Principal’s Message

Scripture Begins
Today all students had the opportunity to attend scripture for the first time in 2016. I would like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to our returning scripture teachers from 2015 and offer an even warmer welcome to those who are joining us for the first time this year. Scripture teachers are not paid. They volunteer their time once a week at UPS with the aim of contributing towards the spiritual education of the students who attend scripture classes.

It is my desire, that as visiting teachers within our school, they be afforded the utmost respect, as all of our visitors should. If your child is currently not attending a scripture class and you would like them to, please place your request in writing and forward it to administration and I will make the necessary changes promptly.

You may have noticed that Ethics classes are due to begin here at Unanderra Public School in Term 2. Please read the information carefully, particularly if your child is not currently attending scripture and you would like to take advantage of this option. For classes to be offered in Term 2 we require trained facilitators. Please see the passage relating to Ethics in this newsletter for additional information.

Meet the Teacher
Last week, all Stage teams at UPS held ‘Meet the Teacher’ sessions. These forums remain an important part of our school calendar. It was wonderful to see such a large turnout of parents at each of these events. On behalf of the teaching staff at UPS, thank you again for your

What’s due
- Consent form

This Week
Tuesday 16 February
- Life Education
- Scripture starts

Wednesday 17 February
- Life Education

Thursday 18 February
- SRC Training Day

Friday 19 February

Monday 22 February

What’s coming up
Wednesday 24 Feb – School Photos
Monday 7 March - P&C AGM 7pm
Tuesday 8 March – Regional Swimming Carnival
Thursday 10 March – School Cross Country
Monday 21 Mar – Harmony Day
- Kindergarten Eye Screening
Thursday 24 March – Easter Hat Parade (K-2)
Friday 25 Mar – Good Friday
Monday 28 March – Easter Monday
Thursday 31 March – Year 6 Trials at Illawarra Sports High School for the Selective Sports Program 8:00am to 12:30pm
Friday April 8 – Last Day Term 1
Monday April 25 – ANZAC Day
Tuesday April 26 – Staff Development Day
Wednesday April 27, Term 2 Commences
Towards the end of this Term we will be providing you with the chance to attend Parent/Teacher interviews where you will be able to discuss with the class teacher in more detail how your child is progressing. Further information relating to Parent/Teacher interviews will appear in the school newsletter in coming weeks.

Swimming Carnival News
Today a large number of students from our school attended the District Swimming Carnival at Dapto Swimming Pool. Mr Batley and Mrs Laauw were very impressed by our students behaviour and the outstanding manner in which they represented Unanderra Public School. In my experience, almost without exception, Unanderra Public School students are excellent advocates for our community whether on sporting trips or excursions. They can be relied upon to be great ambassadors for our school and for Public Education in general.

Thank you to Mr Batley and Mrs Laauw for their organisation and supervision at the carnival. Thank you to members of our school community who attended in support of our students. Finally, a big thank you to our students who, regardless of where they finished in their individual events, continue to make us proud!

School Photographs
School photographs have been booked for Wednesday, 24^{th} February. All students have received information on how to place an order. A reminder, 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.

Have a great week

Kind regards,

Gavin Hoy
Relieving Principal

Primary Ethics at UPS: Primary Ethics has advised us that they have recruited an Ethics Coordinator to organise Ethics classes at our school. Jenny Evans, a parent at UPS, has taken on the volunteer role and now needs to recruit volunteer Ethics Teachers from the parents/grandparents/carers of our students to enable Ethics classes to start in Term 2.

In Ethics classes, children consider ethical decisions that affect them, their friends and family and learn how to think logically, disagree respectfully and support their arguments with evidence. The curriculum is highly engaging and age appropriate with classes for Kindergarten, Stage 1, Stage 2 and Stage 3.

Ethics classes will be run the same day/time as Scripture Classes and are aimed at students who do not attend scripture classes.

A two day training course is being held at the University of Wollongong over the weekend of March 5 and 6, 2016 for those who are interested in becoming Primary Ethics Teachers.

Go to [www.primaryethics.com.au](http://www.primaryethics.com.au) for further information or to enrol on-line as an Ethics Teacher. All correspondence regarding Primary Ethics at UPS email our coordinator Jenny Evans PECoordUPS@gmail.com
5/6B – What Australia Day means to me
Recently 5/6B have been learning about and discussing Australia Day, including its origins, its significance, its importance and its meaning. Each student was asked to write a short passage explaining what Australia Day means to them. They were to discuss the following in their response:
- what they did on Australia Day this year
- why they think it is important to celebrate Australia Day
- what they would like to do to celebrate Australia Day in the future

Here are a few of our responses.

Mr Batley.

