PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

We’ve certainly had a busy start to the school year, but it has been wonderful to see the settled start every student in our school has made. Our new Kindy students are loving being a part of the nurturing Ironbark Ridge atmosphere both in the classrooms and out on the playground. Special thanks must go to our older students, especially to our school leaders & buddies, for ensuring Kindy are looked after.

Swimming Carnival
Despite a late start at the pool on Monday we had a wonderful day. Cumberland Coaches came to our rescue and we are hugely grateful for their flexibility and speedy service. Mrs Paton is an awesome organiser of swimming carnivals and we were back on time by 12 noon!
All students had a chance to swim in a race and we are looking to expand the participation through other events at next year’s carnival, although balancing this with the need to complete the competitive side of the day is always difficult.
Thank you to the many parents who attended to cheer on their child’s sport House. The winning house on the day was Wattle!
Have a look at the collage of photos from the day a bit further on through our newsletter…

Communication
For all of our new (and old) families, I want to quickly outline the methods we use to get information to you about school events.
• Firstly there is this fortnightly newsletter – check the dates on the front page, read the stage-related articles, look through our community messages.
• Secondly we have a school app (iOS & Android) – search for ‘Ironbark Ridge Public School’ – the app has a range of purposes including ‘push’ messaging/notifications and directly links to the school website calendar, newsletter, notes, interview bookings, etc.
The school website (www.ironbarkrg-p.schools.nsw.edu.au) will in the future be used mainly for school promotion and to showcase special events and learning achievements. It currently has a calendar we update regularly, the school newsletters are uploaded each fortnight, and school permission and information notes are stored for your convenience under the ‘Notes’ tab.

Paper notes – we do still send home permission and payment notes through your child’s schoolbag on paper! Teachers will also send home regular class information sheets and term newsletters when required.

Facebook – see below for information on our new school page.

Lastly, but probably most importantly, our Class Contacts – these amazing parents support our school through establishing networks between the parents in each class. If you can, please add your contact details (especially email) to the Class Contact List when the information comes home early next week. You can ask questions (no question is too silly!!), get together for social events, send out party invitations, get that permission note you missed, etc.

As we develop new means for communication we hope to grow and improve our overall model.

Parent Forums
Last Tuesday 10/2 we held a forum to discuss classes for 2015 and the teaching strategies we employ in modern schools to target the learning needs of each student. These strategies have been used for over 20 years in NSW schools and emerged as a response to changes in the late 1980s to NSW Syllabus documents. It was lively and informative discussion, I hope enjoyed by others as much as myself.

In the interest of continuing the discussion and opening debate about further educational issues we will be holding another Community Forum on Tuesday 10th March about... Homework. This is always a topic that causes divisions within school communities and as such teachers have difficulty in pleasing everyone. We’ll look at a bit of research and evidence surrounding the role of homework in education, as well as having plenty of time for open discussion. Mrs De Jager and myself will both be in attendance. I look forward to seeing you there.

New school Facebook page!
Further to our efforts to improve communication and connection with you, our school community, we have set up a Facebook page. Go to the website: www.facebook.com/IronbarkRidgePublicSchool to see information about upcoming events as well as what’s being going on in our school lately.

School Directions...

During our discussions about class formation, particularly relating to ‘composite’ classes, it was interesting to hear some misconceptions about how teachers operate. Teachers must engage students in learning activities at a level they are almost capable of. Students must feel confident that they can be successful at the task in front of them, but it must stretch them just a bit. For this reason, teaching is our secondary thought… really we are focussed on learning! The distinction might sound small, but it is actually a fundamental shift in thinking.

At Ironbark Ridge we are developing classrooms that will inspire curiosity, problem-solving skills, resilience, independence, creativity and a love of learning. Every student will grow at their own personal rate, and teachers are constantly assessing their progress and asking themselves “Can I improve the impact I am having on that student’s personal growth?”

So why should students be ‘almost’ capable of success? Educational theorist Lev Vygotsky calls this the ‘Zone of proximal development’. It is that level of difficulty that just extends current knowledge and skill enough to create new learning, improved capability, and excitement – INSPIRED LEARNING!

Stay with us on our journey: “Nurturing personal growth through inspired learning”
Pedestrian Crossing
As our school continues to grow in numbers I have become aware again of some dangerous parking/pick-up techniques outside our school in the afternoons. It is extremely unsafe to stop on the pedestrian crossing at any time. Kim, our traffic controller, often finds herself at risk despite the obvious road markings, signage, her own bright vest and huge STOP sign! Never stop your car in the line of traffic and allow your child to exit or enter the car. Finally, all people should use the marked crossing rather than walking in between the traffic – we want our children to learn safe pedestrian behaviours so we should all model them ourselves (even if it means walking the extra fifty metres). Thank you for your support in making our school frontage a safe place.

