



BERKELEY WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL

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Nolan St, Berkeley 2506

P.O. Box 56 Berkeley

Principal: Mr A. Attard

Wednesday 10 November, 2021



From The Principal's Desk

Upcoming Events

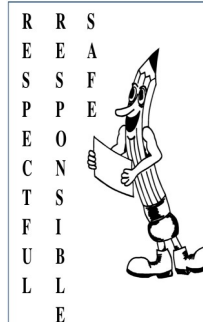
- Thurs 11 Nov-** 12.00-1.30pm Kindergarten 2022 orientation– Visit 1
- Fri 12 Nov-** Kindergarten orientation videos made available to 2022 Kindergarten students' families
- 2.10pm Virtual School assembly on Zoom– Captain & prefect nomination speeches
- Zoom link–
<https://nsweducation.zoom.us/j/64842412560>
Passcode– 788730
- Wed 17 Nov-** Last day for any parents of Year 5 students to apply online for Selective High School placement test– for Year 7 in 2023
- Thurs 18 Nov-** 12.00-1.30pm Kindergarten 2022 orientation– Visit 2
- Thurs 25 Nov-** 12.00-1.30pm Kindergarten 2022 orientation– Visit 3
- Fri 26 Nov-** Last day for parents to complete 'Tell Them From Me' survey to enter their children into the draw for X10 \$20 canteen vouchers
- Mon 29 Nov-** Proposed Year 6 HS Experience day at Illawarra Sports High School– bus provided to and from BWPS- permission note required (coming soon)
- Mon 13 Dec-** 2021 School Presentation Day– 9.30am on Community Zoom (or in hall with invited guests only if restrictions are eased)
- Wed 15 Dec-** Year 6 farewell at Dapto Leagues Club– restrictions allowing

Remember-School starts at 8.55am everyday!!!!

Our School Vision

"Providing quality teaching and learning in an environment of respect, responsibility and safety that will engage and motivate all students to learn, equipping them with the skills and knowledge for future success and wellbeing."

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



Intention to apply: Year 7 entry into selective high schools in 2023

Selective high schools cater for academically high potential and gifted students who may otherwise be without sufficient classmates of their own academic standard. Selective schools help these students to learn by grouping them with students of similar ability, using specialised teaching methods and materials.

Selective high schools are unzoned so parents can apply regardless of where they live. Applications for selective high school placement are considered mainly on the basis of the Selective High School Placement Test results and school assessment scores. The Selective High School Placement Test will be held on **Thursday 10 March 2022**.

If you would like to have your Year 5 child considered for Year 7 selective high school entry in 2023, you need to apply on the internet using a valid email address (not the student's email address).

Detailed instructions on how to apply online is available at-

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-7>

The application website opened at that link on **19**

October 2021 and closes at 17 November 2021. You must apply before the closing date.

There are no paper application forms. If you do not have internet access, you could apply at a public library. If you have a disability that prevents you from using a computer, you can contact the Unit for assistance after 19 October 2021.

Our school has moved to Level 3 school settings

As announced by the Minister, from 8 November all NSW schools will move to updated Level 3 settings that bring school operations more in line with what is allowed in the community. I would like to update you on the key changes that will be in place at our school from Monday 8 November and for the rest of Term 4.

Keeping us all safe on school grounds

A combination of layered COVID-safe plans and measures will allow us to prioritise student and staff safety and keep our school open. To do this, the following guidelines will be in place:

- Students, staff and visitors must not attend school if unwell, even with mild symptoms.
- All staff and adult visitors on the school site must be fully vaccinated and provide proof of vaccination.
- Masks are required indoors for all staff, adult visitors and is strongly recommended indoors for primary students. Masks can be removed when eating or exercising.
- All staff and visitors must check in when attending a school site or gathering.
- Adults should maintain 1.5 metres physical distancing wherever practicable.
- Activities and events should be held outdoors where practical.
- Indoor spaces will be well ventilated and as large as possible for the number of attendees - following square metre guidelines.
- Students should avoid mingling with other class and year groups when moving around the school.
- Students and staff will maintain good hand hygiene and schools will continue with enhanced cleaning, including high touch points.

