

Newsletter Week 5 Term 1 2024

Principal's Report



Welcome to the 2024 school year!

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the 2024 school year! Term 1 at UCHSK is up and running in a very positive manner. We have welcomed a new cohort of 142 Year 7 students as well as a large number of students across years 8, 9, and 10. Over the first few weeks the Year 7 group have been inducted into what it means to be a *UCHSK kid* and how we align our actions with our school values of Kindness, Achievement, Respect and Endeavour. There have been lots of smiles and enthusiasm from this wonderful group of young people, and I would like to thank Mr Lewis, our Year 7 Coordinator, for all that he has done to make their start to high school life successful. Later this term the entire cohort will head to Jindabyne for our Year 7 camp, which should be a wonderful experience for all involved.

We have also welcomed a cohort of new teachers and support staff in 2024. In this group, there is a combination of experienced educators and beginning teachers, bringing both a wealth of experience and fresh eyes and enthusiasm to the UCHSK team. A big welcome to:

- Mr Rolfe - Science Executive
- Mr Van de Rhee - Inclusive Education
- Mr Bok - SOSE
- Mrs Wilson - English
- Miss Harbour - SOSE
- Miss Eastman - English

While we may have welcomed a large number of new students and had a changeover in several teaching positions, there are some things that remain constant here at UCHSK. Our commitment to function as a *Professional Learning Community* (PLC) and our focus on every child's learning, remain at the heart of all that we do. In short, this means identifying your child's level of knowledge and understanding in every subject and then responding accordingly, to ensure they achieve success. Further explanation of our PLC can be found on our website [here](#). At our recent assembly I spoke to students about the importance of Proficiency Scales in understanding where they are up to in their learning and what the next steps may be. These play a significant role in the UCHSK learning experience and I encourage you to have a conversation with your child about their Proficiency Scales. If you're interested to find out more, you can take a look on our website [here](#).

Playing an active role in your child's learning contributes significantly to their success in the classroom. In week 7 of this term, on Tuesday the 12th of March we will hold our first Parent Teacher Interviews for the year. These will be face to face interviews held onsite at UCHSK. The purpose of this first set of interviews is to meet your child's teachers and develop an understanding of how they have started the school year. There will also be a second set of interviews for the semester in Term 2, to discuss learning progress. I encourage you to take this opportunity to connect with your child's teachers, to strengthen the communication lines between home and school. Information on how to book appointments will be provided closer to the date. Unfortunately, on these evenings there are always some who miss out. If you are unable to make a booking with a teacher, you will be able to request a follow up, or you are more than welcome to contact them via phone or email, to set up an alternate time for a discussion.

Google Guardian Summaries are another great way to keep up to date with what your child is working on in their classes. Attached to this newsletter is some additional information on how you can receive Google Guardian Summaries. Should you be having difficulties receiving these please contact your child's PC teacher for more information. There is also support available online [here](#).

All students should now have received their phone pouch.



One of the biggest changes for the start of the 2024 school year has been the updates to the mobile phone policy. The core message remains, that where ever possible *"Students are strongly encouraged to keep their phones and other personal devices away from school."* We are aware that there are some instances where this is not possible. All students should now have received their phone pouch. If your child does bring a phone to school, the expectation is that it is turned off and locked in their pouch from the moment they enter school in the morning. We are aware of some instances where students are not using pouches and leaving their phone in their bags. If your child does need to bring a phone to school, please remind them of the expectation of pouch use. I'd like to thank all families who have been supporting the school and discussing these changes with their children. Classrooms and the playground have both been phone free and this is a great result for our community.

Kind Regards,

Daniel Mowbray

Principal

What's Happening at UC High School

Swimming Carnival

On Tuesday 20th February, we had our first whole-school event for the year, and the first of our 'Big 3' Carnivals – the UCHSK Swimming Carnival at Dickson Aquatic Centre. We had an amazing atmosphere as the students (and staff) all pushed themselves to enter as many of the events as possible, in order to gain house points for either Bradman, Freeman, Goolagong or Meninga. We also rotated through novelty events in the smaller pool and the beach volleyball courts. It was great to see students engaging in huge numbers and enjoying healthy cross-House challenges. Again, we had Vihar ditch his wheelchair and jump in a race with his friends, physio and staff alongside him, and the school cheered him on – a great reflection of the inclusive nature of our school and the amazing students and staff we have at UCHS Kaleen.

