PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Dashing around trying to keep way too many balls in the air… juggling! I think that’s how both I and Mrs Pho feel at the moment, along with all of our wonderful teachers and support staff. At least, thanks to our new financial system, Mrs Batten and the office staff have avoided the horrible old ‘roll-over’ on November 30th that so many schools still endure. Each of us has a role to play in the operation of Ironbark Ridge Public School and it is in busy times like December that the ‘strength’ and ‘excellence’ of each individual comes through. Teamwork certainly has no ‘I’ in it, and my heartfelt thanks go out to every one of our staff members for their contribution to what has been an outstanding year at Ironbark Ridge Public School.

Celebration Day - Monday

In a fitting end to the year we will gather at 9.30am in the Rouse Hill High School hall next Monday morning (7th December) to celebrate many of the major achievements of our students in 2015. In all honesty we would be there for five hours if we completed a full review of our year! As a result we can only mark the very major awards and presentations. Our formal thanks and farewell to this year’s Year 6 students is always a fun part of our assembly. At the completion at approximately 11am we will be inviting all parents, grandparents, community members and special guests back to our own school hall for morning tea together.

Student Progress Reports

Reports will be sent home late next week with each student. Please watch for the app and Facebook page messages as well as a short explainer email through class contacts when this happens. If you would like a second copy of the report for a parent who lives separately please email or phone the school office and we can quickly print a second.

End-of-year Stage Party days

It is wonderful to celebrate our students’ effort and growth across 2015 through these fun days. I look forward to visiting each student group and sharing in some of their stories of success before the holiday break.

School Photos 2016

After many years of service from our school photographer, Advanced Life Photography, we are trialling a new company in 2016. This was a joint decision of the school and the P&C early last year and we look forward to comparing what The School Photographer can offer our families through their services. Photos will be early next year, on March 3rd.
Izaac at the U12 Futsal World Cup!
One of our amazing Year Six students, football (soccer) player extraordinaire, Izaac, 5/6B, is currently in Malaysia playing in the Australian 12 Years Futsal team. What a fantastic achievement!

Our Chess Team at the Nationals!
After an amazing season during which we won both the NSW Interschool Primary Competition and the State One-Day Tournament Finals our A Team chess boys are this weekend playing at Melbourne High School against the best primary schools in Australia. Wow! Go Ironbark Ridge and go NSW! See our students’ names amongst the best in our country at the website: http://australianjuniorchess.org.au/astc/2015-astc/

With our planning for 2016 nearing completion we are holding Stage Team planning days for our teachers over the coming week. Supporting and developing collaborative teaching practice is a strategic choice for us at Ironbark Ridge due to the large positive ‘effect size’ John Hattie’s research shows it to have on student learning. Similarly, we are keen to foster leadership and personal growth through mentoring, again due to the research and evidence that supports its impact on student learning. Our school plan contains a range of such projects that we are continuing to develop over the next two years of the plan.

Tired, yet perpetually inspired by growth and learning,

Nick Thomson
Principal
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Celebration Day
Our Celebration Day assembly will be held on Monday 7th December in the Rouse Hill High School hall. The assembly will begin at 9.30am. Parents are welcome to share in the acknowledgement of excellence in academics, sport and citizenship. Our 2016 student leadership team will also be formally presented. We encourage all students to celebrate the achievements of the winners of awards. All students should be proud of their successes in striving to achieve their own level of personal growth, despite not being award winners on Celebration Day. All Kindergarten and Year 6 students will also be recognised with certificates during the assembly.

OC Orientation
On Tuesday 1st December we welcomed the 2016 Year 5 OC class students. The students and their parents were treated with samples of the opportunities available to them at Ironbark Ridge PS. Several Year 5 and 6 OC students prepared talks which gave our incoming students and parents information about what to expect as part of the Ironbark Ridge community. The incoming students also met our current Year 5 OC class, did a problem solving activity and shared their own experiences with them.

Thank You Afternoon Tea
Annually, the teaching staff cater an afternoon tea to thank the parents who have assisted them in the classroom and around the school throughout 2015. If you have assisted in the classroom, P&C, uniform shop, canteen, Scripture lessons, sporting event or during the fete, I offer you this general invitation to attend the morning tea. Held in the school hall, the afternoon tea will commence for parents at 2.30pm and go through to 3.30pm on Wednesday 9th December. Teachers will join us from 3pm so they can thank you personally. Please see the invitation in this newsletter.

