Dear Parents and Friends,

Welcome back for Term 2 and a warm welcome to our new families. Our first days back were extremely busy with training on the new English syllabus, electronic programming of our school programs, student welfare and our school welfare systems, dealing with children who have experienced trauma and our Focus on Reading training. I'm sure you will agree that this is a lot to take in over two days!

It was wonderful to see all of our students back, fresh for a new term. However, some of them did admit to having trouble getting out of bed this morning. We then had our Anzac service with our students. Thank you for all the beautiful flowers for us to lay, honouring our Anzacs and other servicemen. During the break our school captains represented our school at the Castle Hill dawn service. We appreciate their families giving up their time to take them along to the service.

We now officially have 22 classes for the remainder of the year - unless of course we get enough new enrolments for a 23rd class. As mentioned earlier, we were a couple of children short last term but I took the risk and formed 22 classes. This meant that for a few weeks after census the school was paying for an extra teacher. The formation of 22 classes was a much better fit for our school.

Be Skilled Be Fit

As you already know we are having gymnastics this term. This is a great opportunity for our students to work with personnel who are trained in gymnastics skills – something that most teachers are not that experienced in. Please make sure you know what day your child’s lesson is on and of course send back permission for them to take part. No child will be able to take part without written permission.

Dance Groups

Congratulations to our dance groups on their great auditions for “The Sydney West Dance Festival”. I was proud of you all. Given the nature of the festival not all our groups were successful. Our Year One dance group and the Year Two dance group will be performing in June at the Evan Theatre in Penrith Panthers. Well done to you all. We will be looking for further opportunities for our students to perform throughout the year.

Year 6 Fundraising

Our Year 6 students will be selling “spider” drinks on Thursday to raise money for their farewell activities and their gift to the school. We have decided that these activities will be ones where students get something for their money ie a drink, a cake or a fun activity. So I urge you to support them in their endeavours.
P&C
I am pleased to announce that we have a fully functioning P&C. Thank you to Leigh Kostiainen who was
voted as President; Brad Greentree and Amanda Stewart Vice-Presidents; Deanne Baronoff Treasurer and
Karen Lynch Secretary. We also have Mel Posner and Nic Keyvar Canteen Coordinators; and Nicolle
Greentree Fundraising Coordinator. Thank you to each of these people for standing in these positions and
for their dedication to our school and its community. I am really looking forward to working with them to make
sure our school is a fantastic, inspiring place for all of us to be.

School Finances
We have been informed by the Department that our move to the new funding system has been delayed. We
now expect this to happen some time in Term 3 or 4. We will continue as per normal until then. We are
however, having an audit in June placing extra workload and pressure on our Office staff. This is a normal
routine audit that includes aspects of occupational health and safety. I expect we will pass with flying colours.
This is probably the best place to say how pleased we are that NSW has signed up for Gonski! We don’t
know as yet what that will mean to us at Ironbark Ridge but I am hopeful that it will be a positive for all
schools including ours. “These are exciting times, with opportunities and challenges ahead of us that should
ignite and inspire the determination we all share to provide the very best public education system for
students and teachers in our care” (David Phipps, Regional Director Western Sydney).

NAPLAN
You will be aware that NAPLAN commences in Week 3. We are gearing up in our Year 3 & 5 classes for
these tests. We expect the students will do well and wish them all the best. It is important that students are
well rested and not feeling too anxious about the tests. They will have been well-prepared so will know what
to expect. I have included an article in this newsletter that gives some tips for coping with getting ready for
NAPLAN

Have a wonderful fortnight,
Anne Forbes
Principal

Deputy Principal’s Report
Fundraising BBQ
Thank you to all parents involved in the fantastic fundraising BBQ held at Bunnings, Rouse Hill, on the first
day of the recent holidays. I had a great time chatting, laughing, and getting to know a number of parents as
we sold snags, drinks and recipe books to raise much needed funds for our P&C (and obviously indirectly for
the resources we use to support and enhance the learning of all students at Ironbark Ridge PS). It was a fun
day and I encourage you all to get involved in future fundraising events as there is as much socialising as
there is work!!

