**Principal’s Report**

Students have spent a week now settling into their new classes. While visiting them all in their rooms during the week I’ve enjoyed watching a wide range of activities and learning opportunities aimed specifically at building positive relationships, acting responsibly in different situations, and practicing the routines and expectations of their new ‘learning ecosystems’. I am always a bit jealous hearing teachers discussing the friendly, vibrant new mini-communities emerging in their classrooms - I miss the huge privilege teachers have in being such an important part of a young person’s everyday world.

**Stage Information Sessions**

Next week we are holding our start of the year Information Sessions for each learning Stage.

- **Monday 6pm** – Early Stage 1 (Kindy)
- **Tuesday 6pm** – Stage 1 (Year 1 and Year 2)
- **Wednesday 6pm** – Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4, and also 3/2 Luxembourg)
- **Thursday 6pm** – Stage 3 (Years 5 & 6, and also 5/4 Madagascar)

**Meet-the-Teacher afternoon teas**

As a new initiative for 2016 we are also holding a series of class afternoon teas to provide parents with a chance to actually meet their child’s new teacher as well as other parents from the class. Please note that these are social occasions. Teachers are always willing to arrange individual meetings to discuss your child’s specific learning needs and any concerns so please arrange these interviews at a separate time.

**Class Contact System**

Teachers have begun approaching and inviting parents from their classes to take on the important role of Class Contact for the year. Meet-the-Teacher afternoon teas are a great opportunity to meet your class Contact in person and to provide them with your email address and contact details for this year’s class communication.

**Swimming Carnival**

This coming Monday, 8th February, our annual Swimming Carnival will be held at Waves Aquatic Centre, Baulkham Hills. Although all students should travel to and from the pool on the buses we encourage as many parents as possible to join us during the day for this event. Which House will come out in front this year? Sports Houses at Ironbark Ridge are: Casuarina (green), Wattle (yellow), Waratah (red) and Bluegum.
Maximum participation is always our goal in any sports carnival at Ironbark Ridge, although loud, enthusiastic cheering for your sports House comes a close second!

**School Calendar**

Mrs Pho and I have been developing a ‘Google Calendar’ to which you can subscribe. This is the calendar now ‘switched on’ both in the school app and on the school website. Pressing on the ‘+ Google Calendar’ sign allows you to merge all events from the **Ironbark Ridge PS - Events** calendar into your own electronic devices and any alterations or additions are automatically made for you. A term planner will still be published for those who find it a more convenient format.

**School App changes**

In the near future we will be updating the groups you can ‘subscribe to’ in our app, ensuring you receive the important messages for your child and the groups they are a part of. Currently set up are the learning Stages, Band and Chess. At the top-right of the Messages tab please click on the settings ‘Cog’ and turn on or off the messages accordingly. More ‘groups’ will be added as the weeks progress so stay tuned.

**Canteen**

Doris and Kim have got the year off to a great start in our school canteen and are now looking to fill all slots in the parent helpers roster for Term 1. Thursdays and Fridays are our busiest days so if you can spare either a 2 or four hour timeslot, particularly around the 12-2pm slot please contact either Doris or the school office. Doris will also be putting out the call through Facebook so stay tuned.

Helping out in the canteen is a great fun day and it gives your children a chance to see you involved in their school at recess and lunch, as well as providing you with a chance to meet their friends and to experience Ironbark Ridge.

**Parking and drop-offs/pick-ups**

As it is the beginning of the year I need to remind all parents and carers to be considerate when dropping their children off and picking them up from school. Parking signs in front of our school should be read carefully as the ‘No Parking’ in the morning (ensuring a ‘Kiss and Drop’ style zone) changes for the afternoon time. No parents or students should enter our Staff Carpark either on foot or in a vehicle for safety reasons, and the driveway as well as nextdoor’s ‘PlayDays’ preschool carpark are not to be used for parking, again for safety reasons.

**Classes**

A short video and some photos showing students in their new 2016 classes will be released for your viewing this weekend. Using some of our newer methods of communication (eg. Facebook, YouTube, an interactive newsletter format currently in design phase) we aim to provide parents with plenty of chances this year to see our students engaged in classroom learning – a ‘window into the classroom’. Let us know what you think 😊

**Bike & scooter safety**

Whilst I am a big fan of students using eco-friendly methods of travel to and from school, eg. walking, scootering and bicycling, it is important that whilst riding any bike or scooter they wear a helmet. Safety is of great importance to us at Ironbark Ridge and we rely on your support for this. In addition, when on school property all bikes and scooters should be walked.

**P&C – Parents and Citizens Association**

Wednesday evening this week we held the first meeting of our school P&C for 2016. Welcome to the executive and organising committees to all new members, especially our new President Mishel, Vice Presidents Ed and Craig, Secretary Sue and our continuing Treasurer Daniella. The school looks forward to working with all of our parents to continue Ironbark Ridge’s tradition of Strength, Respect and Excellence!

Talk to you all soon,

**Nick Thomson**

**Principal**
**Ridgy Didge Awards**

**WEEK 2**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Students</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KT</td>
<td>Georgia, Levi, Amber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KG</td>
<td>Kiana, Josias, Matthew</td>
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<td>KB</td>
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<td>1F</td>
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<tr>
<td>1G</td>
<td>Teo, Oliver, Mia, Taneisha</td>
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<td>2A</td>
<td>Aiden, Riley, Charlize, Ivin</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/2L</td>
<td>Ava, Brianna, David, Luke</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/4C</td>
<td>Lucas, Sophia, Asher, Noah</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/4W</td>
<td>Amudha, Ayan, Marshall, Malachi</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/6B</td>
<td>Kelly, Flynn, Jade, Molly, Montana</td>
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<tr>
<td>6S</td>
<td>Isha, Yifu, Huey, Gizelle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>2 Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>2 Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assembly: Best Class</td>
<td>Kindy Turkey</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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.

We look forward to seeing all our parents on Monday 8th February at 6pm in your child’s classroom to meet teachers and on Friday 12th February at 7:30am for our Kindy Breakfast Barbeque.

Don’t be too surprised if your child is extremely tired during the first few weeks of school. They are learning lots in these first few weeks about their new school and friends.

As you can imagine at the moment we are establishing daily routines that will be followed throughout the 2016 school year.
- Students will be joining the whole school morning assemblies next week.
- 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 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.
- Please remember that food containing nuts, fish, honey and eggs should not be consumed at school as some students have severe allergies to these items that may result in death. This includes some snack and muesli bars. Write names clearly on all items of property.

Have a great weekend!
The ES1 team
ADMINISTRATION

With Flexischools becoming popular, why not sign up to make ordering for your child/children an easy process. Log into www.flexischools.com.au and follow the prompts. You can order and pay for your child/children’s lunch, uniforms, and various other activities that may be happening at school, eg. Ordering lunch from the canteen, 10 year anniversary memorabilia, pavers, etc. With Flexischools you can make your payments by bank deposit, paypal or credit card. This will also help to alleviate the occasional mis-placed note and you will receive instant confirmation of your payment.