



BERKELEY WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL

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

Wednesday 19 March, 2025

From The Principal's Desk Remember-School starts at 8.55am everyday!!!!

Upcoming Events Principal's Award

- Thurs 20 Mar-** 4pm AECG meeting @ Warilla High School- all welcome
- Fri 21 Mar-** 2.30pm Whole school assembly in hall - all welcome!
- Fri 28 Mar-** 1.20pm Whole school cross country held at school today- all welcome!
- Tues 1 Apr-** 2pm P&F 'Colour-run' fundraiser. more info coming home later in term
- Fri 4 Apr-** P&F Easter mufti day- students may come to school in exchange for a gold coin to contribute towards the 2025 P&F Easter raffle
 2.30pm Whole school assembly in hall - all welcome!
- Tues 8 Apr-** Classes begin visiting the Life Ed van- permission note and payment required by 7th April
- Wed 9 Apr-** Talented Sports and Development Program Year 6 Trials
 Year 6
 Wednesday April 9th
 9.30am to 12.00pm
 Register online...
<https://illawaspor-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/.../tsdp-trials.html>
- Fri 11 Apr-** 12.20pm Easter Hat parade
 Last day of Term 1
- Mon 28 & Tues 29 Apr-** 'Pupil Free Days'- Teachers only return to school
- Wed 30 Apr-** All students K-6 return to school today

Congratulations to Rylan J for receiving the Principal's Award this week for being a respectful, responsible and safe student at school. As well as his certificate, Rylan will enjoy a \$4.00 food voucher to spend at the canteen and gets to sit on the stage at the next school assembly. Right on Rylan!



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



School Executive Structure Change

Following Mrs Moore leaving us to take leave and then retire later in the year, we have restructured our Executive Team here at Berkeley West.

Mrs Lloyd will now be Relieving Assistant Principal 5 days a week, whilst Mrs David our substantive Assistant Principal, will share her role with Ms Whyte who will be Relieving Assistant Principal for half the week each. Ms Whyte will continue to tech on class with Mrs Martin.

Welcome Ms Whyte to the Executive team!

Bullying

No child deserves to be bullied. Our school has made an intensive effort over many years to educate students about bullying and how to effectively deal with it.

What is Bullying?

Bullying is defined as repeatedly hurting another person who is less powerful- either physically or psychologically. Bullying can take many forms. We consider the following behaviour to be bullying:

- 1. Physical-** including hitting, punching, shoving, pinching, tripping, spitting, scratching, damaging, hiding or stealing belongings or throwing objects at someone.

2. Verbal- name-calling, making offensive remarks, taunting, teasing, put-downs

3. Indirect- spreading rumours, gossiping about or embarrassing someone, making fun of someone, using threatening looks or gestures, excluding or threatening to exclude from groups, ignoring, ostracising or alienating.

4. Cyber (Online Bullying)- verbal and indirect social/psychological bullying through use of technology such as emails, blogs, websites etc

If your child believes he/she is being bullied at school then he/she has the responsibility to act in an appropriate, assertive manner as is taught at school. Additionally, it is important that parents speak with their children about bullying behaviour and reinforce with them that they need to be assertive in how they deal with bullying behaviour. As is encouraged at school, teach your child to confidently tell the "bully" to stop because they don't like the behaviour. If the behaviour persists they then need to inform a teacher so that assistance can be offered to resolve the problem in a non-aggressive way. Under no circumstances will aggressive or violent physical retaliation be tolerated or accepted at school.

Telling is not "dobbing" if you have said or done nothing to deserve the behaviour being directed toward you. We need to develop a "telling" culture at school so that a person who bullies knows that the intended victim **will always** do something. As a result, students who bully will be quickly identified and their behaviour dealt with. If the victim chooses not to seek the assistance of staff and retaliates verbally, or physically to inflame the situation, this is NOT bullying. This is an argument/fight/disagreement between two individuals. Ever seen this at home? Do two wrongs ever make a right?

The biggest challenge in tackling bullying is encouraging students to report bullying to staff. Students have a responsibility at our school to report bullying behaviour to staff– not to retaliate.

