



Dear parents, caregivers, and friends of Berne

Los Angeles County has one of the highest youth incarceration rates in the United States. Up to 90% of the county's incarcerated youth are Latino or African American, and up to 70% nationally are said to have some kind of disability.

Many of these young people face a juvenile justice system where little rehabilitation takes place and with frighteningly high recidivism rates that continue into adulthood. However, a Restorative Justice initiative was put in place to provide support and hope to juveniles with life sentences.

This Restorative Justice initiative provides tools that allow prisoners to find healing and forgiveness and to recognise their lives have meaning and purpose. Restorative Justice is also an integral part of how Berne helps students to achieve better outcomes for their lives and learn from their experiences.

When the boys at a juvenile detention facility in LA heard of Pope Francis' intention this week to celebrate the Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper at Rome's Casal del Marmo prison with the young inmates there, they expressed their desire to participate from afar and in close solidarity with what the Pope was going to do in Italy.

To do this they wrote letters to Pope Francis thanking him for his gesture of love and service, praying for him – as he has asked all of us to do – and describing the hope that he gives them to cut through sadness of their lives in detention.

Dear Pope Francis,

Thank you for washing the feet of youth like us in Italy. We also are young and made mistakes. Society has given up on us, thank you that you have not given up on us.

Touching words from these young men who find hope in someone they look to and who offers them consolation and strength during their most difficult times. As we have journeyed through Lent in our

preparation for this Easter season, may we in some small way wash the feet of another by being of service to them. It will surely bring a ray of hope and joy to them.

Berne is a lively school with programs built around the core curriculum to ensure that our students can explore what education has to offer them. We help them discover wider interests and gifts that they can build a life on. All of this is being achieved without compromising the curriculum. Our thanks must go to the many supporters who have helped make this possible. One of the key achievements in the core curriculum is our use of literacy data to help shape the delivery of individualised instruction. Growth and interest in learning has shown a marked increase. Thanks to the teachers for their efforts in making these significant adjustments.

As you will see in the newsletter we welcome new staff. This means we must have lost some! Jacob Degeling has taken up a posting at Red Bend Catholic College in Forbes. I thank him for many years of wonderful service. I wish him and his family every blessing and he knows he is always welcome at Berne. We welcome on board two new staff, David Stevens and Dominic Ritchie, for Term 2.

The wettest March on record in Sydney has greened up the city but slowed down building works. It has meant further delays in our return to a refurbished site. In times such as these, we are reminded that patience is a virtue.

In closing, let us remind one another where we obtain our hope and our strength to be there for one another this Easter.

Peace and joy in this coming season,

Br Mark Paul fms

Principal

Issue 2 2017

Upcoming Events

24 April

Staff development day - Pupil free

25 April

Anzac Day holiday

26 April

Students' first day Term 2

5 May

Annual Berne Luncheon - Pupil free

9–12 May

NAPLAN Testing Years 7 and 9

3 and 17 May

Year 9 Sailing

15 May

Parents, carers and staff night

1 – 3, 16 May

Photographer in residence program

22–26 May

Years 9 and 10 Work Experience

24–26 May

Years 7 and 8 Camp

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Photographer in Residence

The John Berne School was blessed to have professional photographer Conor Ashleigh come visit and present at assembly. Conor has acquired a wealth of experience from across the globe over many years. He has travelled to countries such as India, Kiribati, Nepal and Malaysia just to name a few.



Conor Ashleigh encouraging students to showcase their own stories

Students of The John Berne School will have an exciting opportunity to join Conor for a series of photography workshops throughout May and June where they will learn to take control of a camera like Conor himself.

We are pleased to announce that Petersham RSL Club is sponsoring our Photographer in Residence Program and we extend to the club our heartfelt appreciation for this support. At the conclusion of the program an exhibition will be held at Petersham RSL Club on Wednesday 21st June to showcase photography created by our students.

You can see some of Conor's work at conorashleigh.com

jobReady!

This term our Year 10 students engaged in our work experience program. The program is designed to be practical and hands-on to give our students a taste of employment beyond Berne.

