Principal’s Message

Dendrobium Community Enhancement Program
As you would be aware Dendrobium is a local coal mine located in Mt Kembla. As part of their management structure Dendrobium provides community groups funding to enhance local programs.

Recently our P&C applied for, and was successful in receiving $10,000, of funding through the Dendrobium Community Enhancement Program. These funds will be directed toward a renewing of equipment in our computer laboratory.

My thanks to Dendrobium and our P&C for this generous support.

Private Transport of Students
The DEC’s Excursions Policy Implementation Procedures clearly state that parents transporting students other than their own children on school organised activities are required to provide the following to the school office:

- **Proof of current driver’s license and car registration.**
  This ensures that if an accident takes place a student is covered by the driver’s Green Slip.

- **Completed Employment Declaration.** This is to support Child Protection processes.

The most common occurrence of private transport of students is sport and/or creative arts activities. If you are supporting our school with private transport, please comply with the expectation above and provide the necessary documentation to our office staff. Files require updating each time current registration and/or license expires.

March 18, 2014

Induction Assembly
Unbeknown to me at the time, our Term 1 Gold Assembly traditionally doubles as the Induction Ceremony for our school leaders. To avoid disappointment to non-informed parents I cancelled the induction aspect of the Gold Assembly until the parents of students involved were provided adequate information about the induction. The 2014 School Leaders Induction Ceremony will now take place on Monday 31st March 2014 from 11:30pm. I apologise for any inconvenience caused by the previous cancellation and I look forward to welcoming you to the induction of our school leaders in two weeks.

Due Dates
All consent forms (permission notes) coming home will have a **due date** clearly indicated in bold writing. It is imperative that this due date be effectively addressed. Payment and/or consent for an activity will not be accepted after the due date. To avoid disappointment, please return all notes and monies on time.

Website
Our school website received over 700 hits last week from interested community members. This is the largest one-week tally since I commenced at Unanderra, up from averages around the 300–400 hits mark. Part of the influx may be attributed to the smiling faces that now abound on our website. No doubt the families of our new student representatives were visiting the site to see the new photographs. I encourage you to visit the website and view the wonderful images of students happily engaged here at Unanderra Public School.


e-mail Newsletter
If you visit our website please **do not** add your name to the Breaking News section asking for e-mail addresses. This is a trial product that has some faults so we will not be using it. We are working with our technician to remove this link and devise a safe method of collating parent and
caregiver e-mail addresses. More news on e-mailed newsletters will be provided when we ‘iron out the bugs’!

Active Play Playground
The PBS Team have completed their survey of students and are compiling a ‘wish list’ of possible activities to support active play on our playground from Term 2. This morning I also met with Chris Lee from Hot Shot Tennis who is committed to supporting Monday lunchtime activities through his program. More information about Hot Shot Tennis can be accessed at:


Once Unanderra’s registration is complete there will be provision for students to access discounts and opportunities through the site.

ANZAC Day Services
Our school captains have been invited to attend the City of Wollongong RSL sub-branch school’s service on Wednesday 9th April 2014. This service is now in its 11th year. Generally, local high school senior students are provided the opportunity to lead aspects of the service. However, this year one of our captains has been offered the opportunity to give the response to the ceremonial address. This response will be about two minutes long. I look forward to Alanah being the first primary student to perform this role.

As ANZAC Day falls within the school holiday period our school will commemorate ANZAC Day on the first day back for students in Term 2, ie. Tuesday 29th April 2014. Parents are most welcome to support this service which will take place near the flag poles at 10:40am

Principal Network Meeting
Last week our school’s Director - Ms. Debbie Lowe, called a meeting of Wollongong North Principals at Mt Ousley Public School from 7:30 am – 10:30 am. At this meeting Ms. Lowe shared a number of ongoing changes and challenges to be addressed within public education over the very near future. As a 229 school Unanderra is already at the forefront of many of the changes discussed.

Abbreviations
At times an abbreviation may appear in the newsletter and/or in ‘teacher talk’ that may be foreign to you. Here are some often used abbreviations that may assist in deciphering ‘teacher talk’.

RFF Release from Face to Face teaching. The time provided to teachers for weekly planning.

DEC Department of Education and Communities.

AP Assistant Principal.

SAM School Administrative Manager. The person who manages office functions.

SAO School Administrative Officer. The people who work in the office.

SLSO School Learning Support Officer. The people providing additional support to students.

SRC Student Representative Council

LMBR Learning Management and Business Reform. The new admin system being developed in 229 schools.

229 School A school participating in the joint Australian and NSW Government financed trial of local school autonomy.

LSLD Local Schools Local Decisions. The title given to the NSW version of local school autonomy that will be implemented post 229 schools.

PSSA Primary Schools Sports Association. The body that organises inter-school sport.