Many students choose not to tell staff because, they themselves will impulsively fire a verbal or physical piece of ammunition back! Left unchecked, tempers will eventually fray and both parties end up escalating their behaviour to the point where all concerned will regret they didn't seek help. Physical retaliation at school will never be acceptable particularly when there has been a prior opportunity for students to report matters to teachers. Students that choose to physically retaliate will be disciplined in accordance with the school wellbeing procedures.

Remember, when it comes to bullying, "Awareness breaks the cycle of violence" and it is the responsibility of students to remain calm and make staff aware of bullying occurring at school.

Cyberbullying- What you can do

"Cyberbullying involves the use of information and communication technologies to support deliberate, repeated, and hostile behaviour by an individual or



group, that is intended to harm others." (Bill Belsey: www.cyberbullying.org)

Sadly, bullying behaviour is nothing new. However, people can – and do - use their phones and their computers to make this problem so much bigger, and so much worse.

Bullies can be people you know, but sometimes passers-by can join in because they believe they're anonymous and can't be traced.

Wrong. Every word, every action leaves a digital footprint that can be tracked right to the bully's virtual front door. Bullies will be found out eventually.

This kind of bullying can happen in school, or out of it. It can happen any hour of the day or night. It can leave someone feeling unsafe, and horribly alone.

No one has the right to bully another person. No one is expected to put up with it. At its most serious, cyberbullying is illegal and can be investigated by the police. However, even when it's teasing or a joke that's got out of hand, there are steps you can take to stop the bullies and take back control:

- **Ignore it** – often this is enough to make the bully go away
- **Block** the bully
- **Tell someone** – tell your Mum or Dad, or another adult you trust. Or you can call a helpline (like the Kids Helpline on 1800 55 1800)
- **Keep the evidence** – this can be useful in tracking the bully down
- **Report it:** - To your school - they have policies in place about bullying and cyberbullying - To your ISP/phone provider – there are actions they can take to help - To the police – if there is a threat to your safety the police will help

For parents and carers

"Kids these days..."

...have, at their fingertips, an incredible range of communications media, and ways to express their creativity and make friends and connections.

However, some people will use their phones and computers to bully others through SMS, IM, email, through the misuse of social network services, through the mis-application of programs such as Photoshop or any of the myriad of video programs freely available online. It can be personal - defamatory, embarrassing, even threatening. It can also involve repeated spam attacks, hacking, virus assaults and other technologically crippling things.

It can happen to anyone, not just the obviously vulnerable children. Sometimes otherwise confident, outgoing individuals can be targeted, and the effects are no less devastating.

Common signs that a child is being subject to cyberbullying might include:

- changing patterns of how they use the computer – perhaps being reluctant to go online, or seeming unhappy once they've been there;
- receiving a sudden increase in the number of SMS messages;
- having trouble sleeping, having nightmares;
- becoming withdrawn, appearing depressed, having mood swings, crying without reason;
- feeling unwell, with no specific symptoms;
- becoming anti-social, having less to do with their friends;
- falling behind in homework, being reluctant to go to school, even skipping school.

Of course, kids can exhibit signs such as these for any number of reasons, however, increasingly, parents do need to be aware that cyberbullying could be a contributing factor.

Each family should formulate a clear strategy with their children about how to deal with bullies, both on and offline. Strategies could include:

- **Communication:** It is incredibly important that you communicate with your children about their online well-being. It sounds a bit too easy, but setting the pattern of talking to your kids right from the start about what they are doing online and who they're talking to, finding out about the kinds of experiences they are having, can mean that your kids are not afraid to talk to you when something is happening to them that makes them unhappy. It'll help you understand their point of view so that you are ready to take action to help straightaway.
- **Research:** Find out the anti-bullying policies at your children's school. Many schools are also building in specific cyberbullying policies just to deal with this issue.
- **Report:** Know who to contact if your child is being cyberbullied and what the procedure is for removing distressing information from the internet.

Places to go include:

1. Your internet service or phone provider;
2. Administrators of the social media app;
3. The operator of the site where the bullying content is hosted; these sites should provide a 'report abuse' mechanism visible at least from the home page or in its safety advice area;
4. Where the messages contain any form of threat you should report this to the police as soon as possible.

