Principal’s Comments

I have just returned to the school after having taken a term and a half long service leave.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr McCord for his outstanding job as relieving principal in my absence and to thank those staff who occupied relieving positions as a result of my taking leave.

A very special welcome to all our Year 7 and other new students, parents and staff to our school community for 2015. I want your time with us to be positive and rewarding and I really look forward to you becoming productive members of our school community.

I would like to welcome Kath Donnelly who has been appointed HSIE Head Teacher from the beginning of next term. Congratulations to Stephanie Mole who has been appointed as English Head Teacher from the beginning of Term 2.

The term has begun smoothly with staff and students settling into their classes and extra curricula activities in a very productive manner. Apart from regular classes there are many activities, competitions and experiences that our students have the opportunity to be involved in, thanks in many cases, to the enthusiasm and commitment of our staff. Please enjoy reading about some of these on our web page and in this newsletter.

It has been a very busy term for teachers, students and of course parents and carers. This past week I have enjoyed listening to the great things that have happened during term one at our school. I would like to thank all those staff, parents and students who have either attended the functions or have put a lot of time in to their organisation and preparation.

Having read many educational articles over the past few months from around the world I stand firm in the belief that our school is at least as good as those found in most places in the world. However, we will not rest on our laurels, but will continue to provide a world-class education for our young people to ensure that we prepare them for their future.

Our school plan 2015 - 2017 will be published early next term. This plan will inform you of our directions for the next three years.

I believe that this term has continued to create a positive, enriched environment where students are able to enjoy learning, reflect, discern, question and grow. As our first Term for the year comes to a close, exceptional students use feedback to improve their learning. I encourage...
you, as parents, to assist in the reflection and goal setting process for your student. This will support well the work of our teaching staff.

I would like to wish all an enjoyable, safe and restful holiday. It is the end of a term in which Irrawang High has again engaged in a vast and varied array of impressive and high quality activities. Remember staff return to school on Monday 20 April and students Tuesday 21 April next term.

### Changes to the Secondary Schools Tax File Number Program

**How students can apply for a TFN**
The Australian Taxation Office in partnership with Australia Post is making it easier for individuals to apply for a TFN.

Students can now apply for a TFN online and have their identity verified through an interview at a participating Australia Post office.

Applying online is the fastest and most convenient way for students to get a TFN. More information on applying online can be found at [ato.gov.au](http://ato.gov.au) by searching for ‘QC27248.’

Students who are unable to visit a participating Australia Post office will need to complete the application form Tax file number - application or enquiry for individuals form (NAT 1432). More information about lodging this form can be found at [ato.gov.au](http://ato.gov.au) by searching for ‘QC22604.’

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### Commendation of the Month - December 2014

**Name:** Kyle Dwyer  
**Year:** 8  
**Nominated By:** Mrs K Devetak  
**Reason for Nomination:** Quality Work  
**Congratulations Kyle!**

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### Commendation of the Month - January/February 2015

**Name:** Kasey Tyson  
**Year:** 7  
**Nominated By:** Mrs L Petersen  
**Reason for Nomination:** Quality Work  
**Congratulations Kasey!**

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### P & C Meetings

The general monthly P & C meeting is cancelled this month and is rescheduled for Monday 27 April, 6:30pm in the Mica room. This meeting will include the AGM where all Executive positions become vacant and then re-elected. An audited financial report will be presented and the following positions elected:

- President
- Vice-Presidents x 2
- Secretary
- Treasurer

All current members are eligible for nomination.

If you wish to become a financial member, annual membership is $2 at the conclusion of the AGM.

A general meeting will follow immediately after our AGM.

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### Open Evening for Stage 3 and 4 Families

By Mrs L Fagan  
Community Liaison Officer

It was very pleasing to see such a good turnout of parents/carers and families of prospective Year 7 students for the intakes of 2016 and beyond to the Open Evening held at school recently.

Following a welcome to our school by Relieving Principal Mr Chris McCord and addresses by staff on the curriculum, pedagogy, social and personal student support, families were taken on a guided tour of the school and facilities.

**Why send your student to Irrawang High School?**

Irrawang High School provides an innovative and diverse teaching and learning environment that offers a challenging, disciplined range of educational training and co-curricular experiences, designed to bring out the best in each student. If you would like to speak to a staff member on any aspect of your child’s future education at Irrawang High, please contact the office on 49 874687.
Congratulations to our Lions Youth of the Year Competitors
By Mrs L Fagan
Community Liaison Officer

A huge congratulations to our Captains and Vice Captains; Brodie Daniels, Alannah Newell, Jed Wallman and Eliza Cummings, who participated recently in the Medowie and Raymond Terrace Lions Youth of the Year competition. The students prepared their speeches with the assistance of English teacher Ms Sonja Mamin (pictured below).

