



Ironbark Ridge PS

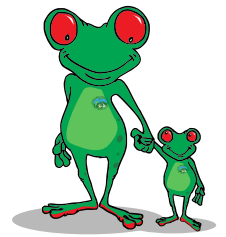
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Nurturing personal growth through inspired learning...



Newsletter 2017

Term 2 Week 7 9th June, 2017

Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be Respectful

DATES FOR THE DIARY

JUNE

12th – Queens Birthday Public Holiday

14th – ICAS Spelling, Assembly 3B, P & C Meeting 7.00pm

16th – Stage 1 Zoo Excursion

22nd Awards of Excellence Morning Tea 10.00am – **Yrs 2, 3 & 4,**

11.00am – **Yrs 5 & 6**

27th – Reports home

29th – Blackatown Debating Comp. Round 3

13th – ICAS Writing

15th – IRPS Athletics Carnival

19th – Premiers Debating Comp (IRPS)

28th – Stage 3 Incursion, Whole School Assembly

30th – Last day of term 2

***** Subscribe to our 'Ironbark Ridge – Events' Google calendar (see the app or the school website)***

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Congratulations to all students who over the past fortnight have received a Star Award. This is a great achievement. We will soon be awarding students with an Award of Excellence badge if they have earned three, six or seven Star Awards during their time at Ironbark Ridge. I always look forward to this very special morning tea event with parents and families of these students, where we read out personal comments from teachers about the outstanding achievements, growth and behaviours of these Award of Excellence students.

Coaching and Mentoring

Recent media attention has highlighted the fact that many new young teachers do not stay in the job for long. Statistics may be as high as 50% of Teacher Education graduates leaving the profession inside the first five years! There is no doubt that the pressures faced by teachers in their daily routines and responsibilities are far more demanding than might appear at a glance from the outside. Teachers constantly need to have five hours of planned and prepared learning activities for their class of students each day, all of which must be arranged outside of 'face-to-face' teaching time, often during evenings and weekends. There is rarely a time when young teachers feel they can 'switch off', especially when reports or major school events loom! The NSW Dept. of Education has spent considerable effort in addressing this issue over recent years, with a 2012 strategy paper "*Great Teaching, Inspired Learning*" providing direction for schools and teacher-education providers, and in fact providing funding to support new teachers as they enter their new jobs. At Ironbark Ridge we ensure that our expert and experienced staff work alongside our less experienced teachers as part of our Stage Teams as mentors. Beginning Teachers receive additional instructional coaching from expert colleagues, and more time released from face-to-face teaching to facilitate professional learning, student assessment and lesson preparation and programming. The act of coaching or mentoring a colleague is not simple, and we have recently sent a team of our experienced teachers to train as 'Growth Coaches'. This is an exciting journey for these teachers and we envisage it will continue to support our positive, highly effective culture of collaboration and performance improvement within our staff at Ironbark Ridge, recognising and sharing outstanding teaching practice.

NAPLAN Online – tech trials next term

As part of the proposal to move the annual NAPLAN testing from its current paper to an online format, all schools will be involved in trialling the new tests in Term 3. The trials are to discover how each school's infrastructure will cope with the internet connection and bandwidth demands of large numbers of students sitting such an online test at once. With tech devices such as tablets and laptops having relatively short lifespans (typically 3 years in the minds of my accounting colleagues – thanks Deanne ☺), it is becoming

increasingly difficult for schools to maintain finances to keep up with this replacement schedule. Although we do currently have a pleasing number of new and working devices in each classroom, the NAPLAN online trial may reveal the need to ask for further community support in fundraising for future device purchasing and replacement plans.

More to sport than winning

At our recent Ridges Zone Cross-Country Carnival, in the midst of what is an extremely painful and arduous event, one of our top-performing sportspeople, Lucy (6/5F), showed us all that not only is she an outstanding athlete, but she is also an extremely level-headed and caring young lady. She saw another friend and competitor in distress during the run. Despite effectively having to abandon her own hopes of progressing to the Sydney West Area level as a Ridges Rep., Lucy knew it was more important to stop and help Sienna during the race. What a selfless act from a wonderful human being, and we are all so proud of Lucy for her actions in support of her friend. People like Lucy make Ironbark Ridge the awesome school it is, and no doubt she will be a huge positive influence on our whole community with such thoughtful and caring behaviour in the future. Thanks, Lucy!