Simply ignoring the problem – or trying to address it by 'turning it off' – won't work. Research shows that, often, incidence of bullying aren't reported because the victim is afraid they will either be blamed for it, or because they are afraid of losing access to a critical means of staying in touch with their real friends. Kids are literally

wired together...to break that connection would be to isolate the victim even further.

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.

Mass and Height- Keep a record of your child's mass and height. See how much they have grown each year. Do this for everyone in the family. Graph your results.



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 1/2WM– Ungah (Sharks) for winning the Attendance Cup two weeks in a row!

Can your class take the cup from them next week? Do your bit for your class, be at school every day!

GAS (Great Attendance at School) Awards for 2025 are regularly being awarded to those students who can keep their attendance equal to, or better than, 90%. We understand that a small number of students may have missed out as they have been sick, but we need to recognise the best of the best!

A reminder that students are expected to be at school everyday by 8.55am unless they are sick or have important family commitments. Visiting family, being tired, and staying home on birthdays are not acceptable reasons to be away from school.

After a student returns from an absence, staff expect a note/phone call from parents or caregivers explaining why. Use of the School Bytes app makes providing as simple as a few clicks, whilst a quick phone call will also save you time having to write out a note.

This year teachers will continue to pay particular attention to students who are regularly missing one day or more a fortnight, or those students whose absences are repeatedly unexplained. Missing school on a regular basis will obviously have an impact on student learning and the capacity to build on concepts and skills. Your child's teacher will contact you if worrying patterns are beginning to occur.

We also send SMS messages out to parents when their child is absent from school everyday. If you receive one of these messages, again respond within seconds using School Bytes to have the absence marked as justified.

Your child will have all of his/her absences tallied for the year recorded on their half-yearly and yearly report cards.

Where a pattern of attendance causing concern is noted and responses to teachers concerns haven't improved attendance the principal, assistant principals or one of the region's home school liaison officers may contact parents.

Soon notifications will be sent home with students who have attended below the benchmark level, many of which have outstanding explanations.

Students persistently arriving at school late also should report to the school's front office upon arrival with a note from their parents acknowledging their late arrival. Otherwise, parents can call the school and tell us immediately why their child is arriving late. Absences for being late or leaving school early will also be printed on your child's report card.

Remember, every day counts– school begins at 8.55am everyday!

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 are 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 medical staff and if there is any doubt about your child's health, you will be called. If you are finding some illnesses are not genuine once you have collected your child, 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. If nobody can be contacted, and the situation warrants it, the school will call an ambulance for the student.

Safe People Safe Places– good tips to protect yourself from strangers

- Make sure your parents or another adult you know knows where you are at all times.

- Always walk straight home or to the place you are walking to. Walk near busier roads and streets, or use paths where there are lots of other people.

- Know where safe places are – a shop, service station, police station, library or school. If you are ever frightened, you should go to one of these places and ask them to call the police.

- Learn about safe adults you can look for and talk to if you need help – police officers, teachers at school, adults you know and trust.

- Don't talk to people you don't know and never get into a car with someone you don't know. If a car stops on the side of the road and you don't know the person inside, do not stop.

- If you are scared and can use a phone, call 000 and tell them you are scared.

- If someone tries to grab you, yell out, 'Go away, I don't know you'. This lets other people know you have been approached by someone you don't know.

Berkeley West Public Preschool

Construction for our new public preschool may start in the near future. It will be located on the school grounds occupying most of the western end of K-2 playground. This new preschool will help to strengthen children's learning journey across the Berkeley West Public School community.

All new public preschools are on schedule to be delivered by Term 1 2027. You can keep up to date with information on the [School Infrastructure External link](#) website.

Enrolment at Berkeley West Public Preschool is not yet open. Updates will be shared about enrolments opening, as well as the preschool open date, following building and regulatory approvals. You can find more information about public preschools on the [100 new public preschools](#).

YOUNG ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

6-WEEK PROGRAM STARTS MAY 2025

The **Young Athlete Development Program** is designed for **school-aged athletes (12–15 years old)** of all skill levels and sporting backgrounds. This program focuses on key areas of **personal and athletic development**, providing valuable insights to support growth across all sports. It's the perfect starting point for young athletes looking to build a strong foundation for their sporting journey.

