



BERKELEY WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL

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Nolan St, Berkeley 2506
P.O. Box 56 Berkeley
Dharawal Country

Wednesday 27 July, 2022



From The Principal's Desk

Upcoming Events

- Thurs 28 July-** 4pm Aboriginal Education Consultative Group meeting— Berkeley PS
- Fri 29 July-** 2.15pm Assembly in school hall— KJ class item— KJ parents and parents of known award winners only please.
- Mon 1—Fri 5 August-** Education Week postponed until 5 September
- Fri 12 Aug-** 2.15pm Assembly in school hall— 2/3F class item— all welcome!
- Tues 16 Aug-** 9.15am Parents & Friends (P&F) meeting in school community room— all welcome!
- Tues 23 Aug-** 12pm Book Week parade followed by picnic lunch (P&F BBQ) at approx. 1.10pm

Welcome back!

Welcome back for Term 3. Term 3 is a 10 week term concluding on Friday 23 September. We welcome Mr Alexander who will be with us for part of the term until a new Assistant Principal is appointed following Ms Duncan's retirement. In the meantime, both Miss Haworth and Mrs Lloyd will cover additional Assistant Principal responsibilities for Years 3-6 including student behaviour and attendance monitoring.

Automated school gates

Our school, in ongoing consultation with the P&F over the past few years, decided that an investment would be made in procuring some automated gates on Nolan Street. An automated gate will be installed at the single pedestrian gate located near the school crossing as well as the staff & delivery vehicle driveway.

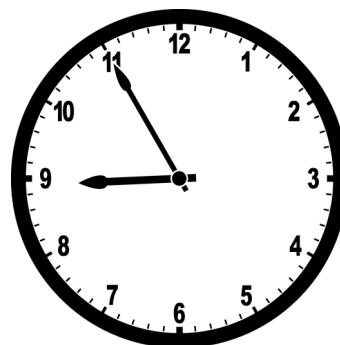
The main purpose for completing this work will be to enhance student wellbeing. Gates will automatically open and close at set times of the day such that who enters and leaves the school during the school day can be monitored.

Don't worry! If you need to visit the school during school hours, you will be able to contact the office from the gate who can buzz you in!

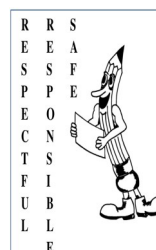
Hopefully, the work will be completed by the end of the school year or for the start of 2023.

Thankyou Gary and Melina!

A huge thankyou to awesome grandparents Melina and Gary for picking up our K-2 sandpit just before the last holidays and making some running repairs! The sandpit is back in its rightful spot ready for our students to enjoy once again for many years to come!



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



Not only did Melina and Gary drop the sandpit back repaired, but they kindly donated some extra sandpit toys for our students to use.

Thankyou so much!!!

Education Week Open day pushed back

As communicated last week, Education Week has been postponed until Monday 5 September (Week 8) to accommodate for the possibility of the winter spike in COVID 19. As shared lunch, indoors assembly and open classrooms may all have to take place indoors

with larger numbers of people, the risk for a major spreading event was a major concern. Best to act on the side of health and safety for this event.

The *Tell Them From Me* student feedback survey

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many other public schools in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the *Tell Them From Me* student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.

You may remember that our students also participated in a *Tell Them From Me* student survey in Term 1 this year. Asking students to complete the survey twice in one year allows us to identify trends in student responses as well as track engagement and motivation across the school year.

More information about the survey is available at: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/student-wellbeing/tell-them-from-me/information-for-parents-and-carers/your-childs-participation>

The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide us with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the *Tell Them From Me* survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 20-30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours and participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

If you **do not** want your child or children to participate, please send Mr Attard an email asking that your Year 4-6 child be withdrawn the form to school by **Monday 22 August**.

andrew.attard@det.nsw.edu.au

“Pupil Free” Staff Development Day

During the staff development day (“Pupil Free day”) last week, Berkeley West teaching staff completed a number of training activities. The majority of the day focused on gaining an overview on the new K-2 English and Mathematics syllabus. Time was also dedicated to completing Aboriginal Cultural Education training for all staff.

Principal’s Award

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

Remarkable Ruby!!!!