Healthy Tuckshop Day – 14th June

We believe school canteens should be health-conscious and provide delicious child-friendly nutritional options to their students. Healthy Tuckshop Day celebrates all the school tuckshops across Australia that are working hard to make 'healthy' synonymous with 'delicious'! Our Ironbark Ridge canteen is constantly looking for ways to build healthy eating habits in our students and Doris has made significant changes over the past year in this direction.

If you have any possibility of volunteering in the school canteen to help Kim and Doris, please email or phone the school office and we will pass your details on to Doris.

Buy a pie (or three!)

With this winter chill well set in by now everyone needs to stock up on some delicious pies! See the information later in the newsletter and place your pie orders before 16th June.

Morning arrival at school

With two points to the message, please be aware:

1. No students should be at school before 8.30am as no teacher supervision is guaranteed on the playground until then. Arrival of bus travel students slightly before this time is unavoidable on some mornings and these students are to be reminded to sit quietly on the silver seats until 8.30am.
2. School starts at 9.00am and currently many students are arriving late. Please ensure your children arrive at school before this time as they then have a chance to settle and talk to friends in the playground, as well as being present for any morning messages, awards or assembly activities.

Peiji Chinese School – Mandarin Language lessons

We are excited to be able to host the Peiji Chinese School on Tuesday afternoons beginning from the start of next term at Ironbark Ridge. Lessons in Mandarin language are planned from 3.15pm in our current 3W classroom. Further information will be available soon including registration details and lesson costs. All communication will be directly with the Peiji Chinese School so please look out for further details if you are interested.

Terror attack talk

While most parents quite naturally don't want to discuss terrorism with children, it's not a topic that you should avoid, particularly if your children ask pertinent questions. For some tips from Michael Grose, parenting expert, I have included his latest blog entry for you to read later in the newsletter.

With Ms Pho on leave until the end of term, Ms Cauchi will be relieving as Deputy Principal. We are fortunate at Ironbark Ridge to have such an experienced and highly capable leadership team with many able to fill a range of roles within the school to such a high level of success. The outstanding Ms Van Buizen will be teaching Kindy Chimpanzees during weeks 8-10 so they are in great hands, although I know Ms Cauchi won't be able to stay away for long and will probably visit her class every day just to say hello ☺.

Together in learning and growth,

Nick Thomson
Principal

Fact sheet for parents and carers

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual national assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. Planning has begun to move NAPLAN from a pen and paper assessment to an online assessment.

What are the benefits of NAPLAN Online?

Results will be faster and more precise

- Your child's individual results will be returned to you within just a few weeks of the NAPLAN testing.
- Online assessment will reduce the time it takes to mark and provide feedback to schools, teachers and parents.
- Improved precision and timing of results will help teachers to tailor their teaching more specifically to address students' learning needs.

Tailored tests will provide better assessment

- The online format allows for 'tailored testing', where the test adapts to a student's performance and asks questions that match their achievement level.
 - Students in each year level start with the same set of questions which can then branch into a different set of questions based on their responses to the first set of questions.
 - This means that students will be directed to questions that may be easier or more challenging depending on their responses.
 - This test design will allow students to better demonstrate their literacy and numeracy skills.
 - Students find online assessment is more engaging*, which means they are encouraged to persist longer and try harder.
- * Research by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) into online assessment has shown that students have engaged well with electronic tests.

NAPLAN Online School Readiness Test

NSW schools will participate in a school readiness test between 14 August and 22 September 2017.

The school readiness test is a 'practice run' for schools to assess their technology ahead of NAPLAN Online. The readiness test is not an assessment of student ability. The readiness test allows schools to:

- become familiar with the NAPLAN Online test format and processes
- check whether they have the technical capacity, rooms and devices to administer NAPLAN Online
- provide students in NAPLAN years 3, 5, 7 and 9 with the opportunity to experience the online test question types and format by completing a practice NAPLAN online test.

For more information

Parents, students and schools interested in familiarising themselves with the NAPLAN Online format can access the NAPLAN Online demonstration site that includes sample tests for each NAPLAN year. Use the following link:

<http://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/naplan-online/naplan-online-public-demonstration-site>

Further information about NAPLAN Online is available on the national ACARA website:

<http://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/naplan-online>

Contact your school principal or visit the ACARA NAP website for more detailed information:

<http://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/online-assessment.html>



Frequently asked questions

Which students will participate in the NAPLAN Online School Readiness Test?

Students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will participate.

How should I prepare my child for the NAPLAN Online School Readiness Test?

Your child will not need any academic preparation for the school readiness test. This is not a test of their literacy and numeracy skills, but an opportunity for them to experience the online test format and for their school to assess its online testing capability.

