



# BERKELEY WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL

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

Wednesday, 20 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
- 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
- Wed 3 Apr-** 1.20pm School Cross Country at school – all welcome!
- 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 Dequan L for receiving the Principal's Award this week for being a respectful, responsible and safe student at school. this year.

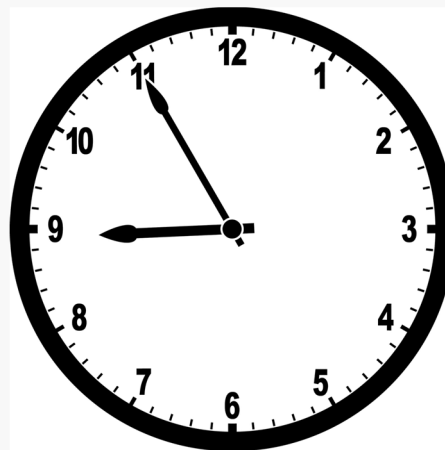
As well as his certificate, Dequan will enjoy a \$4.00 food voucher to spend at the canteen!

Keep up thee great work Dequan!

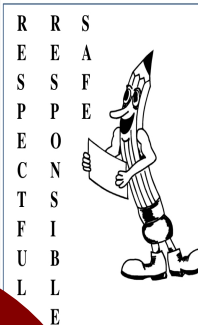


### Parent/Teacher Interviews

2024 parent/teacher interviews will be held early next term so that teachers can provide more information about how your child is progressing across all key learning areas. A note for you to nominate your meeting time with your child's teacher/s will be sent out soon, before the end of this term. It will be expected that interviews may be either face to face or over the



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



phone. Return your interview time preferences as soon as possible to improve your chances of getting your preferred time. If there is not a time that suits you, you will need to make contact with your child's teacher to arrange a mutually convenient time.

### 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.

**Mapping-** When traveling, provide children with a street directory or map and discuss directions. Point out speed limits, distances to towns, populations in towns, etc. When you are driving along in the car, ask

children to guess how far it is to the next light post, the next town etc. Involve the whole family. Measure the distances with your speedometer.

## 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.



### 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.

### Online 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 Internet site at - [www.esafety.gov.au/parents](http://www.esafety.gov.au/parents)

### Attendance Cup!

Congratulations to 1/2B & 1/2NW for winning the Berkeley West Public School Attendance Cup over the last two school weeks for outstanding school attendance.



The cup will be awarded each week to the class whose students have had the best attendance rate for the week. The cup will stay in the classroom and is even big enough to be filled with some little rewards for the students!

Don't let your class down, be at school every day as every absence counts!

### 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 sent home each fortnight in electronic form. Very handy!

### 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

For further myth-busting information, go to:

[www.cancercouncil.com.au/reduce-risk/sun-protection/](http://www.cancercouncil.com.au/reduce-risk/sun-protection/)

### Handy Spelling Rules!

Learn these spelling rules and unlock the secrets to spelling many more words correctly! For plurals (more than one)-

#### Years 1 & 2 (for plurals– more than one)

Words ending in –ay, –ey and –oy, just add the ending

E.g. bay – bays, toy – toys

#### Years 3 & 4 (for plurals– more than one)

When a word ends in a consonant followed by a y, change the y to i before adding –es

E.g. cry -cries, fly -flies, spy- spies

#### Years 5 & 6

When –full and –till are used as a suffix, drop one l

E.g. care + full = careful, un + till = until

### Life Education

Just a reminder that the Life Education van is visiting at the end of the term. Notes have been sent home with all students and the exciting news for you is the school is subsidising most of the cost. Please log onto School Bytes to give permission and pay. Alternatively,



contact the front office for a paper note.

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.

## BWPS Student Use of Digital Devices and Online Services Procedures

Our school's 'Student Use of Digital Devices and Online Services Procedures' are available on our school website. Please take the time to visit the link below and review our procedures which also covers mobile phones at school.

