



BERKELEY WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL

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Nolan St, Berkeley 2506

P.O. Box 56 Berkeley

Principal: Mr A. Attard

Dharawal Country

Wednesday, 15 November, 2023

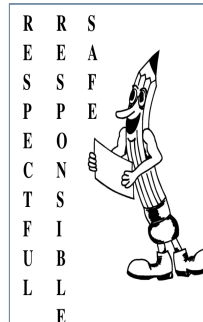


From The Principal's Desk

Upcoming Events

- Thurs 16 Nov-** 2.05pm School assembly– Prospective 2024 Captain and Prefect speeches– all welcome!
- Mon 20 Nov-** Selective High School online applications for 2025 close– see article in this newsletter
- Tues 21 Nov-** Year 6 fundraiser– Crazy Hair and sock day (gold coin in exchange)
9.15am P&F meeting in school community room– all welcome!
2pm Parent Information Session on the new Kindergarten—Year 10 Syllabus/ Curriculum Reform at school– all welcome!
- Wed 22 Nov-** Year 6 High School Experience Day at Illawarra Sports High– no cost– 8.30am bus pick up- permission note required
- Mon 27 Nov-** Years 5 & 6 Excursion to Bathurst– students leave
- Wed 29 Nov-** Years 5 & 6 Excursion to Bathurst– students return
- Mon 4 Dec-** 9am 2023 Presentation Day Awards assembly & Christmas raffle– all welcome!
- Wed 6 Dec-** 6pm Year 6 Farewell at Dapto Leagues Club
- Thurs 7 Dec-** End of year school concert– info to come home separately
- Mon 11 Dec-** Learn to swim program begins for the week for students 8-12 years old who have returned notes and payment
- Wed 13 Dec–** Semester 2 student reports sent home today
- Thurs 14 Dec-** 2pm Year 6 Graduation assembly in hall
- Fri 15 Dec-** Last day for all students for 2023– free mufti day– old uniform donations welcomed!
- Thurs 1 Feb-** Students in Years 1-6 return to school for 2024
- Fri 2 Feb-** New 2024 Kindergarten students begin

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



**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.”

Intention to apply: Year 7 entry into selective high schools in 2025

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

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

Selective High School Placement Test will be held on **Wednesday 8 May, 2024.**

If you would like to have your Year 5 child considered for Year 7 selective high school entry in 2025, you need to apply on the internet using a valid email address (not the student's email address).

Detailed information and instructions on how to apply online are available now at -

[https:// education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-7.](https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-7)

The application website opened on **9 October** and closes on **20 November 2023. You must apply before the closing date.**

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

Berkeley West PS High Potential and Academically Gifted (HPAG) Class

Over the past 25 school weeks, 240 students, from Helensburgh to Kiama Public Schools, have participated in our HPAG Extend classes. These weekly classes have been conducted across eight host schools throughout the Illawarra and Shoalhaven regions. Our primary objective with these sessions is to nurture the spirit of curiosity, encourage discovery, and stimulate creativity among High Potential and Academically Gifted students.

This year, it is with immense pride that we acknowledge the commitment and dedication of the following students from our school, **Brennah D** and **Mimi P** who were selected to join one of the HPAG classes for the program.

To mark the culmination of this year's program, we celebrated with the Curiosity and Creativity Exhibition where students had the opportunity to share some of their learning.

The afternoon commenced with our students sharing their learning journeys and performing the periodic table song before they presented their Bluescope Land Transformation projects. Our guests then had the privilege of exploring an array of exhibits that had been meticulously crafted with creativity, driven by a continuous thirst for knowledge, and organised with thoughtful precision. The exhibits encompassed a wide spectrum of learning experiences, including artwork, coded games, film trailers, animations, websites, 3D models, information posters, novels, dioramas, and so much more.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to these exceptional students for their courage in embracing a new and challenging learning environment, not just academically but socially and emotionally as well. We commend their efforts in grappling with concepts that extend far beyond the typical primary school curriculum. They've ventured into the realms of the universe's evolution, delving into topics like the Big Bang theory, star formation, the emergence of elements, and even mathematical concepts typically introduced in years 7-9. They've also explored the intriguing world of 3D design, website building and the

the United Nation's 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Students delved into the world of leadership where they had the opportunity to explore and challenge leadership paradigms. Alongside this, students solved some very out-of-the-box thinking challenges!

Thank you to all the participating students, our wonderful host schools, and the dedicated team of school executives who have played an integral role in making this entire program possible. We can't wait for next year!

Jemmah Layton (HPAG Class Teacher)

Lifelong Learner'

Poor Sleep Affects Primary School Children

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

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



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

Student Assistance

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

Attendance Cup!

Congratulations to all the students who seem very determined at the moment to take out the Berkeley West Public School Attendance Cup. Well done 3/4L who have won the trophy for the last two weeks in a row!



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

Numeracy

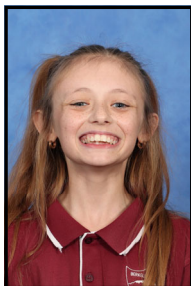
Helping your child with measuring length and area

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

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

Principal's Award

Congratulations to Cailyn S-S for receiving the Principal's Award this week for always being a respectful, responsible and safe student at our school. As well as her certificate, Cailyn will enjoy a \$4.00 food voucher to spend at the canteen and she gets to sit on stage at tomorrow afternoon assembly!



