



Dear parents, carers, and friends of Berne

Our recent school assembly on Harmony Day focused on anti bullying. It was well presented by Kristina and Anthony and and provided challenges and insights for our students and staff to reflect on in relation to the dark and ever present evil that is bullying, something I'd be confident each of us has personally experienced or witnessed during our lives.

During my brief address I also spoke about the evil of bullying and linked it to our own community here at Berne, where sadly we witness too often students being picked on or harassed. Berne is typical of every school and of society generally, sadly. Social media and internet have certainly contributed to bullying being worse now probably than ever before. I asked the students to recall the Christchurch Mosque massacre which took place in mid March, perpetrated by a young man from a small rural town in Australia. Who would ever have thought in that town, in his own family, amongst his school mates, his work mates, that this man had so much hatred of another ethnic, religious group that he would wantonly kill 50 innocents. Who would have thought? Yes, this is an extreme, yet his motivation had its origins somewhere in his past.

On the occasion of Harmony Day we emphasised the importance, in fact the absolute necessity, for us to accept, tolerate and respect everyone regardless of their religion their ethnic background, their sexuality, their being 'different' to us.

Archbishop Fisher made an excellent statement on the Christchurch massacre recently which I include for you to reflect on.

"Today we are all Muslims," said one of our nation's most respected journalists.

Not that we all share the same faith. But here we are, in a Christian holy place on the Christian holy day, standing together in solidarity over events in two Muslim holy places on the Muslim day of prayer.

We stand together today in our grief over the deaths of at least 50 innocent brothers and sisters in Christchurch,

over injury suffered by dozens more, and over damage done to our shared sense of security and peace.

We stand together today in our horror at the real evil we have witnessed, at the violence perpetrated and the hate that inspired it.

We stand together today in our disgust at the racism of this enemy of mankind and the blasphemy of this enemy of God, and at all who willingly desecrate places of peace, times of ritual, and the bodies of the young and old at prayer.

To our shame it seems the perpetrator of this evil was a young Australian. He boasted on social media of being "the strongest man, pound for pound, in town". He devoted himself to "playing video games, snorting coke and hiring strippers". He called himself "a goddamn monster of willpower". A young man, more and more alienated, resentful, radicalized, brutal.

To all young people like him we say today: if it is real strength you want, you will find it in compassion and mercy, not hate and violence. If it is real devotion you seek, dedicate yourself to God and goodness and your fellow man and woman, rather than ego and ideology. If you want to be worthy of admiration, cultivate a generous inclusivity rather than divisive arrogance, be willing to serve rather than seeking to dominate.

We stand together today, in solidarity with our Muslim brothers and sisters, in their grief, horror and disgust, for if someone has killed, maimed and terrorized our neighbours they have killed, maimed and terrorized us.

But today is about more than fellow-feeling. Where there is grief, we will bring consolation; where there is horror, we will sow trust; where there is despair, we will offer hope.

In our reading from the Book of Lamentations of the Prophet Jeremiah (3:17-26) – a prophet shared by Jews, Christians and Muslims – Jeremiah advises

Issue 2 2019

Upcoming Events

11 April

Stations of the Cross at Mittagong
Students' last day Term 1

12 April

Berne Annual Fundraising Luncheon

30 April

Students' first day Term 2

14–16 May

NAPLAN Testing Years 7 & 9

20 May

Parent/Teacher Evening

22–24 May

Stage 4 Camp

27–31 May

Stage 5 Work Experience

6 June

Champagnat Day Mass

5 July

Students' last day Term 2

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that when we are glum, brooding, forlorn, we should recall that God is faithful and that by His grace we are capable of more. 'My portion is the Lord,' says my soul, 'and so I will hope in Him.'

Lent is for Christians a season of fasting and prayer and looking forward to better. Today I commit myself and my community to fasting and praying with you and for you. Such acts say more than handshakes and rhetoric. For to stand in solidarity is to stand on something solid. That something solid is insistence on our common humanity; it is awareness of our common vulnerability as individuals but our strength when we stand together; it is commitment to common love of God and God's law of peace; and it is fulfilment of our common morality as citizens in a free land. As-salaam 'alaykum.

As we approach Holy Week and Easter may each of us use the awful events of Christchurch to motivate us to be the kind and respectful people we are called to be as we fulfill our theme of the year to 'Be Holy'.

