



BERKELEY WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL

Telephone: (02) 4271 1478
Fax: (02) 4271 5334
Email: berkeleyw-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Website: berkeleyw-p.schools.nsw.gov.au
Facebook: www.facebook.com/bwps1

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

Wednesday 31 March, 2021



From The Principal's Desk

Upcoming Events

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

- Thurs 1 April-** Last day of Term 1
Easter Hat parade for students only
Students do not need to be in school uniform– gold coin donation to support K-2 excursion next term
- Mon 19 Apr-** 'Pupil free day'- teachers only return to school today
- Tues 20 Apr-** All students K-6 return to school for the start of Term 2
- Thurs 6 May-** P&C Mother's Day stall at school– student will be able to purchase a gift for mum for Mother's Day– more info closer to date
- Tues 11 May-** NAPLAN online tests for Years 3 & 5 begin today and run over the next two weeks
- Tues 18 May-** 2021 School photo day

Last newsletter for the term

This is the last newsletter for Term 1. A huge thankyou to the Berkeley West staff for their work during the term. It has been a busy start to the year, but our teachers continue to put in a massive effort to give each child the very best education. Your children are very fortunate to have such a great team working for them!

Thanks also to all the parents who have supported their children and our school in general this term. In particular our P&C who have had an injection of some new faces this year! Our P&C is a small hard working group and we really appreciate their efforts. Remember, anyone can come along to our P&C meetings. Keep an eye out for upcoming meetings in the newsletter.

At our last meeting, we elected our P&C executive. They are-

Vanessa Johns (President)

Paula Jasinski (Secretary)

Lisa Courtin (Treasurer)

They are the most supportive and reliable group who are always looking for new parents to come along to

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



our next meeting!

Finally, thankyou to the students who applied themselves at school for Term 1. In the blink of an eye, more than a quarter of the year has ticked by! Many of our students have performed well, accomplishing pleasing results.

We look forward to their efforts continuing for the rest of the year. It all starts with attendance. Well done to those boys and girls who have kept their absences to three days or less. Did you know we have 114 students that haven't miss more than 2 days of school so far this year! Of these, 47 students have not missed a single day of school in Term 1!

School breaks up for this term tomorrow, Thursday 1 April. Have a great break. See you all back at school on Tuesday 20 April!

School Security

It would be appreciated if any suspicious persons or activities noticed inside the school grounds during the school holiday break be reported to the school security unit on 1300 880 021. You do not need to leave your name or details. Your help will help keep our school safe from vandalism.

Peer Pressure

Having a group of friends is one of the most important

aspects of being a child and a teenager. A 'Peer Group' is a group of friends about the same age. 'Peer Pressure' refers to the effect that this group of friends can exert on an individual. Peer groups can be a very positive influence on a young person's life, but they can also cause them great stress, including their parents!

Peer groups help a young person to have a sense of belonging and a sense of being valued. It provides them with a sense of security and of being understood by others who are going through the same experiences. The peer group can provide a safe environment for young people to test values and ideas, develop friendship skills and provide positive reinforcement and encouragement for the young person to develop their personality and identity.

Peer pressure often creates extra stress for young people as they want to 'keep in' with friends, and do things that help them belong to the group. There is nothing worse for most young people than to be shown up or embarrassed in front of their peer group. Not all young people respond in the same way to peer pressure. Some are simply more independent than others and can withstand or resist the pressure better. Research indicates that young people who do not receive support at home are more likely to be influenced by their peer group.

The two best supports for young people who feel they are under pressure from their peer group are family and friends. It is very important for parents to keep the channels of communication open. As parents, you can provide the support to help your child resist pressure from friends or the wider peer group. Being able to talk things through with your child can enable them to see how they are being pressured unfairly or unnecessarily. Having a good friend (or two) can be critical in helping your child put things into perspective. Two people can resist pressure better than one and provide an alternative view point that can then influence peer group views and actions.



Peer groups are part of growing up and they will cause a great deal of pleasure and at times, some grief. By being aware of, and connected with your child's friendships, you are in a better place to monitor and support them if 'pressure' arises.

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.

