Principal’s Message

Induction Assembly
Our school leaders will be provided with their badges at next week’s Induction Assembly. The assembly will be held next Monday 31st March from 11:30 am in our school hall. I envisage the assembly to run for about half an hour.

NSW Schools Cup - Netball
Last week two teams from Unanderra Public School participated in Phase 1 of the NSW Schools Cup, a state-wide netball competition. Both teams travelled with parents and Mrs. Blanch to Nowra. All twenty students were enthusiastic in the ten games played.

My thanks to Mrs. Blanch for providing this opportunity to our students. My thanks also to the many parents who provided transport to Nowra and encouragement throughout the day. And of course, a great big thank you and well-done to all twenty Unanderra students for representing our school in a positive, enthusiastic and fair manner. I look forward to further positive outcomes from this talented group of students.

Perception
It is often said there are two sides to every story. I like to think there are actually three. For me the three sides consist of:

- one participant’s side of the story
- the other participant’s side of the story
- the facts.

As a seeker of facts I take the time to canvass the three sides of a story before deciding a way forward. One thing my professional journey has taught me while I search for facts is to be patient.

Having said that, it is interesting to note that for thousands of years people have been considering the best way forward. Unfortunately, individuals and groups often make decisions based on perception not always on facts. For me, when I am tempted to fall into the trap of perception I like to recall Aristotle’s quote made some 2 000 years ago:

To perceive is to suffer.

In all things please take the time to understand the facts of a matter, not how it appears to be.

Parent Teacher Meetings
Monday 7th April will be the first whole-school Parent Teacher Meetings held at Unanderra Public School for quite some time. As a first, there will understandably be some logistical considerations that may have been overlooked. To assist the smooth running of the evening please remember the following:

- Meetings are ten minutes only
- Teachers have a dinner break 5:30 – 6:00pm where no meetings are booked.
- Be on time as squeezing you in later may not be possible.

I trust you will find these meetings as a positive means of sharing information about your child with his/her teacher. I look forward to constructive feedback regarding the meetings from teachers and parents.

Dress Code
You may have observed media coverage of the ‘new’ Dress Code being initiated by the DEC. This Dress Code commences from Term 2 this year.

Each media outlet seemed to have its own perception of the facts. There were comments about the wholesale banning of open-toe shoes through one outlet and the insistence of mean wearing slacks through another. Neither are true….in isolation!

The facts:

- Male employees to wear a collared shirt.
- All employees to wear professional attire for formal meetings.
All employees should dress appropriately for sport / physical activities.

All employees to comply with Workplace Health Safety regulations (hence the open-toe issue if working in some high school faculties).

No revealing clothing to be worn, e.g., bare midriffs, strapless tops or clothes that can be construed as suggestive and/or offensive.

All employees will not wear singlets, t-shirts, tracksuits (except for physical activities), rubber thongs, ripped / dirty clothing or with inappropriate slogans.

Fortunately here at Unanderra the ‘new’ Dress Code already reflects the appropriate nature of the attire worn by our staff.

Sheargold Park
Throughout Term 2 Sheargold Park will be closed as an overflow playground, i.e., students will remain inside the school perimeter during recess and lunch. Our PBS Team will have active play equipment ready to go by the commencement of Term 2.

Security
In addition to the closure of Sheargold Park I am attempting to minimise non-approved access to school grounds by the closure of several gates. From Term 2 the small dual-gates on Derribong Drive near the double-storey building will remain locked. Access from Derribong Dr will only be via the large double gates nearest the office. Additionally, the rear gate to Sheargold Park will be locked.

The closure of the rear gate will require a longer walk for students making their way to the gate on Derribong Drive. Non the less, access to school as of Term 2, will only be via the large double gate located nearest the school office. As is the case now, all visitors between 9:15am – 2:45pm are expected to sign-in through the office.

NAPLAN Equating Study
This year our school has been selected by Australian College of Educational Research (ACER) to participate in a NAPLAN Equating Study. Basically, this means one Yr3 and one Yr5 class will participate in one ‘extra’ NAPLAN assessment in the weeks prior to the ‘real’ NAPLAN. Different schools participate in this equating study each year to ensure the validity of the ‘real’ NAPLAN. This year 3S and 5B will take part in the equating study, most likely in the second week of Term 2. Data collected form this study is not returned to our school and plays no part in our student’s actual NAPLAN results. Please contact me should you require further information about this study.

It is mandatory for all workplaces in Australia to have and practice Emergency Evacuation Plans. Unanderra Public School has an Emergency Evacuation Plan that consists of:

- **Emergency Evacuation**
  Procedures followed when an emergency requires the evacuation from school site of all people.

