



BERKELEY WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL

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Nolan St, Berkeley 2506
P.O. Box 56 Berkeley
Principal: Mr A. Attard

Issue #1 - 6 February, 2019



From The Principal's Desk Remember-School starts at 8.55am everyday!!!!

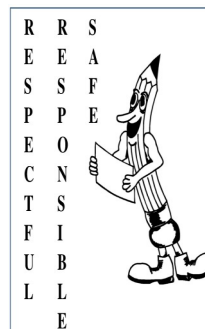
Upcoming Events Welcome Back!

- Thurs 7 Feb-** 3.00-4.00pm Students and their parents can stay after school and spend some time practicing their footy skills, meeting and talking with the Dragons! (Parents must be present)
- Wed 13 Feb-** 2.10pm School assembly- 2019 School Captain & Prefect Induction- all welcome!
- Thurs 14 Feb-** 9am-12pm School swimming carnival at Berkeley Pool- students 8 yrs and up who can swim a lap of the pool only
- Tues 19 Feb-** 9.15am P&C meeting in the Community/Breakfast Room- all welcome!- child friendly!
- Wed 20 Feb-** Free vision screening for all Kinder students at school- must have returned permission note to be included
4pm AECG meeting at Albion park High School
- Thurs 21 Feb-** 3.30pm Dads and kids welcome to come to school and "Fly a Paper Plane!"
- Wed 27 Feb-** 2.10pm School assembly- 2019 Student Representative Council Induction- all welcome!

Welcome back for what's sure to be an exciting 2019! We hope that you had a safe and happy holiday period and have started the school year ready to work hard. Term 1 is an eleven week term (this is Week 2) with school breaking up on Friday 12 April.

For those parents or guardians new to our school, particularly kinder parents, school newsletters are sent home on Wednesdays of even school weeks with the eldest or only child in the family that attends school. These newsletters are the best way for our school to keep in touch with you and keep you informed of upcoming events in the school. Please read all newsletters carefully so that you and your children don't miss a thing. If your child is away on a newsletter

**PLEASE RESPECT THE
HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF
OUR STUDENTS BY NOT
PACKING EGGS, PEANUTS
or PRODUCTS
CONTAINING PEANUTS IN
YOUR CHILD'S LUNCHBOX!**



distribution day, they should collect one from their teacher upon their return to school. Spare newsletters are kept outside the school's main office.

Organisation of Classes and Staff

We have formed 9 classes again this year! We are confident these classes will remain as they have been formed, but this is reliant on student numbers staying stable over the next week or so.

Welcome to the BWPS staff for 2019 Miss Combe and Miss Burgess. We also have a new school counsellor, Ms Zelvis, School Admin Officer, Mrs Morgan and a new School Learning and Support Officer, Miss Catterall. All five new staff members will bring a variety of wonderful skills to our school and we know everyone will make them feel welcome!

Mrs Norrie who will work as our K-6 Aboriginal programs coordinator & RFF teacher (Tues, Wed & Thurs). Mrs Turk will work every Wednesday supporting students with English as an additional language.

Mrs O'Callaghan will work as our K-2 literacy/numeracy interventionist teacher this year whilst Mrs Robertson continues in her role as our Learning and Support Teacher 4 days a week assisting students with

additional learning needs.

Mrs Moore and Mr Ruscica will teach a variety of subjects as our release from face to face and support teachers with Mr Ruscica also taking care of library and technology administration. Mrs Moore and Miss Duncan will work across all classes supporting teachers with their professional learning needs and classroom practice. Mrs Le Cerf continues her fantastic work as our Deputy Principal Instructional Leader coordinating our K-2 literacy/numeracy program development. Mrs Mackey, Mrs Cassar, Mrs Morgan, Mrs King, Mrs Tait, Miss Catterall and Mr Kardos will work as our school's administrative support staff.

The school executive is made up of Mrs Moore (Assistant Principal K-2), Mrs Duncan (Assistant Principal 3-6) and Mrs Le Cerf (Deputy Principal-Instructional Leader K-2) and myself, Mr Attard (Principal).

Information sessions with your child's class teacher will be organized soon so that you can meet your child's teacher who will discuss classroom routines and requirements. Classes for 2019 are-

2019 Classes

KS- Mrs Saliji	2/3F- Mrs Friend
K/1J- Miss James	3/4DL- Ms Duncan (Mon, Tues & Fri)
	Mrs Lloyd (Wed & Thurs)
1/2H- Mrs Haynes	4/5B- Miss Burgess
1/2C- Miss Combe	5/6H- Miss Haworth
	5/6S- Miss Stehr

Change of Personal Details

If your family details have changed over the holiday period, in particular, address, phone number or emergency contact numbers, please inform the school immediately in writing or come in and see Mrs Mackey in the office. Accurate information means we can contact you quickly particularly if the matter is urgent.