Congratulations Cailyn!

Grandparents Day and Book Fair

Thankyou to all who came along to enjoy today's Grandparents Day and Book fair! We hope you all enjoyed your visit which included bingo and a picnic lunch. Special thanks to Mrs Haynes, Miss Haworth, the BWPS Parents and Friends group and Mrs Moore for their organization of activities.

Health- Afternoon snack time?

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

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

Some suggestions for healthy after school snacks include:

- Rice cakes lightly spread with ricotta or "light" cream cheese and vegemite or fruit spread
- Toasted muffin with a scrape of honey or fruit spread
- Slice of toasted wholegrain bread topped with ricotta cheese and fruit spread

- Microwaved pappadums
- Fruit yoghurt smoothie (blend 1/2 cup fruit yoghurt plus 1/2 cup skim milk or low fat milk) plus 1/2 cup canned unsweetened fruit
- Fruit kebabs (skewer cubes of fruits onto bamboo skewers).

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

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

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

School Wide "Buddy Class" Strategy

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

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

Spelling rules you should know!

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

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

For example: pass, bell, staff

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

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

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

For example: cry, fly, my

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

For example: lovely, key, honey

Getting to School Too Early?

Students may enter the school grounds when our

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

Dogs in School Grounds

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



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

NSW public school terms and holidays

Here's a snapshot of NSW public school terms and holidays for 2024-2025.

Find out more:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/going-to-a-public-school/calendars/future-and-past-nsw-term-and-vacation-dates>

Slow down around our school!

A reminder that all school speed zones need to be followed by all motorists to keep our students and their families safe. It has been noted that a number of motorists are clearly exceeding the school zone speed limit of 40km/h and are putting people at risk.

Remember, 40km speed zones are in place between 8.00-9.30am and 2.15-4.00pm every day.

School Merit Awards

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

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

5 Qualifiers



= 1 Merit Award



5 Merit Awards



= 1 "Big Blue" Merit Award



5 "Big Blues"

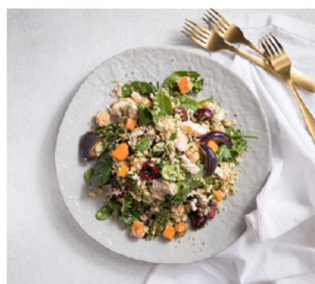


= 1 Canteen Voucher



Nutrition Snippet

SENSATIONAL SUMMER SALADS



Try these recipes using seasonal vegies:

- [Festive couscous salad](#)
- [Coleslaw](#)
- [Roast veggie and chickpea salad](#)

For these recipes and more visit:

healthyinbox.com.au



Cancer Council
Healthy Lunch Box

Swimming Scheme 2023

A reminder that the school swimming program will be held this year in week 10.

A note has been sent via School Bytes and payment and consent is due by 29 November 2023. Paper notes are available from the school office if you require one.

Class	Student of the Fortnight	Reason
KJ	Floribert Boaz	For settling in well to his new school and always following the classroom and playground rules.
1/2J	Darcy Gordon	For outstanding effort and application in reading
1/2R	Phoebe Lee	For her outstanding effort in art lessons.
3/4H	Isaac Hicks-Thelan	Improved attitude towards his education and greater effort in his writing tasks.
3/4L	Kyle Weston	Continued effort and improvement in his confidence in all areas.
4/5G	Bella-Rose Veigel	For always being a polite, kind and patient student who contributes to a respectful classroom environment.
5/6Me	Gwti~Ljj% Xpssjw%	For being an active member during class discussions and for his work in poetry.
5/6Mi	Amelia McGuinness	For always being a kind and caring class member



SCHOLASTIC
Book Club
 orders are due:
1/12/2023

Worth Noting

GIFT FUNCTION- This function is automatically switched on for Issue 7 and will allow parents to make purchases that children are not aware of.

BooksPlus update

Scanning the QR code will access additional content for the book including greater insight into the story, characters and creators.

We would love to hear what you think works and what else we could provide as part of BooksPlus.

Remember, if you need help, simply call the Customer Service Team on 1800 021 233 or email Customer_Service@scholastic.com.au

Days missed = years lost

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

When your child misses just...

they miss weeks per year

and years over their school life

1 day per fortnight = 4 weeks = Over 1 year missed

1 day per week = 8 weeks = Over 2.5 years missed

education.nsw.gov.au

New NSW Curriculum K-6

Information Session

New English and Mathematics syllabus implementation is well underway in K-2 classes and will be implemented in 3-6 classrooms starting next year.

Would you like to know more about the implementation of the new curriculum in our school?

We will be running an information session on
Tuesday 21st November from 2.00 - 2.50pm

for those of you who would like to know more.

Please complete and return the slip below if you are able to attend.

Mrs Jancetic and Mrs LeCerf

Assistant Principals Curriculum and Instruction

Yes, I am coming to the K-6 New Curriculum
information session!

My Name _____

Child's name _____ Class _____