What Australia Day means to me
Australia Day is important to me because it’s a day to reflect on what we have achieved and what we can be proud of in our great nation. On Australia Day me and my family went to the rides, fireworks, beach and had an awesome Day. I think it is important to celebrate Australia Day because it is the anniversary of the arrival of the first fleet. It is also paying respect to the men who fought for as in the war. In the future I would like to celebrate Australia Day by going to the rides, beach, have a BBQ and relax.

By CHELSEA 5/6B

What Australia Day means to me
Australia Day means a lot to me, but the big thing is celebrating who you are, and who others are and respecting that. On Australia Day this year, my family and neighbours went down the back and played trap cricket. My family brought down the food and the neighbours brought down the chairs and table. I think the big reason why we celebrate is because we can. Lots of other countries don’t have beautiful beaches or the freedom to do what they want and I think Australia is a very lucky country to have this. In the future I will probably do the same things I now that I do for Australia Day, such as having a BBQ or playing cricket to celebrate what’s great.

By Ashleigh 5/6B
News from the iHub

What’s been happening this week in the iHub?

iLab – We have commenced our Biological Science units this week and topics are as follows:
ES1: Staying Alive
Stage 1: Schoolyard Safari
Stage 2: Feathers fur or leaves?
Stage 3: Desert survivors
Over the next few weeks students may bring home some investigation sheets or may be required to bring in items for their science topics. Any work sent home will be required back the following week and we thank you in advance for your support.

Flipped Classroom: The concept of a flipped classroom is simple and used often in high schools. It is also growing in popularity within primary schools. Students read or watch content as a homework task and then discuss or answer questions at school through a facilitated discussion. This allows for time in class to be more productive.

We have asked the Stage 3 students to please watch a recommended video from the Primary Connections unit they are studying in order to gain a better understanding of the topic. The URL for the video is below and takes approx. 50mins. As the students only have us for 2hrs per week (for all areas of the iHub) home viewing will allow for discussion and questioning rather than 2 weeks to view the video. We are also providing lunchtime viewing in 30min sessions for students who are unable to access the internet at home. Your support with the Flipped Classroom would be greatly appreciated.

Ted Egan's Central Australia: The Eighth Wonder
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kAuJmvlnjAU

What Australia Day means to me

On Australia Day I normally go down to the beach with my family and sometimes friends. Then go to the rides in Wollongong and stay there to watch the fireworks. I think it is important to celebrate Australia Day because it’s paying a lot of respect to everyone with different nationalities and cultures and this is everyone’s country to live in. In the future I might celebrate Australia day by going down to the beach with my friends and have a glass of wine and just relax and have a good day.

By Alyssa 5/6B
iLibrary – Ms Prior has been very excited to announce the launch of the new ‘OLIVER’ borrowing system. Students have been exploring the many wonderful things OLIVER has to offer and they are also able to access the system from home, too! Get them to give you a tour.

STEM - The Domino Challenge both frustrated and delighted groups as they worked together to build a track that would go the longest. Congratulations to all the students for their perseverance and problem solving strategies.

iSeeIThinkiWonder - This video led station provided students with the opportunity reflect upon being kind to others and believing in one’s self. ‘Kid President’ inspired the children to come up with their own suggestions of “What should we say more often?” which we have complied in order to make a book for the iLibrary. Some suggestions were: “Don’t let anyone dull your sparkle!” Alicia
“I love you!” Zoe
“I’m not sure.” Drew
“Don’t be afraid to be yourself!” Jordan

Wonder Wall – Our wonder wall has received a number of post-it notes this week. Some wonder questions include:
“I wonder if animals can speak to each other?” Harry
“I wonder why my cat likes the cupboard?” Tahlia

You may like to check out this cool website: www.wonderopolis.org for all your wonder needs.

iHelp required
We would greatly appreciate some assistance with covering your children’s iHub exercise book. They don’t need to be covered in contact, only in the covers we have provided. If you’re able to assist we can send them home to you for covering. Please let us know.

Ms Prior also asked for volunteers to cover library books in contact. She can supply the books, contact and scissors if you can help!

Sadly, we haven’t received any potted plants yet. We would love to change our concreted area into a softer and greener space for as all. Potted plants are to be sent directly to the iHub. Thank you.

We would like to extend our invitation to join us in the iHub during your child’s class time to assist with rotations. If interested please pop-in and have a chat. Thank you to those parents who have already shown interest. We hope to have you all on board starting Wk6.

Until next time remember rule# 5 “Keep your dear iHub teachers happy!”
From Mrs Rodden and Ms Prior

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
EXCITING NEWS!
READING CLUB IS COMING!!
This year at UPS we will be holding a reading club on Friday mornings.
When? Fridays 8:30am-8:55am
Where? Room 13 (Ms. Liles’ room)
Who? Any students from K-6 who are interested in practising their reading skills, or who would just like to read / be read to for fun! Students can add the books read in Reading Club to their home reading record. Teachers, support staff, parents and carers are also invited to attend.
If you’d like to sign up to be a parent helper, please join us this Friday and let Ms. Liles know.
Come along, we would love to see you there!
Ms. Kyleigh Liles, Assistant Principal and Reading Recovery Teacher

School Receipting Days: Are Wednesday and Friday Mornings ONLY. In compliance with the Department of Education and Training WH&S Policy, all money is to be sent straight to the office before school on money collection/receipting days (Wednesday and Friday).

