



## Dear parents, carers, and friends of Berne

Welcome to the final newsletter of 2018. From my own personal perspective the year has moved quickly. Already we are preparing for next year and our Year 10 students have completed classes and been farewelled at a fine ceremony.

Since the previous newsletter a range of activities have engaged both students and staff. These include: the celebration of John Berne Day with the prayer, games and shared lunch; the All Saints Day liturgy; the immersion to Santa Teresa; Year 8 camp; Year 9 activities days and Year 9 and 10 work experience. Staff have also continued their focus on updating and renewing the program for our classes for next year and ensuring the quality of our care for the students and how they are taught ensures the best outcomes possible. And of course final assessments have been completed.

The following brief address was made at the Year 10 farewell recently and it is repeated here for the information of our wider community.

Good evening and a belated welcome to each of you as we gather to farewell our Year 10 students in this the 20th year of The John Berne School as they graduate from Berne and move into the next phase of their lives. In particular I extend a warm welcome to Mr Frank Malloy the National Director of Marist Schools Australia, to Br Michael, the patriarch of The John Berne School, Mr John Robinson, Regional Director of Marist Schools Australia, to our invited guests, to the parents, carers and family members of our Year 10 students and most importantly to our Year 10 students.

The whole concept of graduation too often focuses on an ending, in this case the ending of time at school. However, a more balanced perspective sees graduation also include an emphasis on a new beginning into the future beyond school.

Today we farewell our nine Year 10 students and we thank them for their respective contributions to The John Berne School, each having made their own mark during the respective time spans they have

been here. As well we bid them well for the future. For each student, life beyond Berne will take a unique course. While for some there will be further schooling and for others, work, either way the paths to be taken will be trodden according to how each person lives their life, how they relate to others and to God and the values they commit to. Regardless of which path they take we the staff are confident we have done our best to prepare them for what comes their way.

Each of our Year 10 students has taken their own individual journey in reaching this milestone. Each has confronted challenge, difficulty and adversity and happily each has experienced success and achievement. While we celebrate reaching the end point, this evening is also an opportunity to celebrate the respective journeys taken to reach this point. We celebrate the personal growth as well as the academic achievements. We celebrate overcoming adversity and learning from mistakes. We celebrate friendships made and personal goals achieved.

As a school community, in fact as a Marist family, it's also appropriate to acknowledge the central role played by the families of our Year 10s and the Berne staff and volunteers. On behalf of each Year 10 student I thank each adult who has played a role in assisting these young people achieve this milestone.

Finally, Year 10, good luck and congratulations on reaching the end of your time at Berne. We are happy for you and we are proud of you as a group. In the words of St Paul in his letter to his friend Timothy you can each say:

"I have fought the good fight,  
I have finished the race,  
I have kept the faith."

And remember of course our motto that there is "Hope Always".

The Parent Satisfaction Survey completed by many parents and carers recently provided constructive feedback for us as well as reassurance that the work done at

## Issue 7 2018

### Upcoming Events

**31 January**  
Students' first day Term 1

**11 February**  
Parent information evening

**24 February**  
Fundraising Bunnings  
barbeque Ashfield

**27 February — 1 March**  
Stage 4 Activities

**13 — 15 March**  
Stage 5 Camp

**25 — 29 March**  
Stage 5 Work Experience

**11 April**  
Stations of the cross in Mittagong

### In This Issue

Principal's Address  
Work Experience  
Year 7 & 8 Camp  
Santa Teresa Immersion  
School Opal Card  
Year 10 Graduation  
Picnic Day  
Welcome Natalie  
A Good Year for Year 7 & 8  
Thank You Dooleys  
Welcome New Students  
Parents' Corner

Berne produces positive outcomes for our students. 100% of parents who completed the survey agreed that their child positively benefitted from attending The John Berne School. Thank you for your feedback. In turn I want to assure all our parents and carers that staff at Berne are fully committed to the all round development of our students.

Finally, on behalf of the Berne staff I want to thank you for your support of Berne over the year. I know you in turn would want me to thank the staff on your behalf for their work for the students. May God's blessings be with all Berne families and friends of Berne this Christmas. Wishing you a happy, holy and peaceful Christmas.

Hope Always.

Richard Sidorko  
Principal

## Work Experience

Before they graduated Year 10 students completed their final week of work experience. It was very pleasing that there was not a single day of absence from any of the students during the week, which demonstrates wonderful commitment and is a key indicator of future reliability and employability.



David at Cycleworld

Mention must be made of David Ho who received the major work experience award at the Year 10 graduation. During Years 9 and 10 David completed eight work experience placements, each with a different employer without missing a single day of work. David possesses the great work skill of being able to adapt to whatever work environment he is placed in, which he accomplishes through friendliness and good communication.

