Principal’s Message

Sport & Recreation Activities
Last Friday saw the first of five weeks of Sport & Recreation activities taking place for our primary students. From all accounts it was a successful day of active participation by our students. It is a wonderful initiative led by Mr. Batley and he has worked extensively to ensure your children have quality activities to enjoy. Thanks Mr. Batley.

2015 Student Enrolments
Unless there is a significant change to our current enrolment trend our school will have 17 classes in 2015 instead of the 18 we currently employ. Yesterday members of our executive team commenced deliberations on how the 17 classes will be structured. It is definite there will be a mixture of composite and single-grade classes. A composite class is a class developed with students from more than one grade. Both single-grade and composite classes provide a positive learning environment for our students.

2015 Class Placements
Last Thursday a letter went home with every child regarding parent contribution to the discussion about 2015 class placements. The letter outlines the process for contributing toward the discussion as:
- A signed letter outlining concerns
- The letter to be addressed to the principal
- The letter to be received no later than Friday 7th November.

As mentioned in the information provided last week and to P & C last night; while parent considerations are valued, and add to the discussion concerning class placements, final decisions regarding the make-up of 2015 classes will be based upon the professional judgment of teachers.

Bring Your Own Device
There are a number of public high schools around Wollongong who are progressing down the pathway of BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) for their student cohorts. While BYOD is something our school may consider some years into the future, it is currently not in consideration. At this stage, the only device used by students to access the Internet while at our school should be those provided by Unanderra staff.

Quote

If you smile while no one else is around, you really mean it.

Andy Rooney

Craig Redfern
Principal

Reading News: We were very pleased that 10 families took up the opportunity to get some parenting tips from Mrs Meredith our School Counsellor. We hope to make this an annual event as part of our Kindergarten Orientation.

It's great to see Home Reading continuing. Congratulations for: 100 Nights
1M Oliver Sienna Hayley Sam
3/4L Jaida

150 nights
1C Aimee Olivia
2E Sean
3S Jessica

Kathy Dobinson, Learning and Support Teacher
Library News: Our Book Fair concludes this Wednesday 5th November just in time for Christmas. The book fair is open before and after school from 8:30am till 9:00am and from 3:00pm till 4:00pm until Wednesday 5th November as well as during lunch and recess. Parents, relatives and friends are welcome throughout the day to view and purchase books. Please support the Book Fair and come and drop in and buy a book. A percentage of the sales from the fair is returned to the school for purchase of new resources. I hope to see you there.

Friday 14th November is our last day for borrowing. After that date we will need all books returned so we can prepare for end of year procedures.
Karen Mitchell, Teacher Librarian

Annual Giving Tree: From next week our Christmas Tree will be decorated and placed in the foyer ready for donations from our school community. All donations of dried and tinned food as well as toys can be made up to 11:00 am Friday December 12. All items will then be given to the Salvation Army for distribution to Illawarra families in need. Thank you for your support of this extremely worthwhile project.
Carolina Wilkinson, Administrative Manager

Canteen News: Canteen will be closed from December 1 to December 5 inclusive.
Mel, Canteen Manager

P & C News

Last night’s P & C Meeting: Thank you to everyone who joined us last night, the meeting was well attended and we welcomed new financial members on board including members of our teaching staff. Our discussions centred around an update of the fete fun day, voting on funding for the year 6 formal and presentations from staff with requests for financial assistance for valuable resources for the school.

