



BERKELEY WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL

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

4 December, 2024

From The Principal's Desk



Upcoming Events



- Mon 9 Dec-** Swim school/Water safety lessons commence this week for students Years 2-6– permission note required
- Wed 11 Dec-** Semester 2 student reports sent home
- Thurs 12 Dec-** K-2 End of year concert in hall– separate note to be sent home
- Mon 16 Dec-** 9am Annual Presentation Day assembly in hall– all welcome!
- Wed 18 Dec-** Last day of school for all students
9.15am Year 6 Graduation assembly in hall– all welcome!
6pm Year 6 Farewell at Dapto Leagues Club
- Thurs 19 Dec-** Staff Development/ Pupil Free day for teachers
- Fri 20 Dec-** School not operational
SUMMER VACATION
- Fri 31 Jan-** Pupil Free Day– TEACHERS ONLY return to school
- Mon 3 Feb-** Pupil Free Day– TEACHERS ONLY return to school
- Tues 4 Feb-** Pupil Free Day– TEACHERS ONLY return to school
- Wed 5 Feb-** Pupil Free Day– TEACHERS ONLY return to school
- Thurs 6 Feb-** **All students from Kindergarten to Year 6 start school today for 2025!**

School Presentation Day

A reminder that our annual school presentation day assembly will be held on Monday 16 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 2024 students!

Last newsletter for 2024 & Thanks!

This will be the last official newsletter for 2024. If there is any more important news to go home, it will be communicated through separate notes, Class Dojo, SMS, BWPS Facebook page or School Bytes.

Thankyou to the BWPS community for your support through what has been a year where we have seen a

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

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significant uplift in parents and family members supporting our school.

School next year begins with four pupil free days on Friday 31 January, Monday 3 February, Tuesday 4 February and Wednesday 5 February with teachers only returning to school to take part in professional development activities. **ALL STUDENTS, including our new Kindergarten students, have their first day back at school for 2025 on Thursday 6 February.**

Thankyou to the Berkeley West teaching and non-teaching staff for their work in 2024. As always their commitment to what is best for our students and community is at the forefront of everything they do.

The staff at Berkeley West wish you a happy and safe summer break and a great start to 2025!

Thankyou volunteers and helpers!

As the school year draws to an end, 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 volunteers, athletics, swimming carnival volunteers, library volunteers and Berkeley Blitz gardening crew volunteers. we thankyou so much again for your assistance in 2024!

Enrol now!- Kindergarten 2025

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

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

Berkeley West Supported Playgroup

Our school hosts a free supported playgroup here every Friday morning during school term from 9.00-11.00am in our pre-school room. Come along if you have any 0-5 year olds or call 0439 648 778 if you have any questions or enquiries.

Principal's Award

Congratulations to Jason K for being this fortnight's recipient of the Principal's Award for his outstanding assistance and citizenship noted in the Breakfast room recently. Without being asked, Jason has been actively helping other students with getting their breakfast in the morning and has been a great asset to the busy breakfast mums. Jason will enjoy a Lego kit and he also gets to sit on stage at tomorrow's whole school assembly.

Fantastic work Jason!

Enrol now!- Kindergarten 2025

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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.

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?

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!

Active and Creative Kids Voucher

Families receiving [Family Tax Benefit](#) can apply for an Active and Creative Kids voucher for each eligible child.

Applications for voucher 2 are open now.

The voucher is valued at \$50 and:

- is available twice a year
- can be used for [eligible active or creative activities](#) with registered providers
- must be redeemed before the expiry date on the voucher.

Sharing vouchers

If you would like another person to use the voucher when your child participates in an activity, you can [share an Active and Creative Kids voucher](#).

Providers

Vouchers can be accepted from 1 February 2024.

Child and Family Speech Pathology - Port Kembla Hospital

Overview

What the service is

The Child and Family Speech Pathology team provide centre based/telehealth assessment and therapy for children with communication needs. Our therapy

service is short term/time limited and is provided in partnership with families.

What we do

Speech Pathologists manage patients with communication and feeding difficulties across the lifespan. ISLHD Speech Pathology provide services in inpatient, outpatient, and community settings across the Illawarra and Shoalhaven.

When to access this service

- If you are concerned that your child is slow to talk
- If your child is having difficulty using words or sentences
- If your child is having difficulties understanding words, sentences, questions or instructions
- If your child is difficult to understand
- If your child is not fluent when talking

Early intervention is important and we have a waiting list. Refer as soon as you become concerned. Western NSW Local Health District has developed a ['Waiting for Speech Pathology' website](#) where you can find more information.

How to access this service

We accept referrals from families, educators, or healthcare professionals.

Port Kembla Hospital

[Port Kembla Hospital offers a range of Child and Family services.](#)

*Our 2024 'Super Great Attendance at School' students!

