Ironbark Ridge PS  
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Webpage: www.ironbarkrg-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

Newsletter 2014  
Term 4 Week 7 21st November 2014  
Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be Respectful

DATES FOR THE DIARY

November

24th Swim Scheme, Kindy 2015 Parent Night 2 (6.30pm)  
25th Swim Scheme, Spider Drinks S3  
28th Swim Scheme, PSSA Round 13  
26th Swim Scheme, P & C Meeting 7pm

CURRENT NOTES

IRPS Canteen Survey  
Kindy Dance Group (upcoming performance dates)  
Year 6 Farewell  
Year 6 Graduation Bear  
Stage 3 Bowling  
Stage 1 Movie Excursion

P & C FUNDRAISERS

RELIEVING PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

It's been a busy week again at Ironbark Ridge and the heat late in the week has certainly reminded us that it’s almost summer… and close to the end of another year!

Celebration Day

I'd like to issue an invitation to you all to join us for our Celebration Day assembly on Thursday 4th December at the Rouse Hill HS Hall. We will be presenting awards to students from each class as well as the major school awards for the year. At the end of our assembly we would like to share morning tea with you in our own school hall – a great opportunity to catch up with other parents and also chat to teachers and other school staff.

Student Leadership Speeches

On Tuesday and Thursday this week the whole school was treated to speeches from our Student Leadership 2015 nominees. I am constantly amazed by the confidence and skill our students demonstrate in public speaking, and these eight girls and eight boys again impressed us all. To reach this final stage of the selection process is an outstanding achievement that all students should be proud of. After the speeches the students voted for their choice of leaders for next year. We will announce the 2015 Student Leadership team at our Celebration Day assembly.

Awards of Excellence

It was an absolute honour and pleasure to present this semester’s Award of Excellence certificates and badges on Tuesday this week. Ms De Jager and I had such fun reading out the descriptions of the students to the audience – there are certainly many outstanding young people at Ironbark Ridge PS who are such a credit to their families. Well done!
Scripture
Special Religious Education lessons have finished for the year. Thank you to all of our volunteer community members who have devoted time and energy to working with our students in 2014. We greatly value the input from the many different religious, cultural and community groups as it makes our school a diverse and rich learning environment. From the start of 2015 students will now have the opportunity to choose to attend a Hindu Dharma scripture group – another great addition to suit the needs of our community.

Letters received…
I recently received a large bundle of letters from students in the fabulous 1J. They have been discussing their opinions about school uniform and practising expressing their persuasive writing. All appear to be strongly in favour of wearing uniforms to school and I have shared some of their wonderful work later in the newsletter – please have a read. Fantastic writing, 1J, and thank you Mrs Barton!

Is the next Lionel Messi in our Year 2 at Ironbark Ridge?
Elvin, 2B recently applied to attend a soccer academy program run by the world-renowned Spanish football club AC Milan. After successfully participating in four trials, Elvin has been accepted. It's a huge success for him and hopefully one day with continued hard work he will become Messi the second, although hopefully he'll play for the Socceroos!

Yours in lifelong learning,

Nick Thomson
Relieving Principal

RELIEVING DEPUTY PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Kindergarten orientation took place over the past three weeks. Our new 2015 students arrived for their exciting visit to a ‘big school’ classroom. It was a wonderful opportunity to catch up with our new prospective parents and some familiar faces who are old hands at getting their children prepared for Kindergarten. This week we held a wonderful assembly to recognise the work of students who have achieved three or six Star Awards. These students were presented with an Award of Excellence at a formal celebration to acknowledge their success. Each child received a badge, one which they can proudly wear on their school uniform each day. I never cease to be amazed by the incredible talent, dedication and perseverance of the students at Ironbark Ridge. Our school community, including parents and grandparents, heard the glowing testimonials written about each student. Mr Thomson and I had the honour of reading out the positive comments written by their classroom teacher in acknowledgement of each student’s commitment to our school values of strength, respect and excellence.

Comprehension help for teens
Some kids will read perfectly in primary school and then suddenly struggle with comprehension in high school. Here’s why.

Planning for the future
Throughout your child's school life you'll need to make choices about aspects of their education and future. Here’s a selection of tips to help you plan for parent-teacher talks, subject selection, careers advice and back-to-school.
Kids, homework and lies
Do you think your child is lying about their homework? Listen as psychologist Anne Hollonds chats with James O'Loghlin on what to do when the dog eats the homework.

