



Dear parents, caregivers, and friends of Berne

I find myself reflecting on the Gospel that will be before us this Sunday where it calls for a 'life of boldness'. Matthew's Gospel (10:26-33) counsels us on who to fear. Sometimes, Jesus addresses our anxieties over material things like food or clothing and enjoins his listeners to trust in divine providence but in this particular reading Jesus addresses a fear of human opposition. As a Catholic community in Australia we are being called upon to address an injustice for the common good: the future funding of Catholic education for our low-fee Catholic schools. Our school is one of these!

I am standing alongside others who have analysed the Education Minister's policy and revealed the true magnitude of the cuts the Minister has in store for Catholic school families. The latest analysis shows that we will experience cuts of at least \$4.6 billion over the next decade. So, as Jesus in the Gospel commands two simple things: fear no one and preach boldly.

Jesus drew inspiration from another bold speaker, Jeremiah the prophet, who aroused hostility; the King of Israel had his prophecies burned as they were read to him. The prophet, undeterred, simply sent him another scroll. We know that history proved his words to be correct. When Christians anywhere live the Gospel boldly and risk themselves for the good of others, they acknowledge Christ is alive and at work in the world. We are simply asking for the government to stop rushing the policy through parliament so that a genuine effort can be made to collaboratively work on a solution.

We receive 53% of our funding from Federal and State governments. Our reliance on other sources to meet the shortfall is an ongoing challenge. Due to the unique nature of the school and the needs of our students, we need to invest more to bring best outcomes for those who come into our care. Practice has shown that a ratio of six students for one teacher at Berne produces the best teaching and learning. There are students however, whose needs exceed this model and in order to heed Marcellin's call to 'love them all equally'

we require even greater resources to ensure they have the best opportunity to succeed. Without the provision of extra specialist programs to address specific needs, one to one attention, and providing opportunities to tap into the gifts of the students, we risk depriving them of the rich and full lives that many others enjoy.

I would like to acknowledge the program supporters and providers that have given opportunities for our students to tap into their gifts, explore pathways of success and thus built their confidence to succeed. Our recently completed 'Winds of Change' program offered by Sailors with disABILITIES is a fine example of this. What could be compared to learning to sail an ocean-going yacht through Sydney Harbour out through the Heads with the wind at your back, the ocean spray on your face as you experience some of the exhilaration that yacht crews would have each year in undertaking the Sydney to Hobart race? Not something for everybody, but for the students of Berne it is a confidence builder, a peak learning experience to gain skills transferrable to many other aspects of their lives.

As we come to the closure of the first semester of the academic year it is important to acknowledge the achievements of staff and students. I commend efforts by staff to help students learn new skills continues with significant improvements in student literacy and numeracy levels. To our supporters who ensure that we can maintain the highest quality of education required in these areas we thank you.

It is only by working together that we are able to give our students the opportunities to succeed but today I am thinking not just about Berne but the wider Catholic school community.

Blessings,

Br Mark Paul
Principal

Issue 4 2017

Upcoming Events

19–23 June

Year 9 and 10 Work Experience

26 June at 2pm

Belvoir St Theatre Performance Year 10

30 June

Students' last day Term 2

18 July

Students' first day Term 3

11 August

Assembly

22–25 August

Snow Camp

In This Issue

Principal's Address
Parents' Corner

Champagnat Person of the Year 2017

In celebrating Champagnat Day 2017, the Berne staff voted for the Champagnat Person of the year. This is the person who the staff believe best reflects the ideals and teachings of Marcellin Champagnat in their dealings with students, parents and other staff. The Berne staff nominated our canteen manager, Tania Henderson, to receive this honour.



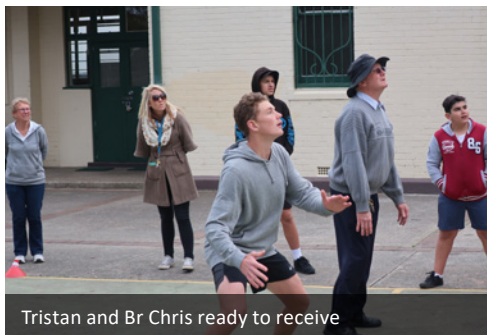
Br Mark presenting the award to Tania

Tania emulates the qualities of Marcellin in all she does. Marcellin was a man who valued simplicity, modesty, and humility. Tania's strong sense of presence among the students is a special gift, perhaps the greatest gift, that many students will take with them when they leave the school. Her presence at the canteen and around the school reflects the very essence of what Champagnat calls us to do. Congratulations Tania!