Link-

[https://berkeleyw-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/content/dam/doi/sws/schools/b/berkeleyw-p/download-box/BWPS Student use of digital devices and online services procedures2.pdf](https://berkeleyw-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/content/dam/doi/sws/schools/b/berkeleyw-p/download-box/BWPS%20Student%20use%20of%20digital%20devices%20and%20online%20services%20procedures2.pdf)

## Attendance monitoring at BWPS

Every fortnight, all class teachers are provided with the attendance rates for all the students in their class by the principal. The principal downloads each child's data from our digital class rolls and this is presented to teachers in a format we call our 'Attendance Traffic Lights' (See image below)

The traffic lights clearly show each teacher which students are:

- 'on track' (shaded green for students attending school 90-100% of the time);
- 'off the boil' (shaded orange- for students attending school 80-90% of the time); or
- 'at risk' (shaded red- for students attending school less than 80% of the time)

Attending school 90% of the time sounds pretty good, doesn't it???

Well even at 90% attendance, it means that your child is missing at least one day of school a fortnight (or coming to school 9 school days in every 10!!)

80% means that you child only comes to school 8 days out of every 10. It's not good enough to ensure your child's continuity in learning isn't affected.

Off course everyone gets sick and should stay home, but we know that even allowing for that, 90% attendance is achievable for everyone!

Our key goal this year is to reduce not only the number of absences from school for all fit and healthy students, but reduce the number of absences that are unexplained by parents. Our school expects an explanation from parents for every absence either via a note to school, a phone call to the front office, a Dojo message to your child's teacher, a reply text from you after receiving the text sent to you by us after the roll has been marked each day. Parents are required to provide an explanation **within 7 days of the first day of your child's absence**.

Where we are noticing **high absences**, or are not receiving explanations from you, your child's teacher will **make contact with you** to see what barriers may

be preventing your child from attending school and how we may be able to help (usually students in the 'Orange' or 'Red' layers of the traffic light system). When attempts to improve attendance patterns don't have an impact, the principal or school's attendance improvement coordinators may make a referral to the school's Learning and Support Team, Department's Home School Liaison Officer, the Department of Education's Child Wellbeing Unit, or the Department of Communities and Justice.

Remember- every minute, every day counts!

Last time 1-3-24	Stn	Rollclass	Year	Days absent	Days attended	% This time 15-3-24	Ex	Unex	+/-
100	ini	ini/2B	1	0	32	100	0	0	0
100	ini	ini/2B	2	0	32	100	0	0	0
100	Zigh/Zih	1/2B	1	0	32	100	0	0	0
100	ini/2B	1/2B	1	0	32	100	0	0	0
100	ini/2B	1/2B	2	1	31	97	1	0	1
95		1/2B	1	1	31	97	1	0	2
100		1/2B	1	1	31	97	1	0	1
95		1/2B	2	1	31	97	1	0	2
95		1/2B	2	1	31	97	1	0	2
95		1/2B	1	1	31	97	1	0	2
91		1/2B	1	2	30	94	2	0	3
91		1/2B	2	2	30	94	2	0	3
91		1/2B	2	2	30	94	1	1	3
86		1/2B	2	3	29	91	3	0	5
82		1/2B	2	6	26	81	4	2	1
86		1/2B	2	6	26	81	6	0	5
		1/2B	1	6	26	81	6	0	8
		1/2B	1	7	25		5	2	5

## Snack Time at School

Children need a range of nutrients to meet their growth and energy needs. Snacks need to be everyday foods rather than sometime foods.

### Everyday Snacks-

- Fresh fruit or canned fruit
- Corn or rice cakes with or without spreads
- Plain or fruit yoghurt
- Vegetable sticks and dip
- Fruit loaf
- Wholemeal biscuits or crackers
- Dried fruit and cheese cubes
- Celery, cherry tomatoes and carrot sticks
- Crackers with vegemite and cheese
- Plain popcorn

### Sometimes Snacks-

- Muesli bars and dried fruit bars
- Potato crisps/chips & corn chips
- Chocolate
- Lollies & confectionary
- Cordial
- Soft drink

## 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.

## 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.

## 2024 Berkeley West School Cross Country

Weather permitting, the 2024 school cross country carnival will be held at school on Wednesday 3 April, starting at 1.20pm. Please note the day and timing of the event may be changed if the weather is too hot for students to run.