2016 Planning
Staff at Ironbark Ridge have been working hard to prepare and plan for the year ahead. One of the big changes due in 2016 is the mandatory implementation of the new NSW History Syllabus, which is aligned with the Australian Curriculum. Our executive staff have put together what promises to be an engaging and challenging sequence of units for all students from Kindergarten to Year 6. The sequence focuses on conceptual development, allowing students to consolidate learning and to extend their knowledge and understanding during each year of school. We have also begun planning excursions to tie in with the sequence, and in some cases, camps. Only excursions which have a high educational value, take account of the needs and resources of the school and community, and enhance the total learning program will be considered.

Expert Teachers
Congratulations to our own Mrs Janette Barton, who graduated with her one year certificate in Reading Recovery. This is an extremely important program, which catches up students in Year 1 with vital skills and strategies in early literacy. The Reading Recovery Two Year qualification is recognised in many countries, enabling the two year trained teacher to teach this specialised program around the world. As a staff, we are proud to be a Reading Recovery school and to have the expert knowledge of Mrs Barton, and our other Reading Recovery trained teachers to call upon.

Staff Development Days
The last day for students this year will be Wednesday 18th December. Staff will be onsite on Thursday 19th December conducting mandatory training and planning for 2016. There will be minimal staff onsite on Friday 20th. Years 1-6 students return to school on Thursday 28th January. Kindergarten students will begin their staggered start times on Monday 1st February.

Kind Regards,
Kerrie Pho
Deputy Principal
Parent and Community Helper Afternoon Tea 2015

On behalf of all of the staff at Ironbark Ridge, we would like to thank all of the wonderful community members who help us and our students every day. Without you, our job would be that little bit more difficult and we are truly grateful for your support.

So, to say thank you and celebrate another wonderful year at Ironbark Ridge we would like to invite you to join us for afternoon tea on Wednesday 9th December at 2.30pm as a symbol of our gratitude. The afternoon tea will continue on until 3.30pm to enable staff a chance to catch up with you and say thanks personally. We hope you can join us!

If you can please RSVP to either Mrs Black or the office via slip by Tuesday 8th December to allow for catering, that would be most appreciated.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Parent Helper Afternoon Tea Acceptance

I, ________________________________ will be attending the Parent Helper Afternoon Tea on Wednesday 9th December.
CELEBRATION DAY

We invite our school community to join us in acknowledging and celebrating the academic, cultural and sporting achievements of our students throughout 2015.

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

Monday 7th December 2015
Rouse Hill High School Hall
IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR STUDENT BUS PASS HOLDERS

CURRENT 2015 BUS PASS HOLDERS IN KINDY, YEAR 1 AND YEARS 3 TO 6

Current bus pass holders in Kindergarten, Year 1 and Years 3 to 6 will automatically receive a School Opal card for the 2016 school year. This will be sent to the school and forwarded to the students. If your address has changed you will need to reapply.

CURRENT YEAR 2 2015 BUS PASS HOLDERS

All current Year 2 Bus Pass holders going in to Year 3 for 2016 will need to reapply for a School Opal Card. Please see criteria below.

How to apply

For details about eligibility and how to apply online visit the School Student Transport Scheme website, which has comprehensive information for parents about the Scheme.

- When you’ve completed the online application, you’ll need to print off a copy of your completed application and hand it in at your school for endorsement.
- If you don't have a printer, you’ll be able to save your application as pdf and print it later.

NEW BUS PASS APPLICATIONS

1) Students in Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 2016 can apply for a School Opal Card, no minimum distance criteria applies for these students.

2) Students in Year 3 to Year 6 are eligible if:

- They are a resident of NSW, or an overseas student eligible for free government education.
- The straight line distance from their home address to school is 1.6 km or further.
- The walking distance from home to school is 2.3 km or further.

How to apply

For details about eligibility and how to apply online visit the School Student Transport Scheme website, which has comprehensive information for parents about the Scheme. Phone enquiries – 131 500.

- When you’ve completed the online application, you’ll need to print off a copy of your completed application and hand it in at your school for endorsement.
- If you don't have a printer, you’ll be able to save your application as pdf and print it later.

