Dear Parents and Friends,

We are nearing the end of our first term for 2013. We have had a very busy term and a lot has been achieved. Our new Learning and Support team has been busy coming to terms with the new way that support for students will work within the school. Most children would benefit from support in some area or another. Even our brightest students sometimes need some help. I know some parents were distressed when a letter came home telling them their child would be receiving some support. In hindsight maybe the letter could have been a bit clearer. However, an offer of support should not be seen as indicating that your child is failing or lagging behind. Our students who come from a non English speaking background, for example, may just need a little help with some grammar or a child learning to read may just need a little help with how to work out unknown words. Even our brightest students may have some gaps in their learning that a little bit of extra support would help fill. With a little extra help they just might “get it” and take off.

We have purchased many new resources and staff have been training in new programs so that we can better teach all students and help them reach greater heights. We hope that you will look at this opportunity as a positive not a negative. All our students deserve to be helped when needed.

Over the term we have purchased many new reading resources and “Bug Club” is now up and running. I am hearing that the students are enjoying it and wish there were even more books at the various levels. I have been told that we still need more books at particular levels so we will be looking at how we can continue to purchase more readers to fill in the gaps.

During Term 1 we were lucky enough to start using our new wireless network. Teachers are using the new laptops within their classrooms and we will be introducing our new iPads at the beginning of Term 2. We also expect our new netbooks to arrive shortly, also to be used by students within the classroom. Once these are introduced we hope to build up to a point where each Stage has a classroom set to access easily. So we will continue to fund raise to support this.

Whenever something new is introduced it takes some time to get it working right, so along with the introduction of the new technology the staff are investigating the best ways to use it within the classroom and how to make it easy to maintain.

Professional learning for staff has been critical to support our programs. As I have mentioned before all staff
are involved in the “Focus on Reading” project run by region. Both Mrs Cauchi and Mr Brent have spent many hours attending training, preparing materials and presenting to the staff this term. They have done an amazing job, often running two sessions a week after school so that no one misses out. I want to publicly thank them for their efforts. This project will continue for the full year. We have also been working on our implementation of the new English syllabus in 2014. Mrs De Jager has organized our training in a highly professional manner and our understanding of this new document has grown immensely.

We have also been reviewing and refining our “Positive Behaviour for Learning” program within the school under the guidance of Mr Thomson and his team. We look forward to the unveiling of our new school mascot soon who will become the face of our welfare systems within the school.

There are many more programs developing and changing. Our English as a Second Language systems need to change to suit our new curriculums, our music program has undergone some changes and a new drumming group will be formed soon, our PSSA teams for winter will now have girls soccer on offer, our dance and choir groups have been auditioning for this years performance opportunities and the list goes on. All this happens due to the hard work of everyone associated with the school.

I would like to thank you, our wonderful community, for your amazing support of the school; our staff for their incredible energy, drive and commitment to the students of our school and of course, our students, for being the amazing kids they are. We have had an amazing first term and I look forward to our achievements during the rest of the year.

Parent / Teacher Interviews

It was wonderful to see so many of you come along to meet with your children’s teachers. I hope you have found it a rewarding experience. Unfortunately some interviews have had to be changed and will be held early in Term 2. I am pleased with the feedback I have received indicating that teachers showed their understanding of where students are at and what they will be working on next. It is lovely to hear those positive comments. Teachers have also learnt more about the children they are teaching from talking with you. I know they will be using this information when planning for Term 2.

Staff Development Days

Just a reminder that the first two days of next term are pupil-free days. We have a very full program including sessions on Positive Behaviour for Learning, Focus on Reading, Trauma training, the new English syllabus and the literacy continuum, and electronic programming using the new syllabi.

Cupcakes for a Cure

Our SRC ran a very successful fundraiser, resulting in all of us being fed with yummy cakes as well as raising just over $600 to donate to support research into cancer. A big thank you to all the cooks – your cakes were delicious! Well done SRC (and mums of course).

Soccer

The Ridges boys’ soccer team finished 2nd at this week's SW Soccer Carnival. After coming so close last year the boys were determined to make the final. The team played Castle Hill in the final, losing 1-0. This is a fantastic result and we would like to congratulate Ben W. on his amazing effort as part of this team. Ben has been selected as one of four boys from Ridges in the train-on squad who have trials this week. Good luck Ben and well done!

State Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to all our students who swam at the State Swimming Carnival. They certainly are fish. As you have probably heard Mikey will now swim at the Australian Carnival in Adelaide later this year after coming first in his race. What an amazing effort. This is quite expensive for his family. In order to help a raffle is being run to raise the funds. Tickets are available at the office. If all our families bought just one ticket at $2 a ticket we would raise most of the money to help Mikey get to Adelaide. I encourage you to support him in his endeavours.

