



BERKELEY WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL

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Principal: Mr A. Attard

Nolan St, Berkeley 2506

P.O. Box 56 Berkeley

Dharawal Land

Wednesday 6 March, 2024



From The Principal's Desk

Upcoming Events

- Wed 13 Mar– Mon 25 Mar** 2024 NAPLAN assessments conducted for Years 3 & 5 at school
- Tues 19 Mar–** 9.15am P&F meeting in school community room– AGM– all welcome!
- Thurs 21 Mar–** 4pm Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (AECG) meeting– Kiama HS– all welcome
- Fri 22 Mar–** 2.30pm School assembly– all welcome!
- Thurs 28 Mar–** 12.20pm Easter Hat Parade– more details to come closer to event
- Fri 29 Mar–** Public holiday- Good Friday
- Mon 1 Apr–** Public holiday– Easter Monday
- Fri 5 Apr–** 2.30pm Whole school assembly– all welcome!
- Tues 9 Apr–** Life Education Van visit (Day #1)- \$5 payment and permission note required
- Wed 10 Apr–** Life Education Van visit (Day #2)- \$5 payment and permission note required
- Thurs 11 Apr–** Life Education Van visit (Day #3)- \$5 payment and permission note required
- SRC Mufti Day- (theme to be announced)- gold coin donation
- Fri 12 Apr–** Last day of Term 1 (free mufti)
- 2.30pm ANZAC Day special assembly

Principal's Award

Congratulations to Chloe R for receiving the Principal's Award this week for an outstanding start to the school year! Chloe will enjoy a \$4.00 food voucher to spend at the canteen. Great work Chloe!!



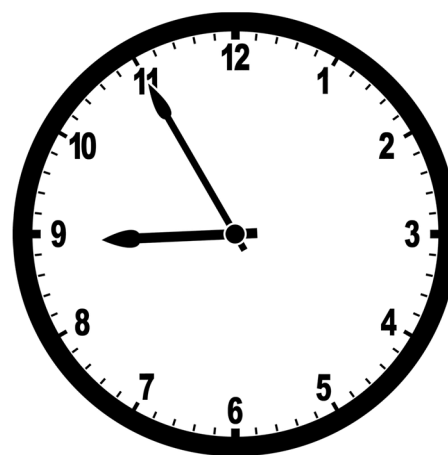
School Email List

If you are not currently on the school's email list, and would like to be, please go to-

<https://forms.gle/eiziAXbmLNT62Kwi7>

and add your name and email address. Your details will not be shared with anyone else and will only be used by the school for school business.

You will receive emails from time to time with additional reminders, upcoming events and the school newsletter



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



sent home each fortnight in electronic form. Very handy!

Second Step

Since returning to school for 2024, our schoolwide theme is our school as a welcoming place where every student feels like he or she belongs. In our morning announcements and in class, we'll be reminding students to welcome others and act and speak in safe, respectful, and responsible ways. In addition we'll be reminding students of our school rules.

Teachers have commenced teaching the Second Step program, which includes lessons that support these behaviours.

Support your child at home in welcoming others and acting and speaking in safe, respectful, and responsible ways. Please tell your child's teacher if you have questions about specific ways you can help your child with these behaviours at home.

This month, our schoolwide theme moves into skills for learning: listening, focusing attention, using self-talk to stay on-task, and being assertive when asking for help with a learning task. In our morning announcements we'll be reminding students of these skills, which help students be successful learners.

Second Step lessons teach skills for learning. You'll be receiving Home Links describing why these skills are important and including fun activities to do with your child to practice them. We hope you enjoy them!

Please tell your child's teacher if you'd like more suggestions about supporting skills for learning at home.

"Bullywatchers"

I would love to say that we have no bullying at Berkeley West, but unfortunately bullying is a fact of life. I do know that we are fortunate to have relatively small numbers of bullying incidents and most of this bullying is considered 'low level' bullying. 'Low level' bullying includes teasing or name-calling, pushing or shoving, subtle but nasty body language and exclusion from games/groups. Make no mistake; bullying is completely unacceptable and won't be tolerated. Our number one aim is to ensure that every child is feeling safe and happy at school. Therefore, at Berkeley West we take the issue of bullying seriously.

