Principal’s Message

Kindergarten Enrolments
It may seem a little surprising but now is the time that many families ‘sign-up’ their children for ‘big school’ the following year. I believe that our school is an outstanding option for the children of all local families. Unfortunately, we seem to lose possible student enrolments to private schools within our enrolment area. Without wishing to get into a public v’s private debate I do hope that you can provide support to family and friends considering a school option for students commencing kindergarten in 2015. Please share the quality programs in place at our school when talking with neighbours, family and friends. Some of our extra-curricular programs include, but are not limited to:

Camera Crew, Gala Day Sports, Chess, Debating, Dance Festival, Sport & Rec, Glee Club, Choir, Public Speaking

Additionally, we are providing engaging lessons on a daily basis to challenge student thinking and promote their development. We have a responsive learning support team who provide expertise that assists students with specific needs. And we are ably supported by caring efficient support staff in our office and classrooms.

Next time someone asks, “Where could I send my child to school?” please share the quality of our school and encourage them to make an enquiry through our office.

Emergency Evacuation
Yesterday students, staff and visitors participated in an emergency evacuation drill. It is vitally necessary for our school to practice safe procedures should we unfortunately be faced with a real emergency one day. There were many positives from this drill, including a few things that could be performed better.

One aspect you can assist with is ensuring that every time you visit our school during our learning time, 9:00am – 3:00pm you enter the school office and sign on. After signing on you are expected to wear the blue visitor’s badge. This badge signifies that you have signed-on and our staff can be confident you will be accounted for in the event of an emergency. Yesterday, one of our parents was caught-out. Please ensure this simple process is followed for the safety of all our students and yourselves.

Childcare Visit
Last week a Baker’s Dozen of our Year 6 Reading Buddies invested quality time with the children at our neighbouring Western Suburbs Childcare Centre. We organised two visits, one on Tuesday and one on Thursday. It was an exceptional experience for our students, and for the children from the centre. My heartfelt thanks to every student who participated and to Mrs. Dobinson for her support and guidance of this wonderful initiative.

Education Week
This year Education Week will be held in Week 3 of next term, 28th July – 1st August. Our school’s Open Day will be Wednesday 30th July. It is on this day that parents, grandparents and other family members will be able to observe activities in their child’s classroom and to participate as an audience for some of our performance groups. Early preparations include:

10:00am – 11:00am  Class Visits
11:00am – 11:45am  Biggest Morning Tea
11:45am – 1:00pm  Performances

The theme for Education Week in 2014 is Alumni. I would dearly love to invite past students who are successful in their chosen field back to our school. It would be great for our students to hear their story.

GRIP Leadership Conference
Last Friday 10 Year 6 students attending the GRIP Leadership Conference held at University Hall, University of Wollongong. GRIP is an acronym for:
Generosity  
Responsibility  
Integrity  
People

Our 10 students showed all these important qualities in their interactions on the day. During some of the mixing sessions, where our students were called upon to discuss matters with students from other schools, our students did so effectively. It can be a big ask for young people to be ‘thrown together’ however, our Year 6 students displayed the above qualities and participated effectively.

In addition to the conference our students were able to share the university grounds with university students and observe a small aspect of university life. I am hopeful that some seeds of possibility were sown through this experience. Thank you to the many parents who offered transport assistance and to our wonderful Year 6 students.

Values in NSW Public Schools
A document with title Values in NSW Public School, released March 2004, outlines the 9 core values of NSW Public Schools. These values are:

Integrity – Excellence – Respect  
Responsibility – Cooperation – Participation  
Care – Fairness – Democracy

The 9 core values align exceptionally well with our PBS statements:

Be Safe – Be Respectful – Be Responsible

The vast majority of our students abide by our PBS statements providing a welcoming atmosphere for all our students to learn within.

Due Dates
Thank you to all our parents who are making an exceptional effort to have permission notes and money returned by the due date. Understandably there will be times when you may have difficulty meeting the deadline, if that is the case please mention this to office staff before the due date. Explanations after the due date cannot be considered, please support the effective administration of the school be adhering to the due date.

Playground Activities
So far this term the new active play equipment being provided for student use at lunchtime has been a success. As with all initiatives there are ‘teething issues’ to evaluate and/or eradicate, but overall the PBS Team, staff and students are happy with the outcomes.

Teacher Vacancies
Recently I contacted the department’s People & Careers Directorate to inform them of 2 permanent teacher vacancies at our school. The current process employed by the department is that 1 vacancy is centrally appointed and 1 is selected by the school.

Michelle Ganero has accepted the centrally appointed position and will start with us from Day 1 Term 3 this year. Michelle has 10 years’ experience as both a temporary and permanent teacher at her current school in South West Sydney. In speaking with Michelle and her current principal I have every confidence that she will bring a wealth of enthusiasm and quality experience to our school that will support the great work of our current teachers.