Mr Richard Sidorko
Principal

¹ Greg Sheridan, "Now we are all Muslims," Australian 16 March 2019

The John Berne School Student Prayer

The Berne staff have a prayer so it was thought that the student should have one too. This student prayer was created by staff over several meetings. What was wanted in the prayer was the first part of the process. Then some samples were considered and several drafts were produced before settling on this final prayer. This final prayer was presented to the students for comment. It was launched on the school assembly on 21 March.

There are three sections to the prayer. In the first section the students are asking to 'grow in awareness' of a creator who is a loving, positive, hopeful and tolerant presence in their world.

The second, reminds them that Jesus did come to show us God's way. Marcellin Champagnat is mentioned as he was the inspiration for our school. His life's work was to make Jesus known and loved.

In the final paragraph the students are asking to be part of this positive way in their ordinary lives by being good citizens. Mary the mother of Jesus is mentioned as she was Jesus' first disciple and therefore a guide for all.

Often this prayer would be followed by what could be called a litany, where significant people in our Marist tradition are asked to pray for us:

Mary our good mother, **pray for us**

Saint Marcellin Champagant, **pray for us**

Saint Mary of the Cross
Mackillop, **pray for us**

And let us always remember, **to pray for one another.**

This litany has been a part of the daily prayer for our students in the mornings and assemblies for some years.

—Br Chris Hogan, Teacher & Nicole Arathoon, Stage 4 Coordinator

The John Berne School Student Prayer

Lord God,

May we, the young people of The John Berne School grow in awareness of your creation, love and care for us.

May we, like Marcellin, learn that Jesus your son continues to bring light from darkness, peace from anxiety, life from death.

May we, with Mary as our guide, be good citizens with kind and forgiving hearts, knowing there is hope always.

Amen

Library News

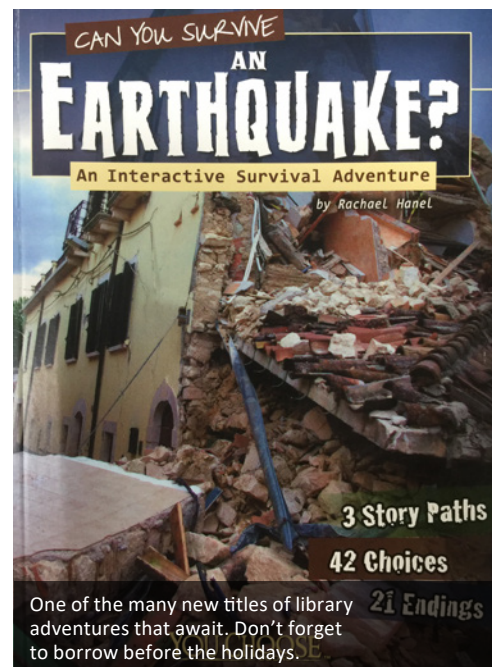
Earth-Shattering Decision!

Even with your seatbelt on your body slams from side to side. Outside the car window you see trees sway, poles topple and power lines swing. Storefront windows explode, sending glass raining down into the street. It's an earthquake! After several seconds the shaking stops. You get out of your car and see a group of frightened people gathered on the sidewalk. You join them. "What should we do now?" a woman asks.

What WILL you do?

It's YOUR choice when you read Can You Survive an Earthquake?, an interactive novel where YOU decide from a range of options how the story goes - and find out if you kept yourself alive, or not!

There's more: Can You Survive the Titanic?, Can You Survive Storm Chasing?, Countdown to Danger - Bullet Train Disaster, Escape!, and The Treasure of Dead Man's Cove.



There's Creep Street, where YOU are the detective, horror titles like Werewolf Hunter and Zombie Hunter, monster survival challenges such as The Abominable Snowman and Prisoner of the Ant People, and Science Fiction adventures like Trial of the Clone and War with the Evil Power Master. Finally there are seven mysteries to solve in one book: Puzzle Adventure Omnibus.

There are 20 interactive novels in your Library. They're easy, fast and fun. Take them to your classroom, or borrow a couple to read at home. To find them, ask your teacher, or me. We'll get you on your way. The rest is up to you. Good luck!

—Grant Lee, Librarian

Southern Cross Catholic Vocational College Open Day

Southern Cross Catholic Vocational College (SCCVC) is a state-of-the-art, coeducational Catholic Secondary College for Years 11-12 students. Each student undertakes study that leads to a HSC with a focus on practical, hands-on, industry-based learning.

**Tuesday 7 May 2019
4.00pm – 7.30pm**

All Welcome!

Campus tours conducted throughout the evening.
Enrolment packages available.