Maths at home
Kids' early experiences with measurement are often based on watching their parents. Seeing mum or dad measure and pour ingredients for a recipe or weigh items at the fruit shop will often become part of their play.

Mrs Kerry De Jager
Relieving Deputy Principal

We invite our school community to join us in acknowledging and celebrating the academic, cultural and sporting achievements of our students throughout 2014.

Presentations will include:
Class Awards
Major School Awards
Year 6 Graduation.

Thursday, 4th December 2014
Rouse Hill High School Hall
9.30 am
PRINCIPAL
Senior Girls Softball team for sportsmanship in encouraging others

K TORONTO
Surajjy, Julia, Zayna

1 CAIRO
Romeo, Henry, Jesse, Jordan, Macayla

1 PARIS
Tori, Chelsea, Janice, Alex, Harrison

2 MAUI
Zoya, Joshua, Max, Felicity

3 ST PETERSBURG
Chloe, Alicia, Skye, Lateisha, William

4 WASHINGTON
Molly, Jaden, Lilly, Alyssa, Preston

5 RIO DE JANERIO
Isabella, Roshan, Praver, Alan, Crystal

5/6 DUBAI
Dylan, Jack, Nick, Jackson, Kiara, Kye

6 HONOLULU
Shalini, Emilie, Roger, Kelvin, Victoria

PRINCIPAL
All Year 5 students who tried out for Leadership positions

K BULAWAYO
Zakary, Ashleigh, Brooklyn, Jasmine

K LONDON
Molly, Jessie, Aadhya, Riley

1 BRISBANE
Alex, Liam A, Liam V, Sarah, Kiarna

1 JASPER
Raied, James, Sophia, Sahil

2 BARCELONA
Kayvaan, Tayla, Elvin, Sarah, Tom

2 KANSAS
Riley, Millie, Aadi, Kirsten, Thomas

3 COPENHAGEN
Alysha, Thomas, Lucy, Ruby, Hiral

3 JUNEAU
Sophie, Samya, James, Kyle, Troy

4 NEW YORK

5/6 MOSCOW
Jack, Ryan, Kilara, Bailee, Liam

5/6 PRAGUE
Holly, Maha, Tye, Veronica

CHINESE
2 Kansas

RIDGY DIDGE AWARDS FOR WEEK 4
Apologies to Manav - 1 Paris for incorrect spelling of his name.
Dear Mr. Thomson,

In class we have been writing about opinions. These are some posters about why we wear school uniforms. We think it’s a good idea to wear a school uniform. We hope you have agreed with what we said. We hope you like them.

Yours sincerely,

Jasper

Hematip and Oliver

We have a great school. We need to have pride, safety, and being smart!

Safe! Respectful! Neat!

We must.

Hematip

Dear Mr. Thomson,

I think that we should have school uniforms. So we can be part of the school.

Elise 10
KINDY CAPERS

With the onset of silly season it’s easy to let well established routines and habits fall by the wayside. Never underestimate the power of good conversation. With so many wonderful digital technologies available to our families, it’s easy to forget the age old benefits of spending some time each day having a good chat to our children. As well as imparting pearls of wisdom to our little ones, good conversation and scaffolded language provides the foundations for all future learning. Conversations around books and stories are even more empowering. Reading and good quality chats each day make really good sense.

Reminders about hygiene and hand washing also support well established routines that serve our children well. The end of the school year and the arrival of summer bring a plethora of illnesses that can easily be avoided by some strategically used soap and water. During the year in Kindergarten we’ve tried to reinforce the importance of washing hands after going to the toilet and before eating. At home students need to continue doing this and when playing with pets and cleaning their cages hands need to be washed and dried and cloth towels used for drying regularly changed and washed. Disposable paper towels provide the best defence against germ transference. Hat sharing and playing with other children’s hair should also be strongly discouraged.

Also please keep sending water bottles to school with all students so that they continue to drink water when the days are hot. Many thanks to all the Mums and Dads who every day provide healthy lunches and snacks. Any library books should be returned as soon as possible so that we can pass them on to Mrs Paton. Have a happy and safe weekend!

