



► **CURRICULUM & TRAINING**
Mrs. Conyard and Mrs. Armstrong attend the Institute of Teachers course. Mrs. McSwan trains in the SAM's Toolkit, All teachers train in creating Professional Learning online.



► **SPORT**
Great results in the District Cross Country. Kyle McIlveen successful in selection for the North Coast Hockey Trials.



► **INNOVATION**
Teachers from Coffs Harbour and Bellingen schedule visit to Ulmarra to see outstanding ICT programs in operation.



► **COMMUNITY**
Ulmarra Community Action Group offer to support our school. More about this soon.....

Ulmarra Public School

Excellence Innovation Opportunity Success

NEWSLETTER 2012

Contact us:

12-14 Pacific Highway, Ulmarra. N.S.W. 2462

www.ulmarra-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

Email: ulmarra-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Phone: 02 66445266 Fax: 02 66445373

Principal ~ Sandra Armstrong

Term 2 Week 3 11th May 2012

WELCOME BACK

Professional Learning continues for our staff this week with training for our Admin Manager, Mrs. McSwan and for all our teachers. We have trained in a variety of curriculum and administrative areas over the past two weeks at courses held locally, at Coffs Harbour during and after school hours, face to face and via Video Conference. Ulmarra staff is working very hard to provide the very best for our students and it shows in the productive and positive culture that thrives here.

The Public Education sector is in a state of change at present with many new programs and funding being rolled out now and over the next three years. The DEC (Department of Education and Communities), never short of an acronym, now has **ESES** (Every Student Every School) which provides funding for students with special needs, **LSDL** (Local Schools Local Decisions) a program being rolled out to all schools by 2015 which will change the way our school is funded and **LMBR** (Learning Management Business Reforms) which will replace our current OASIS financial system and possibly our Sentral student management software.

Change is always a difficult thing but a cohesive, positive and supportive team like the one I am fortunate to lead at Ulmarra, will turn it all to the advantage of our students, their families and the Ulmarra Community.

Sincerely,

Sandra Armstrong

Principal

P&C NEWS

Thank you to everyone who supported our Mother's Day fundraisers. A special thank you to our top raffle ticket seller, Mr. Cowan, who has manned stalls around Grafton over the past weeks. His efforts double our sales and take the pressure off our local community. All money raised will go toward resources for our students.

Our next P&C meeting will be held at 7pm next Tuesday, 14th May in the school Library.

BUS ROUTE

The petition is now available at the school office to indicate parent/carer support for the Atwals Bus route to be expanded to include the village of Ulmarra. We have concerns about student safety when walking to and from school due to the proximity of the Pacific Highway. We believe a safe alternative is to travel to and from school by bus. We also have concerns regarding student welfare during inclement weather. If your children would use this bus service, please sign the petition which is located in the school office. The bus service can only

be offered if it has the support of the school community.

NAPLAN TESTING

The annual National Assessment Program testing for Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 takes place from 15-17 May.

Students are tested nationally in reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy.

For more information including FAQs, a parent brochure and past results, go to: www.nap.edu.au/.

ATTENDING TO STRESS

Don't forget that the Community Programs group will run a family relationships skills program at Ulmarra Public on Wednesday, 23rd May from 9.30am—1pm in our school library. This is a morning of fun, relaxation, creativity and reflection for parents and carers. Bookings are essential and can be made via the school office on 66445266. Free child care is available.

ABORIGINAL GAMES AFTERNOON

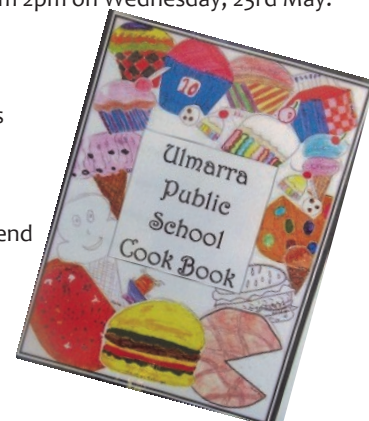
A traditional Aboriginal Games session will be held at Ulmarra Public School for **all children** after school on Thursday 31st May. Everyone and anyone can come and learn these Traditional games. Afternoon tea will be provided. There will be no cost for this activity. The games session will be led by Nick Duroux with all Ulmarra teachers assisting. Come along and join in the fun!

THE VERY CRANKY BEAR

Yes it is that time of year again when Ulmarra, led by Literacy Coordinator, Mrs. Conyard, joins in with thousands of children across the nation to read a fabulous book during Simultaneous Story Time. This year's text is written by Nick Bland and is another a great Australian read. We love our reading at UPS and this event is yet another opportunity to show it. You are welcome to join us to hear the reading in the library with your children from 2pm on Wednesday, 23rd May.