Parent Helpers

We have lots of parents volunteering to help out in classrooms. Some mums are at school today making Maths resources for Stage 1. Thank you to all our volunteers – we really appreciate your help!

P&C

I am hoping that our P&C executive will be filled by the time you receive this newsletter with the appointment of a President. Being on the P&C is hard work but very rewarding and I thank all those parents who give of their valuable time to support the school in this way. I look forward to working with you throughout the year.
Parenting Tips
There is a link in this newsletter to one of Michael Grosse’s tip sheet. Michael writes parenting tips and tips for teachers that are very informative. We have subscribed as a school and will regularly pass on his “pearls of wisdom”. I hope you find them useful.

Uniform
A reminder that we will change to winter uniform at the beginning of Term 2 (depending on the weather of course).

I wish you all the best for the school holidays and look forward to a great Term 2
Anne Forbes, Principal

STOP PRESS: Great News we have a P&C President. Mrs Leigh Kostiainen was elected at the P&C meeting held on Wednesday evening 10 April 2013. Congratulations Leigh!

Deputy Principal’s Report
To all of the parents and community members I’ve had the chance to meet over my first term at Ironbark Ridge I would just like to say a huge “Thank you!” Your welcome into this great learning community has been much appreciated. I have no doubt my time here at Ironbark Ridge Public School will be busy and exciting but most importantly I’m sure the relationships I forge with you and your children will be positive and rewarding.

A special thank you to the students of Ironbark Ridge. You have been extremely friendly and welcoming to me and I look forward to spending time with you all on your learning journeys while you are at this fantastic school.

Have a wonderful, safe, refreshing break from school and come back in two weeks ready to strive towards our school's motto: “Strength, Respect, Excellence.”

Mr Thomson, Deputy Principal

ANZAC DAY:
The school will be holding its ANZAC Day assembly on Wednesday 1st May, 2013. This is the first day that students return for Term 2.
We would be grateful for your donation of any flowers that could be made into wreaths. Please send your flowers to the office on Wednesday morning.

Janette Barton
Ridgy Didge Awards

Term 1 Week 10

**Principal's Award:** K Blinky Bills for their beautiful classroom

**KB**  Katherine L., Ryan S., Darcy S.  
**KD**  Cooper D., Khamatip S., Tyler D.  
**1B**  Sienna P., James B., Lauren J., Abby C.  
**1T**  Keenan M., Tammin B., Donny C.  
**2M**  Cavan B., Charlotte S., Kaitlin C. Jade F.  
**3J**  David K., Cooper S., Amithi V., Rhyen S., Matthew C., Tara D.  
**3/4P**  Jai-Leigh O., River W., Nikki C., Ethan B. Cameron V.  
**4W**  Curtis A., Tomas B., Sushanna L., Kiara H.  
**5/6K**  Luke C., Annika R., Isabelle S.  
**5/6M**  Harrison Y., Eric W., Josh P., Dakotah L., Amin S  
**6D**  Dillan K., Annika S., Jaemin A., Smrithi V., Chloe J.  

**CHINESE:**  K Blinky Bills

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Term 1 Week 11

**Principal's Award:**

**KW**  Hannah S., Lucia P., Alex H.,  
**KB**  Janice H., Jayee C., Jorge C.  
**1N**  Thomas N., Eloise M., Charlotte P., Akash G.  
**1/2C**  Sienna H., Charlize S., Tabitha H., Khematep S.  
**2B**  Emily N., Dilan P., Jayden B., Harry McG.  
**3SP**  Ryan J., Chloe P., Lachlan R., Kodi S., Amber H.  
**4S**  Khamata S., Eliza D., Zack B., Aiden Z., Maha N.  
**5H**  Emmanuel S., Kexiz L., Scott H., Neha S., Tanya M.  
**5/6S**  Maddison M., Deniel H., Rebecca C., Dominic A.  
**5/6M**

**CHINESE:**  2 Kingfisher
Many thanks to all parents who attended Early Stage 1 parent interviews over the past few weeks. We hope you enjoyed them as much as we did. It was great to be able to celebrate and discuss your children’s successes with you. If you didn’t get the chance to meet with your teacher please feel free to make arrangements via the office.

Ironbark Ridge Public School is a Crunch and Sip accredited school and this means that Kindergarten will start participating in Fruit Break in Term 2. Each student needs to bring a small serve of fruit to be consumed during class time each morning before recess. Could all parents please provide their children with a small portion of cut fruit that they enjoy eating. Where possible please ensure that fruit is washed and cut into suitable sized pieces and that it is not excessively juicy. Sliced apples, strawberries, a mandarin or a few melon pieces all with the skin off are just a few examples of what students might bring. Please no nuts, eggs, fish or other foods that may produce an allergic response in students should be sent to school for recess, lunch or fruit break.

