



Ironbark Ridge PS

1 Ironbark Ridge Road, Rouse Hill, 2155

Phone: 8814 5687

Email: ironbarkrg-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Webpage: <https://ironbarkrg-p.schools.nsw.gov.au>

Nurturing personal growth through inspired learning...



Newsletter 2024

Term 2 Week 3 Friday 17th May

Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be Respectful

**** View our 'IRPS Events (Public)' calendar in the School Bytes Parents App or portal ****

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

The term is well underway now and our teachers and learners have settled into productive routines for setting up challenges and having a go. Learning is not easy when we are working in the learning pit, in *the goldilocks zone* where the task or ask is not too easy, not too hard, but just right! Teachers at Ironbark Ridge are constantly observing, recording notes and asking probing questions of their learners to investigate depth of understanding and skill level. For example, by testing the speed and accuracy of a learner's reading, their ability to recall facts and events in order, and comprehension of themes or ideas presented by an author our teachers are able to diagnose strengths and weaknesses then design learning opportunities to stretch and grow each individual learner in their class. Our teachers work collaboratively at this important work and pride themselves on their ability to have impact with their instruction!



Explicit Teaching

Recent media coverage of education in NSW has included reference to a model of instruction known as *Explicit Teaching*. Evidence gathered over many years validates this model as extremely effective in supporting students as they construct knowledge and master skills, and you'll be happy to know it has been a key strategy for our teachers at Ironbark Ridge for many years. Refining the practice and ensuring it is used in all learning situations as *High Impact Teaching* is a key initiative in our school's Strategic Improvement Plan (SIP). Explicit Teaching includes a sequence of elements such as:

- activating prior knowledge
- sharing the learning intentions and making success criteria clear to learners
- modelling and demonstrating the skill
- chunking and sequencing the learning (sometimes in small steps)
- guiding learners with close supervision and effective feedback
- checking for understanding and using effective questioning techniques
- providing opportunities for independent practice (deliberate, with feedback and supervision)
- bringing it all together to connect learning and
- revisiting previous learning for spaced-interval practice

I'm sure none of these steps sounds unreasonable or even unexpected – it's all common sense and best-practice in instruction... however putting it *all* together and making sure every lesson every day includes as many of these elements as possible (and appropriate) is not easy. Since we want to maximise the personal growth of every learner in every class every year, this is what teachers and leaders at Ironbark Ridge are constantly working towards.

Weekly Interschool Sport

Congratulations to all of our students selected in the Ironbark Ridge representative sports teams to play every Friday against other Ridges Zone schools in football, netball, AFL, oztag, Newcombe ball, cricket, and T-Ball/Softball. We have invoiced families for the four Winter sport options at \$95 per student, and will invoice for Summer sports (that commence mid-Term 3) in the Term 3 Statement of Account.



Unfortunately over the past few years the cost to transport teams to/from venues has increased dramatically and I know all schools are grappling with this issue. We are fortunate to be within walking distance of several venues and as we share the cost between our 8 sports this makes our standard fee much cheaper than at many other local schools. It may reach the point in coming years that the cost outweighs the benefit of weekly interschool sport and our Ridges Zone PSSA opts for once-a-term Gala Day model. Until then we will look at other avenues to attempt to keep the cost to families as low as possible without being out of pocket from our school's annual learning operations budget.

Successful Learner Habits: Feedback and Courage

Successful learners know that making a mistake is a great chance to find out what doesn't work. When we try to solve a problem or complete a task, we need to have the **courage** to have a go, to try out our best effort... but we might fail!! Oh no! Actually – it's "Oh, yes!!" if we miss the mark, because we can always try again in a different way. Our friends or teacher might be able to give us some **feedback** to set us on the right new path towards success. Using our courage, we can stick at it for longer as well. Using extra courage we can



be the first in our group to try new and unfamiliar challenges. We can also challenge ourselves by setting new, difficult learning goals. Asking for feedback from others, especially our teachers and parents, takes a lot of courage... because they might tell us that we got it wrong, or that we have more growth to make, more improvement in the way we are doing the task. However, this then gives us clues about how to get better! We are all learners and 'better' is the goal! So this week and next, show your courage and know that making a mistake is a chance for learning and personal growth.