How long is the school readiness test?

The school readiness test is expected to include two assessments: a writing assessment* and a combined numeracy/literacy assessment. The duration of each assessment will be approximately 40 minutes.

** Year 3 students will only be expected to complete the combined numeracy/literacy assessment.*

When will my school participate in the readiness test?

One week within the test period in August and September will be identified for each school to conduct readiness testing.

How will students be prevented from using the Internet or spellcheckers when completing the test?

The NAPLAN Online assessment platform will have state-of-the-art security protections. The assessment is delivered inside a locked-down browser. This ensures students cannot access the internet or spellcheckers while completing the test.

Will schools and parents be provided with information on the results of the readiness test?

There will be feedback to schools about the technical information gained from the readiness testing. There will be no reporting of student test results from the readiness test.

Talking to Children About Terrorism

By Michael Grose (Parenting Adviser), www.parentingideas.com.au

The recent terrorist attacks in London following on from the recent events in Manchester, where children and young people were among the victims, has spread shockwaves across the globe. With media coverage reaching saturation levels it's difficult to shield children from these events. The task for parents is to reassure children, while trying to explain events that for most of us are inexplicable.

While most parents quietly don't want to discuss terrorism with children, it's not a topic that you should avoid, particularly if your children ask pertinent questions.

Here are some ideas that will help:

1. Discuss age-appropriately

The Australian Psychological Society recommends, "It's best to shield pre-schoolers completely from frightening or traumatic world events." This means protecting young children from media coverage and being mindful of adult conversations around young children. However even young children overhear conversations and know is happening, so be prepared to discuss events in ways that they understand.

Primary school-aged children have more exposure through the media and the schoolyard. However children can easily misinterpret events so be prepared to clarify misconceptions and open the way for conversations.

Older children are usually very aware of media coverage, and have an understanding of the ramifications both personally and politically. Opening the way for more in-depth conversations as well as processing any feelings that arise is important for this age group.

2. Manage yourself first

Children of all ages take their cues about unusual events from their parents. Events such as terrorism may leave you feeling unsettled and outraged but you need to think carefully about the emotions you communicate to children. First and foremost they need to feel safe, so it's best to keep extreme emotions in check in front of children. Share how you feel with your children but make sure you are in control of your emotions. Air strong feelings of anger or disgust with trusted adults if you need to vent or explore your own reactions.

3. Find out what they know

Children often confuse time and place so they can easily think that an event that occurred on the other side of the world will directly impact on them. Young children, in particular, usually personalise situations. They may, for example, think that an older relative is in danger because he or she is a regular concert-goer.

4. Keep conversations simple

Let children steer the conversation with their questions and worries. Answer children's questions matter-of-factly and simply, while bringing issues down to their level if necessary by talking about why people get into fights, and pinpointing appropriate and inappropriate reactions. With older children and teens you may be to hold discussions around politics and religion but do so without stereotyping, or providing narrow analyses of events.

5. Listen to their worries

Encourage your children to talk about their feelings as well as their thoughts about the events. If possible, help them give their feelings a name. Assist them to understand that it's normal to feel scared, sad and angry when events like these occur. Some children may want to spend more time around you, which is a natural reaction to distressing events occur that are outside their control.

6. Monitor media exposure

Limit children's exposure to television as constant viewing of images of tragedy and terror can reinforce that the world is a dangerous place. Be mindful that constant repetition can de-sensitise some children impacting on their ability to feel empathy. If news is being seen, join children and young people to watch those media stories of terrorism so you can provide adult perspective and clarity to what they are seeing.

7. Help kids feel empowered

Keep reminding children and young people that their world is basically a safe place. Focus on simple ways that young children stay safe such as wearing a seatbelt, using a helmet while riding a bike and strapping on safety gear when they skateboard. Older children may want to fundraise for a charity organisation so they learn that they can make a positive difference. You may also hold discussions with teenagers about current safety measures such as airport security and possible increases in security at future entertainment and sporting events.

8. Remind kids that people are good

Perhaps the most insidious aspect about terrorism for those that are not directly affected by it is that it can lead to mistrust of others and a cynicism toward different religious or political groups. It's easy to lose sight of the basic goodness in all of us. It may be useful then to highlight stories of heroism and goodness that come out of terrorism attacks. With young children, make a list of all the people such as medics, police and fire personnel that keep us safe. With older children share stories of heroism, community and the help that always comes after distressing events.