Applications for Year 5 Opportunity Class (OC) 2014
Government schools use a range of strategies to meet the educational needs of gifted and talented students.
One strategy is opportunity class (OC) placement which provides intellectual stimulation and an
educationally enriched environment for gifted and talented students. Offers for placement in these classes
will be made on the basis of the Opportunity Class Placement Test results and school assessment. The
Opportunity Class Placement Test will be held on Wednesday 24th July, 2013.
If you would like to apply for opportunity class placement in Year 5 in 2014 on behalf of your child, you need
to do so soon…
Apply on the internet and submit your application online. (You will need to have an email address, access to
the internet, and a printer.)
Details can be found at: www.schools.nsw.edu.au/ocplacement

Term 2 Planner
An updated copy of the Term 2 Planner has been included in this newsletter as well as posted to
the school app. There are only a few minor additions and alterations but please check it out!
Have a fantastic term, everyone!

Nick Thomson
Deputy Principal
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<td>School Development Day 1</td>
<td>School Development Day 2 (New NSW Syllabus)</td>
<td>Students return ANZAC Day ceremony Newsletter No Assembly</td>
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<td>PSSA Winter trials</td>
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<td>Be Skilled, Be Fit commences</td>
<td>Drumbeats performance</td>
<td>No Assembly P&amp;C Meeting 7pm</td>
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<td>PSSA Winter – Rnd1</td>
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<td>Newsletter Assembly 2pm</td>
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<td>PSSA Winter – Rnd2</td>
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<td>ICAS Computer Skills test School Cross-Country</td>
<td>PULSE Choir rehearsal Assembly 2pm SRC Disco</td>
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<td>PSSA Winter – Rnd3</td>
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<td>Cross-Country (wet)</td>
<td>Newsletter Assembly 2pm</td>
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<td>ICAS Science Test PSSA Winter – Rnd4</td>
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<td>Sydney West Area Cross-Country</td>
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<td>Newsletter Pulse Choir rehearsal Assembly 2pm</td>
<td>Stage 1 Excursion to Riverside Theatre</td>
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<td>Stage 1 Excursion to Riverside Theatre</td>
<td>Student Progress Reports sent home</td>
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Helping students get ready for the NAPLAN tests

The most resilient children and young people are those who rise to meet rather than retreat from the challenges presented to them. Perhaps it’s best to view the NAPLAN tests as good learning experiences rather than dreaded pressure tests.

During the second week of May Australian children in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will take part in the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). The stated purpose of this testing program is to gain an overall picture of educational attainment levels to assist education policy and decision-making.

The program first implemented in 2008 has drawn some criticism from a number of different quarters, particularly in regard to the use of the information gained through the NAPLAN tests. You’ve probably heard a number of different viewpoints expressed in the media over the last few weeks.

As a parent it helps your child, if you take a positive view of the NAPLAN tests. It’s better to see them as learning opportunities for kids as well as opportunities to overcome any anxieties or nerves that these tests may bring on. It’s also worth remembering that many children don’t stress over these tests. The vast majority take them in their stride, wondering what all the fuss is about.

Whether your child stresses or takes them in their stride here are some tips to help prepare for the NAPLAN tests:

1. Take your cues from your child. If your child doesn’t worry about them then neither should you. Be careful not to create a problem that doesn’t exist by incessantly talking about, or worse, worrying about the test.

2. Focus on doing their best & trying hard. Choose your words carefully when you speak with your kids. As with all their learning activities place your focus squarely on effort rather than results. The only pressure on kids should be to try hard rather than to do well.

3. Listen to any concerns they have: If your child confesses to some nerves then validate their feelings, rather than shut them down with a “get over it” response. “Yes, sometimes tests can be a little scary, but they get easier every time you take them.” Use this as an opportunity to develop some emotional smarts, which starts with recognising how kids feel.

4. Give them some relaxation ideas: Anxious or nervous kids will benefit from some simple relaxation strategies. Taking some deep breaths, changing their thinking and exercising the morning of the test are some simple ways to help kids get some feeling of control.

5. Help them retain their perspective: One way to help children who become excessively anxious about an event is to ask what’s the worst thing that could happen? Okay, they may not do as well as they would like but the sun will still rise tomorrow, regardless of how well they do. Keeping perspective is a life skill that we all need to practise.