LOST PROPERTY

There is a towel, a pair of boys swimmers, rash shirt, thongs and goggles which was left behind from swim scheme last Friday, in the office. If you have lost these, can you please collect them from Administration.
KINDY CAPERS
Where has the year gone? It seems just like yesterday that the children arrived for their first day of school, looking so smart in their new school uniform. Now they are about to graduate from Kindergarten. It has been a wonderful year, full of new experiences, friendships and lots of learning. The teachers are so proud of the achievements the students have made this year.

Please remember that to celebrate their first year at school, ES1 students will be having a picnic day on Friday 11th December 2015. In the morning, teachers and students will walk to Ironbark Ridge Reserve (weather permitting) where they will take part in a number of activities. At the park they will have recess and then return to school for an afternoon movie.

Students will need to:
• Wear appropriate casual clothes and a sun safe hat. No caps or open toed shoes;
• Bring morning tea and lunch;
• Bring a water bottle with their name clearly marked;
• Bring a folding camp chair to sit in while watching a movie in the hall in the afternoon.

There is no cost for this excursion but we do request that you send along a packet of chips to your child’s class teacher before the party day. The chips will be shared during the movie intermission.

If you haven’t already done so please return the permission slip to the office no later than Tuesday 7th December.

Dates for your diary:
• Celebration Day - Monday 7th December
• Parent Helpers thankyou afternoon tea from 2.30pm Wednesday 9th December to which all helpers are very welcome.
• Reports go home - Week 10

• Party Day - Friday 11th December
• Last day of school for students – Wednesday 16th December

The Early Stage 1 teachers would like to thank all families for their support throughout the year and wish you a safe and happy holiday.

The Early Stage 1 Team

STAGE 2 SNIPPETS

What a busy time stage 2 students have been having. Over the last two weeks over 60 students have been taking part in Swim Scheme at Annangrove Aquatic & Leisure Centre. The program is an intensive learn to swim program that develops water confidence and provides students with basic skills in water safety and survival as well as stroke correction.

The program has enabled students’ learning to be consolidated from one day to the next while concepts are still fresh in their mind. It has been wonderful to see the students having a great time while learning valuable skills in water safety and survival.

Students who remained at school have been completing an exciting Straw Rocket Challenge. Students were required to work collaboratively in teams to design, create, test, modify and evaluate a straw rocket. A challenging and exciting student-led design challenge, we have seen some wonderful team work and some great designs. NASA here we come!
Stage 2 teachers have thoroughly enjoyed working with your children this year. We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and wonderful holiday. Stay safe and see you in 2016.

Stage 2 Teachers

STAGE 3 SNIPPETS

Week 9! We are nearly there! Students from Year 6 have been practising their dancing skills in order to burn up the dance floor at their farewell on Tuesday 8 December. You can only imagine their excitement at being able to share a special dance with their mum and/or dad at this special event. Just a reminder that the students are asked to leave their mobile phones and cameras at home for this event as there will a teacher constantly roaming all night ready to take any snapshots of the fun they will all be having. These photos will be available for students to download onto a clean USB if they wish.

Monday saw Constable Rob speak with the Stage 3 students about the use of social media, cyber bullying and responsible use of gaming and apps. It was highlighted that most social media platforms should only be used by students over the age of 13. If parents choose to allow their kids to use social media, proactive steps in teaching skills required to interact safely and respectfully need to be addressed. Please take opportunities to open lines of communication with your kids about the use of social media both on phones and through gaming and apps.

And what about our Chess Team?! How awesome are they?! This team is representing Ironbark Ridge and New South Wales in the Australian School Chess Competition in Melbourne this weekend. These boys have worked so hard and we are very proud of their achievements. We wish them all the very best for the weekend. Maybe next year we can see some girls representing us.

We also want to say a big thank you and congratulations to our Student Representative Committee Executive Team for this year. They have played a huge part in ensuring that the SRC have not only raised funds for our school but also for other deserving charities. All SRC members have displayed leadership skills in following through ideas and suggestions by class mates, caring about the school community and indeed others who may be dealing with difficulties. We will miss their dedication and commitment to making our school the best it can be.

Thursday saw most of our Year 6 students participating in their high school orientation. We are sure they came back very excited and full of chatter about what opportunities their high school can offer them in the next stage of their school life.

