



Ironbark Ridge PS

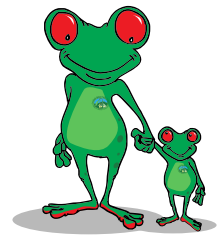
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Nurturing personal growth through inspired learning...



Newsletter 2018

Term 1 Week 11 13th April 2018

Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be Respectful

DATES FOR THE DIARY

APRIL

30th – School Development Day – Staff Only

MAY

1st – First day of term 2 for students

4th – Winter PSSA Round 1

7th – Auskick program for K and Yr 1,

9th – Pulse Choir Rehearsal at Jamisontown, 2D & 6C Assembly, P & C Meeting 7pm

10th – Mother's Day Stall

1st – IRPS ANZAC Ceremony (10am)

7th – HPAF Choir Rehearsal at Beaumont Hills PS

8th – ICAS Digital Technologies

11th – PSSA Sport

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

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

What a wonderful first term we've had at Ironbark Ridge! Our school is such a vibrant and exciting place to learn and grow.

Camps and Excursions

This final week of term has seen our playground fairly quiet on many days due to our Stage 1 classes taking turns to visit the Rouse Hill Farm to learn about local area history, and our Year 5 and Year 6 students travelling down to Mogo on the NSW South Coast to stay at the Gold Rush Village to learn about Australian history. Our students have learnt so much from these wonderful experiences and it is a reminder of just how privileged we are living in this amazing country.

School 'Directions'

Over the next three years at Ironbark Ridge we are aiming to grow and develop our school in three important 'strategic directions':

1. *Confident, successful, inspired learning*
2. *Expert Teaching*
3. *Visionary Leading*

We have continued with these three statements to describe the broad goals, or 'mountain-tops' we wish to aim towards and eventually climb. To travel there together we need to grow the skills and knowledge of our people (including you, the parents), and the practices we all employ.



Strategic practice #4: Distributed Leadership



Employing a model of *Distributed Leadership* across our school begins with the understanding that teaching is an incredibly complex job, not just technically, but also emotionally. No one leader has all of the answers nor nearly all of the skills necessary to develop and lead in all areas. The most effective coaching and mentoring involves not only one-to-one observation and feedback, but also time spent working together and collaborating to solve everyday problems. Having more leaders in our school being strategically deployed, empowered and resourced to utilise their particular technical skills, knowledge and experience to support the learning and development of other teachers means a more hands-on approach and a better solution

to the question: "How can we have expert teaching in every classroom every day?" An effective *Distributed Leadership* model breaks down barriers within the school and enables teachers to work together in teams more effectively with common purpose and goals. Across Ironbark Ridge we are employing the principles of *Distributed Leadership* to ensure we all play our own specific role in the team and get the most growth out of each other... for the benefit of our students and their growth!

Vote for the Ironbark Ridge bike racks & shelter!

Bankwest give out community grants and our generous P&C Grants Committee have applied for this grant to help fund our school bike racks & shelter to encourage more students to cycle to and from school each day. Each month, *BankWest* list 40 community grants on their website for the public to vote. Our grant application is on the shortlist for April :-) Voting has started and finishes at the end of April. Please vote... and ask your friends and family, neighbours, workmates, old school friends, golf buddies, former room-mates, etc. to also vote for our school!

The six groups with the highest number of votes will receive \$1,000 each. Go to:

<http://happy365.bankwest.com.au/PWS/Gallery>

ANZAC Day – our 'Youth Ambassador' ☺

Lily (6A, School Leader) has been awarded the role of Castle Hill RSL ANZAC Day Youth Ambassador. This is an extremely high achievement for Lily and we are very proud to have one of our Ironbark Ridge students named in this position for 2018. Lily spoke confidently and eloquently (as usual) to the audience at the 2018 ANZAC Day education launch. Congratulations, Lily!



Lily with Warren Glenny the RSL president

Traffic

Thank you to all of our parents who are patiently and carefully using the school's front pick-up zone each afternoon. Although it does take time to use this pick-up zone, and although it is actually legal to 'park' and leave your car there, it is greatly appreciated by other parent users if you simply stop for your child/ren to get in then carefully rejoin the traffic allowing others behind to use the same pick-up spaces.



Cross-Country – When the going gets tough!