All were asked two impromptu questions, then presented a five minute speech on subjects of their choice. Eliza won the Public Speaking competition with Alannah announced as the overall Youth of the Year for the Raymond Terrace Lions Club. Ms Mamin, Mr David Pearson and Ms Lue Fagan the school’s Community Liaison Officer along with the student’s parents attended as the support team. A highlight of the night held at the Raymond Terrace Bowling Club were the students themselves, they were wonderful representatives of Irrawang High School, with many Lions congratulating them on their behaviour, dress, well prepared speeches, friendliness and good manners.

Welcome to New Year 7 Students and Their Families
By Mrs L Fagan
Community Liaison Officer

It was wonderful to welcome so many families to our school for the Year 7 Welcome BBQ breakfast recently. Relieving Principal Mr Chris McCord briefed families on some of the many programs the school has on offer; the Snack and Study Centre - every Monday afternoon between 3:30 - 5:30pm when students can come along and get assistance from the volunteer staff on homework or assignments; the school farm, calling for volunteers for the school P & C, our Defence Transition Mentor program, Breakfast Club plus many more.

Organised by the Year 7 Advisors, Ms Kate Connor and Ms Nicola Steiner, the morning provided the opportunity for parents to meet their child’s teachers along with other parents in a relaxed and informal environment.

Sport
By Mr W Turner
Head Teacher PD/H/PE

Open Boys Basketball
The Open Boys Basketball team played Tomaree High School on Wednesday 4 March in the State wide CHS Knockout. The team defeated Tomaree High 38 - 7. This is a reward for the boys who have trained for the last six months to improve their skills. The team as demonstrated by the score played great team defence to limit the scoring options of Tomaree. All boys played very well but particular mention must be made of the leadership of Grant Soper and the offensive play of Ethan Brien. The team now progress to play Maitland Grossman. The team is a very young team for an open team and includes Grant Soper (c) Ethan Brien, Lleyton Eveleigh, Mohammed Gentles, Tyler Edmonds, Sage Tang-Grogan, Jason Chen and Bailey McDermott-Schumacher (please see more photos on next page).
School Swimming Stars
By Mrs L Fagan
Community Liaison Officer

Our senior and junior support class students have thoroughly enjoyed their fortnightly Learn to Swim and Water Safety lessons at the Lakeside Pool in Raymond Terrace. With lessons commencing in 2014, the pool staff collect our students and drop them off at school afterwards.

Two of our swimming superstars, Mitchell and Timothy Low have certainly come a long way in the past four years. The twin boys couldn’t swim at all but after being involved in a fantastic program run by the YMCA at Lakeside Pool in Raymond Terrace, they are now swimming confidently in an olympic pool - and loving it.

GOTCHA Winners
By Mr G Wyllie
CAPA Faculty

Pictured L-R below are our Gotcha prize winners of the month, receiving a $20 voucher, thanks to MarketPlace Raymond Terrace:

Lilly Cashen from Year 7, Tamara Eldridge and Blake Cotton both from Year 9.

These students have demonstrated exceptional behaviour and conduct and have upheld the PBL Values of our school - Respect, Responsibility and Personal Best. Well done!
Interactive Forensic Workshop Comes to Irrawang High

By Mrs L Fagan
Community Liaison Officer

Head Teacher Science Mr Larkman, organised a special educational and interactive Forensic Science workshop at school recently for students from Years 7 - 12.

The workshops engaged students in the world of science, promoting the study of Chemistry, Physics and Biology through an interactive Crime Scene scenario (in this case a murder) developed by Forensic Scientists. Students explored how the science they are already learning in school can be applied to real life situations, by completing a Forensic investigation from start to finish.

This was an excellent opportunity for our students especially some of the older students who have expressed an interest in pursing a career in forensic science.

Calling for Canteen Volunteers

By Mrs L Fagan
Community Liaison Officer

Job Description:
- have fun
- food preparation
- meet your child’s friends
- free lunch and drinks
- maximum four hours
- once a week, once a month whatever time you can spare
- did we mention have fun?

Call the school today on 49874687 and speak to Allison Ryner the Canteen Supervisor (pictured below) to discuss.

Facts about fractions
If you’ve forgotten 3/5 of primary school maths and 7/8 of high school maths, what’s left? Ah ha! Kids need help learning how to add fractions too. The only thing left is to print these fact sheets.

