Dear Parents/Carers,

Term one is well under way and full steam ahead in the classroom engine room!

With numbers finalised, we have maintained our 12 mainstream classes K-6, two preschool groups and three support classes.

One loss we do have to acknowledge is the wonderful Mr. Cridland. Tarro Public School has been lucky enough to gain him as Relieving Principal for 5 days a week, starting immediately. Well done Mr. Cridland, we wish you all the very best and hope you visit often.

These first four weeks of school have seen; classes formed, friendships made and reconnected, professional learning for staff, a Community PBL launch prepared, cross country completed, sporting house captains and vice captains announced and so much more.

What a dynamic school learning environment!

I would also like to acknowledge the poem written and read by Aunty Margo in our Monday assembly this week. Thank you Aunty Margo for sharing such a personal journey of finding your family and congratulations on your new role as the Co-President of the Irrawang Aboriginal Education Committee. You are truly inspirational.

Looking forward to a fabulous term of learning and working together as a strong and dedicated school community.

Sincerely,

Mrs Mathieson
Principal
The Tell Them From Me student feedback survey

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.


The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 14 March and 8 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you Do Not want your child or children to participate, please return the consent form to school by Friday 26 February.

Stacy Mathieson
Principal

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!!!!!

A big congratulations to Jye and Tahleah for being voted in as
Irrawang Public School Aboriginal Student Representatives for 2016.

ASSEMBLY ROSTER TERM 1-4 2016

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<th>Term 1</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td>5-6F</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
<td>3-6J</td>
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<td>Week 2</td>
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<td>Talent Quest</td>
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<th>Class</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Special Ed</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
<td>YEAR 6</td>
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LIBRARY NEWS

Changes were needed to the Library timetable. Please check below to confirm your child’s Library day. Sorry for any inconvenience:

The schedule for Library lessons this term is as follows:

Every 2nd Monday (even weeks): 3-6J
Tuesday: 1T, 1M, 4/5E, 2-6B and 3/4G
Thursday: 2T, K-6C, 5/6F, 5/6P and Sistaspeak

Most Bookclub orders have been distributed this week. Unfortunately, some were delayed but will arrive early next week. Thank you for your support of Bookclub in our school.

Next week I will be calling for applications for the position of Library monitor. I have already had queries about this role from interested Year 5 students!

My Website of the Week is www.thebookchook.com, created by an Australian writer, Susan Stephenson. She writes very inspirational and informative blog posts. If you have ten minutes to spare, they would not be wasted at The Book Chook site. A recent one that caught my eye was “Three Parent Plans to Create a Strong Reader”.

I’ve hyperlinked the above web address for easy access to this post, but in a nutshell ….

Read to your kids every day from when they are babies.
She calls this special time “read o’clock”.
Talk with your kids and really listen to what they have to say.
Make sure your kids see you reading!

I’ve begun to photograph students reading in the Library ... who are so engrossed in their book, they don’t know they’re on camera! Love it! Here are our first two bookworms. Please see me for a special bookmark.

Happy reading everyone

Chris Berry
Teacher Librarian

BIKE SAFETY

Just a reminder that for safety reasons, scooters and skateboards are not to be brought into the school.

Students are allowed to ride their bike to school as long as it is in safe working order. Bicycles must have working brakes and a lock and chain (these will be checked randomly from time to time). The school can not be responsible for bikes. Helmets MUST be worn properly at all times. No helmet-no ride. This includes them being properly done up. It is recommended that students under 10 be accompanied by an adult if riding to school. Students 12 and under are allowed to ride on the footpath as are accompanying adults. Road and pedestrian safety is very important and needs to be discussed with your children regularly.

