

Ironbark Ridge PS

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Nurturing personal growth through inspired learning...



Newsletter 2020

Term 2 Week 5 Friday 29th May

Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be Respectful

DATES FOR THE DIARY

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

<u>June</u>

Monday 8th – Queen's Birthday Holiday (no school)

Monday 22nd June to Friday 3rd July – Parent/Teacher Interviews (by phone or Zoom)

July

Friday 3rd July – Last day of Term 2

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

After 30 days of *Learning From Home* we have thoroughly enjoyed Ironbark Ridge classrooms and playground returning to the hustle and bustle of 966 students' voices and movement. Seeing full classes trailing behind their teachers purposefully marching off to their classroom each morning is a great reminder of what we're all about at Ironbark Ridge...

Nurturing personal growth through inspired learning.

Return2Ironbark - Phase 3

Thanks for the ideas and feedback through our online forms. We were able to plan effective staff supervision of school exits thanks to the responses indicating your plans for daily pickup. With the move back to full-time attendance this week everything has obviously changed yet again at Ironbark Ridge, but I'm sure everyone is in agreement that this change has been a wonderful step back towards normality.

We will continue to seek your ideas and opinions on school planning and operations so please look out for these opportunities for feedback.

Attendance this week has been excellent. Across the week we have recorded 96% of students in class and returned to learning at school. This is an outstanding effort and will lead quickly to students re-establishing healthy daily routines, building confidence again in classroom learning challenges and co-operative activities, as well as resuming the development of positive relationships with their teachers and friends.

Assessment

Each of our learners is an individual with their own hopes, strengths and challenges. The learning journey is an extremely individual, sometimes lonely, pathway. As educators we want our learners to embrace challenges with the knowledge that they possess the skills and capability to succeed. Ridgy the Frog has a backpack of Successful Learner Habits, and is able to choose which tool is most effective at the time. As students follow in the footsteps of Ridgy, they will also become better at both using the Learner Habits, but also at choosing the most appropriate and effective tool for the specific challenging situation. The ability to stop and consider (choose) our response to the world around us (in the space between the stimulus and our response) is possibly unique to humans. Our *self-awareness* allows us to assess our own progress so far, to compare it with our map of where we want to end up, and to take control of our destiny by planning the next important steps along The Way! Ridgy the Frog carries a Journal and a Selfie-Stick to help reflect and think about how well s/he is going. No-one has a more crucial view of their progress than the student themselves... if supported expertly in the act of becoming assessment-capable. The intrinsic motivation derived from the joy of success and personal growth is an enormously powerful key to engagement in, and ownership of, the learning journey. At Ironbark Ridge we are trying to grow *Assessment-Capable Learners*!

Reporting on Growth

With almost half of the year's school days to this point being spent *Learning From Home*, our task in reporting on student progress and growth will be slightly different to usual:

- 1. Teachers will to an extent be reporting to parents and carers about student achievements and challenges that they are already aware of, as they occurred while *Learning From Home*.
- 2. Teachers have had trouble assessing the capabilities of their learners to independently engage and achieve outcomes. Conversely, some students have developed new skills and improved confidence through having to exercise more independence during the *Learning From Home* period. It will take time for teachers to observe and assess these new capabilities.

As a result of the mixed learning modes experienced during Semester One 2020, the NSW Dept. of Education (DoE) have encouraged teachers to produce a slightly 'abbreviated' Student Progress Report, and to also engage in consultation with parents and carers via phone or Zoom conferencing to allow a partnership-style approach to the *Learning From Home* component. Teachers will want to hear your own experiences and opinions about your child's effort, skills, struggles and achievements. With physical distancing and maintenance of our school Safe Zone expected to continue until at least the end of this term, face-to-face Parent/Teacher Interviews are not advised for the majority of students. We will use the Sentral Parent Portal to arrange dates and times for our phone/Zoom interviews. Details will be sent out in Week 7 for bookings in Weeks 9 and 10 this term.

Walkers and Riders – Healthy and safe!

