



Dear parents, carers, and friends of Berne

This newsletter coincides with the end of Term 2 almost upon us. It has certainly been an eventful term and I trust a mostly positive time for our students and families.

Last Friday saw 330 guests gather at Doltone House for the Annual Berne Luncheon. It was a huge success, socially and fundraising wise. Organised by our Development Office team, Ange Flannery, Catherine Williams and Beth Regattieri, the luncheon brought together many friends of Berne including past and present staff, students, families and supporters. With our guest speaker Senator the Honourable Kristina Keneally there was an emphasis on this year being the 20th year of The John Berne School and celebrating the good work done in that time. There is indeed much to be grateful for.

In making a vote of thanks I made several points which I want to share with you. The first point is that we all need to be aware of the extraordinary work done here at Berne and that has been done these last 20 years. I know many of you are aware of that and have benefitted from it. My observation is that while there are many schools similar to Berne, the way things are done here are different.

I believe what contributes to Berne's effectiveness is the culture here, that is, the way things are done, and secondly the strong focus on educating in the Marist way. I see Marist qualities lived out and fulfilled every day, often in difficult and challenging circumstances. I see staff show genuine affection, care, respect and acceptance of our students, often without reciprocation. We work at building good relationships and that is central. But it's not only about accepting and tolerating, there is importantly an emphasis on developing and extending our students; challenging them but always respectfully, helping them to be better people than when they arrived.

The second point I want to make is about the importance of raising funds to ensure we can maintain the high staff to student ratios in the classroom as well as provide the counselling support

and the broad range of opportunities outside the classroom. In many schools fundraising provides for luxury items, the icing on the cake, but here we depend heavily on outside support for our basic necessities, almost half the actual cake!

Finally, I want to pay tribute to past and present staff for their dedication and hard work, their patience and care, their calmness under pressure, their persistence and their ability to accept and forgive. It is an honour working with this group. In this 20th year of Berne it is appropriate to acknowledge and pay tribute to all who contributed to helping make Berne the school it is today.

Mr Richard Sidorko
Principal

Thank you to the many friends of Berne who joined the staff at our recent luncheon during which we celebrated 20 years of love, hope and acceptance. I wish our students a safe and enjoyable break and that they return rested on Tuesday 24th July. Staff will participate in professional learning activities on Monday 23rd July.

— Mr Richard Sidorko, Principal



Issue 4 2018

Upcoming Events

6 July

Students' last day Term 2

24 July

Students' first day Term 3

15 August

Assumption Day Mass

21–24 August

Snowy Camp

10–14 September

Years 9 and 10 Work Experience

28 September

Students' last day Term 3

16 October

Students' first day Term 4

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National Volunteer Week

During National Volunteer Week, 21–25 May, we honoured our five volunteers. Wendy Ballesty was presented with her certificate in class by Year 10 students and our school Principal, Mr Richard Sidorko. We learned how raising four sons and a daughter has helped Wendy interact positively and successfully with our students each Wednesday.

We also shared our gratitude and appreciation for the dedication of our volunteers Patricia Robinson, John Cowan and Louise Watts on Thursday at our whole school assembly. Mr Sidorko facilitated a Q and A session with the panel of three asking them why they volunteer, what brought them to volunteer at The John Berne School and they were asked to share an interesting story from their time with us.



Many thanks again to all our volunteers for their generosity

Each response was heartfelt and full of warmth for our students, staff and community. We concluded the celebration with a shared morning tea. Volunteer, Darren Friend was honoured in the following week in class with a certificate and a big thank you from our Year 7 & 8 students. Thank you to all our volunteers for their wonderful support and dedication to our community.

— Nicole Arathoon, Volunteers Coordinator

Year 7 & 8 Camp at Bundeena

Year 7 & 8 students participated in a school camp earlier this term that took place in the Royal National Park at Bundeena.



Everyone enjoying a photo opportunity on the Jibbon Loop walk

While on camp students took part in a bush walk on the Jibbon Loop track and visited scenic Shelly Beach.

We were blessed with good weather throughout the camp and had a chance to fish and canoe the local waterways.



Br Chris demonstrates his pancake cooking skills

The students' behaviour was excellent throughout the three days and a great time was had by all.

— Tanja Dunne, Year 7 & 8 Coordinator

National Reconciliation Week

Our students in Years 9 and 10 were on work experience during National Reconciliation Week so we celebrated in the week beforehand at our whole school assembly.

Our five indigenous students played important roles in the ceremony. Eric, Daniel and Brayden spent time in the weeks beforehand painting an artwork titled "Celebrating Diversity" whilst Dylan lit our candle for prayer and Jordan organised a school fundraiser in honour of National Reconciliation Week.



