Monday 4th March.
The Preps first full week of school will commence on 1 March. This will give them a chance to rest. Wednesday during February. This will allow the Preps to move into their new classroom and get to know each other.

Preps will not be attending school on the first day of school. We welcome all of our very excited and enthusiastic Preps.

In 2013 the following camp programs will occur:

- Camps Program
  - Visit to Turlee Station/ Mungo National Park
  - Local day excursion from school
  - Local day excursion from school to local park

Term Dates 2013
- Term 1: 31st January - 28th March
- Term 2: 14th April - 28th June
- Term 3: 15th July - 20th September
- Term 4: 7th October - 20th December

Public Holidays 2013
- The following days are public holidays:
  - The second Monday in March (Labour Day) March 11th
  - Good Friday, Easter Sunday and Easter Monday March 29th, 31st and April 1st
  - Anzac Day Thursday April 25th
  - The second Monday in June (Queen’s Birthday) June 10th
  - The first Tuesday in November (Melbourne Cup Day) November 5th

Communicating with Teachers
We value open lines of communication between home and school. If you have any issues, concerns or queries about your child, please do not hesitate to contact his/her teacher. Feel free to pop in and make a time to discuss any matter. Alternatively you can contact your child’s teacher via email. All email addresses for class teachers are listed on the front of this information sheet.

Prep Rest Days
We welcome all of our very excited and enthusiastic Preps. The Preps will not be attending school on Wednesday during February. This will give them a chance to rest. The Preps first full week of school will commence on Monday 4th March.

School Photos
School Photos will be taken on Thursday 21st February. Order forms will be sent home with this newsletter. If you would like to order a family photo please come to the office to collect an order form.

Parking
Please park safely at all times and follow the signs regarding parking in Belair Avenue and 15th Street.

Parental Involvement
We value and promote parental involvement in our school through a variety of different forums. Our newsletter is a vital medium for advising parents of upcoming events and for opportunities to offer your assistance. A big thank you to the parents who helped set up and clean up at our morning tea this morning. It was great to see many parents stay for a cuppa and a chat.

After School Care
YMCA runs an After School Care Program every afternoon from 3:30pm to 6:00pm each day at Nichols Point Primary School. If you require a place in the After School Care program please contact: YMCA Person in Charge - Outside School Hours Care PH: 0449579790 http://www.ballarat.ymca.org.au

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STAFFING
We welcome Miss Donna Piscioneri, Miss Marie Capogreco, Miss Chantelle Fiege and Miss Lauren O’Connor to our staff and welcome back Mrs Sharon Branson and Mrs Tammy Warn.

Our current staffing is as follows:
- Principal: Ms Robyn Brooks (brooks.robyn.a@edumail.vic.gov.au)
- Leading Teacher: Mr Ben Milsom (rowland.susan.j@edumail.vic.gov.au)
- Prep: Miss Sue Rowland Room 1 (rowland.susan.j@edumail.vic.gov.au)
- Prep: Miss Donna Piscioneri Room 2 (piscioneri.donna.m@edumail.vic.gov.au)
- Grade 1: Miss Katelyn Thompson Room 3 (thompson.katelyn.m@edumail.vic.gov.au)
- Grade 1: Miss Lucy Magee Room 4 (magee.lucy.l@edumail.vic.gov.au)
- Grade 2/3: Miss Marie Capogreco Room 5 (capogreco.marie.m@edumail.vic.gov.au)
- Grade 2/3: Miss Sarah Gladman Room 6 (gladman.sarah.j@edumail.vic.gov.au)
- Grade 2/3: Mrs Renay Drendel-Arthur Room 7 (drendel-arthur.renay.l@edumail.vic.gov.au)
- Grade 4/5: Mr Tim Smith Room 8 (smith.tim.j@edumail.vic.gov.au)
- Grade 4/5: Miss Chantelle Fiege Room 9 (fiege.chantelle.s@edumail.vic.gov.au)
- Grade 5/6: Miss Lauren O’Connor Room 10 (oconnor.lauren.a@edumail.vic.gov.au)
- Grade 5/6: Mr Ben Milsom Room 11 (milsom.ben.j@edumail.vic.gov.au)

