



Ironbark Ridge PS

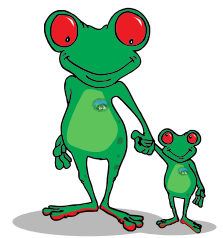
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Nurturing personal growth through inspired learning...



Newsletter 2020

Term 1 Week 11 10th April 2020

Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be Respectful

DATES FOR THE DIARY

APRIL

8th April – Virtual ANZAC Day (filming)
10th April – School Holidays Commence
27th April – Pupil Free Day (Staff only)

9th April – Virtual Easter Hat Parade
25th April – ANZAC Day (Ironbark Ridge virtual ceremony released)
28th April – Term 2 Commences

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

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Ironbark Ridge in the new normal

After two weeks of reacting to constant change and 'updates' from NSW Health and the Dept. of Education, things seem to have settled into a pattern that we can expect to continue on the other side of the holidays. The new normal operation of our school relies on parents and carers to supervise *Learning From Home* while class and specialist teachers deliver materials and instruction via online platforms such as Google Classroom, Zoom, MS Teams and SeeSaw. In this situation we don't ask you to teach, but rather to assist your child to engage in the activities. Given the variance in skill and ability within a school year/grade it is only to be expected that some students will find the learning activities easy, while others find them hard. This will be our #1 challenge as teachers from the start of Term 2!

Successful Learners now being put to the test

This week saw the small-screen debut of Ridgy (and a few friends) as he tries to remind students about the importance of being responsible for their own learning... *The Ironbark Way*. For a variety of reasons learning can be hard, but with a backpack of tools to select and use at different times our students can solve problems and meet challenges. Staying focused can be difficult in any environment, however students are in control of themselves and must choose to FOCUS. Watch the short video with your children if you haven't yet seen it. Ridgy has missed all of his friends over these past weeks so he'll enjoy *seeing* them through the small screen 😊

<https://youtu.be/dP7HhLii2pg>

or

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1hHWEVEpnrauhO317yzTkgRCjkYnV4cnW>



Staff changes

We look forward immensely to the return of Mr Brent to his position as Assistant Principal (Stage 2) and 4B class teacher from the start of next term. Ms Davis will be hugely missed by her students after a wonderful first term teaching 4B, but she will keep teaching at Ironbark Ridge, moving across to teach the busy bunch in 2C. They are really looking forward to working with her both online and also once we return to normal teaching in classrooms. The flow-on effect continues with our sensational Ms Coen moving from 2C to teach 5J due to Ms Maher's appointment to the NSW Education Standards Authority for an exciting opportunity in her career development. We congratulate Ms Maher and wish her both all the best for her learning experience but also speedy return as we will miss her input to the Ironbark team immensely.

Ms Turner will soon be welcoming a new baby arrival into her family and as such will begin her maternity leave shortly after these holidays, slightly altering our ongoing delivery of Music programs, an exciting new part of specialist teaching at Ironbark Ridge in 2020.

Create... a virtual Ironbark Ridge

Ironbarkers spending their holiday break at home might like a challenge to work on ☺. With learning in Term 2 looking almost certain to be conducted from home, it would be fun for our students to be able to visit Ironbark Ridge in cyber-space. Our most creative students will be able to think of many ways to do this, but one is through Minecraft. The Education edition is available for all Ironbark Ridge students to download for free from:

<https://education.minecraft.net/>

Use the /Support /Download clicks (or the Get Started works too), and enter your student's DoE username/email (ie. firstname.surname#@education.nsw.gov.au) and click the first option to access the student portal login once the software is installed. The student should be taken to a NSW Dept of Education login page where they use the same username and password as for entry to the student portal.

Using their memory of the school they love, students should then experiment to create a virtual version of either the classroom, the playground, or even the whole school. Wouldn't it be cool to then invite other Ironbarkers to come and visit!