Reducing bullying is however, everyone's responsibility. While teachers and parents are vigilant in monitoring children's happiness and well-being, the simple fact is that we can't be everywhere all the time. Over ninety percent of children (in primary school) report having witnessed bullying occurring. Bullying often continues because people who are involved do not talk about it or seek help. This includes people who observe bullying; the "bullywatchers" or bystanders. A bullywatcher is someone who sees the bullying or knows that it is happening to someone else, but does nothing about it. There is an old adage which says that if you see something wrong happening and you do nothing about it, you are then giving it approval. While we are not advocating that every child who witnesses a bullying incident needs to get involved, they do need to do something about it. Remember, if we are to reduce bullying, then we ALL have to be vigilant.

If children see another child being bullied they could:

- Immediately seek a teacher or support person for help.
- If appropriate, let the bully know that what they are doing is not acceptable; "You are being a bully and we don't do that here."
- Refuse to be part of the bullywatchers and walk away.
- Support the child who is being bullied, either during or after.



- Be a supportive friend and protect them from being bullied by being there for them. Children who are alone are more likely to be a target of bullying.

What you can do at home to assist everyone in reducing bullying incidents:

- Talk with your children about what is acceptable behaviour and what is not, e.g. "We should not tease people to make them feel bad."
- Work together with your family to establish simple rules and expectations about how to treat each other amongst the family members.
- Encourage and provide opportunities for your children to openly discuss bullying issues with the family.

Discuss friendship and help your children make friends by encouraging them to play with other children at school, at home or in the neighbourhood.

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.

New School Indigenous Sports Shirt Proposal

Last week a survey went home to all primary family phone contacts asking what they thought about the idea of a new K-6 sports shirt designed by our students last year under the guidance of artist Daren Dunn. With community support, our P&F would like to slowly phase out the blue school polo shirts (parents tell us that they get dirty and easily stained) and make the current maroon and white sports polo shirt our K-6 Mon-Thurs uniform. If supported, purchasing the new shirt would not be mandatory. If parents didn't wish to purchase the new sports shirt, students would be able to wear the maroon and white one instead.

Don't worry! If supported, and you've just bought a new blue shirt, your child would be able to wear their blue polos until they are ready to get their next shirt!

Shirts are expected to be sold for \$30. A sample shirt is displayed in the front office if you'd like to come in and have a look.

Currently, over 88% of parents who have returned the survey support the proposal.

Head Lice

If your child contracts head lice, please contact the school so that a note can be sent home with every child in the class. Your call will remain confidential and will hopefully assist in controlling this frustrating problem.

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

Life Education

Just a reminder that the Life Education van is visiting at the end of the term. Information has been sent home via School Bytes and the exciting news for you is the school is subsidising most of the cost. Please provide online permission along with \$5 payment via



School Bytes. If you require any assistance with School Bytes, please contact the office.

You can also order merchandise listed on the sheet send home and place those orders **in a separate envelope clearly labelled with your child's name and class**. It too can go into the drop-box. A returned permission note is essential for your child to attend.

Parent and Visitor Conduct in the School Grounds

It goes without saying that adults need to set an example for children in all areas. This extends to the behaviour they exhibit inside school grounds. Entry onto Berkeley West Public School grounds is a privilege not a right. Anyone who enters the school grounds and demonstrates inappropriate behavior, either verbally or physically, to anyone on the school site will be asked to leave, and if necessary, their immediate future access to the school restricted.

Getting Organised for School

Whether your child is just starting school or the children are returning after a long summer's break, getting into the swing of things at the start of the school year can be a challenge!

Listed below are some simple strategies that can be useful to get everyone back into the routine of school days!

Ensuring your child has had adequate rest is very important. Is your child getting to bed at a reasonable time? Children's need for rest can vary at times and warm summer nights and daylight saving can affect your child's sleep patterns. It is important to set an agreed bedtime, and stick to it where possible. If your child is wakeful, encourage them to read quietly in their bed or listen to some quiet, restful music.