Our part time teaching staff will provide a variety of support and specialist programs. Our specialist and support teachers in 2013 are:
- Mrs Brooke Vadila: Performing Arts
- Mrs Carmel Casale: P.E.
- Mrs Nadine McWilliams: Literacy/Numeracy Support
- Mrs Emma Lord: Art
- Mrs Kate Cardew: Literacy/Numeracy Support
- Mrs Tammy Warn: Environmental Science
- Mrs Sharon Branson: ICT
- Mrs Renee Giddings: Classroom Support

Our Education Support staff for 2013 are:
- Business Manager: Ms Sharon Welsh
- Admin/Support: Ms Penny Williams
- Integration Aide: Mrs Judy Swinburn

Office: 50245345
Postal Address: P.O. Box 716, Irymple South 3498
Email: irymple.south.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au
Web: www.irymplesouthps.vic.edu.au
so we suggest that you make sure your child arrives at school teaching program starts promptly at 9:00am, with bus travellers getting on their bus at 3:10pm. Please schedule non-essential appointments outside these hours.

Late Arrivals & Early Departures
All parents/guardians must now come via the office if they are dropping their child off after 9am, or if they are picking their child up before 3:15pm. There is a new book to sign students both in and out of school.

Absences
If your child is absent it is a requirement that a parent or guardian informs the school via written note or a phone call. Please send a note to school with your child when your child returns to school or email your child’s class teacher. If your child will be absent for an extended period please inform the class teacher or school before they leave.

Assembly
Each Monday and Friday whole school assemblies are held. Each week a different class is responsible for running the assembly. The national anthem is sung on Monday’s assembly. Birthdays are celebrated on both days. ‘Students of the Week’ are presented with their certificates on Friday morning. Parents are welcome to stay and attend assembly.

Students of the Week
Teachers recognise children who have made a special effort in school during the week by awarding them a ‘Student of the Week’ certificate. Each class teacher, special teacher and the principal give out the certificate. It is a great way to promote and praise leadership skills and public speaking.

Environmental Group
Junior School Council
The Junior School Council provides student input into decision making process within the school. Each class has two elected representatives who take ideas and concerns raised from their class meetings to the JSC meeting. Junior School Council meetings are held fortnightly and provide a forum for students to express their views and to have them heard. Members of Junior School Council also organise and run fundraising activities and special days throughout the year. It is a great way to promote a strong focus on the environment throughout our curriculum. Each class has two Environmental Leaders who are committed to looking after our environment. They participate in meetings and projects that support our school’s environmental projects. In past years the Environmental Leaders have set-up worm farms, vegetable patches, rubbish free lunches and garden maintenance.

School Hours
Classroom supervision commences at 8:45am when all classrooms will be open for the students to come in and get themselves organised.

9:00am
School Assembly (Monday & Friday)
9:00am – 11:30am
Session 1
11:30am – 1:30pm
Session 2
1:30pm – 2:15pm
Lunch break
2:15pm – 3:30pm
Session 3
3:30pm
Bell for bus travellers
3:15pm
Dismissal

Attendance
Regular school attendance is vital for your child’s progress. All children need to attend school daily. The school teaching program starts promptly at 9:00am, so we suggest that you make sure your child arrives before this time to get themselves organised and have a chat with their friends. School finishes at 3:15pm, with bus travellers getting on their bus at 3:10pm. Please schedule non-essential appointments outside these hours.

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Uniform
From the start of 2013 all new uniforms purchased are to be from the ‘2013 IPS Student Uniform’ list. This will be a transition year, therefore older uniform items may still be worn. We appreciate your support in implementing our new uniform policy.

