Principal’s Message

Induction Assembly
Thank you to the many parents who attended yesterday’s Induction Assembly. Mr. Thomas, our school’s General Assistant (GA) generally works on a 2 seat for every child receiving an award theory when setting out the seats. After yesterday’s assembly, he may have to revise his formula. It was wonderful to see so many parents attend a midday event. Thank you.

From all accounts the assembly was very well received by students, parents and staff. Our school choir’s very first performance was a terrific opportunity for them to perform in front of an audience and they were very good. I thought our visiting Figtree High School leader spoke exceptionally well and as an ex-Unanderra student was able to inspire our students toward leadership.

Again I apologise for the brevity of my appearance. As a 229 school there are commitments that are expected and it was unfortunate that yesterday’s 229 meeting was scheduled for the same day. With principals, school administration managers and directors coming from a great distance re-scheduling the 229 meeting was an impossibility.

229 School Meeting
Yesterday, there were a little over 40 principals, school administration managers, directors and senior personnel who attended our school for a video conference meeting that went out to another 20 or so professionals. This meeting was in support of our ongoing commitment to Learning Management Business Reform (LMBR) and our capacity to function within Local Schools Local Decisions (LSLD). Mrs. Wilkinson and I had a few ‘light-bulb’ moments where some of the issues we have been dealing with, and we were not previously discussed effectively, were clarified...or indeed simplified. Mrs. Wilkinson and I are both looking forward to being able to use the full functionality of the LMBR system as it becomes available.

Together For Humanity
This afternoon, while you are likely reading this newsletter, I will be attending a meeting in Sydney with an organisation called, Together For Humanity (TFH). TFH was developed post 9-11 to support cross-cultural understanding. By attending this meeting I hope to increase my understanding of how our students may benefit from participation in a TFH program. For more information on Together For Humanity please access the following website:


I hope to be able to inform the P&C of any possible involvement with TFH at our next meeting.

Dendrobium Community Enhancement Program
The computers that were ordered through the P&C’s access of funds from Dendrobium have been installed. Funding sources that support our school are always a pleasure to find, and this one, that has made a fine contribution of $10,000, are noteworthy indeed. My thanks to our P&C and to Dendrobium for ongoing support of our school and learning programs.
Professional Learning
Teachers within Public Schools NSW are expected to continue their professional learning. Not only is it an expectation, but 99.9% of teachers know and understand that ongoing professional learning is hugely beneficial to how effective they can be in the classroom.

Teachers here at Unanderra are actively engaged in their professional learning. We set aside Thursday afternoon’s for professional learning and the Department provides us with 5 Staff Development Days (SDD) each year. Last Saturday teachers participated in a swapped SDD where we developed a greater understanding of the Australian Curriculum and learning continuums. We also shared some quality resources so that each of us can be familiar with ‘what works’ in the classrooms of our colleagues.

Tomorrow, two of our teachers, Mr. Hoy and Mrs. Rodden, will provide professional learning for 3 visiting schools; Mt. Keira, Mt. Kembla and Figtree Heights. The 3 school groups will arrive around 3:30pm and engage with the Australian National Standards for Teachers. Debbie Lowe, our school’s director, will also be in attendance and will, I have no doubt, be very impressed by the high level of capacity shown by teachers at our school.

Sheargold Gate
My comments in last week’s newsletter regarding the closure of gates for security reasons has raised both positive and negative emotions amongst members of our community. I have responded to several concerns individually, however, I believe it would be widely beneficial if a meeting were held to discuss the matter. A letter reflecting this is within today’s newsletter.

HotShots Tennis
Tennis Australia has an in-school program that Unanderra will be participating in starting next term. It is free to our school and comes with the provision of $1 500 worth of equipment and a trained coach. The coach will attend one lunchtime session per week for the duration of the program. To enable this program we have been asked to provide information about other Tennis Australia programs. Today you will receive information regarding a holiday program and mid-week program commencing next term.

School Holidays
Next week will be the last week for Term 1. The school holidays are gazette as:

Saturday 12th April – Monday 28th April

Students should return to school on Tuesday 29th April. As discussed in an earlier newsletter, there will be a brief ANZAC Ceremony at 10:40 am on the 29th as we will all be on holidays when the 25th comes around.

NAPLAN
Previous newsletters have carried the dates for NAPLAN and the structure for Exemption or Withdrawal of students from the assessments. Please remember that NAPLAN will take place:

13th May – 15th May

Due Dates
Information notes coming from school will include a due date for return of permission and/or money. It is important for the effective operation of our school that due dates are adhered to. If due dates are not adhered to your child may be ineligible to attend a sporting, academic, cultural or leadership opportunity. Please ensure all due dates are adhered to so that disappointment can be averted.

AG Class
A number of enquiries have been made to our school office regarding the Academically Gifted Class assessments that were undertaken by students several weeks ago. The AG Class, which has traditionally been located at Farmborough Road Public, has been moved this year to Pleasant Heights Public. I spoke with the coordinator, Chetser Meurant, this morning to clarify the apparent lack of information being received by parents. Chester informs me that all families have been notified by post. He also informed me that while many of our students scored well, in 2014 no Unanderra student was successful. Information I received this morning was there were 31 students who were successful in attaining a position. These 31 were selected from a process of about 300 applications. If information does not arrive by post this week telephone contact with Chester can be organised.

Quote
In this bright future, you can’t forget your past.

Bob Marley

Craig Redfern
Principal

PBS Rewards Day: Next Wednesday, the 9th of April, UPS will have their Whole School Rewards Day sports sessions across K-6 for those children who have not attended the Reflection Room during the second half of this term.