OC Applications closing

Just a quick reminder to our current Year 4 parents that applications for Opportunity Class placement in Year 5 (in the Ironbark Ridge class, or at Matthew Pearce, Quakers Hill, Richmond, etc.) will close this coming Monday 20th May. Hence, your last chance to apply will be over this coming weekend, so please visit the website: <https://shsoc.education.nsw.gov.au>

And... what a huge sigh of relief we 'heard' from our over 80 students who sat the Selective High Schools test on Thursday last week. Congratulations on getting through the many hours of study and practice you have been doing, and also on your efforts in the test. Remember that regardless of results, evidence shows that attending a selective high school is no direct guarantee of high HSC results, nor of 'success' in life. Many of the most *successful* people in our world did not excel at school in academics ☺

Lateness after 9... Ridgy wants you here on time!

We have been busily collecting names of our slightly late students as they arrive at school in the mornings from 9.01am onwards, and will continue to do so. You will receive a notification through the SchoolBytes online system and can enter an explanation and acknowledgement of the lateness. We want every student to be in class with their peers from 9am sharp so they can be calm and settled with a great opportunity to maximise their learning and growth. I'm keen to see some data on our overall attendance this term when we hit the half-way point at the end of Week 5 so keep it up, Ironbarkers! The Ironbark Ridge bell rings at 9 and Ridgy wants you here on time!



Excellence... in Netball

Four of our amazing netballers - Madi (6G), Danni (6I), Kiah (6G) and Olivia (6K) represented us and played for the Ridges Zone team at the recent Sydney West Netball carnival. The Ridges team played sensationally, scoring 132 goals and only conceding 42! In the end they were placed second, registering 8 wins and a draw before their single loss to the eventual champion Zone, Penrith. A special congratulations to Danni and Olivia who were selected in the Sydney West Netball team to compete at the NSW State Carnival. Ridges has the highest representation of any zone (4 out of the 10 players). Go Ridges!

Hoping for more of this amazing, sunny autumn weather,

Nick Thomson

Principal, Ironbark Ridge PS

DEPUTY PRINCIPALS' REPORT

Celebrating Our Ironbark Mums

Our Ironbark mothers and mother figures had a beautiful morning with their families, celebrating everything they are and do as mums at our annual Mother's Day Breakfast. Thank you to our army of fathers who volunteered their time to help make the morning a success. All hands were on deck nice and early to cook the scrumptious bacon, eggs and sausages for breakfast.

Our beautifully decorated hall helped to set the scene, with the photo booth providing the opportunity to capture lifetime memories. Thank you to our volunteers and dedicated staff who worked tirelessly to make our Mother's Day Breakfast the great success it was. Our newly introduced '#BEST MUM SHOUT OUTS' wall was a hit. Students were eager to post some wonderful comments about their amazing mothers.

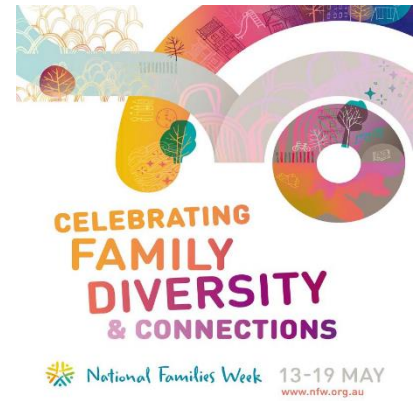
Faces were beaming as students entered our Mother's Day Stall last Thursday, expertly run by our P&C and parent volunteers. Students loved having the opportunity to browse the gifts available and choose a present for their mums, special mother figures and/or grandmothers. Thank you to Mrs MacCaulay and all her wonderful volunteers for their organisation of the Mother's Day Stall. Our Ironbark P & C and volunteers spend many hours organising such events, and our learning community appreciates all the effort that goes into ensuring their success. A special thank you also goes to Mrs Goddard, Mrs Ratnapala and Mrs Regan for supporting the P & C with the organisation of this event.



National Families Week

This week is National Families Week (13-19 May). National Families Week is a time to celebrate with your family, connect with your extended family and friends, and share in the enjoyment of family activities within the wider community. The aim of National Families Week is to not only celebrate the vital role that families play in Australian society, but to also reflect on the critical role that families play in teaching, supporting and nurturing children as they grow. We celebrate family diversity by recognising and embracing the unique circumstances, backgrounds, and dynamics that make up each family and finding opportunities to connect across differences. Family partnerships in schools play a big role in supporting children and young people's mental health. See the attached link for more information about National Families Week.

