Principal’s Message

P&C Feedback
Last night we celebrated a year’s worth of terrific effort by an exceptionally committed group of parents, our Unanderra P&C. The support the P&C provided goes beyond fundraising, although that is a substantial aspect of their business. Our P&C have provided representatives for several panels including merit selection, out of area enrolment and expression of interest. They have contributed to the developing work on our school plan and provided community based events that bring our families together.

On behalf of the staff, students and broader community I would like to extend a sincere thank you to our P&C executive led by the 2014 President, Joanne Crawford. The tireless efforts of Jo and the team are recognised, appreciated and held in high regard by all.

My thanks also extend to the P&C committee who support the work of the executive. Well done everyone, I look forward to 2015.

Relieving Assistant Principal
Last week a panel consisting of Amanda Hampton – P&C Secretary, Trent Whittaker – Assistant Principal, Coniston PS and myself met to finalise the process for relieving assistant principal opportunities at our school in 2015. I wish to congratulate the following people who will support the substantive assistant principals next year:
  Rachel Prior, Michelle Garnero,
  Kylee Denham and Andrew Bennett.
As opportunities become available one or more of the above teachers may relieve as assistant principal. With Julie Turner’s retirement an opportunity has been provided to start 2015. Mrs. Garnero will commence next year as the relieving assistant principal for Stage 1, ie. Year 1 and Year 2.

Toilet Behaviour
You are probably unaware that the Unanderra Public School toilets lead to a pit within the school grounds. This pit has two internal pumps that draw the waste over a rise and into the sewerage mains that pass below school grounds.

Unfortunately there have been numerous instances of the pumps failing due to ‘blockages’. Recently there have been four to five blockages per week. The blockages are predominately caused by underwear. Yes, underwear.

A message regarding underwear is not something I wish to carry within our publicly available newsletter, however, the continued blocking of our toilet pumps is both a distressing and costly concern. I understand accidents happen. However, children need to be encouraged to return soiled underwear home or to use appropriate receptacles at school.

Teachers have discussed appropriate use of toilets with students. Please support this conversation with a conversation of your own at home.

Reports
Student reports are in the final stages of preparation. Most have been edited and have been returned to teachers for publishing. With 18 classes it is a time consuming process to ensure minor errors have been omitted.

While I appreciate the work of assessment and the information it provides to teachers and their reporting against key learning areas, I really enjoy reading the general comments where further insight into a child’s capacity is discussed. Reports are due to go home Friday 12 December 2014.
Swim Scheme

Quite a large number of swim scheme certificates were provided to participating students yesterday. By all accounts the swim scheme experience was a positive one for the vast majority of our students. Well done to all those boys and girls who participated in swim scheme and who may have improved their swimming ability just that little bit more.

Quote

All the world is full of suffering. It is also full of overcoming.

Helen Keller

Craig Redfern
Principal

Reading News: As another year comes to an end we want to thank all those families who have supported Home Reading in 2014. Watch out for next year when we will have something new!

Congratulations for 100 nights
2W Jack 3S Aymen 1C Nickan

150 nights
2W Freya Andrea Hunter
1C Kristian Leah
4D Charlotte

and more amazing students who have read for 175 nights
Jessica and Isaiah from 3S.

Kathy Dobinson, Learning and Support Teacher

SRC Cupcake Stall: The SRC will be selling cupcakes this Thursday 4th December, as a way of raising money for new resources to support the Reading Recovery program. Cupcakes will be on sale under the COLA at recess and, if there are any cupcakes left, again at lunchtime. Cupcakes will only cost $1 each and will be donated by the students in the SRC and the Reading Mentor Program.

Andrew Bennett (SRC Coordinator)

Bus Pass Information 2015: A reminder to all parents of children in Year 2 going into Year 3. If a bus pass is required for next year, you must complete a bus pass application form to enable your children to travel by bus in 2015. Applications are available at the office.

Carolina Wilkinson, Administrative Manager
Annual Giving Tree: Thank you to everyone who has donated items for our Salvation Army Giving Tree, your generosity is appreciated. There is still time to bring in any Donations of dried and tinned food as well as toys, these 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 again for your support of this extremely worthwhile project.

Carolina Wilkinson, Administrative Manager

Canteen News: Canteen will be closed for the rest of this week and reopen next Monday.

Mel, Canteen Manager

Skoolbag - Parent Communication App: We are asking parents/students to install our Skoolbag App. A paper copy of the school newsletter will not be distributed to the students next year. There will be copies available in the front office for parents who do not have access to Skoolbag or the School Website.

Skoolbag iPhone and Android App will enable us communicate more effectively with our Parent/Student community. 92 parents have installed the Skoolbag App so far. To install it, just search for our school name "Unanderra Public School" in either the Apple App Store, or Google Play Store.

Carolina Wilkinson, School Administrative Manager

Lost Property: Are you missing some items of clothing etc. 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

Last P & C Meeting for 2014: Our last meeting for the year was held last night along with end of year drinks to celebrate our final meeting for 2014 and our wonderful achievements for this year. We had a fantastic turn out and I wish to thank everyone, including the many teaching staff who joined us. At this meeting we discussed and voted on our financial support to the school for next year for $10,000 and our fundraising events/activities for 2015. Details of these exciting events and activities we will share with you all in the New Year. Due to the success of our fundraising efforts, last night we were also able to accommodate additional requests for funds for the school. The proceeds from the final closure of the uniform shop we are happy to announce will be used to purchase a set of 30 I pads and covers and a charging station for use in the classrooms at a cost of $16,823. In addition, the P & C also voted to contribute $7,000 to the purchase of new updated literacy material for Stage 2 and 3 aligned to the new English syllabus. Thank you to all the P & C committee and volunteers that have helped make our fundraising efforts successful this year. It is for this reason that we are able to continue to support the school in this way. Thank you to Mr Redfern, Mr Hoy, Mrs Rodden and the many teaching staff of UPS for your continued support of the P & C. We look forward to another exciting year in 2015.

