Welcome back for another exciting year of learning and growing at Ironbark Ridge Public School. This is a very brief newsletter quickly outlining the class structure we have chosen for the year.

We have no doubt that 2015 will be an extremely positive year for us all and we look forward to strengthening the partnership we currently have with you, our fantastic school community. As teachers we hold a wonderfully privileged position, being able to share in the lives of your children, and as such we take every decision and opportunity with great care.

Classes
We have formed classes for the year. Student numbers have led us to creating ‘staged’ classes across the school as this offers enhanced student learning through flexible groupings within classes and across grades, better teamwork opportunities for teachers and possible future flexibility in accommodating new students during the year without having to restructure all classes across the school. We have also formed an enrichment class for 3/4/5 students, taught by Mrs Cauchi. Numbers in the school would have created ‘composite’ classes between almost every grade if we chose to ‘grade’ as many classes as possible, and was not the best solution for everyone.

With increased enrolments we have grown in size from 22 classes in 2014 to 24 classes in 2015. Considering that we have 23 classrooms at present this poses an interesting dilemma ☹️… and one we hope will be solved by the arrival of a new demountable classroom as soon as possible. We expect continued growth and have planned for this with our class groupings. The hope is that we will be able to keep steady classes across the whole year due to the structure we have chosen.

Classes and teachers for 2015 are:

Stage 1J Jiemba – Mrs Johnson (Assistant Principal & Stage 1 Team Leader)
Stage 1B Bright Sparks – Ms Baracz
Stage 1N Northern Lights – Mrs Nahirny
Stage 1A Aurora – Mrs Adams (Mon-Thu) & Ms Lee (Fri)
Stage 1SP Sparkles – Mrs Pratt (Mon-Tue) & Mrs Sexton (Wed-Fri)
Stage 1T Translucent – Mrs Thomson Laws
Stage 1F Fireflies – Ms Furnell
Stage 1TBA – Mrs Robson until further notice
Stage 2C Cosmos – Mrs Carter
Stage 2G Galileo – Mrs Goddard
Stage 2K Kaleidoscope – Mrs Kop (Mon-Thu) & Mrs Weekley (Fri)
Stage 2S Spectra – Mrs Williams (Mon-Wed) & Mrs Cameron (Thu-Fri)
Stage 2W Winter Circle – Mrs Walker
Stage 3/2C Cosmos – Mrs Cauchi (Assistant Principal & Stage 2 Team Leader)

OC Year 5S Stellar – Mrs Sayer
Stage 3B Betelgeuse – Mrs Black
Stage 3M Min Min – Mrs McCarthy
Stage 3P Parallax – Mr Pengelly
Stage 3WD White Diamonds – Mrs Wilson
OC Year 6H Helios – Ms Hoggan
(Mrs De Jager Deputy Principal & Stage 3 Team Leader)

I wonder if the observant readers have noticed the theme for this year’s class names?

We will have four Kindy classes this year and will announce those teachers and classes next week.

New Teachers
We welcome Ms Elizabeth Furnell and Mrs Emma Thomson Laws to our school as permanent teachers. Mrs Vanessa Goddard will also be teaching under a temporary contract and we hope to keep her on the class until the end of the year.

Mrs Therese Fox has returned to our school as the Administration Manager in our office and it is wonderful to have her deep and extensive knowledge of school operation back.

School Developments…
As we start our 2015-17 three year plan at Ironbark Ridge I wanted to share with you our strategic directions:

All of the programs and initiatives we embark on at Ironbark Ridge over the next three years will aim to take us in these directions.

You’ll notice that the third direction is towards a more ‘Connected Community’, and it is this area that we will need your help! Please pencil in the ‘Hat Parade’ planned for the last day of Term 1, Thursday 2nd April, where we will be holding a BBQ lunch and family picnic on our beautiful grass oval area.

Please try to join us for our first P&C meeting of the year next Wednesday night, 4th February, 7pm in the school Library.

In addition, please note the other dates at the top of the last page, including the highly valuable opportunity to ‘Meet the Teacher’ on the evening of Tuesday 10th February.

Yours in partnership,

Nick Thomson
Principal