School Executive Profile – Ms Batten

Ms Batten is our school Business Manager. Her knowledge of the school administration systems, both digital and physical, is outstanding, and the main reason Ironbark Ridge functions so smoothly and effortlessly. In one way, it's correct to think of Ms Batten, Ms Pho and Ms De Jager (our Deputy Principals) and myself as the 'Roadies' who are working behind the stage to support our RockStars – our amazing Teachers! (Thanks Mark Scott for the imagery ☺)

Ms Batten has been a staff member at Ironbark Ridge for almost ten years and in that time has moved from Office Assistant, to Admin. Manager, and now to Business Manager. Her professionalism, efficiency and knowledge of school communication and finance systems is a wonderful asset to Ironbark Ridge. Although less prominent at our front desk than in the past, Ms Batten is well known, sought out, and trusted by Ironbark Ridge families. Whether it's solving Parent Portal app issues or discussing family matters to support your children at school, Ms Batten is generous with her time and never gives up until issues are solved for our Ironbarkers.



Ms Batten (Business Manager)

Canteen Easter Raffle

Ms Doris and I drew the three winners out for the 'Ridgy-Didge Kids' Fridge Easter Raffle today. Any student who ordered a lunch from the Ridgy-Didge Kids' Fridge on FlexiSchools in the weeks leading up to Easter was placed into the box, and the prizes went to:

1st prize – Holly R, 5W

2nd prize – Arav P, 4I

3rd prize – Lanah S, 2R

Your prize can be collected from the school office at the start of next term... if the Easter Bunny doesn't drop them on your doorstep sometime before ☺



Our *Ridgy-Didge Kids' Fridge* canteen will unfortunately continue to be closed until further notice. When school resumes normal operations we will re-activate the online lunch ordering through FlexiSchools. Apologies until that time.

Easter Raffle, Hats and Crazy Hair

The response from our students and families all Learning From Home to our request for photos of them all in Easter hats and crazy hair was phenomenal. Thanks to the time and tech-genius of Ms Davis and co we were able to upload a wonderful slideshow of the fun we all had. It's so great to see smiling faces of our students as we miss them all. As I said to the students here today, even if you don't celebrate Easter in your family, I'm sure you can celebrate chocolate!!

Enjoy our 'parade' here: https://drive.google.com/open?id=1yxluOKjxKu0A7-viSca_e946dYo_QU9l

... and the few students who were at school on the official last day of the term today were lucky enough to spot a large white rabbit on our grass play area! It was soon scared off but left a few tasty treats behind ;)

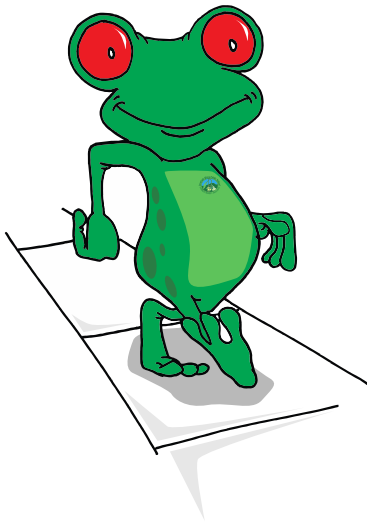
'Return' to Learning From Home for Term 2

Staff will return to school on Monday 27th April for a School Development Day. Until then, learning platforms have been disabled to ensure our teaching staff and your children get a chance to rest and recharge.

Students will return to their online platforms on Tuesday morning 28th April. If you need your children to attend school we will welcome them as usual and they will use school devices and classrooms to access their online learning as their peers will again do from home. We all look forward to a productive Term 2 and I'm sure you will continue to notice the ongoing innovation and 'raising of the bar' that Ironbark Ridge teachers have made their Way over the past weeks.

Yours in the pursuit of **excellence**,

Nick Thomson
Principal



DEPUTY PRINCIPALS' REPORT

Term 1 2020

What a term – from fires to floods to viruses, this term has seen it all. We have faced a challenge like no other, and will likely continue to operate in this current mode for the time being. As a school, we are very grateful to work in a supportive community of students, parents and staff. We are very much looking forward to a rest these holidays, and as our online learning platforms will be switched off for the two weeks, we encourage all of our families to do the same and enjoy the time together at home without the pressure of school work.

Virtual Easter Hat / Crazy Hair Parade

We hope you enjoy the amazing creations by our incredible community. Thank you all for your contributions and sending in your photos. Our thanks to Miss Davis and Mrs Goddard for their organisation.

