Principal’s Message

Ms Who…?
Last week’s newsletter carried the names of all class teachers. Within that list were two semi-familiar names, Ms. Liles and Miss. Johnson. You may recall I mentioned Ms. Liles and Miss. Johnson last year in both newsletters and at assemblies, however, they remain ‘new’. So…

Ms. Liles comes to us from Panania North PS where she had 5 years’ experience as a temporary teacher. In addition to dance and technology expertise, Ms. Liles was recently seconded to develop mathematics resources for the new Australian Curriculum in NSW. Ms. Liles was successful during last year’s merit selection process for permanent appointment.

Miss. Johnson comes to us from Currans Hill PS where she had relieved as the school librarian and taught various classes across the school. Miss Johnson is a Targeted Graduate which means she has shown exceptional aptitude to earn fast-tracked appointment as permanent teacher.

I am very enthusiastic about the quality skills Ms. Liles and Miss Johnson bring to complement our current teachers. 2015 is an exciting year for all of us at Unanderra Public School, and I welcome both Ms. Liles and Miss Johnson as important contributors to that excitement.

Parent Information Sessions
Next week time has been allocated to share information with our community regarding stage and class expectations. This is an important opportunity to receive information regarding your child’s class. Teachers will not be discussing the progress or particular needs of individual students at this time.

February 3, 2015

What Time?
Yesterday there were a number of students arriving very early for school. Our school has the following hours of operation:

8:30am – 3:00pm

While there are teachers here from 7:00am most mornings they are here preparing for their day. Teacher duties commence at 8:30am.

There is no supervision of students before 8:30am.

Leaving young children in an unsupervised location before school is unsafe. I encourage all families to make arrangements to safely care for your children until supervision commences at 8:30am.

Class Structure
I trust the vast majority of our students and their families are enthusiastic about the year ahead with their ‘new’ teacher and ‘new’ friends. Throughout a child’s school experience he / she will encounter many different personalities amongst their peers. It is vitally important that we all encourage children to develop the necessary skills to effectively interact with all those various personalities. New skills we teach today becomes the norm for tomorrow.

Derribong Drive
Council Rangers have been observing driving behaviour after the school bell along Derribong Drive. My conversations with them have been positive, it would appear we are commencing the year on appositive note. Please remember:

- All children must use the pedestrian crossing to cross the road. Do not call children across the road.
- Stopping in No Stopping zones is dangerous, especially when pulling into the Kiss & Drop Zone.
Who do you speak with?
Our school, like all public schools is organised into stages:

   Early Stage 1, Stage 1, Stage 2, Stage 3

We have an executive team that consists of an assistant principal from each stage and myself. If you have a concern you should raise it first with your child’s classroom teacher. If the concern remains, you should contact the stage supervisor for your child’s class:

   Early Stage 1 - Mrs. White
   Stage 1 - Mrs. Garnero
   Stage 2 - Mr. Hoy
   Stage 3 - Mrs. Morgan

If after contacting the stage supervisor your concern remains please make arrangements through the office to speak with me.

In my experience 99% of concerns can be managed effectively through positive conversation. Please remember that all our staff hold the same desire as you, to maximise the best interest of your child. We, however, are compelled to maximise that interest with the best interest of 435 other boys and girls.

Scripture
Special Religious Education (SRE) forms part of the commitment public schools make to their communities. As with previous years a short SRE activity has been allocated to Tuesday 11:30am – 12:00pm (Yrs3 – 6) and from 12:00pm – 12:30pm (K-2). SRE selections from previous years and enrolment documentation informs the student make-up of these classes. Scripture will commence next Tuesday 10th February 2015. If you wish to alter your child’s SRE commitment please put this in writing to be received at the school office on or before Monday 9th February.

Back Gate
Last year a small band of committed parents supported our school by volunteering to open the back gate from about 2:30pm each afternoon. We need more volunteers so that the duty becomes one or two weeks per term instead of every fortnight. If you are able to assist this small band of dedicated volunteers please contact the school office ASAP.

Swimming Carnival Due Date: Permission notes for Friday’s swimming carnival were sent home with students last week. The final date for payment and notes is tomorrow Wednesday 4th February. No payments or permission can be accepted after the due date.

Library News: Welcome to the UPS Library Update. As the new Teacher Librarian at UPS in 2015 I would like to extend a warm hello and welcome to students, parents and caregivers in the UPS community. There has been a buzz in the library already as students have discovered the garden theme introduced throughout the library to encourage children to grow with books. The Harry Potter display and a Fairytale Corner have been a great success and there have already been a few book recommendations made under the Recommendation Tree. Library Monitor and Tech Crew application forms are available to year 6 students this week, with a decision being made next week as to who these people will be. There are many plans afoot in relation to building a vibrant, 21st Century learning environment in the UPS library and I will keep you informed of these plans as they develop. If you would like to come and visit the library to see a few of the initial changes, feel free to drop by on Thursday this week, when the library will be open to parents between 2:45pm and 3:15pm

Children who thrive in school tend to have one thing in common – they enjoy reading.

Rachel Prior, Teacher Librarian

Reading News: Thanks to our P&C, this year every student in Years 1-6 will be given a R.E.A.D. I.T. Home Reading log book to record Home Reading. These books cost $4 each so if students lose them they will not be replaced. Please look after them! Teachers will discuss their use at the Parent Sessions next week.