Last Thursday we held our annual Cross-Country carnival at Hills Centenary oval. With 8-10 year olds running 2km and our 11-13 year olds running an arduous 3km course I spoke briefly the week before about 'grit and determination' – traits that successful people generally possess in abundance. I was, as usual, really proud of the efforts of our students as they challenged and pushed themselves through the races. Congratulations to our winners and place-getters who will now go on to do it all again as they represent Ironbark Ridge and compete against the other Ridges Zone schools, but also a big congratulations to any students who participated and had a go, especially if you finished with a smile... or even a grimace of effort ☺

Parenting ideas

This week I've included an interesting blog post from Sharon Witt (via the Parenting Ideas website) entitled "*Helping your child navigate tricky friendships*". We often struggle to help our children when they relate friendship problems that are occurring at school. Perhaps it's important to remember that our children are constantly watching us model behaviours, and it's this learning that sticks far more than any words of wisdom we might find. We should all be good friends to others if we want to have good friends ourselves ☺

Healthy Canteen – fruit & veg. drinks trial

Last week our SRC members from each of the classes in Year 3 to 6 were given the chance to taste-test five drinks from a new healthy supplier. Students will now take their ideas and opinions back to their class to conduct a vote that will determine the two first flavours to trial. The drinks will be available only on Thursdays and Fridays at first, but please stay tuned for more details.



Football (Soccer) Rep. Report

Jayden (6C) was selected to represent Ironbark Ridge as part of the Ridges Zone team that recently played at the Sydney West Football Carnival. This is an elite achievement for Jayden and is a result many years of junior football practice and hard work. The Ridges team played extremely well to make the semi-finals of the competition where they were knocked out by the team from Auburn Zone. Congratulations to all of the Ridges players and especially to our Jayden!

Touch Footy Reps.

Carter (6M), Chais (5WS) & Tom (6C) were all recently rewarded for speed, skill and hard work by being selected in the Ridges Zone Touch Football team. They will represent us when they compete for Ridges Zone at the Sydney West Area Touch carnival in May. Good luck boys!



Rugby League Opens Championships

Carter (6M) and Tom (6M) were selected in the Ridges Zone Rugby League Opens team. They competed in the Sydney West School Opens Rugby League Championships at Glenwood last Tuesday, playing against zone teams from the Sydney West Region. They played 3 tough games and finished in 5th place overall. Congratulations boys – we are proud of you!

Please ensure you have a safe and happy holiday period, spending time together as a family and relaxing before what will no doubt be a busy and productive Term 2 at Ironbark Ridge.

Students return on Tuesday 1st May, after teachers have met for the *School Development Day* professional learning activities the day before. See you all then!

Nick Thomson
Principal

DEPUTY PRINCIPALS' REPORT

Lifelong Learning

Can you believe we have already completed a full term of school? Our Kindy students have become well immersed in school life. Our Stage 1 and 2 students are actively engaged in their learning, and our Stage 3 students continue working to gain academic and social skills that will support their journey towards high school. Not only is an amazing job done by our students but we are equally proud of the work and learning undertaken by our teachers. The greatest assets come from the investment made in our professional learning. This then translates into improved outcomes for students. At Ironbark we have excellent mentoring and coaching for all teachers no matter their level of experience or expertise. We certainly are modelling what it is to be a lifelong learner.

All of our teachers now are accredited by NESA. Their professional practice includes meeting 'The Australian Professional Standards for Teachers' (APST). They define the knowledge, practice and professional engagement needed for high-quality effective teaching that improves student learning outcomes. Reaching those higher levels is an aspiration held by a number of teachers at Ironbark. Mrs McCarthy, Miss Hoggan and Mrs Nahirny attended the 'Leadership Development Initiative' run by the Department of Education. They collaborated with other teachers from a number of schools throughout NSW who are working towards being highly accomplished teachers. Both Mrs McCarthy and Miss Hoggan are well underway by collecting their evidence to be externally accredited at this prestigious level. Mrs Nahirny has started this process, and is excited by the challenges that this project provides. They are certainly not alone in the pursuit of excellence, and we look forward to supporting a number of our teachers in their accreditation journey.



Encouraging independent learners

Our students have settled in their new classes for 2018. Our playground is a hive of activity each morning, with children meeting up with their friends to play and chat before the formal learning of the day starts at 9am. A fundamental part of encouraging independent and confident learners is for children to be given the opportunity to socialise with their friends, under the supervision of teachers. Parents are asked to encourage this independence by saying their 'goodbyes' and heading off soon after dropping off their children.

Safety at school is a high priority at Ironbark. We have systems in place for playground teachers, executive staff and the Principal to keep our children safe. With parents dropping their children off and leaving promptly in the mornings, fewer adults in the playground makes playground supervision, for the teacher on duty, much easier. Parents who need to speak to the classroom teacher are encouraged to call to make an appointment so that our students can quickly get to their classrooms in order to gain every opportunity from their learning time.

Michael Grose, founder of Parenting Ideas, is one of Australia's leading parenting educators. Included is some helpful information written by Michael to support our children at school. There are a number of skill sets that contribute to children's success over the long-term. They are skills that we neglect if we narrow our focus on numeracy, literacy, performing arts and other academic skill sets. They are also skill sets that can be taught, or at the very least drawn out, when we as adults know what to look for. Following are six skill sets that contribute massively to overall student success and contentedness at school.