— Br Mark Paul, Principal

Champagnat Day Sports Carnival

The annual John Berne School Sports Carnival was held on Friday 2nd June to commemorate the feast day of Saint Marcellin Champagnat. The competition began with all the staff and students being divided into teams which competed in a round robin volleyball tournament. The rotation saw all teams play each other, with points accumulating for every win, loss or draw.



Tristan and Br Chris ready to receive

The school community then moved over to Petersham Oval where students battled it out in a range of hybrid athletic events. Under blue sunny skies all the

students participated with respect and enthusiasm as they progressed through the disciplines. The year group champions on the day were as follows:

Year 7 & 8: Brayden Holten

Year 9: Flynn Pirola-Henderson

Year 10: Tristan Wentzel



Year 10 preparing for the three-legged race

Special mention must be given to Tristan Wentzel for breaking the previous senior year "Marathon Lap" school record, in a new time of 1 min 18 sec! The premier event of the day (50m Sprint) was won in a photo finish, with Eryn Brown being crowned "Fastest in School".

— David Riddington, PDHPE Coordinator

National Reconciliation Week

On Monday the 29th of May, we came together as a school community to honour National Reconciliation Week. The theme this year is "Take The Next Steps" which encourages us to reflect on two significant anniversaries in Australia's reconciliation journey – 50 years since the 1967 referendum, and 25 years since the historic Mabo decision. We held a special assembly with each staff member and student taking part.



Eric, Nicole and Paul helping to lead the assembly

The ceremony began with an Acknowledgement of Country and a smoking ceremony with Eric and Chris. This was followed by the Aboriginal Lord's Prayer from The Kimberley read by Brother Chris and Tanja Dunne while Eric lit a candle. The history behind Reconciliation Week was explained by various teachers and each year group accompanied by a slideshow presentation showing how we

can increase our respect for others.

Our time together finished with a special healing ceremony with balm and a prayer entitled "Journey of Healing". A focal point of the ceremony was a Reconciliation Mural which two weeks prior to the ceremony our Aboriginal students Eric, Jaidyn, Victor, Paul and Brayden each played a special part in painting. It has footprints in Aboriginal and Torres Strait colours symbolising the theme of moving forward together with each member of the school community being invited to write their name next to a footprint as a pledge to "Take The Next Steps".

— Nicole Arathoon, Year 9 Coordinator and Paul Pencheff, Student

Marist Pilgrimage

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Br Mark, Dominic Ritchie for standing in for me and all the other staff for supporting me whilst on the Marist Pilgrimage for 2017. The pilgrimage was attended by 32 Marists from all over Australia.



James at the Brothers' table at L'Hermitage

The Pilgrimage began in the Holy Land, where the New Testament was brought to life, where we visited the many places Jesus walked.

We moved to Rome where we could attend and celebrate Mass with Pope Francis and stayed at the Marist Brothers General House. Whilst in Rome I was fortunate enough to find in the archives official documentation of Jean-Baptiste Berne signing up to be a Brother!

The pilgrims' final destination was France where we spent a few nights in Lyon where Marcellin, along with other Brothers, made the Fourviere Pledge and then to The Hermitage where Marcellin set up Marist headquarters and began his wonderful work in the French countryside that still continues today.

— James Le Huray, Assistant Principal

Term 2 Activities

In Term 2, we hold several days of activities as part of our outdoor education program. This year, we had two days of outings which aimed to give students a range of experiences that they would otherwise be unlikely to have.



George, David and Tristan in the art gallery

Groups of students and staff enjoyed everything from climbing the Sydney Harbour Bridge pylon to viewing a Brett Whitely at the Art Gallery of NSW.



Eryn tries on one of this season's new snakes

We would like to extend our thanks to the many generous businesses and institutions who made these experiences possible by donating their time and services and giving us discounted rates. If you have an interesting experience that you would like to contribute, please visit our website and get in touch.

— *Dominic Wan, Teacher*

Year 7 and 8 Camp

In Week 5 students from Year 7 and 8 headed down to The Hermitage at Mittagong for a three day camp.

The property covers 155 hectares and is a 'working property' which gave students the chance to work hard and learn about

cattle and what is required to keep a farm operating. The camp also gave the boys a chance to relax, experience the beautiful countryside and most importantly it provided time to work on how they relate to staff and to each other.



Eric helping out on the farm

Congratulations to the students who attended. Their willingness to go outside of their comfort zones and take on new experiences was outstanding.

— *Anthony Rooskie, Year 7 and 8 Coordinator*

Parent, Student, Teacher Meeting Reflection

On Monday the 15th May 2017, students, parents and teachers met to discuss Personal Plans, look at student results and talk about their learning goals for this term.

