



Irrawang High School Newsletter

Promoting excellence in academic, cultural and sporting performance

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Issue 1

February 2020

From the Principal's desk . . .

Welcome or welcome back to all our families

It has been my great pleasure to welcome students and staff back to Irrawang High School for 2020. I hope that all families had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday break and are ready for



the challenges of the year ahead. Students have settled into their new class groups very well; it is hard to believe that we are already past the end of the fourth week! I would like to extend a special welcome to our Year 7 group and new students beginning with us in other years. I would like to congratulate all students for the manner in which they have begun 2020.

Congratulations to the “class of 2019”

It has been great hearing of the successes of our Year 12 students from last year. Many have gained offers into University courses and in gaining scholarships to assist with further study. Other students have gained full time employment and apprenticeships. What always is most pleasing to me is that no matter what a student's interest or talent, they can be confident that they will receive the support of our experienced and dedicated teachers to enable them to achieve at their highest level!

Enrolments

With the continued high demand for enrolment at Irrawang High, all year groups are almost full and only local students can be guaranteed enrolment to attend our school. With a dual focus on wellbeing and learning, based on high expectation relationships and a focus on 21st century skills and academic excellence, in a climate of acceptance and support, Irrawang High is committed to working in partnership with families, nurturing and educating every student to reach their potential.

From the Principal's desk cont'd

Staff movements

We farewelled a number of staff in 2019 including: Trent Colley from the Deputy Principal position, Kate Handley and Georgina Ward from Support; Vicki Catt who supported students as a School Learning Support Officer. I would like to welcome a number of new staff including: Grant Godfrey who moves to Irrawang as our new Deputy Principal. Toby Figgins and Mauricia Withyman have been appointed into our Support faculty, Greg Field into our HSIE faculty, Kaylie Newell into our English faculty, Jacob Small and Jen Harding into our TAS faculty. Sonia Todd has taken up full time employment as the Business Manager. Annaliese Woodcoe has taken up full time employment as an SLSO in Support. Belinda Beasley and Christina McClafferty have taken up full time employment as SAS within our Admin team. A number of temporary staff also commence in different relieving roles and in support of our extensive curriculum offerings.

Getting the small things right makes a huge impact

Thank you to all parents and carers who have supported their child to be organised for school, arriving on time, nutritional food and fantastic uniform. It is these pillars of consistent effort and routine that will prepare and foster success in our students at school and into the future. If you need support with any of these items, please contact the office, wellbeing coordinators – Justin Tonks or Sarah Bailey, Year Adviser or DP. The school is committed to establishing strong partnerships with parents to nurture the potential in every student. The Deputies look after particular year groups and in 2020; Grant Godfrey is Deputy Years 7,9,11 and Liana Gill is Deputy Years 8,10 and 12.

Year advisers

A reminder to all parents that an excellent point of contact if you have a concern about your son's or daughter's wellbeing, is the Year Advisor. The Year Advisors for 2020 are:

Year 7: Emilia Forrest (English) and Sarah Barry (English)

Year 8: Kassandra Bangle (CAPA) and Taylor Ross (Science)

Year 9: Peter Furey (Maths) and Tiffany White (Maths)

Year 10: Sarah Heffernan (PDHPE) and Damian Hurley (PDHPE)

Year 11: Kaylie Newell (English) and Jen Harding (TAS)

Year 12: David Graham (TAS)

Curriculum head of departments

For any curriculum issue parents/carers are advised to firstly contact the Head Teacher in the curriculum area. The Head Teachers are:

English: Ms Hollie Sheriff

Mathematics: Ms Sarah Bailey

From the Principal's desk cont'd

Science: Ms Tahlia Gruschka

HSIE: Mr Todd Hopper

PDHPE: Mr Peter Hosking

CAPA: Ms Adele Robinson

TAS: Mr Michael Groth

Support: Ms Natalie Moore and Mr Chad Brown

At Irrawang High we believe that the education of each student is enhanced by a strong partnership between school and home, and we welcome parent involvement and contact. Once again welcome back to school. I hope your year is happy and successful and that each student at Irrawang strives to make 2020 a year to achieve his or her personal best.