Mr Jones
Irrawang Public School Community are safe, responsible learners who show respect in all settings

Welcome PBL members (IPS Staff, School Community, Students, Parents)

The focus of our PBL lessons is RESPECT! We all know what words such as “Respect”, “Kindness”, “Courage” and “Caring” mean. However, knowing and using these words is a lot easier than following what they mean and using them in day to day life. Sometimes we can come across as disrespectful when we don’t mean to be, like when we are having a joke with our friends. Respect should be shown everywhere, everytime to everyone.

Definition: Consequence - A result of one’s behaviour.

Respect - Means accepting that other people are different but just as important as you feel you are.

Eg:

Treating others as you would like to treated - Gold Face - Deputy BBQ, Aussie Dollars, Star Cards, Dojos, Caught you being good, etc

Laughing at others ability - Blue Face - need to think about behaviour.

Poor sportsmanship - Purple Face - white/red form.

Making threats to others - Red Face - Red Form.
4 Things you don’t know about me- Staff

There is no winner of our guessing competition in the “5 Things you don’t know about me” feature of the Newsletter (Term 1, week 2).
The correct answer was Aunty Margo Bevan who is an SLSO.

Melissa Beasley
Community Liaison Officer

WHO AM I—Family

We are a family of five. I have two children who attend IPS, one child attends IPS Preschool and my last child attends another School.
We have 6 fish, 2 Budgies & a Long neck Turtle.
As a family we like to spend time together by going to the Beach, park and play outside or going for walks.
My children have been involved in karate and gymnastics outside of School.
I like to get involved in helping at the school when possible e.g. special events, Zone sports, Drop In Room, kids gardening program, NAIDOC, IAEG, Thou-Walla and I have helped in the classrooms.
I enjoy getting involved in my children’s learning by attending the parent teacher interviews, workshops and Forum’s which are held once or twice a year.
Who am I?
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 Friday Week 5 (26th Feb).
The winner is the first correct answer drawn out of the box which will be published in the newsletter Week 6 (4th March).

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 helps out every week running school banking…

Karlene Johnson

Karlene has been volunteering at IPS for 9 years now! She started when her eldest son Ryan began Kindergarten. This is Karlene’s 4th year running school banking. This is a big commitment and we are so lucky Karlene provides this banking opportunity for our students. Over the years Karlene has held all positions on the P&C (except treasurer) sometimes holding 2 positions!! She has also helped out in the classrooms, with the literacy program and in the canteen.

Thanks Karlene we appreciate all your hard work!
Irrawang School Canteen relies on the help of volunteer parents, just like you to operate. Some benefits of working in the canteen include:

* Kids love seeing their parents help in the canteen
* Meet new people
* Get to know teachers and staff at the school
* Learn new skills – you do not need any experience
* Unlimited tea, coffee or hot chocolate
* Fun friendly environment
* Free lunch to the value of $5
* A chance to get away from the housework for a few hours

Canteen opens from 8.30am until 12.25pm. We require volunteers from 8.20am until around 12.45pm
If you can help, please fill out the form below and return it to the canteen or office. Roster for 2015 will be finalised & published in the next newsletter.

_________________________________________________________________
Name: ___________________________________
Childs Name: _____________________________
Phone : __________________________________
Preferred days:
Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday
Weekly  Fortnightly  Monthly

Thank you for your commitment and support towards having a great canteen for all the students.

Michelle Godwin
Canteen Supervisor
Did You Know?

February

Is Dental Health Month.

Mouthguards for Avabakal patients 16 years and under

Avabakal

Prevent Dental Trauma This Football Season

Wear a mouthguard for all contact sports.
Mouthguards should be properly fitted.
Mouthguards protect teeth, gums, and jaw.

Book your appointment at Avabakal Primary Health Care Centre Now.

Please note:
To access the Avabakal Dental you will need to be a current patient of the service.