Conversations about disastrous events such as terrorism provide opportunities for parents to help children manage difficult emotions; and help them make sense of complex events while broadening their understanding of the world.

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Assessing and Reporting

Our teachers are busily assessing, reading and writing student reports. These will come home in Week 10. Teams of teachers at Ironbark Ridge spend a great deal of time conducting *Consistent Teacher Judgement* sessions, where they compare grades and assessments to ensure consistency across the grade. The next phase of reporting to parents will be the Parent- Teacher Interviews, which will be held in the first two weeks of next term. In the coming weeks, you will receive information on how to log on and book an interview slot with your child's teacher. Please put this day / time in your diary so you don't miss your interview time!

Road Safety

Parents, a reminder about driving safely on Ironbark Ridge Road at drop off and pick up time. We all must work together to ensure the safety of our students remains the utmost priority. A reminder that restricted parking areas exist in the streets around the school. Please ensure that you are familiar with the signs. The local council officers do patrol the streets and will apply fines for non-compliance. Incorrect or illegal parking creates a hazard to both drivers and passengers exiting and entering the vehicle. Parents are not to double park or call children into the road to embark. Traffic often clears within ten minutes of school dismissal.



Star Awards and Award of Excellence

Congratulations to our Star Award recipients who received their awards over the last two weeks. In our current system, students who receive 3, 6 or 7 Star Awards over their time at Ironbark Ridge will receive an Award of Excellence. This is an impressive achievement, and one that deserves to be recognised with a little morning tea! ☺

This Semester, we will be recognising almost double the usual amount of students with an Award of Excellence badge. To accommodate for all these students, we will be holding **two** separate assemblies with a combined morning tea on **Thursday 22nd June**:

Years 2, 3 and 4: Assembly begins at 10am in the school hall with morning tea at 11am.

Years 5 and 6: Morning tea at 11am and an assembly beginning at 11.30am.

Invitations for this morning tea have been sent home today. Please read the invitation carefully to ensure you come at the correct time. We also ask that parents RSVP to the office to allow us to cater for the correct number of people.

Child Protection Lessons

All classes will be undertaking the mandatory Child Protection lessons over the next few weeks and into Term 3. Lessons will be focusing on Protective Strategies: developing skills to respond to unsafe or potentially abusive situations and in seeking assistance effectively. If these lessons raise concerns for you or your child, please speak to their classroom teacher.

I will be on Long Service Leave for the rest of term. Mrs Cauchi will be relieving as Deputy Principal during this time. I'll take this opportunity to wish you and your family a safe and enjoyable long weekend. See you in Term 3!

Kerrie Pho
Deputy Principal



Get in the know

– research the 'terms of use' and age requirements on social media services and explain them to your child.



Keep it private

– show your child how to use privacy settings to control what others can see.



Play nice

– encourage your child to respect others online and to always think before posting.

Should my child be on social media?

Parents can sometimes feel the pressure of pester power to allow their children on social media, even if they don't feel comfortable doing so.

While these services are a fun way to stay connected with others, there can be downsides like cyberbullying, risks to privacy and contact from strangers.

If you allow your child to sign up to a social media service, consider these handy tips.



Report

– show your child how to report inappropriate content, especially cyberbullying.



Beware of bad eggs

– teach your child that not everyone they meet online can be trusted, even if they seem nice or friendly.



Join in

– create an account yourself and find out what your child is likely to encounter.



Talk

– maintain open communication with your child so they feel safe talking to you about any concerns.



