Dear Parents & Carers,

There is an outbreak of whooping cough in NSW, mainly affecting school-aged children. Coughing spreads the infection to others nearby. Whooping cough can spread to anyone at home, including younger brothers and sisters. Whooping cough can be especially dangerous for babies.

Whooping cough starts like a cold and progresses to bouts of coughing that can last for many weeks. The infection can occur even in fully-vaccinated children. Older children may just have a cough that is persistent and may be worse at night.

- Children with these symptoms should see a doctor.
- If your doctor diagnoses whooping cough in your school-aged child, please let the school know and keep your child at home until they have taken 5 days of antibiotics. Keep coughing children away from babies.
- Whooping cough vaccines give good protection against infection but immunity fades with time. Check that all your children are up to date with their vaccines, due at 6 weeks, 4 months, 6 months, 4 years and 12 years of age (offered to all Year 7 students through the NSW school-based vaccination program). A booster is also recommended at 18 months of age.
- A booster dose of vaccine is also recommended for adults that are in contact with young children, such as school staff and parents. Pregnant women are recommended to have a booster dose during each pregnancy and this is funded by NSW Health. Those who are new parents or carers of babies should consult their general practitioner about appropriate immunisation.

If you have any concerns or require further information then please contact your doctor or your local public health unit on 1300 066 055 or visit the NSW Health website for information for childcare and schools about whooping cough.

Warm regards

Nancye Farley
Principal
Preschool

We are holding preschool playgroup every Tuesday in November for 2016 families. It started last week and everyone had a great time, we are looking forward to getting to know the children and their families.
Library News

So many books are being returned! This is very good news. Thank you so much to those parents and carers who have helped search high and low for the missing books. Yes, there is still a long list outstanding ... but we have a while yet to the end of the term, so I remain optimistic about their return.

I have found some good reads that parents and carers may be interested in borrowing.

Father Chris Riley's book "Growing Great Kids" occupied a few hours of my life on this rainy, cold Sunday. I have always loved spending rainy days reading a really good book ... and this one didn't disappoint me one bit. I thought I would read the blurb and a few of the words from celebrities such as Jeff Fenech, Jimmy Barnes and even Pink. No chance! I read the contents, including "How to Be the Best Parent You Can Be; The Importance of School; The Six Secret of Growing Great Kids" and was hooked! Even though my own sons are now 30 and 26 years old, Father Chris's words made an impact on me. The book does focus on the adolescent years. Your child will be there one day. This book could provide you with valuable advice for those years.

"Beyond Cyberbullying", an essential guide for parenting in the digital guide by Michael Carr-Gregg, an Australian who is internationally recognised as an authority on teenage behaviour. This book provides guidelines for family internet safety and advises how to minimise the risks without limiting your child's freedom to learn, explore and communicate in the all-important cyber world. For those still unfamiliar with the Internet, the book's first chapter gives basic information, and then it goes on with "What kids are doing online; Cyberbullying and how to handle it; Laws you need to know; Keeping kids safe online" and more.

I found these books in our Scholastic Bookclub brochures for $25.00 and $18.00, and would be happy to order them for you if you'd like your own copy.

Homework & Chess Club continues every Thursday after school in the Library until 26th November. It's good to see our regulars back for this hour, and to welcome new students who have chosen to come along to improve their Chess skills or have this opportunity to finish their homework for the week.

Stay safe, responsible learners and keep reading everyone!

Chris Berry
Teacher Librarian

Chess News

My thanks go out once again to Mr Geoff Bertram who loyally comes to Chess each Thursday ... even when suffering extreme back pain ... to coach our keen enthusiasts in this wonderful game. His dedication to our Chess players is very much appreciated.

Chris Berry
Chess Co-Ordinator
A very exciting project begins this week...and everyone is involved! At Irrawang Public School, attendance matters. Three murals will be painted this week to display our new attendance slogans –
1. Don’t be late, school can’t wait!
2. It’s not OK to be away!
3. Be here, be smart – play your part!

We are very lucky to have two talented artists share their expertise on graffiti and everyone will have a go at painting! Not only will we learn about how to do graffiti, we will learn about where it does and DOES NOT belong and how graffiti can be used in positive ways. Children will be involved in using a spray can and will wear a mask and gloves for this. All children will have a small part to play in painting two of the murals on Thursday, and a small group of selected students will be chosen to participate in a full day painting and mentoring workshop for the third mural on Friday. This is an exciting whole-school project and we encourage participation, however, If you do not want your child involved in this project, please contact the school on 4987 2403.

Thank you Anna and her team. The IO playground looks amazing!

I can't wait to see your 'where to next.'
Welcome PBL members
(IPS Staff, School Community, Students, Parents)
‘Let the Little Things Go’

What is a ‘Little Thing?’

A ‘Little Thing’ is something or someone that bothers you a little, and at the end of the day it is not worth worrying about. A ‘Little Thing’ is VERY different to bullying, harassing or physical violence. A ‘Little Thing’ could be someone who doesn’t want to play with you or someone looking at you funny or someone who took your spot.

We need to ‘let these little things go’ so that they don’t turn into big things.

So during week 5 the children will be brainstorming strategies that could help them to

‘Let Little Things Go!’

I took a deep breath and let it go.

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**School Banking**

School banking is every THURSDAY.

Please remember to hand your bank books to your teacher and they will be taken to the office. If you don’t receive your bank book back by Friday please check at the office.
Congratulations to Leonardo, Kathlyn & Wezley Stephens, the winners of our guessing competition in the “Who am I” feature of the Newsletter week 6. The correct answer was the Egan/ Schofield Family. Thank you Jack Edgerton for entering. Better Luck next time.