So many students pushed themselves and their friends to enter events – not necessarily to win, but just to participate, knowing that their contribution to the overall house points may be the difference to their house. It was inspiring to see so many students achieve personal bests – whether that be the times they swam or simply entering events they would not usually enter. We then held the Relay races between all the houses – worth double points. Again, it was impressive to see the support and kindness for each other when students came together as a team and worked together to be the best they could be. We had 2 staff relay teams enter the senior relay events, and it was pleasing to see the countless hours or training for the staff pay off. Better luck to the students for the relay races at the Athletics Carnival 😊

The overall House Champion and Age Champions will be announced shortly at an upcoming Assembly.

A big thanks to all of the parents, grandparents and other family members who showed up to support their children and help out with various roles – your support is truly appreciated. Well done

to all students and staff who attended and made it an amazing day to continue building the strong school culture we have at UCHSK!









UCHSK Clubs

Get involved in one of or several of the school clubs running during breaks and before and after school.

School clubs are a great way to have fun and build a connection to the school.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before School	Ag Club	Ag Club	Ag Club	Ag Club	Ag Club
Recess	Ag Club Book club (English open area) 7/8 Gridiron Club (UCHSK Ovals) Badminton Club (Gym)	Volleyball (Gym) STEM Club (Gamma Lab)	9/10 Gridiron Club (UCHSK Ovals) Volleyball (Gym) Stitches (Textiles Room)	Rainbow Connection (Room 30) Futsal (Gym) 7/8 Chess Club (Library 2)	Writing Club (Rm 30)
Lunch	Rainbow Connection (Room 30) Game Development (Library 2) Tabletop & Card Games Club (Rm 22)	Stop Mo Animation (Week A / odd weeks only) (Room 27)	Girls Group (Room 1)	Girls Group (Room 1) Futsal (gym) 9/10	Art Club (Art Room)
After School	Ag Club	Ag Club	Ag Club Homework Club (Library)	Ag Club	Ag Club

Interschool Sports

Upcoming events

- North Region Touch Football Gala day - Friday 1st March
- Volleyball ACT Beach Cup - Wednesday 6th March

Teaching and Learning

NAPLAN



NAPLAN testing will occur in our school between **13 and 25 March 2024** for students in years 7 and 9.

Online NAPLAN tests provide more precise results and are engaging for students. The tests are tailored (or adaptive), which means that each test presents questions that may be more or less difficult depending on a student's responses. This helps students remain engaged with the assessment.

Tailored testing allows a wider range of student abilities to be assessed and measures student achievement more precisely. A student's overall NAPLAN result is based on both the number and complexity of questions they answer correctly. Your child should not be concerned if they find questions challenging; they may be taking a more complex test pathway.

All Year 7 and Year 9 families will receive an email with further details about how NAPLAN will operate in our school in the coming days.

NAPLAN provides valuable information to schools and parents about literacy and numeracy achievement. It supports school improvement processes by enabling teachers to monitor student progress over time and to identify areas of strength and development.

All eligible students are encouraged and supported to participate in NAPLAN testing. Visit www.nap.edu.au to see interactive versions of the test and for more information.

Need to Know

UCHSK Carpark



The UCHSK Carpark can be very congested and often dangerous each morning and afternoon. We are requesting the support of parents and carers to ensure our carpark is as safe as possible for all students and community members.

When dropping off or picking up students (those ready and waiting), please use the designated area shown on the diagram in green (this is not a waiting area for cars).

All parents / carers **waiting** to pick up their child are asked to use the overflow carpark at the south-eastern end of the school driveway, marked in blue on the diagram.

Cars should not be double parked while waiting for students. This increases congestion and reduces the safety for all carpark users, in particular those students crossing the pedestrian crossing to access

the Baldwin Drive bus stop. Please avoid waiting to pick up students in the area marked in red on the diagram.