I meet with the merit selection panel next Wednesday to consider the qualities we hope to find in a teacher that we will employ through a merit selection process. As this process will likely conclude early next term news about the successful candidacy will be months away. In addition to the 2 current permanent teacher vacancies, we have another 4 to secure before the end of this year.

Principal Network Meeting
This Friday I am attending a combined principal network meeting with 150 other principals from local networks. The 4 networks in attendance basically cover 85% of the previously named Illawarra South East Region. Mr. Gregory Prior, Deputy Secretary of our department will be the keynote speaker.

Quote
A smile is a curve that sets everything straight.

Phyllis Diller

Craig Redfern  
Principal

Library News: Once again our Book Fair was a huge success. Thank you to everyone who bought a book. Our commission from our sales is $1800. With this money we will be able to stock the library with popular titles and request from students, as well as more resources for our classrooms.

Karen Mitchell, Teacher Librarian

Canteen News: New item available from next week (Monday 2nd June) Nachos - $3.50 ea.

Canteen open for orders for Grandparents on Grandparents Day, please place order before 9:30am

Mel Connolly, Canteen Manager
Kindergarten 2015: Enrolments for Kindergarten 2015 are now being accepted. Thank you to the families that have already completed their Enrolment forms. A detailed letter and invitation to families, who have submitted their enrolment forms, will be going home next term re orientation dates and times.

Enrolment forms are available from the school office. Lodgement now of your application will greatly assist us with our planning for next year and ensure you and your child is enrolled in the Orientation Program.

Carolina Wilkinson, Administrative Manager

Multicultural Perspective Speeches: The following is the third speech to be published from our Multicultural Perspective Speech candidates.

Learning Different Languages – By Ella C 5BL
Guten Morgen, Bonjour, Konnichiwa, Ahl sah-LAHM ah-LAY-koom, Hello

I would like to talk today about Learning Different Languages.

Can you imagine a world where everyone only knew their own language and no other!! That would mean that if we travelled to France or anywhere in the world for that matter and we wanted to find a shop where they sold pretty dresses and shoes, we would have trouble. Even if we did find the shop, it would still be difficult as we wouldn’t know their currency or be able to tell them what size dress we were after!! Wouldn’t that be awful??

If I was travelling to a country with my family and we didn’t know the language, how would we get to our destination?? If we were going to Germany, how would the German people know where our hotel was, if they didn’t know our language and we didn’t know theirs?? How would we buy our meals? We could only point to a menu, BUT if it was written in German, and it probably would be, how could we order our meal??

What would happen if I got lost in Russia?? How would I be able to explain who I was, where my parents should be and where I needed to be?? It would be a very frightening situation, don’t you agree?

If we didn’t have people in the world who knew more than one language there would be more fighting in the world than there already is!! Just imagine that you’re being apologetic to someone and that person doesn’t understand you. Worse still, what if that person thought you were being mean to them?? I reckon that a fight would start, for sure!!

Understanding another culture is made so much easier when you know the language. Understanding why people do things, say things, act certain ways all make sense if you can communicate. There would be fewer wars if we all understood each other better.

Learning other languages and finding out about other people’s cultures and religions opens up a world of possibilities for those willing to try. Being able to understand someone from another country gives us information and about them that we would never find out otherwise.

When we learn another language and get the opportunity to use that language and improve our use of it, we are able to find interesting jobs, such as being an interpreter (that’s a person who speaks different languages and helps people understand each other). I bet interpreters get paid lots of money!! An interesting job would be a travel interpreter. It would be lovely to have a job where you take overseas visitors around Australia and you are able to explain all about our wonderful country and all that it has to offer. You could also work overseas in the same kind of job.
Did you know that there are different types of SIGN LANGUAGE? Actually, there are about 200 different types. For example here are three ways just to say “happy”. (SHOW THEM ALL) – Two hands in circular motion, one below the other across chest THEN one hand (right hand) sweeping upwards across chest for slightly happy, OR big sweep with smile on face for VERY happy! I guess it’s a bit like someone saying “Hello are you today?” Someone else might say “Yo, what up?” It all means the same thing but WELL it’s DIFFERENT!!

The world belongs to ALL of us. We share it – all the wonderful stuff – AND all the problems. If we didn’t understand each other, how could be possibly solve the world’s problems - famine, poverty, childhood diseases, to name a few!! Without understanding each other, we would never be able to share medical discoveries and scientific discoveries that make this world a better place to live in. Ahhh, it IS a good thing that we can communicate with each other (mostly!). I’m glad I live in this wonderful world where people can AND do learn different languages!!!

And finally, how on earth would we ever learn to cook “lasagne” if we never got the opportunity to understand each other’s languages!! Bellisimo.....

Domo arigatou, Dankeschön, Merci et Au Revoir – THANK YOU and GOODBYE......

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 3pm and our volunteers will ensure the gate will opened before 3pm 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 this Friday May 30. I still require volunteers between the hours of 10:00am to 11:00am for set up and for a few extra people for between 11:30am and 1:30pm to help serve and clean up. It you are interested in helping out, 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.