HAVE YOU GOT YOUR COPY YET?

What a great Mother's Day Gift this luscious Cook Book would make. You can purchase your copy at the school office. It could be the best \$20 you will spend this year!



We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land we work on; the Yaegl and Gumbaynggirr people.

Little Red Rocking Hood!



TOP TIPS FROM MR R.

Be healthy – be active!

Can we replace fresh fruit and vegetables or water with juice for Crunch & Sip break?

No. The idea is to eat fresh fruit or vegetables and drink water. Water is the only drink allowed in the classroom.

Fresh fruit and vegetables have more fibre, vitamins and minerals than fruit juice. Since there is no fibre in fruit juice it does not fill you up as much as fruit and vegetables do.

Did you know that you would need to process over three apples to get just one 250mL glass of apple juice? Fruit juice contains high concentrations of fruit sugar and often added sugar. Drinking fruit juice regularly can cause tooth decay and reduce a child's appetite.



HELPFUL TIPS FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

Homework

You can now easily [subscribe to updates](#) from the award-winning website for parents, School A to Z.

Each term you'll receive newsletters with the latest information to help you manage your child's homework and study, health, development and technology use.

School A to Z has been created by parents at the education department to answer the common questions and challenges we all face as we support our kids growing up.

This month's newsletter includes:

- ⇒ a series of videos to help you [when bullying becomes an issue](#) for your child
- ⇒ tips for getting the most out of your [parent-teacher interviews](#).
- ⇒ Since being launched in August 2011, School A to Z has received more than 280,000 unique visitors to the website and more than three million page views.
- ⇒ The free [School A to Z mobile app](#), which features the popular Spelling Bee and Maths Monkey games for kids, has been downloaded by more than 125,244 users in Australia and overseas - and was showcased as one of the best apps and games for 2011 in Apple Australia's App Store Rewind 2011.
- ⇒ You can also [ask questions](#) and suggest ideas for more articles, assignment starters, videos and podcasts through the website, or on [Facebook](#).

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday/ Sunday
14th May CASLI Indonesian session for senior students	15th May Student Banking Transition NAPLAN Yrs 3&5 Book Mobile Canteen School Banking P&C Meeting 7pm in the Library ALL WELCOME	16th May NAPLAN Yrs 3&5 GABC \$20 payment due Indonesian Dancer performs at UPS from 2- 3pm.	17th May NAPLAN Yrs 3&5 CAPA Groups Canteen	18th May Indonesian Dance performance 2-3pm	19th/20th May
21st May	22nd May Student Banking Assembly Spotlight on 5/6AM Transition Canteen Responsible Pet Ownership Transition- Year 2 11.30-12.10pm School Banking	23rd May Community programs Attending to Stress workshop 9.30am— 1.00pm in the Library Simultaneous Story Time 2-2.30pm in the Library	24th May CAPA Groups Canteen	25th May	26th/27th May
28th May CASLI Indonesian	29th May Student Banking Transition Canteen Responsible Pet Ownership T-2 session	30th May GABC \$20 installment due	31st May CAPA Groups Canteen Aboriginal Traditional games at school 3.15pm— 4.15pm	1st June	2nd/3rd June
4th June Gallery Comes to School	5th June Student banking Transition Canteen Assembly—spotlight on 3/4R	6th June MHS yr 6 Transition	7th June CAPA Groups Canteen	8th June	9th/10th June

**WAMBINYA EARLY YEARS PROGRAM 2012-13
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)
COVER PAGE**

POSITION APPLIED FOR: **ABORIGINAL STUDENT LEARNING SUPPORT OFFICER**

NAME:	DET ID. NUMBER: (if applicable)
CURRENT POSITION (if applicable):	CURRENT POSITION LOCATION (if applicable):
HOME ADDRESS:	WORK PH: HOME PH: MOBILE:
REFEREE 1	REFEREE 2
NAME: WORK PH: HOME PH: MOBILE:	NAME: WORK PH: HOME PH: MOBILE:

In addition to the above information, applicants are required to submit claim for the position (no more than two pages) addressing the selection criterion for the position.

**ROLE STATEMENT
ABORIGINAL STUDENT LEARNING SUPPORT OFFICER**

Responsible to the principal and/or supervisors for working, under the supervision of the teacher, to assist the teacher to engage targeted Aboriginal students more fully with literacy and numeracy learning, in particular **comprehension** and **vocabulary knowledge**.

The Aboriginal Student Learning Support Officer will:

- Provide **in class** support to **individual** and/or **small groups** of targeted Aboriginal students.
- Implement individual **Best Start Literacy Early Learning plans** and **Personalised Learning Plans** to move *Wambinya* students along the literacy and numeracy continuums.
- Contribute to ongoing early literacy and numeracy planning by providing teachers with regular feedback about student participation, engagement and progress.
- Participate in all *Wambinya* professional learning days and ASLSO sharing sessions.