Stage 3 Teachers
WEEK 8

K Super Novas  Charlotte, Lucas, Emily
K Borealis     Lucas, Harrison, Douglas, Jasmin
1/2 Illuminations Natalie, Arnav, Anmol, Ryanna
1/2 Bright Sparks Christian, Charlize, Indya, Max, Jayee, Liam
1/2 Jiemba      Adit, Bens, David, Isabel
3/4 Galileo     Sarah, Izzy, Jemma, Jayden, Nicola
3/4 Constellations Cavan, Kirsten, Tom, Akash
5/6 Betelgeuse Luke, Tyson, Riley, Genevieve
5/6 Parallax    Hasib, Sophie, Azzam, Mackensie
Library        5/6 Min Min
Chinese        1/2 Bright Sparks
Presidents Report (Acting)

What a year it’s been! Last Wednesday was the P&C’s AGM, and sadly we had to say goodbye to some of our long standing P&C Executives as their term had come to an end.

Leigh Kostiainen, Karen Lynch and Sarah McBrien all served on the P&C for the past 3 years and their contributions are immeasurable and their legacy will not be forgotten.

With such big shoes to fill we are still looking to fill the role of the President and Secretary on the 2016 P&C Executive. This year’s P&C Executive Committee includes Mishelle Young as VP 1 (currently filling in as P&C President), Craig Smith as VP 2 and Daniela Farcash as Treasurer.

I would like to thank Daniela for coming back this year as Treasurer. She did an amazing job last year and I know she will continue to support P&C in every way she can in 2016.

I want to welcome Craig, whom many of you may recognise from the Canteen Dad’s Hot Dog Day. Craig and his wife have helped the school in so many ways including this year’s Athletics Carnival. Craig brings to the team new and fresh ideas.

I would also like to thank our subcommittees. Firstly the Uniform Shop which serves as an invaluable service to the school. Deanne Baronoff once again has put her hand up to run the uniform Shop in 2016. We thank Deanne for your contribution over the years. I know it is not an easy job but you always do it with a smile.

We are lucky to have Monica Calderwood, Deanne Baronoff and Emma Andrews working together on the Events Committee this year. After organising our amazing 10 Year Celebration Fete this year they have proven that they can achieve the impossible when you have a great team working together and I look forward to some exciting and fun events in 2016.

I will be running the Student banking next year and we are looking forward to seeing more bankers next Term as we welcome the 2016 Kindy’s and sadly farewell our Year 6’s.

Many thanks to Lori Lagemann for managing the canteen roster for another year. If you would like to help out in the canteen please email Lori on canteenrostering@irpspc.com or contact her on Facebook.

Last but not least I would like to thank all of our silent volunteers that spend countless hours helping out, while juggling family and work. Without you, we would not have achieved all that we have achieved during 2015.

Regards,

Mishelle Young
Ironbark Ridge PS 10th Birthday celebration was a huge success. After costs we made a profit of approx. $8,653.44, which is amazing for our first event of this size.

1. **Words Their Way Kits** - The school would like to roll out the Words Their Way Programme across all classes within the school. This would involve purchasing another 20 Words Their Way Kits x $230 = $4,600 so that every classroom will have a kit. Motion passed.

2. **Chess Team** – The Members of the P&C have voted to help fund the school Chess Team who will be playing for the NSW title in Melbourne this weekend.

3. **Buddy Bench** - The school wants to purchase two buddy benches, one funded by the SRC and they are asking for one to be funded by the P&C. Motion passed to purchase one bench for $940 including delivery.

4. **Message from Judy Paton** - Thanks for the new furniture in the library. She is still waiting on the shelves to arrive and they will be installed soon.

5. **KTOOSH** has been retained for another four years with the option for a fifth year.

**Next meeting 3rd February 2016**

**Uniform Shop**

Please note: The uniform shop will be open on Wednesday January 27 2016 from 9:00am - 3pm (pupil free day).

**Student Banking**

We would like to thank all our bankers this year. Our numbers have been steadily growing over the past year and we have up to 271 bankers.

Next year we are anticipating around 40 kindy bankers. These numbers are a little lower than previous year as many kindy’s starting next year are already registered and have been banking along with their older siblings – it’s never too early to start.