Student achiever of the week

Congratulations to the following students on their excellent achievements:

Week 2:

English: Breony Davies, Thomas Gillespie, Libby Russell, Krittanat Polruksa, Abijade Bee, Malachi Boyes, Chloe Burns

Mathematics: Josh Salerno, Bridget Pressley, Amber Wilks, Erin Gorham, Nate Blundell, Lachlan Hilzinger-Geise

Science: Emily Boatwain, Tye Carter, Tyrion Mackey, Tazmyn Arday

Week 3:

English: Ella Grice, Olivia Ray, Dakota Rae and Arrowyn Carter

Mathematics: Ashton Morrissey, Indyanna Horne, Brison McConnell and Madison Jones

Science: Ella Slater, Ebony Thomson, Thomas Gillespie, Zachery Zammit, Damien Petersen and Madisson Morley

Week 4:

CAPA: Zahli Kerr, Zachary Hunter, Riley Tyson, Emelia Gibson, Madison Ellicott, Noah McKimm, Paige Dennett and Lilly Gorham

TAS: Tallon Todd, Amanda Cherry, Luke Brewer, Ayla Barrett and Emalee Ruba

P & C Association

P & C meetings are held on the fourth Monday of the month. The next meeting is on:

Date: Monday 23 March 2020 **Time:** 5:30pm **Where:** School Library

- This is a chance to meet other parents and learn what is going on at your child's school.
- Become involved in your child's school community.

Dates to remember : subject to alteration

FEBRUARY

Mon 24 - Fri 28 Feb Year 12 Hospitality work placement

Fri 28 Feb Year 7 excursion : treetops and pool

MARCH

Mon 2 Mar School photos back-up day

Tue 3 Mar Backflips against bullying
Year 12 Visual Arts assessment interviews

Wed 4 Mar Netball opens

Thurs 5 Mar Literacy sprint 2 - compound sentences

Fri 6 Mar University roadshow

Mon 9 - Tue 10 Mar High resolves workshops

Mon 9 Mar Burn to learn - 12 CAFS and 12 PDHPE
Flag football gala day

Tue 10 Mar Big Sisters love bites incursion
Callaghan cup rugby league
Peer support

Wed 11 Mar Year 7 Liz Anelli picture book workshop

Thurs 12 Mar Literacy sprints 3 - complex sentences

Fri 13 Mar School athletics carnival

Mon 16 - Tue 17 Mar High resolves workshops

Tue 17 Mar Big Sisters fundraiser cake stall
Primary GATS enrichment day

Wed 18 Mar GPS athletics carnival - selected students to assist
Year 8 English excursion

Thurs 19 Mar Literacy sprint 4 - compound complex sentences

Fri 20 Mar School athletics carnival back-up day
Bullying no way, Harmony Day

Mon 23 Mar Year 7 vaccinations
P & C Meeting 5:30pm in the library

Mon 23 - Tue 24 Mar High resolves workshops

Tue 24 Mar MPS athletics carnival - selected students to assist
Peer support

Wed 25 Mar Elevate : elevate parents

Thurs 26 Mar Year 7 History excursion

Fri 27 Mar Bullying no way, Harmony Day back up

Mon 30 - Tue 31 Mar High resolves workshops

Tue 31 Mar PSSA zone touch football

Dates to remember : subject to alteration

APRIL

Thurs 2 Apr	IT multimedia Google industry visit Year 12 English HSC study day Year 9 GATS excursion
Mon 6 Apr	IHS visits to primary schools
Tue 7 Apr	Peer support
Thurs 9 Apr	ANZAC Day ceremony Last day of Term 1 School resumes - Mon 27 Apr for all staff - staff development day Tue 28 Apr for all students
Happy holidays everyone!!	

Thank you MarketPlace Raymond Terrace!

Huge thanks as always to all the MarketPlace businesses for their continuing support of our Community PBL and outstanding students and schools during 2020.