Thankyou P&C

A huge thankyou to our P&C for their assistance kicking off our school year! In particular those who have operated the school's uniform shop so that parents and carers have had the opportunity most mornings to get their children decked out in our full school uniform right from the start. Your hard work is most appreciated!

The Berkeley West Public School App!

Great News! Our school has a FREE mobile phone app and tablet app! Our app gives you instant access to our school information when you click on it, 24/7. We now have over 450 people using our app. The app gives parents the ability to instantly access newsletters without going to the website, or to send in a sick note while you stand outside the school because you forgot to write a paper note! Download it to your smartphone by going to either the Apple App Store or Android Google Play Market and search for Berkeley West

Public School. Once you have found it, press install or download. If you don't have a smartphone or tablet, you can go to the following website and use the app on your computer-
<http://apps.activemobileapps.com/html5/?appcode=BerkeleyWPS>

If your clever enough, you can even scan the Apple or Android QR code on the next page on your smart phone to get the app downloaded even faster! (you may need to download a QR code reader app first to scan them.



Starting the School Year

Schools are dynamic 'people organisations' and as a school community we all have a vested interest in the well-being of the school. The working relationship between the home and the school is a vital link, ensuring a positive and productive education for every child.

As Principal, my number one priority is the happiness and safety of every child. Children who are feeling happy and safe are receptive learners. If you have concerns about your child, please contact us, as 'problems' are far more easily attended to now than in the last week of school!

We are only too aware that at times parents tend to think their concerns are trivial and you debate with yourself whether you should contact the school. Our response is that nothing is too trivial when it comes to the education of your child. So if you have concerns or want clarification, please contact us. I will ask you, however, to consider the following points:

- The number one priority of our teachers is teaching the children, therefore if you arrive unannounced, it may not be convenient or possible to release them from teaching duties to speak to you. It is always best to arrange a meeting time by phoning the office or writing your child's teacher a note requesting a meeting.
- If you want to meet with me, it is generally best to make an appointment as I can have a number of commitments throughout the day and cannot be always readily available.

School Uniform

What a great sight to see all students returning for the beginning of 2019 in their school uniform! Special

thanks to all the students and families who have made an effort to purchase black shoes.

If your child is unable to come in uniform, please send in a quick note with them for your child's teacher explaining why. Uniform Awards will be distributed to students on a regular/random basis right throughout the year so don't be caught out. If you are having difficulty with uniforms, or your child is reluctant to wear their uniform, contact Mr Attard either by phone or in person for support.

Boys summer uniform- blue polo shirt, grey shorts, white socks, black shoes.

Girls summer uniform- school dress, white tie, white socks, black shoes.

Sports uniform (Years 3-6 only, Fridays only) - Maroon & white polo shirt, maroon shorts/skirt, white socks.

Please approach our school uniform shop for your uniform needs. The uniform shop is open on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8.30-9.15am.

As mentioned, students out of uniform will need to provide a note from their parents. Let's face it, you wouldn't run out onto the sporting field in a different uniform to your team mates! Generally, we also tend to find that students in uniform are much more settled and willing to follow school rules. For any school excursion, it is a compulsory requirement for students to be in school uniform for them to attend.

Hats

A reminder that students are required to wear a hat during recess and lunch all year. Students without a hat will be asked to stay in the shaded areas during playtime.

Money and Permission Notes coming to School???????

PUT IT IN THE DROP BOX!

Our school has a secure drop box built into the front office wall in which you can now place all notes, money etc coming to school. Obviously, make sure any envelopes containing notes or money have your child's name and class written on it, along with what the payment is for.

So no more money to the class teacher please, simply stop in at the office as you get to school in the morning and "CHUCK IT IN THE DROP BOX!"



Any Suggestions?

If you have any suggestions that will make our school and even better place to work and learn then feel free to email your suggestions to me at- andrew.attard@det.nsw.edu.au.

School Email List

If you are not currently on the school's email list, and would like to be, please go to-

<https://goo.gl/forms/mUKloRIgloWnY4qf2>

and add your name and email address. Your details will not be shared with anyone else and will only be used by the school for school business.

You will receive emails from time to time with additional reminders, upcoming events and the school newsletter sent home each fortnight in electronic form. Very handy!

