From the Principal:

Strong partnerships with parents and the wider community is what makes the difference between good schools and great schools. Studies have shown that when parents and schools work together the learning capacity of students is exponentially increased. This is why I was so pleased to see so many people on Monday night as we held our annual Parent Information Sessions. I thoroughly enjoyed sharing the inner workings of our classrooms with all of the parents that came along. If you were unable to attend but would like to make a time to catch up with one of our teachers please don’t hesitate.

The school P&C Annual General Meeting will take place on Friday 19th February at 3pm. I would encourage as many people as possible to come along. Nominations are open for anyone wishing to take on executive roles. Please see the notice board for the forms.

We are currently reviewing our playground supervisions. Consequently we have had to make some parts of the school out of bounds during play times. This enables staff to have a manageable area of supervision to ensure student safety while still providing open and varied play areas. I would like to remind parents that supervision does not begin in the mornings until 8:30am. Students arriving before this time must be either enrolled with Outside School Hours Care or in the care of their parents.

Recently our staff have been working with Dr Neil Carrington who is the CEO of ACT for Kids charity organization dedicated to supporting abused and neglected children. He is the foundation director of the Leadership Centre for the Australian Centre for Educational Research (ACER) and worked with numerous public and private organizations. As a part of the KAOS (Kenmore Alliance of Schools) cluster we are looking to establish an ongoing relationship with Dr Carrington through staff coaching and even possibly working with our student leadership team. You will find in this newsletter and advertisement for a raffle run by and for ACT of Kids if you are able and willing to support thank you and rest assured all proceeds go to helping children in disastrous situations.

Mrs Wendy Farren-Price will be teaching PE on a Tuesday commencing next week for both classes. We are very fortunate to have her working an extra day each week. She will also be doing English and Maths work with the senior class in the first part of the day. Please make sure your child is wearing the correct footwear each Tuesday.

Kind Regards,
Zan Branford
Principal
**Stevens Johnson Syndrome:**

This is just a reminder that we have a student at our school who suffers from Stevens Johnson Syndrome.

It is very important that you report to both the Administration and your child’s classroom teacher if your child is taking ANY medication. If your child requires anti-biotics for any reason please tell your doctor that there is a student who suffers from Stevens Johnson Syndrome at your child’s school and they will be able to prescribe a safer selection of anti-biotic. Even when they are taking an alternative anti-biotic we request that you still inform both Administration and your child’s classroom teacher.

The medications that most commonly cause Stevens Johnson Syndrome are Sulphonamides (cotrimoxizole), Beta-lactam (penicillins, cephalosporins), anti-convulsants (lamotrigine, carbamazepine, phenytoin, phenobarbitone), Allopurinol, Paracetamol/acetaminophen, nevirapine (non-nucleoside reverse-transcriptase inhibitor) and Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) (oxicam type mainly).

We cannot stress enough that this is a life threatening disease for this student. If they are exposed to particular drugs (either by touching another student’s skin or through their breath if they are taking one of these drugs), the student needs immediate medical attention.

We would like to thank you for your kind understanding and assistance in keeping this student safe.

**Fun Food Friday:**

Hi everyone and welcome back! An especially warm welcome to the new families joining the UBSS community – it is great to have you with us!

We would like to resume the school’s lovely Fun Food Friday tradition and we are seeking volunteers. For those not familiar with the process, a parent (or parents!) volunteers to cook (or order) a meal that will be served on Friday at first break. It is so much fun and everyone loves it! The kids love trying something different and sharing the experience with their friends and teachers.

The week’s menu will be placed up on the notice board at the beginning of the week and then those children or teachers wishing to participate just write their order on a brown paper bag along with $5 and place it in the silver box outside the office. The parent volunteer collects the bags at 9am on the morning before (i.e. Thursday) and then brings in the food the following day (for first break - Friday at 11am). You just keep your receipt to get reimbursed and all profits go towards our wonderful P&C. Very easy!

Examples of Friday Fun Food meals from last year include healthy hamburgers, sushi, vegetable fried rice, vegetable curry, spaghetti and soup. Dessert was sometimes homemade cookies, cake, ice blocks or fruit pieces in jelly and anything else you can think of! You can team up with another parent and it’s really a lot of fun! The kids love it and the senior class are great at helping you serve it up.

