Principal’s Message

2016 and beyond
Our wonderful school has experienced ebbs and flows of student enrolments since its inception in 1878. Currently we are experiencing a ten-year ebb having reduced from 530 students in 2006 to our current 430 students. This trend continues into 2016 where it is now highly likely we will commence with 16 classes and about 415 students. This trend will likely be maintained for several more years until our school reaches 15 classes with about 385 students.

Draft classes for 2016 have been developed into two plans. Plan A requires 17 classes while Plan B maintains 16 classes. The composition of classes will be shared early next year when final numbers are confirmed. While Plan A and Plan B are in draft form, there is every possibility Plan C, D or E will be required before classes commence in 2016.

All our classes, with the exception of Kindergarten, will be stage based teams in 2016, eg. 1/2, 3/4 and 5/6. With the exception of Kindergarten, the curriculum taught in all Australian schools is based on stage outcomes, ie. a study over a two year period. Our school is aligning classes with the structure of the Australian curriculum.

Who is that teacher?
A school our size undergoes changes of staff at intervals due to many factors. Over the past two years we have appointed five permanent staff members to the teaching, library and executive ranks. We have reduced and altered our temporary teaching personnel so that our general staff make-up is now quite altered to two years ago. That trend continues with the recent retirement of Mrs. Egan. Another teaching position will be filled by a merit selection process that Mrs. Morgan will convene over the next few weeks. I look forward to welcoming yet another new face to our staff when that process is completed. I have every confidence whoever that teacher is they will be a welcome and valuable addition to our team.

Personal photos only
As we draw nearer to the end of year assemblies and graduations it is timely for me to remind all our community members about the privacy of individuals. All photographs taken during school activities should be of your own children only. With current technology, including smart phones and social media, a school activity can be broadcast across the globe within seconds. Some families have very personal reasons to maintain their privacy. Please ensure you are supportive of everyone’s right to privacy by only photographing / videoing your own child(ren).

What’s in a gift?
Toward the end of year families regularly choose to provide their child’s teacher with a gift. The giving and receiving of gratitude gifts is an acceptable custom in Australian society. Please be considerate that all Department employees are bound by a code of conduct that limits acceptance of individual gifts to a nominal value of $50.

Silent auction
From time to time our school has a need to dispose of irregularly utilised assets. A number of older bench seats have been removed and will not be used again on site.

Asset: 4x 2m (approx.) bench seats with posts
Bench tops and posts in reasonable condition.

Value: Aluminium currently recycling for $0.85 per kilogram.

The silent auction will close next Friday November 20. Offers should be in writing and addressed to the principal. Please do not include any money at this point, simply provide a written offer that includes your contact details, your offer of payment and an indication of what
you would like to purchase, eg. the number of bench seats. For further details please contact the school office.

Quote:
I never lose sight of the fact that just being is fun.  
Katharine Hepburn

Craig Redfern  
Principal

School Bus Pass: Opal cards will replace school travel passes from 2016.

Students with a paper school pass this year will be issued with an Opal card at school from the start of term in 2016.

Students starting kindergarten, moving from Year 2 to 3, starting high school, changing school or changing their address next year will need to apply online for their School Opal card.

To order a new School Opal card, go direct to www.transportnsw.info/school-students or call 131 500.

3D Printer for UPS:
With your help the students of Unanderra Public School could be getting a 3D printer! We have joined the Seed3D program, hosted by Australian 3D printer manufacturerMe3D.

The program allows families, individuals, businesses and organisations in our community to help us get a 3D printer for the school.

If anyone purchases a 3D printer online from Me3D, they just need to provide OUR SCHOOL’S UNIQUE COUPON CODE at checkout: UPS2526

That’s it! Then we will be 10% of the way to a free 3D printer.

So if you or anyone you know are considering a 3D printer for the home, office or garage check out this great printer at www.me3d.com.au and don’t forget to checkout using our COUPON CODE.

Kylie Liles, Assistant Principal

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Illawarra Sports High School Gala Day: This Wednesday November 11. Students who are attending ISHS in 2016 please note that the year 6 Gala Day to be held at Illawarra Sports High School this Wednesday has been cancelled. Unfortunately the oval is still very wet and is unsafe to play on. My apologies to the students.

Amy Child, HT Sport/Director of TSDP

Selective High School 2017: Applications for selective high schools in 2017 are now open. Apply before 10:00pm on November 16, 2015. Applications can only be made online through this website. www.schools.nsw.edu.au/shsplacement

Key dates
- Tuesday 13 October 2015, Application website opens.
- Monday 16 November 2015, Application website closes. Late applications will not be accepted.
- Thursday 25 February 2016, Test authority letter sent by mail and email.
- Thursday 10 March 2016, Selective High School Placement Test.
- Early July 2016 Placement outcome information

Selective High School 2017:

End of Year Event: Thank you to everyone who joined us for our family outdoor cinema night Friday October 23. It was a very successful night in terms of both enjoyment and fundraising. We successfully raised approx. $3,000.

