



BERKELEY WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL

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P.O. Box 56 Berkeley
Dharawal Country
Principal: Mr A. Attard
Wednesday 2 July, 2025



From The Principal's Desk

Upcoming Events

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

Wed 2 July-	Semester 1 reports sent home with students
Fri 4 July-	Last day of Term 2 PBL Reward Day– Students may wear their PJ's to school! - no cost 2.30pm Whole school assembly– all welcome!
Mon 8– Fri 18 July-	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
Mon 21 July-	Pupil free day– teachers only return to school today
Tues 22 July-	All students return to school, for the start of Term 3
Thurs 24 July-	District athletics carnival– Day 1 (students who have qualified only)
Fri 25 July-	District athletics carnival– Day 2 (students who have qualified only)
Wed 30 July-	STRIVE Class Expressions of Interest submitted online by today for Yr 6 students attending ISHS in Yr 7
Fri 1 Aug-	2.15pm Whole school assembly in hall – Class 1/2B item– All welcome!
Tues 5 Aug-	Education Week Open Day– see separate note sent home regarding events at school

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 2

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 21 July (Staff Development/Pupil Free Day). **All students K-6 return on Tuesday 22 July.** The next newsletter will be sent home on Wednesday 30 July.

Have a safe and restful Winter break with your families!



Great News!

We got some exciting news last week that our school will be getting an upgrade to its grounds in the 3-6 playground space! The concrete basketball court will be removed and a new court poured in its place. Brick retaining walls will also be replaced with sandstone blocks around the court. Also, some subsoil drainage will be installed in the grass playground to help water drain away following rain events. More sandstone blocks will be installed at the bottom of the hill leading down to the playground with additional drainage catching water run-off from the hill and houses behind the school. Colour will be added to the court later in the year (possibly October) when the weather is a bit warmer to apply it.

This is fantastic news for us! Thankyou to our school's Asset Management Officer, Ms Simpson for keeping us in mind for this exciting upgrade and for coordinating the project.

Hopefully, most of the heavy work will be completed in the upcoming school holidays, but of course, will be influenced by any bad weather we may get over the holidays. If delayed, we will work around the worksite the best we can, because we don't want to miss out on such a great opportunity!

Student Spotlight: Braxton Leads the Way in Sport and Leadership

At Berkeley West Public School, we're proud to foster the strengths of all students—especially those who show high potential. One such student is Braxton Cook, a Year 6 learner in 5/6M Warrigal, who stands out for his leadership qualities and exceptional physical abilities.



Braxton thrives in physical activity and demonstrates a natural talent for sports. His energy, skills, and commitment to improvement make him a role model on the field and in the classroom. Equally impressive is his leadership: Braxton is well respected by his peers and contributes positively to our school culture.

Recognising his strengths, our school has created unique opportunities for Braxton to develop further. He is currently involved in mentoring Stage 2 students, sharing his sporting knowledge. These initiatives are part of our commitment to nurturing high potential and gifted education (HPGE) learners through enrichment and tailored learning pathways.

At Berkeley West, students like Braxton remind us why personalised education matters. We're proud to be a school that not only identifies high potential but actively supports students in achieving it.

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!

Kindergarten Orientation 2026 – Welcome to the Berkeley West Family!

We're excited to welcome our newest learners and their families to Berkeley West Public School for Kindergarten in 2026!

Our Kindergarten Orientation program is a wonderful way for children to explore their new learning environment, meet their teachers, make new friends, and experience some of the fun activities that school life has to offer.

Parents and carers will also have the opportunity to meet school staff, learn more about our school values, daily routines, and how we support every child's learning and wellbeing.

We're proud of our warm, inclusive community and can't wait to help your child feel confident and ready for their exciting start to school life at Berkeley West.

More information about our Orientation sessions will be shared with families in Term 3.

To enrol online for Kindergarten next year click this link-

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



We look forward to seeing you at our Kinder Orientation!

Taking Kindergarten enrolments for 2026 now!

Apply now online at- <https://ehub.enrol.education.nsw.gov.au/schoolenrolment/?schoolCode=4180>



Principal's Award

Congratulations to Memphis M for receiving the Principal's Award this week for being a respectful, responsible and safe student at Berkeley West. As well as his certificate, Memphis will enjoy a \$4.00 food voucher to spend at the canteen. He also gets to sit on the stage at Friday's school assembly.

Magnificent Memphis!!



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!

Semester 1 Student Reports

It is hard to believe that the first half of the school year is drawing to an end. It only seems like yesterday that the first day of school was here and everyone was in new classrooms and making new friends. 20 weeks later, it is time to look back and celebrate the progress that has taken place with most of our students, as well as looking forward to setting new goals for the second half of the year. Today, you will receive your child's Semester 1 report. This written report provides an opportunity to read about your child's progress and the steps he or she has taken over the year so far. Class teachers have written comments which outline the skills that students have demonstrated and areas for development. Students have been involved in topics appropriate to their year level and have been involved in research and the presentation of information that supports the development of new understandings. Where appropriate, teachers will include suggestions for helping your child in areas where they need extra support to achieve their best. Teachers will also make comments on your child's social development. This aspect of the report will enable you to gain an understanding of how your child relates to others at school and some of the social skills and work habits they are demonstrating.