[National Families Week – An initiative of Families Australia \(nfw.org.au\)](http://nfw.org.au)



Tell Them From Me

This term, students in Years 4, 5 and 6 will be participating in a short survey called 'Tell Them From Me'. The students will give us feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are and the interactions they have with our teachers. The survey typically takes between 15-30 minutes to complete. Parents of these students have been emailed detailed information, including a non-consent form. Parents only need to return the form if they **DO NOT** wish for their child to participate in the survey by Friday, 24th May. We use this information to evaluate our school processes and to make decisions about further school directions. More information about the survey and the research behind it is available at [Tell them from me \(nsw.gov.au\)](http://tellthemfromme.nsw.gov.au)

Leadership at IRPS

At Ironbark Ridge, we see each of our students as leaders – leaders of themselves and their learning first and foremost. We also value and encourage the impact that students can have on others. Our Successful Learner Habits (SLHs) are a toolset of skills and mindsets that assist our students in thinking diversely and actively engaging in all aspects of school life as curious learners. These habits or mindsets assist students to be agents of their own learning and leaders in their growth.

Yesterday, our Kindergarten students participated in a leadership program titled 'I'll Give It A Go' program, run by Cameron Brown from 'Explore, Discover, Act'. Students explored the notion that "What an incredible journey life is; full of adventures and opportunities to explore the possibilities, discover potential and act authentically. When we foster and continue to develop a mindset for stretching and growth it can assist us within our lifelong learning journeys." Opportunities were provided for students to develop their leadership potential through participating in a variety of activities, focusing on:

- An attitude of I CAN
- A belief in YOU CAN
- Inspiring WE CAN

Throughout the day, students had the opportunity to link to our Successful Learner Habits to further enhance their attitude and sense of empowerment within the learning process.



Term 2 School Disco – Save the Date

Save the date of **Thursday, 30th May** – our amazing SRC will be hosting our first disco of the year! Join us for a boogie in your best retro outfit and help raise money for the Starlight Children's Foundation.

Disco times are as follows:

K-2: 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

3-6: 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Entry Fee: \$10. Payment will be through School Bytes. Further details to come.

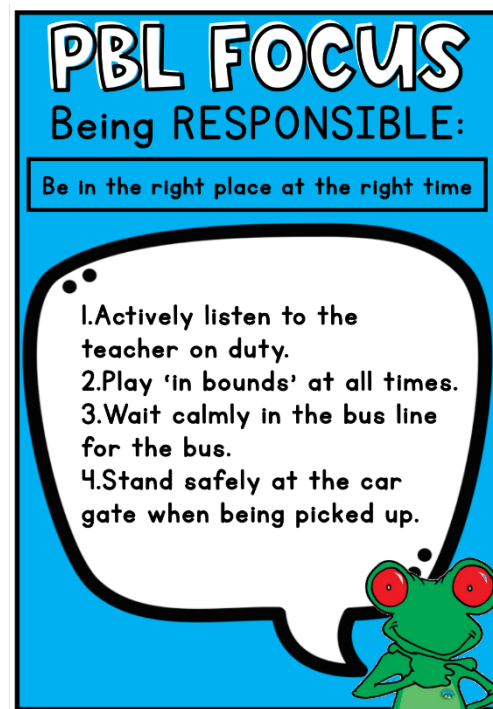
This fee will cover a drink, snack and a glow item with a donation to our fundraiser.

Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL)

This fortnight's PBL focus is **Responsible: Be in the right place at the right time**. Over the next two weeks, students will revise the following expectations during whole school meetings and in their classroom:

1. Actively listen to the teacher on duty.
2. Play 'in bounds' at all times.
3. Wait calmly in the bus line for the bus.
4. Stand safely at the car gate when being picked up.

Ridgy has loved being back at school over the first few weeks of this term. Seeing friends and learning keeps Ridgy motivated to 'get one step better each day'. When Ridgy comes to school in the morning, he knows how important it is to stay safe and set a good example by making sure to be in the right place at the right time. If he comes to school early, he sits and waits in the Colas and only goes to put his bag away when a teacher has asked him to. At lunchtime, he makes sure to stay in-bounds, never going where a teacher can't see him. When the school day ends, Ridgy waits in the right spot and doesn't wander. If he's catching the bus, he goes straight to the bus line, or if his parents are picking him up, he waits at the car gate with the teachers on duty. **Being in the right place at the right time** is how Ridgy shows he is a responsible Ironbarker.



Kylie Robson and Kerrie Pho
Deputy Principals

KINDERGARTEN CAPERS

We hope all our Kindergarten mums and grandmothers were spoiled last weekend and enjoyed the beautiful cards students made. It was lovely to see so many families attend our Mother's Day breakfast last Friday.