Santa Photos: Mrs Rodden & Santa at the Beach have agreed to support UPS families by offering a package comparable to that offered in the shopping centres. Stephanie Rodden is facilitating and photographing this experience for us. This is her own business and the photos are stunning. See images attached or view via her FB page:

The Cost- $35 per family (for 1 high res image for you to print or upload however you'd like) with $10 per session going to the P&C.

If we book 20 families we will raise $200. We require a minimum of 20 families commitment to cover the costs. You can choose either the Santa at The Beach or Santa in The Village location. The Village location is in Mount Kembla Village so nice and close.

The parents would get a high res image sent to an email account or the preferable option is for you to bring a USB on the day and that will be handed back to parents by Mrs Rodden a few days later.

Dates: Santa At The Beach - Saturday November 28, 8am - 11am Santa In The Village - Saturday December 5, 8am - 11am Please note that the $35 special will ONLY BE ON THESE DATES as These are the reserved dates especially for UPS parents. Each session will take approx. 5mins.

If you are interested in one these or their other packages (there are other options for dates) please visit the Santa At the Beach facebook page and book your appointment with Roberta.

Annual Giving Tree: Our Christmas Tree has been decorated and placed in the foyer ready for donations from our school community. All donations of dried and tinned food as well as toys can be made up to 11:00 am Friday December 11. All items will then be given to the Salvation Army for distribution to Illawarra families in need. Thank you for your support of this extremely worthwhile project.

Carolina Wilkinson, Administrative Manager

P&C News

P&C Meeting: Our next scheduled P&C meeting will be held next Monday December 7, at 7:00pm in the school staffroom. Everyone is welcome so please come along and join us for a fun and informative night. This will be our last meeting for the year. Drinks and nibbles will be available.

School Banking: What an awesome effort from 3L with 13 class bankers, 4 weeks running. Well done and keep up the great effort. We had an amazing effort with 95 bankers this week, great work UPS!

The following items are available to order once you reach 10 tokens: Galaxy Glider (Frisbee), Outer Space
Moneybox, Invisible ink pens, Intergalactic Rocket, ET DVD and Scented pencils.

Thank you for your continued support, and we hope to see many more bankers in the following weeks.

Elizabeth Ilievski, Jenny Evans & Nicole Martin, School Banking Volunteers and Coordinators

Community News

Cyber Safety Talk: We would like to take this opportunity to invite the parents and teachers from your school to attend an information session in relation to cyber bullying and social media. As police we have seen an increase in issues relating to cyber bullying, sending “nudes” and other concerns in relation to social media. This session is not for students, it is for parents and teachers to provide them with information and strategies.

The information session will include a presentation from the Australian Federal Police, which was well received at our last principal’s forum. We strongly encourage your P&C Families and any other families who are interested to attend this valuable information session.

Where: Oak Flats High School (Auditorium) (Entrance via 42 to 44 The Esplanade, Oak Flats)
When: 6.00pm for a 6:30pm Finish 7.30pm Thursday November 26, 2015.

Should you have any questions in relation to this forum, please contact Youth Liaison Officer, Scott Burgess on 42325329.

Spark Kids Club: Figtree Anglican Church invites you to join their ‘Spark Kids Club’ starting November 6, 2015. For children in Years 3 to 5 at 4:30pm Friday afternoons. Cost $3 per week at the Figtree Anglican Church 4-10 Gibsons Road, Figtree. For more information call 4272 1322

Figtree Community Carols: Save the date. Saturday December 12 at Figtree High School. 5:30 – 9:30pm. Free entry.

Manna House Food from Heaven: Providing food, friendship and hope. No cost meal, Thursdays at 5:00pm. Bus picks up each week at Unanderra Station at 5:00pm. Or simply turn up at Figtree Anglican Church and join us. We meet to enjoy a meal together, chat and share life. There is time included for those who wish to join with others to look at what the Bible says about God and Jesus. We can’t wait to meet you.

Emergency Food Relief now at Unanderra: ADRA Community Pantry is being conducted weekly here at the Unanderra Community Centre on Thursdays from July 9. Between 1:00pm and 2:30pm for a donation cost of $7 for a food parcel to help those who are struggling to make ends meet.

School Canteen and P&C Workshop: The Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District is hosting a School canteen and P&C workshop on November 12 at the Shellharbour club. If you are involved with your school canteen or P&C and would like to attend. Please contact Rosi Johnston on 4221 6795 to reserve a spot. The day will consist of guest speaker James Reeson from Alive and Cooking, workshops, prize give-a-ways and more. The event is FREE so please register today.

The Wollongong Cartoon Camp is Back: Monday December 21st. Theme: Star WarsTM. Dress as a JediTM, Princess LeiaTM, etc...Prizes for the best dressed. Draw: Beginners cartooning part 1. Draw R2-D2TM & BB-8TM.


All camps held at Gwynneville Public School, 10a Acacia Street, Gwynneville. Phone enquiries only 02 9343 0833 Bookings: www.illustrating-man.com.au