



# Irrawang High School Newsletter · Issue 5 · August 2020

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[Principal's report](#)

[Thank you MarketPlace](#)

[Student achievers](#)



[News from English](#)

[News from History](#)

[Education Week awards](#)



[Canteen volunteers needed](#)

[Stop the spread](#)

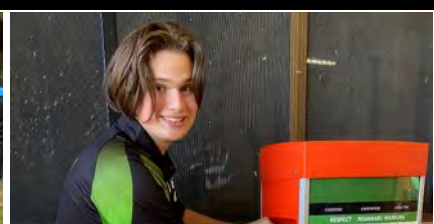
[Winners are grinners](#)



[Book Week celebrations](#)

[Bring you own drink bottles](#)

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[Supporters](#)

[Upcoming school events](#)

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[Website latest news](#)

# From the Principal's desk

## **Term 3 – Return to school learning**

As our daily routine is beginning to return to some normalcy, I look forward to beginning Semester 2 on a more settled note for us all. Term 3 has seen us fully engage in learning onsite, in terms of not only classroom learning but also active learning with sport and creative arts, and practical lessons in industrial arts and home economics. I have been teaching for over 25 years and struggle to remember a time in education that even comes close to the challenges that we have faced so far this year. I would like to thank the Irrawang High School community for your support in meeting those challenges. The partnership between school and home has never been more important than what it has during this time. I feel that we navigated, quite successfully, through our managed return despite the shifting sands that COVID-19 presented. I would like to credit much of our success to the incredible staff that effectively and efficiently adapted their practices to deliver learning from home both digitally and in subject and ability specific course booklets.

Since the return to face to face learning, our teaching staff have again had to step up a gear to re-establish learning routines and ensure that every student meets our high expectations at all times and in all settings. I am confident that teaching staff are addressing individual student progress and ensuring the continuation of learning growth.

Although most of the COVID-19 restrictions will have been removed by Term 3, there are still some adjustments that remain in place. All students need to bring a water bottle. Water bottle refilling stations are in operation, bubblers are not.

These plans may or may not change over the coming weeks or months. I will keep you updated based on the ongoing evolving health situation.

## **Infrastructure projects – new demountable buildings**

Increasing student numbers to 1030 students in 2020 has seen the school become entitled to 3 additional learning spaces. These much needed general learning spaces will enable classes to move from smaller seminar spaces into these new spaces.

We have a number of projects currently underway within the school and others that were completed in the holidays. The work in the quad has included new shade shelters. Work is continuing on retaining walls and concreting in the quad that will eventually lead to more access and space for students to sit and relax during breaks. Work has also commenced on an upgrade to the carpark at the front of the school. Weather permitting we are hoping this will all be completed in 5 to 6 weeks. The work has been scheduled so that it does not impact on upcoming trial exams or student learning.



# From the Principal's desk cont'd

## **Student reports have been issued**

Year 7 - 11 student reports were issued at the end of last term for Year 11 and at the start of this term for Years 7-10. I hope you found the new report format informative, as the reports focuses on the progress of learning during semester one that has included both on site and remote learning.

## **Parent/teacher/carers meetings via telephone**

We hope you taken the opportunity to book in a time to discuss your child's progress of learning via a telephone call. This will be in lieu of a traditional parent teacher night. These parent/teacher/carers phone calls meetings will be for five minutes only and we think the system should be easy to use for parents and staff. More information is available on the school website or by ringing the school.

## **Year 12 preparations for HSC Trials and the HSC**

It has been very pleasing to see the number of Year 12 students who are making use of the many opportunities to improve their results in preparation for the HSC, including: school holiday workshops (many will run in the next school holidays as well).

## **Graduation Ceremony**

Discussions with staff and students are being held in regards to the end of term Year 12 Graduation Ceremony. We currently have the return to school guidelines to adhere to. We are considering options to livestream the event for families and friends. A final decision will be made shortly as we hope to include the families and community in the event if possible.

## **Subject selections**

Subject selections has commenced for students in Year 10 for elective subjects that they will study in 2021. Students have had an opportunity to be exposed to the content of the courses in taster lessons that were held earlier this term. Year 10 students have two rounds of subject selection in preparation for Year 11 (2021). The first round determines the subject line pattern. This essentially is what subject runs at the same time as another. A student cannot study two subjects that are being taught at the same time. By having students indicate their preference, we aim to structure the subject lines in such a way that the majority of students are able to select the majority of the subjects that they would like to study for their HSC. Parents or students who need more information can contact the school and we can provide additional copies of the Subject Information booklets if needed.