Year 9 students also undertook their final work experience placement

for the year during Week 8.

— Michael Muranty, Work  
Experience Coordinator

## Year 7 & 8 Camp

The Year 7 & 8 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.



Victor with the birds

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 and Rainbow Lorikeets landed on students as they stood there patiently.

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

— Tanja Dunne, Year 7 & 8 Coordinator

## Santa Teresa Immersion

During the first week of November, four students and two staff members engaged in the annual Berne tradition of attending an immersion in the Central Australian community of Santa Teresa.

Situated 80km from Alice Springs in the Simpson Desert the team of six departed Sydney on November 4 and flew to Alice Springs before getting into a troop carrier for the two hour drive into the desert.

Anthony Rooskie and I spent the week with students Max, Noah, David and Victor exploring the community, engaging with the staff and students at the Ltyentye Apurte school and interacting with the local Indigenous community members.

The immersion is a wonderful opportunity for our students to step out of their comfort zones and learn how others live without the distractions of modern

technology. The group had many memorable experiences such as: climbing the rock formation on the edge of the town up to the prominent cross at the top, enjoying a night out by the campfire with the Marist Brothers and celebrating a very special mass in the home of an Indigenous family led by Bishop Charles.



Victor, Max and Noah with students  
from the community

The students learnt many new things and made many new friends who they will keep in contact with. The week was complete with a visit to Kata Tjuta National Park appreciating the sunrise over Uluru before heading home on Saturday 10 November. Thank you to all staff and the whole school community for supporting the immersion, ensuring it was a successful experience for the staff and students.

A special thank you also to everyone who attended the fundraiser trivia night on Friday 16 November. This was a wonderful night sharing knowledge, answering questions, playing games all in support

## School Opal Card

The School Opal Card is for eligible school students and provides free travel on public transport between home and school within the Opal network. For other public transport journeys students are required to use a prepaid Child/Youth Opal card.

Tapping on and off at the beginning and end of each trip is one of the conditions of using a School Opal card. Opal data gathered by tapping on and off is used to determine demand for transport services. If students don't tap on and off, services may be reduced and/or cancelled due to lack of recorded patronage.

Parents and carers are reminded that they must reapply for their child's School Opal card if they have changed residential address or if they are changing schools. To reapply visit <https://apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts/updateDetails#/>



of the immersion and to raise much needed funds to finance the experience. We extend our greatest appreciation to Andrew Coorey who hosted the night with expertise and humour. Our sincerest thanks to all parents and the local community for generously donating gifts which were used as prizes on the night for the games and the winning table. The total raised was \$4400 which is a remarkable result.



Berne students and staff also ran a barbeque at Bunnings Warehouse Ashfield on 29 November raising more funds for the immersion. Thank you to all who participated for their hard work.

— Nicole Arathoon, Immersion Coordinator

## Year 10 Graduation

Congratulations to our Year 10 students of 2018 who graduated on Friday 30 November. Nine students were warmly farewelled, acknowledged and congratulated for all their hard work and dedication to completing their Year 10 education:



Congratulations to the graduating class of 2018

- Tony Bell
- Matthew Derrett
- Josephine Hill
- David Ho
- Jaydyn Koutts-Russell
- Joseph Langman
- Jireh Lungjung
- Daniel McNally
- Marcus Phillips

The evening commenced with the students processing into the Champagnat Room holding candles with their names on it led by the new Berne Candle. They lit their own candles from the Berne candle as a symbol of their connection to The John Berne School. A beautiful Mass was then facilitated by Fr Gary followed

by a short break and light dinner.

The formal presentations then commenced where students were recognised for their achievements and presented with their official certificates. Congratulations to all the major prize winners on the night who were recognised for their contributions to the school community and for their efforts in engaging with the Berne program.



**Champagnat Award** presented for character, stability, and good example: David Ho

**Jean-Baptiste Berne Award** presented for personal improvement: Marcus Phillips

**Br Michael Flanagan Award** presented for courage and perseverance in adversity: Jaydyn Koutts-Russell



**Geoffrey George Award** presented for service to the school community: David Ho

**Dave Hordern Award** presented for excellence in work experience: David Ho



**Graeme Ellis Award** presented for participation in a co-curricular activity: Matthew Derrett

**Liza Adams Award** presented for application or achievement in Mathematics: Josephine Hill

**Reuben F Scarf Award** presented for consistent effort and desire to improve: Tony Bell

Thank you to all staff, volunteers, parents and carers who have supported our students along their journey to Year 10 graduation. We wish our students every success in their future as they venture onto the next phase of their lives.

