Principal’s Message

P&C Meeting
Last night saw a terrific turn out of parents and caregivers attending the first P&C meeting for the year. As always, we held lively discussion around a number of topics associated with our school. The main thrust of all those discussions is how we can work together for the betterment of the children who attend Unanderra Public School.

Mirror Working Bee
Ms. Liles raised the possibility of a Working Bee to support the preparation of Perspex mirrors we wish to hang along the hall wall. Ms. Liles’ family kindly donated the mirrors, all the mirrors require is a little polish so they can be functional as an excellent teaching and learning resource. Saturday 14th March is the confirmed date for the Working Bee, if you have a spare hour or two to support the preparation of the mirrors. Please contact Ms. Liles for further information.

Back Gate
The opening of back gate was again discussed. While we have a small number of committed volunteers it would be terrific if a few more were available to support everyone who uses the back gate. Please leave your name with the office ladies if you can assist.

Other matters were discussed; Sun Safe Hats, Before School Care, Alternate End Of Year Show Activity, Financing of iPads, Financial support for the school, etc. I encourage anyone who has yet attended to find time to attend the next P&C meeting on Monday 2nd March. That meeting is also the P&C AGM where the 2015 executive team will be elected. Non-financial members cannot vote at the AGM, however, you can contribute to the discussions and discover how you may be able to contribute as the days and years unfold.

SchoolBag
Many of our families have added the App SchoolBag to their smartphones. This App allows you to receive in-time messages, send absence confirmations and is linked to our website and newsletter. As more families add the App to their phones it is hoped that we can cease preparing a paper newsletter by the end of this term. Please visit our school website for information. Upload the SchoolBag App today.

Teacher Professional Learning
Every year teachers are expected to participate in professional learning. The school provides professional learning through weekly afternoon sessions, whole day staff development days (student-free days) and by participation in school-time learning activities.

When engaged in school-time professional learning your child’s teacher will be absent for part or the full day. Time out of the classroom is monitored as I believe continuity is fundamental for ongoing learning within the classroom. However, ongoing professional learning supports your child, the stage a teacher is associated with and in many case the whole school. I trust you will understand the necessity for ongoing professional learning should your child’s teacher be engaged within school-time learning.

Last year our teachers participated in a Saturday professional learning activity that allowed us to then trade-in the very last staff development of the Term 4. Teachers have once again nominated to undertake additional Term 1 professional learning to trade-in the last day of the year. Most staff will be staying back on Wednesday 4 March and Wednesday 18 March to undertake extensive professional learning associated with Autism. I am looking forward to the learning that will be facilitated by our own Mrs. Dobinson.
Issues and Concerns
From time to time issues will require discussion. Your child’s class teacher is the first person to speak with as he/she generally has is well aware of issues involving your child. When issues are escalated to my level, the first thing I do is ask the class teacher what he/she knows about the matter. It makes logical sense, therefore, that you have also done the same.

Meet the Teacher
A schedule highlighting this week’s Meet the Teacher sessions were provided last week. Please take the time to review the schedule and meet with your stage and class teachers this week.

While Meet The Teacher is not a parent/teacher interview, it is a wonderful opportunity to find out about the learning activities your child may experience in 2015. With a number of ‘new’ teachers it is also an opportune time to put a face to a name.

Off Site
This Thursday Mr. Hoy and I are attending a professional learning opportunity in Mittagong. If you are planning to make an appointment to discuss matters with me, please disregard this Thursday as a viable option.

Swimming carnival
Last week’s swimming carnival was a wonderful occasion. I agree with the many parents who mentioned the apparent drop in numbers of students participating in our annual swimming carnival. However, I would like to congratulate every one of our students who did participate and ‘gave it a go’ last week. In addition to the show of excellence, our students also showed that this opportunity was fun and you didn’t have to win the race to be a winner. Well done boys and girls!

I also add my thanks to Mr. Batley for his excellent organisation. He managed the entire carnival on a shoe-string budget of staff and parent volunteers. Terrific work.

Quote:
Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth.

Muhammad

Craig Redfern
Principal
Swimming Carnival 2015: Last Friday morning Unanderra P.S. held our annual Swimming Carnival at Western Suburbs Pool. The weather was much more cooperative than last year and it was a great morning of fun and competition.

Congratulations to all of the competitors who gave their best in the pool, as well as out of the pool by supporting their fellow students and making the carnival a wonderful experience for all.

A very big thank you to all of the parents that gave their time to help out with timekeeping and other jobs. Also to our wonderful and very capable staff members (Mrs Morgan, Mrs Laauw, Mrs Rutherford and Mr Redfern), the carnival would not happen without your help.

Sports House Captains 2015: Congratulations also to our newly elected House Captains for 2015!

Illawarra:
- Girl House Captain: Chelsea (6B)
- Boy House Captain: Onike (6M)
- Girl Vice House Captain: Ashleigh (5/6A)
- Boy Vice House Captain: Jye (4/5N)

Keira:
- Girl House Captain: Ashley (6B)
- Boy House Captain: Jack (5/6A)
- Girl Vice House Captain: Anjonique (5/6A)
- Boy Vice House Captain: Ashwin (5/6A)

Kembla:
- Girl House Captain: Sienna (6M)
- Boy House Captain: Jed (6M)
- Girl Vice House Captain: Skye (5/6A)
- Boy Vice House Captain: Andrija (5L)

Nebo:
- Girl House Captain: Hannah (6B)
- Boy House Captain: Mohammad (6B)
- Girl Vice House Captain: Anastasia (5L)
- Boy Vice House Captain: Samuel (4/5N)

Congratulations and good luck to all!
Matt Batley, Sports Coordinator

Student Emergency Details: To ensure that our records are accurate we will be sending home this week with each student a copy of their Emergency Details and Medical information for Parents/Guardians to validate.

