



## **Ironbark Ridge PS**

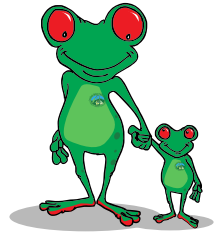
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*Nurturing personal growth through inspired learning...*



# **Newsletter 2021**

**Term 2    Week 9    18<sup>th</sup> June**

***Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be Respectful***

**\*\* View our 'IRPS Events (Public)' calendar in the Parent Portal and Sentral Parents App \*\***

## **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**

We rapidly approach the half-way mark of the 2021 school year, so it's a great time to lift our heads and take a look around at how far we have come. Our students all set specific and measurable goals for their own learning growth back in February, and now is the time for them to congratulate themselves for the hard work, practice, challenges overcome and new skills developed in only two terms. There is still plenty to run in the race, however we all need an opportunity to give ourselves a pat on the back every now and then!

### **Academic Reports and Learning Progress Interviews**

On Monday we will publish each student's mid-year Academic Report to communicate their progress and growth during the first semester of learning for this year. As usual, these reports will only be issued through the Parent Portal, so you can *view* them on your mobile device or via the internet website. The pdf file can only be *downloaded* to keep via the website portal:

[Portal - Login \(sentral.com.au\)](https://sentral.com.au)

Please read your child's Report carefully and have a discussion with them about what a school report is, about the information your child's teacher communicates to you, and about both your child's areas of achievement and areas to focus on for Semester Two. Modelling self-reflection and providing a chance to share balanced and specific feedback is important for all of our learners. As parents it is our task to frame the discussion about Academic Progress Reports positively and constructively. It may not be a time of great celebration necessarily, however it should also not be an occasion for too much negativity – try to balance it out ☺

Ridgy the Frog would remind every learner that all conversations about our journey in life should cover:

- our *Strength* (already demonstrated, or perhaps something we must show more of in the face of challenge)
- our *Respect* (for ourselves and towards others)
- our *Excellence* (current or aspired to, the concept of always aiming to be better than we were yesterday).

### **... and Learning Progress Interviews**

On Monday evening at 6pm the Interviews booking section of the Parent Portal will open, allowing you to book a Learning Progress Interview with your child(ren)'s teacher early next term. Teachers will be making themselves available in the classrooms for face-to-face discussions during Week 2, from Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July to Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July. Each teacher will have a range of 10-minute timeslots available for you to choose from. Please ensure you complete the booking process and that you check to see you have received a confirmation email from the system with the correct booking time noted... then put it into your calendar ☺

Ensuring the best learning outcomes for your children is a partnership between staff at Ironbark Ridge and yourselves. Reviewing previous goals and setting new goals is a crucial collaborative task. Ideally this is a 3-way conversation with your child becoming more and more involved and responsible as they grow up towards High School.

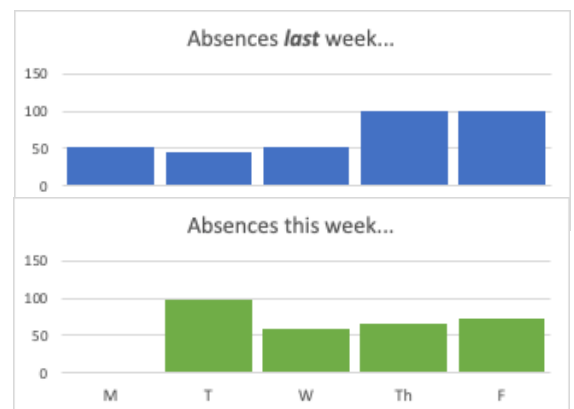
## Successful Learner Habit... Collaboration

Over these final two weeks of term our learners have been improving their skills in Collaboration. The ability to work as a productive member of a team, building trust and contributing reliable results, has become a hugely important quality we all seek in our employees. To develop this skill early in our young learners will put them all a step ahead in the job market! Successful learners actively participate, encourage others, share their own ideas and seek the collective wisdom of the group in the honest belief that their own solution may not be the best the group can generate! Reaching a consensus is difficult, but a worthwhile end goal. One of the hardest parts of learning to collaborate is balancing your own contributions with allowing space for others to also share theirs... knowing when to promote your own idea and when to listen and learn from others. Humility can play an important role in this instance.