Win one of three \$100 school uniform vouchers!

Berkeley West Public School is committed to continuous improvement. Right now, families will be able to provide their feedback through a short school survey. You can submit your opinions with the click of the mouse or screen from home! Parents on the school email list will have the link for the survey automatically sent to them today. (Another good reason to get on the email list!).

Go to <https://forms.gle/Q4bx6iFJoavjFpLQ6>

to start the survey. You will be prompted at the end of the survey to submit your name to be entered into the draw to win one of three \$100 BWPS uniform vouchers!

The very brief survey only takes a matter of minutes to complete. The surveys seek feedback on a number of school management areas as well as curriculum. The school will use this feedback by parents, students and staff to make continuous improvements at Berkeley West Public School.



Everyone who completes the survey goes into the draw to possibly win one of three \$100 uniform vouchers we are giving away to spend at our uniform shop!

Winners will be announced at the whole school assembly next term on Friday 26 August.

Internet Safety

Encourage and support your children with their use of the internet. Teach them to make the right decisions and increase the levels of responsibility as children get older. You can access information about internet safety through the Federal Government’s website at www.esafety.gov.au/parents.

If you feel that your children have more knowledge and confidence than you when using the internet, you may be right. There are some simple ways of addressing this.

What you can do as a parent:

- Talk to your family about the importance of staying in safe sites online.
- Ensure that you have safety software installed on your computer; your internet service provider may be able to help you with this.
- Set up house rules for the use of the internet and, where possible, have the computer in view so that you can monitor its use.
- Check out safe sites for your children and bookmark them.
- Use filters to limit accidental access to unsuitable material.
- Limit email correspondence to a list of family and friends.
- Emphasise and discuss safe online behaviour.
- Investigate any chat rooms or online clubs that your child may want to use to ensure that they are legitimate.

Use family-friendly search engines designed for children.

The internet can be a great tool for research and fact-finding if used correctly. The best approach is to sit with your child and help them through the wealth of information which is available at their fingertips.

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.

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Playing Shops

Play shops with your child using real coins. Help them put price tags on the objects in their shop. Limit prices to whole-coin values. Point out the markings on the coins. Older children may be able to work out change.

Physical Fitness

At Berkeley West Public School we value the promotion of an active lifestyle. All students are encouraged to participate in activities that get the heart racing as well as getting the body moving. Recent research has outlined that children are becoming less likely to be active, and together with an inappropriate diet, this can lead to weight issues, as well as a decrease in self-esteem and confidence. As teachers, we are aware of the importance of promoting both a healthy diet as well as an active lifestyle within our curriculum.



Our Physical Education program encourages students to participate in active sessions, working at their own level. Students are taught skills such as throwing, catching, kicking and are then provided with opportunities to practice and consolidate these. Skill sessions are balanced with games that promote the fun of being involved, as well as giving students a chance to put their new skills into practice. As students get older, the skills are linked to major games such as netball and cricket. Students then have the opportunity to participate in sport sessions where aspects such as team play and good sporting behaviour are promoted and enhanced.

At Berkeley West Public School we value the fact that all students are different. Not all of us will become elite sportspeople and be able to demonstrate flawless skills. Our curriculum focuses upon the 'having a go' nature of active living, as well as setting your own personal goals to achieve.

As parents, it is important that you encourage your child to always participate in school events. By supporting their efforts and celebrating their own personal improvements or goals, you are assisting them to seek out an active lifestyle where they can succeed at their own level.

Student Assistance

If you require assistance meeting expenses related to your child's education e.g. excursions or uniforms, you are welcome to call the school and ask to speak with the Principal Mr Attard. You will be assisted! :)

Berkeley West PS Supported Playgroup

This most valued playgroup will be resuming soon after a long break thanks to restrictions. We will let you know when things are ready to go!

The "90 Club"!

We are once again throwing down the challenge to all students to strive to be in the "90 Club".

How do you join?

Well any student that can attend school for at least 90% of this term is in! When all students returned from holidays this term they all started fresh back at 100%. Obviously each day away between now and the end of the term will detract from their score.

Of course everyone gets sick from time to time, but barring serious illness, everyone is capable of keeping their spot in the "90 Club".

