Newsletter 2014
Term 2     Week 1     01.05.14

Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be Respectful

DATES FOR THE DIARY

May
8th Mothers’ Day Stall
16th OC Applications close today
22nd Stage 3 “The 13-Storey Treehouse”

13th-15th NAPLAN (Yr3 & Yr5)
28th-30th Stage 2 Aussie Bush Camp

CURRENT NOTES

- Stage 3 Milson Island Camp
- Winter PSSA tryouts
- The 13-Storey Treehouse
- Be Skilled Be Fit

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Dear Parents and Friends,

Welcome back for Term 2. I hope you all had a lovely holiday with both the Easter break and the Anzac long weekend to enjoy the beautiful weather. Students seemed excited to be back and ready for what Term 2 will bring. Welcome back to Mrs Kassis who will be job sharing with Mrs Nahimy on 4 New York on a Monday.

NAPLAN
The NAPLAN tests commence Tuesday 13th May with the language and writing tests. Then on Wednesday 14th they continue with Reading and finally Maths on Thursday 14th. Teachers are currently preparing students for these tests and we know that they will do an amazing job. Remember these tests give an indication of how a student is going at a particular point in time and many variables can affect the results. All our children can do is try to do the best they can on the day. You can help by making sure that they are well rested and don’t have too much on that week.

Mothers’ Day Stall
Don’t forget we have our Mothers’ Day Stall on Thursday 8th May. Donations have been coming in but we would appreciate more if you can help out. We have around 560 children all wanting to get a great present for their Mum. Thanks to our fundraising parents for putting this together for another year.

Trees
I am sure you are all aware that schools are currently looking at the safety of the trees in their playgrounds. As a PPP (Private Partnership) school this is the responsibility of Spotless not the Department. Our trees were assessed by an arborist in the holidays and a full report will be given to the Department. However, I have contacted Spotless to ascertain if any trees were dangerous. I have been told that there is one tree on the border between the two schools that needs further investigation but the others just need some pruning. We have cordoned off the area near the tree they wish to look at further. Please be assured that we will always do our best to keep your children safe whilst they are in our care.

PSSA Trials
Weather permitting we will be running PSSA try outs for winter sporting teams over the next two weeks for Years 3-6. A note went home last term asking you to talk with your child about these try-outs. The note explains the sports for winter and the fact that it is a competitive process so students with the best skills will be chosen. This note is on the web site if you missed it.
**Be Skilled Be Fit**
We are having the “Be Skilled Be Fit” team come to school this term to work with our students on their “athletics” skills. All grades will be involved so we urge you to allow your child to participate. This company is able to supply the equipment and expertise to ensure our students have the best training possible in this area. This program commences next week with classes attending sessions on various days. A note has been sent home with details and is also available on the web site.

**Ridgy Arrives at Ironbark Ridge**
Our school was invaded by frogs during the holidays. Good frogs mind you! Wherever you go within the school you are now greeted by Ridgy the frog. Ridgy is our school mascot and is being used to support our school expectations. Walking around I saw many wide eyes as children found Ridgy in different places. Even our older students like our new mascot. So be prepared to see Ridgy pop up around the place.

**Grounds Improvements**
Also during the holidays we had the path into our big COLA (hanger) widened. It is now a more sensible width to allow entry into this area. Fencing has also been erected to stop balls (and children) going into the gardens. The gardens around the path will be replanted.

**Anzac Day**
Our leaders represented as at the Castle Hill services on Anzac Day and also on the Anzac Sunday, laying wreaths on our behalf. Thank you to their parents for giving their time allowing this to happen.

**Cross-Country Carnival**
We were very lucky weather wise for our cross country carnival. It started to rain during the last race but we managed to complete the formal carnival. We have rescheduled the K-2 races for the afternoon of Tuesday 20th May from 2pm. Congratulations to everyone who had a go and to our winners in each race who will now go to the Ridges Carnival on 23rd May.

**School Times**
Just a reminder that students are not to be at school until 8:30am as there is no supervision until that time and we appreciate you picking your child up promptly when school finishes at 3:00pm. If you have something happen unexpectedly and you are running late please contact us so we know. We can then ensure your child is not worried about you.