After you receive your child's report, should you wish to discuss it further, you can make an appointment next term to discuss it with your child's teacher.

Understanding Your Child's Semester 1 Report

Twice a year, schools provide a formal written report outlining your child's progress in learning. This Semester 1 report reflects your child's achievements and effort across key learning areas, including English and Mathematics, based on the NSW curriculum.

Kindergarten Reports provide a comment for English and Mathematics, as well as a general comment that includes observations about your child's development and progress in other subjects. Comments are personalised and based on a wide range of assessment information collected across Terms 1 and 2. Teachers also report on social development and commitment to learning using a simple scale.

Years 1–6 Reports use a standards-referenced approach to indicate your child's current level of achievement in English and Mathematics. Your child will receive one of five achievement grades:

Outstanding – working well beyond the expected standard

High – consistently achieving above the expected standard

Expected – working at the expected standard for their year level

Basic – working towards the expected standard with support

Limited – experiencing significant difficulty in this area

Effort is also reported separately to recognise how your child applies themselves in each subject.

Reading the comments first can provide helpful context for understanding the grades. These comments explain what your child has learned, the progress they've made, and areas they may need to continue developing.

All children learn differently. Some require more time or support to develop confidence and skills, while others may grasp concepts quickly. What matters most is that all children are encouraged and supported to do their best. Praise your child's effort, celebrate their progress, and speak with your child's teacher if you'd like more information. If you have any questions about your child's report, please contact the school.

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 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 2025 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 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 full day of school so far this year!!!

Layali Al Hadlani, Curtis Billingsby, Floriance Boaz, Ivy, Katja Glennan, Elise Henderson, Indi-Rose Jackson, Kaedence Jackson, Jason, Heidi Pratt, Axel Sak, Ziggy Sak, Phoebe Stewartson.




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 certificate for their efforts! Well done boys and girls!

Wes Bailey	KR	Kyle Oliver	3/4J
Leo Masland	KR	Aleen Ambarek	3/4M
Ahmed Ambarek	1/2B	Brock Lau	3/4M
Briella Cooper	1/2B		
Aleena Reynolds	1/2WM	Zavier Cook	5/6B
Lara McGuinness	1/2WM	Ella Cavanaugh	5/6M
Phoenix Smith	3/4J	Corben Davis	5/6M

EDUCATION WEEK OPEN DAY 2025- Tuesday 5 August- 'Ignite the potential!'

Attached is the program of events planned for our Education Week Open Day to be celebrated on Tuesday 5 August. Hopefully you can find time to come and visit our school on our Open Day.

Time	Activity	Description
9.15-11.00 am	K-6 Public Speaking Finals 	Come along to the school hall to watch and listen to our school public speaking finalists and celebrate our student Education Week Award winners. Also be entertained by our choir and a few talented students we have at our school!
11:00 am–12:00 pm	Lunch 	The P&F will be holding a sausage sizzle please pre-order your sausage sandwiches on the order form sent home by the P&F and return to the school "drop-box" in the front office by the due date
12.00-1.00pm	'Open Classrooms'- Maths Games 	Visit your child's classroom and join in some fun maths games with your child and the rest of the class



Student of the Fortnight

Class	Student of the Fortnight	Reason
KR	Florida Vera	For practising how to count on from the biggest number to find the total.
1/2B	Ivy Nicastrì	For focusing well in phonics
1/2W M	Oliver Chapman	Working hard to improve his creative writing by taking on feedback
3/4J	Amber Stephens	For always displaying a positive attitude and excellent contributions to class discussions
3/4M	Khy Lawrence	For consistently implementing feedback to improve his written work and for his positive class attitude to learning.
5/6B	Abdulla Abdulrehman	For demonstrating a mature and responsible approach to his learning
5/6M	Corben Davis	For consistently applying a positive attitude to all areas of his learning.

Nutrition Snippet

HEALTHY SWAPS.

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

The screenshot shows the Cancer Council Healthy Lunch Box website. The navigation bar includes links for 'Lunch box builder', 'Recipes', 'Inspiration and Ideas' (highlighted with a yellow circle), 'Blog', 'About', and a search icon. Below the navigation bar, there's a section titled 'Click on an unhealthy snack to see some healthy alternatives'. It features images of various snacks: a box of 'Sung Desert Tubs', a box of 'Sung Desert Tubs', a box of 'Sung Desert Tubs', and a box of 'Sung Desert Tubs'. Below this, there's a section titled '... for these healthy snacks instead' with images of a 'Highball Tubs', a 'Highball Tubs', and a 'Highball Tubs'. At the bottom, there's a footer with the text 'For this and more visit: healthylunchbox.com.au' and the Cancer Council Healthy Lunch Box logo.

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

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