Starting Kindergarten 2023

Our school is taking kindergarten enrolments for 2023! So far we already have a steady number of students showing an interest for "big school" next year!

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. 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.

Head Lice

Tips for tackling kids head lice

- Use hair conditioner and a fine head lice comb.
- Apply conditioner to the hair and comb through with a wide-toothed comb to remove the tangles.
- Then use a fine metal lice comb to remove the lice and pull the nits off the hair.
- The conditioner helps slow down the louse and makes it easier to comb out.

For more information on treating head lice go to the website

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/headlice/Pages/treatment.aspx>

Smoke Alarms

The following information is taken from the home smoke alarms fact sheet at the NSW Fire Brigades website at www.fire.nsw.gov.au

Helping Your Child with Spelling and Reading (The Magic 200 Words)

In Term 2 we published the first 32 of the "Magic 200" words for students to practice reading and spelling, particularly grades K-2. Now it's time for the next 32! Did you know that around only 200 words make up, on average, over one half of all reading? Many of these words can't be sounded out and rely simply on practice, practice, practice! If your child can read and spell these words quickly and accurately, their enjoyment, confidence and success in reading and spelling tasks is greatly enhanced. Playing games like memory or match will make learning these words more enjoyable.

The next 32 to practice are-

about	their	want	which
get	just	been	come
my	or	she	look
came	will	who	an
like	much	could	go
our	some	up	no
from	well	back	can
must	only	has	little

Avoid danger when using heaters this winter

The Children's Hospital at Westmead recommends these top tips to help your children avoid burns, falls and electrocution:

- Make sure your heater meets Australian standards
- Use a guard
- Keep your heater on a level floor surface
- Ensure your heater isn't blocking any exits or high traffic areas
- Do not dry clothing items by placing them over an electric heater.
- Ensure you install and maintain at least one smoke detector on each floor of your home.

School Email List

If you would like to be included on the school's email list to receive any school news coming up, go to <https://forms.gle/2iw5yyxuzWA2AWe38> to add your name to the list.

Flu season is still here!

Influenza is spread from person-to-person through the coughing or sneezing of infected people. Remind your child about these good hygiene practices to minimise the spread of infection:

- Anyone who is sick with influenza symptoms should stay home until their symptoms are gone.
- Cover the nose and mouth with a tissue, or do so into the inside of your elbow, when coughing or sneezing. Throw the tissue in the garbage bin after use.
- Wash hands often with soap and water, especially after coughing or sneezing. Alcohol-based hand sanitiser is also effective.

Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.

If you or your child develops influenza-like illness, seek the advice of your family doctor as you would with any other illness.

The seasonal influenza vaccine, which protects against the pandemic influenza strain as well as two other

influenza strains, is now available free to eligible people. More information about the vaccine is available from the NSW Health Immunisation Unit's [vaccination page](https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation) at <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation>.

Crunch & Sip- Winter fruits

Students have crunched their way through the delicious nectarines, peaches and grapes of summer, and are now looking forward to the fresh, crisp apples and juicy oranges available in winter.

However, large pieces of fruit can be difficult for small children to manage, especially with wiggly teeth! On top of this, it takes small children a long time to eat a large apple, orange or pear and they can be quite messy, especially if they're fresh and juicy.

Now that the delicious winter fruit is available, try and choose small to medium pieces of fruit to send for Crunch & Sip. Or you could chop up a large piece into smaller, more manageable pieces for your child to enjoy.

Attendance at School– Info for Parents What are my legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children from the year they turn 6. The Education Act 1990 requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the NSW Educational Standards Authority for homeschooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

What if my child has to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child's school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that

you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child's absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

“Berkeley West PS” Playgroup

As mentioned earlier in the newsletter, we will be starting up our free playgroup again for children 0-5 years and their parents/carers. We are hoping to open it up every Friday morning during school term from 9.00-10.45am at Berkeley West Public School, using the preschool room.

If a playgroup here at school would be something you would join in with, please add your details using the link below to add your details. We will be in touch with you when things are ready to go.

Register your interest here-
<https://forms.gle/mx6VaYXuLxJjyH6y7>

More RATs coming home!!