Trivia Fundraiser Night: will be held on Friday 20th June at 7:30pm in the school hall. Tickets 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, a great raffle and a few other games to make the night fun and exciting. 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.

Please note: As this will be an event where parents are able to bring alcoholic beverages along, an age restriction has to be implemented. All persons must be over 18 years to attend.

Next P& C Meeting: Is scheduled for Monday 2nd June, 2014 at 7:00pm in the school staff room. If anyone has any item that they wish to add to the agenda, please drop your name, contact number and item details into the P & C box at the school office and we will contact you to discuss further. If you have not attended a P & C meeting before and would like to know what we are about, please come along to this next meeting. It only cost $1 to join as a financial member. We look forward to seeing you there.

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
- 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 Committee

School Banking: We 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”

Congratulations to 1/2R last week for the second week in a row they have had the most bankers. This week we would like to congratulate 1/2R and 2W for the most class bankers, well done and keep up the fantastic work.

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

Community News


Free Homework Club: Continuing out of the Unanderra Community Centre, every Monday afternoons from 3:30pm – 4:30pm during the school term. It is for K-12 students and is free of charge. We have volunteer tutors who work one on one with the students to finish their homework. Contact Alisha McLuckie, Program Coordinator, Learning for Life | The Smith Family ph 02 42 609 349 |Mobile 0466 745 454

Become A Caresouth Foster Carer: Foster care can be a very rewarding journey for individuals, couples or families. By providing a stable, caring home environment you can make a positive difference in a child’s life. CareSouth provides exceptional support, training, caseworker visits, 24/7 on call support, and a tax free allowance. To find out more come to our Information session on Tuesday 3rd June at 5:30pm at our CareSouth Office 2 Matilda Way Berkeley. We look after you so you can look after the people that need it most. 1300 554 260, or check out our website www.everydaycaresouth.org.au

Certificate II Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways: This is a Certificate II course for people wanting a career pathway into the Community Services or Aged Care Sector. You will benefit from targeted preparation in literacy, vocational study skills, technical skills and computer skills to enter Certificate III or Certificate IV training. To find out more come to Choices Day on Saturday 14th June from 9:00am to 1:00pm at Wollongong TAFE Campus, Foleys Lane, North Wollongong. You can also telephone Michele Broad on 4229 0451 or email michele.broad@det.nsw.edu.au

Citylife Community Initiatives: Presents a workshop with Sarah Hunstead from CPR Kids. Author of: A Life. A Finger. A Pea Up A Nose. A practical guide to baby and child First Aid. Sarah formed CPR Kids in 2012 – a baby and child specific First Aid training provider. She teaches families and carers the invaluable skills they hope they never need: to save their child's life. Sarah will be addressing childhood and first aid with children with ADHD and other associated disabilities. WHEN: Tuesday 17th June TIME: 7:00pm-9:00pm WHERE: Citylife Church 2/129 Jardine St (west end) Fairy Meadow 2519 Information: 0242844414

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

Grandparents Day Volunteers:
I am available to assist in setting up at 10:00am to 11:00am Yes/ No
I can help serve and clean up between 11:30 am and 1:30pm Yes / No
Name: ____________________________ Contact Details: ____________________________
Unanderra Public School Fete Fun Day

This is a special section of the P & C newsletter that will be dedicated to providing details about the upcoming Fete Fun Day. Please refer to this section for requests for volunteers, donations, schedules and planning details.

Date: Friday 24 October 12:00pm to 6:00pm

The planning stages for the Fete Fun day are well under way with the committee now meeting up every 2 weeks to discuss our updates.

So far:

- Fosters amusement has been booked in with a great line up of new and exciting rides to entertain children of all ages
- A dunk machine has been ordered where we will look to ‘dunk’ our favourite principal or teacher???
- A variety of food stalls have been secured so far with a selection of food to feast on including Outback Steak House, Wood Fire Pizza, Dalvinder’s Indian, Ken’s Cones
- A variety of market stalls will be selling candles, lollies, children’s clothing, trash n treasure, cakes and much more.
- Our dedicated teachers Mrs Rodden, Miss Crompton and Ms Hezemans are working with staff to organise the students in creating their own stalls for the day, whether it’s crazy hair, face painting, cup cake decorating or many other exciting projects.
- Our school’s amazing talents with be show cased
- And there will be animals, show bags and lots, lots more…………so stay tuned!!!!!

At this stage we are calling any UPS family who owns or operates a business who would be interested in:

- Holding a market stall at the fete.
- Kindly donating any prizes for our ‘Big Raffle’ or “chocolate wheel”.

If so please contact Joanne on 0439 190 462 or Katie on 0450 806 234 .

If anyone is interested in assisting in these planning stages of the Fete, please drop your name and contact details into the school office, or give either one of us a call.

Joanne Crawford and Katie Byrne, Fete Fun Day Coordinators

Please complete and return to the School Office

Unanderra Public School Fete Fun Day

I am interested in assisting in the planning stages of the Fete

Name : __________________________________________

Contact Details: ___________________________________