1. Friendship skills

The ability to get along with others is hugely important for children. How quickly they settle into a new school year will be determined as much by their ability to make new friends and fit into a peer group, as any other factor. Those children with a strong set of friendship skills have a definite set of skills that makes them easy to like, easy to relate to and easy to play with. These skills include the ability to win and lose well; how to approach others to join in a group and how to lead rather than boss. These are just three of 17 basic friendship skills that have been identified as being essential for making and keeping friends.

2. Organising skills

You can probably recall when you went to school a student who was really intelligent, but who let themselves down because they couldn't organise themselves or others. The ability to organise your time, your space, your items and others is a massive plus for any student. Being organised extends beyond school, including at home and during leisure time. The best way to help children who are organisationally-challenged is to introduce them to systems and processes to help them organise themselves. These processes include the use of visual reminders; anchoring (i.e linking new behaviours to habitual behaviours) and mapping activities out.

3. Optimism skills

It may seem strange to see optimism as a skill set, but as leading psychologist Prof. Martin Seligman discovered through his research, optimism can be taught. Seligman found that while some children are more inclined by nature to see a glass as half empty than half full, all children are capable of developing an optimistic explanatory style through exposure and direct teaching. The skills of optimism include being aware of self-talk, reframing negative events into positive effects and the practice of perspective-taking.

4. Coping skills

Children will generally face a number of challenges during the course of their school lives including overcoming disappointment of missing being picked in a team; working their way through difficult learning situations and meeting with rejection. How stressful these situations are will depend on their own spirit, the support they receive and their coping skills. The good news is that coping skills can be taught, or at the very least, encouraged, if adults know on what to focus. Coping strategies include parking problems for a while; normalising a situation and accepting and moving on. Some children will use coping strategies quite naturally, while others need parental input to help them cope with seemingly minor challenges.

5. Relaxation skills

The ability to relax and get away from it all is vital for the maintenance of mental health, which in turn, impacts on a student's ability to perform. Many of today's children live with pressure. That pressure needs to be released through relaxation and play, otherwise it just continues to build and shows itself through anxiety and other mental illnesses. The ability to relax and unwind is paramount to your child's school success. Ways to unwind include getting lost in a hobby; learning how to meditate and enjoying creative pursuits.

6. Relationship skills

Children at school are involved in hundreds of social interactions every day ranging from working cooperatively with a peer in class through to asking a teacher for help. Most of the interactions go well, but there are times when there will be conflict and tension. This is when children with a solid set of communication and relationship skills honed through a myriad of sibling interactions come to the fore. They don't become flummoxed when a child won't give them what they want, or a child tells tales to the teacher about them. Children who come from very small families (two children or less) often don't have experiences of conflict to draw upon so they need to be taught how to give way graciously; to stand up for themselves assertively rather than angrily and to see two sides to a story rather than take things personally. There are many skills we can teach our children to help them maintain healthy relationships at school, as well as in their families.

These skill sets are part developmental and part environmental. That is, children will naturally develop many skills as they mature. Many of the skills need to be nurtured environmentally - that is, they need to be recognised, encouraged, taught and modelled by adults that children and teenagers respect and admire if children are to acquire them. That makes parents 'Very Important People' in the acquisition process of these skill sets in children and young people.

Housekeeping items:

1. NAPLAN will be held for Years 3 and 5 this year on May 15, 16 & 17. We will be doing paper and pencil assessments again this year. Some schools have been selected to participate in online testing but we are not one of those schools for 2018.
2. Our ANZAC Day service will be held on Tuesday 1st May at 10am. Everyone is welcome to attend. Mrs Barton and Mr Thomson will attend the Castle Hill RSL ANZAC Day Dawn Service with our school leaders during the school holidays.

We wish all our students, parents and staff a wonderful and relaxed holiday. Please stay safe, and we look forward to your return in Term 2.

Kerrie Pho and Kerry De Jager
Deputy Principals

We are a Positive Behaviour for Learning School!

At Ironbark Ridge, we take great pleasure in creating a positive, safe and supportive school environment where students can learn and grow. The approach of Positive Behaviour for Learning involves the whole school community working together. It is important that the message of respectful, responsible and safe behaviours be emphasised to the students by both teachers and parents.

All staff are responsible for teaching the behaviour expectations, providing consistent positive feedback to students, and delivering consistent corrective feedback and consequences when expectations are not followed. The entire school, including the classrooms, pathways, play areas, canteen, school gates and buses, are considered part of the total learning environment. Sound familiar? Just like at home! As parents, you ensure that kids know the behaviour expectations of all areas in the house, provide positive feedback and deliver consistent corrective feedback and consequences when expectations are not followed.

