



BERKELEY WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL

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Wednesday 9 June, 2021



From The Principal's Desk

Upcoming Events

- Fri 11 June-** 2.30pm School assembly in hall- all welcome!
Regional Cross country- Cambewarra (for those students who have qualified)
- Mon 14 June-** Queen's Birthday Public Holiday
- Tues 15 June-** 9.15am P&C meeting in school community/breakfast room- all welcome!
- Fri 18 June-** K-2 Excursion to Minnamurra Rainforest - permission note and payment required
PSSA Gala day for Years 3-6 students who have nominated and been accepted to take part- permission note required
- Tues 22 June-** NAIDOC Week games afternoon
- Wed 23 June-** Student Semester 1 reports sent home today
4pm AECG meeting Koonawarra Public School
- Fri 25 June-** **Last day of Term 2**- teachers only return on Monday 12 July- all students K-6 return Tuesday 13 July
2.10pm School assembly- 1/2O class item- all welcome!
- Mon 12 July-** 'Pupil Free Day'- **teachers only** return to school today
- Tues 13 July-** All students return for the start of Term 3

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

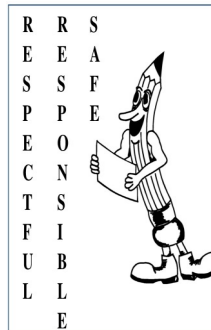
Our School Vision

"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."

Be at School On Time- That's by 8.55am!

Thankyou to the vast majority of parents who are getting their children to school before the morning bell

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



at 8.55am. Unfortunately however, we have a small number of students persistently arriving after the 8.55am bell. As a result, their children are missing valuable learning time in the morning. If you are running late in the morning, parents need to sign their children in at the front office with Mrs Mackey or Mrs Cassar. Students should not be walking themselves in after 9.00am.

Your child's attendance, including whole absences and late arrivals, will be recorded on your child's report card coming home in the next two weeks. Late students are monitored closely and if a pattern of late arrival is noted, this issue will be followed up by teachers, our school's Learning and Support Team, Principal or Home School Liaison officer.

DID YOU KNOW????? The average number of days away by our students at this stage of the year is **5 days**. Is your child's attendance above or below our school average? You can find out in your child's report which will be sent home in the last week of term.

Starting Kindergarten 2022

Our school is now taking kindergarten enrolments for 2022. If you have a child starting kindergarten next year, or know someone with a child starting kinder next

year, please come to school and pick up an enrolment form now. Forms can either be completed at school or taken home and dropped off later. The important thing is that we know about new students so that their parents can be kept informed about upcoming orientation events and we can begin planning new classes before the end of the year.

Principal's Award

Congratulations to Emily N for receiving the Principal's Award this week for being a respectful, responsible and safe learner at school. As well as her certificate, Emily will enjoy a \$4.00 food voucher to spend at the canteen and gets to sit on the stage at the next school assembly.



Excellent Emily!!!!

Healthy School Lunches

Children should be eating the same range of foods as adults. They need to eat a variety of breads, cereals, fruit and vegetables, lean meats and dairy products. Small amounts of foods with high fat, sugar or salt content are fine to include in the diet occasionally, but not on a daily basis. Healthy snacks throughout the day are an important contribution to your child's diet. It is what they eat, rather than how much they eat, which is important.



Winter can be a difficult time of the year to create interesting and nutritious lunches, but there are many ways you can add variety and interest to your child's lunch box. You can vary the sandwiches by using three slices and two fillings, or by using one slice each of brown and white bread. Try using bread rolls or wrap the filling in one of the many flat breads available. For special occasions try cutting them into different shapes or use a biscuit cutter.

When you are making meatloaf, make a few smaller ones in patty pans or muffin tins and pop them into the lunch box. Individual quiches or savoury muffins are a great alternative to sandwiches. Try putting some home made soup or baked beans in a small flask.

Often you can create interest in the lunch by asking your children to help prepare it; they take ownership of it and are far more likely to eat something which they have made themselves.

Semester 1 Student Reports

It is hard to believe that the first half of the school year is drawing to an end. It only seems like yesterday that the first day of school was here and everyone was in new classrooms and making new friends. 20 weeks later, it is time to look back and celebrate the progress that has taken place with most of our students, as well as looking forward to setting new goals for the second half of the year.