Learn more

– keep up to date with popular social media sites at esafety.gov.au/quickguide



Star Awards – Even Week



K Brown Bears

Claire
Emaan
Evan
Harrison
Sienna
Lucy
Ruby
Kasey

K Chimpanzees

Sophie
Angelica
Autumn
Enara
Nicholas
James
Yuvraj
Brynn

K Turtles

Hunter
Piper
Max
Mia
Cooper
Nithum
Annie
Michelle

1 Belugas

Chand
Amber
Akanksha
Saatvik
Ella
Cooper

2/1 Jaguars

Samantha
Lincoln
Madelyn
Erica
Jasmin
Patrick

2 Pandas

Riane
Benjamin
Caitlin
Hunter
Olivia
Liam

2 Thylacines

Teegan
Isabella
Chelsea
Mikael
Lucas
Tvisha
Harrison

3 Bengal Tigers

Allegra
Harry
Ashleigh
Molly

3 Weasels

Anna
Kuhu
Annabelle
Zakary
Giselle
Shelby
Milly
Lara
Aiden

4 Leopards

Alfonso
Anthony
Bilal
Abigail
Brianna

5/4 Kingfishers

Jasmine
Zainab
Adit
Taylor
Theresa
Dekrish

6/5 Macaws

Charlotte
Summer
Connor
Sienna
Maddy
Kushal
Jayden
Olivia
Yousef

6/5 Penguins

Tayla
Zoya
Lilian
Charlotte
Tom
Harrison
Samya
Sasha
William

6/5 Armadillos

Sarah
Laveshcya
Nicola
Kirsten
Akash
Marli
Shalin
Emily



Star Awards – Odd Week



K Meerkats

Brylee
Adena
Amelia
Sienna
Lily
Cooper
Ryan
Samim

K Seahorses

Melody
Adam
Zoe
Jasper
Matthew
Damon
Aska
Maddie

1 Elephants

Bree
Tyler
Shaylee
Oscar
Chloe

1 Giraffes

Luke
Eva
Edrea
Zac
Ethan
Nathan
Joshua
Ciara

1 Rhinos

Kiana
Akshaya
Shaakshini
Elyssa
Hesham
Logan
Helena
Anthony

2 Chinchillas

Lexi
Ariel
Charlotte
Sharon
Aidan
Tristan

2 Wallabies

Juhi
Xzyra
Shirley
Thomas
Blake
Ali Alyan

3 Sloths

Bronte
Paige
Ebony
Molly
Jingshu
Ashton
Benjamin

4/3 Bilbies

Leah
Freya
Jordan
Rogers

4 Kiwis

Khematip
Cooper
Lucas
Macayla
Hannah
Harry
Jesse
Dylan
Prateek

4 Tarsiers

Eden
Ashley
Sophia
Henry
Kenechi

5 Komodo Dragons

Vishruthi
Riya
Sophy
Giaan
Naina
Lily
Oliver
Kai

6/5 Foxes

Marley
Sienna
Arden
Khematep
Chelsea

6/5 Stingrays

Ethan
Luke
Chalise
Cassie
Asher
Eloise

6 Hedgehogs

James
Brianna
Yejin
Simone
Ryan
Anoushka
Aditya
Darshanik
Yash
Karan
Amelie



Ironbark Ridge Public School

Parent Planner

2017

Term 2

As at 9.6.17

** Note: All dates on this planner are subject to change at the discretion of the school.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	24 th April Staff Development Day – Staff only.	25 th April ANZAC Day	26 th April Students Return ANZAC Service Assembly 6/5S	27 th April	28 th April NO PSSA
2	1 st May IRPS Cross Country	2 nd May	3 rd May HPAF Combined Choir Rehearsal Assembly 6/5M P&C Meeting 7pm	4 th May	5 th May Winter PSSA 2pm K-2 (5-7 year old) Cross Country 7 th May Mothers' Day High Tea
3	8 th May	9 th May NAPLAN Language Conventions and Writing	10 th May NAPLAN Reading Assembly 4T	11 th May NAPLAN Numeracy Mother's Day Stall	12 th May Winter PSSA
4	15 th May Multicultural Public Speaking Class Finals	16 th May	17 th May Assembly 2TL	18 th May	19 th May Winter PSSA
5	22 nd May Debating Day – Ridges Premier's Debating Competition @IRPS	23 rd May ICAS Digital Technologies	24 th May Assembly 2W	25 th May Blacktown Debating Competition Round 2	26 th May Ridges Cross Country 28 th May P&C Scavenger Hunt 2pm
6	29 th May Reconciliation Week 11.30 Stage 3 Field Events Eliminations	30 th May ICAS Science	31 st May PULSE Choir at Jamisontown STAR AWARD Assembly 6/5P	1 st June Premier's Debating Competition @ Dundas PS	2 nd June Winter PSSA Ridges Cross Country back up
7	5 th June	6 th June Stage 2 Excursion	7 th June HPAF Combined Choir Rehearsal STAR AWARD Assembly 1R	8 th June 11.30 Stage 2 and 8 year olds Field Events Eliminations	9 th June Winter PSSA
8	12 th June Queen's Birthday Public Holiday	13 th June ICAS Writing	14 th June ICAS Spelling Assembly 3B P&C Meeting 7pm	15 th June IRPS Athletics Carnival	16 th June Winter PSSA Stage 1 Zoo Excursion
9	19 th June Premier's Debating Competition @ IRPS	20 th June 6.30pm: IRPS Band Evening – Chamber Music	21 st June Assembly 6H	22 nd June 10am Years 2, 3 and 4 Award of Excellence 11am Years 5 and 6 Award of Excellence	23 rd June Winter PSSA
10	26 th June IRPS Athletics Carnival back up date	27 th June Reports home	28 th June Stage 3 Incursion Whole School Assembly	29 th June Blacktown Debating Competition Round 3	30 th June Last day of Term 2

ADMINISTRATION NEWS

We are now taking enrolments for local students who are starting kindergarten in 2018. We are also accepting Out of Area mainstream applications who have siblings that are already at school.