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1yxluOKjxKu0A7-viSca_e946dYo_QU9l

ANZAC Day

Our school was not able to hold our ANZAC service in the traditional way this year. The Ironbark community are encouraged to privately commemorate Anzac Day, in-line with the latest health advice, and to watch our virtual service that has been recorded. This will be available for viewing at 9am on 25th April.



Lest we forget.

Thank you

Over this challenging time we have been presented with kind words, thanks and at times some delicious treats. These gestures have raised the spirits of our staff and made us smile. We truly thank you for your ongoing support from the bottom of our hearts.

Applications for the OC Class 2021

Opportunity classes and Selective high schools form part of the NSW Department of Education's commitment to identify and provide a range of opportunities for gifted and talented students in NSW. Opportunity Classes (OC) cater for academically gifted and talented children in Years 5 and 6. Applications will open online on the 28th April and will close at 5 pm on 15th May 2020. No late applications will be accepted.

School Holidays

We wish all students, parents and staff a wonderful and relaxed holiday. Staff will return on Monday 27th April for the Staff Development Day. Students will return to their 'Learning from Home' platforms on Tuesday 28th April. Please stay safe, and we look forward to your return in Term 2.

Kerrie Pho and Kerry De Jager
Deputy Principals

ADMINISTRATION

Could families please check that all absences have been explained for Term 1. We understand that many children are learning at home due to COVID 19, but we still need this to be advised by parents through the Sentral Parent Portal - like any other absence. Please check your child's leave on Sentral - if there is any leave that is marked as Unjustified please provide the reason. Any absences from 24th March 2020, due to the COVID 19 will be marked as Flexible if your child has been participating in Home Learning. Absences prior to 24 March will be classed as Unjustified.

For those parents who are currently not using Sentral, please check your family emails. If you are having any issues logging into this service please contact the office.

We would like to wish everyone a Safe and Happy Easter!

The Administration Staff

KINDY CAPERS

Hello Parents and Carers!

Congratulations! We have made it to the end of the first term of Kindergarten. It's looked a little different to what we imagined but we want to thank you for your support and assistance with helping your child or children adjust to online learning.

Going into next term we would like to let you know that it is ok for your child to make mistakes within their learning tasks on Seesaw or offline packs. Encourage them to be 'risk takers' in their learning. For example, in writing tasks, let them stretch out unknown words using sounds they can hear. We don't expect what students submit to be all correct. Instead, we can watch their progress over time. We also understand that sometimes not all tasks can be completed and we would prefer a few tasks completed to the best of their ability.

The Kindergarten teachers would like to wish you all a restful and relaxing Easter break.



ES1 Teachers

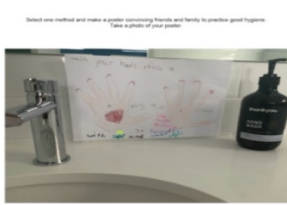
STAGE 1 SNIPPETS

What an interesting couple of weeks we have had! All of us have been doing an amazing job using technology in order to learn from home. Our Year 1 and Year 2 teachers have been very proud of the time and effort that students have been putting into their online learning. We are also very appreciative to parents who are able to take the time to assist their child with this new process. Please remember not to stress about how much or how little you get through each day. Every little bit counts! Just having a try at activities where possible in the routine of your day is wonderful. It is also a valuable experience being able to spend time bonding as a family.

We thought we would share with you a small selection of some of the fantastic work that has been uploaded to Seesaw over the last week. Keep up the good effort Stage 1!



Akio 1R



Megan 1R



Lena 1 R

Yashika 2R



Mia 2K



Will 2C



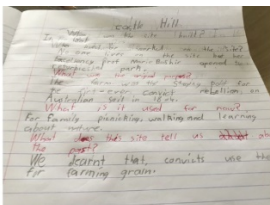
Brooke 1C



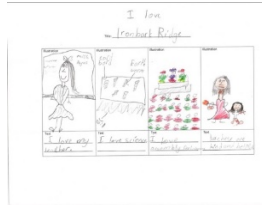
Oscar 1C



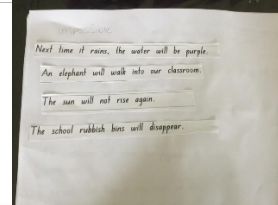
Spruha 1C



Emma 2R



Jenuli 2A



Mason 2A

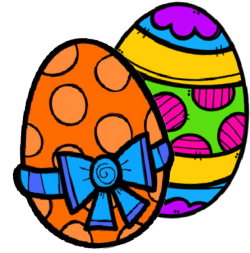


Callum 2R

Stay safe and have a restful break over the school holidays!

