

What's UPPS

NEWSLETTER NO 1 TUESDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2019

DATES TO REMEMBER

**Friday
15 February
Foundation Photos**

**Tuesday
19 February
Whole School Photos**

**Tuesday
26 February
Athletics Carnival
at Llanberris**

**Friday 1 March
Whole School
Assembly**

**Monday 11 March
Labour Day
Holiday**

**4 & 5 April
Learning
Conferences**

**20-25 May
Grade 6
Canberra Trip**

Welcome Back Everybody

A very warm welcome back to our UPPS students and families! A special welcome to our new students and their families. I know you will love becoming a part of our wonderful UPPS community. I hope you all had a lovely school holiday break. It was wonderful to see our students from Foundation – Year 6 arriving at school looking so happy, refreshed and ready to learn. Our hardworking staff spent many hours during the holidays preparing so that our students will receive the high quality education of which Urquhart Park is so proud. Our school calendar is also filling up! We have some exciting programs and initiatives happening throughout 2019, which we are looking forward to sharing with you. We are also excited to be welcoming our new Foundation students who are settling in very well. We have had a very smooth start to the year. The initial assessments enabled the children to spend some individual time with their teachers so that valuable information could be collected. Thank you to parents for completing the required documentation and questionnaires. We appreciate your support. Many thanks also to those who came along to our School Picnic. It was a lovely evening and I enjoyed catching up with many families.

Our new Vision and Mission

As a part of our school review last year, a number of representative groups, including students, parents, staff and school council, contributed to the formulation of our new vision and mission. This is quite an extensive process as we develop a vision and mission that embodies our school values and priorities, and also recognises that we are a school that supports the philosophies of both the Department of Education and the International Baccalaureate.

After much discussion, our vision has been encapsulated within 3 words.

School Vision

Inspire Inquire Grow

School Mission Statement

At Urquhart Park Primary School, we develop active, global citizens who have the confidence, empathy and resilience to make a positive difference in our world. We empower our students to be creative and critical thinkers, who collaborate with others. We engage in challenging, concept-driven, inquiry learning that promotes learner agency.

Many thanks to the students, parents and staff who contributed to the creation of our vision and mission.

Staffing News

We welcome some returning staff back to our team. Mrs Bree Williams has returned from family leave and is teaching Grade 1. Ms Whitney Wills has also returned from family leave and is settling in very well in Grade 5 and Ms Shauna Hardy has returned to teach in Grade 4. We wish our returning staff all the best for 2019 and we value the significant contribution that they will make at UPPS.



New Programs- Performing Arts and Maths Enrichment

I have visited Mrs Sage Fisher’s Performing Arts classroom, an energised and dynamic learning environment that is highly engaging for our students. I look forward to the many positive outcomes that will emerge from this program. I am also very pleased that our Maths Specialists, Ms Chanelle Pelchen and Mr Tristan Dixon, will be offering Maths Enrichment programs this year too. We have a number of very able mathematics students within the school, who will benefit from this program.

Primary Years Program

One of the goals of our new Strategic Plan is to continue the embedding of the Primary Years Program. Your children will have commenced their first Unit of Inquiry, which has an associated central idea. The school’s Program of Inquiry is displayed in the front foyer of the school.

Parent Involvement

We were absolutely thrilled by the large numbers of parents who have offered to support our school in a range of different ways this year. Many thanks for your willingness to support us. We have begun the process of sorting through this information so that we can harness this support as quickly as possible. Thank you to the parents who have offered to become Parent Partners. We will be in touch about the first meeting of our Parent Partners very soon.



School Start Times

Just a friendly reminder that outdoor morning supervision does not commence until 8.35am. Children arriving before this time should be supervised by attending Before School Care that is offered by the YMCA or alternatively, at our supervised Breakfast Club that begins at 8.15am.

Students should not be on playgrounds or the oval before school. The safety of our children is our most important priority and I thank you for your understanding.



School Diaries

Many thanks to parents for providing school diaries for the children. The diaries assist with home/ school communication and enable children to develop organisational skills. Diaries are available from the School Office. All students require a diary please.

Athletics Carnival at Llanberris

The Athletics Carnival is rapidly approaching. This year, it will be held on Tuesday 26th February at Llanberris Reserve. I thank Ms Jessica Quandt and Ms Karla Devlin for their organisation of this event.



