Principal’s Message

Speak with a teacher
An initiative that commenced in 2014 and was exceptionally well supported by our community will continue this year, ie. Term 1 Parent / Teacher Interviews. Paperwork has been provided to every student that invites parents to nominate a preferred time to meet with their child’s teacher on Wednesday 25 March. Interviews will be of ten minute duration so that everyone who would like the opportunity is provided with one.

Our teachers will do their best to negotiate an appropriate time for you to get from one classroom to another if necessary to meet more than one child’s teacher. However, please understand we have 350 families that are each hoping for a preferred time.

Teachers will have a half hour dinner break between 5:30 – 6:00pm where no interviews are scheduled.

Please ensure all interviews take 10 minutes only to support the families waiting for their opportunity. And remember, the earlier your nominations are back to your child’s teacher the greater chance of getting the time you prefer.

Once reported, twice shy
Twice each year our teachers provide a formal written assessment of your child’s ability through a school report. If your child is in Yr 3 or Yr 5 they will also receive a NAPLAN report in Term 3. Please take good care of these documents as it should not be the school’s responsibility to provide a duplicate copy when applying for enrolment within an independent high school.

Will we turn 18?
A recent mini-influx of students has increased our school enrolments to 440 children. Around the 450 mark the department provides the necessary staffing that will return us to an 18 class structure. If we draw nearer to the 450 figure I will communicate our options through P&C Committee discussions.

Rural & Remote
Both Mr. Hoy and I will attend a two-day conference in Sydney next Monday and Tuesday as part of the department’s Rural & Remote Leadership initiative. As mentors within this initiative it is likely that Mr. Hoy and I will be required to support our rural colleagues at various stages throughout the year with further days away from school. While both on half-day teaching loads, Mrs White and Mrs Morgan will share responsibility for executive decisions on Monday and Tuesday.

Sport representatives
Over the past few weeks I have signed many nominations for sport trials contested by our students. It is wonderful to see so many of our students capable of participating at this high inter-school level. There have been successes with a number of students now participating in zone teams. Well done boys and girls, keep up the great effort.

In a day’s work
Please be mindful of the exceptionally busy nature of a teacher’s day. While teachers may have a quick discussion ‘on-the-run’ in the morning while preparing for the day, as a general rule you will need to make an appointment to optimise an uninterrupted time. Additionally I do not expect, nor will I ask, teachers to take a phone call or have a quick chat while they have the responsibility for their class of students. Please contact the school office to enquire the best method of securing a time to talk with your child’s class teacher.

Craig Redfern
Principal
School Cross Country 2015: We will be holding our school Cross Country next Thursday (19th March) between 9:30 and 11:30 am at Unanderra Public School.

Below is an outline of some important information about the carnival:

- All students from Year 2 through to Year 6 will be competing this year.
- Students’ age groups are based on the age that they turn this year.
- All students are expected to compete and complete at least 1 lap of the course.
- Year 2 students that are NOT turning 8 this year will also compete. They will have a separate race, where they will run 1 lap of the course (about 1km). They will NOT be able to qualify for District this year.
- To qualify for the District Carnival students must finish in the top 7 runners and complete the set distances below:
  - 8/9 and 10 years = 2 laps of the course (2km)
  - 11 and 12/13 years = 3 laps of the course (3km)

Program of events:
*These times are approximations and may vary slightly on the day.*

9:30am – Year 2 Boys NOT turning 8 this year
9:35 am – Year 2 Girls NOT turning 8 this year

9:45 am – 8/9 Year Boys
10:00 am – 8/9 Year Girls

10:15 am – 10 Year Boys
10:30 am – 10 Year Girls

10:45 am – 11 Year Boys
11:00 am – 11 Year Girls

11:15 am – 12/13 Year Boys
11:30 am – 12/13 Year Girls

*We will require a few parent helpers to assist with course supervision at the carnival. Please let me know if you are able to assist us with this. I hope to see you there!*

Matt Batley, Sports Organiser
Home Reading: Are you looking at the tips in the READ IT books and finding them useful? We realise there isn't much room for writing the book titles so if I they go into the comments column that's alright. We do want parents to acknowledge they have been listening to their children read so can you please put your initials near the face if you are not writing a comment. Students should be finishing the faces to show what they think of the book or their reading.

Some students have reached 25 nights and have their first award – Well done!
Kathy Dobinson, Learning and Support Teacher

School Photographs: School Photos are being taken on Wednesday March 18, 2015. Envelopes are available at the office for those parents who would like Sibling Photographs taken of their children enrolled at Unanderra Public School.

Do not send your envelopes to school before Wednesday March 18, 2015. Your child will be asked to present the envelope directly to the MSP photographer. Please note that the purchase of school photographs is optional and is not eligible for any student assistance. For any enquiries, please feel free to contact MSP Photography on 4261 3009 or email: Illawarra@msp.com.au

Canteen News: Reheating of Foods from home or filling of hot water in noodles. By law we are not able to reheate food from anywhere in case there is a problem and a child gets sick from food left in bags at incorrect temperature etc. And as we are selling hot noodles it isn't appropriate for us to fill noodles from home. Any further inquiries please don't hesitate to contact me.
Karen, Canteen Manager

School Website and Skoolbag App: You can 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. You can also view these on the Skoolbag App. On your phone. To install, just search for your school name "Unanderra Public School" in either the Apple App Store, or Google Play Store.

P & C News

P & C Meeting: The next P & C meeting has been schedule for Monday March 30, 2015, at 7:00pm in the school staffroom. During a current drive for more memberships, we signed up a number of new members and we would like to see this continue. If you would like to hear more about what’s happening in the school, present ideas, share opinions and vote on items raised on the agenda, please come along to our next meeting. We would love to see you there.

Adidas Fun Run – As one of our first P & C fundraisers for the year we will be running an Adidas Fun Run in conjunction with our school Cross Country on the March 19. Parent letters and sponsorship forms detailing the event went home last week so please keep a look out for them. Sponsorships are based solely on participation in the Cross Country and not on distances or laps run and there are a number of great prizes you can earn by participating in the fun run.

Easter Raffle: The school Easter Hat Parade will take place in the last week of term and we are preparing now for our Easter Raffle to be draw after the parade. We are seeking donations of Easter eggs or gifts to fill baskets for this raffle. If you would like to make a donation all items would be greatly appreciated and can be dropped off at the school office. Thank you.

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: This week we had 106 bank deposits – another great effort. KD won the prize for the most deposits this week.

Regarding selection of prizes after reaching 10 tokens, please ensure that you select a prize that is available in that term. Prizes for other terms cannot be ordered this term. Please also be aware that prizes are not kept in stock at school. They must be ordered and can take a few weeks to arrive.

If anyone is able to help out with schools banking on Tuesday mornings from 9am - 10:30am extra help would be appreciated. If you are able to help out, please leave your name and phone number at the office. Thank you.
Elizabeth Ilievski, Dajana Castagna and Jenny Evans, School Banking Coordinators

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.