With your support in staying off school grounds to help us maintain a **Safe Zone** for our students, comes the inevitable congestion of afternoon pickups! This week has been an extremely impressive learning-curve as we all get used to new procedures at 2.45pm and 3pm finish times. On Thursday I noticed that our bike racks are

looking well used... prompting this reminder to you all that walking and riding will help us all out by:

- 1. Promoting good healthy active lifestyle habits for your children.
- 2. Developing independence (that's a big part of our job as parents who wants 'dependent children forever!)
- Being able to use one of the other two school exits onto Caballo St towards the Rouse Hill TC, and the Withers Rd exit to the lights across towards North Kellyville.
- 4. Reducing the number of cars in our local streets at 3pm each afternoon, making the 'jam' on Ironbark Ridge Rd a little less impressive ©



Sorry Day & Reconciliation Week

Each year we recognise National Sorry Day on the 26th May; an important occasion to remember our history and build bridges towards reconciliation with education, and to honour the traditional custodians of the land our school is built upon. Our Student Leaders read an Acknowledgement of Country to the school via our PA system at midday on Wednesday 27th, and are working as a team to develop a special Ironbark Ridge version to be used by future students. Did you know that our school could have been named Mungerie Public School? Are you aware of the meaning of the word Mungerie in the local Aboriginal language? We hope to find out, as well as investigate other aspects of our local history and traditions. Having a heart of tolerance and respect for the past is part of The Ironbark Way.

Music tutorials to return, Band to wait a while

Our students learning music and instrumental skills with their tutors from Teaching Services Australia will return to their learning programs here at school next Tuesday. Band rehearsals will wait until a later date to start due to the close gathering of students and teachers required. Small group tutorials and lessons will resume in the meantime and as an intergral part of the school's operations. Thanks to Mr Hurley and his team for stepping back in so quickly.

House... more than just sport... a place to be safe and belong!

After two weeks of House attendance in 'Phase 1', one day each for Bluegum, Casuarina, Waratah and Wattle, we are delighted to be reflecting on a fortuitous introduction early this year. For many of us our memory of what 'House' we were in includes only a sporting team association. The tradition in Australia has generally been such. At the start of 2020, Ironbark Ridge Student Leaders began to hold 'House Spirit' meetings each week on a Wednesday before lunch. This gave all of our students a chance to meet together, to sit and eat, to discuss special handshakes and hand symbols and other ways to recognise other students from the same House. The initiative is designed to develop friendships across school grades and hence grow support networks for our students. Once we return to holding such meetings again we will continue this great work. Students will brainstorm the character traits and virtues a member of their House should aspire to. As Ironbarkers we all try to be strong, respectful and excellent in all that we do. Additionally our Houses will develop their own set of traits to grow in each member. Perhaps Bluegum will all be brave? Casuarina



could choose co-operative. Waratah might be welcoming. Wattle may work at being warm-hearted. I'm sure you get the idea ©

By developing these goals and House character traits, as well as fun hand-signs and sayings, we expect our students will begin to feel a sense of belonging, safety and build true connections to other students from Kindy to Year 6. Having others we know and can rely on in our learning community can only benefit us all as Ironbarkers.



Generous Ironbarkers!

At the end of 2019 our thoughtful and generous students raised funds from you, our Ironbark Ridge community, to support the local Rouse Hill Rural Fire Brigade in their important work to protect bushland and properties from the terrible fires of last summer. The equipment purchased with our support funds has been installed and trialled in the brigade's trucks, ready for the 2020 bushfire season. This is yet another example of the Ironbark Way - the community working together.

Special thanks at this time for your ongoing support of our procedures to keep all of our students healthy here in our Safe Zone,

Nick Thomson Principal

DEPUTY PRINCIPALS' REPORT

Welcome Back

Ironbark Ridge PS has not been the same without our students. With the return of our community, our school has come back to life. We can see everyone engaging in dynamic teaching and learning and our students once again interacting with their peers and enjoying being at school. There has been an average of 96% of our students back each day. There is such a positive buzz around the place and this has set the tone for a successful and productive remainder of Term 2.





The Importance of Being at School

As an education community it is really important that all our students be back at school unless they have a medical certificate which states they are unable to return to school due to an ongoing medical condition or they are currently unwell. We ask that you do not send your child if they are sick. Guidelines from NSW Health, the AHPPC and our duty of care to students and staff are very clear.

Celebrating Birthdays

To continue our organisation around safe practices for the time being, all birthday cakes handed out at school will need to be purchased from our canteen. Parents can order them online through Flexischools.