Other duties

Undertaking other *related* duties as determined by the principal or the supervisor.

Note: The school must not require an Aboriginal Student Learning Support Officer to accept responsibility for class management and control, playground supervision or teaching students.

Wambinya Early Years Program
Aboriginal Student Learning Support Officer
ULMARRA PUBLIC SCHOOL

Expressions of Interest are called to fill the temporary position of Student Learning Support Officer at Ulmarra Public School from 16.7.12 to 30.11.12

School context

Ulmarra Public School has a reputation for excellence, innovation, opportunity and success. The school is small enough to ensure a safe, nurturing environment but large enough to offer a complex range of quality learning opportunities

Job Description

Responsible to the principal, for working to assist the teacher, to engage targeted Aboriginal students in Kindergarten more fully with early literacy and numeracy learning.

Position Criteria

Ability to relate well to Aboriginal families, students and community members

Capacity to work as part of a team to implement individual education plans.

Effective organisational skills and an ability to prioritise own work

** Aboriginality is a genuine occupational qualification and is authorised by section 14 of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977. An Aboriginal person is a person of Aboriginal descent who identifies as such and is accepted by the Aboriginal community as an Aboriginal person.*

Expression of Interest applicants

Interested applicants are invited to submit an Expression of Interest using the EXPRESSION OF INTEREST COVER PAGE template.

The Expression of Interest must include contact details of two referees. One of the referees must be your current principal/supervisor, if applicable.

In addition to referees, a written statement (no more than two pages) that demonstrates your skills and capacity to perform the job is required. Address each of the position criterion. Attach this statement to the Expression of Interest cover page.

CLOSING DATE: Friday 8th June 2012

Applications to: The Principal, Ulmarra Public School
12-14 Pacific Highway, Ulmarra NSW 2462

INSIGHTS

by Michael Grose – No. 1 parenting educator



It's not okay to be away ... nor to be late to school

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem.

One of the most important things you can do to ensure your child has a bright future is to make sure he or she goes to school every day—and gets there on time.

It sounds simple, but it's true.

The correlation between school attendance and children's achievement levels is well-established. The more time kids spend at school, the more likely they are to experience school success.

Conversely, according to a report from the Victorian Auditor General, students who are regularly absent from school are at the greatest risk of dropping out of school early, and of experiencing long-term unemployment.

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem. Also, many teachers tell me, it's often the kids who can least afford to take time off school who are most likely to be serial absentees.

Of course, most people know this intuitively, yet school absenteeism is a huge problem in Australian schools—and much of it is parent-condoned.

It's hard to get an accurate picture across the country but it would appear that Australian students miss an average of between 12 and 15 days per school year, with parent-condoned absenteeism highest among young primary-aged children.

That adds up to a year's lost schooling over the school-life of a child.

In today's highly competitive world, this rate of absenteeism is alarming, putting our kids at a distinct disadvantage.

That's not a reason to be away!

It's now commonplace for children to stay away from school for reasons that would have been unheard of just twenty years ago. These include staying away to celebrate their own or a sibling's birthday; being absent because they stayed up too late watching television; going shopping for clothes; an extended long weekend; and kids not wanting to take part in a sports day or special school event.

This type of absenteeism sends a strong message to kids that parents don't really value learning or their children's school experiences.

Australian kids only spend 15% of their total time at school. They spend more time asleep than they do at school. So we need to maximise every day to get full value. That means turning up to school every day, on time.



Australian kids only spend 15% of their total time at school.

Being late is not okay either

Missing a few minutes each day may not seem like a big deal but your child may be missing more than you realise if he or she is continually late.

Current research shows that mornings for most children are the most productive time of the day, with 10.00am the peak period for productivity. When children arrive late and take time to settle as they inevitably do, valuable learning time is lost.

It takes strong parenting...

As a parent myself I know how persuasive children of all ages can be when it comes to taking a day off school. It takes a strong will to resist the persistent pressure that kids can bring to bear, particularly if they play the guilt card with comments such as "It's not fair that I have to go school today because Aunty is coming to visit!"

Nice try. But the answer should be "No!"

As parents we need to make a commitment that our kids make the most of their precious time at school. That means that we send them to school every day, on time and ready to make the most of the school day.

Of course, there will be times, such as illness or genuinely extenuating family circumstances, when kids should be away. But these need to be a rarity rather than the norm.

It's reassuring to know that you increase their chances of future success just by making sure they turn up to school every day. And of course regular school attendance also helps kids prepare for the workforce, where it will be expected that they turn up each day work-ready. The real world is unforgiving of those who stay away with NO EXCUSE.