Principal’s Message

Swimming Carnival Success
Last Friday students from Unanderra Public School competed in events at our annual swimming carnival at Western Suburbs swimming pool. The carnival was a resounding success for a number of reasons.

First of all, at UPS, we are extremely fortunate to have a teacher of the calibre of Mr Batley whose talent and dedication result in all of our sporting events being exceedingly well organised. He is inevitably supported by members of staff who are committed to providing quality sporting opportunities for our students. To Mr Batley and staff members present on the day, thank you.

Secondly, events like the Swimming Carnival could not possibly proceed without the support of parents who re-arrange home and work schedules in order to be present on the day. This year and every year, a team of parents volunteered for the all-important time keeping jobs. Thank you to those parents who assisted in an official capacity and also to all the family members who simply came along to support our students.

Most importantly, thank you to the students. I was impressed by their positive attitude in regards to participating on the day as well as the impeccable manners they displayed throughout the duration of the morning. Many of the things I value most about Unanderra Public School were on display at the swimming carnival.

Thank you to everybody for contributing to such a special occasion.

Crossing Fears
Sadly, the following message is either not getting through to some members of our school community or some are choosing to blatantly ignore it.

Our school crossing zone becomes particularly busy at home time (3:00pm – 3:15pm). The safety of our students is of paramount importance and all members of the school community need to be aware of this.

Parking illegally, performing U-turns, entering and exiting the school drive way, driving impatiently and pulling out of the school zone without ensuring that children are properly restrained in the car are examples of what I see daily. Additionally, some parents neglect to cross with their children at the school crossing. All of these behaviours compromise the safety of our students.

Thank you to the majority of our community who continue to exercise caution outside of our school in the mornings prior to school beginning and then again in the afternoon. It is my hope that those individuals who continue to act carelessly in our school zone amend their behaviour before a serious incident occurs.

Our P&C Need You!
Last night our hard-working P&C held their final meeting ahead of next month’s Annual General Meeting (AGM). Several members of the P&C executive are intending on stepping down from their current roles this year after serving admirably for extended periods of time. To vote or be nominated for a position at the upcoming AGM all members must be financial.

This week is your last chance prior to the AGM in March to pay a small joining fee in order to become financial. In short, the P&C desperately need new members. For too long, the majority of the work at a P&C level has been performed by a dedicated few.

A strong and vibrant P&C benefits our students. Please consider joining this week and attending the AGM on Monday, March 7, at 7:00pm in the staffroom. New members are particularly welcome.
School Photographs
School photographs have been booked for Wednesday, February, 24. All students will be receiving information on how to order to take home this week. Sibling photograph order forms are available on request from the office. Please read the information relating to the ordering of photographs carefully and ensure that correct money is included in envelopes.

Scripture begins!
Scripture classes will begin next Tuesday, February 16, for all students (K- 6). Students will be placed in classes in line with preferences requested by parents at the time of enrolment. Most classes will change very little from 2015. If you wish to update your preference in regard to which Scripture class(es) you would like your child(ren) to attend, please do so in writing and forward the letter to me prior to the end of this week (Friday, February 12). Thank you.

Have a great week

Gavin Hoy
Relieving Principal

Home Reading: Welcome back to a new school year. We are very fortunate that the P&C support many activities in our school, including reading. Last year they purchased Home Reading Logs for every student and at the end of the year approved the purchase of thousands of dollars worth of books, that will be used for our K-2 students.

This year we are ‘going back’ to using the cardboard Term Reading Logs, for students in Years 1-6. These have a bit more room for titles!

We ask that parents of younger students, or the students themselves, write in titles on the correct night. Remember you can include comics, online books, the TV guide, newspaper or anything they can read! Teachers will check on these and keep the tally of how many nights of home reading. There are only five slots each week. Students don’t have to read on Friday night- it can be any night of the weekend. Certificates will be presented for 25, 50, 75, 100 and 125 nights of Home Reading. Names will also go in the newsletter when students reach 100 nights as we think it is important to acknowledge this achievement.