NSW Government Schools · Term Dates 2020

Term 1	Tuesday 28 January - Thursday 9 April
Term 2	Monday 27 April - Friday 3 July
Term 3	Monday 20 July - Friday 25 September
Term 4	Monday 12 October - Friday 18 December

School Development Days occur at the beginning of Terms 1, 2 and 3 and the last two days of the school year. Please check with the school, as schools may vary some of these dates.

News from Busways

Did you know that by law you must slow down to 40km/h when bus lights are flashing?

As our students start the 2020 school year, the NSW Government and your local school bus operator Busways is reminding parents, teachers and other motorists about this law which is designed to keep our kids safe.

Lights begin to flash when the bus stops and the doors open, and they keep flashing for 20 seconds after the doors close. Children are most at risk in the minutes after they get off the bus as they can be unpredictable in their movements.

Fines and demerit points apply if a motorist is caught going over 40 km/h when passing a bus with flashing lights.

Motorists can help reduce the risk of an incident and keep children safe by:

- Slowing down to 40 km/h when bus lights are flashing,
- Looking out for children crossing the road near bus stops, in school zones or along bus routes, and
- Giving way to buses when they merge back into traffic.

For more information visit <http://roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/campaigns/be-bus-aware/bus-flashing-lights.html>.



Congratulations Tasmyn and Rhys!

We are so proud of Year 12 student, Tasmyn Fellows who was recently awarded the 2020 Port Stephens Young Citizen of the Year on Australia Day.

The award is given to a young citizen (25 years or under) who has made a significant and demonstrable contribution to the community.

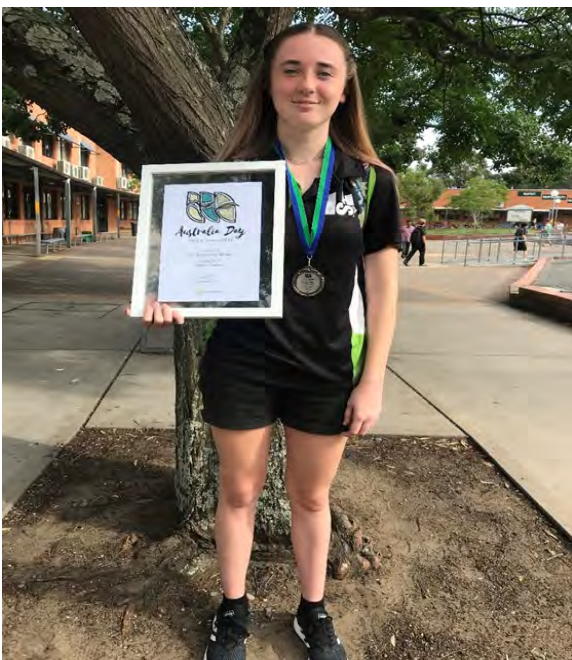
Tasmyn was nominated for coaching and mentoring a group of young women who play rugby league. She has coached a team of 11 year old girls to play rugby league – most of whom had not played before - and were successful in making it into the semi-finals. The team played mostly against boys' teams. Tasmyn has also volunteered with League Safe - a safety awareness initiative that looks to keep everyone safe before, during and after a game.

Well done Tasmyn – what an honour and well deserved!

Year 9 student, Rhys Stewart competed at the Hunter Barbell Open Competition and after performing extremely well, he has qualified to compete at the National Championships in Hobart in October.

Not only that, Rhys also broke 3 x U15 NSW weightlifting records which he set in November last year, and has bettered them again. In the comp he completed a - 68kg Snatch, 80kg Clean and Jerk for a total of 148kg, all records.

A fantastic achievement Rhys - your family and the school are very proud.



Swimming carnival

The compulsory whole school swimming carnival was a big success this year, with more students than ever competing in the races and having fun in the many novelty events.

