From the Principal's Desk

Parents and students,

**The Importance of the Teacher**
The critical work teachers do plays a pivotal role in society. It takes a special person to become a teacher. The importance of what teachers do every day and the difference they make in kids’ lives often goes un-noticed.

There is an inherent goodness in what teachers do, but over time it has been taken for granted and perhaps forgotten. I would like to remind the Ulladulla community that the teachers at UPS do encourage, inspire and do make a difference in students’ lives. The job they do is remarkable and never should be under-valued.

**District Swimming Carnival**
Last week Mr Elwin took the swimmers to the District Swimming Carnival. Once again our children performed creditably. They came 2nd in the District behind Milton. We had some excellent individual results and several children will be progressing to the South Coast carnival later this term. Once again the students displayed excellent behaviour, sportsmanship and school pride. Well done to all students.

**Parent Teacher Interviews**
Kindergarten have already started their parent teacher interviews. Yrs1-6 will be conducting their interviews towards the end of Term 1. Parents will receive a note explaining the process and asking you to fill out a request for interview time. I hope that many of you take the chance to visit your child’s teacher to find out how your child has settled in, their strengths and areas for improvement.

**Life Education Van**
Life Education builds the capability of children by challenging their values and attitudes, expanding their knowledge and developing their skills. The lessons motivate, encourage and empower children to exercise real choice – and make informed healthy lifestyle decisions. Life Education is a non-government charity which relies on donations for support. Life Education lessons commence Wednesday 5th March and finish on Thursday 20th March. All classes have been timetabled for their visit. As you are aware the cost is $5.00 which includes the workbook. All the money goes to LEC which covers their expenses. Please note that the final date of payment is Monday 3rd March.

**Year 6 T-Shirts**
The 2014 Year 6 T-shirts have been ordered and designs have been sent. Shirts should be at school before the end of term. Thank you to all who supported this. Thanks to Mrs Sunderland for organising this project.

**Absences**
All families are reminded that if your child is away from school they MUST produce a note explaining the reason. It is not enough to say they were sick. The attendance officer requires a more detailed explanation.

If you are going on an extended holiday you may apply for an exemption. You can obtain this form from the front office.

**Up Coming Excursions**
The following excursions are the biggest excursions that occur at UPS. Parents might like to start saving up for them.

**Year 5** — Canberra Term 2 — Week 4 Wednesday 21st May
**Year 6** — Sport and Recreation Camp Term 4 — Week 9 From Monday 1st December to Friday 5th December.

Mr Johnson will be sending out more information very soon.

**Student Representative Council**
Congratulations to all our newly elected SRC members. Students received their badges at last week’s assembly. I’m sure that Mr Roberts and Miss Ashley will lead you well in 2014.

**Principal’s Number Fact Challenge**
This new initiative has started this week. All classes 1-6 have undertaken an initial “test” on number facts that the class are concentrating on. Students should concentrate on learning those facts for the follow up “test”. The child in each class who improves the most will receive a School Level Award and the student with the largest improvement in each grade will receive the “Principal Number Fact Trophy” to have in their class.

**Legal Matters**
If you have an AVO or an existing court order please make sure that the school has an up to date copy so we can do our best to look after the interests of the children.

If you change your address, home or mobile number, or emergency contacts PLEASE contact the school so that we can update our records.

Paul Woodcock
Principal
Clean Up Australia Day

Clean Up Australia works with communities to clean up, fix up and conserve our environment. Last Friday students and teachers joined together to clean up our part of the world. Students put gloves on and teachers held the bags and together collected over 17kg of rubbish and 5kg of recycling. Well done everyone. Let’s hope that we can also keep our homes, streets and beaches clean as well by doing the right thing and putting our rubbish in the bins.

Students of the Week

Daniel S

Daniel is in Kindergarten in the Learning Centre.
His favourite colour is yellow and he loves Peppa Pig.

Jazmin W

Jasmin is in Year 6 in Mrs Spilstead’s class.
She is a great homeworker and speller. She is a Forest Feral and loves being in the school play.
National Ride2School Day 2014
The National Ride2School Day is coming along on the Wednesday, 19th March 2014. All students from Stage 3 are invited to participate in the day by riding to and from school. Posters supporting the day have gone up in the display cabinets. Stage 2 students can also participate in the National Ride2School Day by walking to and from school on the day.
Parents of Stage 3 students, who are planning to participate on the day, are encouraged to check bicycles for road worthiness and set out a safe cycling route to school in the weeks leading up to National Ride2School day.

S.R.C MUFTI DAY FUNDRAISER.
The annual school photo shoot will be taking place on Tuesday 11th and Wednesday 12th March 2014. On the day before each photo session there will be a mufti day to ensure students will look their best for the photos. The SRC has decided to ask for a gold coin donation on the mufti days to support the Cancer Council’s Relay For Life. Please support this worthwhile cause organised by our own student leaders.

Years 3, 4, 5 & 6, LC, 2-6S & K-6R will have their class photographs taken on Tuesday 11th. These students will have a mufti day on Monday 10th.

Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 (Early Stage 1 and Late Stage 1) will have their class photos taken on Wednesday 12th March. The mufti day for these students will be on Tuesday 11th.

All students should have been given an order envelope for school photos. Families wishing to order a family photo can pick up a Family Order Forms from Mr. Johnson or from the front office. Family photos will be taken in the school hall commencing at 8.30 each day on a first come first served basis. Any family photos not able to be taken before school will be taken during lunch times.

The new SUMMER menu is on our web site
Milton Show
Could you please pin a safety pin to your child’s uniform on Friday so teachers can attach their excursion tag which allows them FREE entry. Let’s hope for a lovely fine day!

Parent Tips
Homework help
Do you struggle to understand your child’s homework? Does your child need to practise their spelling and times tables? Are you looking for inspiration for projects and assignments?
The free School A to Z app has been created by the Department of Education and Communities to help parents and their school-aged children, wherever and whenever they have homework and study questions.

Homework and multi-tasking
Somewhere along the line we seemed to have absorbed the idea that teenagers can multi-task perfectly because they’re digital natives. Can kids really do their homework and multi-task?

When lunch comes home again – uneaten
Almost nine out of 10 Australian parents say children’s resistance is a major obstacle in their efforts to provide a healthy diet, and in many cases school lunches are one of the battlegrounds.
But it’s a battle families can do without and there are some simple steps to help avoid it.

Help with English
Does your child need help with spelling or writing? Here are some resources that may help.

Maths
Struggling to remember everything you learnt in maths? If you need a refresher course, here are some tips and tools to help you to help your child.