



# BERKELEY WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL

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

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

30 November, 2022



## From The Principal's Desk

### Upcoming Events



- Thurs 1 Dec-** 2.30pm Whole school assembly in hall– all welcome!
- Mon 5 Dec-** 9-11am 2022 Annual School Presentation Day assembly in hall– all welcome!
- Wed 7 Dec-** 9.15-10.00am Year 6 Graduation assembly in school hall
- Thurs 8 Dec-** Inflatable obstacle course day for students– no cost– permission note required
- Mon 12 Dec-** School Swim School starts today and runs all week– non-swimmers 8 years and up– permission note required
- Wed 14 Dec–** Semester 2 student reports sent home today  
6pm Year 6 farewell– Dapto Leagues Club
- Fri 16 Dec–** Last day of school for all students– free mufti– donate any second hand school uniforms
- Fri 27 & Mon 30 Jan-** Pupil Free Days– Teachers only return to school
- Tues 31 Jan-** All students return to school for 2023

### Thankyou and goodbye Mrs Robertson!

At the end of this year Mrs Robertson will take leave and retire from teaching after a long and distinguished career with the NSW Department of Education. Mrs Robertson came to our school back in 2013 as our new Learning and Support Teacher and has been nothing short of a blessing for our students and community.



Mrs Robertson has committed her work to supporting all students, in particular, those with additional needs at school. Not only has she supported them, she is seen by our students as a calm, approachable and nurturing person. Additionally, Mrs Robertson has worked tirelessly to build strong, trusting relationships with teachers, parents and carers.

Thanks to Mrs Robertson, Berkeley West Public School has a strong functioning Learning and Support Team and support processes in place to support all students in many facets of their development. Students

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

R R S  
E E A  
S S F  
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with identified disabilities and additional learning or behaviour needs have access to a variety of support programs, personnel and tailored adjustments to maximise their potential.

Over the past 10 years, Mrs Robertson has transformed learning and support for students and staff into an integrated and shared approach that has focused on building the capacity of all teachers to support their students. Her collaborative approach includes facilitating the development support plans and adjustments to improve student outcomes. School-wide processes she has developed ensure parents and carers are fully involved, informed and consulted in any decisions made.

Best practice, high professional standards and a moral imperative to support all students has always underpinned Mrs Robertson's daily work at our school. Her credibility and integrity has earned the respect of all and she is to be commended for her outstanding contribution to the Berkeley West Public School community.

Last, but by no means least, her colleagues will miss Wendy as a trusting friend and simply the most wonderful person you could imagine to ever meet!

Thankyou Wendy. We all hope you enjoy a well-deserved retirement with your family and friends. We will miss you!

## School Presentation Day

A reminder that our annual school presentation day assembly will be held on Monday 5 December in the school hall. It is one of the most popular events for the year and is scheduled to commence shortly after 9.00am. Seats will be limited so ensure you arrive promptly to celebrate the achievements of our 2022 students!

## Last newsletter for 2022 & Thanks!

This will be the last official newsletter for 2022. If there is any more important news to go home, it will be communicated through separate notes, Class Dojo, SMS, BWPS Facebook page or the Skool Loop school app platform.

Thankyou to the BWPS community for your support through what has been a year where we have gradually returned to some 'normality' as far as school and face to face teaching and learning goes.

School next year begins with two pupil free days on Friday 27 and Monday 30 January with only teachers returning to school to take part in professional development activities. All students on Tuesday 31 January with new Kindergarten students then commencing at their agreed start times.

Thankyou to the Berkeley West teaching and non-teaching staff for their work in 2022. As always their commitment to what is best for our students and community is at the forefront.

The staff at Berkeley West wish you a happy and safe summer break and an even happier 2023!

## Thankyou volunteers and helpers!

As we were slowly able to have more parents and volunteers help out in the school for most of 2022, we would like to thank all those parents, carers and community members who have supported our staff and students in any way at Berkeley West throughout the year. From scripture teachers, P&F helpers, Breakfast athletics and swimming carnival timekeepers. we thank you so much again for your assistance in 2022!

## Berkeley West Supported Playgroup

Our school hosts a free supported playgroup here every Friday morning during school term from 9.00-10.30am in our pre-school room. Come along if you have any 0-5 year olds or call 0439648778 if you have any questions or enquiries.

## Principal's Award

Congratulations to Russell M for being this fortnight's recipient of the Principal's Award for always being a respectful, responsible and safe student. Russell will enjoy a \$4 canteen voucher to spend at the school canteen and he also gets to sit on stage at tomorrow's whole school assembly.



Fantastic work Russell. Illawarra Sports High is lucky to be getting you next year!