Our P&C also pays for the school subscription to Reading Eggs/Eggspress. We use this resource at school but students can also access it at home. Login details will be available soon for students in Years 1-6.

Looking forward to lots of great reading in 2016.
Thanks again to the P&C for their ongoing commitment to our school.
Kathy Dobinson, Learning and Support Teacher

Kindergarten Finishing Time: Please be aware that as from Monday, February 15, the finishing time for Kindergarten students will change to 3:00pm in line with the rest of the school. The students will still walk to the COLA as per the usual routine we have established.

Thank you for your support.
Mrs White, Assistant Principal
News from the iHub
Teacher call: ‘Oh class!’
Student response: ‘Oh yes!’
This is just one of the calls the iHub uses as part of 'whole brain' teaching, a strategy for engaging students in their own learning... as well as being lots of fun. Just ask your children!

The iHub has caused quite a stir and both Mrs Rodden and myself are having lots of fun introducing students to iHub routines and ways of doing things.

The iHub is a learning centre, consisting of 4 stations through which students will rotate:
- the iLab - where students will participate in learning about Science
- the iLibrary - where students will have opportunities to borrow books, engage in rich literature and learn information literacy and technology skills
- the STEM station - focused on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, this is a learning station where students use their creativity to design and build solutions to a given problem
- the iSeeiThinkiWonder station - a learning station where students engage in critical thinking and observation.

We will keep you updated on all the fun things we do each week via the school newsletter and would love any feedback.

Just a few things to remember - students now know their library day and can begin borrowing so make sure everyone has a library bag and Mrs Rodden has requested pot plants that can be placed in the under cover area.

Until next time, happy learning!
From Ms Prior and Mrs Rodden

School Photographs: School Photos are being taken on Wednesday February 24, 2016. 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 February 24, 2016. 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

School Hats: School hats are available for sale at the canteen for $11 each. To assist the ladies, could you please have the correct money available for your purchase. Thank you

P&C News

P&C Meeting: Our first meeting for this year was held last night and thank you to everyone that attended. It was great to see some new faces and hear other people’s views as we discussed fundraising plans and voted on the P&C’s financial commitment to the school for 2016. Our next P&C meeting is scheduled for Monday March 7, 2016 following the AGM meeting at 7:00pm.

P&C Membership: To become a financial member of the P&C it only costs $1. Membership allows you to vote on any items raised at our P&C meetings. P&C membership forms will be made available prior to the next meeting at the school office, can be printed from the Current Parents of Unanderra Public School and P&C Association Members Facebook pages and at the parent information sessions on Wednesday and Thursday this week. Forms and $1 membership can be placed in an envelope and left at the school's office marked P&C Treasurer. I would encourage everyone to become a member of the P&C as our fundraising events and the contributions we make to the school can only be made possible by continued support from our parents.

AGM for 2016: The Annual General Meeting (AGM) for 2016 has been scheduled for Monday March 7, 2016. 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 2016, you will need to become a financial member prior to this meeting. If you require information on what any of these positions entails, please contact Joanne Crawford on 0439190462.

First Fundraising Event for Term 1: For our first event for 2016 we will again be running the Adidas Run Fun in conjunction with the School's Cross Country on Thursday March 10. This year will be a whole school event including Kindergarten to Year 2. Information packs will be sent home shortly providing full details of how to obtain sponsors and prizes available.

Mirrors in the Hall: The mirrors in the school hall require curtains to cover and protect them. The curtains have been made and the school requires some handy volunteers who may be able to make/provide tracks or rods in which to hang them. If you are able to assist please speak to Miss Kyleigh Liles.