A positive, caring parent attitude is one of the best gifts you can give a child when they are apprehensive or nervous about approaching any different situation whether it’s going on school camp, joining a new club or sitting a NAPLAN test.

One view commonly put forward is that the NAPLAN tests put undue pressure on children to perform in test situations. If so, then perhaps the best approach for parents and teachers is to help them handle the pressure rather than avoid it. The most resilient children and young people are those who rise to meet rather than retreat from the challenges presented to them. Perhaps it’s best to view the NAPLAN tests as good learning experiences rather than dreaded pressure tests.

Children and young people take their cues from their parents about how to handle situations. American psychologist Martin Seligman discovered more than a decade ago, through his research into children’s thinking styles, how closely a child’s explanatory style mimics that of the parent they spend most time around. Optimistic parents beget optimistic kids, just as anxious parents can beget anxious kids. The impact of a parent’s explanatory style seems to be magnified somehow in small families where there are fewer voices to be heard.
Anzac Day Service
Congratulations to our school leaders for conducting a respectful Anzac Day Service. Also many thanks to those families that donated flowers for our tribute wreaths and to those lovely Mums who helped arrange these. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

KINDY CAPERS:
A very warm welcome back to Ironbark. We hope that all Kindergarten students and their families had a safe and fun break. Term 2 promises to be a very exciting and busy term.

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.

Ensure that all permission notes and money are returned to the office by the due date to enable payment and arrangements to be made. Gymnastics begins in Term 2 so all notes and money need to be returned by Friday 3rd May 2013 (first Friday of Term 2). Please keep Drum Beats notes and money coming in.

This 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.

To ensure that students are always safe at school it is a requirement that all visitors report to the office when collecting students during school hours. If parents are coming to school to support classroom teaching programs they must also report to the office, sign in and display a visitor’s pass during their time at school. Please return to the office to sign out before you leave the school. As well, all parent helpers need to complete and sign child protection documentation before working in classes. These are available from your class teachers.

Sport clothes will need to be worn on Friday this term by all Kindy students. As well library and Chinese language class days will change. Keep a look out in your child’s bag for information regarding these changes.

Hope you have a safe and happy weekend!

The Early Stage 1 Team
SYDNEY WEST DANCE FESTIVAL:

Congratulations to the Year 1 Dance Group ‘Funky Town’ and the Year 2 Dance Group ‘Rio’ for being selected to dance at the Sydney West Dance Festival.

Refer to Year 1 and Year 2 notes on the Website for more information.

Tickets are now available through Ticketek and T-shirt purchases need to be paid by Tuesday 7th May. Check the information flyer for further details.

TICKETS NOW ON SALE

Showtimes and Dates:

- Monday 3rd June 7.30pm
- Tuesday 4th June 7.30pm
- Wednesday 5th June 10am
- Wednesday 5th June 12.30pm
- Wednesday 5th June 7.30pm
- Thursday 6th June 10am
- Thursday 6th June 12.30pm
- Thursday 6th June 7.30 pm
- Friday 7th June 10am
- Friday 7th June 12.30pm
- Friday 7th June 7.30pm
- Thursday 6th June 10am

Prices

**Evening Performances:**

- Adult $25
- Concession/Child $15

**Matinee Performances:**

- Adult $10
- Concession/Child $5

Tickets are available from [www.ticketek.com.au](http://www.ticketek.com.au)

For school group bookings please contact Ticketek
Evening Performance arrival time is 6.30pm
Matinee Performance arrival time for 10am is 9.00am
Matinee Performance arrival time for 12.30pm is 11.45am

The following item(s) from your school have been programmed as follows:

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<th>ITEM</th>
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<td>FUNKY TOWN</td>
<td>MONDAY 3rd JUNE</td>
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**CHINESE NEWS:**

Nǐmen hǎo! 你好

This term in Chinese we will be focusing on students and their families. We will be celebrating birthdays to learn the days of the week and months of the year. We will be looking at family members, ages and nationalities as well as pets and some likes and dislikes in relation to food. We will also be discussing the similarities and differences between Chinese and Australian families, and how a child’s life in rural China differs so much from those who live in the cities. Stage 3 students will be learning more about the geography of China while the Stage 2 students will be reading about a famous Chinese superhero known as ‘Sūn Wǔ Kōng’, The Monkey King. And for the K-2 students we will learn more about the Chinese national emblem ‘xióng māo’ - the panda.