Pick Up and Drop Off

Parents please remember to discuss with your child/children so they know their after-school routine in regards to KTOOSH, bus, car, walking, where they will be picked up each day and who will be picking them up. This may easily be forgotten after the weekend. Being prepared helps to build confidence. Morning and afternoons are very busy outside the school. We ask you to adhere to the practices we have put in place to move students out of school effectively each afternoon. Please be conscious of road safety in and around the school, both as a pedestrian and driver.

Being back at school is so important to us and therefore we cannot convey the importance for adults to please socially distance when standing outside the gate waiting to drop off or pick up your child/children. This will continue to uphold health advice and keep our community safe.

Smiling Mind

During this challenging time, it can be useful to remember the excellent resources we have available to assist ourselves and our children in their wellbeing. Ironbark Ridge is a Smiling Mind school, and every class practices mindfulness using this website. Parents are encouraged to check out the Smiling Mind-Thrive Inside website for some great resources to help them in these current circumstances. Smiling Mind is a not-for-profit web and app-based meditation program developed by psychologists and educators to help bring mindfulness into your life. The Thrive Inside initiative has been designed "to help you remain inspired, stay connected and foster good mental habits during the Coronavirus crisis. Thrive Inside is a special initiative to help you stay calm and healthy in the physical constraints of your home, while remaining calm and healthy inside your mind." The website is user friendly, and there is helpful information for adults, as well as mindfulness activities for children. There is also a free app available for download.

https://www.smilingmind.com.au/thrive-inside

Parent Planner

Unfortunately, we have had to cancel or postpone a number of events which were scheduled to occur this term. These include our Cross Country Carnival, K-2 Cross Country, planned excursions and assemblies. Where possible, we are working hard to find alternate dates for these events to occur in Term 3 or 4. Dates will be advertised as soon as we have confirmation from the Department of Education that large-scale events can again proceed safely. We are working on a plan to livestream class assemblies.

We had engaged the services of Sports In Schools Australia (SISA) to run weekly lessons with Years 3-6 this term in preparation for our Athletics Carnival. These lessons have been rescheduled to occur in Term 3. Our plan at this stage is to hold a school Athletics Carnival in Term 4, allowing the students to show their acquired skills in the different disciplines.



Ironbark Ridge Public School Parent Planner τerm 2 2020

** Note: All dates on this planner are subject to change at the discretion of the school. Updated 29.5.20

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat/Sun
5 May	25 All students return to full time face to face teaching	26	27	28	29	30/31
6 June	1	2	3	4	5	6/7
7 June	8 Queen's Birthday Public Holiday	9	10	11	12	13/14
8 June	15	16	17	18	19	20/21
9 June	Parent –Teacher Interviews (TBC)	23	24	25	26	27/28
10 June/July	29 Parent –Teacher Interviews (TBC)	30	1	2	3 Last day of Term 2	4/5

ADMINISTRATION

We would like to advise that the School App (see photo) will be obsolete as of the 30th June 2020. The preferred way of communication with the school is throught the Sentral Parent Portal. If you are experiencing issues with using the Portal, please do not hesitate to contact the office for assistance.

There are still a number of unexplained absences for the period 24th March to 22nd May 2020. We understand that many children were learning at home due to COVID 19, however we require parents to explain these absences through the Sentral Parent Portal. Please be mindful that unexplained absences will have a negative affect on your child's attendance percentage.

Please note that all Uniform orders will be sent home via your child to minimise the contact with parents within the school grounds. We appreciate your understanding during this time.



KINDY CAPERS

All of our kindergarten classes have had a great week getting back into our routines and catching up with friends. The teachers are really enjoying having all students back together and filling our rooms with laughter and learning.

Please remember that children require fruit/vegetables to eat at Crunch and Sip/Fruit Break and something for recess and lunch. Quite a few students have difficulty opening packets and packages themselves and as we are trying to ensure safe eating practices, please crack seals on yoghurts, snip packages or transfer the contents to a container they can open themselves. A full water bottle is also required as our school bubblers are not in use at this time.

Sport time will continue to be on Wednesdays for Term 2, however please check below for changes to class Library and Fitness days. Sports uniform should be worn for both Sport and Fitness days.

- KD, KW, KF and KA Library and Fitness Monday
- KG and KS Library and Fitness Friday

This week we have talked about Sorry Day and about becoming super learners. Some photos of these are below for you to enjoy.

