National Families Week
Today I visited the Western Suburbs Childcare Centre on Derribong Drive with 6 of our Year 6 Reading Buddies. We read to small groups, participated in their play activities and generally engaged with staff and the children who attend the centre. It was a delightful experience where we were swamped with enthusiasm and avid attendance. Mrs Dobinson is taking another group of 6 Year 6 Reading Buddies this Thursday as a continuation of this community engagement initiative. My thanks to Mrs Dobinson, the childcare centre staff and of course our Year 6 Reading Buddies for supporting this initiative.

NAPLAN
Last week, the vast majority of our Year 3 and Year 5 students completed the 2014 NAPLAN. The NAPLAN is a national assessment across Reading, Language Conventions, Writing and Numeracy. The data schools acquire through the NAPLAN provides a snapshot of student performance. When ‘drilling down’ into the data, school teams are able to consider student, teaching, school and state trends that provide a signpost for ‘where to next?’

Information regarding your child’s performance in this year’s NAPLAN should be available later in the year. As you can imagine, the process for collating, marking and reporting on this national process is massive.

National Consistent Collection of Data
The Australian Government has requested the national collection of data concerning students with a disability. There are covenants that ensure the privacy of individuals and no ‘test process’ is undertaken by students. Data will be collected in Term 3 this year.

Information about the collection of this data can be found on the Australian Government’s website at:


You may select to withdraw your child from the data collection. A return slip for this purpose is available later in this newsletter. Withdrawal slips should be returned to the school office before Wednesday 25th June 2014.

Diary Clash
It is quite unfortunate that we cannot be in two places at the one time. Next Friday 30th May while I am attending a combined Principals Network Meeting with 150 other Illawarra / South Coast principals Unanderra will be hosting our Kindergarten Grandparents Day. I wish to pass on my apologies now to our valued grandparents who may be planning on attending. I trust each grandparent who attends will enjoy time with their grandchildren within our wonderful school setting.

Fact or Perception
From a personal and professional viewpoint I always try to abide by Aristotle’s warning:

To perceive is to suffer.

I am cautious when gossip finally meanders its way to my ears or when advised about the facts from one participant only. Throughout my ten years as principal I have found it beneficial to stick to the facts, from more than one participant, before coming to any conclusions. As a role model for 460 students, 40 staff members and the community in general it is important that I remain impartial, practical and guided by equitable processes. I trust my actions reflect my comments here and I would be only too pleased to discuss them should that not be the case.

GRIP Leadership Day
This Friday I will be attending the GRIP Leadership Day with 10 of our school leaders at the University of Wollongong. This should be a terrific opportunity for our school’s leaders to develop new skills and to engage with other leaders from local schools.
Multicultural Perspective Speeches: The following is the second speech to be published from our Multicultural Perspective Speech candidates.

How Children Can Make a Difference

We are lucky in Australia because as children we have the right and the opportunity to many good things, good health, good education, play and rest, protection from harm, help if you are in need, the right to give opinions and to be listened to. With all these things in place it helps us to make a difference in our communities. Children bring different nationalities to get her. This helps us to learn about different cultures, traditions and customs. It helps us to understand people’s differences and live together in harmony and without racism. Children come together in many different places like, school, sports teams, clubs and parks.

Children aren’t born racist. Some children grow up with racist grown ups around them and they learn bad ways. We as children can make a difference by thinking about others and accepting differences. Many people come together to celebrate Harmony Day and share good messages about being different. I love Harmony Day because it’s not just about the way we look or where we are from, it’s about many different children coming together in one community.

In other countries children make a difference in different ways. In some countries children aren’t as lucky as us, in Syria for example children are having to leave their country because of war. There are 750 000 children our age who are refugees. A refugee is a person who has to leave their home country to stay safe. Reema is from Syria, her school, home and town were destroyed. She made a video with Oxfam to ask for help.

I would like to make a difference at our school. So I would like everyone to think of what we learnt on Harmony Day. Remember it every day and use this to stop bullying and nastiness to others because of our differences.

by Grace G-P 3S

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Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability – 2014

I/we __________________________________________________________

Name of parent/carer

**do not** wish my child __________________________________________ to be counted

Name of child

for the purposes of the collection of nationally consistent data on school students with disability.