Each student will receive another X5 free Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) to take home once they are delivered to school. These can be used at your discretion to test your child if they are not feeling well or are displaying COVID symptoms. Please let us know by calling 4271 1478 if you **DO NOT WISH** for your child to bring these home.

Of course, students need to isolate for 7 days if they test positive and cannot attend school until they test negative and are not feeling unwell or displaying any symptoms.

Just some reminders about what the rules are for close contacts-

- **staff and students who are close contacts can return to school** as long as they have no symptoms and follow the close contact guidelines (see below) to do so, including daily rapid antigen testing (RAT) and wearing a mask indoors for 5 days (recommended for primary school students, mandatory for staff).
- Parents who send their children to school, who are close contacts (who test negative and are displaying no symptoms each morning), should contact the school on 4271 1478 to let us know.
- It is recommended that **students returning to school after testing positive for COVID-19** wear a mask indoors for an additional 3 days following the 7-day isolation period.
- **No student or staff member** identified as a close contact will be permitted to participate in **overnight excursions, including school camps**.
- Any **visitor to a school site** who is a close contact is **required to advise the school that they are a**

close contact before they come on site. These visitors should conduct a **daily RAT and return a negative result before attending**. They must also **wear a mask indoors at all times**. Schools will consider if the visit can be conducted virtually or over the phone.

- Remember, some additional RATs are coming home with your child once they arrive at our school.

Class	Student of the Fortnight	Reason
KJ	Mitchell Andreini	Quick thinking and great problem solving in Mathematics.
1R	Odin Pratt	For his participation and engagement during number talks.
1/2O	Evalina Bailey-Palamara	Always strives to achieve her very best while upholding the school values.
2/3F	Noah McKinnery	Improved focus and concentration in all learning activities.
3/4M	Zoe Varga-Carrall	For her consistent application to all areas of her learning.
3/4T	Haven Horrell	For trying her best in all subject areas and for having a settled start to the beginning of term.
5/6H	Logan Cavanaugh	Always leading by example
5/6LW	Alexis Lee	Always having a positive attitude.

Doing Things Together Day/NAIDOC Week Celebrations

Our DTT Day was a tremendous success with all students celebrating NAIDOC Week using our 3 school rules: Be Respectful, Be Responsible and Be Safe. A big thank-you to our many wonderful students for following our school rules and enjoying themselves so much. All students were split up in mixed age groups and participated in the following activities.

Bush Tucker Flavoured Popcorn
Naidoc Week poster creation video and colouring in
Dharawal National Anthem + other Dharawal words
Different Aboriginal Dancing Styles
Art Activity—Clay Echidna's with matchsticks
Yulunga Games

Points have been tallied up for each group. The winning group given the title of "DTT Champions" was Group 11. They each received a merit award and a \$4.00 canteen voucher

DTT CHAMPIONS

Group 11

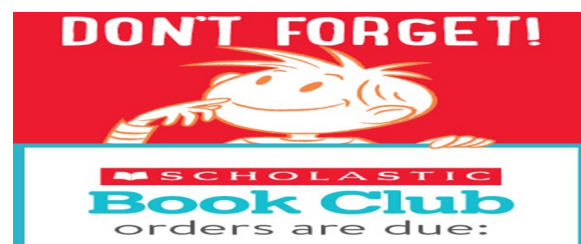
emu



Charlotte DIAZ	Koben CUNNINGHAM
Saed GHANUMI	Curtis Billingsby
Zavier COOK	Braxton Cook
Jamaya KERR	Dakodah Fuller
Arizona WHITMARSH	Christian Garrahy
Elanor MUIR	Sienna Fuller



BWPS Book Week Parade Reminder
Week 6—Tuesday, 23 August 2022



Monday 8th August



Be the first to get the latest school news this winter

With our school app!

Simple free download:

In Google play & App Store search 'Skool Loop' & choose our school once installed



- * Instant notification of Newsletters and Notices
- * Events * Interview Bookings
- * Permission slips * Absentees

NSW Department of Education

Why attendance matters

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



Learn

education.nsw.gov.au



Make friends



Build skills through fun



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 M T W T F S S M T W T F S S	= 4 weeks	= Over 1 year missed
1 day per week M T W T F S S M T W T F S S	= 8 weeks	= Over 2.5 years missed

education.nsw.gov.au