— Nicole Arathoon, Year 10 Coordinator

## Picnic Day

The penultimate day of Term 4 is set aside for the Berne Picnic Day; a tradition that sees the school pack swimming, fishing, and sporting gear to take to Clifton Gardens in Mosman. Picnic Day is a day to celebrate the successes of the year and a time to play, laugh, and share lunch together as a community before we take a well deserved rest over the summer.



Crossing town to get to the north shore can sometimes be challenging but thanks to the kindness, joy, and positivity powering the Berne vehicles even an average speed of 20km/h in peak hour Sydney traffic need not be cause for frustration.

## Welcome Natalie

A warm welcome to Natalie Camborda who is with us whilst Gemma Peters is on parental leave. We are very fortunate to have Natalie's skills at Berne during this time.



The group split up into the swimmers, fishers and cricketers almost as soon as we arrived. Jack took to the crease and looked set to be batting all day when a freak inswinger from Anthony took him off guard and dismissed him for 24 runs. Later in the day, Ben was dismissed by an acrobatic diving catch by Supi.

Not much was biting from the jetty but Max hooked a good sized Leatherjacket (*Pseudomonacanthus peroni*) which had the poor sense to have died and washed up on the beach. Despite numerous nibbles and the persistence of the Berne anglers, no fish were caught.



It's lonely in the middle when the outfield takes forever to retrieve the ball from the stands

The swimming was good as the water was fresh and invigorating. The overcast skies helped keep the air temperature stable and although there was a breeze blowing most of the time, it wasn't too cool to dissuade our swimmers.

Lunch was our traditional fare of charcoal chicken and chips which were good enough to force the intermittent fasters amongst the staff to break their fasts. The chips lived up to their legendary status and despite them having absorbed many chicken particles in transit did not stop any vegans from partaking.

Many hands made light work of the packing up; thank you to everyone for pitching in to help us leave the park in a better way than how we found it.

The day ended as it began with kindness, joy, and positivity propelling us back to school with nothing but stories of the outing to speak about.

Many thanks to Nicole for her organisation and running of the day; Mr Sidorko, Br Chris and Dave for driving; Tania for having all the food and drinks sorted; James and Michael for holding the fort back at school and all the staff and students for a wonderful end to the school year.

— Dominic Wan, Teacher

## A Good Year for Year 7 & 8

As we wind up for 2018 we can begin to reflect on another great year for the younger students of The John Berne School. All in all it has been a positive year with the year group growing together as the year progressed.

This year saw the Year 7 & 8 group work through the curriculum productively while at the same time develop their social skills and personal experiences through the many extra curricular activities organised by the staff. These experiences included many outings to the beach, a camp in both Terms 2 and 4 and a range of cooking lessons.

Through these activities the students were able to form a positive bond amongst each other and also build a positive relationship with the Year 7 & 8 team. This positive foundation will allow the students to transition into the next year and ready to enjoy their learning experience in 2019.

— David Stevens, Year 7 & 8 Teacher

### Thank You Dooleys Lidcombe Catholic Club

The John Berne School gratefully acknowledges the generosity of Dooleys Lidcombe Catholic Club for their continuing support of our Breakfast Program. We sincerely thank them for their donation of \$5,000 this year which is greatly appreciated by our whole school community.



### Welcome New Students

We would like to welcome new students who have recently joined our school. A very warm welcome to: Karim, Maxwell and Tevita in Year 8 and Matthew in Year 9.

## PARENTS' CORNER

### Supporting Children's Thinking and Learning

Parents and carers can support children's learning in many ways. Taking an active interest in the process of learning (and not just the product or outcome) helps children see that learning is fun. Getting to know your children's strengths and weaknesses allows you to match tasks to their level of ability and development. This also increases the likelihood that they will succeed, helping them build a belief in their own abilities and encouraging them to attempt further tasks. Encourage children and build confidence by praising and acknowledging children's attempts and not just their successes. Showing children you value their effort helps to give them the confidence to keep trying.

#### Remove Distractions

Children need focused time to learn and think. Help children develop attention and concentration by making sure that quiet time is set aside for homework and other learning tasks without TV or other distractions. Encouraging and rewarding children for concentrating and persisting with learning tasks will support good study habits and effective learning.

Provide 'scaffolding' for children's learning. Extend children's learning by asking questions, giving children hints and prompts and guide them step-by-step to build their skills so they can reach the point of completing the whole task on their own.

Adapted from the KidsMatter website: [www.kidsmatter.gov.au](http://www.kidsmatter.gov.au)

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