Setting a regular pattern of events in the morning can impact on how smoothly and happily everyone gets ready for school. Here are a few ideas that other parents have found useful which can save a lot of last minute headaches and fuss:

The night before:

- Check that your child's school clothes are clean and ready for the next day. Encourage them to place their shoes with their clothes in readiness.
- Are there any additional activities happening (eg. sport, library?) Have your child place the necessary items in their school bag.
- Lunches can also be prepared or semi prepared. Children can help with this.
- Bags can be packed (don't forget a hat!) by your child and placed in a regular spot ready for the next morning.

In the morning:

- Using an alarm will ensure everyone is out of bed with plenty of time to get ready.
- Be positive! Grumpy parents make for grumpy children. Encourage and give positive feedback.
- Keep the TV off! If the TV is to go on, only allow it to go on after your child is absolutely ready to go!

- Provide a healthy breakfast eg. cereal, milk, juice, water, toast and spread, fresh fruit. Kids are like cars ...they run (behave and learn) better on good fuel.
- Encourage children to get ready by themselves: cleaning teeth, brushing hair, packing school bag, making bed, helping them only where needed.
- Leave the house on time. Setting the kitchen timer can be a help here. Tell the children that when the alarm goes you will be leaving for school; make sure you are ready yourself!

Eyes and Ears!

When was the last time you had your child's eyes and ears checked? If it's been any longer than a year ago, make an appointment today!

Good eyesight and hearing can be taken for granted at times. If your child's sight or hearing hasn't been checked lately, or at all, invest some time to get them both checked out. Think of the obvious impact that unchecked poor eyesight or hearing could have on your child's learning and behaviour.

Sick Bay

Quite regularly students inform staff that they are feeling unwell and request to visit the school's sick bay. Once at sick bay, students are monitored for a short time and if they are not feeling better, their parents called to pick them up from school. Although the vast majority of students coming to sick bay are genuinely sick, some are not. Unfortunately, staff are not trained doctors and if there is any doubt about your child's health, you will be called. If you are finding that once collected, some illnesses are not genuine, you need to discuss and resolve this issue with your child. All parents need to be available, or have someone available, to come to school and pick up their children if they become sick.

It also goes without saying that you should not come to school if you are not feeling well. But remember that note or phone call afterwards to explain why, otherwise the absence remains unjustified.



*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 5/6Me and 1/2NW who have won the trophy over the last two weeks!

Well done also to most of our students who are 'on track' (Green) with their attendance at school. Most students attend school 90-100% of the time! These students received a 'Great Attendance at School' (GAS) award last week and awards are distributed every couple of weeks throughout the year. A small percentage of students are 'off the boil' (Orange) with attendance at 80-90% and an even smaller percentage 'at risk' (RED) with attendance below 80%.

As well as recognising those students 'on track', teachers and Executive are contacting parents of those students who are 'off the boil' and 'at risk' where satisfactory reasons for absences haven't been supplied by parents. Students at 'risk' are referred to the Learning and Support Team or in serious cases the

Home School Liaison Program or Department of Communities and Justice.

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

The Berkeley West Public School App!- Skool Loop

Great News! Our school has a FREE app which gives you instant access to school information. Hundreds of people have downloaded our app, if you haven't done so, download the Skool Loop app and set it to Berkeley West PS to keep up to date!

School Bytes App

If you haven't yet, please download the FREE School Bytes App. School Bytes is system we use to communicate upcoming excursions and events which require permissions and payments. It allows you to view details of events, grant permission electronically and make a payment electronically. If you need any assistance creating your School Bytes account, please contact the office. We are happy to help!

BWPS Mobile Phone Management Plan Rationale and Objectives

Berkeley West Public School supports the restrictions of mobile phones in accordance with the NSW Department of Education: Students' Use of Mobile Phones in Schools policy. Mobile phone use in schools can impact student learning and wellbeing. Restricting mobile phone use at school aims to increase focus in classrooms, remove distractions and promote positive social interaction, while reducing the potential for online bullying. Berkeley West Public School has strong teaching and learning practices to support students in the classroom using various forms of appropriate technology, which maximises the benefits and minimises the risks of digital environments and prepare students for life beyond school. We foster a safe learning environment which supports and enhances each child's social and emotional health through our wellbeing and learning support teams.