## Attendance

We have had a significant downturn in student attendance over the past two weeks, with daily averages now exceeding 70 students across the school. Let's see if the final week of term can be a well-attended one to help lift our term average! 😊



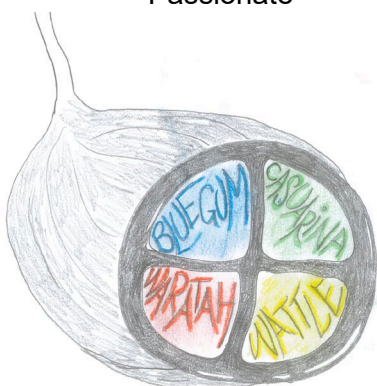
## Office Refurb

If you have visited us in person over these past two weeks you will have noticed the relocation of our Office reception window. Thanks to the wonderful flexible demeanour of our Admin staff we have been able to get started on a long-awaited upgrade to the Administration Office space during term time. This will allow us to accommodate our required staff numbers at individual new workstations to make sure the outstanding service our staff provide can be maintained. The Department of Education has been able to financially support these works and we are excited about our redesigned foyer and larger welcoming window once work is all complete.

## School and House Spirit

It has been wonderful to watch in recent weeks as our Year 5 and Year 6 students begin to lead small groups in their House meetings. Each Wednesday our entire school meet either in classes for a School Spirit Zoom meeting (where we discuss the Ironbark Way, being Successful Learners, and topics such as 'Better' and 'What does Strength-Respect-Excellence look like?') or in House groups – Wattle, Buegum, Waratah and Casuarina. With the guidance and leadership of our older Ironbark Ridge students, each House has been discussing what it means to be an Ironbarker, as well as developing new character traits they will aspire to live out. These words are then added to our giant Ironbark Tree that is displayed on the end of our Canteen building. The most recent additions to this tree will be:

<b>Blue Gum:</b>	Unique	<b>Waratah:</b>	Wonderful
	Resilient		Wise
<b>Casuarina:</b>	Creative	<b>Wattle:</b>	Kind
	Passionate		Helpful



Students should try to live out all of the coloured words as we are all Ironbarkers, and also to pay special attention to their own House aspirational personality traits. Take a look at our tree next time you are at school.

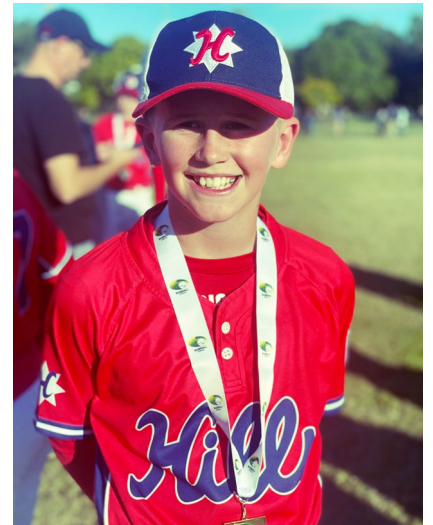
A special thank you to our amazing Stage 3 teachers, especially Ms Barton and Ms Hoggan for their development of the School Spirit and House Spirit meetings that are developing a deep sense of belonging to the school, and connection amongst our students – the Ironbark Way is about building positive school culture.

## Sydney West Rugby Union

Huge congratulations to Levi (5S) who was selected to compete as a representative for Ridges Zone at the Sydney West Area Rugby Union trials... and was selected in the final squad that will soon play at the State Championships. This is a huge achievement and reward for his skill, persistence and courage on field.

## Baseball Excellence

Hunter (6H) recently represented Hills Baseball in the National Little League Division II Championships held in Lismore 9-14 June 2021. The Hills team went undefeated throughout the tournament to win 7 games and walked away as the 2021 Australian Little League Division II Gold Medal Champions. A wonderful finish to the season, and a sensational effort from Hunter!



## ... and Cricket Excellence

Avni (2D) was also busy over the Summer season with her outstanding Cricket play for the Hills Barbarians club. She was recently awarded the Coaches' Award after playing in the U10 mixed squad as a 7-year old! Avni's best bowling figures of the season were an awe-inspiring 3 wickets for only 5 runs!! Avni also plays in the Thunder Girls' League – a really passionate and skilful cricketer!

## Parenting Ideas

"Why First-borns rule the roost" – an insightful blog post by Michael Grose that can stimulate some thinking about the family dynamics that we are all so familiar with.

[Have a read 😊](#)

## Holidays

Students and teachers will be on holidays from the end of next week and will return after a two-week break. Teachers will return on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July for a School Development Day, while all students will return to classes on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> July.

Stay safe and healthy,

Nick Thomson  
Principal





# DEPUTY PRINCIPALS' REPORT

As the term draws to a close, we would like to remind you of some important information:

## **Staff Development Day - Monday 12th July (Week 1)**

The first day back next term, Monday 12th July, is a **Pupil Free Day**. Students do not attend school on this day. Staff will be partaking in professional learning and working in stage teams to continue planning engaging learning opportunities for our students for the remainder of the year. Students will return to school on **Tuesday 13th July**.