Singing sensation
Our own Year 4 student Sarah Currie was recently invited to sing the National Anthem at the start of the Hills Shire Council meeting. I was honoured to attend on Tuesday evening 10th February and listen to her – what an amazing voice she has for such a young student. Well done Sarah on your confidence and singing ability 😊

Yours in inspired learning,

Nick Thomson
Principal
### Class names and teachers for 2015

In the interest of simplicity and consistency we would like correspondence to refer to classes using the following abbreviations and class names, please. After consultation with our P&C we felt that these names as listed are best understood by our community.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class name</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KB</td>
<td>Kindy Borealis</td>
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<tr>
<td>KG</td>
<td>Kindy Galaxy</td>
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<tr>
<td>KS</td>
<td>Kindy Super Novas</td>
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<tr>
<td>KP</td>
<td>Kindy Pulsars</td>
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<td>1/2 I</td>
<td>1/2 Illuminate</td>
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<td>1/2 S</td>
<td>1/2 Sparkles</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/2 J</td>
<td>1/2 Jiemba</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/2 T</td>
<td>1/2 Translucent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 B</td>
<td>1/2 Bright Sparks</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/2 A</td>
<td>1/2 Aurora</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/2 F</td>
<td>1/2 Fireflies</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/2 N</td>
<td>1/2 Northern Lights</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/4 C</td>
<td>3/4 Cosmos</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/4 W</td>
<td>3/4 Winter Circle</td>
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<td>3/4 S</td>
<td>3/4 Spectra</td>
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<td>3/4 K</td>
<td>3/4 Kaleidoscope</td>
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<td>3/4 G</td>
<td>3/4 Galileo</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/4/5 C</td>
<td>3/4/5 Constellations</td>
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<td>5/6 P</td>
<td>5/6 Parallax</td>
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<td>5/6 B</td>
<td>5/6 Betelgeuse</td>
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<td>5/6 M</td>
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<td>5/6 WD</td>
<td>5/6 White Diamonds</td>
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<td>5 S</td>
<td>5 Stellar</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 H</td>
<td>6 Helios</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- Mr Brent
- Ms Glendenning
- Mrs Shorten
- Ms Purser
- Ms Ingrey
- Ms Sexton/Ms Pratt
- Mrs Johnson
- Mrs Thomson Laws
- Ms Baracz
- Mrs Adams
- Ms Furnell-Hayman
- Mrs Nahirny
- Mrs Carter
- Mrs Walker
- Mrs Williams / Mrs Cameron
- Mrs Kop
- Ms Goddard
- Mrs Cauchi
- Mr Pengelly
- Mrs Black
- Mrs McCarthy
- Ms Wilson
- Mrs Sayer
- Ms Hoggan
On behalf of the whole school community I would like to welcome not only our returning students, but all of our new students and their families to Ironbark Ridge Public School. It is a wonderful school and boasts a dedicated and talented team of teachers, a committed and enthusiastic community and we look forward to a productive and successful year ahead.

I recently heard the analogy that education can be likened to a great big canvas and this year we would like our students to create with as much paint as they can on the canvas of their education. In 2015 the teachers at Ironbark will develop cutting edge, best practice teaching and learning. Students will engage in an innovative and dynamic environment which develops critical and creative thinking and integrates understanding in areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

Our aim is to continue to develop a strong connection with our school community. This year, we will continue to support our P&C who work tirelessly to raise funds for our school and take action to help strategically plan towards ensuring an educationally sound and innovative future for our school.

The teachers will provide the learning experiences in order for our students to achieve in academic, sporting, cultural arenas and life-long learning. On a daily basis, I witness teachers continued professionalism, teaching excellence and dedication to learning.

To our students I encourage you to use as much paint as you can to add to the canvas of your education this year.

Mrs Kerry De Jager
Relieving Deputy Principal

Helpful Tips
Jargon buster
Wondering why your kids talk about playing under the school COLA? Baffled at parent-teacher discussions about KLA's? This list of common abbreviations or terms will help you to become familiar with the world inside school.

Avoiding injuries
Have you ever wondered if your child may be suffering physically from using a computer for schoolwork? Or if carrying their school bag may be causing them pain?

Maths questions
Are you in search of an educational game to sharpen your child's maths skills and recall? Maths Monkey’s Quest features maths questions on topics ranging from addition and subtraction to ratios and percentages. It’s aimed at children from Years 3 to 8.

Helping your child with homework
How do you help your child while allowing them to develop independence? Teachers talk about how parents can help kids take responsibility for their homework and avoid Thursday night meltdowns.

Mrs Kerry De Jager
Relieving Deputy Principal
KINDY CAPERS

We trust that all our Kindergarten families have enjoyed the start of the school year as much as we have and thank all of you for helping to make the transition so far a smooth and enjoyable one. Our Best Start assessment process ran smoothly thanks to your cooperation. It was great to see so many Mums and Dads at our meet the teacher night on Monday and we look forward to meeting many more of you during our upcoming Kindy BBQ Breakfast on Friday 13th February at 730am.

For those parents who were not aware Best Start is a DEC initiative not something only carried out at Ironbark Ridge PS. All students commencing school in New South Wales undergo assessment. Literacy and Numeracy levels are ascertained and student progress from this point is then tracked throughout their schooling. During our first month at school data about our students is collected so that class groupings can be made and learners progressed from where they are.

