Principal’s Message

Term 4 Activities
Traditionally, Term 4 is one of the busiest in schools. That is certainly the case in 2014 here at Unanderra. Dad’s Arvo, P&C Fun Day and The Voice were all very exciting ‘big ticket’ events. In addition we have regular assemblies for K-2 and 3-6, with two Gold Assemblies this term to cater for the number of extra award recipients. Rolling Kindergarten Orientation days supported our new students and their families while current students are engaged with Sport and Recreation activities as well as participation in Swim School. Excursions for Kindergarten and Stage 3 maximise available time and in the next few weeks we progress onto Captain’s Speeches, Presentation Day, Year 6 Graduation and the SRC End of Year Show.

In addition there continues to be active learning in the classrooms, involvement of community in school activities and the preparation of student reports and whole-school planning for 2015. No doubt I have missed several activities completed or about to run this term, so as you can see, a very busy term. There are very many people to thank for ensuring all the above activities are effective for our students, staff and community. All efforts are both valued and applauded, Christmas will be a well-earned break!

Back Gate
Currently a small and committed group of parents provide their service in opening the locked back gate each day from 2:30pm. While committed to this service until year’s end, we will need active volunteers to supplement this group in 2015. If you regularly use the back gate to collect your children you are likely well qualified for this important service. If you are able to support our school in 2015 please leave your name with the school office on or before next Friday 29 November.

Presentation Day
Preparations continue for our school’s return this year to a Presentation Day event based on excellence. I have held several discussions regarding the change in format and the overwhelming response has been positive from students, staff and community.

2015 Classes
My thanks to the 15 families who have contributed their thoughts to the discussion teachers have commenced concerning 2015 class structures. As mentioned previously, there are many factors that combine to inform the final decision. Planning is predominately focused on 17 classes, a 1 class reduction from 2014.

It is highly likely 3 of the 17 classes will be formed as composite classes in 2015. As a former teaching principal, where all classes within the school were multi-grade composite classes, I can personally vouch for the effectiveness of composite class groupings.

Given our student enrolments are close to the cut-off point between 17 and 18 classes the first few days of 2015 will be in 2014 classes. Once we can establish exact student numbers we will confirm current planning. Please inform the school office should you know of students moving in or out of our enrolment area for 2015.

Handball
Mrs. Blanch has been supervising the 2014 Handball Competition. It has been an actively contested competition of Stage 2 and Stage 3 students that Mrs. Blanch is undertaking during her own time. I am looking forward to finals day where the competition will surely be exceptional and the prize of having your name emblazoned on the perpetual trophy highly
sought after. Great job Mrs. Blanch, your efforts are much appreciated.

Quote
Mistakes are always forgivable, if one has the courage to admit them.

Craig Redfern
Principal

Reading News: Well done to Declan and Elijah in 2W, Clara in 1C and Cruz and Chloe in 1M for 100 nights of Home Reading.

Congratulations to Lisa, Sara, Lili, Sarah and Sophie in 2W and Rawaan, Aimee and Olivia in 1C for 150 nights.

Kathy Dobinson, Learning and Support Teacher

Library News: 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: Our Christmas Tree has been 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

Skoolbag - Parent Communication App: Our School will soon have the Skoolbag iPhone and Android App to help us communicate more effectively with our Parent/Student community. We are asking parents/students to install our Skoolbag School App. To install it, just search for our school name “Unanderra Public School” in either the Apple App Store, or Google Play Store. Instructions are also on the last page of the newsletter.

Carolina Wilkinson, School Administrative Manager
Free Piano: The old piano in the school hall is available for free to anyone who would like it and is able to organise its removal. You are welcome to come and have a look. If you are interested please contact the school office to organise a look and hopefully a time for access for its removal.

Carolina Wilkinson, Administrative Manager

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

Mel, Canteen Manager

Annual Helper’s Morning Tea: We have begun to distribute Invitations to our Annual Helper’s Thank You Morning Tea.

This year the morning tea will be held on Wednesday, 3rd December at 10:30am. If you have helped at our school but not received an invitation, please contact me. Thank you.

Robyn Matts, Helper’s Morning Tea Organiser

Lost Property: Just a reminder that lost property is located outside Miss Compton’s room (lower level closest to the library). There are various items that have been handed in to lost property that have not been claimed. These include, jumpers, hats, lunch boxes, containers, pants and shoes.

Students are permitted to look through lost property in the morning and afternoon or during recess and lunch. Parents are also welcomed and encouraged to look through the items as well. Anything with a name on it is returned to the student, however, there are numerous items that are not labelled.

Please ensure everything that comes to school has a clear visible label on it, which will ensure the item is returned to your child if found in the lost property. Due to OH&S requirements at the end of this term any unclaimed containers and drink bottles will be thrown out.

Miss Compton, Lost Property Co-ordinator

P & C News


If you have not returned your unsold raffle ticket books, please do so urgently by dropping it into the school office box. Statutory declarations regarding what happened to the booklets will be sent out this week to all families that have not returned them. Please note that all booklets were number tracked by the P & C. As the booklets had a monetary value we need to account for all booklets and must either receive the booklet, the $20 as a donation or the statutory declaration for audit purposes. Thank you to all those people who have already returned booklets.

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

Joanne Crawford, P & C President

School Banking: Another fantastic week with 85 deposits! This week’s class winners are 3H, KP, 1/2R and 2W, well done and keep up the great effort. The class plaque will be handed around to each class.

Don’t forget to be in the running for the current promotion, all you need to do is make a school banking deposit between 20th October and 30th November for your chance to be in the running for 40 Gopro Hero3 white edition cameras and 150 Slip’N’Slide double wave riders. So let’s keep those deposits coming!

All students and parents please be aware that the “Prize Cards” are being sent home, so please fill in and return it with your next school banking. Tokens do not add onto next year’s tally so please choose a prize as soon as possible once you reach 10 tokens. Penguin/Shark plush toys and whale shark pencil case are out of stock and will no longer be available this year.

Thank you to everyone participating and keep up the great work, only a few more weeks left.

Elizabeth Ilievski, Dajana Castagna and Jenny Evans, School Banking Coordinators
Skoolbag is a mobile App for your school to communicate directly to both parents and students. It works through both smart phones and smart devices (such as iPads and Android Tablets). Ideal for:

- School, free push notification alerts
- School events
- School newsletters
- School documents
- School RSS feeds
- School social media (Facebook, Twitter)

How To Install Skoolbag On Your Smartphone

**iPhone & iPad Users**

1. Click the “App Store” icon on your Apple device.
2. Type your school name in the search, using suburb name will help.
3. If iPhone, you will see your school appear, click “Free” then “install”.
4. If iPad, change the drop list to “iPhone Apps”, your school will then be visible, click “Free” then “install”.
5. When installed click “Open”
6. Select “OK” to receive push notifications, when asked.
7. Click the “More” button on the bottom right of the App, then “Setup”.
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you.

**Android Users**

You must first have signed up with a Google Account before installing the app.

1. Click the “Play Store” button on your Android Device
2. Click the magnifying glass icon at the top and type in your school name, using suburb name will help.
3. Click the school name when it appears in the search.
4. Click the “Install” button.
5. Click “Accept” for various permissions (please note, we do not modify any of your personal data on your device).
6. Click “Open” when installed.
7. Click the “More” button on the bottom right of the App, then “Setup”.
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you.

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Find out more at www.skoolbag.com.au