Congratulations to Bramley who were the overall winners. Results:

Bramley - 187

Moy - 179

Dawson - 124

Osborne – 123



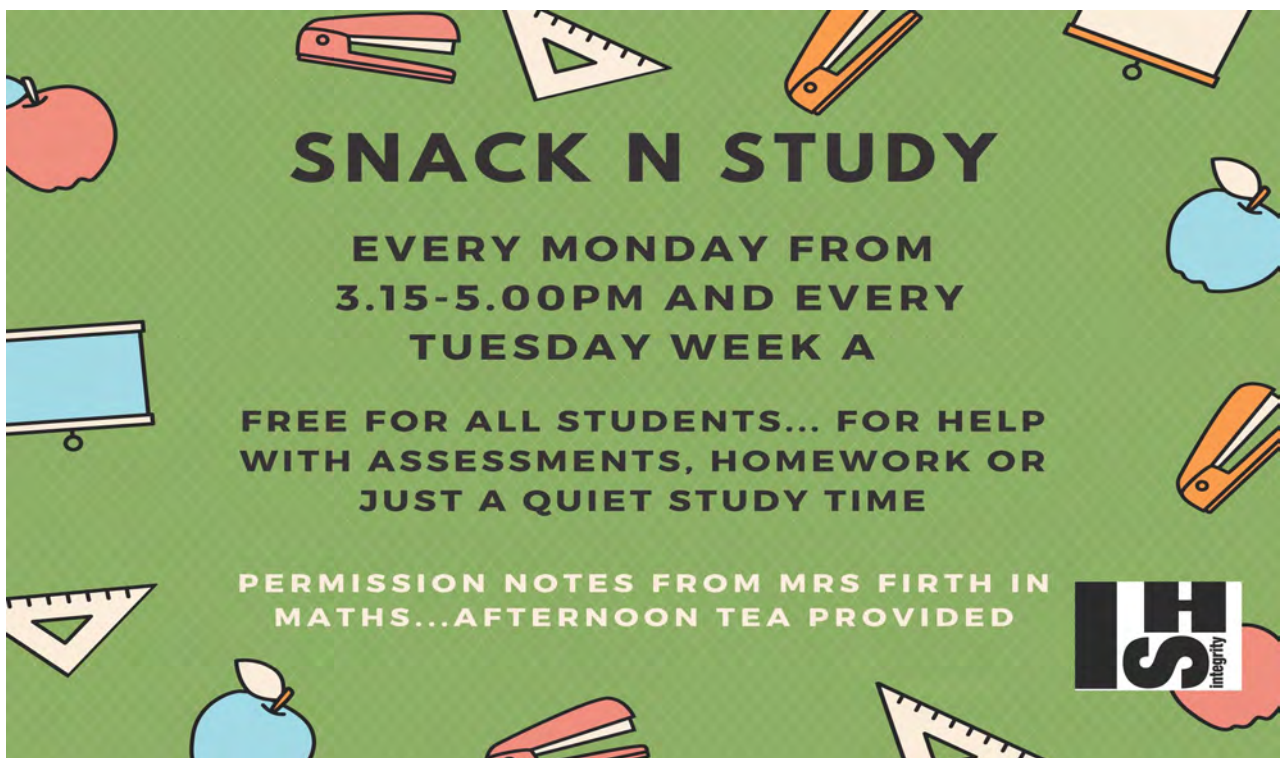
Café Irrawang volunteers needed

To keep our famous Cafe Irrawang open and cooking the best school canteen meals around, we need the assistance of volunteers. Ideally, we need help from 9:30am until 2:15pm, however if you can spare any hours; weekly, monthly or once a term we would love to hear from you.

You will be fed and watered and won't have to handle any money.

But best of all you will know that your time will be hugely appreciated by the staff and students.

Please contact Chef Sarah at school on 4987 4687 to discuss.



Elevate education – study skills program

Students in Years 7,8 and 9 were given another outstanding opportunity recently when they attended the Elevate Education program.

Each year, over 1400 Australian high schools choose Elevate, a program designed to teach students to understand how to study and manage their time more effectively.

Our students were asked to complete a quick survey at the end of the session, with 'students who would recommend the seminar to their peers' averaging 97% across all three years.

Elevate will be returning to our school in a few months for Years 10, 11 and 12. A parent workshop is also planned - dates to follow later.