Yesterday, students participated in a leadership day where they learned how to work as a team, communicate respectfully with their peers and think outside of the box through fun, engaging and hands-on activities. It was wonderful to see students collaborating to achieve success and being respectful listeners to our presenter.



The learning doesn't stop there. This fortnight students have been learning how to sort objects, collect data and find equivalent masses using hefting. They are becoming very inquisitive mathematicians who love to investigate and learn.



STAGE 1 SNIPPETS

Wow! It has been a strong start to Term 2. Our students have been learning all about being persuasive over the last 2 weeks. Parents, we apologise if your children are all of a sudden convincing you to get them a new pet or becoming master negotiators at home (proud teacher moment). Students have also explored the concept of equivalence in Mathematics and are honing their musical talents with their recorders.



Stage 1 Excursion Reminders

We are very excited to step back in time during our excursion to Rouse Hill House and Farm next week. If permission or payment has not been received, your child will be provided with work to complete at school.

Date: Year 1 will be going on Monday 20th May and Year 2 will be going on Tuesday 21st May.

Time: Students will need to be at school promptly at 9:00am for a quick departure and will arrive back to school before 3pm.

Students will need to:

- Wear sports uniform
- Pack recess and lunch
- Wear school hat
- Bring a small excursion bag
- Pack a water bottle
- Pack a raincoat (no umbrellas please)

Keep your eyes peeled in our next newsletter for photos of our students learning about life in “the olden days”.

Stage 1 Teachers

STAGE 2 SNIPPETS

We hope that all families are enjoying the cool, crisp weather that the end of Autumn brings. We trust that all our Stage 2 mothers had a great day last Sunday celebrating Mother’s Day with their families and friends. It was an absolute delight to observe all the care and thought that students put into selecting special gifts at the Mother’s Day Stall last week.

SISA

Stage 2 students take part in the Sport in Schools Australia (SiSA) program every Monday in Term 2. During SISA, students are developing skills they require to take part in the Ironbark Ridge Athletics Carnival in Week 7. A friendly reminder, if you have not yet paid your child’s SiSA fee, the cut-off is this Sunday 19th of May 2024.



Term 2 Library and Sport Days

Class	Library	Sport Clothes Required
3F	Monday	Monday, Wednesday, Friday
3G	Monday	Monday, Wednesday, Friday
3W	Tuesday	Monday, Wednesday, Friday
4/3B	Year 3 Tuesday, Year 4 Thursday	Monday, Wednesday, Friday
4D	Thursday	Monday, Wednesday, Friday
4M	Thursday	Monday, Wednesday, Friday
4R	Monday	Monday, Wednesday, Friday
4Z	Monday	Monday, Wednesday, Friday

The Deadly Games

This week, Stage 2 students had the opportunity to participate in the Deadly Games. Students from each class were able to show off their skills and compete in a variety of Indigenous games. Congratulations to all the students who earned medals for their teams.



Student Writing Materials

Please send pens, pencils and sharpeners to school with your child. Many students across Stage don't have pens pencils and sharpeners in their pencil cases to use each day and need to borrow from teachers and other students.

Lost property

If your child is missing uniform items, please look or remind them to check out the lost property racks just outside the school hall. Kindly ensure that all personal items are clearly labelled with your child's name and class.

Public Speaking in Stage 2

Over the past 3 weeks students in Stage 2 have been busily preparing speeches for the Stage 2 Public Speaking Competition. Over the next 4 week they will have the opportunity to practise and refine their speeches. Students will present their speeches to their classes and teachers. Finalists from all Stage 2 classes will get the opportunity to compete in the Stage 2 Public Speaking Final in Week 10.

Have a great weekend!

Stage 2 Team

STAGE 3 SNIPPETS

Term 2 is well underway, and everyone has gotten back into the swing of things extremely efficiently. The sun is shining again after a long and drawn-out rainy fortnight and the sunshine ushers in our eagerly awaited Year 5 camp! Our teachers and students are excitedly anticipating their camp which kicks off next week on Wednesday the 22nd of May. Packing lists have been sent out to make sure everyone is prepared for the beautiful chaos of camp week. Have fun at Point Wolstencroft, Year 5!

A few bits and pieces to acknowledge from the first 2 weeks back:

PSSA unfortunately has been canceled for the third week in a row, teachers and students alike are disappointed and looking forward to next week when, fingers crossed, we will be able to begin our Winter PSSA season.

Ironbark's Mother's Day Stall and Barbecue were both roaring successes last week and we hope all Ironbark Mums were spoilt appropriately to thank them for everything they do.