The Kindergarten team
STAGE 1 SNIPPETS
Our Stage 1 students are very excited as the year is coming to an end, especially because swim scheme will be starting next week. The students who are participating are looking forward to the challenge of improving their swimming and the students who are back at school will be actively participating in lessons also. The balance of the money was due this week and you should also have received a swim school note to allow the students going to swim scheme be placed in the correct group. Don’t forget your swimming gear and towel next week. Students are advised NOT to wear their swimming costumes to school. The Stage 1 teachers are looking forward to taking the students on an excursion to see Penguins of Madagascar at Reading Cinemas on the 10th December 2014. Permission slip and money need to be returned by no later than Monday 1st December and due to booking details no money will be accepted after this date. The students are thoroughly engaged learning all things about our world and the universe. Planets, stars, the moon, day and night are all areas that the students are learning about.

Stage 1 Teachers

STAGE 3 SNIPPETS
Our final weeks of the year are now very busy but exciting. Students are working hard to achieve their personal goals for the end of the year. Stage 3, this Term, have been focusing on Australian identity, both past and present, related to the discovery of gold in Australia. We were lucky enough to have a highly engaging performance, the Gold Day. Students learnt about the ways of life associated with the gold rush era from different perspectives.
It was fantastic to so many families at the MADD performances held next door at Rouse Hill High. A big congratulations to Audrey, in 6H, for taking home the 3-6 Art Award for her celebration inspired artwork.

We would also like to congratulate Menuja for representing our school’s region at the State Spelling Bee. We are very proud of the efforts of all the students here at IRPS.

Stage 3 will be selling Spider drinks on Tuesday, 25th November, week 8. All profits raised from this day will be go straight to the school. This will be the final Year 6 fundraising event for the year. Year 6 students have done an amazing job this year, giving back to their peers at IRPS and being involved in the school community. They have all shown fantastic leadership skills and initiative.

Year 5 leader candidates for 2015 have been working hard over the last week to promote themselves within the school community. The girls presented their speeches to the school on Tuesday, with the boys following on Thursday. All 16 students have taken on their role with maturity and confidence. They have done themselves, parents, teachers, friends and school proud.

**Stage 3 Teachers**
From The Prez

A huge thank you to Rebecca, Ryan and Vanessa Edwards for organising the last Bunning’s BBQ for 2014. It takes a lot of organising, rostering and time. Also thank you to ALL the teachers and Mr Thomson for turning up to turn a snag.

There is only 3 1/2 weeks of term left and next Wednesday is the last P&C Meeting for 2014. At this meeting we will be discussing the resent Canteen Parent Survey results and the Executives proposal for moving forward. Your input will be greatly appreciated.

In addition, we will be having a Christmas Party following the short meeting. We hope to see you there to celebrate the festive season and the end of a successful year.

The Prez :)

Canteen Survey Results

59.8% want to have a paid canteen manager, 21.8% want to outsource the canteen, and 13.8% did not answer the question or indicated they didn’t have a preference. There were also surveys that answered ‘Never’ having used the canteen, that were not counted in this result as they did not need to answer any further questions.

22.6% said they would volunteer in the canteen in 2015, 40.1% said they would not volunteer in the canteen in 2015, and 35% said they might volunteer in the canteen in 2015.

43.7% said they would like the canteen open 5 days/wk, 15.3% said they would not like the canteen open 5 days/wk, and 36.4% said they might like the canteen open 5 days/wk.

Thank you to the over 130 families who responded to the survey. Your view will be represented at the upcoming P&C meeting.

Save The Date

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26th Nov</td>
<td>Last P&amp;C Mtg &amp; Christmas Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Jan</td>
<td>1st P&amp;C Mtg for 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15th Feb</td>
<td>Mum’s Movie Night with Mr Grey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18th March</td>
<td>P&amp;C Mtg</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Merry Christmas

Join our last P&C Meeting of 2014 and stay to celebrate Christmas and a successful year.

Wed 26th Nov 7pm in the school library. Bring a yummy plate.
ADMINISTRATION NEWS:

Just a reminder to all parents that we are now processing EFTPOS payments. We cannot, however, process EFTPOS payments after 1.00pm. All monies should be put in an envelope or zip lock back and placed in the green box at the office each morning on arrival at school. No monies are to go to the classroom teacher.

2015 CLASSES

As we are currently looking at class numbers for 2015, could you please advise the school office in writing as soon as possible if your child/children will not be returning to Ironbark next year.