## **Years 3-6 Athletics Carnival – Monday 19th July (Week 2)**

Students in Years 3-6 and those in Year 2 who are turning 8 this year will be participating in the school Athletics and Field Events Carnival to be held at Centenary Oval, Rouse Hill. They will need to bring their school bag packed with their recess, lunch, hat, sunscreen, sanitizer, a plastic bag to sit on and plenty of water. There are no canteen facilities at the carnival. A limited lunch menu will be available for purchase via Flexischools prior to the day. Lunch orders will be delivered to the carnival. Students are to wear their sports uniform to this event. A shirt in the colour of their house may also be worn. If students require an asthma puffer, they should carry their own on the day. Students will be leaving school at 9:00am and walking to the oval. **Any child wishing to participate in the 800m races will need to be at school by 8:00am for an 8:15am departure.**

All students are expected to attend this carnival. Please ensure that you have provided permission for your child to attend via the Sentral Parent Portal by **Friday 25th June 2021. Permission will not be accepted after this date.** Parents and caregivers are welcome to attend. If you would like to assist on the day, please see Mr Brent, Miss Lee or Mrs Heyes when you arrive at the carnival. If your child's medical information requires updating, please advise the school office at your earliest convenience.

## **K-2 Sports Fun Day – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July (Week 2)**

Students in Years K-2 will be participating in a Sports Fun Day held at Bruce Purser Reserve, Rouse Hill. They will need to bring their school bag packed with their lunch, hat, sunscreen, sanitizer, a plastic bag to sit on and plenty of water. The Fun Day will be commencing at 12:50pm. Students will be leaving school to walk to the reserve at 12:10pm. There will be no canteen facilities available. A limited lunch menu will be available for purchase via Flexischools prior to the day. Students will be given their lunch orders before leaving for the event and eating time will commence once they are at the reserve. Students are to wear their sports uniform to this event. A shirt in the colour of their house may also be worn.

All students are expected to attend. Please ensure that you have provided permission for your child to attend via the Sentral Parent Portal by **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2021. Permission will not be accepted after this date.** Parents and caregivers are welcome to attend this event. If your child's medical information requires updating, please advise the school office at your earliest convenience.

## **Student Absences:**

School attendance each day is extremely important. Research has shown that your child's regular attendance may be the greatest factor influencing his/her academic, social and emotional success. Unnecessary absences from school can cause students to have to re-establish routines, learning goals and peer and teacher connections. We urge parents and caregivers to avoid their child having any preventable leave, other than when they are sick, during the school term. All leave should be explained, preferably via the Sentral Portal App, on the day of the absence. Schools are responsible for contacting parents and caregivers within two school days of an absence if a reason has not been provided. Leave is recorded as **'unexplained'** if parents and caregivers fail to provide an explanation to the school within 7 days. Medical certificates can be requested if a child has a poor attendance history.

Further information on school attendance can be found at:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/parents-and-carers/a-z-parents-guide>

Enjoy this last week of Term 2. We wish all of our extended learning community a relaxing winter holiday break.

*Have a great weekend,*  
*Kylie Robson and Kerry De Jager*  
**Deputy Principals**

# KINDERGARTEN CAPERS

Brrrrr! June has begun and the weather is definitely on the cold side. With the winter weather setting in, teachers are seeing an influx of missing jumpers, jackets, hats and gloves. This is a good time to make sure that all of your child's clothing is clearly labelled. At Ironbark Ridge we do have a lost property area between the canteen and the hall that is regularly sorted, and your first point of call for missing items will be to visit there.

Just another quick reminder in regards to canteen orders. When ordering hot meals such as noodles and soups, please let your child know as they have to collect that themselves from the canteen. We have had a lot of students miss out on their lunch and have to eat it after lunch during learning time.

On Tuesday, Kindergarten had the opportunity to explore the obstacle course, cubby house, tunnels and climbing wall. They danced on the stage and showed amazing balancing skills on the tightrope and beams. Students had a ball and there was lots of excitement leading up to Term 3 when students will be able to play on it during their play time.

Kindergarten students have some wonderful experiences coming up in Term 3. These include an excursion to a farm, a visit from some chickens, a sports fun day and regular gymnastics lessons. Please keep an eye out in the parent portal for information and payment options over the coming weeks.

*ES1 Teachers and Mrs Buda (Creative Arts teacher)*





## STAGE 1 SNIPPETS

Another busy two weeks have flown by with lots of exciting learning taking place. Winter has really arrived so please make sure your child is wearing warm clothing.