As you can imagine at the moment we are establishing daily routines that will be followed throughout the 2015 school year. Please ensure that when you are packing food for students that it is stored in containers and bottles that can be carried, opened and closed by small fingers. Too many containers or items that are easily broken or lost and spoons and forks often frustrate and upset our small students at a time when they are trying to adapt and learn so much. Likewise providing excessive amounts of food that require them to make choices in the amount of time that they have for eating creates distress. At the moment students need a small, peeled fruit or vegetable snack that can be eaten in class. A second small snack that can be eaten at recess and something like a sandwich or wrap for lunch. Snacks need to be able to be removed from lunch boxes and eaten while children are listening and completing activities. Water bottles are great as they can be taken into class. Please remember, we request that food containing nuts, fish, honey and eggs not be brought to school as some students have severe allergies to these items that may result in death. This includes many snack and muesli bars. Write names on all items of property.

Many thanks to all families that have sent in 2 whiteboard pens, 4 large Bostick glue sticks, paint shirts, paper towels, tissues and hand soap. If you haven’t already done so can you please send these items as soon as possible. Library bags need to come to school every Tuesday and sport clothes worn on Tuesday and Friday. In the mornings now all students should be putting bags down in class lines underneath the E block Kindergarten COLA and then proceeding to the canteen COLA to play. When the bell rings Kindergarten is now taking part in the whole school assembly and will sit in class lines beside their appropriate cones. In the afternoon Kindergarten students need to be collected from the E block Kindergarten COLA.

Have a great weekend!

The ES1 team
The students of Stage 2 have settled in well to the new school year, meeting their new teachers and revising the school expectations and class routines and procedures. Thank you to all the families that have provided their child with the equipment ensuring that your child has everything needed for an exciting and productive year.

Last night was the “Meet the Teacher” night. It was wonderful to see so many parents attend the information session. For those that were unable to attend there is some information in regards to what is happening in Stage 2 this term.

**Teachers and Classes**

- **3/4 Constellations** = Mrs Alison Carter
- **3/4 Kaleidoscope** = Mrs Charlotte Kop and Mrs Amelia Weekley
- **3/4 Galileo** = Mrs Vanessa Goddard
- **3/4 Spectra** = Mrs Simone Williams and Mrs Nicole Cameron
- **3/4 Winter Circle** = Mrs Kylie Walker
- **3/4/5 Cosmos** = Mrs Michelle Cauchi (Assistant Principal)

PSSA and sport will be on Fridays please make sure all students wear sports uniform, broad brim hat, runners and drink of water. Fundamental Skills are listed below. Please wear sports uniform on this day as well.

Library times are listed below, please ensure students have a bag for borrowing from the library. This will help protect the books.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Library Day</th>
<th>Fitness Day</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/4 Constellations</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4 Kaleidoscope</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4 Galileo</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/4 Spectra</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/4 Winter Circle</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4/5 Cosmos</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Friday</td>
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</tbody>
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**During Term 1 students will engage in the following learning activities:**

- **English** – concept based learning that will focus on “Unity” linked to our HSIE top 100 year anniversary of Gallipoli. Utilising rich texts, multi modal deliveries and a guest speaker.

- **HSIE** – Remembering our ANZACs, this is the 100 year anniversary and we will be Term 1 with a unit that is inquiry based learning and 21st Century Fluencies

- **Science and Technology** – Smooth Moves, the unit looks at gravity and forces. Students will be utilising aspects of inquiry based learning to research, design and make a model of a roller coaster.

- **Personal Development**: Road Safety, Fundamental Movement Skills and Kids Matter

- **Creative Arts** – art linked to HSIE and Science topics for Term 1
Homework
Homework will start in week 4. It will be sent home on the Wednesday of each week and should be returned to your class teacher on the following Tuesday. Students are expected to complete homework tasks to the best of their abilities.
Activities for homework are based on the units of work we are currently studying in class and through the use of a choice menu, students choose the activities and how many they complete. We have tried to make homework tasks as open ended and challenging as possible. There also some traditional options to choose. If your child has difficulty completing a task in the given time frame please let your child’s teacher know.

Home Reading
Students should read at home each day. All students will participate in the Premier’s Reading Challenge.

Thank you for your anticipated support this year.

Stage 2 Teachers
STAGE 3 SNIPPETS

Welcome to Stage 3, 2015! This promises to be another exciting, fun-filled year of learning and growth. We hope you had a restful holiday and are looking forward to new adventures this year. In keeping with the International Year of Light, our classes have been aptly named. We know that our students will all shine in their respective ways. Thank you for supporting them, and us.

As always, we have a busy term ahead of us with many terrific activities planned. On the academic front, Stage 3 will be immersed in topics about Australian Identity, Democracy, Light, concepts of representation and perspective, as well as preparing for NAPLAN and Selective testing. On the extra-curricular front, we encourage all students to ‘have a go’ and try out for the various teams and activities on offer, from sports teams to dance groups, chess teams to Tournament of Minds teams. Regular leadership development training will take place, open to all those in positions of leadership, or aspiring to leadership roles, who wish to participate.