SISA is in action and our kids have been enjoying the coaching sessions and the opportunity to develop their athletic skills leading up to our Athletics Carnival in Week 7, weather permitting.

And a few things to look forward to:

Ironbark will be hosting a Term 2 Disco! Lots of details yet to come, so keep an eye out for announcements.

Interrelate is up and running with Year 5 and the wonderful teachers from Interrelate have been fantastic in providing information to students and answering lots of questions about the challenges of puberty in a safe and respectful environment. Year 6 will be starting later this term so please be aware of permission and payment due dates.



Stage 3 Teachers

RIDGES REPRESENTATIVES

The representative season is well under way and several Ironbark students have been selected in Ridges teams to compete in various sports over the coming months.

On Monday 4 of our girls represented Ridges in Netball, where they came 2nd, only losing 1 game (to the eventual winners, Penrith) Well done (L to R) Danni, Kiah, Madi and Olivia. A further congratulations to Olivia and Danni who have been selected in the Sydney West team to compete later in the term.



Last term, Ethan Ren and Lena Knezevic were selected for Ridges Basketball. They competed in their respective Sydney West tournaments at Penrith.



Taylor, Savannah, Madi and Abigail are currently training for the Touch Football carnival to be held in June. We wish them well for the tournament when it comes around.



Avni will participate in the f Sydney West Girl Cricket trials later in August. She was selected to attend the 2nd day of trials against tough competition.

Well done! Congratulations and good luck to all our Ridges representatives.

Ridgy Didge Awards

WEEK 3

KB	Noah, Ada, Santi, Alyssa
KF	Menakya, Mya, Lesedi, Rudranshi
KS	Linaya, Aizah, Melchiah, Audrey
1A	Aushraj, Abubakr, Arnold, Malak
1D	Reyan, Adrian, Hannah, Sabrina
1G	Moustafa, Claire, Maxene, Harley
2C	Aairah, Ellie, Leena, Avni
2E	Akain, Saanvi, Shenuth, Kristy
2P	Anaya, Damian, Leo, Mia
3G	Andrew, Destiny, Ella, Jamie
3W	Aiden, Amiya, Yajat, Riddhi
4/3B	Alexia, Mohammad, Thoen, Abigail
4D	Nitya, Naomi, Hansen, Monica
4M	Anusha, Aisha, Ethan, Diyan
4R	Dan, Coco, Adam, Benjamin
4Z	Ethan, Enya, Matilda, Devansh, Manav
5B	Jackson, Daniel, Jocelyn, Raheel
5D	Armaan, Isabel, Kaihaan
5F	Hunter, Issac, Navya, Kai
6G	Whyad, Arnav, Savanna
6H	Noraiz, Nia, Sri, Laurence

WHAT'S ON AFTER SCHOOL AT IRONBARK RIDGE?

The following activities are run in the school grounds by outside companies:

Sydney Academy of Chess – Monday 3.10pm to 4.10pm

[Sydney Academy of Chess |](#)

Young Engineers – Thursday 3.10pm to 5.10pm

[Engineering After School | STEM Australia - e² Young Engineers \(young-engineers.com.au\)](#)

Peiji Chinese – Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 3.10pm to 5.10pm

[Blacktown Peiji Chinese School](#)

Talent Club Australia – Wednesday 3.15pm to 5.15pm

[Creative Kids - Talent Club Australia](#)

Northwest Physie – Wednesday 6.30pm to 9pm, Saturday

[NORTHWEST UNITED PHYSIE & DANCE - Home \(weebly.com\)](#)

Teaching Services Australia (music) – Tuesday during school hours

[Teaching Services Australia](#)

Art on Canvas – Monday 3.10pm to 4.10pm

Email: Artoncanvaskids@outlook.com | Facebook: [ArtonCanvasForKids](#)

Please click on the links and contact these organisations directly if you would like more information.



After-school fun at Ironbark Ridge Public School



www.codecamp.com.au/ironbark



LEARN MATH
AND LAWS
OF PHYSICS



**YOUNG
ENGINEERS**
Australia

Build Your Tomorrow. Today!

Young Engineers provides practical application of STEM. We aim to ignite students' passion for Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics through hands-on workshops. Weekly sessions demonstrate scientific and coding concepts using Lego® prototypes.