Berkeley West Public School has elected to use the following approach. All mobile phones will be 'off and away' for the full school day, including recess and lunch. This will mean that students will have a responsibility to turn off their phone and store it safely in their school bag for the course of the school day. This is an approved NSW Department of Education option and will limit unnecessary distractions and complement our ongoing approach to ensure every student maximises their learning and social growth in a safe and supportive environment. For students who wish to do so, phones can be turned off and dropped into the front office for safe storage for the day. They can be picked up at the conclusion of the school day.

Exemptions

Berkeley West Public School understands there may be students who have a medical, wellbeing or learning need which will require them to access a mobile phone as defined in this plan. The Principal will meet with each student and their parents/carers in order to determine where an exemption will be applied for, on behalf of a student, as well as the adjustments to any school-based practices and procedures.

Contacting students

Berkeley West Public School understands there will always be emergencies when parents need to get in contact with students or vice versa during the school day. We try to keep this to a minimum, with the exception of emergencies, to avoid disturbing the students' learning. Parents and carers can make contact with the school through the school office on 4271 1478 and students will also be able to contact parents or carers through the school office if urgent.

Class	Student of the Fortnight	Reason
KR	Nevaeh Harman	For always working hard and giving her best across all key learning areas
K/1J	Ava Masland	For trying hard to stay focused and ignore distractions
1/2B	Poe Reh Poe Reh	For an attentive, quiet and focused approach to all learning experiences
1/2NW	Fatima Asif	For always working hard to produce high quality work during literacy activities
3/4H	Aiden Lucas	Positively engaging in class conversations and sharing his thoughts and perspective
4/5B	William Nicastrì	For challenging himself in his learning
5/6Me	Nixon Dun	For being a safe, respectful and responsible student
5/6Mi	Alice Barraclough	For her engaging science fiction narrative

What's Happening in 1/2NW

We have enjoyed a fabulous start to the year in 1/2NW! Together we are building a happy and calm classroom where we love to learn. Winning the Attendance Cup twice, and Sketch at last week's Assembly has made our teachers so proud. We have written our PAX vision, which reminds us of what we want to see, hear, do and feel more of in the classroom. Ms Whyte and Mrs Norrie are very impressed with how we all work together to achieve this.

In English we have been learning about the structure of narrative stories and have started writing our own featuring "Super Peggy", a chicken with amazing powers. We have been working hard in our Reading Groups, working on reading more fluently and showing we understand what we are reading.

In Maths we have learnt about patterns - in nature, in shapes, and in numbers - and have been learning quicker and easier ways of adding larger numbers.

We have been enjoying visiting the library with Mrs Haynes on Tuesdays and our science lessons with Mrs Saliji on Wednesdays. Our fitness sessions and sport on Friday are always a favourite and we are looking forward to more cool weather to enjoy more games outside.

The Easter Hat Parade is fast approaching and we are practicing all of our dances. This year we have added a new tricky dance, Cotton Eye Joe, to the line up and we hope all our families will be impressed with our dance moves on the day.



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.

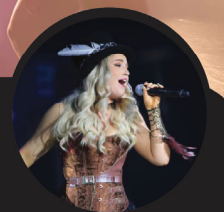
Playgroup provides a variety of activities to promote and enhance the early learning and wellbeing of our children. Parents and carers have the opportunity to meet other adults in a welcoming and relaxed setting.



WOLLONGONG
HIGH SCHOOL
OF THE PERFORMING ARTS

OPEN NIGHT

WEDNESDAY 13TH MARCH



Year 6 Parents & Students are invited to attend WHSPA's Open Night.

In Area Students

5.00pm (<https://www.trybooking.com/COXDH>)
6.00pm (<https://www.trybooking.com/COXDN>)

Auditioned Students

5.30pm (<https://www.trybooking.com/COXDQ>)
6.30pm (<https://www.trybooking.com/COXDS>)

BOOK YOUR TOUR

Days missed = years lost

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

When your child misses just...

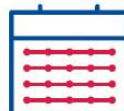
they miss weeks per year

and years over their school life

1 day per fortnight
M ~~W~~ T F
M T W T F

=

4 weeks



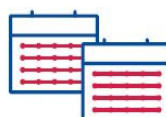
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Over **1** year missed

1 day per week
M ~~W~~ T F
M T W ~~F~~

=

8 weeks



=

Over **2.5** years missed

education.nsw.gov.au