Rachel Prior, PBS Coordinator
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

SRC News: As you may have heard two thirds of NSW and Queensland farms, are in severe drought. Our SRC has decided to join in the Dollar4Drought campaign, to raise funds for our drought affected farmers. This Thursday April 3rd. Students can come to school dressed as a farmer and donate, $1 to the campaign.

SRC Coordinators

Mr Bennett and Mrs Mitchell, SRC Patrons

Cross Country 2014: Weather permitting we will be holding our school Cross Country next Tuesday (8th April) 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
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

Student Emergency Details: Thank you to all the families who have returned their gold Student Information/Contact Sheets. We have only had about half or the contact sheets returned. Your early attention on the return of these forms would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Carolina Wilkinson, Administrative Manager
**Induction Assembly:** We would like to congratulate the following students who were Inducted into their Representative Roles at our Induction Assembly yesterday Monday March 31st 2014.

**School Captains**
- Dylan 6M
- Phoenix 6B

**School Vice Captains**
- Alex 5/6H
- Alannah 6M

**House Captains**
- **Illawarra**
  - Ethan 6B
  - Lauren 6M
- **Keira**
  - Noah 6B
  - Sienna 6M
- **Kembla**
  - Dylan 6B
  - Abby 6M
- **Nebo**
  - Owen 6M
  - Bree 5/6H

**House Vice Captains**
- **Illawarra**
  - Onike 5BL
  - Ayla 5/6H
- **Keira**
  - Benjamin 5/6H
  - Kobie 5B
- **Kembla**
  - Jed 5B
  - Naomi 5/6H
- **Nebo**
  - Samuel 5/6H
  - Kirstie 5BL

**Student Representative Council Captains & Vice Captains**
- Jake 6M
- Margaret 6M
- Ethan 6B
- Emily 6B
- Dylan 5/6H
- Eryn 5/6H
- James 5B
- Tameaka 5B
- Zanda 6B
- Chelsea 5BL
- Kynan 4B
- Anjonique 4B
- Jaymz 4D
- Anastasia 4D
- Kade 5B
- Dina 3/4L
- Harry 3H
- Tatum 3H
- Oliver 3S
- Mia 3S

**Library Monitors**
- Jake 6M
- Lauren 6M
- Isaac 6M
- Amber 6M
- Sebastian 5/6H
- Steffie 6B
- Ellie 6B
- Janna 6M

**Environment Committee**
- Isaac 6M
- Sienna 6M
- Dylan 6B
- Ebonie 6B
- Callum 5BL
- Ella 5BL
- Joshua 5B
- Megan 5B
- Sebastian 5/6H
- Bree 5/6H
- Brent 4B
- Domenica 4B
- Tristan 4D
- Asleigh 4D
- Rhys 3/4L
- Kiara 3/4L
- Justin 3H
- Tasharna 3H
- Joel 3S

**Groundforce Committee**
- Trent 6M
- Janna 6M
- Brendan 5BL
- Caleb 5BL
- Ben 5B
- Jed 5B
- Shannon 5/6H
- Lotus 5/6H
- Jye 4B
- Zoe 4B
- Daniel 4D
- Skye 4D
- Jake 3/4L
- Mikaela 3/4L
- Ashton 3H
- Elizabeth 3H
- Andrew 2W
- Cara 2W
- Austin 2E
- Clayton 2E
- Rhylie 1M
- Eddie 1M
- Louis 1/2R
- Jesse 1/2R
- Travis 1M
- Yousef 1M
- Bodie 1C
- Clara 1C

**P & C News**

**P&C Membership:** New members are always welcome at the P&C...and we’ve welcomed quite a few over the last 12-months so thanks to everyone for their time and input to-date. **It only cost $1 to become a member,** which entitles you to vote and add business matters to the P&C meeting agenda and voice your opinions, concerns and ideas about matters relating to the school. The next meeting is scheduled for **Monday 7th April, at 7:00 pm** in the school staff room. Hope to see you there!

**P & C Events:** Our UPS Fun Day is scheduled for October and we will provide regular updates as the work on this progress. We have a great team on board who have fantastic ideas to make this event a fun filled day! 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, and special gifts for Grandmother’s too. Calling all volunteers... if you could complete and return the slip below into the P&C box at the school office. We'll be in touch soon with more details about the day.

**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.
School Zone Parking Reminder: As part of our continued road safety awareness campaign, please note that the drop off / pick up zones outside of school are areas which between 8:00 am and 9:30 am and again between 2:30 pm and 4:00 pm you are permitted to stop only while you are dropping off or picking up passengers. You must not stop for more than two minutes and you must stay within three meters of your vehicle. Penalty exceeds $130 plus two demerit points.

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.

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

Elizabeth Ilievski and Dajana Castagna, Banking Coordinators

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.

Artspace April School Holiday Program:
Artspace is operated by Big Fat Smile, a not-for-profit organisation Creative arts studio for kids aged 5-18 years. Holiday program runs from 14th April to 25th April 2014. Workshop costs:- 5hr workshops: $20, 2 hr workshops: $25, 3 hr workshops: $30, Day sessions: $55 (BYO lunch) 98 Railway Street, Corrimal. Bookings Essential phone: 4283 9967

Go4Fun program: The Go4Fun program is a FREE healthy lifestyle program for children aged 7-13 years that offers support and advice on nutrition and good eating habits. The program is fun and interactive with lots of games and activities to keep the children active. Figtree Community Hall 4-6pm Monday and Thursdays. Horsley Community Centre 4-6pm Tuesdays. Register now for term 2 1800 780 900 SMS 0409 745 645 for a call back or visit: go4fun.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.