School Council 2019-2020 Election- Call for Nominations

At Urquhart Park Primary School, we are supported by an active School Council, made up of parent, teacher and community representatives. The role of our School Council includes developing our Strategic Plan, approving our Annual Budget and setting and reviewing our policies. We have three sub-committees of School Council who are responsible for overseeing the management of the school in particular areas. Our sub-committees are Policy, Buildings and Grounds, and Community Engagement.

I would sincerely like to thank all members of our School Council for their work over 2018. Many thanks to Ms. Belinda Collihole who, as our president has led our council very capably. Thanks also to Mrs. Marissa Bogers, Mrs. Sarah Bogers, Mrs. Natalie Dreier, Mrs. Melissa McKee, Ms. Rebecca Lenten and Ms. Anjelica Taschler for their fantastic contribution to support our school.

In 2019, we do have parent representative vacancies on School Council. I hope that many of you will consider nominating for these positions. You may self-nominate or be nominated by another person. Nominations for School Council parent representatives are currently open, and close on Tuesday 19th February at 4pm. Nomination forms can be collected from the office. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like further information.

Proposed School Council Election Process and Timetable

	Event	Date
1	Notice of Election and Call for Nominations	Tuesday 12 th February
2	Closing date for nominations	Tuesday 19 th February at 4pm
3	Date by which the list of candidates and nominators will be posted	Friday 22 nd February
4	Date by which ballot papers will be prepared and distributed	Tuesday 26 th February
5	Close of ballot	Tuesday 12 th March at 4pm
6	Vote count	Wednesday 13 th March
7	Declaration of poll	Thursday 15 th March
8	Special Council meeting to co-opt community members	Monday 18 th March
9	First Council Meeting to elect office bearers	Monday 18 th March

Assemblies in Term 1

Whole school assemblies will be held on Friday 1st March and Friday 29th March. You will be notified by teachers in relation to the timing of unit assemblies.

Learning Conferences- Save the Date

Please be aware that learning conferences will be held at the end of term. Parents will be able to book appointments with teachers for the evening of Thursday 4th April or morning of Friday 5th April. Booking details will be included on upcoming newsletters. It is an expectation that students attend these learning conferences with their parents. **Classes will not be held on Friday 5th April.**

We look forward to a really exciting, happy and fun year full of learning.

School Photo Day – Tuesday 19 February

Photo envelopes for all students went home last week. Each envelope is individually named. If you would like a family photo taken, please see Susan at the office for an envelope.

We would appreciate the envelopes being returned prior to Photo Day, to enable us to collate them for our photographers.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

This year we will celebrate **HARMONY DAY** and the **NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION AGAINST BULLYING & VIOLENCE** on **Thursday 14th March**

Our school community is invited to be a part of the day:

Thursday 14th March, 9:00 – 11:00 am

**Guest speaker— Bridget Veld
(Mental Health Social Worker)*

**Followed by an opportunity to visit*



BALLARAT CYCLE CLASSIC

SUNDAY 17th FEBRUARY

WALK, RIDE OR RUN

(variety of events/distances)

REGISTER - <https://ballaratcycleclassic.com.au/>

TEAM NAME 'UPPS'

Or **SPONSOR** the UPPS team – Go to the website, click on **SPONSOR A RIDER**, then **SEARCH FOR A TEAM** – type in UPPS

JUNIOR UNIT

Welcome to the Junior Unit for 2019. Thank you to our new and returning families for supporting your child as they settle into their new classroom. We are looking forward to a fantastic year ahead as our youngest learners continue to develop their independence.

Our first Unit Assembly/Family Information Session will be held at 9.15am Thursday 14 February in the Hiroba (open space in our building). Families are welcome to join us as we share our classroom Essential Agreements and important information about the year ahead. Information will be posted on Seesaw for all families, following our assembly.

From the Junior Unit,

Heather Delahunty (FA), Joy Hill (FB), Bree Williams (1A), Meredith Mayes (1B), Megan Hearn (2A), Nicole Considine (2B) and Chanelle Pelchen (2B)

MIDDLE UNIT

Welcome to the Middle Unit for 2019! Thank you to all of the students who were able to attend our Learning Assessment days at the beginning of the year, as well as all those who came along to our Family Picnic last week. It has been a wonderful start to the year in the Middle Unit!