Boys
- Shoes: black and enclosed – must be safe and supportive for active play
- Socks: grey or white
- Bottoms: grey school shorts or long pants (eg. cargo pants)
- Shirt: green long or short sleeved polo with gold trim
- Jumpers: green polar fleece
- Hair accessories: must be green in colour (eg. green ribbon)

Girls
- Shoes: black and enclosed – must be safe and supportive for active play
- Socks: grey or white
- Bottoms: grey bootleg pants, grey school shorts or skirts with grey tights
- Shirt: green long or short sleeved polo with gold trim

Sports Uniform (to be worn on advised sports days)
- Grey mesh shorts (these are not to be worn on non-sports days)
- School t-shirt or school sports t-shirt (supplied by ISP)

Hat
- Bucket hat (in accordance with ISP Sun-Smart policy)

School Bag
- Green with embroidered school name
It is expected that all students make every effort to wear full school uniform every day.

All clothing item are available for purchase, at reasonable prices, through the front office. Please remember that we do have Eftpos facilities available.

Hats
All children are required to wear school bucket hats in the school yard at all times from September 1st through to April 30th. If a student does not have a hat they must sit under the shade outside their class door or sit under the shade sails in the eating area. Our school actively supports Sunsmart policies. School hats are available for purchase at the office.

Lunches
It is important that children have healthy lunches and snacks for school. Water bottles are great to have at their tables to drink. Please don’t drink freezer bottles or put cordial in them. We encourage ‘rubbish free’ lunches to minimise the rubbish in our yard and the waste of resources that are used to wrap food items. By using plastic containers you can help reduce the amount of rubbish brought to school.

Lunch Eating
Lunch is eaten inside between 1:20pm and 1:30 pm. If a student has not completed eating their lunch they take their lunch outside and eat in the eating area under the shade sails.

Lunch Orders
The Irymple General Store will be supplying the school’s lunch orders this year. Lunch order days will be WEDNESDAY and FRIDAY. A price list will accompany this newsletter.

All lunch orders are to be written on a paper bag
Name, room number and grade must be written on lunch bag
Correct money must be included in the bag, no change will be given
Lunch orders to be placed in basket in classroom before 9am
NO LATE ORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED

Medication
If your child requires medication whilst they are at school, the medication needs to be taken to the office by the parent or guardian. The school can only administer medication if we receive it from an adult. Dosage and times need to be clearly labelled on the medication. Children should not have medication in their bag.

Medical Action Plan
If your child suffers from asthma, anaphylaxis or allergy, we require an updated action plan that has been filled in and signed by your doctor. These plans need to be updated annually. Please ensure that you supply the school with a current plan.

Newsletter
The newsletter is published weekly and goes home with the youngest child in the family each Thursday. The newsletter can also be accessed from the school website, www.irymplouths.vic.edu.au. If you would like a copy of the newsletter emailed, please subscribe on the website.

Website
We have updated our website and we believe that it looks fantastic! The website has links to our school policies, the Ultranet, PDF copies of the newsletter, a list of upcoming events and class and specialist blogs. www.irymplouths.vic.edu.au

Calico Bags
Each student will be receiving a calico money bag at the start of the year. We will use the calico bag instead of envelopes and plastic money bags as they are environmentally friendly. Each year the calico bags will be reused. We hope that you find the calico bags useful. It would be a great idea to always keep the calico bag in the front section of your child’s school bag.

School Fees
The school’s Programs and Requisites charge as set by school council is now payable and is $165.00 per student.

Recipients of EMA this year will have to pay the entire school fees as the school does not receive any part of the 2013 EMA payment. All families are asked to make their payment by Friday March 1st 2012.

EMA
If you hold a Centrelink pension card you may be eligible for the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA). To apply for EMA please pick up an application form from the office. You will need to produce a valid Centrelink Card. EMA payments are