## Enrol now!- Kindergarten 2023

Either come in and see us at school, or enrol online now at-

<https://enrol.education.nsw.gov.au/#!/?schoolCode=4180>

## Pocket Money

Teaching children about the value and the responsibility of money is an important life experience. Teaching money management skills to children will lead to a much better chance of them being financially wise as adults. One of the best ways to teach children about money is through pocket money. Pocket money helps children learn a range of financial and personal skills. Children will learn that in order to achieve the things they want, they will have to set goals, have a budget and then stick to it.



Deciding on how much pocket money is appropriate and whether it will be given with or without conditions should be discussed well before the introduction of pocket money. Will the money be given for the completion of chores? Will there be an opportunity to earn more for extra chores? Will all children receive the same amount? Obviously, the amount will be based on family values, finances and what you expect them to buy (e.g. school lunches?).

One great way to teach your child the importance of money management might be to use the 'one third' rule. For example, if you gave your child \$6 a week, they would save \$2 for investment, \$2 would be set aside for a goal (e.g. toy) and \$2 would be available for spending now. As an added incentive for saving towards an investment, you could supplement their savings when they reach specific targets. An example might be that for every \$20 they save, you will add a bonus of \$5. An important aspect of saving for investment is to set up a bank account for your child, so that they come to understand how banking works and get a sense of the concept of interest.

It is also important that children understand the importance of giving to others. They need to learn that one of the benefits of money is that it enables you to support and share with other people, whether it is in times of need or for pleasure, such as presents.

For parents, giving pocket money can be made into a wonderful 'teaching opportunity' for the whole family.

## Attendance Cup!

Well done to KJ and 3/4M for taking out the Attendance Cup over the last two school weeks! Both classes have had outstanding attendance lately and will be trying their hardest to keep the cup! Who can rise up and challenge them?



## Inclusive, Engaging and Respectful schools package

New policies, procedures and framework to keep students engaged in learning at school

The Inclusive, Engaging and Respectful (IER) Schools package was announced in February this year by NSW Minister for Education and Early Learning, Hon Sarah Mitchell.

It centres on three new policies and procedures and a framework that together set the guidelines for how we ensure all children and young people can learn through public education in a safe and engaging way. The IER Schools package includes the:

- Inclusive Education Policy for students with

disability

- Student Behaviour Policy and Procedures
- Restrictive Practices Framework and Restrictive Practices Reduction and Elimination Policy and Procedures.

With these new policies, we want all students to:

- be included in all aspects of school life and supported to learn to their fullest capability
- be supported in engaging, respectful, and effective classrooms with positive and inclusive practices
- feel welcomed, valued and safe in our schools and classroom

Two of the policies are new: the Inclusive Education Policy; and the Restrictive Practices Framework and policy. Both clarify *existing* legal obligations, effective, appropriate and prohibited practices, and the rights of students, parents and carers.

The Student Behaviour Policy replaces the Student Discipline in Government Schools and Suspension and Expulsion Policy. The key change is the approach all NSW public schools will take to address disruptive or inappropriate behaviour by a student. The duration of a suspension will be reduced along with the number of suspensions across a school year. Every school will be able to draw on the support of a range of staff including behaviour specialists to effectively address issues resulting in these behaviours in order to prevent future escalations. We will continue to work closely with you and all our families.

It does not mean, however, that students who are violent or seriously disrupt the learning and wellbeing of others will be kept at school. Any student who puts the safety of other students, teachers and staff or visitors at risk of harm – will be suspended until it is safe for them to return.

The Inclusive Education Policy for students with disability and the Student Behaviour Policy become operational in Term 4, 2022 and the Restrictive Practices Policy becomes operational in Term 1, 2023.

The staff and I are reviewing our current approach to all of the areas covered by these policies, and wish to share any changes we believe need to be made with you next term.

Our school already takes a strong, positive student-centred approach, but we want to work with you to ensure, together, every student has the right support at the right time to help them grow into confident, resilient adults.

For more information on these policies, please visit the [NSW Department of Education website](#).

### School Holidays

Now that the holidays are approaching, it's time to think about keeping the kids entertained on those long, hot, summer days. There are many activities you can do with your children which are inexpensive and good fun. You don't need to entertain them every moment of every day, but if you plan a couple of special family activities with them, it helps to break the monotony as well as building relationships with them.

Have you taken the kids fishing lately or tried rollerblading or bike riding with them? What about yabbing or a picnic by the river, lake or beach? Had a barbecue in the bush recently? Take a picnic lunch to the local gardens and relax under the shady trees. Throw in the frisbee for some fun and games with them. Have you been out on a boat with them? Try canoeing or kayaking or a cruise on a paddle steamer. Or just lie on the banks of a river and watch the boats float by.