Allison Batten
School Administration Manager

KINDY CAPERS

Well winter has well and truly arrived this week with the weather becoming very cold. Please ensure that all children are in winter uniform and that all jackets are clearly marked with their name. Also remind them to put jackets back into their bags when they take them off.



Homework is still to be returned on Thursdays. Schools are a very busy place and winter sees not only the students becoming sick but the teachers also become sick when surrounded by little people coughing around them, when this happens the teacher may not be able to give out new homework; it's OK to miss a week. The children still have their sight words and reading eggs to continue working on.

The children have been busy with our **Places We Know** unit. Lots of fantastic stories, art and writing is been done. Discuss the day with your children. A favourite answer for "What did you do today?" is "Nothing". A few questions will let you know how much work the children are doing and the vocabulary they are learning. Reports will be coming home at the end of the term. Parent/Teacher interviews will be held over the first two weeks of Term 3. **Information about the procedures for booking interviews will come home shortly.** Times for when the teachers will be taking appointments will be made available at the end of the term. If those times are not suitable please discuss alternative arrangements with your child's class teacher. Please keep in mind however when requesting alternate times, that teachers also have families to get home to and trying to accommodate 22 late appointments will not be possible. It is sometimes easier for 1 person to leave work a bit earlier than it is for the teacher to stay late for 22 interviews. Please continue to send **FRESH** fruit or vegetables to school for Crunch 'n' Sip time in the classroom.

Have a great weekend.
Kindy Teachers

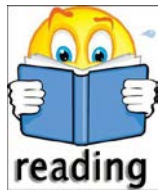




STAGE 1 SNIPPETS

Home Readers

Please encourage your children to keep returning their home readers. Some students are already up to **100 nights of reading!!!** Other students could be more consistent.



PICK UP



Please remember that students need to be picked up at the very latest by **3.15**. School finishes at 3.00. It is also concerning that some Stage 1 students have been told to wait outside the gates in the afternoon. This is not safe and we ask that you come into the school grounds to collect your child.

The zoo!!

Next Friday 16th June (Week 8) Stage 1 students have their highly anticipated excursion to Taronga Zoo. This excursion has been designed to support their learning during the science unit 'Life Cycles'. It is very important that students are at school **from** 7.45am so that attendance can be confirmed before an 8.00am departure. Students should not be at school prior to this unless they are at KTOOSH or accompanied by a parent. Students are to wait in their class lines under the shelters where they normally leave their school bags in the morning. Anyone arriving at 8.00am or shortly after is at risk of being left behind. We don't want anyone to miss the bus so please do not be late!

It is essential that all students wear full sports uniform, including their **school hat** and jacket. Students also need to have their drink, recess and lunch packed in a bag that is comfortable for them to carry all day.

We have no doubt that the excursion is going to be a wonderful day! The Stage 1 teachers are just as excited as the Stage 1 students!



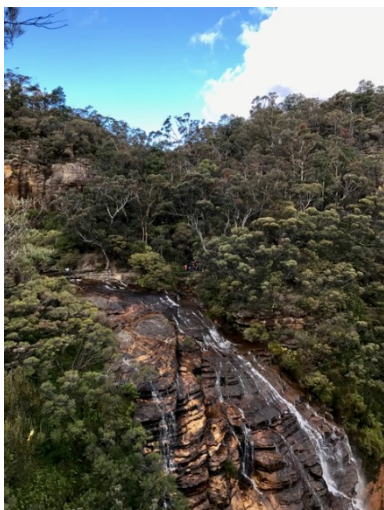
In other news, information regarding the K-2 Athletics Carnival including the event date will be announced shortly.

STAGE 2 SNIPPETS

Wentworth Falls



This week Stage 2 students and teachers were lucky enough to find a break in the weather during which we were able to enjoy the great outdoors! On Tuesday the 6th of June Years 3 & 4 travelled to the Blue Mountains National Park and went on a bush walk around the beautiful Wentworth Falls. Despite the freezing temperatures, spirits were high, and everyone enjoyed the fantastic day.