The playground is an integral part Ironbark Ridge's total learning environment. We are sure you can imagine how important it is that all students follow the behaviour expectations in the playground. Social skills such as self-monitoring own behaviours and being socially aware of what is happening around you, are skills learnt and developed when in the playground. These skills fit under our expectations of being respectful, responsible and safe. Of course, teachers take opportunities to provide feedback and if necessary deliver consequences when expectations are not followed. That is what we do as a PBL school.

We are sure you have seen our sport house mailboxes in the school garden. This initiative was developed by the PBL team to encourage the expected respectful, responsible and safe behaviours in the playground. The teachers take great pleasure in rewarding students who display these behaviours with an orange bidgeree. During Monday morning assembly, eight names, pulled from the mailboxes, are rewarded with a \$5 voucher from the school canteen. At the end of each term, the winning house with the most orange bidgerees will get to celebrate their success together as a team along with a zoopa doopa.

At Ironbark Ridge, students are empowered to participate in decision-making through active involvement in PBL. Now the term is over we will be seeking feedback from the students regarding their thoughts on the use of the orange bidgerees in the playground and any other ideas they may have for adjustments or improvements.

We are so excited to announce that.....

BLUEGUM



are our Playground Champions for Term 1!!

They led solidly from the start and kept up their outstanding behaviour in the playground to continue the lead throughout the whole term. Other teams got close... but not close enough. Fantastic job Bluegum – you are examples of excellence! A special thank you to our fantastic sport leaders for 2018 who count and keep the whole school up to date with the orange bidgeree count. A job well done sports leaders!

We thank you and the entire school community for your active support of our Positive Behaviour for Learning initiatives.

IRPS PBL Team



Ironbark Ridge Public School **Parent Planner** Term 2 2018

** Note: All dates on this planner are subject to change at the discretion of the school. **Updated 12.4.18**

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat/Sun
1 Apr/May	30 STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY (Staff Only)	1 Students return for T2 <i>10am ANZAC Commemoration Service</i>	2 <i>Student Leaders Assembly</i>	3	4 <i>Winter PSSA Begins</i>	5/6 Band performs at Kenthurst Country Fair
2 May	7 <i>Auskick – K & Yr 1</i> <i>HPAF Choir Rehearsal @ BHPS</i> Flexischools closes for Mother's Day	8 <i>ICAS Digital Technologies</i>	9 <i>PULSE rehearsal @ JPS</i> <i>2D & 6C Assembly</i> <i>P&C Meeting 7pm</i>	10 Mother's Day Stall	11 <i>Winter PSSA Round 2</i> <i>K-2 Cross Country</i>	12/13 Mother's Day
3 May	14 <i>Auskick – K & Yr 1</i>	15 NAPLAN (Yr3 & 5)- Language Conventions and Writing	16 NAPLAN (Yr3 & 5)- Reading <i>3BFG & 1S Assembly</i>	17 NAPLAN (Yr3 & 5)- Numeracy	18 <i>Winter PSSA Round 3</i>	19/20
4 May	21 <i>Auskick – K & Yr 1</i> <i>Garden Club incursions (lunchtimes)</i>	22	23 <i>Star Award Assembly (School Leaders)</i>	24 <i>Junior Field Events</i>	25 Ridges Cross Country	26/27
5 May/June	28 <i>Auskick – K & Yr 1</i> Reconciliation Day	29 <i>ICAS Science</i>	30 <i>Star Award Assembly (School Leaders)</i>	31 <i>Debating Team 1 v RHPS</i> <i>Debating Team 2 v RHPS</i>	1 <i>Winter PSSA Round 4</i>	2/3
6 June	4	5 6.30pm IRPS Band Chamber Music Evening	6 <i>5F & 2W Assembly</i>	7 <i>Senior Field Events</i> Stage 2 Incursion	8 <i>Winter PSSA Round 5</i>	9/10
7 June	11 Queen's Birthday	12	13 <i>ICAS Spelling</i> <i>4T & 3H Assembly</i>	14 <i>ICAS Writing</i>	15 <i>Winter PSSA Round 6</i>	16/17
8 June	18 <i>HPAF Choir Rehearsal @ IRPS</i>	19	20 <i>3F & 3DH Assembly</i> <i>P&C Meeting 7pm</i>	21 <i>Debating Team 1 v BHPS</i> <i>Debating Team 2 v CCPS</i>	22 <i>Winter PSSA Round 7</i>	23/24
9 June/Jul	25	26	27 <i>4S & 1R Assembly</i>	28 IRPS Athletics Carnival	29 <i>Winter PSSA Round 8</i>	30/1
10 July	2 <i>IRPS Athletics Carnival (Back Up Date)</i>	3	4 <i>PULSE rehearsal @ JPS</i> <i>Whole School Assembly</i>	5 <i>Debate Team 2 v CCPS</i>	6 <i>No PSSA</i> Last day for Term 2	7/8

KINDY CAPERS

What a difference a term makes! Our little Kindergarten students have changed so much since the first day of school only 10 weeks ago. It is lovely to see them settled and upholding the school expectations of being safe, responsible and respectful. They have been working hard in the classroom and the excitement they display when they realise they are readers, writers and mathematicians is wonderful to see. We are celebrating every success and encouraging students to aim high.