Melissa Beasley  
Community Liaison Officer

5 Things you don’t know about me- Staff

1. I grew up in Sydney  
2. I went to a private all girls high School  
3. I’ve had braces twice in my life  
4. My little brother is the World number 1 Sailor in Laser  
5. I have 2 naughty bunny rabbits called Monty and Narla  

Who is this staff member?

Please write your answer on the tear off slip at the bottom of the page. Place in the foyer at the office by the morning of Tuesday week 7 (17/11/15). The winner is the first correct answer drawn out of the box which will be published in the newsletter Week 8. Good luck!

Good luck!

Melissa Beasley  
Community Liaison Officer

Guessing Competition Answer.

Name: .......................................................... ..........................................................
Class: ....................................................
Answer: .......................................................... ..........................................................
Spotlight on a volunteer

This week we shine the light on a volunteer that helped out in many areas of Irrawang Public..........

Margaret Burton

This has been Margaret’s 7th year of volunteering at Irrawang Public School. Margaret started volunteering when her own children attended school and started again to help in her grandchildren’s class room. Over the years Margaret has helped in the class rooms, reading with children, the speech & Language program, Transition to School Orientation program, Preschool and Mrs Berry in the Library.

Margaret said “I enjoy all aspects of helping in the classroom especially with craft activities and being able to assist the children. I get great enjoyment seeing children achieve success.”

This year when Margaret was not volunteering she participated in a TAFE computer course and tai-chi which have both been held at Thou-Walla Family Centre.

Thanks Margaret we appreciate all your hard work!

Melissa Beasley & Megan Lysaght
DON'T BE LATE, SCHOOL CAN'T WAIT!

ATTENDANCE MATTERS!
Have you seen our new attendance board in the hall?
Each class is competing to get to the end of the field with the best attendance.
This term we are focusing on being punctual to school.
Prizes are up for grabs for the classes with the most punctual students.
We are asking parents to 'play your part' and have your children at school on time everyday.

School starts at 8:55,
Fact sheet
CYBER SAFETY
top ten tips for youth

The internet and mobile phones provide great ways to express yourself and communicate with others. It’s important to make sure they’re used responsibly so that everyone has an enjoyable online experience.
It’s all about respecting yourself and others.

1. Use a strong password, a combination of upper and lower case letters, numbers and symbols, eg P@$w0rd!

2. Use secure web browsers, those with https at the start of the URL and a padlock or other indication that it is secure, when sharing sensitive information.

3. Update your operating system regularly and make sure you have antivirus software installed on your computer and other devices – phones too!

4. Avoid opening or responding to emails from people you do not know and aren’t expecting – They could contain a virus or malicious software.

5. Don’t give out private information over the internet or mobile phones about you, your family and friends. Also think about what information might be contained in photos you share.

6. Only accept friend requests from people you know and trust. When it comes to friends and followers online it is not a popularity contest!

7. Think before you post! Once you’ve pressed ‘Send’ you can’t get that back. Who might see that photo, video or comment? Where might it end up?

8. Make sure your social media accounts are set to private or friends only! Also make sure you check your privacy settings regularly as they can change without you knowing.

9. Tell your friends to ask for your permission before uploading or tagging you in a photo – Make sure you do the same!

10. Don’t post inappropriate or illegal content - It is impossible to permanently delete digital content once it has been shared.

Most importantly, know where you can go for help! Speak to an adult you trust if something makes you feel uncomfortable online or on a mobile phone. You can also contact:

- Reach Out: www.reachout.com.au
- Bullying. No Way!: www.bullyingnoway.com.au
- Kids Helpline: 1800 55 1800
- Youth Beyond Blue: www.youthbeyondblue.com
- The website, application or phone carrier that you were using at the time

For more information visit www.thinkuknow.org.au
DEFENCE FAMILY INVITE
I am the Defence School Transition Aide at Grahamstown Public School and I would like to extend an invitation to any Defence family at Irrawang Public School to an end of year function, as an opportunity to meet other defence families in the local area:

Defence Family End of Year Function
at Lakeside Bowl, Raymond Terrace
on Friday 27th November 2015
from 3:30 - 5:30pm

Afternoon Tea will be provided, however, it will cost $5.00 per game per person
Children must be accompanied by an adult

Please RSVP by Wednesday 25th November by email to: deborah.odonoghue1@nsw.edu.au thank you.

We look forward to meeting you if you are able to join us!
Deborah O’Donoghue (DSTA, Grahamstown Public School)
Glenda de Wit (DTM, Irrawang High School)
Jason Pilcher (DTM, Medowie Christian School)
HAS YOUR CHILD ENROLLED FOR SCHOOL NEXT YEAR?

WILL YOUR CHILD BE STARTING KINDERGARTEN OR PRESCHOOL NEXT YEAR?

ENROL NOW FOR THE BEST START TO YOUR CHILD’S EDUCATION!!!

ENQUIRE NOW!

Please ask at the office or phone 02 4987 2403

CAUTION:
Please remember that if you are putting photos from school events on your personal Facebook page that other children should not be in the photos unless you have permission from their parents or carers.
Irrawang Public School: Absentee Note

Student Name: ________________________________  Class:____________________

Date/s of absence/s ____________________________________________________________________________

Reason for leave: (Please circle)
  *Sick  *Urgent Family Business  *Other:_____________________________________________________

Signature:________________________________________________________________________________________

Date:________________________________________

Relationship to student:_________________________

****************Please return with your child to class teacher. Thankyou*********************