Please ensure that all permission notes and money are returned to the office by the due date to enable payment and arrangements to be made. All Kindy Dance Group permission notes need to be returned by Friday 12th April (last day of Term 1). Gymnastics begins in Term 2 so all notes and money need to be returned by Friday 3rd May 2013 (first Friday of Term 2).

Next term home reading will start for Early Stage 1. Every week a reader will be sent home for each Kindy student to read. Please return readers in folders provided on days allocated by class teachers:

- KD and KB readers will be sent home on Mondays and will need to be returned on Fridays.
- KBB readers will be sent home on Fridays and returned on Thursdays.
- KW readers will be sent home on Wednesdays and returned on Tuesdays.

Home readers should be read each day by students and some support may be required from parents. Please -

- Read each book to students, then get them to read it with you. Finally ask your child to read it back to you.
- As well each week, on a few days ask students to copy a sentence from the book with correct grammar and punctuation.
- Copy this sentence onto a paper strip, cut it up and ask students to reassemble it.
- On alternate days parents should dictate this sentence to students and get them to write it without looking at it.
- Children should also identify and write sound, sight and camera words found in their reader.

In the meantime keep enjoying Bug Club.

Hope you have a safe and happy holiday!

The Early Stage 1 Team
STAGE 3 SNIPPITS:
The Stage 3 students have been hard at work this term. They have had fun with the topics of ‘Democracy’ and ‘Our Place in Space’, presenting tasks in creative ways. No doubt, they are eagerly awaiting 3pm on Friday and already have their holiday entertainment planned!

A very excited debating team returned to school last week, after winning their debate against Rouse Hill. The elated team members were Owen Moule, Darcy Andrews, Jonathan Staker and Tanya Motiani. Well done!
We are looking forward to the ‘Be Skilled Be Fit’ programme that will commence next term. Please ensure that the office receives the payments by the 3rd of May. Likewise, the payments for our trip to Canberra, also need to be sent to the office.

Thank you to the parents who came in for interviews. It was lovely to meet you and to share with you, the positive ways in which we can continue this exciting Stage 3 journey.

Stage 3 Teachers

CHINESE NEWS:
Nǐ hǎo! 你好
This fortnight in Chinese all of the students have been assessed on all four of their language skills – reading, writing, listening and speaking. Each student was given the opportunity to show what they have learned this term having completed a listening task where they listened to a conversation between two people and answered questions, a reading and writing task where they read and wrote words and phrases in both pinyin and characters, and a speaking task where students spoke with me in a one-on-one situation. Although assessments are done informally all term, a formal assessment is completed at the end of each term as well to consolidate their learning. I was very happy with their efforts!

Mrs Linda Przyrembel – Chinese Teacher K-6

SPORT:
PSSA Weekly Sport
Although disrupted by rain as usual for a couple of weeks we have had a great start to the Summer season. Further rounds in the competition will be played from the start of Term 4.

We now move into Winter sports for Terms 2 and 3. This Friday morning we will be trialling students for new teams in football (girls, boys, both senior and junior), netball (girls only, senior and junior), rugby league (boys only, senior and junior), and newcombe ball (girls, boys, senior only). Good luck to all students who wish to trial on Friday. A second trial morning will be held on the first Friday back next term before teams are chosen. Any parents interested in offering their skills and time to train or coach a team in the mornings or afternoons at school over the next two terms should send their details to the school office.

It will be great to watch our students’ skills develop next term as they participate in the ‘Be Skilled, Be Fit’ program in addition to the weekly sport program for Years 3-6.

Ms McDonald & Mr Thomson
**Sydney West Rep Teams**

Congratulations to Ben W. (5/6M) who has been selected in the Sydney West Soccer Team. We wish him all the best.

PD/H/PE Committee.

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**Results of the NSW PSSA Swimming Carnival**

Congratulations to our six competitors (Mikey, Deniel, Dylan, Josh, Andrew and Preston) who represented Ironbark Ridge PS at the State Swimming Carnival. Your hours of training have certainly given you all wonderful achievements. We need to acknowledge the outstanding success of Mikey. He is now the fastest ten year old male swimmer in NSW, swimming 50 m Freestyle in 30.79 seconds. In winning the gold medal in this event, Mikey has now qualified for the National Swimming Carnival to be held in Adelaide in September. What an amazing feat for such a young boy! This excellence in swimming doesn’t come without hours of gruelling training. Mikey trains six sessions every week for two hours at a time. The hard work has certainly paid dividends. We are proud of all our school representatives, but Mikey’s achievement is truly outstanding. To assist Mikey in travelling to Adelaide, we have raffle tickets for sale at the School front office. We would appreciate it if everyone would support Mikey by purchasing tickets. Tickets are $2 each.