Parent/Teacher Information Sessions

A chance to meet your child's teacher will take place soon. These meetings are not individual interviews, but a chance for you to meet the teacher and for them to give you some information about general class requirements and routines. A note outlining specific details from your child's teacher will be sent home with your child soon.

Parent/Teacher Interviews

As has always been the procedure, if you need to discuss any part of your child's education with his/her teacher, please call the school office on 4271 1478 to make an appointment and a member of staff will get back to you to confirm a mutually agreeable time. Do not approach your child's teacher unannounced, as he/she may not be able to accommodate you. If you have any questions or issues regarding your child's education, we encourage you to openly communicate with us. Please don't let important issues slip by, deal with them immediately and in isolation for prompt resolution!

If you wish to visit the school during school hours to drop something off to your child or maybe pick them up early you must **report to the school office first**. This procedure has been established in the interests of student safety and is not negotiable. At the office you will receive a **visitor's pass** so that staff and students can identify you as an official visitor. Please return the pass at the end of your visit and ensure you complete an early release form for your child if taking them from school early.

Formal individual teacher/parent interviews regarding your child's progress will take place later in the term. Once again, keep your eyes peeled for information sent home later in the term.

Staff Development

During the staff development "pupil-free" day on Tuesday 29 January, teaching staff undertook some training in reviewing our school's mathematics and English curriculum planning to ensure our teaching is comprehensive but engaging for all students. Teachers also reviewed our school Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) procedures so that all are consistently

implemented. On the subject of PBL, just a reminder that our school's core values haven't changed. That is we expect all students to be respectful, be responsible and be safe.

All students who can abide by our values for the whole 11 week term, and not be placed on a detention, will be invited to the end of term Reward Day. Although this term's reward hasn't been decided yet, one thing is certain. It'll be fun! Don't miss out!

Picking Up/Dropping Off Students

Parents are asked to drop off or pick up their children at the school pedestrian gates on Gallop and Nolan Streets (not the carp ark gates!) If you wish, you may accompany them or pick them up inside the school grounds under the outdoor covered area outside the school hall/canteen. We have placed some blue chairs out in this area for parents. Again, this is in the interests of child safety and minimizes distraction in the playground or classroom.

Toddlers or younger siblings must not play on the school play equipment whilst waiting to pick up brothers or sisters from class. Additionally, dogs are not permitted onto our school grounds. Parents of Kindergarten students have arrangements in place for the next couple of weeks to pick up their children at 2.30pm.

School Crossing

A reminder to all school community members that cross both Nolan St and Gallop St to use the crossing facilities available. Our wonderful crossing staff, Kim Roberts and Faye Ryan do a great job and would appreciate the cooperation of all students and parents in crossing these busy roads safely. Approach crossings sensibly and await instructions from the crossing supervisor as to when to cross. Ensure you walk across the road when asked to do so. Parents are asked to wait on the school side of the crossing so that students won't be tempted to dash across an unsupervised part of the road.

Parents should also note that the Nolan Street crossing does not become supervised or active until 2.30pm in the afternoon. The crossing guards will not put out the flags before then, so if you are crossing Nolan Street outside school zone hours, you will need to do so carefully yourself. Please note that the Gallop Street crossing is not a supervised crossing. Parents and children are expected to cross the road safely when cars have stopped. If you are concerned about your child using the gallop Street crossing, you should arrange for an adult to meet them at the Gallop Street pedestrian gate at 3pm.

Parents also need to park legally around schools so that they don't put lives in danger. We had several parents and visitors fined last year and don't want a repeat of this in 2019.

Wollongong High School of Performing Arts

If you are interested in completing an application form and audition package for your Year 6 child to attend Wollongong High School of Performing Arts in 2020,

please ask for the associated forms from Berkeley West PS. You must have forms returned to Wollongong High School by early March.

Breakfast at BWPS

This year we will continue to serve breakfast each day to students in the community room. It will be available as usual from 8.30 to 8.50am. All children who would like a little more to eat or might have been a bit rushed at home are welcome to attend the breakfast room.

Thanks to our volunteers who are making this possible everyday! I'm sure Mrs Saliji and Ms Stehr would be happy with any extra volunteers if you have some spare time during the week.

Maths Tip!

You can help your child at home by involving them in mathematical activities and talking to them about maths and its everyday use.

Cooking at Home

Children can help you prepare shopping lists, work out the quantities of ingredients needed, weigh the ingredients and check on the cooking time. Involve the children in selecting new recipes.

Student Assistance

If you require assistance meeting expenses related to your child's education you are welcome to call the school and ask to speak with the Principal Mr Attard.