Contact Casey Blacklock on 02 4907 8555

Raymond Terrace Junior Rugby League Football Club

WANT TO BECOME A RAYMOND TERRACE ROOSTER

Come down and have a try out at our Open Day Wednesday 17th February
Come down to Lakeside fields
5.30 to 6.30

Alternative—Jump online and register at www.playnrl.com/register

Email: rjtjflc1@yahoo.com.au
Facebook—Raymond Terrace Roosters

Irrawong Public School Meal Deal Day

Friday 18th March. Cost $6

Name: ______________________

Class: ______________________

Meal consists of either hot dog or egg and bacon roll,
Donut or finger bun and a drink. (NO slushies)

Lunch
Hot Dog ________ Egg and Bacon Roll_______
Tomato Sauce ________
BBQ Sauce ________
No Sauce ________

Recess
Iced donut ________
Finger Bun ________

Drink
Large Water ________
Juice ________
Plain Milk ________
Choc milk ________
Strawberry milk ________

Please return all money and forms to the CANTEEN
No later than Wednesday 16th March.
ROSLYN ST. CAR PARK AWARENESS

Just a reminder that the Roslyn St car park is a designated quick drop off and pick up zone for children arriving via Special Transport vehicles. To maintain safety for our students, this area is restricted to vehicles with school parking permits. This year’s permits are **PINK** and can be obtained via an application process. If you believe that you require a permit, please speak to the office staff.

Please be aware that the gates to this car park will be **closed and locked** after the last Special Transport vehicle has departed. If you have a permit, it is requested that you park outside the school on days where you will be requiring an extended amount of time in the afternoon, such as for parent/teacher meetings.

The pedestrian gates will be locked by 3:10pm. Pedestrians needing to leave the school after the gates have been locked will be able to do so via the Cambridge St and Geer St entrances.

We thank you for your patience and consideration in this matter.

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**SCHOOL ZONE PARKING OFFENCES:**

**WHAT DO THESE SIGNS MEAN?**

- **NO STOPPING**
  - You cannot drop your child off here. Medical or other emergency stopping only is permitted.
  - You cannot drop your child off here.
  - $304.00 + 2 Points

- **BUS ZONE**
  - You cannot stop here unless driving a bus.
  - $304.00 + 2 Points

- **CAN STOP HERE FOR 2 MINUTES ONLY**
  - You can drop your child off here but you must either stay in the car or within 3 metres of the car.
  - Mobility sticker permit holders may stop for up to 5 mins.
  - $169.00 + 2 Points

**Hours of operation may apply to some signs. This means that the restrictions apply for those times only.**

For more information contact Port Stephens Council’s Road Safety Officer
Telephone 4980 0201
A road safety initiative of Port Stephens Council

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**Raymond Terrace Psychic Fair**

*Saturday 20 February*

- Local produce
- Tarot Readings
- Live Music
- Artisans Market

**Markets from 9 am to 2 pm**

Riverside Park, Raymond Terrace

*What does 2016 hold in store for you?*

Natural therapies, massage, reiki, preloved and hand-crafted goods, soaps, candles, hot food and drinks, coffee. Kids craft table

*Contact Liz 0422 144 441*

*Email ricommunitymarkets@bigpond.com*

Like us on facebook for updates

www.facebook.com/raymondterracecommunitymarkets

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**Dad’s Group**

*a look at fathering...a most important job.*

Max from Family Support Newcastle, invites dads, and men who have a role in raising children, to

**A 4 Hour group**


**When:** March 23rd
**Time:** 10-2pm
**Where:** Thou-Wolla Schools as Community Centre
Irvingan Public School
Geer Street, Raymond Terrace

**FREE CHILDREN’S GROUP AVAILABLE ON PREMISES**

To make a booking or for further inquiries please, call часа on 4937 4666

*Thou-Wolla*

The Men and Family Relationships Project is funded by the Australian Government and supported by Family Support Newcastle.
We are happy to announce we are running an extended session in our Preschool every Wednesday.

Dreaming for the Thru Walls for the group today.
A very special thank you to Gini and Barbara.
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 AUSSIE 5
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*****************