A locked letterbox has been installed in the office. All payments are to be placed in an envelope clearly marked with the 'student’s name, class, activity, and the amount enclosed'. Inside the envelope should be the correct money with the signed permission slip. This envelope is to be placed in the box situated in the office in the morning of school receipting days which are Wednesdays and Fridays. Cheques are to be made payable to ‘Unanderra Public School’.

Please note: Other activities such as P&C Fundraising are separate to school run activities and are not receipted into the school bank account. If paying by cheque for a P&C activity a separate cheque is needed, and written out to the ‘Unanderra Public School P&C’. Thank you for your support in this matter.

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. 670 parents have installed the Skoolbag App to their phones. 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 Meeting: Our next P&C meeting is scheduled for Monday March 7th, 2016 following the AGM meeting at 7:00pm. This meeting will be held in the school staffroom.

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 and can be printed from the Current Parents of Unanderra Public School and P&C Association Members Facebook pages. 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 Meeting: The Annual General Meeting (AGM) for 2016 has been scheduled for Monday 7th March 2016, at 7:00pm in the school staffroom. 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.

Adidas Run Fun Fundraiser: Will be held on Thursday March 10th in conjunction with the School’s Cross Country. This year the Adidas Fun Run will be a whole school event with a modified or alternative fun run course available for Kindergarten to Year 2. Information packs will be sent home this week providing full details of how to obtain sponsors and the prizes that will be 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.

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 Joanne Crawford, P & C President
SCHOOL BANKING UPDATE
We had a great effort with 77 bankers last week on the Tuesday 9th February with 4/5A winning second week in a row, keep up the good effort!!

We have 240 students registered for school banking, unfortunately not even half of these students are banking weekly. We are asking all registered students to get behind your P&C and school and make a minimum 5c deposit, in return you will be earning some great rewards along the way once you make 10 deposits. All funds that are raised go towards resources for your school. We are hoping to see an increase in numbers over the coming weeks!!!

We have been working on updating your child's token count in their deposit books and we will continue to do this for a few more weeks, we ask that you please leave your tokens in your child's yellow wallet.

WE NEED YOUR HELP, if you are interested in volunteering with school banking please come and see us on a Tuesday afternoon in the old uniform shop from 2:00pm or please see the office staff and leave your details with them, we have had a parent that is no longer available and require someone to help for about an hour as soon as possible.

Thankyou to everyone that has started banking, we remind you that there is an end of year class pizza party to be won, so start banking and help your class win!!

School banking coordinators & Volunteers Elizabeth Ilievski and Jenny Evans

Wests Illawarra Hockey Club: Ages 5-15 Boys and Girls welcome. Registration: Tue 1st March 5-7pm @ Unanderra Hockey Fields. All enquires address to juniors@westsillawarrahockey.com.au Or contact Karina on 0419441103. Players can also register online at www.westsillawarrahockey.com.au

Football South Coast: register to play football. To find a club visit www.footballsouthcoast.com Registration online via myfootballclub.com.au Register now at playfootballnsw.com.au

Vikings Rugby Club: Come and play rugby. New players Welcome. Senior and Junior Registration. Friday 19th February 5:00pm and Sunday 26th February at 10:00am for Registration and Family Fun Day. Or email wvrc.juniors@gmail.com or WVRC.registrar@gmail.com All Junior Registration Fees are FREE. Vikings Oval cnr Swan and Corrimal Streets, Wollongong.
BRAVE Self-Help is an online program for the prevention, early intervention, and treatment of youth anxiety. It was developed at The University of Queensland by experts in youth anxiety and has now been running for over 14 years throughout Australia. The program is fun, interactive, based on cognitive-behavioural principles and has been found to be effective in reducing anxiety in children and adolescents. It has helped hundreds of children experiencing social anxiety, shyness, separation anxiety, phobias and general worries. **BRAVE Self-Help is now available to use at home for free** due to the support of beyondblue. Any Australian young people who would like help with anxiety can access the self-help program via [https://brave4you.psy.uq.edu.au/](https://brave4you.psy.uq.edu.au/) The program can be accessed through any computer or tablet device, at any time and includes up to 10 sessions for youth. Parents can also take part in a separate parent program to learn ways of helping their child or teenagers manage anxiety. Teachers, young people and parents can also find out more about the program or take a trial or any of the programs through the BRAVE website.