

NEWSLETTER

TERM 1 WEEK 9: TUESDAY 26 MARCH 2024

Harmony Day

As always, it was wonderful to see so many of our students supporting an SRC initiative by wearing orange (or red / yellow) mufti clothes to school last Friday. The theme of Harmony Day this year was 'Everyone belongs'. The day is all about raising awareness of inclusivity, tolerance and kindness, and our Student Leadership Team spoke about these ideas at assembly. The team spoke about how Harmony Day and anti-bullying strategies are connected. I've included their whole presentation in the newsletter here today, to communicate how important these ideas are to our students and the whole school community.



Ella: Today, we're acknowledging Harmony Day. We thought it was a good opportunity to remind everyone of the anti-bullying strategies at our school, which we discussed at our Student Voice Day a couple of weeks ago. Let's start by explaining what Harmony Day actually is. Avril, could you please tell everyone what Harmony Day is?

Avril: Sure. Harmony Day is recognised all over Australia each year as a day when we focus on being kind, accepting each others' differences and working out how to be together without fighting. Harmony actually means getting on with each other in a way that makes everyone feel good. Orange has become known as the colour of Harmony Day, which is why we are having orange mufti, so everyone can show their support.

Jazmyn: Thanks, Avril. Ella said at the beginning that Harmony Day was a day when we could also remind everyone of our anti-bullying strategies. Xavier, how do those 2 ideas fit together?

Xavier: Well, if you think about it, people who are mean or who decide to try to bully people are doing the exact opposite of being kind. They are trying to create conflict and a negative vibe, which is the opposite of harmony. So today, we want to remind everyone about the idea of standing in someone else's shoes, and to imagine what they are feeling. That's the best way to create harmony.

Ethan: Thank you, Xavier. Uki Public School has zero tolerance for bullying or any form of violence. We also have lots of ways we teach everyone about anti-bullying strategies. And just to be clear, anti-bullying means against bullying. Ella, could you remind everyone what our anti-bullying strategies are?

Ella: Yes, sure. First, we have these kinds of assembly presentations. Teachers teach lessons explaining to kids what they should do if they see any form of meanness or bullying.

We have performances during the year and other guests who

come to the school, such as the Wheelchair Tennis coach.

The Police usually come once a year to remind senior students about on-line safety. We have Peer Groups, and Year 6 students have Super Me. And every year, we all participate in the National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence.

Avril: Ella, you mentioned meanness as well as bullying. Jazmyn, what's the difference?

Jazmyn: Well, one of the important things we have to be clear about is what bullying actually is. We can explain the difference between being rude, being mean and bullying with an example.

If I said to Ms Watkins, "Oh Ms Watkins, your hair is looking more frizzy than normal today. Don't you think you should do something about it?", Ms Watkins might say "That would be rude".

If I said, "Ms Watkins, I think your frizzy hair looks horrible and I'd be embarrassed to come to school with hair like that", Ms Watkins might say "That would be mean".

If I said that same thing to Ms Watkins several times, even when she had asked me not to, then it would be bullying.

Xavier: Right. So bullying means deliberately saying or doing something mean several times, even when the other person has asked you to stop. Is that right?

Ethan: Yes, Xavier, that's right. It's hard to understand why anyone would be mean or bully anyone else, but one of the reasons is that mean people are not very confident or strong in themselves, so they try to make someone else feel bad like they feel bad. Sometimes people who bully make the mistake of thinking it's cool, or that other kids will look up to them. Ella, what do you think of that?

Ella: It's definitely not cool and it never works. Over time, other kids know that people who are being mean or trying to bully are not friends they can trust. Most kids look up to friends who are kind and caring to everyone, not friends who create problems and dramas.

Avril: Right, so what advice would you give to kids when someone is mean to them or tries to bully them, Jaz?

Jazmyn: First of all, it is really important to let someone know what is going on. Lots of times kids say that they're worried that the problem will get worse. But if you think about it, if you DON'T say something about it, it will get worse for sure. So you might as well try to solve the problem. You should tell someone you trust – this could be someone at home, a teacher or another student. Then you should ask your friends around you to keep noticing what is happening, so they can back you up.

Xavier: That's good advice, Jaz. But lots of kids say that even if they tell an adult, the problem doesn't stop straight away. What would you say about this, Ethan?

Ethan: I'd say that the problem might not be solved straight away, but they should trust that the adult will start to work on the problem, and over time, it will get better.

Ella: Thanks, Ethan. Harmony Day helps us remember that even if you don't want to be friends with someone, you can be friendly to everyone. No-one gets a reward out of being mean, including the person who is being mean.

Meanness and bullying are never OK. Everyone belongs.

Thank you – and enjoy Harmony Day!

Fantastic Family Fun Fair

Only one word sums up the Family Fun Fair on Friday night – FANTASTIC!!! So many people came along to enjoy the activities, games, food and music....it was a really great vibe. Heartfelt thanks and appreciation go to all the hard-working members of the P&C, with special mention to Andrea and Alonna, who led the way with a group of dedicated volunteers. Thank you to each and every one of the many members of the school community who helped throughout the fair, including our awesome teachers. It's a great example of a school community coming together to raise funds for our precious kids....and having plenty of fun as well!

Grandparents' and Special Friends' Day

There's never a dull moment at Uki! This coming Thursday 28 March, all grandparents and special friends are invited to join us at 10am for a memorable morning where we celebrate grandparents in classic Uki style – with wonderful music and delicious food! We'll also take the opportunity to have our annual Easter Hat Parade, and we'll draw the library Easter Raffle, followed by musical performances, morning tea and visits to the classrooms for those who'd like to look around. The event should finish at approximately 11:45am...and everyone is invited! Please RSVP to the school office right away, for catering and seating purposes. And speaking of catering, we hope our families able to contribute a plate of something delicious to the morning tea for our special guests. Please drop your goodies off at school on Wednesday afternoon or before 9am on Thursday morning.