Final Fete Fun Day Update: A final tally on our fundraising efforts for the Fete is still coming as we gather our final income and receipts, however I am confident in advising that we successfully raised approx. $7,750. These valuable funds will be utilised in our ongoing commitment to the school’s funding requirements, which will be discussed and voted on in our next meeting. In last week’s newsletter update, please note a correction to be made to the name of one of our sponsors for the Fete as Bella Hair Studio.
Last P & C Meeting for 2014: Our last meeting for the year has been scheduled for Monday 1st December 2014 at 7:00pm in the school staff room. At this meeting we will be discussing and deciding on our financial commitments and our fundraising events/activities for 2015. We would happily welcome any new ideas, so if you would like to have a say in events for 2015 please come along and join us. As this is our last meeting for the year it is a tradition to invite teaching staff and hold an end of year celebration to celebrate our achievements and efforts for 2014. For all financial members and volunteers who have assisted us in 2014, please join us on this night for nibbles and drinks. As alcoholic beverages will be available children under 18 years will not be allowed to attend.

Bright Star Kids: For all your school labelling needs see Bright Star kids. Just provide the school’s details when you create your account or at checkout when you complete your order and 20% of sales will be paid back to the school. Support Bright Star Kids at www.brightstarkids.com.au

IMPORTANT- Unreturned Fete Raffle Ticket Books: During next week, if you have not returned your unsold raffle ticket books, we will be sending home a Statutory Declaration form for you to complete advising what happened to your book.

The raffle tickets had a monetary value and as this was the case we have tracked all books and are aware who has not returned them.

Please note you can still return your raffle ticket books this week to avoid receiving the form to complete. Thank you to all parents that did return all sold and unsold books by the required date.

Joanne Crawford, P & C President

Community News

Selective High Schools: Online application for Year 7 entry to selective high schools in 2016 is now open. Find out more: http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/k-6assessments/shsplacement/index.php

Choosing the Right Shoes: School shoes may all look the same but the cost can vary from about $30 to $120 and beyond. Does a more expensive shoe mean a better shoe? Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/health/choosing-the-right-school-shoes

NSW Public School Terms and Holidays: Here’s a snapshot of NSW public school terms and holidays for 2015 - 2016.Find out more:


Jargon Explained: If your child’s teacher mentions G&T in the COLA, she’s actually talking about gifted and talented classes being held in the covered outdoor learning area. More school jargon explained: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/homework-tips/school-jargon-busters

Where’s The Octopus: Wow - it’s videos like this that show kids how cool studying science can be. Watch it with them: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aoCzZHcwKxt&feature=youtu.be

Ever Considered Becoming a Foster Carer: Find out more. In response to the shortfall in foster carers in the Illawarra region, representatives from a range of local Foster Care agencies are joining together to hold a Foster Care Information Night. Those attending will learn about the steps to becoming a foster carer, the support provided, and the types of foster carers needed. The Information Night will be held on Wednesday 5th November at the Ribbonwood Centre, 93-109 Princes Highway, Dapto from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. To register your attendance contact Savita on: 9821 8822 or email savita@acwa.asn.au

The Smith Family - $500 Assists Families with Education Costs: Join Saver Plus and match your savings, dollar for dollar, up to $500 for education costs including uniforms, text books, laptops, sports equipment and music tuition. Would you like your savings matched up to $500 for school needs, camps, sport costs or new computer? SMS your first name and YES to 0427 439 234 or google saver plus The Smith Family to find out more. Conditions: 18 yrs+, Centrelink Card, Income from work, child at school or studying yourself. Contact Lindi Jamieson-Brown, your local Saver Plus Worker: 4254 4505 / 0427 439 234 or lindi.jamieson-brown@thesmithfamily.com.au

Join Scouts Today: Scouting is a worldwide movement that has shaped the development of young people and adults for nearly 100 years. Boys and girls from 6-26 years enjoy an almost unlimited range of activities. Scouts Australia encourages the physical, intellectual, social, spiritual and emotional development of young people so they may play a constructive role in society as responsible citizens and as members of their local and international communities. Your local Scout Group welcomes you, please contact Matt 0401 181 820

Disclaimer: Unanderra Public School will, as a service to parents, advertise community news for not for profit organisations and charities, which may be of interest. UPS does not necessarily endorse or sponsor the events and accepts no responsibility to the management or organisation of these events.