These two students have almost achieved the impossible in 2024. Both Indi B and Elise H have not missed a single day of school this year! That's right, not a single whole day away! Both are very worthy recipients of the 2024 Super Great Attendance at School Awards!



Applying for an Opportunity Class or Selective High School entry in 2026

Are you interested in your current Year 3 child applying for an Opportunity Class for entry in Year 5 2026?

Are you interested in your current Year 5 child applying for a Selective High School for entry in Year 7 2026.

Click the link below for more info and how to apply. Applications opened on November 7, 2024 and close February 21, 2025.

<https://berkeleyw-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/news/2024/11/applying-for-an-opportunity-class-or-selective-high-school.html>

End of Year Arrangements

As you may be aware, the last day of the school year for students is Wednesday 18 December. Teachers in many schools will attend staff development/"pupil free" days on both Thursday 19 and Friday 20 December. However, Berkeley West Public School teaching and non-teaching staff have been involved in professional development activities after school hours throughout the year, which means they will not be attending school on Friday 20 December.

This will mean that the school will not be able to offer minimum supervision for any students who may accidentally arrive at school that day and, as a consequence, the school will be non-operational.

If you wish to discuss the issue with Mr Attard please feel free to contact the school on 4271 1478.

Safety around school crossings

Ensure that your child always uses the school crossing as this is the safest point of entry to the school.

Where there is a school crossing supervisor at a school crossing, pedestrians must wait on the footpath, at least one step back from the edge of the road, until the school crossing supervisor indicates that it is safe to cross.

Drivers must not proceed until the crossing supervisor's hand-held sign is no longer displayed, or until the crossing supervisor indicates that the motorist may proceed through the crossing.

At an unsupervised children's crossing when 'CHILDREN CROSSING' flags are displayed, drivers must stop at the white line if pedestrians are waiting to cross at the crossing. Drivers must remain stationary until the crossing is completely clear of pedestrians.

Drivers need to know that a children's crossing is a part-time crossing that operates before and after school hours, and at times when children are using the crossing, such as for excursions or during lunchtimes.

School Email List and School Bytes!

The separate email list that Mr Attard created years ago, will be discontinued at the end of this year. This email group have been receiving the school letter electronically. However, now that we have just about all of our families using the School Bytes app, we can easily email you all through this app.

If you are one of the few parents not yet using School Bytes, download the app today! You can receive messages, newsfeed articles, newsletters, check your child's attendance, read and download your child's reports, submit absence explanations, sign permission notes and pay for school events all from your phone!

Come in and see our friendly office staff if you need help installing the app.

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.
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

Slip Slop Slap Seek Slide



Protect yourself in five ways from skin cancer

BWPS P&F Wrap up 2024

The Executive Committee on behalf of all BWPS P&F members would like to thank and acknowledge everyone who helped and contributed in some way this year - be it cooking a BBQ, serving a drink, decorating a hall, helping with the working bees, selling a raffle ticket or pie, or simply making a purchase from any of our events/stalls.