Special Religious Education/ Scripture

A feature of the public education system in NSW is the opportunity to provide time in class for education in ethics, faith and morality from a religious or non-religious perspective at the choice of parents.

The school website- <https://berkeleyw-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/>, provides information on these options to support parent/carer choice.

A parent/carer may at any time notify the school in writing that they wish to change their decision. Students will continue the same arrangement as the previous year, unless a parent/carer has requested a change in writing.

For more information about Special Religious Education (SRE) and Special Education in Ethics (SEE), including the list of approved providers, please visit: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/learning-across-the-curriculum/religion-and-ethics>

If your preferred SRE option is not available please contact the approved provider. Students not attending SRE are given supervised alternative meaningful activities.

The following options are available at Berkeley West Public School-

SRE Options

Option 1: Catholic

Option 2: Protestant

Students continue in the same arrangement each year,

unless a parent/caregiver has requested a change in writing. At any time, you have the right to change your SRE nomination or to withdraw your child from the nominated lessons. A note to the Principal will affect this change.

Head Lice

Checking your child's hair for any signs of head lice is a parent's responsibility. Please be vigilant during the year in checking your child's hair regularly for any signs of head lice or eggs. By doing so you will help alleviate the frustration that head lice cause for all of us! Information on identifying and treating head lice is available upon request at any time of the year from school. If you do discover head lice in your child's hair, please inform the school and a note can be sent home to all families of the children in your child's class asking them to check their hair. Of course no information will be disclosed about your child.

2019 Captains and Prefects

Our first whole school assembly for the year will take place on Wednesday 13 February from 2.10-3.00pm. This assembly will be our official 2019 captain and prefect induction ceremony. All parents and visitors welcome to attend, particularly those proud parents of the new captains and prefects!

Newsletter Improvement

If you have any ideas or suggestions on how this newsletter could be improved even further please send Mr Attard an email.

Birth and Immunisation Certificates

We have a number of parents of kindergarten students yet to present an immunisation or birth certificate. Student enrolment can only be finalised when parents provide the school with documentation such as a birth certificate or passport to verify their child's age.

The Public Health (Amendment) Act 1992 requires parents to provide documented evidence of a child's immunisation status on enrolment in schools, pre-schools and child care centres.

Parents have the right of not having their children immunised. However, under the Public Health (Amendment) Act 1992, in the event of an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease, unimmunised children will be required to remain at home for the duration of the outbreak.

School Photos 2019

Just a brief note that school photos will not be taken this year until next term where all students will be required to wear full school winter uniform.

School Gates and Parking

For safety and security reasons all gates except the single pedestrian gate on Nolan Street are locked for most of the day. If from time to time you find this single gate closed over, please note that it is NOT LOCKED. Sometimes it is just closed over and can be opened by lifting the bottom latch. On past occasions we have had stray dogs come in and out of the grounds causing unnecessary risk and distraction.

Berkeley West "Sketchie" Awards

Our school will be implements school-wide strategies everyday as part of its "Positive Behaviour for Learning" strategy aiming to teach our students our values of being safe, respectful and responsible.

One strategy used is the use of "Sketchie" awards to students "caught" displaying our values. These are little orange slips issued by staff to students in the playground on which they write their names and deposit in their classroom collection box. Regularly, teachers will do random draws for rewards. Class boxes are then emptied into our whole school "Sketchie" box for a chance to be drawn out at school assemblies.

The boys and girls are excited. If you happen to find any "Sketchies" in your child's bag or pockets don't throw them out. Send them back to school with your child so that they can be in the running for rewards!

It's Not OK to be Away!

It is important for parents to understand that every day a student is away without reason, the absence is costing that child a learning experience. Where a pattern of habitual non-attendance is noted, school staff, the principal, a Departmental home school liaison officer or personnel from Community Services may contact parents.

Students persistently arriving at school late also should report to the school's front office upon arrival with a note from their parents acknowledging their late arrival. Parents can also call the school on 4271 1478 if they know their child is going to arrive late. Students cannot arrive late without a reason received from their parents. These late arrivals will be marked as unexplained and may be followed up by the home school liaison officer. Remember, school starts at 8.55am everyday.

Both the School Attendance Cup and Great Attendance at School (GAS) awards will be in use again this year to reward students with great attendance.

Absence notes

School attendance rolls are legal documents, and under Australian law schools must account for student absences. If your child is absent or late for whatever reason, the school requires a written note or a phone call from you indicating the date and reason for the absence. We appreciate your support in allowing us to fulfil our legal requirements.

This year we will reward the class with the best attendance each week with the BWPS Attendance Cup. Don't let yourself, your class or the school down!