Joanne Crawford, P&C President
School Banking: Welcome back to term one of school banking and welcome to all the kindy parents and children that are joining us. To all the new parents if you have received your child’s banking book, our banking day is Tuesday, books are required to be dropped off to the office in the "RED BIN" before school begins. It's a minimum 5c deposit to have your child participate. The books are handed back to your child's teacher, so if at any time you cannot locate your child's book, please speak with your child's teacher first. If you have any queries we are available from 2:00pm and we are located in the side room where the school hall is. If at any time you would like to view your child's account online you can go into any Commonwealth Bank with your ID as long as you are the signatory and sign up for net banking.

On a good note last week’s class winners were 4/5A well done, just a reminder there will be a pizza party held at the end of year for the most consistent class winners! So let's keep those deposits coming!!

We hope to see all school bankers on board this year, to help your P&C and school raise money for items required around the school

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

Skoolbag - Parent Communication App:
Have you installed our Skoolbag App? Install it now so you are ready for 2016. Paper copies of the school newsletter are not distributed to the students. 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 to communicate more effectively with our Parent/Student community. Over 600 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. (Installations Instructions will be on back page)

Carolina Wilkinson, School Administrative Manager

Community News

Wollongong High School Of The Performing Arts Presents - The Ash Girl: “When an invitation to The Ball arrives at the Ash girl's house, from Prince Amir, she can't bring herself to believe that she, like her sisters, can go. With her mother dead and her father away, she must learn to fight the monsters that have slithered and insinuated their way into her heart and mind. In this wondrous drama Timberlake Wertenbaker explores the beauty and terror inherent in growing up.”

Dates: Wednesday 9th, Thursday 10th, Friday 11th Thursday 17th and Friday 18th March. All matinee performances commence at 11:45am. Running time is approximately 1hour and 10 minutes. Contact Lynne Kerr on 4229 68 44 for bookings

Illawarra Sports High School Open Night: Monday 15th February, 6:00pm @ ISHS Illawarra Sports High School allows students to combine their education with their love of sport. The Talented Sports and Development Program offers many opportunities that do not exist at other comprehensive high schools. Come and find out more Students applying for the selective sports program attend the Year 6 Trials Day on Thursday 31st March 2016. illawaspor-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au www.illawaspor-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

Berkeley Netball Club Registration Days:
Saturday 30th January 10am to 2pm. Tuesday 2nd February 3.30 pm to 5.30 pm. Val Curran Centre, Berkeley netball courts. Hooka Creek Rd. First training and extra registrations Tuesday 9th February 4pm. New players must bring proof of birthdate. For more information phone Gerry on 42712041 or email geraldineevry@outlook.com

Rhinos JRL Rego Day: Saturday 13th February 11am - 2pm Dapto Citizens Bowling Club. Junior League for boys and girls from u6-17 Can play if turning 5 this year. Girls league tag u12 , 14 , 16. Rhinos are based in Dapto / Unanderra and play in the Illawarra junior league Comp. Home ground Lindsay Mayne , Unanderra. Rego is $75 includes socks and shorts. Can register online Google Huntley rhinos . Further info Michelle at huntleyrhinosjrl@gmail.com or phone 0412 013 464

20th Century Parents Raising 21st Century Children: You are invited to the forum on Saturday 13th February 2016 at 7.30pm at the Wollongong Baha'i Centre of Learning corner of Bellambi Lane and Princes Highway, Russell Vale ALL WELCOME Please RSVP Kerr on 4229 68 44 for bookings

Presented by Dr Laura Hedayati, Clinical Psychologist with over 20 years experience in child, adolescent and family mental health.

Illawarra Sports Stadium Basketball: Term 1 Social Basketball Games for Boys and Girls ages 7-12. Skills Session and Registration Friday February 12 4:30pm to 6:00pm. Registration and Games Begin Friday February 19, 4:30 to 6:00pm. Registration $40 per child. Contact Details Carla Griffin 0457 975 871 and Jim Williams 0410 585 902

Unanderra Public School will, as a service to parents, advertise community news for no 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.