Parent/Carer signature: ____________________________ date: __________
Canteen News: Open for orders for Grandparents on Grandparents Day, please order in the morning. Thank you for your ongoing support.
Mel Connolly, Canteen Manager

P & C News

Back Gate: If any parent could help in volunteering to open the back gate could you please provide details to administration at the front office. We currently have 3 volunteers who open the gate for a full week, and have a roster in place and is working well. The hours the back gate will be opened are between 2:30pm to 3:00pm and our volunteers will ensure the gate will opened before 3:00pm so access in and out of the school grounds are made available. The gate will be closed by a teacher.

Grandparents Day: Will take place on Friday 30th May. If you are interested and available to volunteer between the hours of 10:00am to 11:00am, could you please complete and return the slip below to the school office by Wednesday 28th May. We will contact you with all details about the day.

UPS Fete Fun Day: is scheduled for Friday 24th October and we will provide regular updates as the work on this progress. At this stage we are aiming to hold the event from 12pm to 6pm. The event will open after 3pm to the public. So far we have locked in Foster’s carnival rides and a variety of food stalls and are in process working with our teacher’s on board to involve the students for the day as well. 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 or know of any businesses that may be interested, or would like to contribute in donating, please provide your contact details to the school office.

Trivia Fundraiser Night: will be held on Friday 20th June at 7:30pm in the school hall. Ticket will be $10 per person and tables will accommodate up to 10 people. This will be a fantastic night of fun, laughter and games. There will be lucky door prizes, prizes for the winning table and a raffle. Bring along your friends, nibbles and drinks and join us for a fun filled night! Bookings for tables and seats are open now so fill in the attached form and return it to the office to secure your spot.

Next P& C Meeting: Is scheduled for Monday 2nd June, 2014 at 7:00pm in the school staff room.
Joanne Crawford, Vice President

P & C Uniform Shop: The girls Winter Uniform is now on Sale. Skirt $10, Tunic $15 & Peter Pan Shirt $15. Rugby Shorts $5, Sports T-Shirt $5, Netball Skirt $5 & Tracky Pants $5, T-Shirt sizes available are sizes 4, 14 & 16 only.

Uniform Shop hours are Monday 2:30pm to 3:00pm and Friday 8:45am to 9:15am. Cash or Cheque only. Order forms are available at the office and on the school website under P&C tab/uniform shop. Leave order with correct money in a clearly labelled envelope in the school office.

As of Term 3 this year our doors will be closed and school uniforms will be purchased from Lowes Figtree. There are some exciting advantages to this happening:
- Convenience to access uniforms during retail hours
- Full credit card and lay-by facility
- Lowes Figtree is open during school holidays, weekends and most public holidays
- You can purchase your uniforms ONLINE @ Lowes and have them delivered
- The advantage of LOWES loyalty card or Ezyway Credit card.
- Additional discounts as advertised by Lowes during their sales

Lowes are also giving Unanderra Public School parents a special 2 year discount. In the first year, 10% discount off the purchase price of all distinctive Unanderra school items. In the second year, 5% discount off all distinctive Unanderra school items.

The new School Sport Uniform change has been approved and will be available at LOWES Figtree soon during Term 2, date to be advised. This will now be a Navy/Sky Blue Microfiber Polo with the school logo and Unisex Navy Microfiber shorts with school logo. Girls have the option of wearing a Navy Skirt/Skort with school logo. The school hat will also be the Navy Surf Hat to match our new smart sports uniform. Our Unanderra children will look fantastic when out representing our school. The school will allow changed uniforms to be worn for the next 2 school years.
Mandy Marks & Amanda Hampton, P&C Uniform Shop

Grand Parents Day P & C Volunteers:

I am available to assist setting up Yes / No

Name:_________________________________________Contact Details:________________________________
School Banking: Congratulations UPS Bankers you reached over 100 deposits last week for the first time and are well on your way to qualify for a chance of winning a “family holiday”. All you need is to simply make three deposits or more during term 2 and you’ll be automatically entered into the competition. The major prize is five nights accommodation at the Sea World Resort and Water Park on the Gold Coast, VIP Passes for 2 adults and 3 children to Sea World, Warners Bros Movie World and Wet ‘n’ Wild. A dolphin family aqua adventure and a $3000 travel gift card to get you there. Runner up prizes include 130 Toys R Us gift cards to the value of $250 each plus a separate draw of $1000 cash for your school. “Go for it UPS Bankers you can do it!”