Be Active Everyday

Physical activity means to move the body. Exercise classes, dance, sports, games, everyday playing, swimming, skating, cycling and walking are all activities which keep adults and children healthy.

Positive Parent Approach

Schools are dynamic 'people places' with many thousands of people interactions each day. As a consequence there will be times when there are social disputes or misunderstandings between students. In most cases these can be easily resolved using our student management approaches. Other situations occur when parents feel that the school, either through

the school based resolution of a student dispute or other administrative decision have not been 'fair'. Schools do not do or say things to deliberately upset parents or children.

We are committed to ensuring that we provide the best learning environment and education for all children. Within this learning environment it is imperative that children feel safe and happy because then they are receptive learners. We pride ourselves on the strong relationships we have with our students and their families.

If an issue arises, then please contact us. It is also important to remember that within the busy school environment and especially if the student hasn't sought help from the school, we may be unaware of a dispute or incident until notified by parents. Be assured that when an issue is brought to our attention we will fully investigate the circumstances.



A POSITIVE approach is always best, as in most cases the issue can be resolved quickly so that everyone is happy with the result. The last few lines from the poem "Unity" highlight one of the most important relationships in a school community:

*And each agreed they would have failed,
If they had worked alone,
For behind the parents stood the school,
And behind the teacher, the home.*

A-Z Parents guide

An A-Z of resources relating to schooling most important to parents and carers:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/parents-and-carers/a-z-parents-guide>

Historic opportunity for students to influence school and education policies in NSW

Students in public schools now have a unique opportunity to help shape and influence inclusive and positive change in NSW by becoming a member of the Education Minister's Student Council.

The first council of 24 students from throughout the state is now being formed, and applications are open for students from Year 6 to Year 11 until Monday, 05 April 2021.

Members will have direct input and influence on education and school policy through discussion and consultation with the Minister and key NSW Education stakeholders.

A diverse range of student voices and experiences is being sought to contribute to the council's directions and operations.

The council, known as DOVES (Department of Student Voices in Education and Schools), will meet virtually twice each term, with the Minister invited to attend.

Students decide the exact setup of council meetings, the issues to be discussed and what the NSW Government can do to make our state the best education system in Australia.

To apply for council membership, students are asked to submit a one to two-minute video, saying who they are, what they are passionate about in schooling and education, and why they want to be part of DOVES.

More information about DOVES and the application process is available at-

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/student-wellbeing/student-voice/minister-s-student-council/apply-to-be-involved#Video1>

Please remember, applications close Monday, 05 April 2021.

Managing the Television

The television can 'rule' life in many homes. It can be a source of family arguments, provide the wrong 'realities' of our world, persuade us to buy unnecessary items or food and turn us into 'couch potatoes'! Rather than the television ruling us, we must rule it! Here are some tips for managing television viewing at home:

- Make a rule that all jobs need to be done before TV goes on.
- Use TV classifications to work out what is suitable for differing age groups, but also continue to use your discretion – know what is likely to upset your child.
- Familiarise yourself with the programs your children want to watch so that you are informed and can support them in their viewing.
- Negotiate TV viewing time. Discuss which programs are favourites and avoid children getting into the habit of watching TV because it's on.
- If programs are important to your child, record them so that they can be watched at a more suitable time
- For younger children, decide on a bedtime which is relevant to your child's age rather than what's on TV.
- Avoid meal time in front of TV so that there is time to talk and share the happenings of the day.
- Teach your child to be discriminating from an early age.
- Talk about the programs, discuss characters and stories. Give your child a chance to ask questions, describe their feelings and make sense of what they have seen. If your child becomes distressed after a program allow them to talk about what they are feeling.
- TV programs can provide fertile ground for discussion regarding values and behaviours, especially for older children and young people. Talk about your feelings and thoughts.
- Play 'spot the gimmick' and trickery in TV commercials.

Children need to learn skills which help them get on with others in the world. These can be best learnt and practised by doing things as a family without the TV on!

Bullying

This week's newsletter continues to provide more information to parents so that they can support the

underlying principles of the anti-bullying plan being implemented at school. Again, this information is an excerpt from the parent workshops held at school over the last few years. It explains how our school responds to allegations of bullying behaviour.