We have already had numerous successes in Stage 3 even though it is early in the term. It was inspiring to see so many of our students participating in the Swimming Carnival and awesome to see such enthusiastic cheering and support for team mates from the House Captains, Vice-captains and students. We have seen some of our athletes trying out for Ridges Teams both in tennis and basketball. Shivesh was successful in becoming part of the Ridges Tennis Team and will compete in the Western Sydney try-outs. Well done, Shivesh! Alan, Matthew and Fardin displayed their basketball skills during try-outs for Ridges and represented our school, displaying our expectations of being responsible, safe and respectful. Alan and Matthew have been asked back to continue try-outs for a position in the Ridges team. Great job, boys!

Please check the school planner, the website and the App for regular updates of the goings-on at IRPS. We’re looking forward to this year’s exciting educational journey with you.

Stage 3 Teachers
Even with the late arrival of buses, our annual school swimming carnival went off without a hitch. Congratulations to all swimmers on their amazing efforts. It was pleasing to see our less able swimmers participating and ‘having a go’. Several new swimmers who attended our Swimming Scheme program at Annangrove during Term 4 last year were able to swim a full 50 metres. A huge thanks to all helpers on the day; our carnival would not be a success without your assistance.

House Places: 1st Wattle
2nd Bluegum
3rd Waratah
4th Casuarina

Age Champions:
Junior Girls: Lucy F
Junior Boys: Preston A
11 Years Girls: Veronica F
11 Years Boys: Liam G
12 Years Girls: Sapphrine A
12 Years Boys: Lawrence W

New Records:
8 yrs boys 50m freestyle: Ashel K
11 yrs girls 50m freestyle: Veronica F
12 yrs girls 50m freestyle: Sapphrine A
11 yrs girls 50m breaststroke: Veronica F
Senior girls 50m breaststroke: Sapphrine A
Senior girls 50m backstroke: Sapphrine A
Senior girls 50m butterfly: Sapphrine A

Ridges Zone:
All students who have qualified for the Zone Swimming Carnival will be notified next week. The carnival will be held at Blacktown Aquatic Centre on Tuesday 3rd March 2015.

All swimmers please note: ‘Hills Swimming & Lifesaving Club’ Carnival
We invite any of your Primary School children who can swim 50 metres to enter and swim for their school. This carnival is not just for your best swimmers but any child who would like to swim. There is no need to pre-register for the carnival. Children can come to the carnival and select the events in which they want to swim.

The details of the carnival are as follows –

**DATE:** Saturday 21 February, commencing at 5.45pm
*Warm-up will commence at 5.15pm. Warm up must be supervised by an adult at all times or swimmers will be asked to vacate the pool.*

**VENUE:** Waves Fitness & Aquatic Centre
44 Mileham Avenue, Baulkham Hills.

**EVENTS:** 50 metres: Freestyle, Backstroke, Breaststroke & Butterfly
Events will be swum for ages 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 and over. Boys and girls events will be swum separately. There is no prior registration to swim required.

**RELAYS:**  
Junior (8-10 years), Senior (11-13 years)  
There will be boys and girls relays which will be swum separately.

**AGE:**  
The age a swimmer turns in 2015.

**ADMISSION:**  
$2.50 per person  
Free entry for 2 teachers/parents as team managers per school (tokens will be provided later).

The Hills Swimming and Life Saving Club will be running a barbeque at the carnival. Drinks will be available for purchase from the Waves kiosk.
Chinese News!
Nǐmen hǎo! 你们好
Xīnnián kuài lè! 新年快乐 Gōng xǐ fā cái! 恭喜发财
Happy New Year everyone and I wish you all a happy and prosperous year ahead. We have started our Term 1 program and Kindergarten are already saying hello and goodbye in Chinese! I am looking forward to another exciting year of learning.

We are celebrating the year of the sheep/goat next week with a fabulous performance including Chinese magic and dance, and the all important lion dance for good luck in the New Year. This is the most important celebration on the Chinese calendar so it is an opportunity for the students to take part in the festivities and learn more about Chinese customs and traditions. The students have been asked to dress in red and yellow mufti or traditional dress and they can buy fortune cookies and fried rice from the canteen. It should be lots of fun for all!!

We are aiming to take our first group of students to China next year for a first hand look at some of the beautiful landmarks that they have been learning about in class. We will also be visiting our sister-school in Ningbo called Donghu Primary School in order to foster a relationship for future events. I will be sending out a letter of interest in the coming weeks to gauge how many families are interested in sending their child to China. This opportunity will be available to all students in our current Year 4 and 5 classes, but only 20 will be chosen to attend. We may be able to do some fundraising but the trip will be primarily funded by parents. This is an amazing opportunity to take our students into the global classroom, to practice their language skills and to make their learning real! I will be sending out more information throughout the term but if you have any questions you can contact me through the school.

Mrs Przyrembel – Chinese Teacher K-6

ADMINISTRATION NEWS:

We have had a case of Impetigo in the school. Below is some information about this infection.