- Will learnt some tricks of the trade with Bailey the builder.
- Christian volunteered his time at Salvos in Gladesville.
- Tristan worked on a few boats at Power Marine in Mortlake.
- Costa appreciated the mechanic's life at Everlast in Kingsgrove.
- Peter added some flash to cars and



Christian at Salvos unboxing the hidden treasures



Eryn on site in his hi-vis



Costa at Everlast in Kingsgrove

- motorbikes with Autowrap in Kingsgrove.
- Tristan John got physical at Planet Fitness in Casula.
- Jack was in his element at Heartland Motors in Chullora.
- Eryn worked hard to earn his keep for a week in Dover Heights.

Well done to all our Year 10 students for completing the program this term. It was a great success. All of the employers were extremely satisfied with their efforts.

We hope the experiences and lessons our students have learned will last for many years to come. Congratulations to those students who have earned the opportunity to receive further work or training from their employers.

Thank you to all the host employers who have generously donated their time and resources to help mentor and show our students what working life is all about. We are especially thankful to those employers who were impressed enough by our students to have offered them ongoing work or mentoring.

— Michael Muranty, Careers Coordinator

Welcome Dominic Ritchie

We warmly welcome Dominic Ritchie who joins the staff this coming term to cover for James Le Huray while he is on the Marist Pilgrimage Program and also taking some long service leave. Dominic comes well credentialed to take on the position of Acting Assistant Principal.

He has worked in a number of Marist schools in Sydney and been involved in programs within these schools that have been on the cutting edge of education in best educational practice.

We are grateful to Aquinas College Menai for allowing him to have leave and take up this important role in our school. I trust that you will lend your support to Dominic during his time with us as you have done for James. We wish him well and thank him for walking with us at Berne.

— Br Mark Paul, Principal



The Berne community welcomes Dominic Ritchie

The Annual Berne Luncheon

The Annual Berne Luncheon is upon us again. It is the major fundraising event of the year and draws a large crowd from across all sectors of the community.

Once again, we are proud to include the presence of our corporate sponsors and ambassador for Berne, former NSW state premier The Honourable Kristina Keneally.

We look forward to seeing you on the 5th of May for another unforgettable Berne luncheon.

Corporate Sponsorship

Corporate Sponsorship is a wonderful opportunity for you to make a genuine difference in the lives of the vulnerable, young students at Berne.

Please consider becoming a Corporate Sponsor of The Annual Berne Luncheon 2017 and in doing so, help us to help our students turn their lives around. The cost of the Corporate Sponsorship Package is \$2500.

If you are unable to attend The Annual Berne Luncheon, there is still the option to commit to Corporate Sponsorship. As a key sponsor, you will receive all the company representation, logo exposure and verbal acknowledgement on the day. You will also receive an invitation to our VIP Thank You event plus acknowledgement in all Luncheon communication and on our website. The cost of this package is \$1500.

More importantly, you will be making a real difference in the lives of the students at Berne.

There are also a couple of other ways you can help Berne:

We need a few wonderful auction items for the Live Auction on the day. If you can help us out with a donation, we would be extremely grateful. Please email us.

Beyond the Luncheon, as part of our endeavours to up-skill our students, each student in Years 9 and 10 carry out a one week work experience block per term. In total, four weeks of work experience per year. If your business is willing to offer either work experience placement or some sort of mentoring for a student at Berne, we would love to hear from you.

Your Corporate Social Responsibility Program could include The John Berne School.

We are always looking for regular volunteers to assist with our Breakfast Program each morning or to help out with Literacy and Numeracy in the classroom for our high needs students. You don't need any special qualifications or skills other than the real desire to see our students achieve their potential and prepare themselves for life in the community beyond Berne.

Thank You to Our Sponsors

We would like to thank all our supporters, and extend special recognition to our corporate donors, whose contributions help to improve the outcomes of all Berne students.