In Grade 3, we have started exploring relationships and how kindness lays the foundations for strengthening communities. We are inquiring into strategies we can use to solve conflicts in real world situations. 'Diversity within a community defines our identity' is the central idea we are inquiring into in Grade 4. We will explore qualities that distinguish our identity and those who influence our identities.

We welcome families to attend our first Middle Unit assembly, to be held on Friday 22nd February at 2.30pm in the MPR. Students and teachers will be providing information shared in previous years at our Information Evening. If you are unable to make it to the assembly, keep an eye out for an information leaflet that will be sent home the same day.

SENIOR UNIT

Welcome to the Senior Unit for 2019. A big congratulations must go to all students who have settled into the new year wonderfully. Thank you to parents for the support at the beginning of the year in helping your children be ready to learn with their books, stationary and school diaries.

Grade 5's have been learning about the systems of the body, how they are all connected and the important function each system plays. Students have been presented with many hands on learning opportunities which has created plenty of terrific discussion. Our Grade 6's are learning about human rights around the world and the link between having rights and responsibilities. The learning amongst this group has been evident in the first week of learning.

We welcome families to attend our first Senior Unit assembly which will take place this Thursday the 14th of February at 2.15pm. This assembly will provide parents and students with information for the year that is usually given at Parent Information Evenings. You child will also be sent home with an information leaflet if you are unable to attend.

insights

Working closely with your child's teacher this year

by Michael Gröse |



In my work as a presenter and educator, I've visited hundreds of schools, spoken with hundreds of school leaders and worked with many educational innovators and researchers at the forefront of modern education. These people and experiences have given me valuable insights into what makes great schools tick.

Strong parent-teacher relationships are one of the hallmarks of all great schools. They're a major contributor to student success. The research into schooling across the Western world reveals that positive parent-teacher partnerships are a more significant factor in student success than parent income levels or social status.

However, parent-teacher relationships require effort and energy from both parties if they are going to really benefit children and young people.

Here are five elements to guide you as a parent in forming strong bonds with your child's teachers this year:

1. Knowing (building affinity)

Know – the first element – requires you to be both proactive and patient. *Proactive* because you need to be willing to meet and work at maintaining relationships. *Patient* because it may take some time to build a working relationship. For your partnership to be meaningful and successful you need to meet with your children's teacher(s) with the goal of forming a respectful professional relationship. Share your aspirations for your child and be willing to build the teacher's knowledge about your family.



Get to know your child's teachers' aspirations and gain an understanding of their approach and the focus they have for this particular year group.

Also commit to continuing to know what's going on in the life of your child's classrooms as well as the life of the school on an ongoing basis.

2. Supporting (building trust)

Children need to know that you are fully behind what their teachers are trying to achieve if they are going to commit fully to learning. The best way to support your child's teacher is to trust their knowledge, professionalism and

experience. Avoid the temptation to question the expertise of teachers in front of students, particularly when the teachers use methods that you are unfamiliar with. Initiate conversations with teachers around methodology to give them the chance to explain the approach they are taking.

3. Participating (building links to student learning)

Participation – the third element – takes into account the level of parent engagement in student learning. There's a huge body of research that points to the correlation between parent engagement in student learning and their educational success. If you want your child to improve his learning, take an interest in what he is doing. Follow school and teacher guidelines about helping at home and attend as many conferences, meetings and events involving your child as possible. This simple strategy has a significant, longterm impact.



4. Communicating (building relationships)

Life's not always smooth sailing for kids of any age. Family circumstances change. Friends move away. Illness happens. Mental health challenges can hit anyone at any time. These changes affect learning. Keep teachers up to date with significant changes or difficulties that your child or young person experiences so they can accommodate your child's emotional and learning needs at school.

5. Advocating (building loyalty)

Advocacy – the last element – means that you talk teachers and your school up rather than tear them down among children and the wider community. Teachers hold very public positions and generally work hard to build good reputations both within their school and their wider education community. Consider a teacher's reputation among the community and also with children when you discuss educational matters with others.

Building parent-teacher relationships doesn't just happen. They take good will from both sides, a commitment to setting aside the time necessary to support the home-based learning tasks that are expected, and a willingness to communicate both concerns and commendations through the correct channels.

Parent-teacher relationships – long may they prosper!



