Wonderful News
The recent merit selection process for the next permanent teaching position at our school concluded with interviews last Thursday. After an exceptionally competitive process Mrs. Stephanie Rodden has been offered the position and has subsequently accepted. Mrs. Rodden is an extraordinary teacher with a unique pedagogical talent who I am very pleased has secured permanent employment with the department, and more importantly with us here at Unanderra! I am certain you will join me in congratulating Mrs. Rodden on her recent achievement.

Self-Evaluation Survey
Please find attached to this newsletter the 2014 Self-Evaluation Survey. This survey will provide our school with broad information regarding particular functions of our school. This survey will be provided to Stage 2 students, Stage 3 students, Teachers, Support Staff and our families. Our executive team will collate and analyse this data to support planning future directions for our school.

A yellow box has been provided in the school office foyer for your survey return. When you, or your child, returns the Parent / Carer survey please ensure to write you name on the list next to the box. This list will constitute your entry into the raffle for a $100 Coles / Myer gift card that will be drawn on the last day for submission Wednesday 6th August. The survey is not too onerous and should take about ten to fifteen minutes to complete.

It is vitally important for our school to know what we do well and to understand what areas we can improve upon. Your comments are highly valued and I encourage everyone to support our school by completing the survey and returning it to the school office by Wednesday 6th August.

Education Week
This week we celebrate the 60th anniversary of NSW Public Schools Education Week. The theme this year is Alumni. It was terrific for us to welcome back ‘one of our own’ (Alumni) in the form of previous student, Sienna El-Chaar. Sienna continues to strive for success in her chosen field of performing arts where her recent successes include playing the lead role in the Sydney based production of Annie and performing in the Kuala Lumpur based production of Sinbad. My heartfelt appreciation goes to Sienna for sharing the story of her achievements and performing for us at today’s assembly.

Thank you also to the many parents and extended family members who participated in today’s Open Day activities. It was wonderful to see so many people enjoy their day here with us at Unanderra Public School, the most impressive public school on the coast.

Due Process
As an exceptionally large organisation the Department of Education and Communities (DEC) has a significant array of policies and procedures to ensure the integrity of our service. The recent merit selection process is bound by a ten day appeals period in which any unsuccessful applicant can appeal the process used to appoint the successful applicant.

Figtree High School Scholarship
Each year the Figtree High School P&C supports one student from each of the Figtree Community of Schools with a Year 7 Scholarship. This scholarship is valued at a maximum of $1 000 and includes the purchase of a school uniform, contributions to excursion payments, and the payment of Year 7 school fees.

The process for awarding the scholarship is by application that can be accessed from the school office. A selection process will be undertaken here at Unanderra and the
The selection panel will nominate one scholarship recipient to Figtree High. The following criteria will need to be addressed by all applicants:

- High academic diligence and/or sporting and/or creative & performing arts achievement.
- Outstanding citizenship qualities.
- Exemplary attendance, behaviour and attitude to school.

Before nominating your child please ensure he / she can provide significant evidence of achieving the above criteria. The scholarship is both highly valued and greatly contested.

All applications are due to Unanderra school office by Friday 5th September as the high school requires our nominated student’s name by the end of term.

Primary Awards Assemblies
Recently discussion between teachers has resulted in a new format for primary awards assemblies. Traditionally, the primary awards assembly has been an opportunity to present awards and share news, etc. While these items will remain, a class presentation / performance has now been added to the format. This presentation may entail the sharing of recently completed class work or the performing of a song, dance or drama.

Primary awards assemblies are held on alternate Monday mornings, just after recess. They are generally underway a little after 11:30am. Parents are most welcome to attend as an audience. A run-down of this term’s presentation classes includes:

- Monday 11th August – 6M
- Monday 18th August – 5/6H
- Monday 1st September – 3/4L & 1/2R
- Monday 15th September – 4B & 4D

Quote
A good leader takes a little more than their share of the blame, a little less than their share of the credit.

Arnold H. Glasow

Craig Redfern
Principal
Athletics Carnival 2014: Last term, on Thursday 19th June around 300 competitors, teachers, parents and spectators from the Unanderra Public School community travelled to Kerryn McCann Athletic Centre at Beaton Park Wollongong, for our school athletics carnival. The weather was very cooperative (finally) and the conditions were great. The competition was impressive with all students giving their best, competing in a sportsmanlike manner and having a great deal of fun too!

A very big thank you to the wonderful and very capable staff at Unanderra Public School, as well as our awesome parent helpers who gave their time and helped the day run so smoothly.

Also, thank you once again to the Unanderra Public School P&C for subsidising the cost of the carnival. It was a great day to be a part of.

Age Champions:
Junior Girls – Chelsea (5BL)
Junior Boys - Mitchell (4B)
11 Yrs Girls – Phoenix (6B)
11 Yrs Boys - Nathan (5BL)
Senior Girls – Emily F (6B)
Senior Boys – Ethan A (6B)

Congratulations to all of our age champions and best of luck to all of the Unanderra P.S. Athletics Team at the Dapto District Athletics Carnival this Wednesday and Thursday!

Matt Batley, Sports Organiser

Enrol Now for Kindergarten 2015:
Enrolments for Kindergarten 2015 are now being accepted. Thank you to the families that have already completed and returned their Enrolment forms.