PBS Positive Behaviour School. PBIS is the original abbreviation for Positive Behavioural Interventions and Support which is a research based approach to behavior management. PBS is basically PBIS in our school setting.

RAM Resource Allocation Model. The new method of providing finance to schools. Information regarding the RAM can be found at:


GTIL Great Teaching Inspired Learning. The blueprint developed by the NSW Government that highlights the changes planned for education in our state. It makes for thoughtful reading and can be found at:


This is by no means an exhaustive list of abbreviations utilised within the DEC. However, it may provide some indication for the DECs affiliation with an abbreviation and the language that is common place for teachers.

Quote
Our freedom can be measured by the number of things we can walk away from.

Vernon Howard

Craig Redfern
Principal
Harmony Day: This Friday 21st, March, is Harmony Day. The message of Harmony Day is ‘Everyone Belongs’. It is a day to celebrate Australia’s diversity. It is a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home – from the traditional owners of this land to those who have come from many countries around the world.

There are many ways we can celebrate Harmony Day – through sport, dance, art, film, music, storytelling, cooking and sharing cultural meals. By participating in Harmony Day activities we can learn and understand how all Australians from diverse backgrounds equally belong to this nation and make it a better place.

At Unanderra Public School, we will be recognising Harmony Day through a variety of class buddy activities. To further promote Harmony Day, students and staff have been invited to wear an orange item of clothing on Friday. Students who do not own any orange clothing might like to wear something yellow or red instead. Alternatively, students might have an orange accessory such as a badge, hair-tie or wristband.

Please note that this is not a mufti day. We expect that students not dressed accordingly for Harmony Day will wear their school uniform on Friday. Also, Harmony Day activities are free and we are not asking for donations.

Andrew Bennett, Harmony Day Coordinator

Cross Country 2014: We will be holding our school Cross Country next Wednesday (26th March) between 9:30 am and 11:30 am at Sheargold Park.

Below is an outline of some important information about the carnival:

All students who turn 8 this year or older will be competing.

Students’ age groups are based on the age that they turn this year.

Students should wear their sports uniform and incorporate their house colours if they wish.

All students are expected to compete and complete at least 1 lap of the course.

To qualify for the District Carnival they must finish in the top 7 runners and complete the set distances below:

8/9 and 10 years = 2 laps of the course (2km)
11 and 12/13 years = 3 laps of the course (3km)

Program of events:
*These times are approximations and may vary slightly on the day.

9:30 am – 8/9 Year Boys
9:45 am – 8/9 Year Girls
10:00 am – 10 Year Boys
10:15 am – 10 Year Girls
10:30 am – 11 Year Boys
10:45 am – 11 Year Girls
11:00 am – 12/13 Year Boys
11:15 am – 12/13 Year Girls

I hope to see you there!

Matt Batley, Sports Organiser
Congratulations Maria! Last Wednesday Maria (6B) and Payton (6M) travelled to Ulladulla for the South Coast Tennis Trials. Throughout the day they played against the best primary school tennis players from all over the South Coast. Maria was selected to be part of the South Coast Team that will travel to Newcastle to take part in the State Championships from 6-9th of May.

Congratulations on this outstanding achievement Maria. Good luck and have fun in Newcastle!
Matt Batley, Sports Organiser

Wests Illawarra Sponsor Rec Sport again in 2014: I have recently approached Wests Illawarra and they have agreed to sponsor our Rec Sport Program again in 2014. Last year was our first year of Rec Sport at Unanderra and this was made possible due to West’s generous donation of $4000, which they have agreed to match again in 2014. Without this sponsorship the cost of the program would be more than I would be prepared to ask our families to pay, so the renewed sponsorship means that we will be able to offer this wonderful opportunity to our children in Term 4 again this year.

Thank you very much Wests Illawarra for supporting our school.
Matt Batley, Sports Organiser

Stage 2 Excursion to Sydney: Parents of students in Stage 2 are reminded that the final date for payment in regard to the upcoming excursion to the IMAX Theatre and Powerhouse Museum is Friday, 21st of March. Notes and/or money cannot be accepted after this time. Many Thanks.
Gavin Hoy, Assistant Principal

Student Emergency Details: Thank you to all the families who have returned their gold Student Information/Contact Sheets. We still have quite a few sheets that have not been returned. Your early attention on the return of these forms would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.
Carolina Wilkinson, Administrative Manager

P & C News

P & C Meeting: The next P & C meeting is scheduled for 7:00 pm on Monday, 7th April in the staff room. If you would like to have something included on the agenda for that meeting please drop your contact details and agenda item outline in the P & C box in the school office and I will contact you to discuss further.

P & C Events: Our UPS Fun Day is still scheduled for October and we will provide regular updates as the work on this progress. If anyone would like to assist in the planning of this event, please drop your contact details into the P & C box in the school office.

Mother’s day Stall: the stall will take place on Thursday May 8. All gifts will be $5 including some extra special gifts for Grandmother’s too. More news will follow as this event approaches.