**LMBR Update and School Invoices**
Unfortunately we still cannot invoice school fees as the glitch in the new system has not been fixed. The DEC is still working on it. We hope to send home invoices early this term.

**Stewart House Envelopes**
We have sent home Stewart House Donation envelopes due back early next term. Stewart House does a great job of helping families in need, giving students from NSW Public Schools a place to go when they or their parents need some respite.

Have a great fortnight,

Anne Forbes
Principal

**DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**
Welcome back for what promises to be a very busy (and short) Term 2. If you haven’t visited our school yet this week I invite you to drop in and have a look at our new ‘Ridgy’ the frog signage. He is a fun addition to the school’s buildings and adds to our supportive, kid-friendly atmosphere.

**Debating**
I have the great privilege of being an adjudicator for the Blacktown District Debating Competition this year. We have two teams from Ironbark Ridge in this competition and it is a wonderful opportunity for our students to represent our great school and learn the art of debating. The standard I have listened to from other local schools is very high, and although I don’t adjudicate when our own teams are debating I know our teams are outstanding. Thank you to Ms McGill for her expert coaching. I don’t envy the parents of these students. I’m sure they are very careful they can justify what’s for dinner with enough strong points, elaboration, evidence and spirited rebuttal!
OC Placement Test
Applications from Year 4 parents for student entry into the OC class in 2015 are now available online. Applications close on Friday 16th May. You can now go to:
As well as the application form, other OC resources such as past papers and information sheets are available from this website. Check it out, especially if you are unsure whether to apply or not.

Chess
Our school Chess program is underway from this week and teams to represent Ironbark Ridge in the local primary schools competition will be formed shortly. In addition we will be running our own in-school ongoing competition each Friday lunchtime and we hope to include as many new players as possible with special ‘Learn to play’ sessions planned for later in the term.

It has been great to hear from many of our students this week about their holiday events and I’m pleased to report that all whom I’ve spoken to are delighted to be back and are ready for the challenges of another term’s learning.

Nick Thomson
Deputy Principal

Ridgy Didge Awards

WEEK 1 Term 2

PRINCIPAL
2 Barcelona for their questioning and thinking skills at the Money matters talk.

K BULAWAYO
Eloise, Alisha, Brookly, Marvin

K LONDON
Lachlan, Cruz, Molly

1 BRISBANE
Zainab, Alex, Loiver, Lachlan

1 JASPER
Prateek, Jasmine, Benjamin, Chanel

2 BARCELONA
Ella, Carter, Ryan, Lily

2 KANSAS
Caleb, Millie, Dylan, Aadi, James

3 COPENHAGEN
Chelsea, Keyan, Madeline

3 JUNEAU
Charlotte, Troy, Finn, Cavan, James

4 NEW YORK
Derek, Owen, Isabel, Liliana, Ryan

5/6 MOSCOW
Amelia, Ethan, Ryan, Charli

5/6 PRAGUE
Aiden, Keegan, Lyla, Andrew, Sam

CHINESE
3 Juneau

ART
Hannah - 1B, Holly – 5/6P, Aidan – KL

MULTI-LIT
Tyson – 5/6M
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.

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 many 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.

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 his stride here are some tips to help prepare for the NAPLAN tests:

1. **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.

2. **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.

3. **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.


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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 suitably 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. Be Skilled Be Fit begins in Term 2 Week 2. Please return all notes and money to be returned by Friday 9

This term home reading will commence for Early Stage 1. Starting in Week 3, each week on Friday a reader will be sent home for each Kindy student to read along with sight words and some relevant maths activities. Bug Club will continue. Please return readers and homework in folders provided each Thursday. 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.

Sport clothes will need to be worn on Friday this term by all Kindy students. Library and Chinese language class days will remain on Tuesday. Keep a look out in your child’s bag for information regarding any last minute changes to routine.