KA Super Learners



KF Sorry Day



KS Super Learners



STAGE 1 SNIPPETS

Wow! What a brilliant week we have had. Every teacher in Stage 1 is so happy to have their whole class back, and school-life practically back to normal. After seven weeks trying to balance ourselves during remote learning and not fall off the Seesaw, our students have returned to school and adjusted back into routines in a way which has far exceeded our expectations. Stage 1 students are already writing more of their persuasive writing tasks, with pencil and paper, giving the screens a well-earned break. Teachers are happy to be back with the kids, on the carpet using our counters, blocks, cubes, cards and dice, in small group maths lessons, and we are all so proud of how well the classes are doing. Best of all, the smiles we see every day as the boys and girls see their friends for the first time in months, has reminded us all why we love being teachers so much. This week has been absolutely fantastic and the rest of the term is looking very bright.

2D & 2R Reconciliation





2C



2H



Stage 1 Teachers

STAGE 2 SNIPPETS

We hope that all Stage 2 families have enjoyed this week as much as we have. It has been great to see all of our students return to school. Many thanks to all parents who have arranged to pick up students at the oval and Caballo Rd gates to lessen the congestion at the front gate. Thanks also for clearly displaying family names on visors in cars so we can readily identify student for departure.

As normal classes have now resumed students will need to bring library bags and wear sport clothes as follows:

Sport Uniform

Class	Class					
Class	Day					
3 A	Thursday and Friday					
3C	Tuesday and Friday					
3H	Tuesday and Friday					
3J	Tuesday and Friday					
3K	Thursday and Friday					
4B	Monday and Friday					
4F	Monday and Friday					
41	Monday and Friday					
48	Monday and Friday					
4W	Tuesday and Friday					

Library

Class	Day
3A	Thursday
3C	Tuesday
3H	Tuesday
3J	Tuesday
3K	Thursday
4B	Friday
4F	Friday
41	Monday
48	Monday
4W	Tuesday

This week has been Reconciliation Week. Stage 2 students have enjoyed completing a variety of activities within the classroom which reflected the need for all people to achieve harmony and cooperation.

It is important that students not attend school should they have sore throats or temperature.

Have a happy and safe weekend!





Stage 2 Teachers

STAGE 3 SNIPPETS

STAGE 3 SNIPPETS

How wonderful it has been to have all students back at school! Stage 3 teachers have been thrilled to have their classes back for face to face teaching. While there were certainly many amazing learning opportunities for students (and teachers) while completing online learning, we all agree that the more 'traditional' method of face to face teaching is far more enjoyable! We extend our sincere thanks to parents and caregivers for their help during our online learning journey.



This week we have been making the most of our teaching and learning time. Here are a few photos which showcase some of the wonderful learning experiences stage 3 students have been taking part in.















A reminder that stage 3 sport will now take place on Wednesday afternoons, so sport uniform should be worn on this day. On Friday, full school uniform should be worn.









Thank you, Stage 3 Teachers

LEADERSHIP TEAM 2020

Our students are back at school and with them our school leaders. They have been doing a great job keeping Ironbark spirits high by filming their shout outs to the houses and welcoming everyone back at school.

On Wednesday for Sorry Day several of the leaders participated in the simultaneous reading of Acknowledgement of Country, filming a video for the Ironbark Community and delivering the Acknowledgement into classrooms at 12pm, all with dignity and Ironbark pride.

They are hard at work looking at innovative ways to keep the House spirit burning over the coming weeks, so keep watch!

Thank you Leaders!





RIDGY DIDGE KIDS' FRIDGE – SCHOOL CANTEEN

We would like to welcome everyone back. Great to see all of the smiling faces again!

New Winter Items are now available including Chicken & Corn Soup and Chicken Teriyaki with Rice.

We would also like to give a big thank you to the school for purchasing a Thermomix for the Ridgy Didge Kids' Fridge. It is making our Wednesday Prep days more fun!





We have been having a lot of fun exploring some options we can bring to the canteen. Our mission for next week is to make our own pizza dough!

If any parent would like to speak with Miss Doris either ring the school or email to maria.cull1@det.nsw.edu.au - Please do not use Messenger or Facebook:)





SPECIAL RELIGION EDUCATION

BHUDIST

As SRE will not be offered this term we have asked our SRE teachers to provide some resources suitable for parents and children to study at home.