When they come home please have a look through. There are many wonderful ideas that are designed for each stage! We hope the prompts for parents will be useful and the books and awards will encourage Home Reading.

You will notice there are 6 spaces per week, so students will be reaching higher number of nights. You are also asked to make comments (remember there are lots of suggestions in the book) and keep tally of the nights. Teachers will complete the certificates when achieved!

We value your feedback on this initiative and hope to create enthusiastic readers at UPS in 2015. Yours in Reading.

Kathy Doblinson, Learning and Support Teacher

Craig Redfern
Principal
P & C News

P & C Meeting: Our first scheduled meeting for 2015 will be next Monday 9th February, 2015 at 7:00pm in the staffroom. If you have not been to a P & C Meeting before then please come along and see what we are all about. To be eligible to vote or be a candidate for one of the executive positions of the P & C at our AGM, you will need to become a financial member at or before this meeting.

AGM Meeting: The Annual General Meeting (AGM) for 2015 has been scheduled for Monday 3rd March, 2015. At this AGM all executive positions of the P & C will be declared vacant. These positions include President, two Vice-Presidents, Treasurer and Secretary. If you are interested in filling an executive position for 2015, please ensure you are a financial member prior to this meeting. If you require information on what any of these positions entails, please contact Joanne on 0439190462.

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 at www.brightstarkids.com.au

Joanne Crawford, P & C President

School Banking: Welcome back to Term 1 of School Banking. We hope everyone enjoyed their break. We have started with an amazing 44 bankers, keep up the great work and we hope to see many more in the coming weeks. This year we have many exiting new things happening, starting off the year with new prizes and they are as follows:


Next week the 10th February at 8:30am under the COLA we have our first sign up day for anyone that is interested, please bring a photo ID, and your Child’s Birth Certificate. It’s free to join and a 5 cent minimum deposit each week, for your child to reach a prize goal. If you are already registered for school banking and haven’t been banking, you can start again this year.

We hope to see many new registrations as this continued support helps your school raise money towards school resources. Thank you

Elizabeth Ilievski, Dajana Castagna and Jenny Evans, School Banking Coordinators

Dates for the calendar

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Events</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, Feb 6</td>
<td>School Swimming Carnival 9:15 am – 12:00 noon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, Feb 9</td>
<td>P &amp; C Meeting 7:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, Feb 10</td>
<td>School Banking Sign Up – 8:30am – 9:30am Bring Photo ID and Child’s Birth Certificate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Feb 18</td>
<td>District Swimming Carnival</td>
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<td>Monday, March 2</td>
<td>P &amp; C AGM Meeting 7:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, March 3</td>
<td>School Banking Sign Up – 8:30am – 9:30am Bring Photo ID and Child’s Birth Certificate</td>
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<td>Wednesday, March 18</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
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<td>Thursday, April 2</td>
<td>Last Day Term 1</td>
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<td>Friday, April 3</td>
<td>Good Friday Public Holiday</td>
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<td>Monday, April 20</td>
<td>Staff Development Day</td>
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<td>Tuesday, April 21</td>
<td>Students Return Term 2</td>
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Community News:

Bahá’í Information Evening: We are holding an information evening at Wollongong Bahá’í Centre of Learning, corner of Bellambi Street and Princess Highway on Wednesday 11th February at 7:00pm for parents and teachers who would like to know more about the program offered in these classes. Alternatively, parents can contact the coordinator of these classes, Mrs Ruth Sharma, at 0423289250.

TAFE Illawarra Courses: Certificate II Pathway courses in Aged Care, Community Services, Carpentry and Café Skills. Certificate I Pathway courses in Room Attendant, Computers and Literacy and Numeracy

These are bridging courses for adults wanting a career pathway who would benefit from targeted preparation in literacy, vocational study skills and computer skills to enter Certificate III training. To find out more information telephone Adult Education at Wollongong TAFE on 4229 0451 or email cheryl.hales@det.nsw.edu.au

Unanderra Public School will, as a service to parents, advertise community news for no 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.
Skoolbag is a mobile App for your school to communicate directly to both parents and students. It works through both smart phones and smart devices (such as iPads and Android Tablets). Ideal for:

- School, free push notification alerts
- School events
- School newsletters
- School documents
- School RSS feeds
- School social media (Facebook, Twitter)

How To Install Skoolbag On Your Smartphone

iPhone & iPad Users
1. Click the "App Store" icon on your Apple device.
2. Type your school name in the search, using suburb name will help.
3. If iPhone, you will see your school appear, click "Free" then "install".
4. If iPad, change the drop list to "iPhone Apps"; your school will then be visible, click "Free" then "install".
5. When installed click "Open".
6. Select "OK" to receive push notifications, when asked.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you.

Android Users
You must first have signed up with a Google Account before installing the app.
1. Click the "Play Store" button on your Android Device.
2. Click the magnifying glass icon at the top and type in your school name, using suburb name will help.
3. Click the school name when it appears in the search.
4. Click the "Install" button.
5. Click "Accept" for various permissions (please note, we do not modify any of your personal data on your device).
6. Click "Open" when installed.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you.

Don’t forget to like us on Facebook! Like
Find out more at www.skoolbag.com.au