Eric with the finished artwork

During assembly teacher Michael Muranty shared information with us about the theme this year "Don't Make History a Mystery" by informing us of the origin of National Reconciliation Week and the history of our Indigenous peoples.

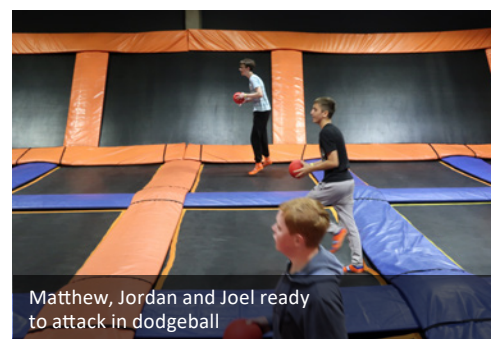
— Nicole Arathoon, Year 10 Coordinator

Champagnat Day Mass

The school observed Champagnat Day on Wednesday 6th June with a special Mass celebrated by Fr Gary Perritt and assembly held in honour of Saint Marcellin Champagnat, the founder of the Marist Brothers.

The theme for the Mass was that there is a plan for each of us which means we have hope and a future. Marcellin Champagnat had to overcome many setbacks to bring about his plan. Some examples were given such as poor schooling, being told not to come back to the priest training college and, later, too few brothers to do the work. Yet he kept hope, prayed to "Our Good Mother" and worked hard to overcome them.

Over two hundred years later we are proof he succeeded.



Matthew, Jordan and Joel ready to attack in dodgeball

During the assembly awards were presented to staff in recognition of their dedicated service in Marist schools: Nicole Arathoon, for ten years of service and Michael Muranty, for twenty years of service.

Students were treated to an afternoon visit to Sky Zone in Alexandria where the celebrations continued.

— Br Chris Hogan

Barnardos Enrich School Grant

We are pleased to announce The John Berne School has been awarded a Barnardos Australia Enrich School Grant to provide cooking lessons for our students linking other areas of our school curriculum and to upgrade our vegetable garden.

Our sincere thanks to Barnardos, proudly supported by ALDI, for this generous support of Berne's 'Recipes for Success Program'.

Work Experience

During the recent work experience week Marcus in Year 10 worked at Ultratune at Summer Hill. As he has only recently started at the school this was his first ever work experience. Marcus' reliability, cooperation and friendliness were noticed and appreciated by the management and he has now commenced regular Saturday morning paid work at the business. Congratulations!



Congratulations to Marcus for impressing everyone with your enthusiasm and securing work

During Term 3 work experience for Years 9 and 10 students will be during Week 8, from 10–14 September. As always, the most meaningful and successful work experiences are those that are well planned and organised rather than left until the last minute. Planning for the next work experience starts now!

— Michael Muranty, Work Experience Coordinator

Years 9 and 10 Activities

During the recent activities week students and staff from Years 9 and 10 visited the Australia Walkabout Wildlife Park at Calga.



Python feeding time at the wildlife park

A highlight of the day was learning to successfully throw a boomerang and have it return which many of the students mastered. There were also informative

ranger talks about some of the animals in the park such as the dingos, koalas and a special snake handling experience followed by a barbeque lunch.

The following day the group headed to Palm Beach and took a scenic walk along the isthmus to the Barrenjoey Lighthouse which is the northernmost point in Sydney.

The reward for the short, steep walk was a magnificent view of the Northern Beaches, Broken Bay, Pittwater and the Central Coast. The day finished, as all good trips to the seaside should, with fish and chips.

— Michael Muranty, Year 10 Teacher

Belvoir Performance

Year 10 students, Matthew, Joseph and Marcus performed at the Belvoir Theatre on the 25th June in front of their family, friends and staff from The John Berne School and Key College.



Playing to a full house Downstairs at Belvoir - Grant queued all night to save us seats

The performance was titled 'Supermental' and had been self devised with help from director James Winter who sought inspiration from the students during their 18 week program which started in Term 1, 2018.

The students should feel very proud of themselves as they overcame fear, anxiety and last minute changes to stand on stage and perform so perfectly with and without scripts.



Marcus and Matthew in the opening scene

A big thank you to James Winter who was a wonderful mentor, teacher and director and supported the students throughout the whole process. Congratulations to the three young actors who proved they have the inner strength, resilience

and maturity to achieve anything.

Thank you also to Jane May and the team at Belvoir for the opportunity to be a part of Youth Express again this year.