In the last week of this term, you will receive your child's Semester 1 report. This written report provides an opportunity to read about your child's progress and the steps he or she has taken over the year so far. Class teachers have written comments for each key learning area which outline the skills that students have demonstrated and areas for development. Students

have been involved in topics appropriate to their year level and have been involved in research and the presentation of information that supports the development of new understandings. Where appropriate, teachers will include suggestions for helping your child in areas where they need extra support to achieve their best. Teachers will also make comments on your child's social development. This aspect of the report will enable you to gain an understanding of how your child relates to others at school and some of the social skills and work habits they are demonstrating.



After you receive your child's report, should you wish to discuss it further, you can make an appointment next term to discuss it with your child's teacher.

Understanding Your Child's Semester 1 Report

Ever since your child started school you will have received a variety of information from the school about your child's progress. This is formalised twice a year to include two written reports. Our student reports use a word descriptor grade for every subject that your child completes at school and includes pertinent comments including an overall comment.

Every school uses the same syllabus documents that show what children need to know and be able to do at various stages of their learning development. Teachers use these documents to plan their teaching and assess student learning.

Your child's report will include an "Outstanding" to "Limited" grading that clearly explains student achievement in all of the subject areas over a two term period (semester). The report paints a picture of your child at one point in time.

Read the comment first! Understand more of the picture. Comments are provided for key learning areas and are critical. These are just as important, if not more important, than the grade because the comment is the explanation behind the grade.

All children need encouragement and praise to be confident, happy learners.

Some children try very hard but find learning difficult. They deserve your praise and encouragement. Some children find learning easy and often don't try as hard as they could. Your encouragement here is critical as well. For those students who have no difficulty learning and put a lot of effort into their work, they need continued acknowledgement and praise to keep this level of enthusiasm and commitment. For those students whose effort is minimal, closer home/school partnerships are the key to improvement.

What does an "Outstanding" to "Limited" grade mean?

"Sound"- shows that the student has achieved all of the skills, values and knowledge intended by the teacher when they planned the learning program for the semester. This student may have required extra revision or individual teaching but he/she has understood the concepts and has demonstrated achievement of the learning goals. Parents should not be worried about a child's progress if he or she has received this grade, your child is on track in this area. His/Her performance is sound.

“High”- shows that the student has performed very well with the work presented consistently achieving the skills, values and knowledge intended by the teacher when he/she planned the learning program for the semester. This student has demonstrated in all of the assessments and daily tasks that there is no difficulty being experienced in meeting the learning goals. Your child is performing at a high level in this area.

“Outstanding”– shows that the student is easily demonstrating the skills, values and knowledge intended by the teacher when they planned the learning program for the semester. In fact the student is showing far more than has been required. Your child is performing at an outstanding level in this area.

“Basic”- shows that the student is currently experiencing some difficulty in achieving the skills, values and knowledge intended by the teacher when he/she planned the learning program for the semester. There are some gaps in the understanding of the concepts that have been taught during the semester and there is evidence that this has been occurring in daily tasks and in assessments. Your child is having some difficulty coping with the work in this area at this time.

“Limited”- Shows that the student is currently demonstrating in his/her assessments and daily class tasks that a lot of difficulty is being experienced. This student will most likely have had additional assistance from the school and will need ongoing support from home and school. Your child is finding learning very difficult at this time in this area.

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-

- **The letter combinations** t-i, s-i and c-i are used to say 'sh'. 'c-h' says, 'she' in a word of French origin.

For example: nation, session, special, chic

- **One-syllable words** that end in a short vowel and one consonant, double the final consonant before adding a vowel suffix (-ed, -ing).

For example: hop, hopping, hopped

- When a **two-syllable word ends with a vowel and a consonant**, double the final consonant when adding a vowel suffix, if the accent is on the last syllable.

For example : admit, admitted, admitting.

- **When adding a vowel suffix** (-ing, -ed) to a silent final 'e' word, drop the 'e'.

For example: have → having, mine → mining.

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.

Telling the Time

Encourage your child to use clocks around the house. Point out where the long and short hands are at specific times of the day, e.g. bedtime, going to school,

when a favourite TV program is on. Etc. Say, for example, “When the long hand is on the 12 and the short hand is on the 8 it’s bedtime.” When you are asked, “How much longer is it going to be?” Show your child where the hands on the clock will move to.

