



# BERKELEY WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL

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Nolan St, Berkeley 2506

P.O. Box 56 Berkeley

Principal: Mr A. Attard

Wednesday 28 June, 2023



## From The Principal's Desk

### Upcoming Events

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

**Wed 28 June-** Semester 1 student reports sent home

**Fri 30 June-** Last day of Term 2

School Sketchie Reward– Students can wear PJ's at school today and enjoy a movie

2.30pm School assembly– all welcome!

**Mon 17 July-** **Pupil Free Day– Teachers only return to school today** (Please note that the PLP sharing session planned from 12-1pm for Aboriginal students has been postponed until later in the year)

**Tues 18 July-** **All students return to school for the start of Term 3**

9.15am P&F meeting in breakfast room– all welcome!

## Our School Vision

*"Our school provides quality educational experiences and opportunities for students and teachers in an environment of respect, responsibility and safety that will engage and motivate all students to learn, equipping them with the confidence, skills and knowledge for future success and wellbeing."*

### Last Newsletter for Term

This is the last newsletter of the term before the holidays. I hope everyone has a safe and happy break. Thanks to all the students, teachers and parents for their hard work this term.

**Teachers only return on Monday 17 July** (Staff Development/Pupil Free Day). The planned PLP review mentioned in which Aboriginal students and in the last newsletter has now been postponed until later in the year.

**All students K-6 return on Tuesday 18 July.** The next newsletter will be sent home on Wednesday 26 July.

## Thankyou

A huge thankyou to all of our fantastic teachers and support staff at Berkeley West for their hard work this term. We are now half way through the year and teachers have been extremely busy planning, teaching, assessing and writing reports over the past month or so and their outstanding commitment to their students needs to be acknowledged. Our community is very lucky to have such high quality teachers and support staff. We hope our teachers and support staff have a nice winter break too!

## Maybe Win one of three \$100 School Uniform Shop vouchers!

Berkeley West Public School is committed to continuous improvement. Each family has 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!

So the survey is OPEN NOW and all families that complete it will go into the draw to **win a one of three \$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.

Only one survey/entry per family needed. Thanks to those who have already done so!

Take 5 minutes and complete the survey here-  
<https://forms.gle/vHrRAVgvtahg46mo8>

## Partners in Learning focus group

We believe that your insights and experiences are invaluable in helping us make decisions that best serve our students. That's why we're forming a focus group of parents from every class to provide feedback on a range of school activities throughout the year. We are aiming to hold no more than one meeting for an hour or so every five weeks (most suitable time of day to have meeting to be determined later).

By joining this focus group, you will have the opportunity to:

- Enjoy a cup of coffee, morning tea and have a chat;
- Participate in collaborative decision-making processes;
- Provide feedback on school policies, programs, and activities;
- Help shape the future direction of our school; and
- Connect with other parents and school staff in a

meaningful way.

We understand that everyone has different schedules and commitments, so we will be flexible in arranging meeting times. Whether you can attend every meeting or only some, your input is valuable and appreciated.

If you're interested in joining the 'Partners in Learning' focus group, please go to the link below and add your name, or contact Miss Haworth or Mr Attard if you need any more information. We are excited about this initiative and look forward to working closely with you to make our school the best it can be.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to make a positive impact on our school community. We believe that by working together, we can ensure the best possible educational experience for our students.

Join the group here-

<https://forms.gle/WafJ3jNNMpUVCvDQ6>

### Principal's Award

Congratulations to Billa-Jo B for receiving the Principal's Award this week for being a respectful, responsible and safe student. Billa-Jo's behaviour and engagement at school has been outstanding. As well as her certificate, Billa-Jo will enjoy a \$4.00 food voucher to spend at the canteen. She also gets to sit on the stage at Friday's school assembly.



Brilliant Billa-Jo!

### Starting Kindergarten 2024

Our school is now taking kindergarten enrolments for 2024. 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. They can also be completed online at-

<https://ehub.enrol.education.nsw.gov.au/schoolenrolment/?schoolCode=4180>

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.

### Head Lice

Information on detecting and treating head lice is available from school upon request.

### First Aid

We have a Sick Bay which is staffed during school hours by qualified staff. Details of every child who is treated is recorded indicating the time admitted and the nature of the treatment the child has received. Parents are more than welcome to contact the school to seek further clarification of any treatment their child has received.

We always give children the 'benefit of doubt' and will treat all children who present at Sick Bay. However, we have a number of children who present regularly for treatment complaining of illness or soreness. These students present with 'I don't feel well' or 'I have a sore finger, arm, leg etc'. In most instances we know that some children are just 'seeking attention' while others

struggle with the difference between the natural pains/soreness we all experience as we are growing, and the very real soreness or pain as a result of, in most cases, a genuine playground injury.