— Nicole Arathoon, Year 10 Coordinator

Sailing Sydney Harbour

Wednesday 27th of June saw the Year 9 cohort and staff venturing to Rushcutters Bay for the final sailing expedition of the term. The Winds of Change Program culminated with the students practically taking full control of the yacht and heading out through Sydney Heads.



The eight week program run by a crew of experienced sailing volunteers has been extremely valuable for the students of The John Berne School. They have worked hard as a team throughout; solving problems, sharing responsibilities and collectively working as a unit to ultimately sail a world class yacht safely in and around Sydney Harbour.



Harry on the winch

It has been great watching students struggle, persist and achieve in such a dynamic and unfamiliar environment. I'm sure I speak for all who have been involved throughout Term 2 in thanking Sailors With DisABILITIES for a memorable learning journey; in particular we'd like to thank David Pescud for his ongoing and very generous support, encouragement and time. An experience as enjoyable and this simply just wouldn't happen, for that we are all truly grateful.

— David Riddington, Year 9 Teacher

Year 10 Geography Field Work

Year 10 students attended a field trip to the Barangaroo Precinct for their Geography assessment task last week.

Students had researched the history and environmental impact of the site in the weeks prior to the field trip so on the day they walked around the site up to the Stargazer Lawn and along Nawli Cove. They explored the vegetation, the sparse residential space and the presence of huge sandstone blocks which were carved from the original sandstone wall.



Michael and Joseph discussing the geographical features around Barangaroo

They walked along Hungry Mile on Hickson Road to Darling Harbour for lunch and back to Barangaroo past the construction site of the new casino. It was a really wonderful day for all.

— Nicole Arathoon, Year 10 Coordinator

Welcome New Students

We would like to welcome students who have recently joined us. A very warm welcome to: Kylan in Year 9, Max, Michael, Connor and Dennis in Year 8 and Jack and James in Year 7.

Student Narratives

Year 10 students have recently completed a unit of work on identity and values. Their final task is to write a narrative that shows what their values are and how they came to have them.

While I would love to print them all here, the editor wouldn't allow it so here is the one that won the people's choice award.

— Nicole Arathoon, Year 10 Coordinator

Trust, Loyalty and Respect

Once I was travelling home from school by train. I saw this kid who was about my age and I wanted to make friends because I was lonely. I went up to him to ask him if he wanted to go to Bankstown with me for a sesh at a cafe. After a while I wanted to become closer with him so we started to hang out more often.

One day we were hanging out at a cafe, Sweet City. I was seeing his body language and his attitude towards me and in front of the public. I saw how he was talking with the waitress in a very kind way. I saw how he respected this elderly woman on the train by getting up out of the seat and letting her sit down. I saw how he straight away offered to buy me a drink because I had no money.

After a while I trusted him and he earned it. I started to see in the kid that he would never dog the boys and always go wherever we went. So the kid earned his loyalty. I have trusted the kid because I have lent him money and he has paid me back when I needed the money.

One day I bought him a pair of Nike TNs and I charged him \$100 extra tax. He paid it but he found out what I had done. The kid was angry with me. He never said anything to me but he gave me dirties when I saw him around my area. I felt good I made money but I felt disappointed in myself.

I decided to pay him back and give him the money. I saved up my lunch money for two months. I saw him at Berala station and gave him the money and said "I'm sorry for ripping you off". He said "No worries". I knew we were still mates.

One day we were hanging out at a cafe, Sweet City. He was seeing my body language and my attitude towards others in public. He saw how I was talking with the waitress in a very kind way. He saw how I respected this elderly woman on the train by getting up out of the seat and letting her sit down. He saw how I straight away offered to buy him a drink because he had no money.

— Year 10 Student

PARENTS' CORNER

Reading a Little Each Day Adds Up

From: www.learninglinks.org.au

It may feel hard to find 20 minutes each day to read with your child, but the cost of not doing this is far too great.

Children who read for just 20 minutes per day see 1.8 million words each year and have scores on standardised tests in the 90th percentile (because they have experienced so many words!). Compare this with the child who is reading for just 1 minute per day, they only see 8000 words each year and have scores in the 10th percentile on standardised tests.

A small amount of reading each day makes an incredible difference!

Strategies to Help Your Child Read More

Adapted from: une.edu.au

1. Read to them often, starting as young as possible.
2. Read to them every night.
3. Read in front of them often and comment positively about what is being read.
4. Praise for reading and point out what benefits there are to reading.
5. Record the names of every book read.
6. Set a limit on screens of 1-1.5 hours per day.
7. Take them to the library.

We hope that this holidays, you can read more individually and together.

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