Quality of Time Versus Quantity of Time

Your child’s self esteem is greatly influenced by the quality of time rather than the quantity of time you spend with them. Quality time means that you are available to your child when they want to discuss and deal with issues and concerns as they arise. Quality time shows children that you are truly interested in them, that you value and enjoy their company and want to know how they are experiencing their world. It provides a wonderful opportunity to get to know your child, to share things that have happened during their day or just share a happy moment. These interactions teach your child important life skills about relationships and intimacy and how to relate effectively with others. Quality time builds trust within the family so that your child knows that they can depend on their family when it really matters. Your children will know they can use the family as a resource, sounding board and a place to find comfort and support if you prioritise the time you spend with them from an early age.



Quality time means:

- Spending frequent small amounts of time together.
- When your child approaches you, be prepared to be attentive and interested.
- Make a date with your child or share a special activity (and keep to it!).
- Never underestimate the value of a short chat.
- Using open ended questions and not being too judgmental.
- Sharing opinions, stories and feelings in an environment of mutual respect and understanding.

Plan your next quality time together now!

Student Assistance

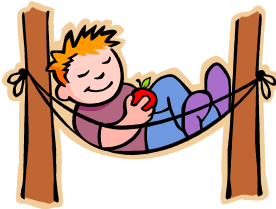
If you require assistance meeting expenses related to your child’s education you are welcome to call the school and ask to speak with the Principal Mr Attard.

Stress

An increasing number of school children are being diagnosed as stressed. Stress is a natural human experience which helps us to perform better when we are feeling nervous, threatened or in danger. Sometimes we feel under pressure to perform; children experience this too. Some of the causes of stress in children may be: difficulty with school work or friendships, family arguments or violence, moving house, illness or death of a close friend or relative, family split-ups, bullying or any form of abuse, feelings of insecurity and unworthiness.

Stress is nature’s way of telling you to slow down and relax, to seek help or to talk to somebody about your feelings. It feels like you have a huge weight on your shoulders or a permanent knot or pain in your stomach. It can also manifest itself through headaches, nausea,

sadness, fear of the future or of failure, confusion, anger, tiredness and lethargy or feeling overloaded. Sometimes it may not be one single event or cause, but a combination of events or situations, which cause the feelings of stress.



If you are concerned that your child may be feeling stressed, please talk to your child's teacher or take them to see your family doctor. Ensure that he or she has adequate sleep, eats lots of fruit and vegetables and drinks plenty of water. Encourage him to take deep breaths when feeling stressed and to get out and be active; exercise is a proven method of helping to reduce stress. Talking with your child about their feelings will help them to realise that they are not alone in their situation.

Attendance Cup!

Congratulations to KJ & 5/6H for winning the Berkeley West Public School Attendance Cup over the last two school weeks for outstanding school attendance. A fantastic effort!



The cup will be awarded each week to the class whose students have had the best attendance rate for the week. The cup will stay in the classroom and is even big enough to be filled with some little rewards for the students!

Don't let your class down, be at school every day as every absence counts!

Parking in the Staff Car Park

For safety reasons, under no circumstances are parents or carers permitted to use the staff car park as a place to drop off or pick up students. Please allow sufficient time to park your car in the street adjacent to the school and meet your child in time. Additionally, parents and their children walking to or from school should not enter or exit the school through driveway gates meant for traffic.

What Can You Do if Your Child Avoids Reading?

Remember that each child is an individual and there is a wide range in reading development and ability. Never compare your children with others and certainly don't make comparisons between your own children. Each one of us learnt to walk and talk in our own time, so it is with learning to read.

Children who dislike reading are generally those who are having difficulty with the task. They develop avoidance strategies to delay the activity. At home they will want to go to the toilet, or they'll be hungry, thirsty, tired, hot, cold, itchy or feeling unwell. Many children use television or other homework as an excuse. They even use other chores to avoid reading.

For many families, reading time can swiftly become battle time.

Try these strategies to help the struggling or reluctant reader at home:

- Make reading time short, frequent, enjoyable and unavoidable. Draw up a contract with your child which includes dates, times and durations. Begin

with 5 minutes a day, 5 times a week. Make sure you discuss the purpose of the contract and reassure them that you want to help and support them. Children need to know that adults sometimes avoid doing things they don't like, but learning to read is far too important to ignore.