Thank you for your anticipated support on this issue.

Guardian Summaries

Google Guardian Summaries are another great way to keep up to date with what your child is working on in their classes.

Click the link below for additional information on how you can receive Google Guardian Summaries

[Guardian Summary Information](#)

School Photos



UCHSK school photos took place on **Wednesday 7th February**, and our catch up day was on **Monday 19th February**.

School photo flyers were distributed to students during Pastoral Care, Wednesday 31 January. These flyers detail information about purchasing school photos, with the preferred payment being online using the website and code.

If you still wish to purchase photos you can go to www.theschoolphotographer.com.au and enter the school code – X4024HSB54U, or scan the QR code on the attached flyer.

Family Contributions

Dear Parents and Carers,

Each year the Board of UC High School Kaleen requests Library Fund contributions from families to help support and enrich learning opportunities throughout our school.

2024 contributions to the Library Fund are now due.

This contribution supports learning opportunities through the purchase of:

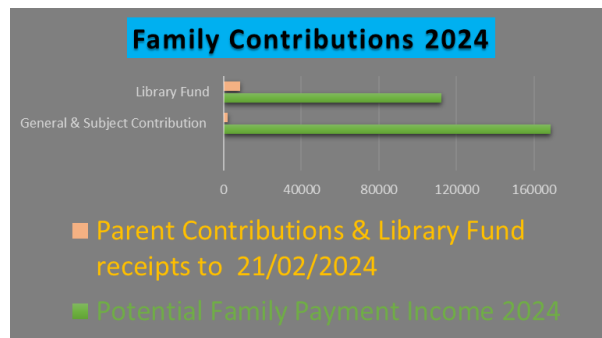
- Textbooks
- Fiction and Non-Fiction reading books.
- Research materials
- Library IT equipment and software

The requested Library contributions for 2024 are:

\$200 for the first child

\$100 for subsequent children

Requests for General & Subject Contributions will be emailed in Semester 2.



Library Fund & Voluntary Contributions		2024 Learning Program Investment	
Subject & General Contributions \$60 000 \$50 000 \$40 000 \$30 000 \$20 000 \$10 000	Subject & General Contributions	Playground enhancements (fitness equipment, shade options, additional bubblers)	Proposed Future Investment
		Necessary resourcing upgrades for new and existing elective classes (Music, School Paper, REAL – Student Leadership, Robotics & Mechatronics)	
		Guest speakers and presentations enriching core curriculum (Tomorrow Man, Courage to Care, Trouble, Happy Families, NRL's Voice Against Violence)	
		Contribution to online subscriptions to support student learning (Mathspace, Stile & Education Perfect)	
		Contribution to library refurbishment	
Library Trust Fund Contributions \$50 000 \$40 000 \$30 000 \$20 000 \$10 000 \$5000	Library Trust Fund Contributions	New textbooks, class novels & library media equipment	

Valuables in PE Classes

As the year is well and truly underway, it's an important time to remind all families of the processes for keeping belongings safe at school and in particular, during Physical Education lessons.

Firstly, we encourage all students not to bring items of great value (including cash) to school. The processes we have in place to keep students' belongings safe are as follows:

- *At the beginning of lessons, during the roll marking time, teachers bring a lockable Valuables Box to class.*

- *Students are to place their valuables in the box for the duration of the lesson, which will be locked, and locked away in a separate room for safe-keeping during the lesson.*
- *Students then move off to the PE changerooms to get changed into their PE shirts and lock their bags in the changeroom. Teachers lock the changerooms and classes move off to their respective areas for the lesson.*
- *Students are reminded to ensure that they bring their water bottle, any medication (eg. Asthma medication), sunscreen and hat to class, as changerooms are to remain locked during class time.*
- *At the conclusion of the lesson, teachers unlock the changerooms for students to change out of their PE shirt and back into their school uniform, before collecting valuables from the Valuables Box as the teacher unlocks it. Students then move off to their next lesson or recess/lunch.*

If you have any questions, please contact Ben Williams, SLC Physical Education & Health on benjamin.williams@ed.act.edu.au.