Mrs Linda Przyrembel – Chinese Teacher K-6
Year 6 Fundraiser

Spider Drinks

This Thursday, Year 6 will be selling Spider Drinks!

Cost: $1

Lots of flavours to choose from!

On Sale at Recess and Lunch.
SPORT:
PSSA Weekly Sport commences Week 3 Term 2.

ADMINISTRATION NEWS:
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.

Also it would be appreciated if all monies can be enclosed in envelopes and handed in at the Office before commencement of school.
Thank you
Admin. Staff

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.

P&C NEWS:
The P&C (Parents and Citizen’s) committee of Beaumont Hills Public School are pleased and proud to bring Brett Murray, Australia’s #1 Anti-bullying Campaigner and ‘Youth Culture Expert to our school and the surrounding community to present his “Power of Parenting” seminar to interested and concerned parents. The “Power of Parenting” re-establishes the power, authority and impact a parent has on their child and the enormous potential for good or bad that that relationship has on a child’s potential.

Brett will be speaking in the Beaumont Hills Public School auditorium located on the Parkway, Beaumont Hills on Thursday, May 2nd 2013 from 7:00 – 9:00 pm. This is an opportunity not to be missed! A Gold Coin Donation is kindly requested on the evening.

Brett Murray is the Australia’s #1 Anti-bullying Campaigner and ‘Youth Culture Expert. He is a highly sought after speaker and four-time Australian of the year nominee. Brett has been a leader in his field for over a decade having influenced significantly the hardest culture to impact, Youth Culture, for over two decades. Brett regularly appears on national television and is constantly sought after for radio interviews and in print media for his comments and expertise in Cultural trends. Brett is an advisor to the NSW State Government and has worked with the NSW Police and the NSW Juvenile Justice department.

Brett Murray is a powerful and engaging presenter that leaves audiences empowered, encouraged, educated and inspired. Presenting in his own very unique style, mixing humour, electric energy, unquenchable passion and infectious enthusiasm coupled with amazing and informative content, Brett Murray, has an impact on every audience. Brett brings a wealth of knowledge, experience and understanding of cultures, sub-cultures and human interaction that always gives clients many ‘Aha’ moments through his presentations.

He has lived a life full of his own amazing achievements including; representing and competing at State level in no less than 5 different sports - Surf Life Saving, Swimming, Rugby League, Surfing and in 1998 was the NSW State Champion in boxing. He has been a candidate in the NSW 2003 State election, giving him experience in the political and business world and was a manager of an NGO rated by the International Youth Foundation as the best of its kind in the World. (Biography info taken from the Brett Murray website www.brettmurray.com.au)

Most Recently Brett is launching his latest book titled ‘Make Bullying History’. This book is recognised and endorsed by such people as world leading social researcher Mark McCrindle, Best-selling Author and parenting expert Sharon Witt and child Psychotherapist Collett Smart as the best book ever written on the subject of Bullying.

Monica Calderwood & Jo Bustin
Earn & Learn co-ordinators
Emma Ashley (Mum to Dom & Lizzie 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 8 May 2013 eg 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
Thank you to everyone who came along and helped. It was a fantastic day and we raised $590 for the school.

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.

PIES
Never fear the Pies are back. Sharyn will be providing more information in a few weeks time but the pies are definitely back this term!!!
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 purchase 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
Thank you from the
Ironbark Ridge Canteen Committee
COMMUNITY NOTICES:

COMMUNITY NOTICES:

COMMUNITY NOTICES:

Université of Western Sydney
Penrith Observatory

Astronomy Night for Mums & Kids
The UWS Penrith Observatory is running a special astronomy night for Mums & Kids on Saturday, 18 May from 7pm. The evening will include a special presentation for Mums & Kids, a 3D astronomy movie, a tour of the dome area and observing of the night sky 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

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN SYDNEY
PENRITH OBSERVATORY

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