Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be Respectful

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

2014 seems to have flown by in a flash! We can’t believe yesterday was the last day of school but are all really excited about the plans and directions for Ironbark Ridge in 2015 and beyond.

Strategic Planning
Here’s the exciting vision statement for our school:

“Nurturing personal growth through inspired learning.”

What does it mean to be nurturing? As a teacher, as a parent, as a member of our learning community, as a leader, what actions will we need to take in order to be a nurturing learning community?

‘Personal growth’ is a concept we have spent time discussing and I want you to consider the following points:

- Growth can refer to learning and development in any area... perhaps academic, or social growth, the development of wisdom even. Obviously physical growth will occur but we want our students (and indeed parents and teachers) to improve their co-ordination, accuracy, speed, etc. The idea of pursuing ‘growth’ is the right goal in our opinion as ‘best’ or ‘potential’ or even ‘success’ appear to be endpoints, whereas growth is about ‘raising the bar’ no matter how good you already are, and is a lifelong pursuit.

- Personal relates to individualisation. Every student will be different in their needs and talents, so our targets and goals should be personally set. At Ironbark Ridge we want all students, parents and staff to be setting realistic, specific, measurable goals about how they plan to grow and improve. Teachers work tirelessly to ‘differentiate’ the learning content, processes and materials within their classrooms to meet the personal needs of each student. We need more of this ‘differentiation’.

We have planned three strategic directions to move our school towards achievement of our vision:

1. Expert teachers and visionary leaders
2. Confident, inspired learners
3. Connected community

Join us on our journey together to achieve our school vision!
Year 6 2014
It was a great pleasure to see so many happy (yet sad) faces at the end of our farewell tunnel after school yesterday afternoon. I spoke to a multitude of parents who expressed their gratitude for what has been a sensational seven years of their child’s life at Ironbark Ridge PS. The partnership we have with you, our school community, is crucial in making each and every student’s journey a success, so I want to thank you all for your input and support over the time. Year 6 2014 have been a wonderful group of young people to spend time with. It is a wonderful experience as a teacher to be able to play a part in our students’ lives and we take our role as a great privilege.
Farewell Year 6 2014!

A change in Teachers
We have recently appointed three new teachers as permanent staff to Ironbark Ridge PS beginning at the start of next year. Elizabeth Furnell is a targeted graduate. Emma Thomson Laws joins us as an experienced teacher engaged in teaching appointments over a number of years, most recently at Beaumont Hills PS where she is extremely highly regarded. The final position through advertisement and merit selection was won by our own Sally Hoggan! We are excited about welcoming them to Ironbark Ridge and we know they will all make a very positive contribution to the education of your children.

T-Ball Teamwork
Fantastic job to our Junior Girls’ T-ball team this year! The girls tried hard each week and encouraged each other with fantastic sportsmanship. It’s not always about winning, and our girls showed that they can have fun playing together as a team regardless of results… something we could all learn from 😊

Teacher Learning…
Staff are currently involved in professional learning relating to some exciting new initiatives (eg. STEM) that will support and enhance the implementation of new syllabi such as Mathematics and Science. We are also developing new procedures and programs to support the improving performance and development of expert teaching and leadership across the school. In addition, plenty of planning for 2015 learning programs has begun. 2015 is going to be an exciting year at Ironbark Ridge!

I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and relaxing, enjoyable holidays. I hope you all get some time off work to spend with your families and loved ones.

Yours in partnership,

Nick Thomson
Principal

KINDY CAPERS 2015
To all our families with children starting Kindergarten in 2015 we look forward to seeing you during your allocated Best Start assessment session on January 28th and 29th. If you have not received your assessment and school start information please contact the office at your earliest convenience.

Also if you have not enrolled children due to start in January 2015 please let us knows so that we can commence the process.

We hope that you all have a great holiday and enjoy getting all your new bits and pieces to start school. Be sure to label EVERYTHING so that it finds its way home with your child.

Have a safe and happy holiday!

The Early Stage 1 team