We are starting a roster and would love volunteers! If you can’t do it on a Friday, then you can change the day (as I have below for the first week). If you have any questions, don’t hesitate to ask Libby (3878 1286 or 0418 884 029), Claire (0404 087 606 or cwelshe@bigpond.net.au) or Michelle (0400571382).

**School Banking:**

School Banking is a fun, interactive and engaging way for young Australians to learn about money and develop good savings habits. Run through participating primary schools nationally, children who deposit money into their Youthsaver account through School Banking earn Dollarmites tokens which they can redeem for exciting rewards.

It’s also a great fundraising activity, with participating schools receiving 5% of every individual deposit made at school (up to $10), along with other benefits.

When children join the program they receive a Dollarmites deposit wallet and a Platybank money box, along with a range of fun, engaging materials to help them learn and encourage them to save.

Go the Commonwealth Bank website to find out more.

The UBSS School banking program through the Commonwealth Bank restarts on Tuesday 08 February 2016. The grey collection bags will be placed on the table beside the staff room on Tuesday morning and collected on Tuesday afternoon. A sign on day will be happening soon, however if you would like to start the program sooner or would just like to find out more, please contact Claire Welshe on 0404 087 606 or cwelshe@bigpond.net.au (or grab me when you see me at pick up/drop off).
Senior Class News:
We have hit the ground running in the Senior Class. As across the school we are committed to ensuring children are learning and achieving their best.

English – We are analysing and creating short stories this term. We have been looking at the 7 Steps to Writing Success (Planning for Success, Sizzling Starts, Dynamic Dialogue, Tightening Tension, Show don’t tell, Ban the boring and ending with impact) and working on making our writing unique and exciting. We have also been reading a variety of short stories and discussing the elements used. It is important that we don’t just digest the information we read and see but we analyse it critically, this is how we make accurate and thoughtful opinions.

Maths – We have been delving into all parts of the maths curriculum so far this term. Our focus however has been on measurement. We have had lots of fun measuring perimeters around the school and challenging students to convert their answers into different units.

Please remember homework is due on Thursday mornings and will be sent home again on Fridays.

Junior Class News:
Welcome back to Term 1 for 2016! We particularly welcome the new families to our school community. We have had a lovely start to the year as the students are adjusting back into the routines of school life.

We are entering the ‘tired phase’ of the term, so be prepared for us to be a little more weary and teary than usual as we adjust! The Preppies particularly will be realising that school is a whole lot of work for a whole five… long…. days a week!

Some days your child might not want to come to school. We assure you that these are very normal emotions and if we remain positive and stay committed to attending every day, the children will develop the stamina required and the tiredness will pass. Be sure to have a hearty breakfast each morning and lots of early nights during the school week.

This year we have a whole school agenda to improve Writing and Spelling results. For this reason P-2 class is prioritising this by beginning each day with half an hour of ‘Writer’s Workshop’. The students are enjoying writing creatively and conferencing with the teachers about their writing goals. They are drafting, editing, illustrating and publishing their own books. You are invited to come and have a look at their writing whenever you have some free time. The students are very motivated and focused on becoming excellent writers. We are already seeing an improvement in the student’s engagement and their writing skills. The Preppies are beginning ‘kid writing’. It is important for them to see themselves as writers and to have a go.

Principal’s Messages

Library Bags
We would like to request that all students have a sturdy library bag to transport their library books to and from school.
Our library books are a precious resource and we would like to increase their longevity by encouraging students to care for them while they are at home as well.
Both the Junior and Senior classes have Library on Friday so please remember to bring your books back to exchange.

Healthy Lunchboxes
Healthy lunches allow students to learn better and faster, keeping them both alert and focused whilst giving them the nutrition they need every day.
Our active, growing students will sometimes need to eat much more for lunch than you could imagine, so serving sizes is also something to consider when packing their school lunch.
Plenty of fruits, vegetables, seeds, wholegrain breads and lean proteins are the order of the day for our students to get the most from their learning opportunities at Upper Brookfield State School.

Date Claimers:
11th February—Thursday—Tasty Thursday (instead of Fun Food Friday—for this week only)
15st February—Monday—Parade
29th February—Monday—Junior Class Pullenvale Environmental Education Centre visit

Parents’ and Citizens’ Association Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday 19th February at 3.00pm. All new members and people wishing to nominate for Executive positions.