Our move to the canteen has been a huge success and the parents and kids are enjoying the new banking experience. I want to thank Amanda, Dewi and Daniela whom have turned up every Friday morning at 8am so that they can be there for our student bankers.

The CBA have had a few hiccups with recalled prizes this year and I do apologise for the inconvenience. We are very excited to announce next year’s theme is **Outback Australia**. If you would like to sign up for student banking for next year you can pick up an application form from the canteen on Fridays from 8:30-9.30 am. All you need is your driver licence and we will arrange for the account to be opened and your child’s banking book to be sent to their classroom early next year.

Next week will be our last week on banking for the Term. If you have 10 or more tokens you are able to carry them over in to the New Year and claim your prize in Term 1.

**Wishing you all a very safe and Merry Christmas!!!**

**2016 School Photographers**

Back in Term 1 this year the P&C voted to review the current School Photographer as we had been with the same company for 6 years. The main reason for the review was because we were having difficulty securing dates in Term 1 with the current company as well as not offering reshoot photos if
you were away on the day the photos were taken. There were a few kids that missed out on photos last year because they were sick or away.

The P&C put together a subcommittee (Emma Andrews and Nicole Fitzpatrick) to review the various companies and present their top choice. At the March 2015 meeting the P&C members voted to change to The School Photographer for the following reasons:

- They were able to secure a date in Term 1 and Term 4 (for Sports photos) next year.
- They are local which meant that families that were away or sick on the day of the photo could have their photo retaken at their studio in Seven Hills.
- They offered a variety of packages to choose from at affordable prices.
- The offered Promotional Photo Products such as business cards for the Principal and Staff, Uniform photos, Kindy information cards and banners for free.
- All professional photos of the school will be available digitally to be used on the website and newsletters, etc.
- Photos from previous years will be emailed for free if requested. Other companies charge for this service if the photo is more than 12 months old.
- Online ordering system.
- All after sale care will be handled by The School Photographer and not our School Administration Staff.
- 100% money Back Guarantee or retake the photo.

Overall we feel that we have got value for money and like every change I’m sure there will be some teething issues but I am confident that The School Photographer and the IRPS will handle these issues promptly and with great professionalism.

We, the Ironbark Ridge Public School P&C of 2016 and the many volunteers wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.
COMMUNITY NOTICES

Summer Reading Club
www.summerreadingclub.org.au

1 December 2015 - 31 January 2016

CHALLENGE YOURSELF TO READ MORE THESE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS!

Use a log to track your progress and receive fun rewards along the way.

Open to school aged children 5-14 years.

Free to join at any Hills Shire Library.


LOST WORLD ILLUSTRATION WORKSHOPS
- with professional artist Matthew Lin

Wednesday 13 January
Cost: $7.50
Castle Hill Library
- 10am-11am (Years K-2)
- 11.30am-12.30pm (Years 3-6)

Thursday 14 January Cost: $7.50
Vinegar Hill Memorial Library
- 10am-11am (Years K-2)
- 11.30am-12.30pm (Years 3-6)

DISCOVER LOST DINOSAURS

Interact with a life size baby Raptor and dig for fossils.

Wednesday 6 January (Years K - 6)
Cost: $15
Castle Hill Library
- 10am-11.30am
- 2pm-3.30pm

BAULKHAM HILLS SPORTS CLUB
NETBALL DIVISION

Have vacancies in the following age groups.

Girls turning 5 & 6yrs in 2016: - Net Set Go skills Programme which runs for 10 weeks.

Girls turning 7yrs in 2016: - 2 vacancies only

Girls turning 8yrs in 2016: - 4 vacancies only

Girls turning 10yrs in 2016: - 1 vacancy only

Girls turning 14yrs in 2016: - 2 vacancies only

Girls turning 15yrs in 2016: - 1 vacancy only

Contact registrar net2146@gmail.com for all details and to arrange your registration. Once these vacancies are filled our books will be closed in these age groups for 2016.

Girls turning 16yrs & over registration still open. All other age groups are now waiting list only.

Rouse Hill Renegades

juniorrugby.renegades@gmail.com
www.renegades.net.au

For more information
Ph: 0422 925 461
PO.Box 311,
Stanhope Gardens NSW 2768
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