Responding to Reported Incidences of Bullying

When a bullying incident is reported or observed the following procedures will apply:

- Children involved speak with Assistant Principals/Principal about the incident.
- If clearly substantiated, and depending on the nature of the incident, the student responsible for bullying is counselled by the school executive and placed on reflection if necessary.
- In the case of cyber-bullying initiated through school accounts, the student may have their DoE account blocked for a period determined by the Principal-subsequent consequences for this behaviour determined in line with the school's discipline procedures.
- School staff are informed of the incident.
- The behaviour of the children involved will be monitored.
- If bullying is repeated, student will receive further counselling and the school executive make an appointment to speak to the parent/carer and discuss with them our procedures and ask for their cooperation in stopping the child from bullying other students.
- If bullying behaviour does not stop, student may be suspended as per school and Departmental guidelines.

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-

- Soft 'g' : 'g' before e, i, or y may say 'j'.

For example: gentle, gel, general, giant, ginger, gypsy.

- Vowels a, e, o, u usually say their name at the end of a syllable.

For example : pro/tect, be, fu/tile

School Photos

Our school photos will be taken next term on Tuesday 18 May. Students are asked to wear full winter uniform on the day. Order envelopes will be sent home in the first few weeks after the April school holidays.

Helping kids feel good about maths

At a glance

- Talk positively about maths so your child also values it.
- Play games with your child, which involve adding dice or numbers, to show them that maths matters.
- Ask your child how they work out maths problems; it helps build their knowledge and boosts their

confidence.

- Help your child to group objects by asking them to set the table or put the cutlery away correctly.
- Point out maths in everyday life with your child whenever you can.

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.

Who can make fifteen?

Play with a partner. Write the numbers 1 to 9 across the top of a piece of paper. The object of the game is to be the first person to cross out three numbers which add up to 15. In turn, players cross out one number at a time. A number can only be crossed out once, and only three numbers can be crossed out to make fifteen. Write down your numbers as you cross them out.

Safe, responsible and respectful use of digital technology.

Our children and young people have grown up with digital technology and it is woven into their lives. Since COVID -19 came along, many young people are using digital technology more often to learn and to socialise.

Supporting children and young people to use technology in a safe, respectful and responsible manner allows for more active online learning that can increase student engagement and participation. It also supports access to a broader range of content and learning resources that can supplement students' learning experiences.

Being safe online is a shared responsibility for students, teachers, parents, carers and the broader community.

It is important that families can communicate with their children about the how to use digital technology in safe, responsible and respectful ways.

Here are some key reminders for children and young people of how to stay safe online:

- Protect personal information, including name, address, school, email address, telephone number, pictures and other personal details.
- Never share user names or passwords and only use your own.
- Ask a teacher or other responsible adult for help if anyone online asks for personal information, wants to meet or offers money or gifts.
- Let a teacher or other responsible adult know immediately if anything online that is suspicious, harmful or inappropriate.
- Never hack, disable or bypass any hardware or software security, including any virus protection, spam and filter.

Further information can be found at:

Digital Citizenship website:

<https://www.digitalcitizenship.nsw.edu.au/>

E-safety Commissioner: <https://www.esafety.gov.au/>

The department's [Student use of digital devices and online service policy](#) supports schools to maximise the benefits and minimise the risks of digital environments, and prepare students for life beyond school.

Congratulations our Term 1 Principal's Lunch Award Winners!!

At lunch last on Monday I got to meet with two very worthy students from each class and have lunch and a chat with them. Two students from each class were selected by their teachers for working hard and continually displaying our school values throughout Term 1. They were a delightful group and it was easy to see why they had been selected by their teachers!

This term's Principal's Lunch Award recipients were-

Ryan Courtin, Skylar Ghigglioli, Levi Moore, Taleeya Williams, Keira Wilson-Jones, Grayson Kime, Charlie Mahoney, Tori Williamson, Brennah Davis, Benjamin Moon, Dominic King, Alexis Lee, Alina Jones, Logan Cavanaugh, Caitlin Barraclough and Lachlan Magnee.