- Try the 'I read, you read, we read' approach. When it is **your** turn to read, make sure you read with enthusiasm and expression so that your child sees it as a fun activity. Encourage your child to follow the words with their finger if it helps. You set the pace when you **read with** your child and this will help to develop confidence. When it is **their turn** to read be firm and encouraging, praising their efforts and rewarding persistence.
- The parrot approach is a structured way of helping your child learn to read. You read a sentence or phrase and ask them to repeat it. Keep up this 'my turn, your turn' method throughout the book and continue until they reach a point where they want to read it to you.
- Be confident that your child will learn to read, but remember that everyone learns to read at a different pace. Talk to them about being patient and persistent and let them know that it will eventually happen.

The single most important thing you can do to help your child is to **READ TO AND WITH** him or her regularly.

2021 School Self-Evaluation Surveys

Berkeley West Public School is committed to continuous improvement. From Wednesday 21 July, each family will get an opportunity to complete a short online survey asking for your perceptions of how the school is going. The survey will seek feedback on a number of school management and curriculum areas. The school will use this feedback by parents, students and staff to make our school an even better place to learn and teach!

Keep an eye out for when the survey is open because all families that complete it will go into the draw to win a one of two \$100 school uniform vouchers to use at our uniform shop. How handy would that be!!!! If you're a family of Year 6 student and happen to win, we'll set it up so that you can use your voucher at your new high school.

Lost School Jumpers and Jackets

All parents are asked to check their child's school jumpers and jackets for their child's name. It would seem some students are accidentally getting their clothing mixed up. If your child has brought home another child's jumper and jacket with their name written on it, please return it to school as soon as possible. Obviously labeling your child's clothes will increase his/her chances of getting their lost uniform items back!

Safe People, Safe Places

Parents are constantly encouraged to reinforce the 'Safe People, Safe Places' messages with their children, including:

- Make sure your parents or another adult you know knows where you are at all times.

- Always walk straight home or to the place you are walking to. Walk near busier roads and streets, or use paths where there are lots of other people.

- Know where safe places are – a shop, service station, police station, library or school. If you are ever frightened, you should go to one of these places and ask them to call the police.

- Learn about safe adults you can look for and talk to if you need help – police officers, teachers at school, adults you know and trust.

- Don't talk to people you don't know and never get into a car with someone you don't know. If a car stops on the side of the road and you don't know the person inside, do not stop.

- If you are scared and can use a phone, call 000 and tell them you are scared.

- If someone tries to grab you, yell out, 'Go away, I don't know you'. This lets other people know you have been approached by someone you don't know.

PUT IT IN THE DROP BOX!

Our school has a secure drop box built into the front office wall in which you can 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.

Notes and money are not collected by class teachers, simply stop in at the office as you get to school in the morning and "CHUCK IT IN THE DROP BOX!"

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data– School Students with Disability

A fact sheet for parents is available from the Education Council outlining the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data for school students with disability (see link below) If you have any further questions regarding this process, feel free to contact Mr Attard at school.

<https://www.nccd.edu.au/sites/default/files/fact%20sheet%20for%20parents%20guardians%20and%20carers.pdf>

Would you need a computer loan?

Firstly, don't be alarmed! A survey is being conducted now by all class teachers through Class Dojo, just in case we are required to go into lockdown again in the future and have to engage in remote learning from home again.

As a result of last's year's experience in which we were forced to engage in remote learning from home, we learnt a few things. One, is that we would like to be ready to get out any computers that families might need to borrow (if they DO NOT HAVE A DEVICE at home) a lot quicker.

To get an idea on who might need to borrow a school computer, take two minutes to answer some quick questions through the survey link sent by your child's teacher/s in Class Dojo.

We do not have enough devices for all students to borrow in an emergency, so please indicate below if your child already has a computer at home and wouldn't required one. If needed, you would just need a laptop, chromebook or desktop computer that connects to the internet. You do not need any special software

installed.

If you have multiple children at school, remember, each class teacher will send you this survey through their Class Dojo and you will need to do a separate survey for each of them.

If you are not a member of your child's Class Dojo group talk to your child's teacher about how to join. Otherwise, send Mr Attard an email indicating whether you would need a computer loan from school if we were ever forced into lockdown in the future.

andrew.attard@det.nsw.edu.au

Class	Student of the Fortnight	Reason
KJ	Charlie Hayward	For being a positive and kind member of KJ.
K/1F	Kaedence Jackson	A great attitude towards her learning and always being a good friend.
1/2O	Jamaya Kerr	Always takes pride in her school work and engages enthusiastically in all aspects of school life.
2/3F	Sebastian Sands	A great attitude towards improving his learning.
3MS	Eleni Girdo	For her consistent positive attitude towards her learning.
4/5T	Cruz Lane	For implementing feedback in his speech to improve the quality of his work.
5/6H	Sophie George-Powell	Her dedication and attention to detail whilst completing her imaginative writing task.
5/6LW	Aliyah Clancy	Improved effort and application in Mathematics.