The Magic Words incursion was a fantastic opportunity for students to learn about using good manners and showing respect to others. Taylor from KS was selected to interact with the "alien" and did a wonderful job.

This week all interested students were given the opportunity to audition for a Kindergarten choir. Mrs Woodbury had lots of willing singers and will let successful participants know early in the new term.



The K-2 Cross Country will be held on Friday afternoon the 11th of May. Parents are welcome to attend and cheer on the students. Keep an eye out for times.

It was great to see so many parents attending the recent information mornings about introducing reading books to children. We hope that you found it informative.

With cooler weather throughout next term, it is important that all jumpers and jackets are labelled. Young children are often busy learning or playing and putting their jumpers in the correct spot is not always their priority, labelled items of clothing usually make their way back to the owner.



The Kindergarten teachers would like to thank all our parents for their support over the last term as we endeavoured to make the students start to "big" school an enjoyable and successful time. We wish you all a happy and safe holiday and look forward to a new term of learning ahead.

The ES1 team

STAGE 1 SNIPPETS

This week sees an end to what has been a very busy first term for Stage 1 classes. Students have immersed themselves in learning and have shown great enthusiasm in all activities at school. Be it learning in the classroom or other social occasions like Easter Hat Parade and Harmony Day!

All Stage 1 students, parents and grandparents had a lovely time at the Easter Hat Parade. A lot has been happening even in the last few days of the Term, as Stage 1 has been visiting the Rouse Hill Farm to gain a firsthand experience about 'Life in the Past'.



Needless to say that students are looking forward to the holidays. Over the break, please take the opportunity to check in your child's bag for their pencil cases and restock supplies that are running low, especially glue and lead pencils.

With Term 2, starts the cooler weather and a gradual move towards the full winter School uniform. Please ensure that the student winter uniforms are 'right and ready' for the next Term. We hope that all families have a restful, enjoyable and safe holiday break and come back to school refreshed for another term of engaged learning.



Stage One Teachers

STAGE 2 SNIPPETS

WOW! Term 1 is already over and how the time has flown by. What an exciting and busy term we have had, the swimming carnival, Year 4 camp and the cross country just to name a few events. The Stage 2 team would like to thank all our parents and students for making this term so wonderful. We are excited for what is to come next term.

Last week, Stage 2 attended the **Magic Words Performance** which highlighted a message of anti-bullying and cyber safety. This performance allowed our students to see Earth through the perspective of an Alien who had come to see why there was negative energy being transmitted to their world. The message reinforced the importance of kind words and behaviour, the effect our words have on others and how we as a school can work together to make sure every member of our community feels valued. This performance was a blast and the students thoroughly enjoyed the creative message delivered through dance, song and drama.



A quick reminder that **NAPLAN** is coming up early in Term 2 starting on Tuesday 15th May for Year 3 students. Year 3 teachers have been working hard to make sure that all their students feel ready to take on this challenge. Students are required to bring 2 x HB or 2B pencils, an eraser and a pencil sharpener with a barrel.



The **NSW Premiers Reading Challenge** has commenced for 2018, so keep up all the great reading. Students can access the website link below and login using their DET student details they use on school computers. The competition continues until the 31st of August 2018.
<https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html>

The **Multi-Cultural Perspectives Public Speaking Competition** will be held in Term 2. Students will be completing their speeches for homework. Class finals will be held during Week 4 Term 2. Stage 2 finals will be held in Week 5 Term 2. Students will be required to write and practice their speech at home. The topics for this year are:



Watch Your Language!
Multi-cultural Classrooms
Games Bring Us Together
Belonging
My Story
What Makes an Australian?

What Australia Day Means to Me
Refugees
Kid Power!
Global Connections
Do You Understand Me?

During Term 2, all Stage 2 students will attend '**A Colonial Show**' by Iconic performances as their History Unit First Contacts culminates. The cost of the activity will be included in the Stage 2 Term 2 invoice.

We wish everyone an enjoyable and safe holiday! We can't wait to see all our students smiling faces back in Term 2.

The Stage 2 Team

STAGE 3 SNIPPETS

Our final snippets for Term 1 and what a way to finish. This week Stage 3 have been, or are still on Camp! What an amazing experience for our Year 5 and Year 6 students who ventured out to seek their fortune, just like the gold miners from the 1850's. Unfortunately Year 5 returned without such a fortune but with so many valuable and fabulous experiences, learning opportunities and friendships.