Impetigo is an infection of the skin and is often called 'school sores'. Impetigo is very easily spread, but with care spread can be reduced. Impetigo can occur on healthy skin but it often happens when the skin has already been damaged by a scratch, bite. Impetigo is very easily spread, but with care spread can be reduced and it is more common in the hotter months. The sores can be anywhere on the body, but are often on the face near the mouth and nose, or on the arms and legs and may start with a blister or a group of blisters.
Nationally Consistent Collection of Data
School Students with Disability

Information for Parents/Carers

Schools across Australia are taking part in a new national data collection on school students with disability.

The data collection is being introduced in stages over three years, and started in 2013. From 2015, this information will be collected in every school across Australia, every year.

All Australian governments have agreed to this.

WHAT IS THE BENEFIT FOR MY CHILD?

All Australian governments agree that every child in an Australian school should have a high quality education. It shouldn’t matter what the individual child’s circumstances are—every child should have the same opportunity to succeed at school.

The aim of this new data collection is to have better information about school students with disability in Australia.

Better information about school students with disability will help teachers, principals and education authorities to support students with disability to take part in school on the same basis as students without disability.

WHY IS THIS DATA BEING COLLECTED?

There is nothing new about schools collecting information about students with disability—in fact, schools have had to do this by law for some time. But the type of information currently collected varies between each state and territory.

With the new data collection, every school in Australia will use the same method to collect this information—that is, a government school in suburban Sydney will collect and report data in the same way as a Catholic school in country Victoria and an independent school in the Northern Territory.

The information provided through this new national data collection will enable all Australian governments to better target support and resources to benefit students with disability. It will help to put the right supports in place for students with disability so that they have the same opportunities for a high quality education as students without a disability.

WHAT ARE SCHOOLS REQUIRED TO DO?

Every school in Australia is likely to have a student with disability at some point. Schools need to be able to support students with disability by removing any obstacles for them to participate in their education.

By law, schools are required to make reasonable adjustments where needed to assist students with disability. These responsibilities are outlined in the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and the Disability Standards for Education 2005. This means that schools need to talk to the student and/or their parent/carer about reasonable adjustments. These are things the schools do now and this won’t change.

The new data collection will record students who have been identified by a school team as meeting the definition of disability under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and provided with an adjustment.

WHAT IS AN ADJUSTMENT?

An adjustment is a measure or action taken to help a student with disability participate in education on the same basis as other students. Adjustments can be made across the whole school setting (like ramps into classrooms), in the classroom and at an individual student level (like extra tuition for a student with a learning difficulty).
WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE COLLECTED?
Your child's school will collect and report information every year about:

- the level of adjustment provided
- the number of students who receive each level of adjustment
- where known, the student's broad type of disability.

Some students who are not provided with an adjustment at the time of the collection may meet the definition of disability under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and will be eligible to be included in the data collection.

WHO WILL COLLECT MY CHILD'S INFORMATION?
Teachers and other school staff from your child's school will collect the above information based on:

- consultation with parents/carers
- the school team's observations and professional judgements
- any medical diagnosis
- other relevant information.

School principals are responsible for making sure that the information collected about each student is accurate.

HOW WILL MY CHILD'S PRIVACY BE PROTECTED?
Protecting the privacy and confidentiality of all children and their families is very important. With the new data collection, this will be done in the following ways:

- Personal or confidential information will not be given to anyone not authorised to see it.
- When the information is sent by your child's school to the local or federal education authority for combination with information from other schools, it will be by school only—student names will not be recorded as part of the data collection.
- When the information is reported from 2016 onwards, it will be by school only—student names will not be recorded as part of the data collection.

WHEN AND WHERE WILL THE DATA BE AVAILABLE?
When all Australian schools are taking part in the new data collection, the information will be reported on the My School website from 2016 onwards. It will be by school only—no student names are recorded as part of the data collection.

CAN I DECIDE WHETHER MY CHILD'S INFORMATION IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION?
It's your decision about whether you want your child's information to be included in the national reporting or not.

Including every school child who is being provided with an adjustment because of disability in this new national data collection each year will help schools, education authorities and governments to better meet students' needs.

Your school will tell you what you need to do if you don't want to have your child's information included in the national data collection.

Even if your child's information is not included in the national data collection, your school is still required to provide support to your child with disability and any adjustments that may be needed to help him/her participate at school.

FURTHER INFORMATION
Contact your child's school if you have further questions about the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability and how it may affect your child.

You can also visit www.education.gov.au/nationally-consistent-collection-data-school-students-disability
Open Letter From The Prez

Dear Mum’s and Dad’s,

Wowza, what a couple of weeks … I had the greatest pleasure talking to all the new Kindy families at best start, over the first two days of school, in the hall.

The next week was doing a Road Runner getting the canteen set up and full steam ahead. Thanks to Audrey Currie for your muscles, time and support. The full term roster is now on the notice board and in the canteen if you need to check on your shifts.

Email me if you would like a copy sent to you.