In Term 2 Early Stage 1 will be asking for volunteer helpers to assist in learning programs. Shortly notes will be sent home for interested family and friends. On the note you will be asked to detail areas of interest and expertise (e.g. Numeracy, Literacy, Technology, Creative Arts, Science, Personal Development Health and Physical Education) and weekly times you are available. Volunteers are required across all classes to perform a variety of class and non-class based roles. We greatly appreciate all help and endeavour to provide parents and friends with the opportunity to participate in school programs and will allocate volunteers across all classes depending on needs, expertise and substantive roles performed in our school. This may mean that you might be assisting in a role or class not directly related to your child’s class. Volunteers will also be required to complete Child Protection documentation. This will be sent home by teachers and will need to be returned before volunteers commence in Week 4.

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 school 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. If student medical or personal information has changed since the start of the year please advise the office at your earliest convenience.

Hope you have a safe and happy weekend!

The Early Stage 1 Team
STAGE 1 SNIPPETS

Welcome back to Term 2. Students have been very busy in their first week back with a visit from Commonwealth Bank engaging students in activities about money. A note went home this week about Be Skilled Be Fit which will start next week. Our Year 1 students will participate on a Friday and Year 2 on a Monday. Please ensure your child wears their sport uniform, hat and sensible sport shoes to participate. Homework has started this week with spelling activities and reading. We are also asking all students to participate in “May Month of Reading”. Students record how many minutes they read for, record and at the end of the month total up the minutes and enter on the website listed on the form at scholastic for a chance to win books for School or home.

Kind Regards,
Stage 1 Teachers

CHINESE NEWS

Nǐmen hǎo！你们 好

This term we begin with the younger students learning about the Chinese Zodiac and its importance in Chinese culture and philosophy. Stage 1 are reading The Great Race, a story which explains how each year is named after an animal and the personality traits which are attributed to a person born in each year. Stage 2 are already familiar with this story and are retelling it using the names of the animals in Chinese and the ordinal numbers for their place in the race. The senior students are learning to talk about where they live and comparing the major cities of China and Australia.

Wednesday afternoon after-school Chinese classes will begin in Week 2 and finish in Week 7 this term. The cost will be $60 for the term. New students are always welcome to join us. Please note the trip to China scheduled for 2015 has been postponed until 2016. Any students from Year 4 who applied will have another opportunity to reapply next year.

Mrs Przyrembel – Chinese Teacher K-6

SPORTS REPORT:

PSSA Trials will be held this Friday 2nd May and Friday 9th May with games commencing Week 3, Friday 16th May. Teams will be announced as soon as possible.
NSW PSSA State Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to our four competitors (Mikey, Josh, Deniel and Dylan) who represented Ironbark Ridge PS at the NSW PSSA State Swimming Carnival during the last week of Term 1.

The senior boys' 4 x 50m freestyle relay (Mikey, Josh, Deniel and Dylan) placed third in the state which is an outstanding achievement. Hours of strenuous training has certainly paid dividends for the boys. The whole school community is extremely proud of your outstanding efforts.

In the individual events, Mikey came first in the 11 years boys 50m freestyle, swimming a time of 29.38 sec, narrowly missing the record. We need to acknowledge the outstanding success of Mikey. In winning the gold medal, he is the fastest eleven year old male swimmer in NSW. Mikey will now swim at the Australian National Schools Swimming Carnival to be held in Melbourne in July. What an amazing accomplishment!

Judy Paton
Swimming Co-ordinator

ADMINISTRATION NEWS:
Just a reminder to all parents that we are now processing EFTPOS payments. We cannot process EFTPOS payments after 1.00pm. All monies should be put in an envelope in the green box at the office each morning on arrival at school. No monies are to go to the classroom teacher.
Next P&C Meeting Wednesday 7 May, 7pm in the library.

CANTEEN

OPENING HOURS -
Monday - 9.00am to 3.00pm
Wednesday - 9.00am to 3.00pm
Friday - 9.00am to 3.00pm

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NEW RECESS SPECIALS

**MONDAY**
Mini Pies & Sausage Rolls
$1.00

**WEDNESDAY**
Noodle Cup or 3 Chicks on a Stick
$1.00

**FRIDAY**
Cheese Toasties
$1.00

***Can you commit to a regular weekly shift?***
Regular Helpers Required Now contact Lisa by email canteenrostering@irpspc.com.
Mother's Day Stall
Thursday 8th May 2014

Please Donate A Gift
We are calling for present donations to be left at the office by Friday 2nd May, first Friday back from school holidays.