From 8 November

Our school is now operating on updated Level 3 settings for the rest of Term 4 2021, with the following activities allowed in a COVID-safe manner:

- Assemblies and presentations are allowed outdoors, with cohorts separated and physical distancing in place. Fully vaccinated visitors (including parents and carers) are only allowed to attend if completing a specific role (such as presenting) and at the invitation of the school.
- Community use is allowed outside of school hours (including P&C meetings) with COVID-safe plans in place – in line with public health requirements.
- Dancing, bands, ensembles and music classes will be allowed within cohorts. However, everyone must

wear masks while playing instruments indoors. Other instruments that rely on breath or require a mask to be removed to be played, as well as singing and chanting, are not permitted in Term 4.

- Excursions are allowed outdoors (and indoors where sole use of the premises is available).
- Incursions are allowed indoors and outdoors where cohorts are kept separate.
- Graduations and formals are allowed within cohorts, either on school sites or at external venues – with COVID-safe plans in place and physical distancing adhered to.
- School sports are allowed, including inter-school sports and access to indoor and outdoor pools (from 1 November).
- Transitions and orientations are allowed in a COVID-safe way that minimises mingling between students.

Parents and carers on site to support school operations

Fully vaccinated parents and carers will be allowed on-site to support curriculum delivery, student wellbeing activities and school operations (for example reading support, canteens and uniform shops). Parents and carers must check in using the school check-in and show proof of vaccination on entry to the school site.

Thank you again for your continued support during this school term.

Poor Sleep Affects Primary School Children

Primary school children who have sleep problems may have trouble with their schoolwork and behaviour. Children who have sleep difficulties are less alert during their hours at school and may have difficulty learning new skills or retaining information. Some signs of sleep disorders can include night terrors, sleepwalking and talking, and trouble going to sleep and staying asleep. There are some things that parents and carers can do to help their children get a good night's sleep:

- Children's rooms should be quiet, dark and not too hot or cold. Use a nightlight if necessary.
- Have a regular bedtime and wake time. This shouldn't be more than an hour later on weekends and during holidays.
- Have a good bedtime routine. Read to younger children or let older children read quietly or listen to relaxing music.
- Avoid caffeine-based drinks like coffee and cola.
- Avoid spicy or salty foods in the evening such as pizza or potato chips.
- Avoid scary movies, computer games and rough play before bed.
- Remove TVs and computers from children's bedrooms.
- Ensure their beds are clean, warm and comfortable.

- A warm bath before bed encourages children to relax.

Children who wake at night and are afraid need comfort. If your child does wake in the night tell them quietly that they are safe and encourage them to go back to bed. It is important to be calm, almost matter of fact and quickly get them back into bed. This will reassure them that you are not worried and therefore they should not be worried. Most sleep problems can be easily treated. Visit your family doctor if you are worried about your child's sleeping patterns.



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.

Attendance Cup!

Congratulations to all the students who seem very determined at the moment to take out the Berkeley West Public School Attendance Cup. Well done 2/3F and 3MS who have won the trophy over the last two weeks.



Can your class win the cup next week? Do your bit, be at school every day!

Review of School Student Welfare and Discipline Procedures

Parent input is welcome in this year's review of our school's discipline policy. Parents are encouraged to download and view our processes on our school website (see web address on front page of newsletter). Simply click on the "For Parents" tab at the top of the screen and then the "Student Wellbeing and Discipline" tab on the left hand side of the page. Have a read and then let us know if you have any ideas on things that could be changed or added. You can make your suggestions by going to-

<https://forms.gle/jyiWJVBMR17af3MA>

by Monday 6 December. If you don't have a computer or Internet access you can come to school and pick up a policy then make any suggestions in writing and hand them in at the drop box in the front office by the due date. Include your name so that you can be contacted if your suggestion/s needs clarification.

Numeracy

Helping your child with measuring length and area

You can help at home with your child's understanding of length and area with the following activities:

- Use modelling dough to roll out two "snakes" of different length. Talk about one snake being shorter, and the other longer
- Roll out two snakes that are the same length. Turn one into a zigzag or curved snake. Ask your child, *which snake is longer?*
- Walk around objects and talk about how many steps it takes

- Draw squiggle patterns and ask your child to colour in the "closed" areas.

Health- Afternoon snack time?

Kids are usually hungry after school – but it's too early for dinner. An afternoon snack is best served healthy!

Remember portion size is important, your child will eat dinner in a couple of hours, so don't fill them up too much.