Thank You



The UCHSK community would like to give a big thank you to the Kaleen Supabarn and the Kaleen Family Bakery for their ongoing support to our Breakfast Club Program. Both small businesses have continuously given generous donations ensuring that our students have access to breakfast 2 days a week for the past 2 years. We really appreciate the support.

Advertising

Rugby

UNI-NORTHS OWLS J.R.U.

COME & GIVE
RUGBY
UNION A TRY THIS SEASON

JOIN THE TEAM:
The Uni-Norths Owls are currently recruiting players of ALL AGES and ALL GENDERS for the 2024 season.

WHY PLAY RUGBY?:
Rugby is an AWESOME sport and a great way to have FUN and FITNESS while you make new FRIENDS.

WHEN IS THE RUGBY SEASON?:
The ACT Junior Rugby Union season runs from MAY to SEPTEMBER with GAMES on SATURDAY MORNINGS.

DON'T MISS OUR 'COME & TRY' DAY:
13TH MARCH - 5 PM - 6:30 PM - FREE ENTRY
SOUTHWELL PARK, LYNEHAM, ACT

UNDER 7'S TO UNDER 18'S -
ALL GENDERS & ABILITIES WELCOME

For more information visit:
WWW.OWLSRUGBYJUNIORS.COM.AU

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BRUMBIES
RUGBY AU

Free period products in ACT public schools

In 2023 the ACT Government passed new legislation to make free period products available at a range of community locations across the ACT for anyone that needs them.

This is already something we do in ACT public schools and will continue to do so for free.

Pads and tampons are available in ACT public high schools, colleges, and combined schools. Pads are available in ACT public primary schools.

They can be accessed at any time during the school day from the front office for staff, students, and visitors.

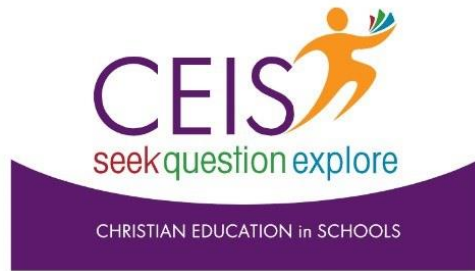
If you have any questions, please speak to your school front office.

You can read more about the initiative at:

<https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/women/period-products-access-project>

Christian Education in Schools

An expression of interest has been placed for Christian Education at University of Canberra High school Kaleen (based on provisions in the Education Act 2004). The Christian Education In Schools (CEIS) project can service such requests by making available an inclusive, open-ended session each term to explore and discuss the term focus.



One interactive session each term exploring:

- Easter - Could it be true?
- Beyond You - God and us?
- The Bible - Fact or fiction?
- Christmas - What's the point?

The Term 1 session will likely be offered on Friday 12 April (Wk 11).

Parent permission is essential for students to participate – click [here](#) to make a request.

Further information can be found at www.ceis.org.au

Youth Choirs

A collage of nine photographs showing youth choirs performing in various settings, including churches and outdoors. The photos are arranged in a 3x3 grid. The top row shows a church exterior, a church interior with a choir, and a church interior with a choir. The middle row shows a choir outdoors, a choir in a church, and a choir outdoors. The bottom row shows a choir outdoors, a choir outdoors, and a church building. The collage is set against a dark red background.

Youth Choirs

professionally run choral ensembles for ages 5-18
stpaulsmanuka.org.au

THE ANGLICAN
PARISH OF MANUKA
ST PAUL'S MANUKA
WITH ST DAVID'S RED HILL

Catering for ages 5-18 and expertly run by professional music teachers, the children's choirs at St Paul's Manuka offer a unique opportunity in Canberra for free, quality music education.

The choirs achieve a very high musical standard, but there is also a strong focus on inclusivity: there are no fees or auditions, and all children are warmly welcome to participate.

I would be very happy to answer any questions you may have in relation to our children's choral program at St Paul's Manuka. Further information can also be found on the St Paul's website: <https://www.stpaulsmanuka.org.au/st-pauls-childrens-choirs/>

Contact Us

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