Class	Student of the Fortnight	Reason
KJ	Phoenix Smith	For always working hard and being proud of and presenting beautiful work.
K/1F	Corben Davis	For fantastic improvements in writing.
1/2O	Zavier Cook	Being more organised in class and completing his work.
2/3F	Bella Buddle	Making positive choices to improve her learning.
3MS	Alice Barraclough	Consistent positive attitude to her learning.
4/5T	Jaiden Halbert	For his consistent application and positive attitude in mathematics.
5/6H	Letisha Honeybrook	Improved application to writing.
5/6LW	Jacob Abbott	Working hard in Mathematics.

What's Happening 3M/S

3M/S have had a great start to the school year. All students have been working hard learning and we have managed to have some fun too!

We have been learning about a lot of famous artists and then recreating some of their artworks. Some of the artists we have learnt about are; Picasso, Vincent Van Gogh, Sidney Nolan and Andy Warhol. Learning the variety of techniques and vibrant colours these artists have used has been fascinating!

This term in Writing we have been learning all about Persuasive texts. Our most recent topic is Advertising and we are still working hard on making our own Juice Box to sell! Coming up with our own catchy slogan has been fun.

Fitness gives us a movement break, some of our favourite games to play for fitness is Dodgeball and Golden Child. This game allows students to work on their throwing and catching skills and also encourages teamwork.

I am so proud of the amazing term we have had!

Miss Midgley

Student Wellbeing Report

Congratulations everyone who purchased from the Sketchie Shop last week. It was a great turn out which is a reflection of all of our students demonstrating our school values of Respect, Responsibility and Safety. Keep collecting them for our next shop at the end of Term 2.

End of Year Reward Day Returns!!!

All of the Sketchies being spent at the Sketchie shop are being counted to go towards an end of year reward day. So far 3,500 have been collected and counted. Our goal is 12,000 sketchies by the end of Term 3 so that we can choose a reward for the entire school in Term 4. So keep on demonstrating our values and I just know you will make it.
Mrs O'Callaghan

ILLAWARRA SPORTS HIGH SCHOOL

YEAR 6 TRIALS

Thursday April 29th

Talented Sports & Development Program

Basketball / Football / Rugby League / Rugby Union
Netball / Surfing / Hockey / Touch & Tag
New in 2022 Cricket

You must register online through school website or Facebook.
Details of trials will be emailed to you upon registration.
Must be currently playing in club or representative team.

Call the front office if you require assistance.

Bike, Skate and Scooter Road Safety Program For Aboriginal Children (At no cost to participants)

Where: Koonawarra Public School
When: Tuesday 6th April, 2021
Time: 12.30pm to 3pm

The Program teaches:

- Practical bike skills
- Increase bike handling skills
- Understand NSW Road Rules
- Visibility whilst riding
- Understand safe riding in the community

Participants receive:

- Aboriginal designed helmet
- Bike Service
- Snacks and refreshments
- Bikes available to use on the day if required

Bring your own bike for a free service & repair

All Ages Welcome

Contact:
BIKE and FITNESS
Mobile: 0411 260 735
Email: aboriginalbikesafety@gmail.com

Register Now!
Limited to 20
participants

Learn to
correctly fit &
wear your
Helmet

Learn to
recognise
safe places to
ride

Learn to
maintain
your bike

Delivered by BIKE and FITNESS, and proudly supported and funded by



Free entry!

Register on the day
Children must be accompanied
by an adult



Workshops



Free giveaways

Saturday 10 April
9am to 12noon
Fairy Meadow Beach Reserve

- **Family fun bike ride, 9.15am & 10.15am**
Bring your bike and join us on a shared path bike ride
Covered shoes and helmet (compulsory)
- **Games & challenges with Ride Nation**
- **Free bike safety checks** with Bike Hub
- **Interactive bike display** with Cycle Tours NSW

Plus \$500 in Bike Hub vouchers to be won - cycling advice from IBUG & Illawarra Cycle Club - circus & magic entertainment!



WOLLONGONG
THE PLACE TO RIDE!

wollongong.nsw.gov.au/cycling



Free entry!

Come along and enjoy Sunday morning with your family and friends. For more info and to pre-register, visit wollongong.nsw.gov.au/pedal-in-the-park



Live music



Coffee & food



Workshops



Free giveaways