Easter Raffle: Easter will be upon us before we know it so we are now preparing for our Easter Raffle. If anyone would like to kindly donate any Easter Eggs or gifts for our raffle, they would be greatly appreciated. Please drop any donations to the school office. Thank you.

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.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the P&C committee on electing me as P&C President, and look forward to a great year of fun filled events and fundraising.
Dajana Castagna, P&C President

P & C Uniform Shop: The Uniform Shop hours are Monday 2:30 pm to 3:00 pm and Friday 8:45 am to 9:15 am. Cash or Cheque ONLY. Order forms are available in the front office and on the school website. Orders will be filled and sent home with your child. The uniform shop will close promptly at 3:00 pm on Mondays and 9:15 am on Fridays.
Mandy Marks, P & C Uniform Coordinator

School Banking: The following School Banking prizes will be available. Term 1 & 2 you can select from a handball or scented pencils, Term 2 & 3 penguin keyring or shark pencil case, Term 3 & 4 Dollarmites Money box or swimming bag and Term 4 projector cup or sea streamers. Envelopes containing information on the Deep Sea prizes are being sent home with students that have already banked, please hold onto the prize cards as you will require this when it's time for your child to claim a prize.

This term Commbank is running “Stay Cool at School” promotion. Schools are in the running to win a commonwealth bank branded MARQUEE valued at $400, so we are asking for your support this term and make 3 school banking deposits. The school with the highest percentage of active students at the end of term 1 will win
a marquee and every student that completes a minimum of 3 school banking deposits will be in the running to win one of two $50 credits into their account. Please help by making deposits so we can have a chance of winning this marquee as our school can use it for many things.

Thankyou for your continued support with the school banking program and let's have another fantastic year! Elizabeth Ilievski and Dajana Castagna, Banking Coordinators

Information for Parents from the Department of Education and Communities:

National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN): If your child is currently in Year 3, 5, 7 or 9, they'll sit NAPLAN tests this May. And despite what you may have heard, there's no reason to panic or start an intensive study schedule for your child. Find out more: [http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/homework-tips/all-about-naplan](http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/homework-tips/all-about-naplan)

School A to Z app: Do you struggle to understand your child's homework? Does your child need to practise their spelling and times tables? Are you looking for inspiration for projects and assignments? This free homework helper app provides maths and English glossaries, assignment starters and more. Find out more: [http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/about/mobile-applications/school-a-to-z](http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/about/mobile-applications/school-a-to-z)

Wild Australia app: Your child can use this terrific app as an interactive educational tool at Taronga Zoo in Sydney or at Taronga Western Plains Zoo, Dubbo. Wild Australia can also be used at home to discover more about the zoos’ amazing animals and interesting keepers. Find out more: [http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/zh/homework-and-study/educational-games/taronga-zoo-wild-australia](http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/zh/homework-and-study/educational-games/taronga-zoo-wild-australia)


Community News

Skoolzout @ Unanderra School Holiday Program: Located at Unanderra Public School. This service is provided by Big Fat Smile (Illawarra Children’s Services) 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 bigfatsmile.com.au Child Care Benefit are also available.

Play Group: Figtree High Schools Exploring Early Childhood classes (Years 11 & 12) have successfully run the “little Figgies” Playgroup for the past 2 years of children aged 6 months to 5 years and their parents/carers. Held every Monday of the school term. Time: 10:45am – 12:15pm at the engineering science room (Industrial Arts Block) Cost: 1 piece of fruit per child. Morning Tea provided for parents/caregivers. Toys, painting, play dough, dress ups, arts and crafts! Come along and join the fun! For more information please contact Mrs. Tracey Leabeater or Mrs. Margaret Parr at Figtree High School on 4271 2787

Free Unanderra Homework Club: For Primary & Secondary School Students at Unanderra Community Centre. Would you like extra help with your homework or research for a school project? Then Homework Club is the place for you! Volunteer tutors can help you with your Homework and school assignments. Homework club is a fun place to get help with your homework and it’s free! Mums & Dads welcome...To book a spot or find out more please ring: Julie on: (02) 42725582 or Suanne on: (02) 42609384 Where? Unanderra Community Centre, Princes Highway, Unanderra When? Every Monday afternoon between 3:30pm – 4:30pm STARTS February 10th 2014

Coerver Soccer Coaching Holiday Clinic: Being held during the first week of the April school holidays. The clinic is aimed at providing development for students from ages 5 to 16 to; Improve your skills, whatever your position or ability, Learn how to use the skills of the world’s greatest players, Become quicker with and without the ball, Enjoy your football more regardless of ability Create fun and challenging sessions for children, Provide a professional, safe and fun learning environment for children and Provide a clear improvement in students. COERVER Coaching South Coast m. +61 459 532 223 e. nswscah@coerver.com.au

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.