KINDY ENROLMENTS FOR 2015

We are now taking local enrolments for 2015. Enrolment forms are available from the office.

BUS PASS APPLICATIONS

Students currently in Year 2 who have a school travel pass will need to re-apply for Year 3 2015.

Please ensure that your child is eligible for free school travel before applying.

Free bus travel from the home address is currently available to:
• children in Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2
• children in Years 3 to 6 who live further than 1.6 km radius from the school.
• children in Years 3 to 6 who live inside 1.6km radius, but more than 2.4km walking distance from the school.

Details of eligibility and application forms are available from the school office. It is the parents’ responsibility to note bus timetables and departure points.

Please Note: Students in Kindy, Year 1 and Years 3 to 6 who currently hold a bus pass, DO NOT NEED TO RE-APPLY as the bus companies will automatically re-issue travel passes in Term 1 2014.

Parking at School

At times it is difficult to park cars when visiting the school, however, the safety of the students is our primary concern at all times. Parents are asked to remember the following so that the safety of our students can be maintained:

• Our kids learn from what we do… not from what we say, so please do the safe and correct thing when dropping them off or picking them up.
• Do not park across the school driveway gates or in designated ‘No Standing’, ‘No Stopping’ or ‘Bus Zone’ areas when collecting or dropping off children.
• Do not double park outside the school, at any time.
• The staff carpark is for the use of staff and delivery vehicles only and not for use by parents, even those who are helping in the school.
• The delivery entry is solely for that purpose.
• Parents should not drive into the school grounds for any reason unless authorisation has been given by the Principal.
Introduction
The NSW Department of Education and Communities has conducted bushfire assessments for NSW government schools in bushfire-prone areas. These results have been validated by an independent external expert and have been reviewed in consultation with the NSW Rural Fire Service.

A small number of schools have been identified as a school at increased risk if a fire were to break out on a day when a catastrophic fire danger rating is issued for the area that the school is located in. This includes the school your child attends.

To ensure the health, safety and welfare of students and staff, the NSW Department of Education and Communities has determined that on days when a catastrophic fire danger rating is issued for the area the school is in, the school will temporarily cease operations for the day(s) the rating is current and alternative learning arrangements will be put in place.

What is a Fire Danger Rating?
A fire danger rating is the expected fire danger on a particular day and is determined by considering a combination of factors including air temperature, relative humidity, wind speed and drought. The ratings range from Low – Moderate through High, Very High, Severe, Extreme and Catastrophic.

What is a Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating?
A catastrophic rating means that if fires broke out they would be uncontrollable, unpredictable and very fast moving with very aggressive flames extending high above tree tops and buildings.

When will I know if my child's school won't be operating the next day?
The State Emergency Operations Centre (SEOC) notifies the Department at approximately 4:30 pm each day when there are catastrophic fire danger ratings predicted for the following day. This means that the school will only receive notification of a catastrophic fire danger rating after school hours the day before the forecast is issued.

Your school will notify you as soon as possible. You will be notified by telephone, class contact lists, school App or other communication, depending on when the school is advised that the catastrophic fire danger rating has been issued. The school will not receive this information until after school has finished on the day before the rating takes effect. The school will contact all parents and carers and, where appropriate, issue advice through local media.

Please provide your current home or after hours contact to your school. Parents and carers should also watch or listen for local media as information may be provided through these outlets.

What educational arrangements will be in place if the school isn't operating?
Talk to your school about the arrangements that will be put in place in the event of the school temporarily ceasing operations due to a catastrophic fire danger rating being issued. Schools will be undertaking advanced planning to ensure that, if schools do need to cease operations on some days, they will have alternative educational arrangements in place such as re-locating to another school (Beaumont Hills PS and Rouse Hill PS), where practicable, or providing take home work for students.

Will my child's school be affected by severe or extreme fire danger ratings?
During the bushfire season, including days of severe or extreme fire danger rating, schools will continue to operate as normal unless advised otherwise by emergency services. During the bushfire season schools will be vigilant and monitor local conditions, particularly on days when severe or extreme fire danger ratings are issued.

Further Information
We appreciate your cooperation during the bushfire season. For further information about fire danger ratings and the bushfire season, please refer to the NSW Rural Fire Service website at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au.