VISITORS TO IRRAWANG HIGH SCHOOL

Visitors should not enter school playgrounds without the issue of a visitors pass from the front office.

NB: Teaching staff are not always available, therefore it would be appreciated if appointments were made beforehand.

We have such exciting news to share . . .

Irrawang High School has been approved by Guide Dogs NSW to receive a Pets as Therapy (PATs) dog in 2020. The colour and sex are not yet known although the Labrador pup will be between 14-18 months old, and a member of the wellbeing and learning support teams. Our pup is expected to arrive sometime in the next six months, and will live with Mrs Connor and her family.

Many schools in NSW who have a PATs dog have noticed significant benefits including: reducing anxiety and stress, providing non-judgemental support, creating a sense of belonging and increasing the feeling of wellbeing in the school community to mention a few.

When our new friend arrives, a letter will be sent home with a slip to return if your child has significant anxiety/phobias toward dogs, so we can make arrangements at school. In the meantime, we just have to wait and be patient.



Irrawang learning alliance

The ILA team have been busy in their garden preparing it for planting. Farm Assistant, Mr White has been a great help as we have had to replace some rotten timber frames. He has also supervised our student, Tyga to safely use the rotary hoe.



Meet the leaders

Our school leaders represented Irrawang High School with pride recently at the 'Meet the Leaders' event held at Hunter River High School. Over 200 students and staff from all but one Port Stephens school attended the event organised by Kate Washington MP, Member for Port Stephens.

Australia's first Aboriginal surgeon Dr Kelvin Kong, spoke about and encouraged these young leaders of today. Dr Kong, now an esteemed ENT surgeon, is a proud Worimi man having been educated at Shoal Bay Public School and Nelson Bay High School. Dr Kong also mentors high school students and encourages more Indigenous people into medicine and surgery. He visits Broome each year to perform much-needed specialist consultations and surgery in the remote Kimberley.

Big shout out to our IHS leaders - so many compliments on their full school uniforms, from head to toe.

A great morning, thank you to Kate and her staff for organising this opportunity for our young student leaders, and to HRHS for their hospitality!



Have you changed your personal details?

In order to keep our records up-to-date, if your student has any change in their personal details eg doctor, medical condition, emergency contact, telephone no., address etc, please inform the school ASAP.

IRRAWANG HIGH SCHOOL



ABSENTEE NOTE

(to be returned to Roll Call Teacher first day back after absence)

STUDENT'S NAME: **Roll Group:**

Year: **Date of Absence/s:**

Reason for Absence: ☐ Sick ☐ Leave ☐ Other

Signature Parent/Caregiver: **Date:**

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is a treasure that
will follow its
owner everywhere.
-Chinese Proverb

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Date of Absence/s:

Reason for Absence: ☐ Sick ☐ Leave

☐ Other

Signature Parent/Caregiver: **Date:**

IHS supporters

Does your child need an extra hand with English or Maths?

Sometimes children fall behind at school. They may have moved from another state, changed classes, or something else has happened in their life beyond your control. For whatever reason they then begin to struggle with their work at school, with their homework and with their exams. This can be frustrating for both them and you as a parent.

Kip McGrath specialises in helping children catch up to where they need to be in English and Maths. The resources we use are specifically designed to do this job. And the reason we only use qualified teachers, is that they have the tools and skills to accelerate your child's learning, so that any gaps are closed as quickly as possible.

We complement what is done at school to help your child. Your school gives your child an essential foundation in education across a wide range of subjects and developmental activities. Our job is to give your child an extra hand when they need to catch up ... for whatever reason. So together we can help your child reach their full potential.

Kip McGrath Education Centres Raymond Terrace
48 William Street Raymond Terrace NSW 2324
4983 1000 raymondterrace@kipmcgrath.com.au

Kip McGrath

www.kipmcgrath.com.au/raymond-terrace

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RFF

Making futures real for our youth

The Real Futures Foundation is a non-profit organisation which has an established track record of helping to inspire and motivate students in Port Stephens to either stay in school and increase their educational engagement and attainment, or choose a positive pathway that enables successful transition to employment, further education or training.

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