We love our community pre-school

What a gorgeous visit Harper, Sahana, Zara, Koby and I had to Mt Warning Pre-school last week. The older students read beautifully to the pre-schoolers before joining them for some play activities. I was very proud of our students, who were wonderful ambassadors for Uki Public School.

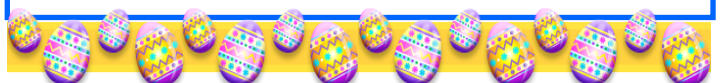


EASTER RAFFLE

Last chance tomorrow for donations and raffle tickets please call to the office.

ALL MONEY RAISED WILL BUY NEW BOOKS FOR THE SCHOOL LIBRARY.

THANKYOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.



P&C NEWS

We did it! Another great Fun Fair!

Thank you to all parents and teachers who volunteered their time to make this years fun fair a success. So many people pitched in contributing what they could, which was great to see.

Very special thanks goes to our fundraising coordinator, Alonna, who was again our lead organiser. Thanks also to Rada for gathering extra prizes and sponsorship and Bel for making 150 cupcakes. The class baskets were full to the brim and plentiful, so thank you also to all our families for their donations.

There was something there for everyone—a jumping castle and laser tag, face painting, hair feathers, old time games, the always popular cent auction, and hunger pains were quickly dealt with at the BBQ, vegetarian food and cake and bake stalls. Stalls by Uki Pythons Soccer Club, Hoopla Circus, Mt Warning Preschool, Lulu Blue, Bel & Owen Noonan and Harding's Plumbing and Gas added to the fun.

Finally thanks again to our sponsors -

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We look forward to doing it all again next year!

Andrea de Smidt- P&C President

Big Vegie Crunch!

Did you hear us? We joined thousands of children across NSW last Thursday at 10am for the Big Vegie Crunch! This event promotes the benefits of eating delicious, juicy, crunchy veges, and it was good to see kids trying something they had not eaten before. Judging by the enthusiastic crunching, I'd say there are lots of vegie fans at

Term 1 holidays

Easter is very early this year, so it's an unusual term. We will break for Easter (no school this Friday 29 March or Monday 1 April). Then we return to school until the last day of the term, which is Friday 12 April.

Merit Awards Term 1 Week 8

Well done to the students who worked hard last week and received class Merit Awards.



What is the School Bytes portal?



The School Bytes portal provides flexibility for you to conveniently:

- Make school payments online (including paying for multiple siblings at once)
- Use a family credit to pay for an activity or school contributions
- Download a receipt for payments made
- View all historical payments in one place
- Complete and submit digital permission notes
- View the status of all permission notes
- Request a refund if required

This can be done where you want at any time: day or night. Through the portal, you will easily be able to download a receipt once a payment has been made and have access to view all historical payments when needed. Online payments are processed in real-time and can be viewed by school staff immediately. While our preference is for payments to be made via the portal, we will still accept payment in the office via cash or cheque.

PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS

Throughout the year, our school uses a range of communication strategies to ensure that parents and carers are fully involved in their children's education. Earlier in the term, we had Parent Information Sessions. Formal written reports go home twice a year. Best Start and NAPLAN reports go home to parents and carers. Parents and carers are consulted about Individual Learning Plans. And you are always more than welcome to contact your child's teacher at any time to request a meeting.

Right now, you are able to book a time to talk with your child's teacher one-to-one in a parent / teacher meeting. This is a time to talk about how your child is going, academically, socially and emotionally.

Please prioritise these meetings – they are very important for each child's progress and wellbeing.

To book a time please use the following link or QR Code:



<https://www.schoolinterviews.com.au/code/49bq2>

REMINDER TO PARENTS OF YEAR 6 STUDENTS

Click on the following link to start your application to enrol your Year 6 child into high school for 2025

<https://year7.enrol.education.nsw.gov.au/?schoolCode=3298>

If you are not able to apply on-line, or if you require assistance to do so, please contact the school office as soon as possible to arrange a paper application.

Online applications close 4 April,
paper applications close 28 March.

CANTEEN ROSTER TERM 1

| | | | |
|-----------------------|---------|--------------|---------------|
| 5 April | Cynthia | Debbie Brown | Helper Needed |
| 12 April SUSHI DAY | Alonna | Andrea/Don | |

LINK TO SCHOOL BYTES CALENDAR

https://online.schoolbytes.education/calendar_page/938/4445/417e1028-bd54-4a9f-85ad-b12a85b51ba4

TERM 1 2024 CALENDAR

| Week 9 | | |
|---------|----------|-------------------------------|
| Thur | 28 Mar | Grandparents/Seniors Day |
| | | Easter Hat Parade |
| | | Library Easter Raffle Drawn |
| Week 10 | | |
| Wed | 3 April | School Cross Country Carnival |
| | | Year 6 Ice Cream Fundraiser |
| Week 11 | | |
| Tues | 9 April | Blind Cricket 3-6 |
| Thur | 11 April | SRC Fundraiser PJ Day |
| Fri | 12 April | LAST DAY TERM 1 |





Family Fun Fair





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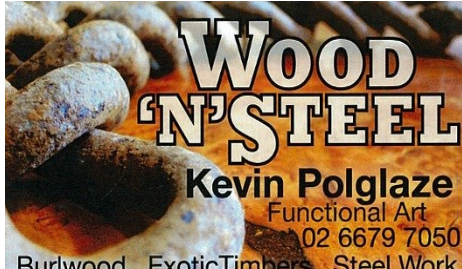



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