P & C and AGM meetings for 2015: Our first scheduled P & C meeting for 2015 will be Monday 2nd February, 2015 at 7:00pm in the staffroom. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) has been scheduled for Monday 2nd March, 2015. At this AGM all executive positions of the P & C will be declared vacant. To be eligible to vote or be a candidate for one of these positions, you will need to be a financial member of the P & C at or before the February meeting.

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: Only a couple of weeks of school banking left, this week we had a great effort with UPS bankers, well done. This week’s class winners are 2W. It’s your last chance for claiming your rewards in 2014, please place an order by the 5th December and hand it back to the office. Please note the following is available if you have reached 10 tokens, Sea Streamers, Shark Key-
ring, Scented Pencils, Blue Wallet, Spen Moneybox, Pru Moneybox, Jacks game, Headphones, Slapband ruler or a Beach Ball. The following items WILL NOT arrive until Term 1 2015, but can still be ordered; Projector Cup and Swim Bag.

Last day of School Banking will be on the 16th December, please note that it has been communicated to us that token numbers will roll over to next year’s count if you have not reached 10 this year.

Next year school banking sign up dates re the 10th February, 2015 and the 3rd March 2015 from 8:30am till 9:30am, please communicate this to others that are interested, please bring your Photo ID on the day and your child’s Birth Certificate.

Thank you for your continued support and we hope to see many more bankers in the next couple of weeks left.

Elizabeth Ilievski, Dajana Castagna and Jenny Evans, School Banking Coordinators

Information for Parents from the Department of Education and Communities:

Summer Holiday Fun: Book your children into one of our fun-filled camp next school holidays. Your children will be kept busy and active while learning new skills and making new friends. You'll have peace of mind knowing your children are safe and well looked after. For details, visit Sport and Recreation website www.dsr.nsw.gov.au/kidscamps/

Pleasures of Free Play: Allowing free time for children to play on their own, making up games and activities, can help kids to be comfortable in their own company, teach them how to cope with boredom and, importantly, foster their imagination. Under scheduling your child:


Community News:

The K.I.S.S. Arts Festival Circus Workshops are back! “La Petite Grande” mini circus big top, Hindmarsh Park, Kiama. The K.I.S.S. Arts Festival will be returning to Kiama this summer with awesome artists from around the world and with that comes... The Circus Workshops! Learn Trapeze, acrobatics, juggling, unicycling, Hula Hoops, comedy performance, how to work in a group and much, much more. The workshops will focus on mental and physical development, confidence building, dexterity and the basics of performance. We guarantee exhausted happy kids!! Most of all, we intend to have a lot of fun! Dates: 5th – 9th & 12th – 14th Jan Times: 10 am – 3pm Cost: $50 per person Ages: 4+ Children should wear loose fitting "gym" clothes and bring sneakers for unicycle. Please bring a packed lunch and plenty of water. Parents are welcome to leave their children with us, or they can stay for the day if they would like. We perform a small “show” at the end of the day so why not come back at 2:45pm and watch your budding circus star! Bookings can be made at www.kissartsfestival.com.au or by phoning: 0403 817 549

Skoolzout @ Unanderra School Holiday Program: Located at Unanderra Public School. This service is provided by Big Fat Smile and is for children aged 5-12 from 8:00am-6:00pm every week day. For more information or to enrol phone 4272 5355 or visit www.bigfatsmile.com.au/5-12-centres Child Care Benefit is also available.

Summer Dance Workshop: Limited positions available January 5-9 Workshops with Mike Mclinnes, Matt Benson, Evie Morris, Tegan McKeen and Tara Scott. 9am to 11am for 7-10years, 12pm to 2pm for 11yrs+ and 3pm – 5pm for 14years+ Workshops will be held at 4 Sunset Avenue, Warilla. Contact Kelly Pohl on 0400294117 for any enquiries.

Go4Fun is a healthy lifestyle program for children aged 7 to 13 years, who are above a healthy weight. Best of all it’s absolutely FREE. WHEN DOES GO4FUN RUN? Go4Fun runs for 9 weeks after school or on weekends during the school term, and children attend a fun filled 2 hour session each week with their parent or carer. WHAT DO WE DO AT GO4FUN? Each week you and your child will learn about healthy eating, setting goals, portion sizes, label reading and more. The program also includes a supermarket tour where you get to put everything you’ve learnt into practice. Every week the children will also be involved in fun and interactive games and activities to get their heart rates up and enjoying being active. START UP PACK Your child will receive a start-up pack including a: Go4Fun backpack, Go4Fun t-shirt and a Go4Fun water bottle. Your child can also earn bonus rewards including: Wristbands, Bouncy balls and $30 Sports equipment voucher. HOW DO I ENROL? Registrations for Term 1 programs are now open. Wollongong program - Saturdays 9:30am -11:30am at UOW Sports Hub starting Saturday 31st January Unanderra programs - Thursday 4pm – 6pm at Unanderra Community Centre starting Thursday 5th February. We’d love to welcome you and your child into a Go4Fun program and encourage you to secure your child’s place in a program by contacting 1800 780 900 *who complete 8 or more sessions & Healthy Growth Check 2.

Unanderra Public School will, as a service to parents, advertise community news for no 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.