Kindergarten Orientation Dates are as follows:

Session 2: for Existing Families at Unanderra Public School. Thursday October 23 and Thursday October 30, 2014.

A detailed letter and invitation to families, who have submitted their enrolment forms, will be going home soon regarding orientation details.

Carolina Wilkinson, Administrative Manager

2014 Arts Initiatives Boys Vocal Workshop: Are you a boy from years 5 – 12 at a Government School? Do you love to sing? Then this experience is for you!!! The Arts Initiatives Boys Vocal Workshop is an exciting singing workshop specifically designed for boys from school years 5 - 12. It is aimed at engaging male students in singing in schools.

During the four-hour workshop, attending students and teachers will have the opportunity to work with conductor Peter Lehner on vocal warm-ups, vocal techniques, ensemble singing and exciting repertoire.

Workshops are being held throughout NSW our local venue is Woonona High School. On Friday 22nd August 10:00am to 2:00pm. Visit our website to complete the application forms and return to The Arts Unit by the due date Friday 1st August.

Workshops are open to either individual students or student groups accompanied by teachers from NSW Government schools. Applications are Now Open via our Website: http://www.artsunit.nsw.edu.au/music/music-initiatives For further information please visit our website or contact Kirsten Dickason - 8512 1178 kirsten.dickason1@det.nsw.edu.au

Jump Rope for Heart: This term, Stage 2 and 3 will be taking part in the Heart Foundation Jump Rope for Heart Program. The program teaches students how to keep fit and healthy through skipping. Whilst having fun, students are also saving lives by asking family and friends to sponsor them. Funds raised go towards research for heart disease and stroke. Students have been introduced to the program and will start skipping as part of their fitness. Sponsorship forms have been sent home with instructions on how to raise money. We encourage you to support your child with this healthy lifestyle initiative.

Start skipping towards a healthy life!
Natalie Blanch, Jump Rope for Heart Coordinator

Canteen News: Oven baked tempura fish cocktails now available 70 cents each.
Mel Connolly, Canteen Manager

School Website: You can also view the school newsletter on the school website: www.unanderra-p.schools.nsw.edu.au To view previous newsletters go to the ‘Our School’ page and then go to ‘News & Announcements.’ Permission notes for excursions etc. can be found as an attachment on the School Calendar.
Upcoming Events: There are a lot of events on the horizon this term and next, so if you want to get involved please get in touch….just drop your name and contact details in the P & C box at the school office.

Open Day and Biggest Morning Tea: Was held today together the Biggest Morning Tea, a community fundraising event aimed to raise money to support cancer research. We will report in next week’s newsletter the result of our fund raising efforts. Thanks to everyone who come along today and supported the school and the biggest morning tea.

Spell-a-thon: will commence on August 11th with word sheets and sponsor forms being sent home this week. This is always a very successful fundraiser for the P & C, with funds raised from this event supporting a number of funding requirements and new projects for the school. There will be prizes awarded to the students that raise the most money and a ‘pizza party’ to the class that raises the most money.

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. Support Bright Star Kids, who are a generous sponsor of our school fete fun day, at www.brightstarkids.com.au

Next Meeting: Our next P & C meeting is scheduled for Monday 11th August at 7:00pm in the staff room. With lots of exciting P & C projects happening, if you are interested in getting involved then now is the time to join. It only costs $1 to be a financial member and 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. Hope to see you all there.

Joanne Crawford, P & C President

Uniform Shop: Remaining stock reduced prices. Order form is available on the school website under “closing specials” tab with sizes available or email ajmarks2@optusnet.com.au and I will send one by email. Please send order form to school with cash only and items will be sent home with your nominated child. If stock is not available money will be returned.

Mandy Marks & Amanda Hampton - Uniform Shop

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 24th October 12:00pm to 6:00pm

Next fete meeting will be held next Thursday 7th August at 7:30pm at Wests Leagues Club in the Bistro area. If you are interested in helping out with the fete please come along and join us.

We have had a great response from our UPS families for our market stalls so far and appreciate your support. Only a few spots for market stalls remain so now is your last chance. If anyone owns or operates a business and would like to hold a market stall at the fete, then please contact Karen Soulis on 0401064006 as soon as possible.

Donations are being collected for our ‘Big Raffle’ and “chocolate wheel” and we thank those people who have been able to offer goods and services. If anyone else is able to donate any items it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact either Katie or myself.

A update of stalls and events for the day will be advised in the coming weeks.

A mufti day for Term 3 has been organised to assist in collections for the fete.

Mufti Day: A mufti day for Term 3 has been organised to assist in collections for the fete. Friday 5th September, 2014. The mufti day will be a gold coin donation and the theme for the day will be advertised closer to the date.

For all donations, volunteers or questions please contact Joanne on 0439190462 or Katie on 0450806234.

Joanne Crawford and Katie Byrne, Fete Fun Day Coordinators

School Banking: New rewards available for Term 3 are a Dollarmite Money Box and a Swimming Bag, these are now available to order through School Banking when you have reached 10 deposits.

Just a reminder that you only need to bank a minimum of 5 cents each week to deposit. A small reminder to parents, please fill out the deposit slip as the book will be sent home with no deposit made, thank you for your assistance with this.

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.

Elizabeth Illievski and Dajana Castagna, Banking Coordinators
Community News

**Play Group:** Figtree High School’s 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

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.