Open to **both boys and girls**, the program welcomes **beginners and experienced athletes alike**. Participants will explore their **sporting pathways**, develop essential **life skills**, and build a **growth mindset**, setting them up for long-term success in sport and beyond.

Held at **UniActive Wollongong Campus**, this program equips young athletes with the **tools, knowledge, and confidence** they need to reach their full potential – both now and in the future.

If you would like to know more, visit- <https://uniactive.uow.edu.au/health-fitness/uow-sport/young-athlete-development-program/>

Expression of interest for Assisted Travel Support Officer (ATSO) position

The Assisted School Travel Program (ASTP) often provides additional support to students with disabilities on transport. Assisted Travel Support Officers (ATSOs) support students with complex health or behaviour needs to ensure their safe travel to and from school.

If you are interested in temporary part-time work as an ATSO the following website contains information

on the role, and how to apply for the position:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/astp/atso>

For further information please contact ASTP on 1300 338 278, or email ASTP at atso.astp@det.nsw.edu.au

Anti-Racism School Contact Person

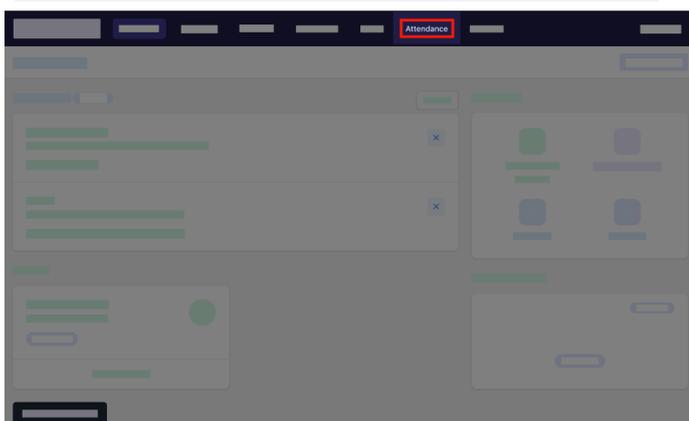
As part of the Department of Education's commitment to anti-racism, each school in NSW has an Anti-racism Contact Officer (ARCO). Miss Martin is our current Anti-racism Contact Officer at Berkeley West Public School. She is available to discuss any concerns you or your child may have about racism. Students may approach Miss Martin at any time or parents can make an appointment to speak with her if they have a suggestion to make about countering racism or have observed or experienced racism in the school.

Manage your child's absences from school in School Bytes

Our school uses School Bytes to help manage student absences that can be accessed via a parent portal. The School Bytes parent portal enables you to view all your children in one portal and provide a response for any student absences that have been recorded by the school. The parent portal also allows you to provide details of a planned absence if the absence details are known in advance for example, a scheduled medical appointment.

Once your portal has been activated, you can use it to give consent for events, process online payments, manage absences and view the school calendar.

To set up your parent portal, follow the steps in the guide [Parent Portal: Set up your parent portal account](#).



STUDENT	PERIOD	RESPOND
Berkeley West Public School	Tue 04/03/2025 All day	Respond
Berkeley West Public School	Mon 03/03/2025 All day	Respond
Berkeley West Public School	Fri 28/02/2025 All day	Respond

Showing 1 to 3 of 6 results

Previous Next

Attendance

Berkeley West Public School

Term 1 (2025)

	M	T	W	T	F
W1					
W2					
W3					
W4					
W5					
W6					
W7					
W8					
W9					
W10					
W11					

Attendance: 94.74%

Overall attendance: 94.74%

Steps to manage your child's attendance-

1. Open the parent portal link – <https://portal.schoolbytes.education/auth/login> – and log in to your portal.
2. Select attendance from the navigation bar.
3. Respond to any unexplained absences
4. Scroll down to see your child's attendance rate and pattern.

P&F News

By now everyone should have received a fun run booklet and an online school bytes permission note to run. Please make sure this permission slip is filled in so everyone can enjoy the fun.