The Department also has a website on bushfire safety with up to date information, located at: http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/bushfire-safety
UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN SYDNEY
PENRITH OBSERVATORY
Family Astronomy Night - Telescopes for Christmas

The UWS Penrith Observatory together with the Western Sydney Amateur Astronomy Group (WSAAG) will be running an Astronomy Night on Saturday, 22 November from 8pm – 10pm. The evening will include a presentation from WSAAG members who will look at some of the different types of telescopes you could buy for your families and friends, a 3D astronomy movie and stargazing through the University’s computerised telescopes (weather permitting).

Cost:
$15 adult, $10 child/concession and $40 family.

Bookings are essential: Book and pay online: www.uws.edu.au/observatory, What’s On

Enquiries: Phone (02)4736 0135 or email r.mccourt@uws.edu.au

KELLYVILLE/ROUSE HILL MAGPIES
Fun, Friendly, GIRLS ONLY AFL Clinics
Are you aged between 10 and 18?
Do you want to play in a Fun and Friendly environment?
Youth Girls Football could be what you are looking for
Come along to our FREE AFL Clinics dedicated for Girls ONLY

Time: 10am to 12pm
Date: Sunday 18th, 23rd and 30th November
Location: Rouse Hill High School

FREE Football for all registered participants

Please register your attendance at the following link:

For more information contact Fiona McGovern - Club President
president@khjfc.com.au - 0414 902 870

playafl.com.au
Would you like to be a foster carer – Take the Leap
More than 60 children and young people are entering care every week across New South Wales. Foster care agency, MacKillop Family Services, is in need of foster carers in the Hills District, people willing to open their hearts and homes to some of the state’s most vulnerable children. All types of carers are needed – respite, immediate, short and long term.
If you are interested, MacKillop is holding a no obligation, free Foster Care Information Session in the James Cusack Room of the Vinegar Hill Memorial Community Centre at Rouse Hill Town Centre (above the Library) on Thursday, 27 November from 6.15pm – 8.00pm.
The session will cover information about the different types of foster care, steps to becoming a foster carer, and how carers are supported by agencies like MacKillop. The event will also provide an opportunity for you to meet current carers.
If you are interested in attending please let MacKillop know by contacting Louise on (02) 8881 4800 or email louise.carson@mackillop.org.au.

Louise Carson
Media & Communications Co-ordinator
Community Relations
MacKillop Family Services
Go4Fun®
Healthy • Active • Happy • Kids

Want ideas on raising healthy, active and happy kids?

FREE healthy lifestyle program for 7 – 13 year olds
Baulkham Hills and other locations
Limited Places! Register now!

1800 780 900
go4fun.com.au

NSW Government
Health
Western Sydney
Local Health District
FAX BACK/EMAIL BACK

Attention: Go4Fun Project Officer
Fax number (02) 9840 3608
Email kirsti.cunningham@health.nsw.gov.au

Yes! Please send our school the following complimentary resources:

☐ Go4Fun pamphlets, number of copies _________
  If you would like these put into class bundles please let us know the class sizes

☐ An electronic version of the Go4Fun Program advertisement

☐ Go4Fun A4 posters, number of copies _________ (max 10)

☐ Go4Fun A2 posters, number of copies _________ (max 10)

☐ Go4Fun article for your newsletter (Please indicate approx. word length) _________

☐ Childhood obesity/Go4Fun presentation to staff and/or parents

☐ Go4Fun information stall at your school

☐ Other suggestion. We’re happy to work with you to discuss other ways we can help children be healthy & active: ________________________________

School name: ________________________________________________________________
Contact name: ________________________________________________________________
Postal Address: ________________________________________________________________
Phone number: ________________________________________________________________
Email: ________________________________________________________________
Date: ________________________________________________________________

Cumberland Hospital (Gungahlin building 08)
3 Peer Street
North Parramatta NSW 2151
Tel 02 9840 3600
Fax 02 9840 3600

NSW Government
mend
Sports Camps Australia

SERIOUS. FUN.

Supported by

SCA Junior Football Camp

Camp Name: SCA Junior Soccer Camp
Camp Location: Bernie Mullane Sports Complex, Kellyville
Camp Director: George Lazarou
Dates: 14-16 January
Times: 9am-3pm
Fees: $210
Skill Level: All Skill Levels Welcome
Gender: Co-ed


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