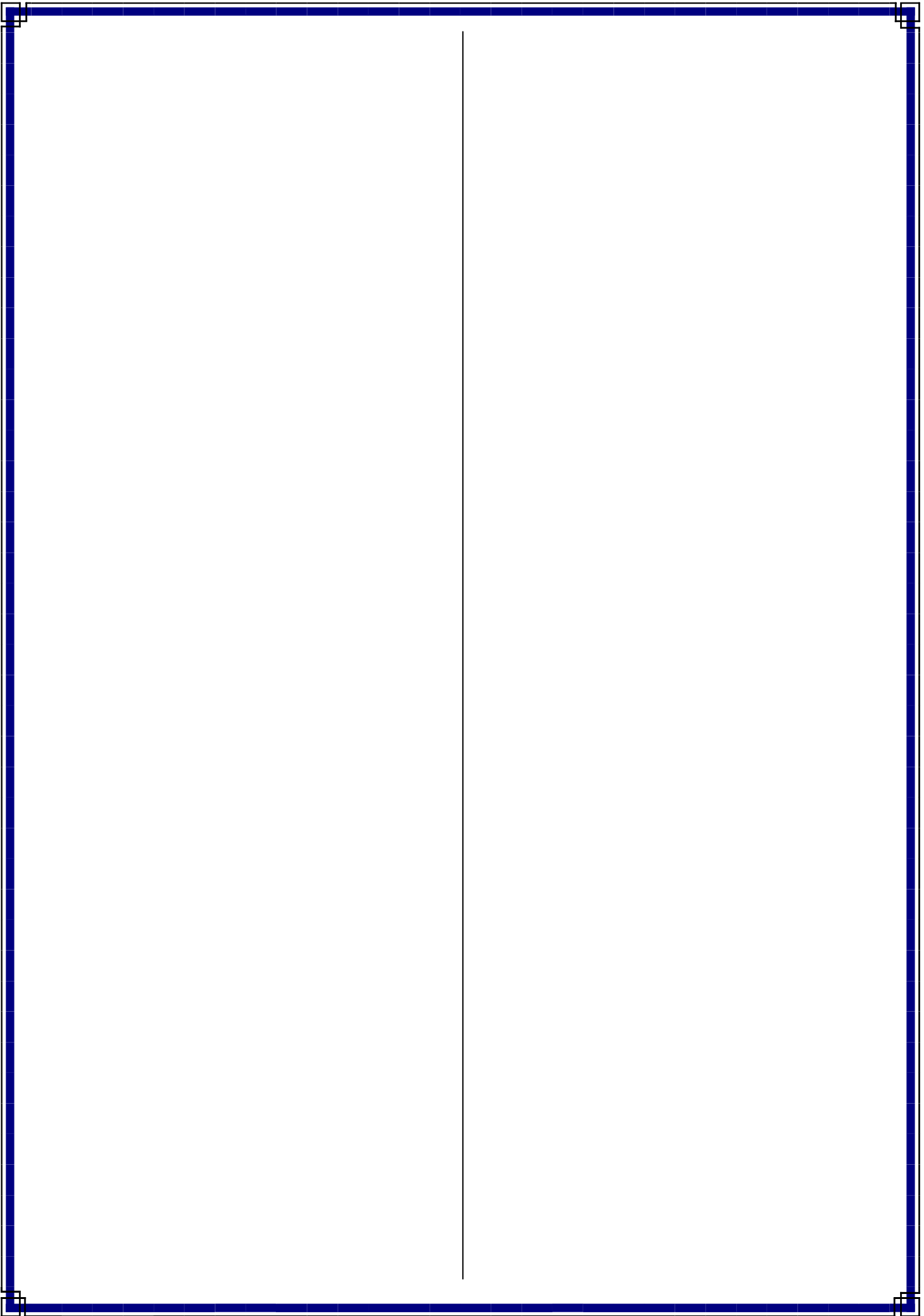
It has been a challenging 12 months however the P&F have managed to fund or contribute towards many events and raise money to assist students and the school community. Some examples of the achievements in 2024 include:

- New slippery dip for K-2 playground to replace the broken one, as well as new wood and paint for an overall refresh
- New bookshelf for the library for Premiers Reading Challenge (PRC) books
- New 4 slice toasters for breakfast club
- New garden beds, plants, mulch, painted rocks and of course the BWPS pencils
- New ball caddies with a mixture of sports balls/ equipment for both playgrounds
- Food and drink for students and supporters involved with Southern Stars

Of course, none of these achievements would have been possible without the support of the wider school

community. We are building some great partnerships between the parents/carers/families and the school staff (who we would also like to thank for their support this year) and would love to see some new faces getting involved in 2025 to achieve even greater things for our students.

Class	Student of the Fortnight	Reason
KR	Layna Hendry	For writing great sentences independently
K/1J	Laith Hannah	For improved concentration, effort and behaviour
1/2B	Arlo Hill	New speaking skills and confidence showing a great sense of humour!
1/2NW	Darcie Gordon	For being a mature and motivated learner in all classroom activities.
3/4H	Phoenix Smith	For being a kind and thoughtful member of 3/4H.
4/5B	Zavier Cook	Demonstrated remarkable resilience and determination in learning, even while managing the challenge of an injury.
5/6Me	Haven Horrell	For trying her best across all key learning areas.
5/6Mi	Zahara Miller	For her amazing contributions to class discussions.



PLAYSTRONG PLAYGROUP BERKELEY WEST

for children birth – 5

FREE

Fridays, 9.00am - 11.00am
(During school term)

Located at Berkeley West Public School community room

Please bring a hat and healthy morning tea

For more information contact – 0439 648 778



Play Craft Stories
Outdoor activities
Puzzles Music

Our Playstrong program is supported by friendly experienced and trained staff. Playgroup provides a variety of activities to promote and enhance the early learning and wellbeing of our children. Parents and carers have the opportunity to meet other adults in a welcoming and relaxed setting.



Berkeley West Public School



Taking enrolments for 2025 now!

We are taking enrolments for Kindergarten 2025 now! Apply now online at-
<https://ehub.enrol.education.nsw.gov.au/schoolenrolment/?schoolCode=4180>

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



Minutes lost = days lost per year

A couple of minutes here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just...

they miss days per year

5 mins per day = **3** days

30 mins per day = **18** days



Patterns of lateness can have a serious impact on your child's education.

education.nsw.gov.au