Athletics Carnival

Last week's annual school athletics carnival was interrupted by rain. Further arrangements are being made and information will be sent home once the arrangements have been finalised.

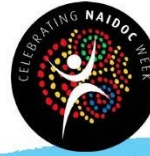
Thank you to all the parent helpers that braved the rain to assist in the events, particularly the track events (which were completed).

BWPS students can be very proud of their behaviour and flexibility during trying times on the day.

Keep practising those skills, as you have a little more time before athletics round two!

What's Happening in 2/3F

Since our last report we have had a very busy couple of weeks. We have been lucky enough to have a student, Miss Betts, from Wollongong University helping to support our students in the classroom as well as having activities for reconciliation week, our athletics carnival and who can forget our amazing performer in our assembly item. On top of that, lessons in the classroom have continued and the students have been enjoying learning about multiplication and division. You all should be very proud of your children, they amaze me every day.



HEAL COUNTRY!
4-11 JULY 2021



Greene St, Warrawong
Free NAIDOC Family Fun Day
Tuesday 6 July 2021 10am-1pm
 Waste Wise Event

Celebrate our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Culture

Deadly things to experience...

- Welcome to Country
- Entertainment
- Local artists and dancers
- Giveaways and information stalls
- Activities for young and old
- Free BBQ (healthy options) and water

For more info call Kristy 4274 7477

- Drug and Alcohol free
- BYO chair
- Listen to i98fm for weather details

Sponsored By: Warrawong Residents Forum, Mission Australia, Wollongong City Council, Healthy Cities Illawarra, Illawarra Aboriginal Medical Service, Coomaditchie United Aboriginal Corporation, NSW Police, Fire and Rescue NSW - Warrawong, Barnardos South Coast, CareSouth, Illawarra Legal Centre, NSW Health Promotions, Beyond Empathy



CareWays
community



NAIDOC 2021

Koonawarra Community Centre

36 Fowlers Rd, Koonawarra

THURSDAY 8th JULY

10am – 1pm



HEAL COUNTRY!
4-11 JULY 2021



Smoking Ceremony

Sausage Sizzle

Performers

Reptile Show

Activities

Join us for a day of culture, community and celebration

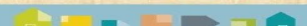
Tickets are **FREE** and available at
EventBrite: search "Koonawarra NAIDOC"
or by calling CareWays on 1300 307 902



Aboriginal Affairs



For more information on attending or holding a stall at the event, call 1300 307 902 or email help@careways.org.au



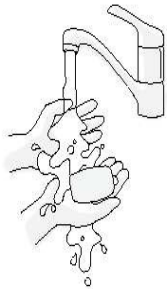
Cough etiquette

Cover your cough



- When coughing or sneezing, use a tissue to cover your nose and mouth
- Dispose of the tissue afterwards
- Wear a surgical mask, if possible

Wash your hands



- After coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose, wash your hands with soap and water
- Use alcohol-based hand cleansers if you do not have access to soap and water

Remember hand washing is the single most effective way to reduce the spread of germs that cause respiratory disease.

Anyone with signs and symptoms of a respiratory infection, regardless of the cause, should be instructed to cover their nose/mouth when coughing or sneezing, use tissues to contain respiratory secretions, dispose of tissues in the nearest waste receptacle after use, and wash their hands afterwards.

NSW HEALTH

Nutrition Snippet

WINTER WARMING SOUPS.



Soups are a great way to eat more veg!

Try these winter warmers:

- [Red lentil soup](#) - 3 serves of veg in each bowl
- [Vegie pasta soup](#) - 2.5 serves of veg in each bowl

For these recipes and more visit:
healthylunchbox.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

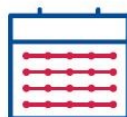
and years over their school life

1 day per fortnight



=

4 weeks



=

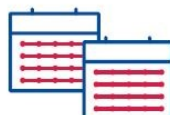
Over **1** year missed

1 day per week



=

8 weeks



=

Over **2.5** years missed