For Year 10, this was a time to explore where students are planning to transition to in 2018 and how we can work together to put their future plans into action. Students' options for next year include either going onto further study at another school or vocational college such as Southern Cross Catholic Vocational College or gaining an apprenticeship.

Parent teacher night is a valuable night for everyone to come together and I always enjoy meeting parents and working collaboratively with them.

— *Kristina Allan, Teacher*

When they first arrive at Berne, 1 in 6 of our students do not possess the skills necessary to attempt national assessments.

Thank You Illawarra Catholic Club

Sincerest thanks and gratitude once again go to Illawarra Catholic Club whose steadfast support over many years continue to make the successes and experiences shown in this newsletter possible.



Champagnat Day Awards

Congratulations to Eryn Brown and Matthew Derrett, recipients of the Champagnat Day Awards for consistently demonstrating the qualities of character, stability and good example.

— *Br Mark Paul, Principal*



Matthew and Eryn receive their awards

An Invitation to the Belvoir St Theatre on Monday 26th June

We are delighted to announce that a group of our Year 10 students are performing their play 'Frenemy' at Belvoir St Theatre on Monday 26 June at 2pm. This performance has been made possible through the generosity of Belvoir St Theatre's Youth Express Program under the direction of James Winter.

We invite you to attend and support our students on this special occasion. Please telephone the school office for more information on 9560 9260.

RSVP: jane@belvoir.com.au

Farewell to Ange Flannery

Since the inception of the Development Office in 2012 we have seen the profile of the school enhanced and the fundraising efforts go from strength to strength through the efforts of the Development Team led by Ange Flannery.



We wish you all the best for the future Ange

We say goodbye to a passionate and dedicated staff member that ensured we have effective fundraising systems in place to take us forward for many years to come.

We wish her every blessing for the journey ahead and are grateful for everything she has done and achieved for the school.

— Br Mark Paul, Principal

The Value of Work Experience

At a recent school assembly students were presented with 10 reasons why work experience is an important stepping stone into the workforce. In summary they were:

- Successful work experiences lead to successful employment outcomes after school.
- It is a great way to sample a variety of career options.
- A good way to learn about different work situations within a particular industry.
- Success at work experience displays passion and interest.
- For those without a passion or interest it may be the opportunity to stumble upon one.
- Great opportunity to learn about the world of work: all of the do's and don'ts and skills needed to negotiate getting and keeping a job.

- Great way to help identify one's strengths and weaknesses, likes and dislikes.
- Occasionally, students get part time work because they have been able to impress the boss and their fellow workers.
- Opportunity to network and make connections. Employers may be able to guide or recommend students to other employers.
- Work experience is something to include in a resume.

Currently, some Year 10 students are undertaking work experience each Friday. This is not a formal part of the school program but has been negotiated on an individual basis with students and employers and is in addition to the regular work experience week that takes place each term. It is pleasing to see these students giving themselves a head start into the workforce.

— Michael Muranty, Work Experience Coordinator

School Attendance

In New South Wales "compulsory school age" means that all children from six years of age are legally required to be enrolled at and attending school. Parents or carers are responsible for making sure that their children comply with these legal requirements. The John Berne School supports parents by monitoring student attendance and helping to address attendance issues when they emerge.

In cases where The John Berne School is unsuccessful in resolving a student's non-attendance, we will request assistance from regional attendance officers and the Association of Independent Schools office. Therefore, it is of the utmost importance students attend school regularly and participate in all aspects of the Berne program if they are to achieve personal success.

— James LeHuray, Assistant Principal

PARENTS' CORNER

Looking Through New Lenses

This week I would like to direct you to the work of Dr Ross Greene who has been involved extensively with troubled teens in the USA and has brought his philosophy to Australia. A few staff from Berne have been privileged to attend his workshops and most have read his book 'The Explosive Child'.

I encourage you to take the time to read this book as it gives a different perspective when dealing with the many issues you are confronted with as parents - Dr Greene refers to it as "looking through new lenses". His basic tenet is "children will do well if they can" and if they are not doing well then it is because there is something missing, which he refers to as their "lagging skills". Not only does his work make sense but he has had amazing success in turning around the lives of many young people and of course the lives of their families too.

One of the main reasons for reading this book would be the fact that traditional or typical behavioural interventions have not worked and therefore alternative measures are required.

I would reflect that one of the main reasons why Dr Greene's approach works so effectively is because of the mutual respect that is afforded to both the parents and the child — once we lose respect and let the behaviour take over our understanding of the child, then there really is no way forward - as teachers, as counsellors, as parents, we all need to remember this.

— Chris Langridge, Counselling Coordinator

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