



► **CURRICULUM & TRAINING**
Teachers looking at the new English Syllabus.



► **SPORT**
Small Schools Cross Country today.



► **INNOVATION**
School undergoes an ICT cabling upgrade over the holidays. Thanks to Mr N for overseeing the process for us—in is retirement!



► **COMMUNITY**
Teachers planning the next Curriculum Café—will you be there?

Ulmarra Public School

Excellence Innovation Opportunity Success

NEWSLETTER 2013

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

Term 2 Week 1 Thursday, 2nd May 2013

BACK ON TRACK

Thankfully, the holidays saw the completion of our flood related repairs. The school is now fully operational and indeed, in better shape than it was pre flood! Many thanks to builder David Bale and his team for getting things ship shape for us.

The Transition Room is much improved thanks to our St George Bank flood recovery grant. Ms Cowan and Mr Cowan have painted the walls and Ms Cowan has organised resources and set the room up ready for our students to begin next Tuesday. The room has new carpet, new cupboards, new teaching resources and new toys. All we need now are our students!

We hope all families had a wonderful time over the holidays. The UPS Team is looking forward to the term ahead. It is shaping up to be a very sporty one!

Kind Regards,

Sandra Armstrong

Principal

NEW ENGLISH SYLLABUS

This year, schools and their teachers are familiarising themselves with the New English Syllabus as part of the Australian Curriculum 2014 implementation. As stage one of the process, teachers from Ulmarra, Cowper, Lawrence, Wooli and Tucabia met at Ulmarra last Monday for a day of professional learning. Mrs Conyard expertly led the group in gaining a deeper understanding of the changes and how they will impact on our teaching and learning. The big change is the mandatory addition of multimodal and digital teaching, Asian and Indigenous perspectives and environmental sustainability awareness to the English Syllabus.

On Tuesday, Ulmarra teachers planned for audits of the Ulmarra English Scope & Sequences, classroom programming and English resources. Once this process is complete, an Action Plan for the 2014 implementation will be developed. Ulmarra staff is right on track with the Australian Curriculum and we look forward to the extra benefits it will provide our teachers and students.

ULMARRA PUBLIC SCHOOL ~ REGIONAL CENTRE FOR TEACHER TRAINING

Our excellent library and associated resources have once again been

recognised and utilised by Departmental staff from across the North Coast. A course held at the school on Wednesday attracted positive comments from many attendees and the course deliverers. Special mention was made of the beautifully maintained school grounds and the delicious morning tea and lunch catered for by Great Ulmarra Bite Canteen Coordinator, Mrs. Ensbey. Mrs Ensbey's catering has become a substantial P&C fundraiser and we thank her for her efforts and her amazing culinary skill.

LITTLE FISH SCHOOL OF ROCK

Just a reminder that the Little Fish School of Rock runs an excellent music program from our school on Tuesday afternoons. Private and group tuition is offered in guitar, vocals, piano/keyboard and woodwind. The program is specially designed to help students express their creative side, have fun and learn along the way.

For more information, please contact Jackie and Brett Kempnich on mobile: 0405583852. Also, check them out at www.littlefishrock.com.

GRAFTON SHOW

Each year the school submits art work completed by our students to be displayed at the Grafton Show. This year an extraordinary thing happened. 24 out of the 28 student entries were awarded prizes! Congratulations to all those students and to Mrs Spring and our other teachers who do such a brilliant job motivating students and supporting their creativity.

THE MASK OF TICKLEFOOTEE

Drama teacher Mrs Spring is currently putting the finishing touches on the stage 3 production "The Mask of Ticklefootee". Intrigued? Even a Google search won't help you with that word, so to find out what one is, come along to the opening (and closing) performance in a few weeks time. Date to be confirmed.

ANZAC SERVICES

Our school ANZAC Assembly was a beautiful reflection and appreciation of the great contribution made by our defense forces. Special guest, Returned Serviceman Mr McFarlane, spoke to students about Australians at war and peace. Students particularly enjoyed the Q&A session at the end of the assembly.

The Ulmarra service was well attended with 30 Ulmarra students marching. Thank you to Ms. Cowan, Mrs Conyard and Mrs McMahon for attending the service and supporting students on the day.

NAPLAN

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. It has been an annual event for schools since 2008.