The students and teachers were involved in a traditional Aboriginal smoking ceremony where the guides welcomed us by building a small fire. Ranger Chris educated us on the history of the National Park, and demonstrated how the Indigenous peoples used the nature around them to build tools, eat, and create art.

We then broke off into small groups and walked through the bush, learning about the landscape, flora and fauna as we went. Our walk culminated at the falls themselves where we took in the breathtaking views!



Athletics Carnival

A friendly reminder to all parents and carers that next Thursday, the 15th of June, is our Athletics Carnival.

On the day students will need to wear their full sports uniform, with a top in their house colour if they choose. There will be no canteen running at the carnival so students will need to bring all the food and drink that they require with them.

Students wanting to participate in the 800m race need to return their blue permission slips **ASAP**.

Unfortunately, the rain did not permit us to complete our Field Event trials this Thursday, however; this will be made up at a later date to be announced.



Spelling Bee

Congratulations to all students who participated in Stage 2's Spelling Bee finals this past Monday. You all demonstrated great courage and resilience by getting up in front of your peers.

A special congratulations is also due to our stage finalists, who will be going on to the next stage of the competition.

Multicultural Public Speaking Competition

This Thursday, Ekam from 4/3B and Anna from 3W went to Bligh Park Public School to take part in the next level of the Multicultural Public Speaking Competition. Both spoke with maturity and poise, and everyone at Ironbark Ridge is extremely proud of your achievements. Well done!



ICAS

A reminder to all parents and carers of students participating in the ICAS assessments that the Spelling and Writing tests will be held Tuesday the 13th and Wednesday the 14th respectively. Students need to be at school by 7:45am.

Queen's Birthday long weekend

Next Monday, the 12th of June, is the Queen's Birthday long weekend. We hope that all of our Ironbark Ridge families enjoy their public holiday spending time with loved ones and staying warm. We look forward to seeing all students back on Tuesday the 13th of June.

As the term starts to draw to a close, Stage 2 teachers are pleased to see students continuing to strive to achieve their best in all areas.

Keep up the good work Stage 2!

Stage 2 Teachers.

STAGE 3 SNIPPETS

Now that winter has finally arrived. Stage 3 students are keeping warm and working as hard as ever, getting totally involved in their learning. Natural disaster homework tasks have been flooding in (pardon the pun!) and we are so impressed by the standard thereof. From erupting volcanoes to tsunami models and informative prezis, students appear to have been enthralled.



Athletics field events went smoothly, giving all students an opportunity to participate in shot put, discus and long jump. Those who achieved within the top 8 distances for each event will progress to the final round to be held on the day of the Athletics carnival (Thursday, Week 8).



Our choristers have had their first massed rehearsals which proved very successful. PULSE choir students enjoyed a day of singing, along with 400 others, and are sounding beautiful. HPAF choir members had their rehearsal this week and are also sounding delightful. We are certainly in for a treat when they perform for us in future.

This week, Sussana and Olivia represented IRPS at the Stage 3 Multicultural Perspectives Public Speaking competition. They were both extremely articulate and eloquent, delivering both prepared and impromptu speeches with aplomb. As a result, Sussana was the overall winner of the competition and will go on to represent us at the next level. Olivia was awarded Highly Commended. What fantastic achievements!

The two debating teams have been arguing their way through the weeks, with Team 1 still undefeated. We are very proud of our students who represent us at such a high level.

As always, we are thrilled to see our students 'having a go', applying their growth mindsets when faced with challenges. We celebrate their success and continue to learn and develop other in areas. Have a restful long weekend.

Stage 3 Teachers

6H Kandinsky Circles



Chinese News!

Nǐmen hǎo! 你们好!

Next term we will be applying to the Department of Education for permission to undertake our second trip to China, in September 2018. In the coming weeks, the current Year 4 and 5 students who are interested in attending will be asked to submit an expression of interest. This is a chance for students and parents to discuss this amazing opportunity to further our students' language skills and knowledge of the world. By signing and returning the form you are letting me know that you are interested in sending your child to China and you would like more information. This is by no means a confirmation that your child will definitely attend. It is merely an expression of your interest which will allow me to organise an information night based on the number of students interested. Please ensure your child's expression of interest is returned to the Office by the end of term. If you have any questions please contact me through the Office and I will call you back as soon as possible.