## **Education Week ceremony and celebrations**

In Week 3 Irrawang HS acknowledged and celebrated Education Week. This year's theme is Learning Together, a celebration of the school's commitment to ensuring better

# From the Principal's desk cont'd

learning and stronger communities. The occasion provides us with an opportunity to acknowledge the important role public schools play in fostering the partnership in learning between students, staff, parents and the community. It was a fabulous way to celebrate our successes here at Irrawang High School. A number of staff, students and community members were recognised with Education Week awards for their efforts in making this school a place of better learning and a stronger school community. A smaller than usual ceremony was held given the health guidelines associated with COVID-19. You will find a list of our worthy award recipients within the newsletter.

## **Enhanced hygiene – physical distancing**

Irrawang High School continues to be vigilant when implementing infection control, physical distancing and personal hygiene protocols to protect the health and safety of students and staff. We will promote the need to follow good hygiene practices like:

- regularly washing hands
- avoiding sharing drinks or food
- coughing or sneezing into your elbow, or a tissue which should be discarded immediately
- filling water bottles from water coolers

The activities that are permitted at school will be conducted in a way that is safe and appropriate in the current environment. Those that remain on hold will be reviewed during the term and will recommence when appropriate based on health and other relevant advice.

## **Term 3 attendance guidelines**

Our school is having high rates of attendance and all students are expected to be attending face-to-face unless they are unwell or have a medical certificate to support their absence from face-to-face learning.

The best outcome for students is that they are attending school face-to-face and the updated Guide to NSW School Students returning for Term 3 guidelines supports this (<https://education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-for-families>).

If a student absence is due to sickness or as the result of a medical appointment, it is required that a parent/carer contacts the school to explain that the absence is due to illness. This can be done by telephone, responding to the text message from the school or sending an email or letter to the school. Alternatively, a medical certificate can be provided. There may be times where a medical certificate is requested in addition to the explanation provided by the parent/carer. Contact will be made by the school if this is required.

# From the Principal's desk cont'd

If a student is absent for more than three days without a medical certificate, the Department of Education requires that it is recorded as an unauthorised absence. Contact will be made by the school where a student is absent for more than three days without a medical certificate.

Our primary concern is the wellbeing and safety of the students in our care. If students and parents/carers require additional support to return to school, please contact your child's Year Adviser, Head Teacher Wellbeing or relevant Deputy Principal. For students who are absent but are not sick/attending a medical appointment, or on leave with an explanation accepted by the Principal, the Department of Education's response is that these are unjustified absences. The school is required to record these absences as unjustified.

## **P&C activities and meetings**

There are no P&C activities this term including P&C information nights and parent/teacher interviews due to the ongoing COVID-19 related restrictions. We hope the situation improves by next term.

## **School planning**

In addition to their teaching, learning and wellbeing activities, staff will be working collaboratively on the new school plan which is now called by the Department of Education (DoE), a Strategic Improvement Plan (SIP). Like previous DoE plans, this plan will have three focus areas with one being mandated by the DoE. This first focus area is on "Student Attainment and Growth". The other two areas will be discussed with staff, students and parents which will most likely focus on student and staff wellbeing and, use of digital platforms and administrative systems to improve teaching and learning. This plan will cover a four year cycle commencing in 2021 and concluding in 2024. Staff will measure our performance based on the DoE's "School Excellence Framework" which has fourteen elements focussing on learning, leading and teaching. We are allocating staff meetings over the course of this semester to work on the plan. I hope to report back to you in the coming months on our progress and look forward to student, staff and parent input into the Strategic Improvement Plan.

I wish you all a safe and happy term as we continue to navigate through the health crisis.

Kind regards.

Paul Baxter  
Principal

# 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.

*Bakers Delight*  
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GreaterBank



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**S·T·A·R·S**

EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE, EVERY TIME

MARKETPLACE LOVE THIS PLACE FOR SUPPORTING PBL WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY



## NSW Government Schools · Term Dates 2020

<b>Term 1</b>	Tuesday 28 January - Thursday 9 April
<b>Term 2</b>	Monday 27 April - Friday 3 July
<b>Term 3</b>	Monday 20 July - Friday 25 September
<b>Term 4</b>	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.

