherland Shire for Youth week.

Everyone have a great break!

Karla (School Chaplain & Student Support Officer)

YOUTH WEEK



"Get involved, be heard, and make a difference".

SUTHERLAND SHIRE YOUTH WEEK

Friday 31 March to Saturday 9 April 2017

National Youth Week is the largest celebration of young people in the country, providing a platform for young people to share their ideas, host events, have their voices heard on issues important to them and celebrate their contribution to the community. Youth Week 2017 in the Sutherland Shire will showcase the talent and diversity of our local young people, check out some of the events we have planned below.



GREENHILLS SKATE COMPETITION

Saturday 1 April, 10.30am
Greenhills Skate Park

Kick-flip your way into the skate competition at the newly constructed Greenhills Skate Park. The competition is open to age groups from under 9s through to open age competitions. You can sign up on the day from 10.30am. For more information see Council's website.



CLOWNING AROUND

Tuesday 11 April, 2pm to 3pm
Sutherland Library

Have fun and learn new skills at our Circus Skills Workshop. Take a look behind the scenes and learn simple magic, juggling and circus tricks with household items! This hour of fun and learning will make you the life of the party!

Free event for high school students



Bookings are essential, visit the Library's website to book.

YOUTHRock 2017

Wednesday 5 to Sunday 9 April
Sutherland Entertainment Centre

Young musicians from schools across the state will again battle it out to be crowned YouthRock champions in 2017. The competition is judged by music and recording industry representatives and more than \$10,000 worth of prizes are on offer to the finalists. Check the Youth Week website youthweek.nsw.gov.au/youthrock or Council's website for details.



SUTHERLAND SHIRE COUNCIL'S

BEACH TO THE BURBS

Friday 8 April, 11am

Dunningham Park, Cronulla

Beach to the Burbs is a FREE all ages music festival with a host of local bands, and acts from further afield as well as lots of fun activities and plenty of giveaways on the day. View the line-up and plan your day at Council's website.



YOUTH WEEK CUP

Wednesday 5 April
5 Sports, Caringbah

The inaugural Youth Week Cup will see local high school teams will compete in a 5-a-side soccer competition to lift the trophy and be named the Youth Week champions of 2017. Speak to your school about entering a team.



SUTHERLAND POLICE YOUTH EXPO

Wednesday 19 April, 10am

Cooper Street Reserve, Engadine

The Sutherland Police Youth Expo provides an opportunity for local youth to engage with, get advice and information from local Emergency Services and Youth Organisations. Sutherland Police will provide a free BBQ, and a range of police vehicles will be on show for everyone to enjoy. For more information see facebook.com/SutherlandLAC

FOR ALL THE YOUTH WEEK 2017 ACTIVITIES VISIT
sutherlandshire.nsw.gov.au/ShireYouthWeek

shireyouth shire_young



WORK EXPERIENCE AT JOSEPH BANKS RESERVE

Safety

Learning

Caring

3 Myths Regarding PBL

The positive in PBL means we give out rewards: The positive refers to a change of focus from reactive--constantly pointing out what students did wrong (negatives), to proactive --teaching and recognizing what students are doing right (positives). It refers to an overall change in the school climate to a learning environment where **students and teachers feel appreciated, safe and respected**. Acknowledgments are used to assist staff to focus on the positive.

PBL uses bribes to get children to behave: Using an acknowledgment system is not the same as bribing a student to behave. A bribe is something offered or given to a person in a position of trust to influence that person's views or conduct. **PBL acknowledges and rewards students for following school-wide expectations and rules**. Acceptable behaviour is acknowledged after it occurs. Rewards are earned, not offered as payoff in exchange for good behaviour.

Students don't receive consequences for inappropriate behaviour: PBL does not ignore problem behaviour. Consequences are more than "punishment." They are the actions that follow the problem behaviour and can either help to increase or decrease problem behaviours. PBL views appropriate consequences as those that are effective in changing the student's problem behaviour. Schools plan for problem behaviour by matching the level of consequences to the severity of the problem behaviours and maintaining consistency across the school.



Mind Matters Updates:

The Minerva Mind Matters team has developed their 2017 Implementation plan and are already reaching set targets including: Staff have been completing relevant Mind Matters professional training modules as part of Minerva's journey to give us a coherent, structured approach to building on our students' strengths. The term one Parents and Friends informal evening was well attended and regarded by all as worthwhile. Look out for the parents Coffee & Chat get together next term. Progress is steadily being made on the Updated Minerva School website, it will be good to see it in operation with Mind Matters Information included. For any parents who have not seen our Parent Information Area, please feel welcome to pop in or meet up with other parents. This is a 'meet and greet' space for parents within the school: a small room set up last year, with a library of resources on a wide range of topics relating to mental health, parenting courses, support agencies, NDIS, respite services and more. Parents are welcome to access this resource on Friday afternoon from 1.30 to 2.30pm.