Thanking You

Judy Paton and Tracy Sayer

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**SRC FUNDRAISING – Cup Cake Sale**

Thankyou to everyone who bought the lovely cupcakes yesterday for the SRC Fundraising. We raised $626.60. Amazing!!!
ADMINISTRATION NEWS:

PARENT ALERT:

Pediculosis (Head Lice)
Cases of pediculosis (head lice) have been detected in our school. You should check your child’s hair to ensure they are free of lice. Should you find any evidence you will need to treat your child’s hair with products that are available from pharmacies.

Collection of money/change
Please note that any change over the amount of $5.00 will be held at the office for collection. If you would like your child to collect the change, please give them a written authority. Alternatively, you can collect this money before or after school from the office.

SCHOOL BANKING DAY REMINDER:

Don’t forget that Friday is School Banking day and students should bring in their weekly deposit. For every deposit made at school, no matter how big or small, students will receive a cool Dollarmites token. The first token will be received upon the first deposit at school. Once students have individually collected 10 tokens they can then be redeemed for a range of great, exclusive reward items in recognition of their continued savings behaviour.

Thank you for supporting the School Banking program.

WELFARE MATTERS:

KIDSMATTER

What does this means at Ironbark Ridge Public School?
We want to have a proactive approach to making sure our students are mentally healthy. Teachers are implementing a variety of social and emotional lessons to teach students the necessary skills needed to approach and cope with whatever life deals them.

Please find attached a link to our Parent Survey. [www.kidsmatter.edu.au/primary/parentsurvey](http://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/primary/parentsurvey)

If you would like a hard copy to fill out please ask at the office.

We would love if you could fill this in online by 4th May. This will help to inform our action plan for future implementation of the Kidsmatter program. If you would like further information please contact our Jenni McCarthy, Student Wellbeing Team via the front office.
Introducing KidsMatter Primary

Do kids matter? Of course! They matter to families, to schools and to the community. These are the groups that KidsMatter Primary wants to bring together to improve children's mental health.

Good mental health is vital for learning and life. Children who are mentally healthy are better able to meet life’s challenges. They also learn better and have stronger relationships with teachers, family members and peers.

KidsMatter Primary is a national mental health initiative that has been trialled nationally in over 100 schools since it began in late 2006. KidsMatter Primary has been developed in collaboration with the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, *beyondblue: the national depression initiative*, the Australian Psychological Society, and Principals Australia (formerly the Australian Principals Association’s Professional Development Council). The trial was also supported by Australian Rotary Health (formerly the Australian Rotary Health Research Fund).

Research has found that up to 14% of Australian children have mental health problems such as anxiety, depression and behaviour problems. Only one out of every four young people with mental health problems receives professional help. Sometimes this is because parents, carers and school staff are unsure whether children need further help. They may not know what kind of help is available or where to get it. In some cases it may be difficult to access child and adolescent mental health services in their area.

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KidsMatter Primary has three major aims:
- To improve the mental health and wellbeing of primary school students
- To reduce mental health problems among students
- To achieve greater support for those students experiencing mental health problems

One in seven Australian children have mental health problems - KidsMatter Primary aims to reduce this.

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The four components of KidsMatter Primary

Schools can make a difference to children’s mental health and wellbeing by addressing four key areas. Each KidsMatter Primary school will be working on the following four components:

1. A positive school community
   Positive relationships at school enable children and families to feel that school is a place where they feel welcome, where they will be listened to and where they can contribute. A positive school community helps children feel that school is a safe place where their needs can be met. Research has shown that when children and families feel connected to the school, children are less likely to develop mental health problems and they succeed better at school.

2. Social and emotional learning for students
   Learning how to manage feelings and get on with others is an important part of children’s development that helps them learn better and feel good about themselves. Teaching children social and emotional skills as part of the school curriculum gives them tools for coping with emotions, solving problems and learning more effectively.

3. Parenting support and education
   If we want to promote children’s mental health and wellbeing, it makes sense for families and schools to work closely together. Schools can support parents and carers in their central role of caring for children by making useful information and resources about parenting available and by letting them know where they can get further assistance.