Can you please remind your child(ren) to drop off their bank books / money on TUESDAY mornings in the “red bin” in the school office before school starts. No bank books / money will be taken after 9:30am. Just as a reminder there is no minimum deposit you can deposit as little as 5 cents.

Elizabeth Ilievski and Dajana Castagna, Banking Coordinators

Asthma Australia

What is Asthma? Asthma is a condition that affects the airways. Children with asthma have sensitive airways which react to certain triggers, causing them to have asthma symptoms. Common symptoms include coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath, tightness in the chest and a persistent cough, especially at night, early in the morning, or with exercise or activity.

How is Asthma Treated? To treat children with asthma, a doctor will prescribe medications such as relievers and preventers. Relievers like Bricanyl and Ventolin are fast acting inhaled medications that give quick relief of asthma symptoms. They relax the muscle around the outside of the airway, opening it up. All children with asthma should carry a reliever puffer. Some children also need to take a preventer medication to get their asthma under control. These need to be taken at home every day to reduce symptoms and asthma attacks.

What is an Asthma Action Plan? All children with asthma should have an Asthma Action Plan. It is a written set of instructions prepared with their doctor or nurse that helps to recognise when their asthma is getting worse, and what to do about it.

What is Asthma First Aid? The 4x4 First Aid Plan is information for anyone about how to respond to an asthma attack. It is safe for adults and children.

Flu Season is Here: With winter approaching, it is easy to forget to book in to have a flu vaccination. Autumn is the best time to see a GP to ensure a vaccine is most effective. Everyone who is over the age of 6 months and who wants to be protected from getting the flu should be vaccinated. It is strongly recommended that all students who need multiple medications to control their asthma or who are frequently hospitalized are vaccinated against the flu.

What does the vaccine do? Each year the flu vaccine is different and contains the most common strains of flu virus that are causing infection around the world that year. To remain protected, people need to be vaccinated even if they had one last year. The 2014 vaccine protects people from three strains of virus: California H1N1 (swine flu), Texas-like strain and the Massachusetts-like strain.

There is no live virus in the flu vaccination, so it won’t actually give people the flu. The most common side effects are soreness and swelling where the injection was given, and some fever or ‘malaise’ (feeling a bit off), but these are generally mild and pass within a few days. It is also important to let a GP know about any allergies, such as to latex or to eggs.

Who can access free flu shots? Under the National Influenza Vaccination Program, the influenza vaccine is free to some people including those over 6 months with chronic respiratory conditions, severe asthma, heart disease or diabetes. Please note that whilst the vaccine is free, doctors may charge a consultation fee.

Asthma Foundation NSW, Level 3, 486 Pacific Highway St Leonards NSW 2065, 1800 ASTHMA (1800 278 462) asthamaustralia.org.au T 02 9906 3233

Community News

Figtree’s Biggest Morning Tea: Keeli Royle will once again be hosting her Biggest Morning Tea at Collegians Tennis and Squash, 147 The Avenue Figtree (Lysaghts/Orb). This is the second year we have hosted the event at Collies and based on last year we are hoping to raise over $1000 for the Cancer Council.

Please come down and support this great cause on Sunday May, 25 between 10:00am and 1:00pm. Bring your gold coins. Plenty of raffles, tea, coffee, cakes, drinks, sausage sizzles. Bring a blanket, and bring your friends. There will be free games for the kids, including Hotshots tennis, and mini-soccer. The tennis courts and squash courts will be open for free play. Keeli would welcome any sponsorship (cash or prizes that could be raffled) from local businesses. Greg and Keeli (0431562865).