Fitness for the family
Michelle Bridges talks about how to make fitness a priority for the whole family - and the start of a lifetime habit for your kids. Try out tips to keep your kids healthy, active and out of the pantry.
Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/fitness/fitness-for-the-whole-family

Amazing art
Autumn’s the perfect season to take a trip to a gallery. The popular ArtExpress exhibition connects us to the inner lives and self-expression of high school students. Amazing works are on show throughout NSW. Check out the calendar.
Find out more: http://artexpress.artsunit.nsw.edu.au/
Lots Happening on the School Farm
By Mrs L Fagan
Community Liaison Officer

A big welcome to Ms Tanya Henry our new teacher in Primary Industries, Agriculture and Science who has really fired up the student’s enthusiasm and love of the school farm. Students lined up to demonstrate their skills with the power drill by helping to construct 15 new garden beds which were quickly installed and filled ready for planting with vegetable seedlings from the farm hot house.

Another project of Ms Henry and her students, was to fundraise to build our beautiful new pony Lulu a new shelter. A sausage sizzle with a gold coin donation with more planned in the coming weeks will ensure Lulu is as snug as a bug.

Have you changed your personal details?
If your student has any change in their personal details eg doctor, emergency contact, telephone no., address etc, please inform the school ASAP.
Year 12 Students Kick off their Fundraising Year
By Mrs L Fagan
Community Liaison Officer

Along with raising money for their formal at the end of the year, Year 12 students traditionally present the school with a gift at their final assembly, with funds raised through various activities throughout the year.

Valentine’s Day
Valentine’s Day proved to be a successful way to start the fundraising campaign for 2015, with students and staff pre-ordering flowers, teddy bears and balloons for their loved ones or song and dances from the talented group.

The Entertainment Book
With 20% from every book sold contributing to their fundraising efforts, students are now looking to sell as many as possible. The Entertainment™ Book, and the brand new Entertainment™ Digital Membership, are your guide to the most popular restaurants, attractions, shopping, travel and more, all with valuable up to 50% off and 2 for 1 offers.

To order your $60 book with hundred of dollars in savings, please contact Mr Sam Berry at school on 49874687 or email him on samuel.berry4@det.nsw.edu.au

Stay tuned for more information on further fundraising news . . . .

To order your Book or your Digital Membership securely online visit: http://www.entbook.com.au/347u71

Alternatively, please complete your details below:

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CVV is the 3 digits on the back of your credit card
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Signature:___________________________________________

Thanks for your support! 20% from each membership sold contributes to our fundraising.
Succeeding in science

Encouraging your teen to ask questions and helping them find the answers is top of the list in helping them to succeed in science.


Seeing much, suffering much, and studying much, are the three pillars of learning.

Benjamin Disraeli

Education is not a product; mark, diploma, job, money - in that order, it is a process, a never-ending one.

Bel Kaufman

There are three ingredients in the good life; learning, earning and yearning.

Christopher Morley

Energy Rebate/IHS Supporters

WHAT IS THE FAMILY ENERGY REBATE?
The Family Energy Rebate helps to cover the cost of energy bills for NSW households with dependent children. In 2014-2015 the rebate gives:

• Up to $150 credit on electricity bills for eligible applicants who hold an account with an electricity retailer
• Up to $165 direct payment to nominated bank accounts for eligible applicants who live in a residential community (caravan or mobile home park) and receive electricity from the park operator.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO BEFORE I APPLY?
Before you apply, here’s a quick checklist. Have you:

• Loded your tax return for 2013-2014 with the Australian Taxation Office or informed the Department of Human Services (DHS) if you are not required to lodge a tax return?
• Received confirmation from DHS as to your eligibility for Family Tax Benefit A or B for 2013-2014?

HOW TO APPLY

• ONLINE – it takes just two minutes to submit an application. Processing starts immediately.
• PAPER – download a form from the website, complete and submit by email, fax or post. Use this form if you receive your electricity from the operator of the residential community where you live.

FOR MORE INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE

PHONE: Service NSW 13 77 88
EMAIL: fer.program@trade.nsw.gov.au

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Shop 10, Benjamin Lee Drive,
Raymond Terrace,
Ph: 49832088

Sulee Thai Rutherford
Shop 3, West Mall Plaza,
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Ph: 4932 9887

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www.kunewcastle.com

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.

If your child is experiencing these frustrations and they need an extra hand in English or Maths, then call Christine to see how we can help.

4983 1000

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For information on the location and available meetings -

Region Membership Adviser on helenEG2@live.com.au
Or visit our website www.girlguides-nswact.org.au to find out more about Guides

HAVING FUN TODAY - LEADING THE WORLD TOMORROW

NSW Government Schools
Term Dates - 2015

Term 1: Tuesday 27 January to Thursday 2 April
Term 2: Monday 20 April to Friday 26 June
Term 3: Monday 13 July to Friday 18 September
Term 4: Tuesday 6 October to 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.

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.

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Mobile: .............................................................. Year: ....................................................

If you hold a bus pass, please see staff in the Photocopy Room