Some suggestions for healthy after school snacks include:

- Rice cakes lightly spread with ricotta or "light" cream cheese and vegemite or fruit spread
- Toasted muffin with a scrape of honey or fruit spread
- Slice of toasted wholegrain bread topped with ricotta cheese and fruit spread
- Microwaved pappadums
- Fruit yoghurt smoothie (blend 1/2 cup fruit yoghurt plus 1/2 cup skim milk or low fat milk) plus 1/2 cup canned unsweetened fruit
- Fruit kebabs (skewer cubes of fruits onto bamboo skewers).

Keep Your Children Safe This Christmas- Christmas trees, decorations & lights

Small Christmas decorations are particularly fascinating for young children. Make sure they are kept out of reach as they may pose choking hazards.

Remember that Christmas trees can tip over when tugged. Christmas lights can also pose electrical hazards for inquisitive young children.

School Wide "Buddy Class" Strategy

At Berkeley West Public School, we utilize a school-wide buddy class strategy to help students modify their behaviour if they are continually disrupting the learning of other students in their class. The main motive for many misbehaviours in class is to gain attention from peers. After the teacher has warned the student about their behaviour (verbally and with visual cues on the chalkboard) they may be sent for a 10 minute time out to another class in the school. The student is sent to another class with some work to complete quietly at a table in their "Buddy Class". They are also given a behaviour referral which is reviewed by the Assistant Principals as a record of classroom misbehavior. Often this short break is time enough for the student to settle, allows his/her classmates to get on with their learning and stops the behaviour from escalating to the point where further disciplinary action might need to be taken.

If you have any questions about our buddy class system, please contact Mr Attard.

Spelling rules you should know!

Remember that there are often exceptions to many rules! When used as a guide, rules can really assist children. Here are a few spelling rules to assist with spelling-

- **If the final letter after the vowel is f, l, or s, it is usually doubled.**

For example: pass, bell, staff

- **Two-Vowels Together:** When two vowels are next to each other, the first vowel is usually long (says its name) and the second vowel is silent.

For example: meat, read, rain, pie, toad

- **Y as a long i:** The letter y makes the long sound of i, when it comes at the end of a short word that has no other vowel.

For example: cry, fly, my

- **Y as a long e:** When y or ey end a word in an unaccented syllable, then the y says the long sound of e.

For example: lovely, key, honey

Getting to School Too Early?

Students may enter the school grounds when our crossing guards open the Nolan St gate in the morning. Although we obviously don't want students getting to school late, we also don't want them arriving too early. Some students are arriving around 8.00am, getting bored and therefore get themselves into trouble before the day even starts. Also, they are unsupervised near a busy road. Students should leave home and arrive at school on or after 8.30am and before 8.55am.

Dogs in School Grounds

To ensure the health and safety of the school community, parents and carers are reminded that dogs should not be brought inside the schools grounds for any reason. Whether or not you believe your dog poses any risk to students, understand that some students are emotionally intimidated by any dog, large or small. If a dog were to bite a student, you would be personally liable for the incident.



Signage indicating that dogs are not to be brought into the school grounds is present at both school entry points.

NSW public school terms and holidays

Here's a snapshot of NSW public school terms and holidays for 2022-2023.

Find out more:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/going-to-a-public-school/calendars>

School Merit Awards

Don't throw out those little pink "Qualifier" slips you might find in your child's school bag or pockets! Pink Qualifiers are earned by our students for great work at school. Once they have collected 5 pink Qualifiers, they hand them to their class teacher who will present them with a Merit Award in class. Keep those Merit Awards as once a student has earned 5 of those, they give them to the Assistant Principals (Mrs Moore-Kinder to Year 2 or Mis Duncan Years 3-6) and they will be presented with a "Big Blue" Award at the next whole school (virtual) assembly. But that's not all! Collect 5 "Big Blues" and hand them to the Assistant Principal's and you will be presented with a \$4 canteen voucher for you to spend at the canteen!

Keep hold of all other types of awards such as Student

of the Fortnight Awards, Uniform Awards, Great Attendance at School Awards etc as they all count as a Merit Award that can help you get your next "Big Blue".

5 Qualifiers



= 1 Merit Award



5 Merit Awards



= 1 "Big Blue" Merit Award



5 "Big Blues"



= 1 Canteen Voucher



Parking Around School

As is the case for most parents picking up their children from school, parking is limited around any school. Those that leave a few minutes earlier to park closer deserve the benefits of a prime parking spot. However, for the safety of our students, parents should not be parking in no parking zones around our school. This includes the small bay outside the gates leading into the infants playground that looks like this!



