Early Edition
This edition of the Mingoola PS Mail is being distributed early as a reminder of the P&C wood raffle at Coles this Saturday in Tenterfield.

EduTech Conference
Mrs Hollitt and Mr Pryce will be attending the EduTech Conference in Brisbane during this coming week. We will be away from Monday to Thursday. We are attending this conference to maintain Mingoola PS as a leader in the use of information and communication technology to enhance the educational experience for our students. This learning will also support the directions of the school plan, assisting teachers to develop creative, collaborative and rich digital learning opportunities that broaden the experience of students at Mingoola PS.

As always, Mr Pryce will be available via his personal mobile phone for urgent matters.

Debating
Last week, the combined Mingoola/Bonshaw ‘Beraters’ debating team travelled to Ross Hill PS in Inverell for round 2 of the Premier’s Debating Challenge. It was an interesting experience for our students, who noticed some subtle differences between our schools and a school of 750 students.

In spite of the imposing setting and student numbers, each speaker stood with a degree of confidence and represented Mingoola and Bonshaw. Our debaters were however bested by the very impressive Ross Hill PS team.

Monique should be congratulated for her excellent performance. She structured her debate well, had developed logical and thorough arguments and was effective at engaging the audience.
**Science Camp**

A science camp at Bonshaw PS has been planned for Wednesday 10 and Thursday 11 June. The camp will combine social opportunities including dinner cooking and a disco with an intensive workshop to progress our Science studies in Forces and Energy. The camp is for all students.

A permission note and further information is attached to this newsletter.

**2015 Major Excursion**

Our major K-6 excursion for 2015 is currently being planned. This year, we will travel to Lake Ainsworth Sport and Recreation Centre at Lennox Head. While the itinerary is yet to be negotiated between the Centre and Mingoola, Yetman and Bonshaw Public Schools, activities that may be included are:

- ropes course
- climbing wall
- canoeing / kayaking
- raft building challenge
- sailing
- archery
- surf rescue & life saving
- BMX
- marine studies
- damper cooking

Students will participate in these activities as appropriate to their age. A parallel program for students in years K-1 is currently being developed.

**Future Enrolments Survey**

In order to plan effectively for programs and resourcing into the immediate and mid-term future, I am distributing a short survey into the community via email and mail drop this week. I ask your assistance in ensuring that all families with young children receive a copy of this survey and return it to the school either by mail, email, fax or directly to the school.

Examples of how this information can assist with planning include:

- the viability of engaging early learning providers to run programs at the school,
- how the school will budget for technology, including student iPads, laptops etc.
- Kinder transition program planning, including the ability to contact next year’s new students,
- how the school can better engage with future families of the school community,
- planning of professional learning to best support the needs of students.

Having a clearer understanding of projected enrolment trends will also enable greater advocacy for the school from a stronger position in a range of contexts.

*It is important to note that this is a school initiative for planning over the coming few years, not a survey required by the Department of Education and Communities.*

**P&C Fishing Competition**

Greg, Myriam and Julia have been working hard, as the P&C’s publicity team, to spread the word and gain sponsorship for the fishing competition. While full advertising is yet to begin, our initial Facebook post, alerting users to the 2015 competition, reached nearly 900 people in the first week.

**Time for renewal**

Attached to this newsletter is a letter explaining that I will be leaving Mingoola PS at the end of this term. This week, I spoke to staff, students and parents to inform them that I have been offered an Assistant Principal position at The Sir Henry Parkes Memorial PS in Tenterfield. I feel that the time is right for me to face a new set of challenges, and for our school to undergo leadership renewal.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at MPS and sincerely thank the staff, students, parents and community for their support.

Mr Cam Pryce
Principal
Dear Mingoola resident

In order to plan effectively for programs and resourcing into the immediate and mid-term future, Mingoola Public School is seeking information from the community on predicted enrolments over the coming few years.

If you have young children who may enrol at Mingoola PS in the future, it would be greatly appreciated if you could complete the form on the reverse of this letter and return it to the school.

I ask your assistance in ensuring that all families in the area with young children receive a copy of this survey and return it either by mail, email, fax or directly to the school.

*It is important to note that this is a school initiative for planning over the coming few years, not a survey required by the Department of Education and Communities.*

Examples of how this information can assist with planning include:

- how the school will budget for technology, including student iPads, laptops etc.,
- the viability of engaging early learning providers to run programs at the school,
- Kinder transition program planning, including the ability to contact next year’s new students,
- planning of professional learning to best support the needs of students,
- how the school can better engage with future families of the school community.

Thank you for your assistance.

Kind Regards

Cam Pryce | Principal | Mingoola Public School
NSW Department of Education & Communities
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Future Enrolments Survey

Name(s): ______________________________________________________

Phone: _________________________  Email: _____________________________________

Name and age of child/children: ________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

Your approximate distance from the school: ________________

I plan / do not plan (please circle) on enrolling my child/children at Mingoola PS.

Please provide a brief reason for your decision:
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

I would / would not (please circle) like to receive the fortnightly newsletter from the school.

Thank you for taking the time to provide this valuable information.
Dear Parents and community members

I write to inform you that this term will be my last at Mingoola Public School. I have been offered a position as Assistant Principal at The Sir Henry Parkes Memorial Public School in Tenterfield. I have accepted this position in the belief that the time is right, both for the school and for me to make a change.

I have greatly enjoyed my time at Mingoola PS, and feel that I can be proud of the school that it has developed into during my time. At a certain point however, a process of renewal in leadership is of benefit to any school. Fresh eyes and a different skill set can bring positive change for the students, staff and community. I have no doubt that a newly appointed Principal to Mingoola PS will bring just this.

Many of you will be aware of the effort I have made, and continue to make to correct a mistaken view within the community about the future of Mingoola PS. Please let me take this opportunity to remind you that the Department of Education and Communities does not have an agenda of closing small schools. I have been assured that as long as our school has students, has community support and is providing a quality education for students, it will remain open. Furthermore, a new substantive Principal will be appointed as my replacement. In the interim between the end of term and the appointment of the new substantive Principal, an Acting Principal will be placed at the school.

I am fortunate to be remaining within the wider community and to have an opportunity to continue to work with and support the school, students and community. I will continue to be involved in the organisation and running of the Mingoola P&C Fishing Competition. I also hope to be able to ensure enhanced inclusion of Mingoola PS and other small schools’ students in opportunities accessible through my position at SHPMPs.

I wish to sincerely thank the staff, students, parents and community for making the past 4 years so enjoyable. I will always remember my time here as Principal fondly.

Kind Regards

Cam Pryce | Principal | Mingoola Public School
NSW Department of Education & Communities
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