There are three sheets that need to be completed and returned. Could you please check that the details are accurate, and make any changes that are required, if you would like to add more emergency contacts, please write them on the sheet and sign the bottom of the sheet to validate your changes. (Each student should have at least 2 emergency contacts other than their parents/guardians).

All sheets must be returned to the school office as soon as possible for processing. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.
Carolina Wilkinson, School Administrative Manager

P & C News

P & C Meeting: Our first scheduled meeting for 2015 was held last night. Thank you to everyone who attended. It was nice to see everyone back again along with a few new faces. Last night’s meeting focused on planning for the year ahead including setting budgets for expenditure on the first couple of fund raising events for the year. More details on these events will be forthcoming in the coming weeks. Our next P & C meeting is scheduled for Monday 2nd March 2015, at 7:00pm in the staffroom following the AGM. If you wish to add an item to the agenda, please drop your details and a description of your agenda item into the P & C box at the front office. If you have not been to a meeting before then now is to the time to join. It only costs $1 to be financial member of the P & C, which gives you voting rights.

AGM Meeting: The Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place on Monday 2nd 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 you are required to be a current financial member prior to the meeting. If you require information on what any of these positions entails, please contact Joanne on 0439190462 or one of the current executives who hold these positions.

Unpresented Cheques: If everyone has any P & C issued cheques from last year that they have not already presented to their banks, could you please ensure you do so as soon as possible. If any of these cheques have been misplaced or lost could you please inform the P & C so replacements can be issued.

School Hats: Our school hats continue to be available for sale at the canteen under the new canteen management. To help assist the ladies, could you please
have the correct money available for your purchase.
School hats cost $11 each.

Volunteers Needed: One of our newest members of staff Kyleigh Liles has acquired 10 perspex mirrors for use in the school hall. Kyleigh requires a few more volunteers who are willing to give up time on a Saturday, tentatively the 14\textsuperscript{th} March 2015, to help buff and polish these mirrors. If you are able to assist, please drop your contact details into the P & C box in the front office for forwarding to Kyleigh.

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: What a great effort from school bankers today! We had 65 bankers – a big improvement on last week. Keep those deposits coming. This week’s winning class was 3L. Well done!

Today we held the first session for new account sign-ups. 11 new bankers signed up, which was a great turn out. If you’re still interested in signing your child up for school banking, please come and see Elizabeth in the office on Tuesday morning before 9:30am, and bring your child’s Birth Certificate and your photo ID.

To all new bankers just a reminder, school banking days is Tuesday please drop your bank book in the red bin in the office BEFORE school starts. Minimum deposit is 5 cents. Bank books are handed back to the teachers. If your bank book hasn’t been returned by Thursday please ask your teacher. Please ensure deposit slips are completed before placing your bank books in the bin. From Next week, books with deposit slips not filled in will be returned with the money, and no deposit will be made.
Elizabeth Ilievski, Dajana Castagna and Jenny Evans, School Banking Coordinators

Community News:

Illawarra Sports High School Year 5 & 6 Open Night: Being held on Monday February 16\textsuperscript{th}, 6:00 pm in the school hall. The Open Night will be a parent / student information session followed by a tour of the school. It is recommended that students interested in trialling for the selective Talented Sports and Development Program attend the Open Night to seek information concerning the upcoming trials on March 10\textsuperscript{th}.

Wollongong High School of the Performing Arts (WHSPA) Auditions: For Year 6 2015 into Year 7 2016 is a comprehensive, co-educational high school with a specialist performing arts focus. Students can audition in one or two of the four arts disciplines (Dance, Drama, Music, Visual Arts) offered at our school.

Related Audition Application Material: Parents/Careers should complete the “Audition Application for Year 6 (2015) into Year 7 (2016)” form and return it to Wollongong High School of the Performing Arts (Attention: Lynne Kerr) by FRIDAY 6\textsuperscript{th} MARCH, 2015. Application forms are available from Mrs Morgan 6M.

Berkeley Sports JRLFC: Will be held on Saturday 21st February 10:00am – 12:00 noon Berkeley Sports Club – Upstairs. New members welcome

Wests Illawarra Hockey Club: Ages 5-15 Boys and Girls welcome. All enquiries address to juniors@westsillawarrahockey.com.au Or contact David on 0437578963. Players can register online at www.westsillawarrahockey.com.au

Wollongong Titans: Rego days Sat 7th and 14th Feb at Lindsay Mayne Oval Factory Rd Unanderra. $100 first player then $50 per sibling $50 for U6s, U7s and U8s Cost includes shorts, socks and insurance. Join our family club, get fit and make new friends. Contact Lisa Saunders on 0405687252 for more info

Western Suburbs Junior Rugby League: Register for the 2015 season on Sunday 15th February 2015. Wests Illawarra Leagues Club 12 noon – 3pm. Bring a friend to register. All new players need to bring along the following: Birth Certificate or Passport, and of course a parent to sign for them. Cost is $80.00 per player includes: Registration & CRL Insurance, Shorts & Socks. For any enquiries please contact: Brad Reh (President) 0421 509 665

Low Cost Tutoring: PCYC Wollongong Tutoring will recommence Monday 9\textsuperscript{th} of February 2015. Tutoring for K-12 will run Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday each week of term from 3.30pm to 5pm. We can offer assistance with most subjects as well as homework and assignment help. Students are tutored by PCYC Staff and volunteers. Cost for the Tutoring is $40.00 per term. PCYC membership is required. Junior membership is $10 per year. Limited places. Bookings essential. Please call PCYC Wollongong on 42294418 or email wollongong@pcycnsw.org.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 smartphones 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!