Ironbark Ridge Public School

Term 2 2024 - Every Thursdays

Eligibility	Program Name	Time	Fee	Dates	Book online at
Yr 1 - 2	Build Up	3:10 to 4:40pm	\$240	09/05 - 04/07	www.trybooking.com/CQHBU
Yr 3 - 6	Engineering & Robotics	3:10 to 4:40pm	\$240	09/05 - 04/07	www.trybooking.com/CQHBU



For more information
please call 0416 100 089

infonwsydney@young-engineers.com.au
www.nwsydney.young-engineers.com.au

/YoungEngineersNorthWest

APPROVED - CREATIVE KIDS SERVICE PROVIDER!

Use Creative Kids voucher.

Please go to service.nsw.gov.au for more details.

Engineering & Robotics Program provides theoretical knowledge in software and mechanical engineering combined with mathematics and physics.

Build-Up Program is designed for little children where they start from learning the basics of building Lego Models including improving them and end up building models independently with a friend and enjoying group game.

CHESS!!

Learn to be a chess champion! Coaching for students at Ironbark Ridge Public School is held on:

Beginner/Rookie: Mondays from 3:10pm to 4:10pm, starting on 6 May 2024

Intermediate: Mondays from 3:10pm to 4:10pm, starting on 6 May 2024

Learning and playing chess helps children develop their logical thinking and problem solving skills, improves their concentration and focus, while also being a great source of enjoyment. Activities include group lessons on a demonstration chess board or interactive whiteboard, puzzle solving and fun practice games.

Students earn merit awards by making checkmates, or by displaying skills and positive qualities, which all good chess players strive to develop.

Each student in the Chess program will also receive access to Chess Squad <https://www.chesssquad.com/> which is an online teaching/playing platform.

If your child is interested in taking part in the class, please email office.sydneyacademy@gmail.com for an enrolment form. For all enquiries, please contact Sydney Academy of Chess on (02) 9745 1170.



4-IN-1 COMMUNICATION

Class focus: Each class has a central focus (Drama / Debate / Creative Writing / Public Speaking)

Practice Activities: Students will engage in different activities to encourage creativity and on-the-spot thinking.

Preparation: Students will be asked to prepare an activity based on prompts eg debate topics or storytelling prompt

Presentation: Students will be asked to present their work in front of the class practicing their public speaking skills.

Public Speaking. Creative Writing. Debate.
Drama.



SAMPLE LESSON

Focus: Students will be doing activities in each class that focus on one/ or more of these genres of communication. This will be an overarching theme of class/ and activities will be related to improving skills related to communication confidence Eg. persuasive speaking/relating to debate.

Drama Public Speaking Debate Creative Writing

Activity: Students will be doing activities in each class, that encourage on-the-spot thinking and interaction. Eg

- If I ruled the world...
- Cross the circle if you think....explain why...
- I couldn't disagree more...hands up stand up!

Preperation:

Students will be asked to prepare something based on a prompt. This is where the coach can also provide handy tips and tricks to support the students better. E.g. how to structure an argument.

- Should everyone make the school sports teams?
- Should students be allows to pick their own teachers?

Presentation:

Students will be asked to present. This is a critical part of their practice of communication confidence.

Eg.

- Lets split up into two teams and have a mock debate!

ASCA OUTCOMES



Our program learning outcomes are all based on the ASCA learning outcomes. And our in class activities are geared toward helping students achieve this in an interactive and engaging class environment. Some of these outcomes include:

- Demonstrate a confident yet relaxed posture
- Establish eye contact with the audience
- Avoid over-dependence on notes speak clearly and audibly throughout
- Present interesting material with a clear structure
- Convey appropriate, knowledgeable, and extended responses to questions
- Establish a sincere and warm rapport with the audience
- Reflect the literary style with confidence and flair when reading aloud
- Have generous and inclusive eye contact

(tailored to each age group, with deeper layers as skill level improves.)

Our long-term students are given the opportunity to take the ASCA Exams; in which many of our past students have recieved Distinctions and High Distinctions.



REGISTER TODAY!

TERM 2 DRAWING PROGRAM (K-6) AT IRONBARK RIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOL



SCAN HERE
for enrolment form



GREAT FOR:

RELAXATION

CREATIVITY

CONCENTRATION

MAKING FRIENDS

AND MORE!

PROGRAM DETAILS:

- **Day & time:** Monday 3.10-4.10pm
- **Location:** Inside the school
- **Starting:** Term 2/2024
- **Fees:** \$210 (8 weeks)

**All materials are included.*

**Creative Kids vouchers accepted*

BOOK A SPOT TODAY!

☎ 0424 093 991



BOOK NOW