- **Lock Down**
  Procedures followed when danger exists inside the school grounds and all people are locked within classrooms / buildings.

- **Lock Out**
  Procedures followed when danger exists outside the school grounds and all people are locked within classroom / buildings but allowed to continue working until Lock Down is called.

From time to time we are expected to practice the procedures listed above. If you hear **Beep Beep** or **Whoop Whoop** sirens over the coming weeks it is highly likely we are undertaking one of our practices.

Staff Development Day
All Unanderra teaching staff will be at work this coming Saturday. As discussed in previous newsletters teachers are undertaking professional learning in exchange for a date in December. We will be undertaking professional learning in the Australian Curriculum, the Literacy & Numeracy Continuums and having an opportunity to share current best practice from our classrooms. The school is not open for students or community members during this Saturday.

Principal Meetings
Unfortunately there are quite a few days when I am unavailable due to meetings I am required to attend that are mostly external to our school. Quite often the end of term is a very busy time with meetings organised frequently. The next few weeks I have the following meetings scheduled:

- Thursday 27th March – whole day Primary Principals Council meeting
- Monday 31st March – 12:00pm – 3:30pm 229 Schools meeting
- Tuesday 1st April – 1:00pm Together For Humanity meeting
- Thursday 3rd April – 12:00pm Figtree Community of School Principals meeting.

It is unfortunate these meetings impinge on my availability here at school and while it may not appear like it from the list above, I reject more invitations to attend meetings then I actually accept.
**Don’t cry because it’s over.**  
**Smile because it happened.**  
---  
**Dr. Seuss**

Craig Redfern  
Principal

### School Cross Country Postponed:
Due to the condition of Sheargold Park after yesterday’s rain we have had to postpone tomorrow’s Cross Country Carnival, until the track is safe for the children to participate again in this event. The make-up date set for the Cross Country will be on Tuesday 8th April.

Matt Batley, Sports Organiser

### Easter Hat Parade:
Families and friends of students in K-2 are cordially invited to attend our Hat Parade on Thursday 10th April at 11:40 am.

Student’s hats should be made at home and brought to school on the morning of the parade. They can be made from items such as ice-cream containers, cardboard, coloured paper, foil and cotton wool. Please remember, chocolate eggs can melt in the heat.

We hope you will be able to join us for what will be an enjoyable and fun time.

**Teachers of K-2**

### Unanderra Netball Teams:
Last Thursday, 20 students from our school competed at the Netball NSW Schools Cup in Nowra. We took two teams made up of year 5 and 6 students, both boys and girls.

It began as a rainy and miserable day. We were all dripping wet (including the umpire!), and our feet were soggy and cold. But the games went on. We fought hard and both teams won their first game.

The sun finally decided to make an appearance and we quickly forgot about our wet feet and focused on the next game. Our students played amazingly, especially since most had not played netball before. We won some and lost some but we all had a great time!

We had many comments from other schools, not only about our sportsmanship but also about the fact that we had so many keen boys willing to participate. I was so proud of the effort and behaviour of the students that participated. Big thank you to all parents who provided transport and assisted with scoring and refereeing. Your time was much appreciated.

Natalie Blanch, Netball Coach and Coordinator

### 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

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### Dates for the calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday</strong></td>
<td><strong>March 26</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>School Cross Country <strong>Postponed</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Monday</strong></td>
<td><strong>March 31</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Induction Assembly 11:30 am</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Premier Sporting Challenge</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday</strong></td>
<td><strong>April 2</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Debating Workshop at Shellcove PS</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday</strong></td>
<td><strong>April 3</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>SRC Muftli Day Fundraising for Farmers - Gold coin donation</td>
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<td><strong>Friday</strong></td>
<td><strong>April 4</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>PSSA Gala Day</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Monday</strong></td>
<td><strong>April 7</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>P &amp; C Meeting 7:00pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Parent Interviews</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday</strong></td>
<td><strong>April 8</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>School Cross Country 9:30am</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday</strong></td>
<td><strong>April 9</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Rewards Day</td>
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<td><strong>Thursday</strong></td>
<td><strong>April 10</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Easter Hat Parade</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Stage 2 Excursion to Powerhouse Museum and IMAX Theatre</td>
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<td><strong>Friday</strong></td>
<td><strong>April 11</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Last Day Term 1</td>
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<td><strong>Monday</strong></td>
<td><strong>April 28</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Staff Development Day</td>
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<td><strong>Tuesday</strong></td>
<td><strong>April 29</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Students Return to Commence Term 2</td>
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<td></td>
<td>ANZAC Day Ceremony 10:40am</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday</strong></td>
<td><strong>April 30</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Stage 3 Excursion (3 Day Camp) to Mogo</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday</strong></td>
<td><strong>May 1</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>School Banking Sign Up Day</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday</strong></td>
<td><strong>May 8</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>P &amp; C Mother’s Day Stall</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday</strong></td>
<td><strong>May 13</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>NAPLAN for Students in Years 3 &amp; 5 Language Conventions &amp; Writing</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday</strong></td>
<td><strong>May 14</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NAPLAN for Students in Years 3 &amp; 5 Reading</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday</strong></td>
<td><strong>May 15</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>NAPLAN for Students in Years 3 &amp; 5 Numeracy</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
IL 2013 Missing Book: Last Year 1L made a photo album scrap book for a child who moved interstate. All the children wrote comments in it, this book may have been taken home by one of the students to write in their comments. If you have this book at home could you please return it to Mrs. Rodden (Lenzo). Thank you.