On top of all that Kelly Jenkinson, Audrey Currie and myself have been busily planning and preparing our big 50 Shades Ladies Movie Night fundraiser. We have 200 ladies arriving for champagne, gift bags and cheekiness prior to the movie screening this coming Sunday evening. It is set to be a sensational night. Remember, Dress to Impress.

The Big Canteen Vote

At the P&C meeting last Wednesday night after a full presentation by me and a talk by Mr Thomson a vote was held and a motion carried that the school will employ a five day per week canteen manager as well as take on the accounts. The P&C will work in partnership with the school and continue to provide volunteer helpers. A manager reduces our need for approximately 30% of our volunteers.

After speaking to Mr Thomson about their timeframe we have decided to implement the changes in two phases. Phase one will begin in term 2 with a new manager beginning and hopefully opening 5 days (maybe 3 initially). The P&C will continue to run the accounts and receive the income, a reimbursement will be paid to the school for the manager during this time. In term 3 phase two will be to hand over the accounts and funds to the school a which time they will mange the financials of the canteen also.

The Prez :)

Save The Date

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>15th Feb</td>
<td>Mum’s Movie Night with Mr Grey</td>
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PAVERS PAVERS PAVERS

For everyone that ordered Pavers last year, I am just working out exact dates with our amazing volunteer layers, but looks like we will have them laid the last week of February! I send out my apologies to everyone for the lengthy delay, and thank you all for your patience and understanding.

Pavers are a wonderful tradition at Ironbark, and are a permanent memory of your child’s year or milestone. We have never had issues in all these years, and unfortunately it was delays out of my control, and mostly due to new firing kilns, and the need to try and match our existing Pavers, with the new technology and machines.

2015 Pavers orders will be commencing in May, with a promise that we will have them by the start of Term 3 – and they will be keeping them at the same price for us due to the mix up on last years Pavers, which is great, as they have gone up quite substantially.

Thank you again everyone – any questions, please don’t hesitate to email me. Monica x calderwood3@bigpond.com
"Volunteers don't necessarily have the time; they just have the heart"

Elizabeth Andrews

Student Banking
Friday 8.30am to 9.30am

Dear Parents,

Due to our growing school we are making a few changes to how we process our student banking on Friday's. Firstly, we are moving the drop off area for the banking wallets from the Front Office to the Uniform Shop. This will help free up the already busy staff in the office and avoid the morning congestion.

The move has now given us the opportunity to do face to face banking with the kids, much like going to the bank. We will be open from 8:30am to 9:15am outside the Uniform shop to collect and process your deposits. When you arrive with your book will we count the money, process the deposit slip and return your book at the same time. If you have any questions or are eligible to choose a reward we will have someone on hand to help you.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we implement this new process. We hope this new experience will help our children learn more about saving and give us the chance to meet our bankers.

New Books & Accounts
New books will be available Friday 13th Feb morning for collection and new account may also be opened any Friday morning or directly at any CBA branch.

Mishelle & Trish
School Banking Coordinators

Uniform Shop Hours
Monday 8.30am to 9.30am
Wednesday 8.30am to 9.30am
Friday 2.00pm to 2.50pm

Available on Flexischools 24/7

Canteen Hours - Term 1
Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Lunch Orders on Flexischools
Over the counter snacks Recess and Lunch

Recess Specials
Monday - Chicken Sticks
Wednesday - Noodle Cups
Friday - Cheese Toasties

Class Contacts
The 2015 Class contact coordinators are nearly completed and a note will be sent home next week with instruction on how you will need to provide your details to your class contact.

The role of the class contact coordinator is to help build community cheer by liaison with class parents to arrange a class night or day out, distributing newsletters, important messages from your class teacher and being contact point for parents in your class who may need assistance.

Sarah McBrien

the PLC

rocks
Student Banking

School Banking Day has started and will continue every Friday during term. Simply bring in your yellow wallet, deposit book and money on Friday mornings between 8:30am and 9:15am to the Uniform Shop where your book will be processed and handed back to you or your child. Please ensure that your children’s name and 2015 class is written clearly on the front of the wallet. If you need a new wallet or deposit book please come and see us on Friday.

For every deposit made at school, no matter how big or small, students will receive a cool Doolarmites token. Once students have individually collected 10 tokens they can redeem them for these exclusive School Banking reward items in recognition of their continued savings behaviour.

To keep students motivated and encourage participation, every year the Commonwealth Bank introduces a new savings adventure. In 2015, students will go on a mission to Planet Savings and have eight new reward items to choose from our Outer Space Savers range. These 2 new rewards have just been released for Term 1, and are available while stocks last:

ET DVD

Planet Handball

If your children are not currently involved in the School Banking program and you would like to know more, we can assist you in opening an account on Friday's between 8:30am and 9:30am outside the Uniform Shop. All you will need is your current drivers licence or photo ID.

Thank you for supporting the School Banking program and don’t forget that Friday is School Banking day!
The Simple Gift of a Bag – Drop-in Fabric Cutting, Donation, and Sewing session

Sunday 15th March 2015
Ironbark Ridge Public School Hall, 10am-5pm

We are going to be making fabric bags for women & men who have had breast cancer surgery - to carry their drains around in. I think it’s a great gift to give to people at a time when something pretty might just help to raise their spirits.