## 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.

# Student Achiever of the Week

Congratulations to the following students on their excellent achievements:

## **Week 1:**

English: Jed Edgar-Jones, Ryan Heiss, Tyler Clarke, Emily Maytom, Nakittah Leard

Mathematics: Seth Dunwoodie, Zain Hassan, Lilly Gorham, Travis Lamborn, Selman Hassan, Braith Neale, Jaydan Withers, Nicola Green

LOTE: Jack Hill, Seth Dunwoodie, Corey Allen, Samuel Bailey, Jacob MacLucas, Tamika Argent, Lachlan Hilzinger-Geise, Sienna Armstrong

Science: Jed Edgar-Jones, Logan Robson, Tyleisha Archer, Letisha Randall

Support: Jack Gauci, Levi Car, Angel Nicholas

TAS: Laurell Newman, Abbey Aldred, Lachlan Hilzinger-Geise

## **Week 2:**

CAPA: Kayla Onslow, Ellie Ping, Zac Hunter, Ashleigh Taylor

English: William Hall, Benjamin Killick, Eleanore Doherty-Lilly, Caleb Small, Georgia Almond, Jaydan Withers, Liam Ryan, Ashley Smith

HSIE: Julian Garrett, Alex Hall, Ryan Fellows-Wilsch, Sarah Maslen, Arrowyn Carter, Jack Hill

Mathematics: Jack Hill, Aizak Willis-Monk, Sabian Carstairs, Christabelle Berrick, Corey Morgan, Luke Zammit, Toby Salamon

Science: Jonathan Martin, Tiffany Williams, Issaac Hosking-Morante, Jarrod Barbour, Brianna Knight, Nakittah Leard

Support: Tavis Armstrong, Shakeah Kearns, Liam Campbell, Tristan Davis, Amy-Lee Ledwidge

TAS: Bailey Bryce, Holly Boatswain

## **Week 3:**

CAPA: Sophie Cieplechowicz, Daniel Tarrant, Lilierna Buckshiram-Ping, Emily Engert

Support: Jerrome Teasdale, Connor Gendre, Gabby Dok, Connor Christian, Flynn

Crozier, Kai Trebilco-McHarg

TAS: Paige Dennett, Seth Dunwoodie, Nikita Short

## **Week 4:**

English: Aiden Bessant, Phoebe Low, Travis Lamborn, Melody Janik

Support: Liam Grosse, Xander Small, Sean Bray, Oscar Hoving

TAS: Annabelle South, Tasmyn Fellows



# News from Mrs Barry in English

English would like to welcome you to what we hope will be another exciting literary adventure - Term 3 at IHS. This term sees all students being able to access an English teacher's support every Monday and second Tuesday during Snack and Study. Our HSC students are actively encouraged to engage with the additional support offered during these times.

Both HSC Advanced and Standard English courses will be offering various Period 0 classes before school to further consolidate content and skills learnt during timetabled lessons. These classes will be available to all students and information for these classes is displayed outside the English Faculty, English study room and individual Google classrooms.

Year 7 commence their "Hero's Journey" unit which will see them engage with interview and/or script writing activities.

Year 8's fairytale unit "Once Upon a Time " begins by looking at the origins of fairytales and finishes off with students creating a fractured fairytale as a multimodal presentation.

Year 9's unit is new to 2020 and looks at "Distinctive Directors." The classes will view films characteristic to their chosen director and finish the term with a practical film project.

Year 10 also has a new program for 2020 called "Shakespeare Retold " that is a comparative style unit. Classes will appreciate a Shakespearean drama and it's modern film version.

We encourage parents and carers to contact their child's English teacher if they have any questions about their child's learning in English on 49874687.





# News from Mr Hopper in HSIE

Recently Year 9 History students were fortunate to take part in an interactive incursion based on WWI.

Shane from WWI Living History brought his travelling display of artefacts and objects to the school. This is the fifth year Shane has come up to the school to allow students to interact with his WWI display. Students from Year 9 would individually select artefacts that Shane would describe and generally tell a back story. The entire presentation is interactive, hands on and informative.

Students enjoyed the day and we look forward to having Shane back again next year. The pictures below are examples of the interactive nature of the day.



# Education Week Awards

Congratulations to the following school staff and community members who were recognised with an Education Week Award for the strong contribution they make to Irrawang High School.



## **Excellence in Student Achievement**

Mr Nicholas Hopper - For demonstrating excellence and commitment to the values and beliefs of Irrawang High School.

Ms Sierra Noffke - For demonstrating excellence and commitment to the values and beliefs of Irrawang High School.

## **Excellence in Teaching**

Mrs Hayley Firth - For demonstrating outstanding commitment to our students as an excellent and innovative classroom teacher and as the IHS Snack n Study coordinator.

Ms Kassandra Bangle - For displaying innovative class room practices, leading to high levels of engagement of students in her classroom.



# Education Week Awards cont'd

## Outstanding Contribution by a Non-Teaching Staff Member

Mrs Selena Hannon - In recognition of outstanding commitment and dedication in the support of student learning.