The Kiama Blowhole with only the occasional by sitting on a hilltop, in the long drive down the white lions, Sumatran pandas, snow leopards and possible extinction monkey and an ape some of the little apes are. The lions looked at us curiously, but perhaps they were thinking how "tasty" we would be. They were all a noisy bunch which was exciting to hear, particularly the white lionesses and black and white ruffed lemurs. We completed the day with dinner and wonderful campfire stories from Rod.



was very sedate when we stopped for morning tea, puff, but what better way to enjoy morning tea than the sun, overlooking the sea. This prepared us for coast to Mogo Zoo. A unique opportunity to visit the Tiger (who was down for a long nap) meerkats, red and a variety of animals who face endangerment on the wild. We now know the difference between a (ask your children) and how clever and mischievous some of the little apes are. The lions looked at us curiously, but perhaps they were thinking how "tasty" we would be. They were all a noisy bunch which was exciting to hear, particularly the white lionesses and black and white ruffed lemurs. We completed the day with dinner and wonderful campfire stories from Rod.

We were transported back to the 1850's on Day 2, experiencing first hand what it was like to pan for gold, play traditional children's games and go to school. Very different from today. We made and ate our damper, hot from the oven dripping with Cocky's Joy (Golden Syrup), and played with the 1850's fidget spinner. A traditional bush dance had everyone up and dancing and singing to top off our day.

On our way home we visited the Nan Tien Temple and learned a little about the Buddhist religion. We practised some Tai Chi en masse and learned about the benefits of meditation. Perhaps this relaxation method was why the trip home was quieter than the trip down.

Just a short summary of our Mogo Camp experience, it is always enlightening to get to know our students out of the school environment, as usual they were delightful and great ambassadors for our school. Enjoy your school holidays, stay safe and see you all back for Term 2 on Tuesday 1st May 2018.



Our Year 6 students on camp!



PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE!

Ironbark Ridge is participating in the Premier's Reading Challenge again this year. The Challenge aims to encourage a love of reading for leisure and pleasure in students, and to enable them to experience a range of quality literature. It is not a competition but a challenge for each student to read, to read more and to read a wide variety of texts.

The Challenge is open to Kindergarten through to Year 6. Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 will complete their challenge, reading books from the K-2 booklist, during Library and in classrooms.

Years 3-6 will need to enter their own books via the website. Students can access the website link below and login using their student details they use on school computers.

<https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html>



www.premiersreadingchallenge.nsw.edu.au



The Challenge closes at midnight on the 31st August. Please see your class teacher or Miss Furnell if you need assistance accessing or updating your reading record.

Happy Reading!
Miss Furnell



CANTEEN NEWS

As of Term 2 Tuesday 1st of May, there will be **NO OVER THE COUNTER LUNCH ORDERS.**

ALL LUNCH ORDERS must be placed online with **FLEXISCHOOLS.**

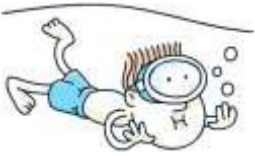
The Easter Hat Parade Canteen Competition winners were:

1st prize – Shrravan – 2M
2nd prize – Yuri – 1F
3rd Prize – Anmol – 5S

Congratulations to all our winners.

Doris
Canteen Manager





NSW STATE PSSA SWIMMING CARNIVAL



Congratulations to Suzi who represented Ironbark Ridge Public School at the NSW PSSA State Swimming Carnival on Wednesday and Thursday at the Olympic Aquatic Centre at Homebush. Suzi swam in five events: 9 years girls 50m freestyle, junior girls 200 metres Individual medley, junior girls 50 metres backstroke, junior girls 50 metres backstroke and the Sydney West all age Relay Final.

Suzie qualified for finals in the 9 years girls 50m freestyle and the junior girl's 50 metres backstroke. **Suzie is now the fastest nine year old girl in NSW; winning a gold medal in the 50m freestyle event in a personal best time. What an amazing accomplishment!**

The whole school community is extremely proud of your outstanding efforts Suzi.

Judy Paton





Garden Club

Garden Club has gotten off to a fabulous start in Term One. It has been great to have students from Years One and Two join us. We also welcomed Miss Milliken and Miss Taylor to Garden Club.

Each week there is lots to do in the vegetable garden. In the last few weeks we have been preparing the garden beds for autumn planting. This has involved clearing out summer crops, collecting compost and digging it through to refresh the soil. We've built 2 trellises for this season's climbing plants.

The autumn planting has included garden peas, radishes, English spinach, strawberries, coriander, rocket, rosemary, snow peas and spring onions. We have also planted 2 passionfruit vines, a pot full of daffodil bulbs and lots of yellow and orange marigolds.



In March, the rainwater tank pump was repaired. This is exciting as we can now use rainwater harvested from the Library roof.