On Tuesday 14, Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 May, students will take the 2013 NAPLAN tests.

NAPLAN assesses skills in literacy and numeracy that are developed over time, through the school curriculum. NAPLAN is not a pass or fail type test, but rather shows how students are progressing in numeracy and literacy skills against national standards for all Australia children. It also provides valuable information that allows schools and governments to better target effort and support to help all students achieve their potential and acquire the basic skills to help them build successful and happy lives.

All students are expected to participate in the tests. Students with disability may qualify for reasonable adjustments that reflect the support normally provided to them in the classroom. Some students with very specific circumstances may be exempted from participating in the tests. For information about participation in NAPLAN, you can go to: <http://www.nap.edu.au/naplan/parent-carer-support.html>

NAPLAN tests fundamental skills rather than specific content, and as such is not a test for which students can study or drill. The best way you can help your child prepare for NAPLAN is to let them know that NAPLAN is just one part of their school program, and to urge them to simply do the best they can on the day. The use of services by coaching providers is not recommended.

An individual student NAPLAN report will be issued by the school later this year. Parents can use this information to monitor how their child is progressing and to identify any areas of concern. Parents may also wish to use their child's results to discuss progress with teachers. More information is available at www.nap.edu.au.

PARENTING TIPS FROM MICHAEL GROSE - *Very important information*

LET KIDS PRACTISE LOSING

"Recently I listened to short video by Parentingideas Magazine contributor Maggie Dent that made so much sense. In the video Maggie implores parents to let kids practise losing so they can become more resilient and also more social. I couldn't agree more.

Currently, there's a flaw in modern Western culture that won't allow kids to lose, to struggle or to experience disappointment. Interestingly, this is at a time when childhood anxiety is going through the roof.

In an effort to improve outcomes for kids we've created a childhood culture that is highly structured, highly organised and highly adult-initiated. This high level of organisation minimises failure, avoids disappointment and reduces struggle. And it does kids no favours! The solution is to reduce adult-initiated activity and introduce more unrestricted, child-initiated, social play.

It's through free play that kids have always learned about winning and losing; how to handle it when things don't go your way; how to get on with all types of kids including the children your parents don't approve of; how to wait your turn and; how to hang in there long enough until things eventually go your way.

Unstructured play is usually very hierarchical in nature. Older kids tend to boss around younger kids, who often return the favour in spades when it's their turn to be the eldest. Kids often rely on natural consequences to influence their friends and siblings. "I'm not going to play with you because you're mean/you don't share/you always go first!" Sometimes they bring adults into the mix to adjudicate, but they generally just resolve things their way regardless of what adults say!

GET KIDS AWAY FROM SCREENS

The key to resilience-inducing, socialising free play is that the play needs to involve other children or young people. Coping and social learning can't be done in isolation. There needs to be a social element to it. Even playing computer games involving others from a distance doesn't make the grade.

Face-to-face interactions that occur through free play develops the BIG 3 social behaviours in kids – that is, 1) co-operative, 2) assertive and 3) coping behaviours.

So make sure your children's free time is balanced between structured adult-initiated activity such as after school sport; includes child-initiated calming down-time such as listening to music, and group-oriented free play (involving at least one other person) that is done either inside or outside (the latter should be included) where your child can practise losing, struggling, following the lead of others and heaps more great life skills and attitude."

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday/ Sunday
6th May Library Mother's Day Stall	7th May School Banking TRANSITION Canteen	8th May \$50 Sydney Excursion Payment due	9th May Canteen CAPA Groups Covey Course at UPS	10th May District Cross Country Covey Course at UPS	11th/12th May Mother's Day
13th May Library	14th May School Banking NAPLAN Language and Writing Tests years 3 & 5 TRANSITION Canteen Mobile Library	15th May NAPLAN Reading Test years 3 & 5	16th May Canteen NAPLAN Numeracy Test years 3 & 5 CAPA Groups	17th May Mother's Day Assembly spotlight on K Chicken Soup Day Stewart House envelopes due in	18th/19th May
20th May Library	21st May School Banking TRANSITION Canteen P&C Meeting 7pm	22nd May	23rd May Canteen CAPA Groups	24th May MNC Cross Country Biggest Morning Tea	25th/26th May

Award Winning Art