Michael Grose

Michael Grose, founder of Parenting Ideas, is one of Australia's leading parenting educators. He's the author of 10 books for parents including *Thriving!* and the best-selling *Why First Borns Rule the World* and *Last Borns Want to Change It*, and his latest release *Spooned Generation: How to raise independent children*.

CSEF – Camps, Sports & Excursion Fund

Thank you to the families who have completed and returned their application form.

There were a number of forms returned without a CRN (Customer Record Number) and we are assuming that these were completed in error.

If you are not sure if your form was completed with all information, please contact Karen, Business Manager to confirm your details.

Applications are still being processed, so if you believe you may be eligible, please complete an application form.

Once again, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

Parent Payment Charges

All families received a letter outlining the 2019 Parent Payment Charge as part of the package of documents on Interview Days.

Many thanks to those who have already made full or part payment of the Essential Learning Items.

Family statements will be forwarded home (eldest in the family) twice each term which will list all outstanding charges.

Please do not hesitate to contact the office if you require any further information.



This year we are excited to be welcoming some new faces to the specialist teaching team at UPPS, and to also see some changes of Role for people we know already. We congratulate Ms Quandt and Miss Devlin on their new roles as PE teachers for 2019. Miss Devlin will be teaching PE to students in Foundation and Grade 1 and Ms. Quandt will be teaching PE to all students in Grade 2-6. They will also continue with their other roles in the school.



This year we are also excited to be offering all students the opportunity to further their studies in the performing arts through Dance and Drama. These lessons will be taken by Mrs. Fisher and we warmly welcome her to the specialist team.

Performing Arts News

This year in Performing Arts we'll be exploring dance, drama and public speaking. I'll be looking out for the 'Class of the Month', who will receive a trophy and certificate to display in the classroom. I'm looking forward to teaching Grade 2B, Grade 3, Grade 4 and Grade 5 this Semester, then Foundation, Grade 1, Grade 2A and Grade 6 in Semester 2. I love Performing Arts and I can't wait to see the amazing and creative work you produce! I'd love to see lots of you at our Drama Games club on Wednesday and Thursday, and at our Fitness/Aerobics Club on Friday!

Mrs Fisher





Upcoming Music Dates for your Diary

Week 2 - Instrumental lessons, Clubs and Choirs begin!
Week 5 - Gr 2 Violin parent information session. 3.20pm-3.30pm
Week 8 - TBC Choir visit to local kindergarten.
Week 10—Grade 2 violin open lesson 2.30pm-3pm
Advanced notice - May 31—Junior Choirs Festival, WCPA



We've had a great first week in the Music Room! Our music captains, Harvey, Jack and Shaylee have already been busy planning lots of fun ways to engage our learners in Music and have ensured our clubs and choirs got off to a flying start. Here they are pictured with special assembly guest Mr. Richard Bayley a past student and teacher of the school. Mr Bayley spoke about his time at Urqhart St and UPPS and about writing our school song. How lucky are we to have been able to meet a real, live composer!



Term 1 Music Clubs:

Monday: Violin Club **Wednesday:** CrashBangWallop! (percussion Gr3-6)

Friday: Ukulele F-6 See Mrs Allen or the Music Captains to join!

Composer In Focus - QUEEN

The rock legends "Queen" have been immortalised in the recently released film "*Bohemian Rhapsody*". Even before this the band was a house hold name, with more well known songs than your average band. All of the members of **QUEEN** wrote songs the band performed and thus they qualify to be this month's composers in focus. Answer the questions below to be in the running for some great prizes . Entry forms available from the office or music room.

1. Name all four composers in the band **QUEEN**.
2. Who was the lead singer and when did he die?
3. List 2 songs by **QUEEN**. (bonus points if you can name who wrote each one)





THE SUSTAINABLE GARDENING KITCHEN

WELCOME EVERYONE - IT'S SO GOOD TO BE BACK IN THE GARDENING KITCHEN ...

Thank you to the many families that so generously give their time to care for our garden, chooks and worms during the school holidays and on the weekends. You are so very much appreciated!

Well done to the, The Sustainable Gardening Kitchen Captains, The Sustainability Team and The UPPS Incredibles Green Team, for working together and setting a good example for others to follow. You are already standing out as responsible leaders and your enthusiasm is infectious.