4. Early intervention for students who are experiencing mental health difficulties
   When children and families are able to access effective mental health intervention early it can make a significant difference to their lives. KidsMatter Primary schools learn to respond more effectively to children’s mental health difficulties by identifying when problems may need follow-up, providing information for families and developing links with mental health services in their local area.

This resource is part of the KidsMatter Primary initiative. We welcome your feedback at www.kidsmatter.edu.au
What social and emotional learning is all about

School is not only about reading, writing and arithmetic. It’s also about making friends, learning how to work with others, and knowing how to be more responsible for yourself.

Knowing how to manage feelings and get on with others are important skills for everyone. This kind of learning starts in early childhood with parents and carers as children’s most important first teachers.

Research has found that teaching children social and emotional skills at school as well as at home makes a positive difference to their wellbeing. Social and emotional skills help school children settle in the classroom and get on with learning. Useful skills to learn include:

- coping with frustrations or worries
- getting along with others
- solving problems.

The kinds of social and emotional skills that are important for children to develop have been identified by researchers as:

**Self-awareness**
- understanding feelings, self-confidence

**Social awareness**
- respecting and understanding others, and appreciating differences between people

**Self-management**
- managing emotions, being able to set goals and stick to them

**Responsible decision making**
- choosing wisely and thoughtfully

**Relationship skills**
- cooperating, communicating, making friends and resolving conflict.

As part of KidsMatter Primary, your school will be teaching lessons on social and emotional skills to all students.

Research shows that children benefit most from social and emotional learning when it is taught in regular school lessons and matched to children’s learning stages. All national, state and territory curricula include personal and social development as a major learning area for primary school children.

Today’s timetable:
- Handwriting practice
- Times tables
- Group reading
- Playtime
- Managing our feelings
- Lunchtime
- Art
celebrating public education

The Public Education Foundation invites you to attend an evening celebrating the achievements of our students, teachers and public school communities.

With the Hon. Adrian Piccoli MP, Minister for Education
Hosted by Craig Reucassel of The Chaser

Join us
Tuesday 30th
April, 2013
7pm – 8.30pm
Sydney Town Hall
483 George Street
Sydney

Entry is free but registration prior to the event is essential to reserve your seat.

Register at:
publiceducationfoundation.eventbrite.com.au

Scan QR code to register

Supported by:
Public Education Foundation
NSW Education & Communities
Parenting the family underdog

Raising talented kids is relatively easy, but parenting children and young people who struggle can be a significant parenting challenge.

One of the unwritten laws of family life is that talent and ability are unevenly distributed between siblings.

In most families there is one child who seems to have more than his or her fair share of ability. Everything this kid turns their hands to – whether schoolwork, sport or socialising – is done successfully and effortlessly.

If you have such a child then there is a fair bet that another of your children struggles in the same area. For these children, achieving success takes more effort and concentration than it does for their sibling.

Just as it is easy for parents to marvel at the talented child, it’s frustrating and, at times, heart-breaking to watch another child struggle to attain even mediocre levels of success at school, sport or leisure activities.

It’s harder still when you know that no matter how hard this child tries they just cannot be as successful as their sibling, who continues to get all the glory and accolades from relatives and friends.

As a parent it’s important to be realistic about what each child can achieve. Keep your expectations in line with their ability and maturity, and avoid making comparisons between siblings.

Here are some ideas to keep in mind if you are parenting a child for whom success at school, sport and other common childhood activities just doesn’t come naturally.

1. Be your child’s cheerleader. Kids who have to work really hard to achieve need someone in their lives who is able to boost their self-confidence, particularly when they are struggling. Make a fuss over small successes so they can puff up their chests every now and then.

2. Focus your comments on contribution, improvement and effort. It’s difficult praising kids when the results aren’t there but you can always focus your comments on their contribution to the team. Focus on things improvements shown in reading or the effort they are making at art.

3. Remember that persistence pays. Children who persist learn an important life lesson – that is, success in most endeavours takes effort. Those kids who sail through their childhoods without raising a sweat can struggle when eventually they do have to work long and hard to succeed.

4. Help kids identify their strengths. Kids are like niche marketers – they define themselves by their strengths. “I am a good reader” or “I’m sporty” or “I’m really good at art” are some of the labels kids will use. As they move into adolescence the number of options for success opens up, so help them find one or two areas that they enjoy and can easily achieve success in.

5. Don’t put kids on pedestals. It is difficult living in the shadow of a superstar so avoid making a huge fuss over the achievements of a particular child – it makes life difficult for those who follow. Recognise results but balance that by focusing equally on the efforts of the others as well.