Here are just a few suggestions:
* Bath Products/Soaps * Candles * Nail Care Kits
* Nail Polish * Gardening Kit * Notepaper/Pen
* Keyrings * Coffee/Tea Mugs * Pretty Tea Towels
* Cosmetic/Toiletry Bag
Or anything you can think of and would love!

You can order on Flexischools for (Mum, Nanna, Grandma, Nonna etc) and your child will receive vouchers in class to spend at the stall…or bring your money on the day! $5 and $10 gifts will be available.

FUNDRAISING

Bunnings BBQ Sunday 18 May

Volunteer Roster
Now Open.

Event Code: UY8K9
School Banking – A platform to help you teach your child about saving!

Ironbark Ridge Public School participates in the Commonwealth Bank School Banking program. It’s a great way to give your child a financial head start by helping them to learn about good money management and the importance of saving.

It’s time kids learnt that Mum and Dad are not the bank! Does your child always want? Do they understand how much things cost? Do they think there is an endless supply of cash from the machine in the wall? The School Banking program offers you a platform to start teaching your child the value of money and the benefits of saving.

Our Saving Tips to discuss with your child:

1. Discuss what saving into the bank means. A bank account is somewhere safe to keep your money, the money remains yours and the more money you put in the more money you have.

2. How do you earn money? A great way to start your child’s venture into earning money is doing chores around the house to earn pocket money. Set expectations and what they have the potential to earn.

3. Set a goal, work out together something your child would really like to save for, starting out with smaller and achievable items works best. Discuss how much money they will need to save to reach this goal.

4. Once your child has reached the goal, research through catalogues or online as to where they will get the best value for their money.

5. Watch your child’s sense of pride as you take them to purchase the item that they have worked and saved for!

We realise that many parents already have an account for their child and are actively saving for their child’s future. Most of the time this is done through electronic banking and your child doesn’t get to see and handle the benefit first hand. This program is once again about your child learning the process of saving and handling the cash themselves. Participating in School Banking gives your child the opportunity to do this on a weekly basis.

Earning fun rewards

Every time your child makes a deposit through the School Banking program, regardless of how much, they receive a cool Dollarmites token. Once they have saved 10 tokens, they can swap them for fun rewards.

What you need to know

School Banking Day is every Friday during term.

Simply bring in your yellow wallet, deposit book and money on Friday mornings and hand it into the front office before school.

Your child will need a Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account. There are a few options on how to open an account.

- You can attend any Commonwealth Bank branch with identification for yourself and your child’s birth certificate
- Existing Commonwealth Bank customer you can open an account through your Netbank facility.
- Existing accounts can be used just simply bring them in on banking day.

Alternatively:

A representative from the CBA will be at the school to open accounts for students on the 7th and 14th May 2014 and 21st May 2014 after the Assembly from 2:50pm to 3:15pm - outside the hall.

(Parents please have a current D/L or passport & bring your Childs Birth Certificate)
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COMMUNITY NOTICES:

WESLEY GIANT GARAGE SALE

Where: In the Wesley Uniting Church grounds at 32 Showground Road, Castle Hill.

Dates/Times: Friday May 9th 2014 (operating from 8:00am to 3:00pm) and Saturday May 10th 2014 (operating from 8:00am to 1:00pm)

Sale items/Stalls will include Books, Records, CDs, DVDs, Clothing, Electrical, Plants, Toys, Furniture, Manchester, White Elephant, Fine Art and China etc.

We will also be providing tea and coffee during sale hours, together with a Sausage Sizzle for lunch on both days, and Bacon and Egg rolls for breakfast on Saturday morning.

Enjoy the friendly atmosphere, and pick up a bargain (or two) knowing you are helping those families who need help within the Hills District, through the Hills Family Centre.

This is one of, if not the largest Garage Sales held in the Hills District each year, and proceeds go towards the on-going activities of the Hills Family Centre, a most deserving organisation.

Brian Wigg
On behalf of the Wesley Church Garage Sale Committee.

Phone: 02 9871 3497
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