You can do some very simple activities with them on those rainy days when you are stuck inside. Consider these ideas: write or email a friend to come over and play; write a shopping list together; draw a map of the neighbourhood, your house or the way to Grandma's; plant some seedlings; look at photo albums and tell stories about when you were a child; design, make and fly a kite; estimate, compare and count collections of things; visit the local library and borrow a book, or buy a new one to share; teach them to play hopscotch or a board game; ride a bike, throw a ball, kick the footy; cook some biscuits together or make a yummy fruit salad.

Most importantly.....TALK, TALK, TALK with your children.

Have a great holiday and enjoy spending time with your children; they're very special young people!

### Creative Kids Program

Families across NSW are able to access a **\$100 Creative Kids voucher** unlocking the creative abilities of a new generation across the State.

NSW Government is helping your cost of living with more than 70 rebates and savings including Creative Kids, which is all about making it easier for school-aged kids (4.5 to 18 years old) to get involved in creative and cultural activities.

Parents, guardians and carers can claim a \$100 voucher per year to put towards the cost of lessons and fees with registered providers.

It's a great opportunity to let kids find their passion and learn new skills.

Vouchers can be used to contribute to registration, participation and tuition costs for performing arts, visual arts, coding, languages, literature, music and other creative and cultural activities with our approved list of activity providers.

Further information including guidelines for providers is available at [www.service.nsw.gov.au/campaign/creative-kids](http://www.service.nsw.gov.au/campaign/creative-kids)

I encourage parents to speak to the providers of their children's creative activities and ensure that they register.

### Speech Pathology Services in the Illawarra

To make a referral or for more information contact Port Kembla Hospital on 4223 8044 or Kids Cottage Warilla on 4297 1022.

### Sun protection and skin cancer myths

Answer true or false:

1. You don't get sunburnt on cloudy days.
2. I don't need to use sunscreen because my

foundation/ moisturiser has some sunscreen in it.

3. People with olive skin are not at risk of skin cancer.
4. Sunbeds (solariums) are not a safe way to tan.

**Slip Slop Slap Seek Slide**



**Protect yourself in five ways from skin cancer**

5. You need to spend lots of time in the sun to get your daily dose of vitamin D.
6. Fake tan protects your skin from the sun.
7. It takes less than half an hour to get sunburnt.
8. You don't have to be concerned about skin cancer because, if it happens, it's easy to see and easy to treat.
9. Only people who sunbake get skin cancer.
10. You can get burnt through a car window.

**Answers**

1. False 2. False 3. False 4. True 5. False  
6. False 7. True 8. False 9. False 10. True

**Berkeley Hotel**

Sunday December 11 between 12pm and 3pm Berkeley Hotel is putting on a Christmas day for families with presents for the kids, a sausage sizzle, jumping castle, reptile show and face painter.

**Our 2022 'Super Great Attendance at School' students!**

These two students have almost achieved the impossible in 2022. Both Mimi P and Callie B have not missed a single day of school this year! That's right, even though the continuing pandemic tried its best again this year to stop it from happening, both girls are very deserving recipients of the 2022 Super Great Attendance at School Awards!



| Class | Student of the Fortnight | Reason   |
|-------|--------------------------|--|
| KJ    | Patrick Braddick         | For settling in well to his new class and school.                              |
| 1R    | Thomas Smoday            | For using high modality words in his persuasive writing.                       |
| 1/2O  | Tuang Mung Siam Tuang    | For settling into BWPS and trying his best in all class tasks.                 |
| 2/3F  | Callie Barnsley          | For always being a positive and supportive class Member.                       |
| 3/4M  | Mason Condon-Bourke      | His improved effort and application to all areas of his learning!              |
| 3/4T  | Peyton Waine             | For her consistent application in writing and for her positive class attitude. |
| 5/6H  | Annaleigh Cunningham     | For her effort in mathematics lessons.   |
| 5/6LW | Dereon Taito             | For being a polite and positive class member.                                  |

**DON'T FORGET!**

**SCHOLASTIC**  
**Book Club**  
orders are due:

**Friday 2/12/2022**

**SCHOLASTIC**  
**Book Club LOOP**  
for Parents

LOOP is the Scholastic Book Club Linked Online Ordering & Payment platform for parents. To order and pay for Scholastic Book Club by credit card visit: [www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP](http://www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP)

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 Phone: 1800 021 233  
 Email: [customer\\_service@scholastic.com.au](mailto:customer_service@scholastic.com.au)

NSW Department of Education

# Why attendance matters

When your child misses school they miss important opportunities to...



Learn



Make friends



Build skills through fun

[education.nsw.gov.au](http://education.nsw.gov.au)



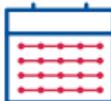
## Days missed = years lost

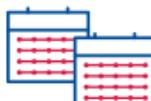
A day here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

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](http://education.nsw.gov.au)