Raising kids who find life a breeze is easy. However, parenting the underdog who takes longer to mature or who must put in 110% effort to achieve is challenging for any parent. It requires parents to focus on kids’ strengths, be liberal with encouragement and have realistic but positive expectations for success.
Emma Ashley (Mum to Dom & Lizie in year 6) and her husband, Ash, along with a whole bunch of Rouse Hill Rams Soccer Committee members are taking part in the Relay for Life on 4th/5th May at Wrights Road Oval, Kellyville.
The walk is a 24hr relay to raise funds for the Cancer Council as well as raising awareness of cancer in our society and celebrating those who are fighting, surviving or who have lost their fight.
Added to this, Emma & Ash have also, along with some of the soccer folk, signed up to have their heads shaved as part of the World Record Attempt for simultaneous head shaving which will take place at 8pm on 4th May on the main stage. If you would like to support the Rouse Hill Rams Soccer Committee in their endeavours to raise money for such a fantastic cause, or if you would like to support Emma in her madness, please follow this link:

If you too are mad enough to have your head shaved for a great cause (maybe you just always wondered how you would look?) or if you are a hairdresser with a couple of hours to spare on Saturday 4th May at 7pm, then please follow this link:

May The Fourth Be With You!

**FUNDRAISING NEWS:**

**MOTHERS DAY STALL**
This year we are selling $10, $5 and $3 presents on 9 May 2013. For those of you who are new to the school, children are taken to the hall in class time to purchase a present (optional) for mum for mother’s day. Children are allowed to buy one present in class time but can take extra money and buy extra presents at lunch time if there are any left over. You can pre-purchase your gifts on flexischools so that the kids don’t lose their money. The advantage of flexischools is that you can pre-buy as many presents as you like AND they are guaranteed to get those gifts in class time.

We are asking for donations of appropriate gifts to be made to the office by the end of term e.g. soaps, coffee mugs, chocolates, books, pen sets, cosmetics, cosmetic sets, scarves, perfume etc… think of something that you would like your child to buy for you and remember that we have $10, $5, $3 selling prices. If possible it makes it easier if the gifts are wrapped in clear cellophane.

**BUNNINGS BBQ – 13 April 2013**
Wow thank you our roster is full. Drop in and buy a sausage sandwich and say HI!

**COOKBOOKS**
IRPS cookbooks are available on flexischools for $20. Why not purchase for mother’s day they make a great gift and even better, they are made up by recipes from IRPS families. Order forms are also available below.

**LOYALTY PROGRAMS**
The following companies provide P&C endorsed Loyalty Programs for Ironbark Ridge Public School:

**IGA Beaumont Hills**
Place your docket in the Ironbark Ridge Public School box and a percentage of your sales comes back to the school as a fundraiser.
Athlete's Foot Rouse Hill / Blacktown
Athletes Foot will give the school $5 per pair of sneakers or school shoes purchased from either of these stores.

Boredom Busters
BOREDOM BUSTERS offers tailored Australia-wide entertainment lay-by packages to suit any family's budget. Now you can prepare for the holidays, gradually paying off your movie tickets and theme park passes ensuring that everyone is happy and entertained! We have over 90 products to choose from for any budget and family size. Customerservice@boredombusters.com.au or www.boredombusters.com.au

Body Shop
We are in the process of arranging a loyalty program with one of the mums from our school who is a Body Shop Consultant. Further information will be coming soon.

That's Mine Labels
That's Mine Labels provides 10% of sales back to the school as a fundraiser. Please write the school's name on your order form.

PoolWerx
5% rebate back to the school. Any purchases whatsoever - Simple as that!
The rebate applies to both in store purchases and at home service (we have 5 service vehicles to complete onsite service and maintenance). The parents simply need to let us know they are supporting Ironbark Ridge and forever more the computer will track their purchases!

Reading Cinemas Rewards
Go to Reading Cinemas Rouse Hill, and hand in one of the coupons in the school newsletter each time you buy a ticket to watch a movie. Reading are helping the school towards achieving FREE MOVIE PASSES that our SRC can use as prizes or rewards! For every 10 coupons that Reading Cinemas receive from our families, we will receive ONE FREE MOVIE TICKET. So if a family of four go to the movies, that’s 4 coupons towards our 10 coupon target.
The more coupons handed in – the more chances we get. Its very easy and simple – and you can help the school just by cutting out the coupons and taking them along! If you need more coupons, photocopies are accepted, and remember – hand in 1 coupon for EVERY movie ticket being bought!

COOKBOOK ORDER FORM

Total number of books required:_______________@ $20 each

Name:  _______________________________________________________

Contact Number:  _____________________________________________

Childs Name:  ________________________________________________

Class:  ______________________________________________________

Amount: $_________________________ (please circle) cash / cheque /Flexischools

Questions? Please e-mail fundraising.ironbark@gmail.com
Dear Parents,

**IT'S BACK!!!!**

This year again, we will be participating in the Woolworths Earn & Learn program. Through this program we will be able to get new educational resources for our school – and all we need you to do is shop for your groceries at Woolworths.