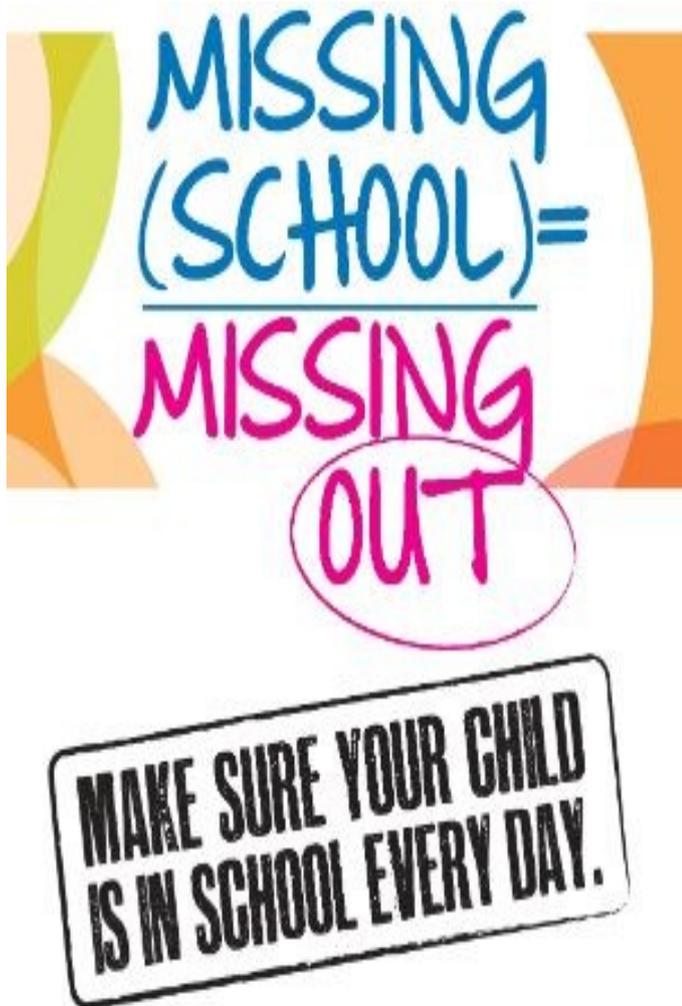
NO PERMISSION NO RUN.

Parents are able to attend to watch on the day Tuesday 1/4/25 2-3pm in the infants grassed playground.

P&F mufti day for a gold coin donation toward the purchase of easter prizes will be held on Friday 4/4/25. Please remember no midriff or singlet style tops or offensive slogans allowed and wear closed in shoes.

Shortly Easter raffle tickets and sausage sizzle notes for the easter hat parade BBQ will be going out. Halal sausages will be available just make sure you mark the right option on the note for the halal option. Please return all raffle ticket booklets even if unsold to the school drop box prior to the Easter hat parade Friday 11/4/25. There will be a variety of prizes on the day.

Thank you again for your ongoing support of the P&F.



Class	Student of the Fortnight	Reason
KR	Muhammad Hadi	For his ongoing engagement and fantastic answers in Maths lessons.
1/2B	Seth Labriola	For full body listening
1/2WM	Elliana King	For excellent engagement in English and maths activities.
3/4J	Darcie Gordon	For her positive attitude and being resilient
3/4M	Kaedence Jackson	For being a responsible class member and for working hard to apply feedback in her writing
5/6B	Noah Mckinnirey	For stepping outside your comfort zone and challenging yourself in all learning areas.
5/6M	Kailey Luck	For her incredible sequel to Storm Boy!



NATIONAL FAMILY READING MONTH is an initiative that represents the heart of our business— literacy being the key to learning and achievement. We believe that all children, with the help of their families and reading role models, can benefit from a lifelong love of reading.

This year marks the 29th Scholastic's National Family Reading Month (NFRM), which encourages families to read together on a regular basis to create strong reading habits. Most of us know how important reading together is and its long-term value to our children's success in school and in life. However, we also know it is not always that easy to put into practice with our busy schedules and increasing competition with screen time.

That is why we ask you to take the 31-Day Challenge— to inspire you to make reading together for at least 10 minutes every day a focus, to create positive, long-lasting reading habits and lifelong readers!