Tips for packing their lunch boxes

- Pack food that is easy to open, easy to eat and not messy.
- Write their name on their lunch box, water bottle and any other containers.
- Include a frozen drink bottle to keep food cold. Wrap it in a tea towel in case it leaks.
- Use insulated lunch boxes or cooler bags.

- Avoid using plastic wrap because children find it hard to pull apart, paper bags are better for the environment too.
- Pack tissues or paper around fruit so it won't bruise.
- Remind your child to wash their hands before eating and use the toilet at recess and lunch.
- Pack a water bottle for your child each day and remind them that they can also get water from the taps or bubblers throughout the day.

What is anaphylaxis?

Allergic reactions are common. They happen when the immune system reacts to something in the environment that is normally harmless: e.g. food proteins, pollens or dust mites. It can be triggered by an allergen coming into contact with the skin, eyes, nose, ears, lungs or the stomach/bowel.

Many allergic reactions are mild, but some can be severe and even life threatening.

The most common causes of allergy in children are eggs, peanuts, tree nuts, eggs, cow's milk, soy, wheat, fish and shellfish. Other causes are bee or other insect bites (wasp, jumper jack ant), some medications (antibiotics, anaesthetics) and latex (rubber).

Anaphylaxis is the most severe form of an allergic reaction and is life threatening. Rates of anaphylaxis are not well documented, but are estimated at approximately 10 in every 1000 school children.

A reaction can develop within minutes of exposure to the allergen, but with planning and training, a reaction can be treated effectively by using an adrenaline injection. An important aspect of anaphylaxis management is prevention and avoidance of the cause.

At Berkeley West Public School we have several students with severe allergies to peanuts, other nuts, and eggs. Any of these food items brought to school put these students at risk.

We ask all parents to keep peanuts, peanut products and eggs out of their children's lunchboxes. In an attempt to minimise the risks to our students, our canteen managers have removed peanut based products and eggs from our menu.

If you would like more information regarding anaphylaxis and the significant consequences a reaction brings, please contact Mr Attard.

School Swimming Carnival

Our school will hold its annual swimming carnival at Berkeley Pool on the morning of Thursday 14 February. All students 8 years and up who can swim 50m are invited to attend. Thanks Mrs Haworth in advance for your coordination of the carnival.

Back to school asthma spike

Welcome back! With everyone returning back to schools and preschools across NSW, it's important to be on top of asthma management now more so than ever. That's because over the next two weeks, the "back to school spike" is likely to occur. This is a well-

documented increase in hospital admissions in both school and preschool aged children with asthma which occurs around two weeks after children go back, with the spike generally peaking in mid to late February.

This spike in asthma is strongly associated with an increased exposure to viruses, a common trigger for asthma, and may also be due to children's asthma management routine lapsing over the holidays.

Its recommend that parents provide their school with an updated asthma care plan, or a written asthma action plan completed in consultation with the child's doctor. This is important so that staff know what to do during an asthma emergency. Our staff receive regular asthma training and immediate access to asthma emergency equipment as required.



BERKELEY SPORTS FOOTBALL CLUB

Teams for 5 - 12 year olds

Everyone welcome

Online registrations are still open

Registrations start from \$105

berkeleyfc@hotmail.com or Tamara 0402 701 835

Come and join the Green Army



Parent



Line



CatholicCare's Parent Line is a free counselling service for Parents and Carers of children 0 – 18 across NSW 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Our professional counsellors are available now to talk to parents about a wide range of issues.

Website for Parents

At Parent Line, we know that the joys and rewards of parenting are many. We also know that sometimes issues can crop up that can challenge families. Some of these include challenges with adjusting to going to school, transitions from primary school to high school, issues around family breakdown, helping a child who is being bullied at school, the stress of supporting children through the HSC to name a few. At times parenting can be tough!

It's during times like these, that we all need someone to listen to our story, help us remember and acknowledge our successes and strengths and help us find new ways of sorting through these challenges. Parent Line NSW provides exactly that.

Go to- www.parentline.org.au. This website is a great resource for parents and carers that is easy to read and access and gives parents and carers the facility to email us with enquiries.

Of course the best way to get the best help from Parent Line is to talk to one of our professional counsellors. They can listen to your issues and tailor some strategies that could assist your family.

Last year Parent Line Counsellors helped over 8,000 parents and carers across NSW with a wide range of parenting issues. We are lucky enough to have 5 male counsellors on our team, if there are Dad's who prefer to speak to another male.

Concerned about any parenting issue? Ring Parent Line NOW.

1300 1300 52