### Year One

Today, librarians from Rouse Hill Town Library came to promote the Year 1 Reading club to our Year 1 students. This is a free club that the library runs to promote a love of reading. Students are encouraged to visit any of the Hills library branches and borrow books and complete activities. Each time they do they earn stickers and prizes. Students have until the end of August to complete the tasks. Please look out for the information flyer that will have come home with your child today.



### Year Two Project Based Learning

Over the last semester, Year 2 has been engaged in Project Based Learning and have worked their way through the 6D Solution Fluency (define, discover, dream, design, deliver, debrief) to design a car of the future. This week they are presenting their designs and debriefing on their learning.



### Play Space

Students in Stage One are enjoying exploring our new play space.



Holidays are almost upon us. This is a good time to stock up on any stationery supplies and label all belongings.

Have a safe and happy holiday!

*Stage 1 Teachers*

## STAGE 2 SNIPPETS

Stage 2 has been busy finishing up this term's teaching and learning programs.

### Science -

We have been having some deep and engaging conversations about our Science unit - Food and technology. How production of food has changed and how technology has impacted our agricultural practices. Students have enjoyed making and eating their own fruit kebabs while having rich discussions around where food comes from and how. Did you know that the aboriginal people were one of the first to grow wheat and make bread in the world!



### History -

We have been learning about celebrations and commemorations this term. What is the difference between the two and the important calendar events we have in Australia. For example, Australia Day, ANZAC Day, Easter, Chinese New Year, Diwali and Christmas. Students have been learning about the traditions and customs around these significant days and gaining a deeper understanding of our community events.



### Sports in Schools -

The Program will be ending with the end of this term. Students have been learning some technical skills while also having a good physical work out. The sports uniform days might change due to the SISA program coming to an end. Friday sports shall continue.

### Uniforms -

Winter has truly arrived and we urge all students to be rugged up in their winter uniforms for the rest of the term and also coming back in Term 3.

### Notes -

Please ensure all notes and payments that might be due, are paid before the end of the term.

### Stationery -

A gentle reminder to check and replenish all stationery items during the holidays !

Have a wonderful term break!

Stage 2 Teachers



## STAGE 3 SNIPPETS

What a wonderful and busy term it has been with Stage 3 continuing to take part in many exciting learning activities.

Students have been displaying wonderful teamwork, collaboration and ingenuity during project-based learning in the library. Teachers have been very impressed with the many creative ideas that students have presented, designing an innovative mode of transport.



During the week, Stage 3 have been given the opportunity to explore our wonderful new play space. Students loved putting the area to the test and it was easy to see it passed with flying colours!



A big congratulations to all Stage 3 students who represented Ironbark and Ridges at the Sydney West Cross Country Carnival. A particular mention to Harry and Zac who will go on to the State carnival. Well done and good luck boys!

As the weather continues to cool down, we would like to remind all students to wear their jumpers and make sure they are labelled with their names to avoid them ending up in lost property. Please check with your child if they have enough equipment, such as glue sticks, in preparation for Term 3.

Wishing you all a happy, safe and relaxing holiday and we look forward to welcoming back our awesome students for another exciting term of learning.

*Stage 3 Teachers*



# Ridgy Didge Awards

KD	Leroy, Theon, Liana, Enayah
KE	Chloe, Owen, Emma, Zoe
KF	Ilyana, Ariella, Fletcher
KG	Micah, Chenuli, Roy, Timmy
KS	Brody, Qasim, Roman, Emma
1A	Holly, Raph, Emilia, Bella
1B	Max, Xavier, Ananta, Enya
1C	Raymond, Manaal, Cailee, Savain
1K	Lisa, Elyas, Ben, Yilia
1R	Sudiksha, Daksh, Katy, Kiaan
1W	Ailsa, Baibars, Lachlan, Sophia
2A	Wesley, Grace, Isabella, Mahi
2C	Arush, Naisha, Sunny, Aarav
2D	Giselle, Ella-Rose, Avni, Lena
2P	Aaron, Angelika, Ariana, Matilda
3B	Isabel, Sara, Rhea, Will
3C	Ridam, Sidak, Yashika, Hemal
3D	Leila, Mason, Hassan, Irene
3J	Chelsea, Nate, Cindy, Lucas
3R	Pretika, Stylianos, Smyan
4I	Advika, Alison, Julie, Bella
4L	Angelica, Emanuel, Emma, Maadhur
4W	Violet, Aarav K, Aarav V, Hayden
5H	Tony, Ray, Ahana, Aditi
5W	Richlyne, Luke, Danya, Yalda, James T
6C	Erica, Adrian, Cindy
6/5S	Ishaan, Shaakshini, Preston, Saanvi

# Creative Arts News

Zart Art are holding a competition for budding young artists who can win \$250 worth of art supplies for themselves and \$450 for their school. To enter, students need to create an artwork focusing on the theme **Our Celebration of Australia**. Entries close 19 July, 2021. For more information and to enter please go to the website at [zartart.com.au](http://zartart.com.au). Good luck!



