Principal’s Message

40 to get wet
Tomorrow around 40 students from our school will compete at the Dapto PSSA District Swimming Carnival. Our students are generally very competitive, but beyond that they participate enthusiastically and represent our school with pride. No doubt there will be many positive reports coming from tomorrow's event, do your personal best.

Why an excursion?
For many years an excursion has been a popular way of extending the learning undertaken by students at school. In recent years Incursions, bringing the learning activity into the school, have become popular as a means of saving on bus fare that unfortunately has become cost prohibitive. Excursions have been planned for Stage 1 and 2 later this term in addition to a Stage 3 Incursion taking place in two weeks.

Please ensure you read the permission notes as they come home and return money by the due date that will appear on the note. The Stage 3 note went home this week while the Stage 1 and Stage 2 notes will be released later this term closer to the excursions.

School Leaders Recognised
Mrs. Garnero is organising the first Gold Assembly for 2015. The assembly, to be held on Thursday 26 February from 12pm, will also double as they SRC Induction Ceremony. Recognising our SRC leaders and our Gold recipients is important and I encourage our community to participate in this event.

Exemptions Declined
This year the department changed its attendance policy, removing the capacity of principals to exempt students from school who are participating in holidays during school term. Principals are encouraging families to undertake holidays during school holiday periods. Recent requests for exemption have been rejected.

Family holidays taken during school term will now be marked as an absence and reflected on a child’s school report. Please contact me should you require further clarification surrounding this matter.

Quote:
A person who never made a mistake, never tried anything new.
Albert Einstein

Craig Redfern
Principal

Home Reading Information Session for Parents: An information session on how to successfully support your child with home reading will be held on Monday, 2nd March at 2pm in KW’s room.

It will focus on how to make home reading an enjoyable and successful part of your child’s day and is open to all Kindergarten parents and other interested parents.

We hope you will come away from the session with knowledge about how children learn to read and useful tips about ways to support them.

A note will go home to Kindergarten parents this week with further information. You will also be able to access the note on our school website.

Carolyn White, Assistant Principal
Student Emergency Details: Emergency Details and Medical information for Parents/Guardians to validate were sent home last week.

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

Skoolbag - Parent Communication App:
Have you installed our Skoolbag App? Install it now so you are ready for next term. Paper copies of the school newsletter will not be distributed to the students next term. There will be copies available in the front office for parents who do not have access to Skoolbag or the School Website.

Skoolbag iPhone and Android App will enable us communicate more effectively with our Parent/Student community. 233 parents have installed the Skoolbag App so far. To install it, just search for our school name "Unanderra Public School" in either the Apple App Store, or Google Play Store.

Carolina Wilkinson, School Administrative Manager

P & C News

P & C Meeting: 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 14th 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: Another great week! We had 83 bankers. This week’s winning class was 3L. Well done!!

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:

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/Carers 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 6TH MARCH, 2015. Application forms are available from Mrs Morgan 6M.

Unanderra Girl Guides: Come and try Guides! Tuesday nights from 6:30pm. For girls from Kindergarten to Year 6. Each term we do fun activities like campfire, cooking, movie night, skills night, leadership skills, camping, fundraising and much more! Please call Rachael on 0412618847 for more information and to enquire about a free trial. Or visit our website www.gilrguieds-nswact.org.au

A Free 6 Week Parenting Program for Dads:
This program will be run by Sam Smeaton, a dad himself. It promotes positive, respectful parent and child relationships. Limited FREE Child Minding is available. After this program dads will be better equipped to: Understand your parenting style, Understand the messages you give and receive, Identify and respond to your children’s needs, Build positive, respectful relationships with your child. Tue 24th Feb – 31st Mar 6pm – 8pm Lighthouse Centre Railway Station Square Gladstone Ave Wollongong. Bookings: 42555 333 or email: admin@fsi.org.au

What is Community Carnival about? Our school recently had a visit from the St George Illawarra Dragons and NRL Development staff to talk to our students about the importance of healthy lifestyles and wellbeing.

The Dragons players and staff shared key social messages with our pupils, focussing on healthy eating habits, nutrition, regular physical activity, appropriate levels of sleep and mental health. Our school is one of almost 100 schools The Dragons and NRL will see between 9th and 27th February, engaging with close to 30,000 students from Narooma in the south to Arncliffe in the north.

If you would like to find your local rugby league club visit PlayNRL.com for everything you need to get started in Rugby League.

Free Foster Care Information Session: Great kids come from good families. Could your family include a foster child every second weekend? The William Campbell Foundation urgently needs respite foster carers to care for children on a regular short term basis. Come along to a free foster care information session on Thursday 26th February at Dapto Ribbonwood Centre, Princes Highway, Dapto from 5:00pm to 6:00pm. To reserve your place call 1300 130 585

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.