From Monday 8th April to Sunday 9th June, we are collecting Woolworths Earn & Learn Points. You will get one Woolworths Earn & Learn Point for every $10 spent (excluding liquor, tobacco and gift cards). Place the Woolworths Earn & Learn Points onto a Woolworths Earn & Learn Points Sheet and when it’s complete, the Points Sheet can be dropped into the Collection Box in the front office.

At the end of the promotion, we’ll be able to get some great new equipment. The range is extensive and offers lots of items ideal for our students – including resources for Maths, English, Science and some fantastic fun supplies for Arts & Craft, Sport and for our library. If you’d like to know more visit woolworths.com.au/earnandlearn or any questions please email me at calderwood3@bigpond.com

PLEASE help make it easier for us by sticking the stickers on the point’s sheet and only placing COMPLETED sheets in the box. It will save us many hours a week, and we are sure that you understand that we are just 2 parents helping the school by running this promotion, so your assistance is appreciated.

Last year we collected an AMAZING **97,790 points** so this year we have a big job to try and match that target! So… START COLLECTING AND STICKING!

*Monica Calderwood & Jo Bustin*
*Earn & Learn co-ordinators*

**CANTEEN NEWS:**

Please be advised that the canteen will be CLOSED on Friday the 12th April for stock take. No orders will be processed on this day so please send lunch with your child.

**TERM 2 CANTEEN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

The Term 2 roster is now open and needs to be filled. If you are interested in helping out in the canteen please get in touch with us on ironbarkridgeps.canteen@gmail.com

All help is appreciated so if you have some time to spare even an hour we look forward to hearing from you.

Remember the canteen cannot operate without the help from our volunteers. All funds raised from the canteen go back into the school to provide resources for are children.

*Thank you from the Ironbark Ridge Canteen Committee*
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COMMUNITY NOTICES:

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN SYDNEY
PENRITH OBSERVATORY

School Holiday Kids Astronomy Programs
April 2013

Family Astronomy Nights - Saturday 13 & 20 (7pm – 9 pm)
Astronomy Close to Home
These nights will include a talk on astronomical phenomena that we observe around our planet, a 3D astronomy movie and viewing of the night sky through the University’s 0.6 metre and 0.25 telescopes. Our programs run regardless of the weather.

Kids Fun Day - Wednesday 24 April (10 am – 12 noon)
Earth Chemistry - looking at all those chemicals in our world which came to us from the explosion of a star! Come along and also watch a 3D astronomy movie, water rockets being launched or safely do some sun spotting through the University’s computerised telescopes.

Cost: $15 adult, $10 child/concession and $40 family.
Bookings are essential: Book online: www.uws.edu.au/observatory, What’s On
Enquiries: Phone (02) 4736 0135 or email r.mccourt@uws.edu.au
**April School Holiday Clinics**

**CRICKET, RUGBY, MULTI-SPORT**

Lindfield, Lindfield Oval
15-18 APRIL - 9am-1pm (4 days, $210)

Moore Park, Centennial Parklands
(Cricket, Multisport Clinics)
16-19 APRIL - 9am-1pm (4 days, $240)

**INCLUDES:** Tour of SCG + Training at SCG nets

Moore Park, Centennial Parklands
(Rugby Clinic)
22-24 APRIL - 9am-2pm (3 days, $240)

**INCLUDES:** Tour of SCG

St. Ives, Hassell Park
22-24 APRIL - 9am-2pm (3 days, $210)

**Enrol Now Book On-line**

Daily casual rates $70 or $80 SCG clinics

**Sports Birthday Parties**

Private CRICKET & RUGBY Coaching

Conducted by Geoff Spotswood, Level 3 Coach, Cricket Australia

Contact Geoff on 0401 382 409 or 0489 8187
geofficricketcoachingclinics.com.au

Book online cricketcoachingclinics.com.au

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**parkwaydiner**

Shop 7, 70 The Parkway
Beaumont Hills

Telephone: 8824 9572

Reservations:
reservations@parkwaydiner.com.au

www.parkwaydiner.com.au

For Ironbark Ridge Public School
$5 Coffee and Cake
Just mention this Advertisement

---

**Your local eatery**

Breakfast 7 days from 8.30 am
Lunch 7 days from 11 am
Dinner By Appointment for Parties and functions
Looking for Volunteer Host Families
World Education Program (WEP) is inviting you to experience another culture in your own home by becoming a volunteer host family to an international student arriving in July 2013. Our students from Italy, Belgium, Finland, France, Switzerland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Brazil and Chile are looking forward to experiencing life in Australia, making new friends and becoming a member of an Australian family soon.