## Thankyou Sue!

On behalf of the school community a big thankyou to Berkeley West cleaning staff member, Sue, for her kind and generous donation of three beautiful Aboriginal artworks to our school. They look great and we certainly appreciate this kind gesture! Here are two of them.



ILLAWARRA SPORTS HIGH SCHOOL

# TALENTED SPORTS & DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

## YEAR 6 TRIALS

Wednesday March 27th  
9.30am to 12.00pm

Register online through qr code below.  
Call the front office if you have any queries.  
All details of trials will be emailed to you once registered.

*Basketball, Cricket, Football & Sydney FC, Girls Tackle, Hockey, Rugby League, Surfing, Girls Touch & Tag.*

# Days missed = years lost

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

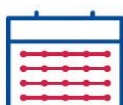
When your child misses just...

they miss weeks per year

and years over their school life

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

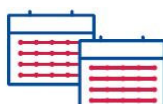
= **4** weeks



= Over **1** year missed

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

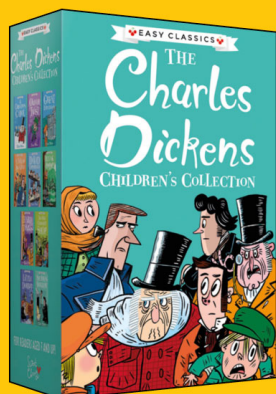
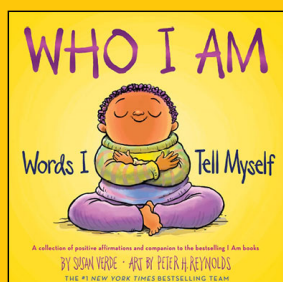
= **8** weeks



= Over **2.5** years missed

education.nsw.gov.au

## Editor's Choice ★★★★★



SCHOLASTIC **Book Club**

# DON'T FORGET!



**SCHOLASTIC**  
**Book Club**  
orders are due:

**Week 9**

**Friday - 25/03/2022**

Remember, if you need help, simply call the Customer Service Team on **1800 021 233** or email [Customer\\_Service@scholastic.com.au](mailto:Customer_Service@scholastic.com.au)

Class	Student of the Fortnight	Reason
KR	Leah Powell	For her improvement in blending phonemes to make a word
K/1J	Elise Henderson	For always working hard and presenting beautiful drawing and writing
1/2B	Mitchell Andreini	For reading with fluency and being a friendly, cooperative student
1/2NW	Trae Whitmarsh	For displaying an excellent, responsible attitude to all learning and always being a most helpful student in class
3/4H	Benjamin Hutton	For his polite manners and being kind to others
4/5B	Isaac Hicks-Thelan	For challenging himself in maths
5/6Me	Serena Stephens	For her engaging science fiction narrative and consistently applying feedback to improve her written work
5/6Mi	Ruby-Lee Brown	For her positive application and effort towards her science fiction narrative



### Berkeley Netball Club 2024 SEASON

Did you miss our registration day?

We are looking for additional players for our U8 teams. If you are turning 6yr, 7yr or 8yr this year and are interested, please phone Gerry on 048 770 4890. Come and join a netball team, make lifelong friends and learn new skills.



## What's Happening in 5/6Mi

In 5/6Mi, we have been working extremely hard throughout our English unit. Over the past few weeks, our class dove into the captivating world of 'The Wild Robot'. Drawing inspiration from this tale, our class have crafted their own science fiction novels!

Our class has poured their hearts and minds into these stories. Now, we are beginning to publish their novels using a book creator, allowing them to see their hard work come to life in the form of their very own books. We can't wait to see the final products!