Stage 1 Teachers

Stage 2 *Snippets*



It's safe to say we have never experienced a term like Term 1 2020!

So much has happened and so much has been achieved. The students of Stage 2 have persevered through the many challenges over recent times and have gained an incredible number of skills in all areas of learning, especially technology.

The new online learning classroom environment and the implementation of the Microsoft Teams platform, has provided our students with new opportunities to thrive.

Inspiring evidence of learning can be seen in each class team where students have shared their work. For example, this week in history, students were instructed to build shelters using natural resources from the local outside environment. Students' constructions were uploaded to the class history channel where classmates could share their efforts, reflections and peer feedback. In mathematics, students had the opportunity to solve problems relating to some tricky pizza dilemmas!

Our new online morning routines begin with students posting a good morning message to their class **Attendance** channel. This has proved to show not only our students' lovely manners but also their skills in using punctuation correctly, (which is a lovely way for a teacher to begin their day). The Attendance channel is also the location to find the class' **Daily Plan** (which complements the *Weekly Plan of Learning* that is emailed to parents).

Please remember the daily plan for assignments is a simple suggestion. There is not the expectation that all tasks are to be completed by the due date. Stage 2 Teachers encourage students to complete their work to the best of their abilities, remembering to click 'turn it in'.

Over the last fortnight, there have been moments where the Teams platform has had minor technical issues relating to the release of scheduled assignments or students being able to download a file. The teachers are learning, just as the students and their parents are learning, that this is often solved by demonstrating patience and giving the platform time to handle the large volume of work set across the stage. Remember to always seek assistance via the class IT Helpdesk channel if ever there is an IT issue.

We hope you are able to spend some quality time over the Easter break with the members of your household. Looking forward to seeing you all in Term 2.

Your teachers from Stage Two



STAGE 3 SNIPPETS

Here we are the end of Term 1 and what a term it has been. The past three weeks especially have been a challenging time for us all, and it has been incredible to see the maturity of the students and the amazing way they have incorporated the Successful Learner Habits into their learning journeys.

With everyone working so hard we hope you use the holidays as an opportunity to take a break, regroup, refresh and refocus ready for Term 2 as our adventures in the world of online learning continue.

A massive "Shout Out" and thank you to the parents and caregivers for your support of your children and the teachers, we couldn't have been as successful without you, and welcome to the world of being a teacher!

One thing to remember during the holidays:

- Anzac Day is the 25th April and there is a community arrangement for everyone to be on their driveways at 6 am for the traditional minutes' silence. It would be great for our students and their families to participate in this. We would love to see some photos/selfies of them at their driveways of 6 am. Please post on their Google classrooms.

If you are looking for something to do, check out some STEM activities on the STEAMsational website to keep the whole family engaged.

We wish everyone a Happy Easter, and hope you all stay safe, sane and smiling.



Some of Stage 3 students working on their Stem activities.



Stage 3 Team



During Term 1, kindy Year 1 and Year 2 were listening to picture books written by the well-known author Aaron Blaby. They particularly enjoyed the 'Pug' books and 'Thelma the Unicorn'.

Years 3 to 6 students learnt about the author Leigh Hobbs who wrote the 'Mr Chicken' books. Mr Chicken travelled to different countries around the world.

Years 3 & 4 created a slide show about Mr Chicken's travels and we have enjoyed looking at your presentations.

Years 5 & 6 created a website about Leigh Hobbs and Mr Chicken's travels around the world. We have really enjoyed looking at your presentations.

The following links are to online resources. The first one is for picture books.

<https://www.storylineonline.net/>

The second one is to join The Hills Shire Library (if you are not a member). You can access their e-books when you join.

<https://thehills.spydus.com/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/wPAC/JOIN>

Happy Easter everyone and we hope you all have a very relaxing holiday.