Find Out more!
Getting to know your student before he or she arrives brings fun and joy to everyone involved. Take the next step and contact WEP today to receive a full information pack for your family.

Sylvia Kelly
Manager – Inbound Exchange Programs
Phone: 1300 884 733
Email: info@wep.org.au
Online: http://www.wep.org.au

*** WANTED ***

SOCcer PLAYERS
for Kenthurst & District Soccer Club
Roughley Road, Kenthurst

- Not too late to register!
- Join a very successful club and have fun too
- The Club can still accommodate players in most age groups, but would like more boys and girls for our U7’s, and girls for our U14G’s (which includes girls aged U12 & U13) and U16G’s (which includes girls aged U15)
- You don’t need any previous experience as our talented Coaches will teach you...
- For more information call 9654 1251 or 0409 997 813, or email cathye@tpg.com.au
- www.kenthurstsoccer.com.au

FREE fun program for kids to become fitter, healthier &
THE HILLS SHIRE COUNCIL

 VOLUNTEERS
 Council says “Thank You”

THE HILLS SHIRE CELEBRATES NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK 13 - 19 MAY 2013

Do you volunteer in The Hills Shire Council area or do you live here and volunteer elsewhere? The Hills Shire Council wants to say thank you for volunteering.

We are offering 2 FREE tickets per volunteer via a ballot system to either a movie, musical or theatre performance.

BALLOT CLOSURES: Tuesday 30 April 2013

TO ENTER:
Post to:
Volunteer Free Tickets Ballot
The Hills Shire Council
P.O. Box 75
CASTLE HILL NSW 1765

OR Apply Online: Visit www.thehills.nsw.gov.au and click on “Customer e-requests” in the green panel.

Alternatively drop ballot papers in at Council’s Customer Service Centre
Monday - Friday 8.30 am - 4.30 pm
129 Showground Road, Castle Hill
Fax: 9843 0409

NOTE: Tickets are free and are limited to two per volunteer. Successful applicants will have their tickets posted to them prior to the event.

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BALLOT FORM
TWO FREE TICKETS FOR OUR VOLUNTEERS

Please number in order of your preference.

☐ READING CINEMAS, ROUSE HILL
   Iron Man 3 | Monday 13 May 2013 | 7pm

☐ DUARAL MUSICAL SOCIETY
   Aidan | Sunday 10 May 2013 | 2pm

☐ EVENT CINEMAS, CASTLE HILL
   The Great Gatsby | Monday 13 May 2013 | 7pm

☐ HILLS MUSICAL SOCIETY
   The Wedding Singer | Wednesday 12 June 2013 | 8pm at Castle Hill RSL Club

☐ THE PAVILION THEATRE, CASTLE HILL
   Enemy of the People | Friday 28 June 2013 | 8.15pm

Name: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________
Suburb: __________ Postcode: ______
Phone: ____________________________

Name of Organisation where you volunteer: ____________________________
Suburb of Organisation: ____________________________

Privacy Statement: Any information provided by you will be stored on a database that will be only accessed by authorised personnel and is subject to privacy restrictions. To be eligible to enter the ballot draw and receive tickets you must:
1. be a volunteer
2. Complete all details on the ballot form in block letters
3. Nominate your preference in number order
4. Provide the name and suburb of the organisation where you volunteer

9843 0555 | www.thehills.nsw.gov.au

CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRE
129 Showground Rd, Castle Hill
PO Box 75, Castle Hill NSW 1765
council@thehills.nsw.gov.au

MEETING DATES
ORDINARY MEETING
Council Chamber | 7pm
Tuesday, 9 April 2013
Tuesday, 23 April 2013
DISCLAIMER:
Ironbark Ridge Public School newsletter contains paid advertisements which assist with the cost of publication. The publication of such advertisements does not imply endorsement of any product or service by the NSW Department of Education and Communities or Ironbark Ridge Public School.
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<td>PSSA Winter – Rnd1</td>
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<td>Newsletter</td>
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<td>NAPLAN (Yr/8&amp;G) – Tue: Language/Writing, Wed: Reading, Thu: Numeracy, Fri: ‘catch-up’</td>
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<td>PULSE Choir rehearsal Assembly 2pm</td>
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<td>Newsletter Pulse Choir rehearsal Assembly 2pm</td>
<td>Student Progress Reports sent home</td>
<td>Last day T2</td>
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