Mrs Linda Przyrembel
Chinese Teacher K-6

Premier's Reading Challenge

Once again, Ironbark Ridge students are encouraged to participate in the Premier's Reading Challenge. It is open to all students from Kindergarten to Year 6. The challenge has already opened and closes on August 5th 2017. Information, booklists and reading logs are available at www.premiersreadingchallenge.nsw.edu.au



Students in K-2 will have their challenge books entered at school based on books shared together in class and library. Years 3-6 will need to enter their own books via the website. Record sheets are available to print to help students keep track of their reading.



The Premier's Reading Challenge aims to encourage a love of reading for leisure and pleasure in students, and to enable them to experience quality literature. It is not a competition but a challenge to each student to read, to read more and to read more widely.

Happy reading!

Mrs Sexton

PSSA SPORT: TERM 2

STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN PSSA TEAMS (EXCEPT GIRLS SOCCER & NETBALL) ARE REQUIRED TO BE A SCHOOL ON FRIDAY MORNINGS IN TERM 2 AT 8.45AM FOR AN 8.50AM SHARP DEPARTURE. IF STUDENTS DO NOT ARRIVE ON TIME THE BUS WILL NOT WAIT AND YOUR CHILD WILL NOT BE PARTICIPATING IN PASSA ON THAT FRIDAY.

ROUND 6 16th June

BOYS SOCCER	Newbury Oval, Perfection Drive, Kellyville
GIRLS SOCCER	Hills Centenary Oval (walking)
NEWCOMBE BALL	Ironbark Ridge Public School
RUGBY LEAGUE	Memorial Avenue, Kellyville (back field)
NETBALL	Baulkham Hills Netball Courts, court 6

ROUND 7 23rd JUNE

BOYS SOCCER	Russell Reserve
GIRLS SOCCER	Hills Centenary Oval (walking)
NEWCOMBE BALL	John Palmer Public School
RUGBY LEAGUE	Memorial Avenue, Kellyville (back field)
NETBALL	Baulkham Hills Netball Courts, court 8

P & C NEWS

Ready to tantalize your tastebuds?

Together with the TIMBERTOWN PIE company,

It's almost time for our 2017 **IRONBARK RIDGE PIE DRIVE!**

With 22 varieties to choose from, there is something everyone will enjoy!

GLUTEN FREE options available, fresh cooked and freezer friendly, stock your freezer and give yourself a few nights off cooking. **FAMILY** size as well as **INDIVIDUAL** servings available also.

ORDER FORMS will be sent home, so tell your family and friends too!

Orders also available on **FLEXISCHOOLS**, and **CLOSE** on **FRIDAY JUNE 16th**.

Delivery to school and pick-up will be **THURSDAY, JUNE 29th**.





LEGO® CHALLENGE

Introducing ROBOTICS (coding & programming) STEM Education

(Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)

Young Engineers (YE) provides practical application of STEM through the use of motorised LEGO. YE prepares children for the future through caring and dynamic learning programs.

Term 2 enrolment – NOW OPEN

Term: 27th April to 29th June / 10 weeks (every Thursday)

Cost/Location: \$195 / Ironbark Ridge Public School

Registration: <http://www.nwsydney.young-engineers.com.au/enrolment/>

Time	Program	Eligibility
3:10 – 4:25 pm	Lego Challenge	Year 1 – Year 6
4:30 – 5:45 pm	Robotics (Coding & Programming)	Year 4 – Year 6



<https://www.facebook.com/youngengineers.nwsydney>



Contact: 0416 100 089 | info@nwsydney.young-engineers.com.au |

www.nwsydney.young-engineers.com.au

COMMUNITY NOTICES



SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Life Choices FOUNDATION FAMILY EVENT

FUN FOR ALL AGES

SUNDAY 23RD JULY 2017

TRACK DAY & CAR SHOW

RACE SIMULATORS • LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

RIDES • DODGEMS • JUMPING CASTLES

THE BIG DIPPER • FLYING FOX

CHARITY EVENT - GOLD COIN ENTRY!

MOST ATTRACTIONS AND RIDES FREE!

Sydney Motorsport Park (Eastern Creek)

Entrance intersection Brabham & Peter Brock Drives

<http://lifechoicesfoundation.com.au/events>

The **Life Choices Foundation** provides presentations to High Schools and Correctional Centres across Australia. The presentations have reached over 250,000 people making them equipped and freed to make considered life choices. Some of the topics we cover are safe driving, depression, smoking, alcohol, drugs, teenage relationships, social media and making courageous choices when faced with peer group pressure.

Access to the Family Day is via **gold coin donations** - Unbelievable !!