Next term, we will be offering an opportunity for Stage 2 students to participate in the Art Club on Wednesdays at Lunchtime straight after school spirit meetings. Students will be focusing on drawing skills.

Also, a reminder that Stage 1 and Stage 3 students will be doing Art again next semester so if you are concerned about their uniform, and haven't already, please send in an apron or art shirt.

*The Creative Arts Team*

 **National Student**  
**ART PRIZE**

Competition Dates: Monday 14th June – Monday 19th July

## CANTEEN

We are looking for a volunteer for Thursday! If you are available, please call the school or see Miss Doris in the canteen.

Just a reminder that some items will start to be removed from the menu as we prepare for the holidays. Please keep an eye on Flexischools for what's available.

We hope everyone has had a wonderful Term 2. Enjoy the school holidays and see you in Term 3!

*Doris & Canteen Staff*





# Will you help us win a kitchen garden for our school?

All you need to do is click the link and nominate Ironbark Ridge Public School for our chance to win!

<https://10play.com.au/masterchef/win/nominate-your-school-to-win-5000/c210412gaire>

The competition closes on the 12th of July, so don't wait to nominate!



Flexischools has teamed up with Channel 10 and Coles to give our parent community the chance to **WIN \$5000 towards a Kitchen Garden for your school\*** thanks to *MasterChef Australia*.

Helping kids develop positive food habits through understanding fresh seasonal produce and how it grows, is harvested, and turned into delicious meals is important.

That's why Coles proudly supports the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation to deliver pleasurable food education in schools.

Channel 10 and Coles would both like to help you create a kitchen garden at your school!

## 2021 Premier's Reading Challenge

The Premier's Reading Challenge is now in full swing, but it's not too late to get started! The challenge aims to encourage a love of reading for leisure and pleasure in students, and to enable them to experience quality literature. It is not compulsory, but all students are encouraged to participate.

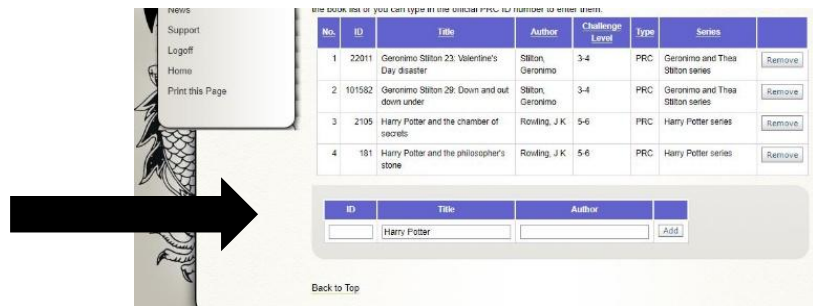
To complete the challenge students are required to read and record the required number of books for their year level. For example, Years 3 and 4 must read and record 20 books to complete the challenge.

**Students in Kindergarten to Year 2 participate in the challenge as a class during Library lessons. The Library teachers will enter the books read by students in Kindergarten to Year 2.**

Challenge	Number of books you must read	Minimum number of PRC books	Maximum number of Personal Choice books	PRC booklists you can read from
K-2	30	25	5	K-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-9
3-4	20	15	5	3-4, 5-6, 7-9
5-6	20	15	5	5-6, 7-9

All recording of books is done via the DoE student portal (see below for the web address). Participating students must complete their online Student Reading Records by Friday 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2021. Students are encouraged to borrow PRC books from the shelves marked PRC in the library. These books can be identified by a small coloured Premier's Reading Challenge sticker on the books spine. If you are unsure if a book is included in the challenge, please check the full book list available on the website or simply enter the book title into the search bar on the *Student Reading Records* page. If the book is included in the challenge, the details including the book ID will automatically fill in. If it is not included in the challenge, it will be counted as one of your 5 *Personal Choice* books.

Enter the book title here and it will autofill the author and ID. If it is part of a series, or if an author has many books, a drop down menu will appear and you can select your book.



To register for the challenge, go to:

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

Students are to log in using their DoE username and password. This is the same username and password that they use at school.

If you have any questions regarding the Premier's Reading Challenge please see Mrs Bryce, Mrs Paton and Mrs Weekley in the library.