I’m hoping we can get quite a few bags made within the day to donate, probably to Westmead and other local hospitals. We have already made a lot and are hoping to make lots more.....

Please pass the word along or bring a friend. If you have a machine, please bring it along to sew with – both ordinary and overlockers work brilliantly. If you have sewing scissors, they are always in great demand especially since we have no fabric pre-cut this time!

If you have any pretty cotton fabric, then please feel free to donate it on the day or in advance by contacting me- it will make someone much happier in a bag shape than it will in your craft cupboard 😊

If you can’t sew, you will be able to cut fabric or press seams with the iron, or even just make tea and have a laugh. Please come along and have fun doing something great for our community.

For more details, contact Emma on 0458204703 or eashley66@gmail.com
Join us for a night of wit and wisdom! Can you outsmart our wise and wonderful staff?! Tickets are Limited.

This payment is for:

- One or more people (we will allocate you a team)
- A whole team (up to 10 people) **

No. of tickets @ $20 per person: __________
Total Paid: $ _______

Contact Person:
Mobile or Phone:
Email:
** Team Name:

All guests MUST be over 18.
Ticket sales close Saturday 22nd February.
Please return this ticket and money to the Rouse Hill High School Office marked ATTN: RHHS Trivia Night.
Credit/Debit cards available only in person at the school office.
www.rousehill-h.schools.nsw.edu.au
Learning in the Hills

Learning in the Hills has vacancies in all our classes on selected days. Social and tutored classes include Dressmaking, Painting, Embroidery, Mosaics, Upholstery, Paper Quilling, Patchwork and Quilting, Tai Chi, Yoga, talking points, silk painting. New classes for this term include Chess, Ribbon Embroidery and evening Art Classes. Our classes are a great way to learn a new skill, and meet new people all in a relaxed learning environment.

A full program is available at www.hca.org.au/learning-in-the-hills/ or please contact Learning in the Hills 9639 7918, micib@hca.org.au.
## Program Schedule

### The Challenge of Disciplining Your Children
- This is a three-hour interactive seminar on constructive techniques for parents when disciplining and encouraging their children.
- **Date:** Monday, 2 March / Tuesday, 16 June 2015
- **Time:** 6:00pm – 9:00pm
- **Cost:** $25 (Concession $15)

### Ideas for Parenting Teens
- This is a three-hour interactive seminar on how to effectively communicate and set boundaries with your teenager.
- **Date:** Monday, 16 March / Tuesday, 23 June 2015
- **Time:** 6:00pm – 9:00pm
- **Cost:** $25 (Concession $15)

### Positive Parenting
- This is a three-hour interactive seminar on positive communication and parenting techniques. Parents will learn to help their children grow and develop to the best of their abilities.
- **Date:** Monday, 23 March 2015
- **Time:** 6:00pm – 9:00pm
- **Cost:** $25 (Concession $15)

### Relating as Stepfamilies
- This three-session program assists couples to manage the demands of life as a stepfamily.
- **Date:** Tuesdays, 28 April, 5 May, 12 May 2015
- **Time:** 6:30pm – 8:30pm
- **Cost:** Please enquire

### Becoming Parents
- This four-session program explores expectations of parenthood and helps new parents understand the challenges and changes involved in turning the partnership into a family.
- **Date:** Tuesdays, 19 May, 26 May, 2 June, 9 June 2015
- **Time:** 6:30pm – 8:30pm
- **Cost:** Please enquire

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**Bookings essential - Phone 8882 7850**

Interrelate, Suite 423, 14 Lexington Drive, Bella Vista NSW
Free two day workshop and information sessions for parents and carers of school age children on the autism spectrum

Workshop: 2015NSWPC1  Location: Blacktown

Like all school-age students, children with autism spectrum disorder benefit from strong, positive relationships between the home and school. Positive Partnerships uses evidence based materials and practical resources to help support these relationships by facilitating workshops for parents and carers.

What will you learn?

When you come along to a Positive Partnerships workshop, you will:

- Develop a greater understanding of the impact of autism on your child, both at school and at home
- Understand how to develop effective parent, school and teacher partnerships
- Learn specific strategies that will help you:
  - advocate for your child
  - support your child’s participation at school
  - develop an awareness of ongoing learning needs
- Receive information about your local school system’s processes
- Have the opportunity to network and share strategies with other parents/carers and key community members
- Have the opportunity to discuss a range of topics relevant to students with ASD and their families

People who work to support families living with autism in your community will also be invited to take part with the goal that there is an ongoing community focus beyond the workshop.

Workshop details

Venue:  Blacktown Workers Club Group
        55 Campbell Street, Blacktown NSW 2148

When:  Two day workshop – Tuesday 3 & Wednesday 4 March 2015
        Day 1:  9.00 am - 4.30 pm (Registration from 8.15 am)
        Day 2:  9.00 am - 3.30 pm

Registration available from Thursday 4 December 2014 and closes two days prior.
We strongly recommend you register as soon as possible to secure your place. You will receive confirmation of your registration.