NFRM will launch on, THURSDAY 1ST OF MAY 2025, AT 11AM AEST AND 1PM NZST where it will be livestreamed all across Australia and New Zealand via Facebook and YouTube. Mr Luke will read his book *Guess What We Are Doing Today?* together with illustrator Chris Kennett and kick off the 31-Day Challenge, as we **READ EVERY DAY! READ MORE IN MAY!**

You are invited to go to our website to download more assets and join the 31-Day Reading Challenge with us. Visit scholastic.com.au/nfrm for downloads, reading tips and exclusive content from Mr Luke.

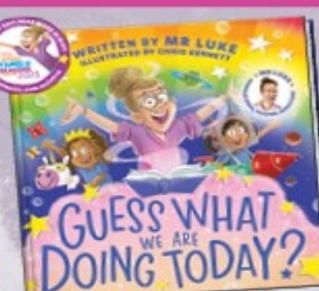
Let's encourage the 31-Day Reading Challenge and celebrate National Family Reading Month together!



READ EVERY DAY! READ MORE IN MAY!



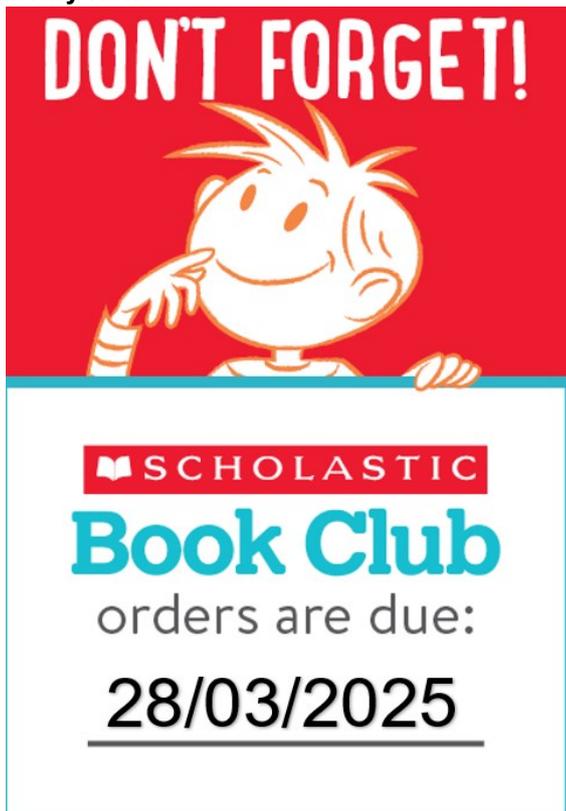
May is the month for readers. Bring your family together and join us in the **NATIONAL FAMILY READING MONTH** Challenge.



Register between 1 March and 31 March to **WIN ONE OF 50 FREE BOOK PACKS** worth \$150!

Take the 31-Day Challenge:
scholastic.com.au/nfrm

Library News



DON'T FORGET!

SCHOLASTIC

Book Club

orders are due:

28/03/2025

If you would like a hard copy of the Premier's Reading Challenge note and a reading log, please see the front office or pop into the library on a Wednesday.
Happy Reading!
Mrs Haynes



Artwork by Matt Ottley

NSW Department of Education

2025 NSW Premier's Reading Challenge
Start reading now!

www.premiersreadingchallenge.nsw.edu.au

Digital Partner



Supporter



Key dates for students in K-10:
Challenge opens Monday 24 February
Challenge closes for student entries Friday 22 August



EASTER HAT PARADE

All students at Berkeley West Public School are invited to participate in our Easter Hat Parade for 2025. All students are invited to create their own Easter bonnet to wear and join in the fun. Parents, family members and friends are welcome to attend. The K-2 classes will lead the parade and the primary will be asked to join in during the proceedings. Following the parade, the children in KR Gunaagaan, 1/2B Burri Burri and 1/2WM Ungah will present a dance display. The details are as follows:

DATE: Friday 11 April

TIME: Parade will begin at 12.00pm

WHERE: Infants Playground (if wet weather – school hall)

The P&F Easter Raffle will be drawn during the parade.

The P&F will be having a sausage sizzle at lunch (from 11.00-11.50am) You are welcome to join your child for lunch. See separate P&F note to order.

If you wish to leave early with your child, please see your child's class teacher to sign them out.

We look forward to seeing many of you at this special event.