Mrs Lue Fagan – Outstanding contribution to the school through building highly effective modes of communication and strengthening community partnerships that support staff and enhanced student opportunity and outcomes.

## Outstanding Contribution by a School Community Member

Inspector Brad Allen, Hunter Valley Buses - For providing ongoing support of the students and families of Irrawang High School and also the Raymond Terrace Community PBL program.

## School Achievement Award

Physical Activity Leaders Scheme accepted by Mr Damian Hurley - For commitment and dedication to the Physical Activity Leaders Scheme and providing numerous physical activities opportunities to the students of Irrawang High School.



## Calling volunteers

We would love your help in the canteen for day/week/month/term.

You will not be handling money but will be very well fed and watered

9am-12 noon

Please contact the school on 49 874687 and speak to Chef Sarah



## 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.



# 5 STEPS

**to stop the spread  
of respiratory  
illnesses**

**1**



**Cover your mouth and nose with tissues when coughing, sneezing, blowing and/or wiping your nose**

**2**



**Dispose of  
tissues in the  
nearest waste  
bin after use**

**3**



**If no tissues are  
available, cough or  
sneeze into your inner  
elbow rather than  
your hand**

**4**



**You may be  
asked to put on  
a face mask to  
protect others**

**5**



**Wash your hands  
with soap and  
water or alcohol  
based handrub after  
coughing or sneezing  
into hands or tissues**



# Winners are grinnerers

A huge thank you to MarketPlace Raymond Terrace for their generosity by always supporting public education, particularly during the recent Education Week.

A large display of works from our local Port Stephens schools was held over two weeks recently at MarketPlace to showcase student achievements. The schools were judged on their displays and we were the happy winners after gaining more 'likes.'

Mr Tonks and Mrs Todd (pictured below) were very happy with the \$500 in MarketPlace vouchers after winning the competition.





# Support classes celebrate Book Week

Celebrating Book Week was high on the agenda for Support classes recently.

Many students and staff dressed up as their favourite book character - Harry Potter was a popular theme.

Each group had activities, with the fun culminating with a BBQ.





# Please bring refillable water bottles to school

With our new chilled water fountains, students are encouraged to bring their own drink bottles to refill throughout the day. Because of current health restrictions the bubblers are not in use.



**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:** .....

**IRRAWANG HIGH SCHOOL**



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**Reason for Absence:**

☐ Sick

☐ Leave

☐ Other

**Signature Parent/Caregiver:** .....

**Date:** .....

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  *love this place*

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# 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**

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Email: [info@livetodrive.com.au](mailto:info@livetodrive.com.au)



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NOTE: DUE TO COVID RESTRICTIONS WE CAN ONLY ACCEPT 4 NEW STUDENTS FOR OUR TAEKWONDO PROGRAM THIS TERM

## TOOGEE MARTIAL ARTS

**RAYMOND TERRACE DOJANG**

**TAEKWONDO MON & WED**

**5.30 - 7.00PM**

**KICKBOXING TUE & THU**

**7.30 - 8.30PM**

**ENROL NOW!**



**@TMARaymondTerrace**

[www.toogeemartialarts.com](http://www.toogeemartialarts.com)

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# IHS supporters

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**Jets Junior Bowls Academy**

Gain experience from the best of the best with World Champion Natasha Scott, Australian Rep Matt Baus & former State Reps Jason Stokes and Lennon Scott.

All kids are kitted out ready to take to the green

Scholarships up for grabs

AERO BOWLS

**THE RECTORY**  
TEA HOUSE & FUNCTION CENTRE

Book your next party, high tea or private event with our Events Manager, together create a memorable personal celebration

Open on weekends for casual Cafe' dining, sit among the peaceful gardens and spoil yourself or friends with delicious coffee and hearty food. The Rectory is the perfect setting for your next event

Unwind • Indulge • Celebrate 48 Sturgeon Street

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3/40 RICHARDSON ROAD, RAYMOND TERRACE  
(02) 4983 2060

Terms apply. See in club for details.

**ANYTIME FITNESS**

**Real Futures Foundation**  
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.

**Scotty's**  
**CINEMAS**  
**RAYMOND TERRACE**

**The DECK**  
YOUTH VENUE

3:30 - 6:30  
WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY  
12 - 18 Y/O'S

IT'S ALL FREE!

SAFE SPACE!

FOOD PROVIDED!

COME AND HAVE FUN!

1A Kangaroo St, Raymond Terrace  
Ph: 02 4987 1331  
Email: thedeck@psfans.org.au

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***Irrawang High School***  
***MOUNT HALL ROAD***  
***RAYMOND TERRACE NSW 2324***

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