Mrs Paton, Mrs Weekly and Mrs Bryce
Library Teachers

P&C

Message from Commonwealth Bank

The health, safety and wellbeing of our communities and our people remains our highest priority. Due to the ongoing uncertainty surrounding coronavirus, the School Banking program will remain on hold. We will continue to monitor the situation and keep you informed with any updates including how we will be managing Dollarmite tokens for students.

In the meantime, here are some handy online resources for parents who wish to maintain momentum with their child's financial education:

- [Start Smart](#): these resources have been created to improve children's money management skills, and is aligned to the Australian Curriculum and the National Consumer Financial Literacy Framework.
- [The Beanstalk](#): offers videos and fun activities for children to learn about money.

Art News

An important message from Mrs Przyrembel & Mrs Katopau

Dear Parents

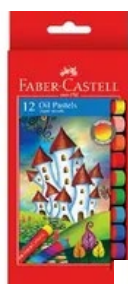
As you know, Visual Arts is one of the key learning components of our curriculum and this year we have begun providing specialised art lessons. In order to continue with our learning we have added a Visual Arts classroom to the platform your students are already using for their daily learning. This can be accessed at any time by all students whether they are doing Visual Arts this semester or next. It's a great way to learn and take some time out from working on the computer.

In light of this, I have had lots of questions about which products you should buy in order for your students to keep participating in art lessons.

The art lessons that we have provided online focus predominantly on drawing and colouring activities that require pencils, markers or crayons. A good set of these will allow your children to be creative and complete many of the activities. However, for those of you who would like to add to the equipment available to your budding artists then I would recommend the following items. I have listed prices and brands from Officeworks because they are good quality and inexpensive, and for an extra \$6 they deliver right to your door (and over \$55 it's free, so while you are getting your office supplies to work at home you could add these items as well.) You can purchase other brands from other stores but please remember it is not necessary to spend a lot of money and buy the biggest sets of artist name brands.

Suggestions from Officeworks:

An Artist Diary is essential if your child would like to do any projects with water colour paints and it is also a great way to keep all their creations in one place ready to bring back to school next term. A black sharpie is also necessary to outline when working with water colours.



Brushes
Faber Castell
Oil pastels
\$5.98 pack of 12
\$10.98 pack of 24

Coloured Markers
\$19.80 for 24



Faber Castell Markers
\$5.25 for 18pk



Derwent Academy Visual Arts Diary A4 \$6.75
Art Paper for drawing and painting with water colours.



Micador Water Colour
Paint Set
\$6 set of 12
\$14.88 set of 36



J Burrows Acrylic
Brushes \$9 set of 12



COMMUNITY SERVICES



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 and 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 04/05/2020

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
633	07:58	EX CASTLE HILL INTERCHANGE STAND C via Route 633 to Rouse Hill HS bus bay
601	08:11	EX HILLS SHOWGROUND STATION via Route 601 to Rouse Hill HS bus bay
605	08:20	EX CELIA RD AFTER ROSS PL via Celia, Stringer, L>Barry, R>Withers to Rouse Hill HS bus bay
633	08:20	EX TWAY OPPO ROUSE HILL STATION via Route 633 to Withers Rd

AFTERNOON BUSES		
Route	Time	Bus Route
2600	15:05	TO ROUSE HILL & BOX HILL via L>Withers, L>Mile End, R>Clower, L>Adelphi, R>Mile End, R>Windsor, R>Nelson, L>Nelson, Old Pitt Town, R>Fontana, L>Bunyarra, L>Valletta, L>Old Pitt Town, R>Terry, L>Alan to opposite No. 7 Alan St
2557	15:24	TO CASTLE HILL via Ironbark Ridge, R>Withers, R>Mungerie, The Parkway, R>Brampton, L>Sam Riley, R>James Mileham, L>Marella, R>Green to Green Rd after Rosebery Rd
2599	15:25	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 STATION & KELLYVILLE RIDGE via L>Withers, R>Bentley, R>Wellgate, R>Withers, L>Mile End, R>Clower, L>Adelphi, R>Mile End, L>Windsor, L>Commercial, R>Caddies, R>Rouse Hill Dr, L>Tway to Rouse Hill Station 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