Term Two is shaping up to be another fun and busy time for Garden Club. We plan to expand our vegetable garden as we build 3 new, large garden beds that were generously supplied by Rouse Hill Bunnings. Various projects are planned for the gardens across the school, where students will continue to learn about plant care and maintenance, composting and vermicomposting (worm farms).



Give a Gnome a Home



Winter is not a very colourful season in the garden. So in Term 2, Garden Club are hoping to amass a collection of garden gnomes to add some colour to our winter gardens. It will be called '**Give a Gnome a Home**'. If your family would like to give a gnome a home at Ironbark, please bring it Mrs Weekley in the Library.

Helping your child navigate tricky friendships

By Sharon Witt

Friendships are an important aspect of all of our lives – perhaps even more so for our children as they navigate the often complex years of growing up and discover their place in the world. As our young people grow and develop, so do their friendships.

In the early years, many friendships are developed through manufactured situations and groups we are involved in as parents. First time mother's groups, antenatal birthing classes, playgroup, church groups and other friendship groups for mothers, often become the first opportunities that our children have to play and develop these early skills of relating to their peers. It is during these early toddler years that we can safely observe and guide our children's play time. We can help them deal with minor disputes over whose turn it is to play with the truck, use the dress up cape or the blocks. We teach our children to play fairly, share and take turns.

As our children enter their early Primary School years, these friendships develop more out of our earshot. Some parents may even feel a little concerned that they will not know each of your child's friends at school and whom they choose to be influenced by. However, there is a lot we can do as parents to help guide our children through these years of critical relationship building. Developing the strategies to deal with friendship conflicts, tricky situations and issues of bullying are lifelong skills that will stand them in good stead for the years ahead.

What makes a good friend?

From an early age, we can have conversations with our children around what makes a good, healthy friendship. What are the qualities we look for in a friend? I have asked this very question of hundreds of children over the past two decades and the same qualities are mentioned time and time again:

Honest Trustworthy Friendly Dependable
Kind-hearted Humorous Forgiving

These qualities are probably the same for many of us parents too. However we also need to remember that we should also display these qualities if we are seeking positive and healthy friendships. We will actually attract these same qualities in the friendships we make when we model these ourselves.

Lead by Example

Whether we like it or not, our children are observing us all the time. They watch how we speak, act and conduct our own friendships.

A few days ago, I was astounded by an exchange I observed on social networking site Facebook between two grown women – mothers – right in front of their children's watchful gaze. What was perhaps the most distressing for those observing, were a few comments posted intermittently by the young children of these women – who were observing every hurtful missile fired between the two! One child simply wrote: 'Please! will you stop calling my mum names!' 'Please will you stop speaking to my mum that way, she doesn't deserve it!', and my heart broke! These parents were clearly having a very heated falling out – but to play this out in a very public way and under the ever-watchful eyes of their children was just so sad. To these children, the modelling is already occurring before their eyes.

Model your own positive Friendships

As parents, we can do a lot to teach our children about navigating friendships by modelling our own in a positive way. Demonstrate that a friendship is a two-way street by phoning your friend occasionally, sending an encouraging note or card, or making a meal for them if they are unwell. When we do these things naturally in our own relationships, we are teaching our children how supportive real friendships can be.

Please note these changes to Hills Bus service from 30th April, due to a road closure in Castle Hill Interchang. All routes currently using Stand C will operate via Old Northern Rd after Crane Rd, near Castle Mall.



School Travel Advice

For trip planning visit www.transportnsw.info or call 131 500.

For current Hillsbus school and route services visit www.cdcbus.com.au or call 02 8889 7000.

Conditions of Carriage: Students must have a valid Opal card, term pass or pay a cash fare. Students must tap on and off every trip. Further details about the SSTS are available at: www.transportnsw.info

Key: L> Bus turns left; R> Bus turns right

IRONBARK RIDGE PS

Bell Times

Morning: 09:00

Afternoon: 15:00

Effective 30/04/2018

MORNING BUSES

Route	Time	Bus Route
2025	07:40	EX CNR WINDSOR RD & SAMANTHA RILEY DR via Samantha Riley Dr, R>Macquarie, L>Windsor Rd, R>Windsor, L>Merriville, Conrad, R>Keirle to Fyfe Rd, turnaround return Keirle, L>Conrad, Merriville, L>Windsor Rd, R>Mile End (08:01), L>Adelphi, R>Clower, L>Mile End, R>Withers, L>Bentley, R>Wellgate, L>Withers to school
605	08:00	EX CELIA RD AFTER ROSS PL via Celia, Stringer, L>Barry, R>Withers to Rouse Hill HS bus bay
610X	08:05	EX CASTLE TOWERS via Route 610X to Withers Rd
615X	08:10	EX STRINGER RD AFTER TIMBARRA AVE via Stringer, L>Barry, L>Withers, R>Hezlett, R>Samantha to Samantha Riley before Poole Rd. Transfer to Route 610X (due 08:23) (see above) for travel to school
610	08:31	EX ROUSE HILL TOWN CENTRE via Route 610 to school