These resources are available on our website: http://www.buddhistcouncil.org/sre-learn-at-home/

We are happy to answer questions at education@buddhistcouncil.org

Wishing you and your school community a safe and happy term

Bhudist Council of NSW

ISLAM

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, schools are faced with an unprecedented challenge to ensure continuity of learning of students.

We are focused on providing stage appropriate core learning for students and supporting parents in a learning from home context. This is an exceptionally challenging time for students, parents and teachers.

The online content for this Term is aligned with the ISRE Term 2 Syllabus topic: **Ramadan – Training for a Way of Life**. Lessons have been designed to be engaging and brief, with simple step by step instructions for each week. Lessons provide basic Islamic knowledge and help nurture a sense of Muslim identity and purpose.

Kindy – Year 6 lessons are now available from the ISRE links below:

Kindergarten to Year 2: https://www.isre.org.au/students/kindergarten-to-year-2/

Years 3 to 6: https://www.isre.org.au/students/year-3-to-year-6/

Your support and cooperation during these unprecedented times is appreciated

Kind Regards
Islamic Council of NSW and the ISRE Team

P&C UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

THE UNIFORM SHOP WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTING ONLINE ORDERS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

For online sales go to:

https://ironbark-ridge-public-school-pc-association.square.site/

- Payments are by VISA / Mastercard / Amex only
- Choose "Shipping" if you wish to have your order sent to <u>KTOOSH</u> and include your child full name
- Please note that all orders will be distributed to your child via their classroom.
- "Note to Sender" please ensure that you put your child's FULL NAME & CLASS in this box for ALL orders
- All receipts will now be sent electronically by text or email. You will need to provide this detail
 at time of purchase. If you choose not to then refunds/returns will be unavailable to you.
- You have 90 days from date of purchase to refund/return. You will have to show your receipt
 and goods must be in an as sold condition. At this stage we CANNOT accept refunds/returns
 until the Uniform Shop is open so please choose carefully. Any questions please email us.
- We no longer accept Union Pay credit cards

** You can also check online what is currently in stock**

If you have any questions, please contact us on <u>uniforms@irpspc.com</u>.

We thank you for your understanding and support during these uncertain times



COMBINED SINGLE & DOUBLE NAME PAVER

IRONBARK RIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOL P&C

Ironbark Ridge PS P&C are holding a Pavers Fundraiser to help raise money towards purchasing equipment for the school. Pavers are a great way to commemorate your child's first or last year at school, sporting or academic achievements, SRC, Student or House Captain. Please help support the school!



OFFER 1: \$ 40-00

INDIVIDUAL PAVERS

Your donation of \$ 40-00 or more entitles you to have your name engraved into a paver as a lasting record of your valued support. The paver will be permanently installed in

The colas on the walkway

proudly showing your donation.



OFFER 2: \$ 65-00

DOUBLE PAVERS

Your donation of \$65-00 or more entitles you to have your names engraved into two pavers as a lasting record of your valued support. The pavers will be permanently installed in

The colas on the walkway

proudly showing your donation.

Simply fill out this form and return it to the Office in an envelope marked P&C PAVERS then go to www.flexischools.com.au to make your payment.

Contact Name	Phone	
Street		
City	State	Post Code
Offer 1 Offer 2	Our Donation	

Offer closes on the 30th April 2020 - pay at www.flexischools.com.au NO CASH ACCEPTED

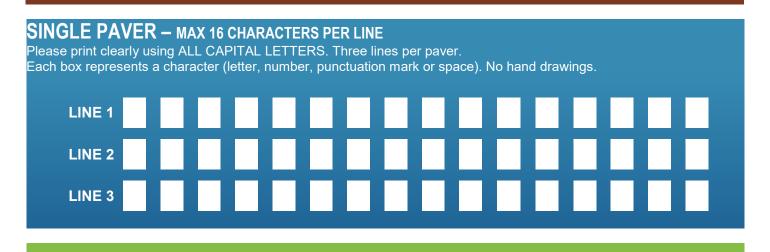
For engraving details please complete the form on the reverse.





COMBINED SINGLE & DOUBLE NAME PAVER

ENGRAVING DETAILS





NAME PAVERS ARE:

A unique and lasting record of your support;
A creation of memories and milestones;
Commemorate starting at Ironbark Ridge, School leadership,
House Captain, SRC or their last year at school.

Please pay at www.flexischools.com.au then complete the form & hand to office in an envelope marked P&C PAVERS- NO CASH ACCEPTED