— Ange Flannery, Development Office

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The John Berne School cordially invites you to

The Annual Berne Luncheon 2017

Friday 5 May, 12 Noon – 3.30PM

Doltone House, Hyde Park venue, Level 3, 181 Elizabeth Street, Sydney

Guest Speaker: The Hon. Kristina Keneally, Ambassador for Berne

Dress: Lounge Suit

Tickets

Corporate Sponsor*: \$2500
Individual Sponsor: \$500
Individual: \$170
Table of 10: \$1700

*Includes Corporate Package

RSVP by Thursday 27 April

Enquiries Ange Flannery | Development Officer
9218 4000 | events@johnberneschool.org
www.johnberneschool.org

Book Online www.trybooking.com/264727

If you cannot attend but wish to donate please visit
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A PLACE FOR TRANSFORMATION, TRANSITION AND EDUCATION

Marist Pilgrimage

I have been accepted to participate in the Marist Pilgrimage for 2017. I will be leaving on Easter Sunday and visiting Amman, Jerusalem, Rome, Lyon and Notre Dame del'Hermitage.



It is a privilege to attend such a pilgrimage and I look forward to further deepen my understanding of the Catholic faith and the works of St Marcellin Champagnat by walking in his footsteps. At the conclusion of the pilgrimage I will meet up with my wife and four children in Paris and spend time visiting friends and family.

— James Le Huray, Assistant Principal

Geography Excursion

On Tuesday 4th April 2017 Year 10 students walked from The John Berne School in Lewisham to Old Canterbury Road Lewisham for a field trip for Geography. This will form part of their assessment for Geography in Semester 1.

Students were investigating the geographical issue of 'Urban Growth' in this area where older terrace houses are currently being sold and replaced by apartment complexes.



Students answered questions, made estimations, drew sketches and took photos of the area to collect their data. This information will then be presented individually as an assessment task for Geography.

The students involved: Max, Zane, Christian, Tristan John, Kody and Jack were all very mature in their approach to the excursion and completed the assignment well.

— Kristina Allan, Year 10 Teacher

Student Absences

Parents and carers please note that if your child is away from school for any reason you must telephone the office on 9560 9260 or email at office@johnberneschool.org before 8.30am on the morning of their absence.

If the office is unattended at the time of your call, please leave a message.

On the day your child returns to school, please send in an explanatory note. A medical certificate is required for absences due to sickness of two days or more. Any absence without written explanation will be noted as unexplained on your child's report.

In the event of a student requiring leave for part of a day, the parent or carer must notify the appropriate Year Coordinator in writing of the circumstances that will necessitate leave for part of the day.

On occasions where extended leave is sought (more than part of a day) the parent or carer must apply in writing to the Principal. This application should clearly state the reasons for such leave and needs to establish that all reasonable alternative arrangements regarding the student's class responsibilities will be met. It is imperative that such requests be forwarded to the Principal well in advance; at least two weeks before the intended leave.

While we understand that on rare occasions emergencies and other unforeseen circumstances call for leave at short notice, we require written notification as soon as practicable.

— James Le Huray, Assistant Principal

Purple Day

At a recent assembly, James Le Huray and I presented personal stories of our encounters with epilepsy. Members of our immediate families, sadly, have the condition in common.

Our aim is to raise awareness of epilepsy with the school community and to educate students about what epilepsy is and how it might affect its sufferers. We were helped do this by presenting information collected by Year 9 student, George, for his Science assessment task this term.

The response from the whole community

was overwhelming as our call to raise money for the Epilepsy Foundation brought in \$147 in one day. Staff and students bought purple cupcakes provided by James' family to support the event.



Purple Day was held on the 26th of March this year and more information can be found on the Epilepsy Foundation's website purpleday.com.au.

Thank you again to everyone for your participation.

— Dominic Wan, Year 10 Teacher

Ash Wednesday

The school observed the first day of Lent with a liturgy in which staff and students were able to reflect on the meaning of Lent and consider how we may humbly follow the Gospel and be more Christ-like.



Students were asked to think not about what they could "give up for Lent" but how they could better live the teachings of Jesus and make sacrifices by giving more of ourselves to others.