Online registrations are preferred directly through our secure website www.positivepartnerships.com.au

Only complete the following form if you do not have access to the internet. Return the completed form to:
Email: parentcarer@autismspectrum.org.au
Mail: Positive Partnerships, ASPECT, PO Box 361, Forestville NSW 2087
Fax: 02 9451 9681

Phone the Positive Partnerships Infoline if you have any enquiries: 1300 881 971

The Positive Partnerships Initiative is funded by the Australian Government Department of Education through the Helping Children with Autism Package. The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent the views of the Australian Government or the Australian Government Department of Education.
Free two day workshop and information sessions for parents and carers of school age students on the autism spectrum

Registration Form

To register please visit www.positivepartnerships.com.au

Only complete the following form if you do not have access to the internet.

This form allows you to register to attend the Parent/Carer Workshops and some information sessions. Each person attending must complete their own form even if from the same family.

The locations and dates for each of the Parent/Carer Workshops and Information Sessions were chosen through a collaborative planning process in each state and territory.

For more information, please contact parentcarer@autismspectrum.org.au or call 1300 881 971

The following information will help the Positive Partnerships facilitators best support you during the workshop.

Code: 2015NSWPC1 Location: Blacktown Date: Tuesday 3 & Wednesday 4 March 2015

Contact information

Title: [ ] Mr [ ] Mrs [ ] Ms [ ] Prof [ ] Dr. [ ] Other: ____________________________

First Name: ____________________________ Last Name(s): ____________________________

Email 1: ____________________________ (for confirmation and reminders)

Email 2: ____________________________ (for confirmation and reminders)

Mailing address: ____________________________

City/Suburb: ____________________________ State: ____________________________ Postal Code: ____________________________

Phone (day): (___) ____________________________ Phone (home): (___) ____________________________

Mobile Phone: ____________________________

Access to internet: [ ] At home [ ] At work [ ] At home and work

Computer internet skills: [ ] Low [ ] Moderate [ ] High

How many children with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum do you have / care for:

[ ] None [ ] One [ ] Two [ ] Three or more

What type of educational program is your child(ren) receiving?

[ ] Mainstream with support [ ] Autism specific special class [ ] Non autism specific special class

[ ] Autism specific special school [ ] Special school [ ] Other

Diagnosis:

[ ] Autistic Disorder [ ] Rett’s Disorder [ ] Childhood Disintegrative Disorder [ ] Asperger's Disorder

[ ] Pervasive Developmental Disorder NOS [ ] Atypical autism [ ] Autistic Characteristics [ ] No Diagnosis

[ ] Other

General information

To help the Positive Partnerships facilitators best support you during the workshop.

Please answer by placing a cross ☒ in the appropriate box

1. Are you: ☐ Male? ☐ Female?

2. Would like to attend the workshop as ☐ Parent? ☐ Grandparent? ☐ Fulltime carer?

3. How did you hear about the workshop?

☐ Media ☐ School ☐ Autism Organisation ☐ Friend ☐ Other: ____________________________

4. Have you attended a Positive Partnerships workshop before? ☐ Yes ☐ No
5. Have you attended an Early Days workshop before?  □ Yes  □ No

6. Do you need additional support at the workshop? If so, please indicate the support you need: (Note: this refers to support for yourself at the workshop not your child)
   □ Interpreter required – language: ____________________________  □ Literacy support with written material
   □ Translation of information – language ________________________  □ Vision or hearing

7. Do you identify with or belong to any of the following groups?
   □ Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community  □ A culture with a first language other than English

Attendance
For catering purposes, please indicate which days you will attend
Attending Day 1:  □ Yes  □ No  Attending Day 2:  □ Yes  □ No

Dietary requirements
Please indicate if you have any dietary requirements
 □ Vegetarian  □ Vegan  □ Gluten free  □ Halal  □ No nuts
 □ No red meat  □ No dairy products  □ Other: ____________________________

Information sessions
On day two a number of information sessions will be conducted.
To assist the Positive Partnerships Team to plan effectively for day two, please indicate two areas of interest:

Sessions to choose from: Please answer by placing a cross □ in the two appropriate boxes

- Completing work
- Managing Everyday Transitions
- Understanding Behaviour
- Making Friends
- Communication
- Bullying
- Siblings
- Sexuality, Personal Hygiene & Safety

Child Information
Please fill out the required information for each of your children who are on the Autism Spectrum.
Please include age group, school name and school address.
This will be used to prepare the information presented during the workshop.

YOUR REGISTRATION CANNOT BE ACCEPTED UNLESS YOU COMPLETE THIS INFORMATION.

How many children with ASD do you have? ___________

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<tr>
<th>Child no. 1 (REQUIRED)</th>
<th>Child no. 2</th>
<th>Child no. 3</th>
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<td>How many years is it since your child’s diagnosis?  □ no formal diagnosis yet □ less than two years □ more than two years</td>
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Education Sector
 □ Department of Education  □ Catholic  □ Independent  □ Other: ____________________________

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