AFTERNOON BUSES

Route	Time	Bus Route
610X	15:16	TO CASTLE HILL via Ironbark Ridge, R>Withers, R>Mungerie, The Parkway, R>Brampton, L>Sam Riley, L>Hezlett, L>Gum Nut to Hills Adventist College, return Gum Nut, R>Hezlett, James Mileham, L>Marella, R>Green, L>Showground, L>Gilbert, R>Tuckwell, R>Old Castle Hill, L>McMullen, R>Old Northern, Terminus, R>Crane, L>Old Northern to Old Northern Rd after Crane Rd
2600	15:17	TO ROUSE HILL & BOX HILL via L>Withers, L>Mile End, R>Clower, L>Adelphi, R>Mile End, R>Windsor, R>Terry, R>Alan to opposite No. 7 Alan St
2599	15:26	TO ROUSE HILL & KELLYVILLE RIDGE via Ironbark Ridge, L>Withers, R>Bentley, R>Wellgate, R>Withers, R>Milford, L>Mile End Rd, R>Clower, L>Adelphi Rd R>Abedour, L>Windsor Rd, R>Merriville, Conrad, R>Keirle, R>Fyfe to Braemont Dr, turnaround, return Fyfe, L>Keirle, R>Conrad, L>Stanhope Parkway to Sunnyholt Rd
3599	15:30	TO ROUSE HILL TOWN CENTRE & KELLYVILLE RIDGE via L>Withers, R>Bentley, R>Wellgate, R>Withers, L>Mile End, R>Clower, L>Adelphi, R>Mile End, L>Windsor to Rouse Hill Town Centre then continue T-way, R>Merriville, Conrad, R>Keirle, R>Fyfe to Braemont Dr turnaround return Fyfe L>Keirle, R>Conrad, L>Stanhope Parkway to Sunnyholt Rd

COMMUNITY NOTICES

FREE SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Looking for something to do during the school holidays?

Check out The Hills Youth Week 2018 Program of Events.

Check out the free morning tea and screening of the movie "Rampage" starring The Rock at Event Cinemas, free job seeking and mindfulness workshops, health, sport and wellness days at Bernie Mullane Recreation Centre and Waves Aquatic Centre etc.

For details, please follow the link below:

<https://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au/Services/Our-Community/Youth/Live-it-Up---Hills-Youth-Week-2018>

WESLEY GIANT GARAGE SALE

Where: *In the Wesley Uniting Church grounds at 32 Showground Road, Castle Hill.*

Dates/Times: *Friday May 4th 2018* (operating from *8:00am to 1:00pm*) and *Saturday May 5th 2018* (also operating from *8:00am to 1:00pm*)

Sale items/Stalls will include Books, Records, CDs, DVDs, Clothing, Electrical, Furniture, Manchester, Plants, Toys, White Elephant, Jewellery, Fine Art and China etc.

We will also be providing refreshments (tea, coffee and cake) during sale hours, together with a Sausage Sizzle for lunch on both days, and Bacon and Egg rolls for breakfast on Saturday morning.

Enjoy the friendly atmosphere, and pick up a bargain (or two) knowing you are helping those families who need our assistance within the Hills area.

IMPORTANT - PLEASE NOTE:

Due to current roadworks in the area, *parking* will be *PROHIBITED* on *both sides* of *Showground Road*. Parking on the north side of Showground Road will be possible in Kentwell Avenue, Worthing Avenue or Castle Street, whilst on the south side parking will be possible in Cheriton Avenue or Cecil Avenue.

HILLS COMMUNITY AID AND LEARNING IN THE HILLS

Family FUN DAY

AND OPEN DAY

Free Event

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS | TUESDAY 17 APRIL | 10AM-1PM

BALCOMBE HEIGHTS ESTATE, 92 SEVEN HILLS ROAD, BAULKHAM HILLS



YOUTH WEEK CELEBRATIONS WITH ACTIVITIES AT THE SKATE PARK AND FAMILY FUN DAY

CHILDREN'S ARTS AND CRAFTS • BISCUIT DECORATING • ROCK CLIMBING WALL
DRUMMING • AFL • JUMPING CASTLE • HILLS DAILY GRIND • POLICE SERVICES DISPLAY
GLENHAVEN RURAL FIRE SERVICE • LOCAL SERVICES

LEARNING IN THE HILLS
CLASS ROOMS OPEN WITH
DISPLAYS OF ARTS AND CRAFTS

HILLS DAILY GRIND
LEARNING IN THE HILLS
DEVONSHIRE TEA'S

LIVE IT UP
YOUTH WEEK



FOR MORE INFORMATION ☎ 02 9639 8620 ✉ ENQ@HCA.ORG.AU