— Br Chris Hogan

Year 9 Camp

This term our Year 9 students ventured out to the Upper Colo region for three days as part of our Outdoor Education program.

The first day saw our students survive a demanding 7km trek on the Bob Turners Track. Morale was lifted throughout the hike when George and Matt decided to incorporate a chant for all to walk to. Kerry



Year 9 ready to set off down the Colo River

was also extremely positive despite the challenging obstacles ahead. No doubt a highlight over the three days was the collaborative effort involved when setting up Lafaele's massive seven man tent! The day was polished off with hamburgers and ghost stories around a campfire.



Year 9 campers waking up to a full buffet breakfast

Year 9 were tested once again on the second day through a 13km canoe trip up the Colo River. As well as battling the current, the boys and staff were challenged by a combination of awkward sand banks and untimely low tides. Despite a number of capsizes, students worked together to pull through both metaphorically and literally!



George and Lafaele enjoying the cool waters

Students enjoyed a refreshing afternoon swim upon reaching their final destination. Thanks to David who came up with a brilliant idea: staff and students were treated to chicken schnitzel as opposed

to the planned chicken marinade. Damper around a warm campfire was most certainly deserved after a long but successful day!

Congratulations to students and staff who made this term's Year 9 camp a success.

— Nicole Arathoon, Year 9 Coordinator

Year 10 Camp

The Year 10 Camp took place at Currarong, in the Jervis Bay National Park. A stop was made at the Kiama Blowhole for a quick lunch as we made our way to camp. Upon arrival tents were quickly put up and it was time for a swim and a snorkel in the natural rock pool. As the rain began to roll in for the afternoon we decided to prepare dinner. After a delicious meal and cleaning up as a group we decided to give fishing a go at the boat ramp. Many fish were caught by the students including a stingray, shark, estuary cobbler and rock cod, unfortunately there was one evasive squid that avoided capture.



Jack, Kody and Eryn meet the wildlife up close

On the second day, we headed to Green Patch for some swimming, snorkeling and fishing. Once we arrived the students were greeted by native wildlife. Eastern Rosellas, Rainbow Lorikeets landed on students as they stood their patiently, kangaroos were so friendly that some students even gave them a pat. Despite the rain the group had another successful fishing session on the rock, where parrot fish and leather jackets were caught. The rain was unrelenting and after dinner we escaped the weather and spent some time in the community room playing cards and watching footy.



Mikey communing with nature

The camp was a great success despite the wet weather and all students and staff enjoyed learning outside the classroom.

— Tanja Dunne, Year 10 Coordinator

Introducing David Stevens

I'm David Stevens, a newly graduated PDHPE teacher who will be joining the Berne family in Term 2. I am overwhelmingly grateful to be appointed to this position and I am looking forward to working with the students and helping them become great people of the future.

The John Berne School allows me to work with students who can offer so much because of their individual struggles and life experiences and this is an area of teaching I am extremely passionate about. I also look forward to working with a great team in a small work environment, which allows all of our individual skills to be utilised in the development of our students.



David Stevens joins Berne in Term 2

I look forward to meeting everyone within the Berne community and expressing my gratitude once again for your acceptance.

— David Stevens

Literacy Program

This year we welcome a new member of staff to our literacy team. Kelly Wafer has joined us from the Catholic Education Office, Parramatta. Kelly will add expertise to our team, helping us deliver the best programs to enhance students' educational growth.

This year many of the students who are participating in reading and spelling programs have already been assessed as making significant gains. This means that the students are acquiring the automatic skills that they need for successful learning, returning to mainstream education and for employment further down the track.

We are very proud of them, and of our literacy program team, for the wonderful gains they have made. We look forward to more assessments at the end of the year for more of these good results.

Berne is undergoing an explicit school improvement program which aims to further enhance academic growth by development of specialised instruction and school based initiatives.