Slow down around our school!

A reminder that all school speed zones need to be followed by all motorists to keep our students and their families safe. It has been noted that a number of motorists are clearly exceeding the school zone speed limit of 40km/h and are putting people at risk. Remember, 40km speed zones are in place between 8.00-9.30am and 2.15-4.00pm every day.

School banking is coming to an end

On 24 October 2021, the Treasurer and Minister for

Education and Early Childhood Learning, the Hon. Sarah Mitchell MLC, announced that school banking programs will no longer be run in New South Wales schools from 2022.

School banking at Berkeley West Public School has previously been arranged at a local level using parent volunteers. With the upcoming cessation of the program, students will no longer be able to deposit savings through the school banking program at [our school. You can still keep your child's bank account open and can continue to make deposits into your child's accounts through online transfer or at any bank branch. More information are available on the department's school banking website and Commonwealth Bank of Australia's school banking website- <https://www.education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/learning-across-the-curriculum/school-banking-program..>

The decision was made following the review of the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) review on School Banking Programs on 15 December 2020, which found that the costs of the program outweighed the benefits.

Key findings of the review include:

- School banking programs claim to help children develop long term saving habits; however, providers were unable to demonstrate that these programs in and of themselves improve savings behaviour;
- Payments to schools for implementing school banking programs incentivise schools to encourage greater participation in the programs;
- Young children are vulnerable consumers and are exposed to sophisticated advertising and marketing tactics by school banking program providers;
- School banking program providers fail to effectively disclose that a strategic objective of these programs is customer acquisition.

Financial literacy is embedded in the curriculum K-10. It is part of a continuum of learning in the work and enterprise learning across the curriculum content area from K-12. In Mathematics K-10, students develop knowledge, understanding and skills specifically related to financial literacy, such as money, financial transactions, pay rates, taxable income, rebates and levies. In Stages 4 and 5 many students elect to study commerce. A key objective of the Years 7-10 commerce syllabus is for students to develop skills in decision-making and problem-solving in relation to consumer and financial issues they may encounter now and in the future. Opportunities also exist for the inclusion of financial literacy in the mandatory Life Ready course in Stage 6. More information on the NSW Curriculum is available.

To further support our students with financial literacy education, the department launched the Treasurer's Financial Literacy Challenge in collaboration with ASIC. The challenge is currently in pilot intended for students in Years 5 to 8 but open to all. The challenge aims to engage students in practical activities focused on making informed financial choices, setting goals and managing money.

If you have further questions, please feel free to

contact the school on 4271 1478..

Class	Student of the Fortnight	Reason
KJ	Nariah Simpson	For a settled start to term 4 and trying hard to be respectful, responsible and safe.
K/1F	Tyson King	For a much improved effort in writing tasks.
1/2O	Harvarna Hill	For being a kind and friendly addition to 1/2O.
2/3F	Tori Williamson	For being a beautiful and sensible class member.
3MS	Bella-Rose Veigel	Consistent effort in all of her work and her positive attitude.
4/5T	Bob Marshall	Application in Mathematics and his detailed coordinated map in Position.
5/6H	Logan Cavanaugh	For his conscientious effort in all class activities at all times.
5/6LW	Yasmine Beaver	Always working hard and having a positive attitude.


SunSmart Snippet

The simplest way

... to wear SunSmart clothing

Clothing provides a barrier between your skin and damaging ultraviolet (UV) radiation - unlike sunscreen, it can't be wiped or washed off.



For the BEST protection, choose:

- Shirts with collars or high necks, and sleeves
- Trousers or longer shorts and skirts that come to below the knees
- Clothing that is loose rather than stretched across the skin

Clothing is just one part of sun protection! Remember to use SunSmart hats, sunglasses, apply sunscreen, and seek out shade.

To help keep your kids safe in the sun, check your schools SunSmart status by heading to www.sunsmartnsw.com.au

Days missed = years lost

A day here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just...

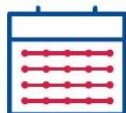
they miss weeks per year

and years over their school life

1 day per fortnight



= **4** weeks

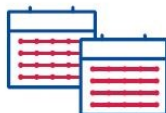


= Over **1** year missed

1 day per week



= **8** weeks



= Over **2.5** years missed

education.nsw.gov.au