School Security Hotline
1300 880 021

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.

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.

School Banking Sign Up Day: If there are any parents who want to sign their children up for school banking, the next sign up day will be on Thursday 1st May. More details to follow soon.

Thankyou for your continued support with the school banking program and let's have another fantastic year!

Elizabett IIievski and Dajana Castagna, Banking Coordinators

Information for Parents from the Department of Education and Communities:

Dad and Son Time: A series of adventure-filled camping weekends for fathers and sons are being run at Sport and Recreation centres. With no computers, phones or TVs, dads and their boys will be able to spend time together and building a healthier relationship. Find out more: http://www.dsr.nsw.gov.au/youngstars

Motivating Lazy Children: All kids are born active. Some just learn lazybones habits and need a nudge. Find out ways to encourage your child to get up off the sofa and get a little physical. Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/zh/wellbeing/fitness/motivating-lazy-children

Homework for Little Kids: Schools develop homework policies with the help of teachers and parents. These are used as a guide and are based on common sense. If you find homework is becoming too much or is
too difficult for your child, have a chat with your child's teacher. Find out more: 

**Helping Your Child to Become a Good Speller:**
What do you do when your child is struggling with spelling? Should you let your child use a spell checker, for instance? Here are a few tips and techniques to make spelling easier. Find out more: 

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**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

**Shellharbour City Stadium Registrations:**
Crome Road, Albion Park Rail. Taking registrations for: 
Sporting Skills 4 Life: Wed & Fri 9.30am-10.30am 3–5yrs 
Basketball Junior Comp: Saturday Morning. Commences May 2014. Sea Hawks U10’s,Intermediate 10 - 12 years 
Basketball Junior Development: Tue & Wed 4.30pm - 5.30pm. Primary school age. Basketball Cadet Comp: Thursday afternoon. Commences May 2014. 12-16yrs.
For enquiries please phone 42 573468

**PCYC Lake Illawarra Fun Fridays Program:**
Fun Fridays has returned to PCYC Lake Illawarra!! Fun Fridays is a games & sports activity for children between the ages of 5 & 12. It will run from 4pm – 6pm until the end of the term, then recommence in week 1 of term 2. Cost of the activity is a gold coin donation per child, and children must be a member of the club to participate. For more information phone 02 42964448 Reddall Parade, Lake Illawarra NSW 2528

**PCYC Lake Illawarra Gym Skills Camp for Girls School Holiday Program:**
This April School Holiday we will be running a Gym Skills Camp for girls wanting to try gymnastics. They will be run both Wednesdays of the school holidays, starting at 10am and finishing at 1pm. Participants will have the choice of attending one or both days – cost is $25 per day, and it will include a complimentary 12mth membership to PCYC. Places are limited, so if you have anyone you would like to refer please contact us asap as spots are filling fast! Our contact number is 4296 4448. Reddall Parade, Lake Illawarra NSW 2528

**We Need a Foster Parent Like You:** William Campbell Foundation urgently needs foster carers for three small children aged 7, 6 and 3 years of age. For more information call Jo Munro | PR Manager | William Campbell Foundation | 1300130 585 | P 4422 9933 | F 4422 3509 Mon | Tues | Fri

**Coniston Crochet Club:** We are crocheting blankets for the Salvation Army Winter Appeal. If anyone has any 8 ply wool they are able to donate please contact Alison on 42259980. Thanks in anticipation.

**Kids Fishing Holiday Workshop:** NSW Fisheries, kids fishing workshops for kids between 8-14 years old. The next workshop in your area is at Lake Illawarra on April 16. Bookings are essential. Contact Stephen Thurstan Education Officer, Southern Region NSW Department of Primary Industries T: 02 4220 8484 F: 02 4295 1221 M: 0438 245 190 E: stephen.thurstan@dpi.nsw.gov.au