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

3BRIDGES COMMUNITY **NSW Family & Community Services**

The Australian parenting website

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 out 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

Get the most out of the NDIS

Do you want to learn more about the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)? Do you want to understand how you or someone in your care might best prepare for and get the most out of the NDIS?

Northcott is a not-for-profit disability service provider that works creatively and relentlessly with each customer to unlock, discover and unleash their potential, supporting and empowering them to be the best they can be now and in the future.

This is an information session which will:

- Offer you the basics of the NDIS
- Support your understanding of the NDIS and what it means for you or someone in your care
- Highlight what you can do to prepare for the NDIA planning session
- Ensure you or someone in your care gets the most out of the NDIS

This session is designed for:

- Individuals eligible for the NDIS
- Parents and carers of children or young people eligible for the NDIS
- Health professionals
- Teachers



When:

Time:

Where:

RSVP:

Cost:

1800 818 286

northcott@northcott.com.au

northcott.com.au



Proud to be the only not-for-profit on the 2015 BRW Most Innovative Companies list

Northcott
Let's see what you can do

SUTHERLAND AND ST GEORGE NDIS INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE PROVIDERS

Thursday 6 April 2017

Community organisations who provide services to individuals living with the challenges of mental health diagnosis are invited to attend these free seminars. The seminars will focus on how to prepare your organisation for the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

The seminars will cover:

What your service users can expect from the NDIS and how to prepare your service for the NDIS

HURSTVILLE SEMINAR

Thursday 6 April 9.15am –12.00 midday
Building 2, Level 4, 7-11 The Avenue, Hurstville

SUTHERLAND SEMINAR

Thursday 6 April 1.15PM-4.00PM
Stapleton Community Centre, 3A Stapleton Ave, Sutherland

Registrations are essential and close Monday 20 March 2017
Visit Council's website: sutherlandshire.nsw.gov.au/ndismh
For more information contact **9710 0333**.

Parking can be limited and nearby public transport is available
Both venues are accessible





Get More Skills: Good Life Workshop

A workshop for people with disability, their families and carers.

- Practise speaking up and setting goals
- Get ready for the NDIS
- Take home tools to help you plan




Menai Workshop – Friday 7 April

10am – 2.30pm

Club Central Menai

44-60 Allison Crescent, Menai, NSW 2234

Register now! Limited spaces available!

 **1800 144 653**

 **info@mychoicematters.org.au**

 **www.mychoicematters.org.au**

Workshops are fully accessible. We can provide support to ensure everyone can come. Lunch will be provided.

Find out more www.mychoicematters.org.au

CIVIC



Centre-based Respite

for children with
disability

Short term
accommodation
and assistance

Centre-based Respite

For children with disability
(ages 7-17)

Everyone, even a full-time carer, has times when regular support arrangements need to be changed.

This is where Civic's replacement support, or respite, can assist so that you can focus on other commitments – or simply recharge, whilst your child is taken care of by professionals in a safe environment. Whether it's for an evening, a weekend or a holiday period, our flexible service can fit in with your requirements.

Civic provides respite in a friendly, wheelchair accessible house in Caringbah, South Sydney. Children have their own room but attend with others of a similar age so they have the opportunity to make new social connections and have fun.

Fully-trained staff provide 24 hour support and our safe house has a level, fully-secured garden and a wealth of toys, games and equipment.

Civic's centre-based respite offers an opportunity for children to try new activities and learn new skills tailored to their interests and abilities. These can range from developing their independence skills, going on excursions to local beaches, playing sport or attending social events such as BBQ

1800 253 743
CIVIC.ORG.AU

Come for a Play * Eat * Stay Trial

- Bring your child for a play date to view the facilities
- Stay for dinner when he/she is ready
- Book in for respite once you are both comfortable

Email: enquiries@civic.org.au
or call 1800 253 743

Sundays. Transport is available for excursions, pick-ups and drop-offs.

Come and view our facilities and see for yourself.

Civic is registered with the Office of the Children's Guardian to provide Voluntary Out-of-Home Care (VOOHC) in NSW.

Contact us to make a booking or to arrange a visit:

T 02 9575 1900

E enquiries@civic.org.au

f [Facebook.com/CivicDisabilityServices](https://www.facebook.com/CivicDisabilityServices)