We would appreciate parents talking to children and helping them clarify the difference between when you really need first aid treatment and when you are just looking for attention or distraction. This can be tricky for us, because we don't want to 'put children off' from genuinely attending First Aid.

### Brain Food

Developing healthy eating habits is an important lesson that we aim to promote at Berkeley West Public School. It is vital that children understand the importance of nutrition in developing physical and mental fitness as well as providing the energy they need to participate actively in life. Food and drink are vital for children to grow and develop, but the types of food that children consume, is important.



At Berkeley West PS we encourage students to think about the types of food and drinks they eat in a typical day. Children are often keen to eat healthy foods when they understand that their body needs these foods to grow and develop. When it comes to snacking, snacks should be healthy – fresh fruit, vegetables, nuts or dried fruit are all examples of brain food. Some classes are encouraged to keep up their intake of water with individual water bottles permitted in classrooms. Children need to drink plenty of water, even in cooler weather, to keep their bodies functioning well.

Our curriculum encourages students to think about their own food choices and to realise the importance of healthy eating. We acknowledge that families provide the pivotal role model for children as they learn about food choices, but at school we also need to compliment and encourage the work of families. The end result is healthy children; what more could we all want!

### 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 does at school and includes pertinent comments relating to the Key Learning Areas as well as a general 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 children's 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.

## 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.

## Principal's Lunch- Term 2

All class teachers recently nominated two students from their class who have worked outstandingly well in the classrooms this term. The students below had lunch with Mr Attard yesterday and received a

Knox Mauro-	KJ	Evie Papandrea-	3/4L
Lara McGuinness-	KJ	Isaak Diaz-	3/4L
Darcie Gordon-	1/2J	Braxton Cook-	4/5G
Mitchell Andreini-	1/2J	Ruby Cavanaugh-	4/5G
Phoenix Smith-	1/2R	Janardan Sands-	5/6Me
Marley Chapman-	1/2R	Alice Barraclough-	5/6Me
Noah McKinnirey-	3/4H	Savannah Smith-	5/6Mi
Harvarna Hill-	3/4H	Nixon Dun-	5/6Mi

certificate for their efforts! Well done boys and girls!

## Attendance at school

Our school is aiming to match or better the State average for attendance this year. Well done to all the students who have had an individual attendance rate equal or above 90% for 2023 so far. Each fortnight, teachers were provided with a printout of all the students' with their students' individual attendance rates indicated for the year, including those at 90% or better. Each fortnight they are presented with a Great Attendance at School (GAS) award.

Parents should note the number of days (and partial days) absent for the year so far in the child's semester 1 report. To be attending at at least 90%, your child should not have missed more than 9 school days so far this year and minimal late arrivals or early pickups.

Well done to these healthy and diligent students below. They have not missed 1 single day of school so far this year!!!

Ryan Courtin, Kaedence Jackson, Odin Pratt, Charlotte Diaz, Oskar Pratt, Aleen Ambarek, Kyle Oliver, Noah McKinnirey, Sophiea Oliver, Peyton Waive, Callie Barnsley, Evie Papandrea, Isaak Diaz, Leticia



Rodriguez, Scarlett Vermast, James Buxton-Hurd, Aseel Ambarek, Tori Williamson, Kaden Baker, Lia Baker, Pixie Fraser, Lucy Jackson.

Class	Student of the Fortnight	Reason
KJ	Lia Baker	Settling in well to her new class and school
1/2J	Lakyn Hill	For consistently demonstrating the school values of responsibility, safety and respect
1/2R	Tuang Mung-Siam	For being a PAX leader in the classroom and on the playground.
3/4H	Peyton Waine	Maintaining a positive attitude in all tasks, including those that are challenging
3/4L	Kailey Luck	For descriptive writing that always entertains the class.
4/5G	Amelia Waye	For improved attendance at school and for making insightful comments during discussions
5/6Me	Jayla O'Rourke	For her settled class attitude and for her continued persistence when sharing her ideas during
5/6Mi	Dominic King	For his consistent positive application to his

## Nutrition Snippet

### HEALTHY SWAPS.

Check out our [healthy swap section at healthylunchbox.com.au](https://healthylunchbox.com.au/healthy-swaps) today!

Click on an unhealthy snack to see some healthy alternatives

Select a snack to see a healthy alternative

Swap Dessert Tubs

...for these healthy snacks instead

For this and more visit: [healthylunchbox.com.au](https://healthylunchbox.com.au)

Cancer Council Healthy Lunch Box

## 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