We have enjoyed harvesting and collecting eggs, cucumbers, zucchinis, potatoes, capsicum, berries, corn and very soon tomatoes. Students have been hard at work maintaining our garden beds, the chook pen, and had fun finding out how many bugs and critters live in our garden. From the produce collected, students have made baked potatoes, mashed potatoes and zucchini and sweet corn fritters.

Donations – thank you to the Butterworth family for donating plums to our kitchen. We will make jam with this delicious seasonal fruit for our Breakfast Club.

Our Canteen opens in Week 4 - Canteen volunteers have been busily cooking all your favourite dishes and have added delicious spring rolls to the menu. Details are being published on our App along with the menu and recipes for you to make and enjoy at home.

Our Share Table - takes place on the last Tuesday of the month and will begin on March 26th. Donations of fruit and vegetables, canned goods and packaged food that is still within its use by date, clean clothing and small household items would be welcome on our share table. Items can be left in the The Sustainable Gardening Kitchen at any time.

How good do our school grounds look? This is due to the school community being committed to bringing wrapper free snacks and lunches to school. Free containers are available in The Gardening Kitchen to anyone who needs them.



RETHINK – REUSE – REDUCE – RECYCLE ... keep up the good effort everyone – the rubbish we send to landfill has decreased dramatically.

Sustainable Community Gardening Club – for any members of our school community that would like to spend time caring for and maintaining our garden and surrounds. There is no set time – members are free to work in or garden when they have spare time. Some of the pleasurable tasks involved would be weeding, digging, pruning, planting, harvesting, paving and cooking. Members would need a current Working with Children Check. Please let us know if you are interested.



UPPS Students and Ms. Kerry Hartmann

The Sustainable Gardening Kitchen



UPPS ART



This term in the Art Room students in Foundation- Grade six will be having fun learning new techniques and developing our 2019 individual art goals. We are collecting newspapers and any donations would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Please Note: Art Club is open at lunchtime on Tuesdays & Photography Club is on Monday at lunchtime (by invitation only)

Thanks

Ms Devlin



P.E. Report: Ms. Quandt

Welcome back to all of our members of the UPPS community. Our major focus this term is Athletics with students learning and refining their skills ahead of our House Athletics Carnival on Tuesday February 26th at Llanberris Athletics Centre. On the day students will need to bring their lunch, hat and a coloured T-shirt to represent their house colour. Permission notes will be going home very soon. From this day, students in the 10, 11 and 12 year old events will have their results recorded and the top performers in each event will qualify to represent the school at the Zone Athletic Championships in Ballarat. Students who qualify will receive a letter congratulating them along with training times to help prepare them for this day. If anyone has, any questions or concerns please feel free to come and see me.



Zone Swimming Carnival –

On Friday 8th March there is a Swimming Carnival in the Sovereign division and we have the opportunity to represent UPPS. Notes will be going home next week for those students who are interested.





Japanese : Mr. Paxton

Konnichiwa!



2019 has got off to a very exciting start. We particularly welcome the new Foundation students, and hope they're excited to be learning a new language!

Japanese Club: Students will have the opportunity to enjoy a range of activities run by the Japanese captains this term, including origami, manga drawing, Colouring pages, cooking, and playing traditional Japanese toys and games. I would also like to congratulate our grade 6 **Japanese captains**, Jessica and Maddison, who are preparing a number of exciting activities for our club this term, including cooking, origami, manga drawing and Japanese movies. Japanese club is held at lunchtime in the Japanese room.

JAPANESE CLUB TIMES: Monday: Grades F-2. **Thursday:** Grades 3-6

Yuko san: Our Japanese assistant will be helping out each week on Mondays and Wednesdays. She is much loved by our students and brings a refreshing authenticity to our language and cultural studies.

Show and Tell: Does your child own something Japanese? Eaten Japanese food at a restaurant? Have a Japanese related story to share? Learning a Japanese martial art such as Judo or karate? Students are encouraged to show and share each lesson



Origami: I encourage students to make pieces at home. We have an origami display wall and I'm happy to give origami paper to students to take home. All they need to do is ask! The website I recommend is www.origami-club.com

Japanese Trip: 18 grade 5 and 6 students depart for our school tour to Japan in October. Details regarding payments and detailed itinerary is coming in the next 2 weeks. Stay tuned!