— Madonna Doyle, Literacy Teacher

Fitness Testing

During this term at Berne, students participated in fitness testing as part of their practical assessment. It consists of two rounds of seven tests including a 50 metre sprint, 20 metre shuttle, standing long jump, horizontal jump, as many push ups and sit ups as possible in one minute and the Beep Test. The purpose is to assess cardiovascular fitness, agility, muscular strength, endurance and speed.



Eric and Brayden ready to play after warming up with the Beep Test

The Beep Test is the most physically demanding as it requires students to run for as long as they can between markers that are 20 metres apart. Level 1 speed is 8.5km per hour and each level goes up half a kilometre until the very last stage, level 21 where the speed is 18.5km an hour. Each level goes for approximately 62 seconds.

Reaching level 10 is considered an excellent result with only a select few students being able to reach this stage. The past week has seen Eryn from Year 10 get level 11.2 and Eric from Year 8 reach level 12.2. Special mention and a huge congratulations goes to Brayden in Year 8 for achieving an outstanding result of level 16.1! This is a new school record as no student has ever achieved a result this high at Berne.

Well done to all students who participated to the best of their ability and we look forward to seeing more fantastic results in Term 3.

— Melissa Painter, PDHPE Teacher

The Jar of Awesome

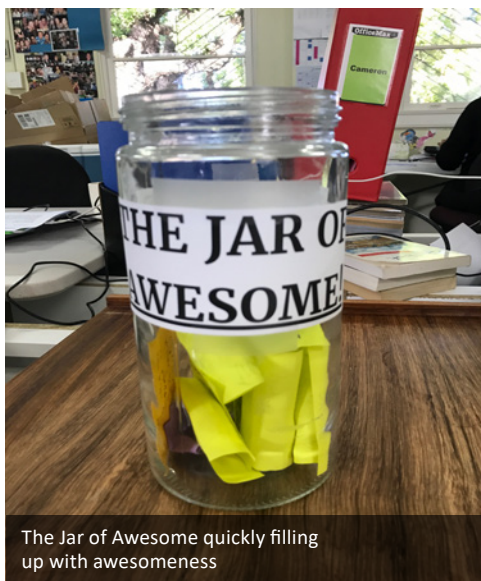
This simple gratitude exercise is something the staff here at Berne have adopted recently in an effort to constantly record great things that have actually happened!

We have a large glass jar in the staffroom that is labelled "THE JAR OF AWESOME!". Anytime something worth remembering happens throughout the day, something that has made either a teacher or student excited or joyful, staff write it down on a slip of paper and place it in the jar.

Most people think that they will remember the good things that happen months later, but the reality is you won't. The Jar of Awesome creates a record of the great things, which can be reviewed anytime, especially when times are tough.

This exercise pays dividends for weeks, months even years down the track. It reminds us to regularly acknowledge the small wins, which will in turn allow us to better appreciate the large victories. Look for the good, practice finding the good and you'll see it more often. Why not try it at home with your family?

— David Riddington, PDHPE Coordinator



The Jar of Awesome quickly filling up with awesomeness

PARENTS' CORNER

Take Care of Yourself

As parents we know that the adolescent years can be challenging and stressful. To enable us to support our young people we must first look after ourselves. Three important keys to our health and wellbeing include:

Sleep: It is recommended that adults get eight hours of good quality sleep each night and adolescents between eight and ten hours. If you are waking up tired, it is going to affect your day and can also affect your relationship with your child. Mindfulness is an easy tool to help you relax in the evening before you go to bed. Try The Smiling Mind app for an excellent start.

Exercise: This can be as simple as a walk around the block, joining a yoga class or a gym. Anything between 15 and 30 minutes at least five times a week is advantageous. Try to get out into the fresh air and away from any screens for the greatest benefit.

Healthy Eating: Try to incorporate fresh food in your diet and steer clear of food that is highly processed or high in salt, sugar, saturated fats, preservatives and other chemicals. Just as important is the example we set for our children. It is difficult for them to eat a healthy meal when they see us skipping meals or overindulging in unhealthy take away food.

If we don't look after ourselves, we are not able to look after the young people in our care.

—Chris Langridge,
Counselling Coordinator

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