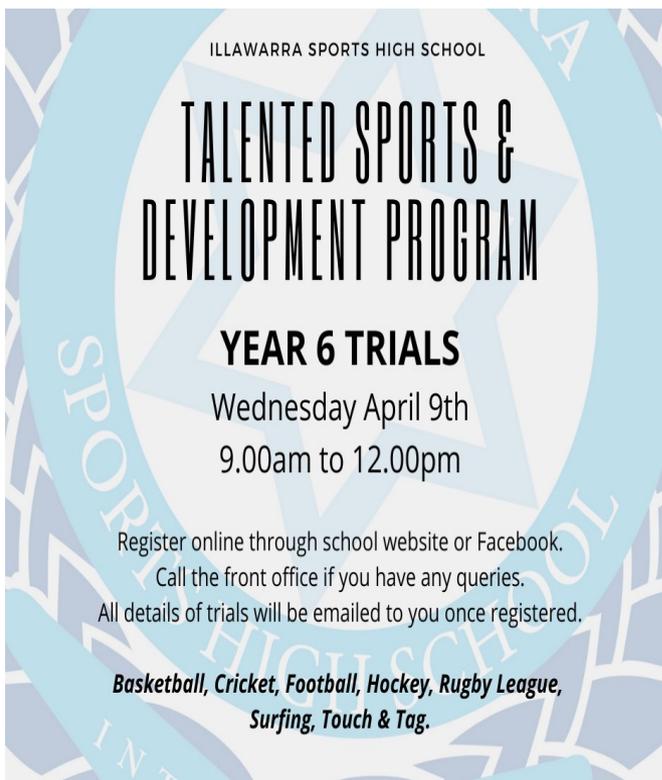
Thank you,

Miss Rosandic

Classroom Teacher

Mrs David & Mrs Whyte

Assistant Principals



ILLAWARRA SPORTS HIGH SCHOOL

TALENTED SPORTS & DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

YEAR 6 TRIALS

Wednesday April 9th
9.00am to 12.00pm

Register online through school website or Facebook.
Call the front office if you have any queries.
All details of trials will be emailed to you once registered.

Basketball, Cricket, Football, Hockey, Rugby League, Surfing, Touch & Tag.

The Smith Family

Learning for Life Scholarship

DO YOU NEED SUPPORT WITH THE COST OF YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION?



The Learning for Life Scholarship can provide parents with two payments a year for each child (max 4 children) which can be spent on expenses related to education such as uniforms, school shoes, stationary, BYOD, excursions.

(Payments are to be used for school expenses only!)

You may be eligible for the scholarship if your family:

- ✓ Holds a Pension Concession or Health Care Card and
- ✓ Attends one of our partner schools*
- ✓ Student is enrolled in **Kindy to Year 7**
- ✓ Demonstrates a commitment to education (children attend school regularly)

Payments are made in January and July.

KINDY TO YEAR 10 students receive \$450 a year.

Year 11 and YEAR 12 students receive \$727 a year.

(Receipts must be provided)



For more information, please contact **Shannon Couley** Text or call 0466745454 or email Shannon.couley@thesmithfamily.com.au

* Dapto High, Kanahooka High, Illawarra Sports High school.

* Mount Brown Primary School, Koonawarra Primary School, Lakelands Primary School, Hayes Park Primary School, Berkeley Primary School, Farmborough Road Primary School, Berkeley West Primary School.

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



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.

Play Craft Stories
Outdoor activities
Puzzles Music



BERKELEY WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL



At Berkeley West Public School, our 2025 student leadership team takes great pride in representing their peers and upholding our school's core values of respect, responsibility, and safety. Elected by their fellow students, our School Captain, Vice-Captain, and Prefects play a vital role in shaping school life. They actively contribute to school-wide decision-making, lead the coordination of major events, and ensure the smooth running of our community assemblies. Through their dedication and humility, they set a strong example for younger students, encouraging excellence in academics, behaviour, and extracurricular involvement. Their leadership truly inspires others to follow in their footsteps.



L-R: Jax Johns (prefect), Jackson Anderson (Vice Captain), Charlie Mahoney (School Captain), Andrew Attard (Principal), Charlotte Bunting (prefect), Leticia Rodriguez (prefect), Curtis Billingsby (prefect)

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