17 Comer St Burwood
Tel: 8372 4400
www.sccvc.nsw.edu.au

John Eales Visits Berne

The recent visit to Berne by John Eales was a highlight for students and staff. John is well known as a former captain of the Australian rugby team, he is a prominent Australian and, as he proudly told the assembly, he is an old boy of the Marist school in Brisbane. John recounted several personal experiences to emphasise the theme that hope, perseverance and continued effort will inevitably bring about good outcomes. It was a wonderful experience to welcome John to Berne.

—Mr Richard Sidorko, Principal



Finn, Berne's resident Rugby fanatic, with John Eales

Stage 4 Activities

Stage Four students had a wonderful three days of activities aimed at building good relationships, getting along with others and improving social skills. Along with their teachers students enjoyed a day of fishing and swimming at Clifton Gardens on the first day. No fish were caught but the warm weather and good camaraderie made for a perfect day.



Stage 4 out and about at Taronga Zoo

On the second day students enjoyed a very special VIP experience at Taronga Zoo walking on the Wild Ropes course which was challenging yet fun and sitting in the

front row of the Birds of Flight Show. We are so very grateful to Hayden Turner and his team for making us feel so welcomed and looked after during our time at Taronga.



Dylan swinging from the tree tops

Our final day included two games of bowling at Manhattan Superbowl where staff happily beat out the students in their number of strikes! The day ended with a lovely pizza lunch at Cafe Goia in Leichhardt.



Pizza time at Leichhardt

Thank you to our eight students who showed their ability to get along with each other whilst enjoying themselves outside of the school grounds.

—Nicole Arathoon, Stage 4 Coordinator

Stage 5 Camp

This term Stage 5 experienced another successful camp to Greenpatch in Jervis Bay. During Week 7 the Stage 5 students were sent on camp in two groups and both groups enjoyed three days and two nights of hiking, fishing, swimming and kayaking.

Students made the most of their time and were exceptional at setting up camp and helping with cooking and sourcing firewood. Staff and students were visited frequently by the local wildlife when possums came to camp during the night and wallabies came to visit in the morning. Students were able to hand feed wild parakeets at the famous Greenpatch wildlife area and

dolphins were seen close to shore on a number of occasions. A special mention to student Kylan who caught a record number of fish creating a new record of seven catches on the Thursday afternoon.



Rebecca feeding a peacock its favourite food in the wild - Tiny Teddies

Students enjoyed swimming in Jervis Bay and also explored the surrounding beaches at night with spotlighting walks.

For some of our new Stage 5 students this was their first experience of camping with The John Berne School and it was evident that the experience was thoroughly enjoyed by students new and old as well as the Stage 5 teachers who assisted.

A special thanks to Stage 5 Coordinator Tanja Dunne who stayed down the whole week with both groups and organised the site as well as the fantastic meals enjoyed on camp. Stage 5 will be enthusiastically looking forward to next camp in Term 2.

—David Stevens, Teacher

Youth week 2019
Inner West Police Command and MSC present
Youth Bubble Soccer Tournament
Thursday 18 April 2019
McNally Park, Marrickville
12pm-4pm (12-18 years only)
Prizes and bragging rights to be won

Free BBQ
Stalls and other activities surrounding the main event

For more info contact: Constable Casey Mitchell or Senior Constable Blake Langford on 95508118 or innerwestyb@police.nsw.gov.au



Welcome New Students

We would like to welcome new students who have recently joined our school in Stage 5: Jake, Jakob, Garang and Rachael.

Aikido Program

This term Stage 4 has been participating in the challenging Aikido program run by Darren Friend at his Marrickville dojo. Aikido is a Japanese martial art that challenges participants both physically and mentally with students working on drills and skills that could help resolve a conflict situation.



Students receive their certificate of participation from Darren Friend sensei

Over the past few weeks students have worked hard on their balance, coordination, reaction, and sense of timing, posture, flexibility and how to be a more relaxed individual. In the last two weeks of the program students worked together to develop greater self-confidence and self-discipline.

Our sincere thanks to Club Ashfield for their ClubGRANTS sponsorship to enable our students to participate in this valuable program.

—David Riddington, Teacher

Congratulations Marcus

Congratulations to past student Marcus who was presented with the PCYC Young Achiever of the Year Award.



Marcus receiving his award from Senior Constable Craig Kelly

Marcus graduated from Berne last year and went on to gain an apprenticeship with Ultratune Summer Hill.

—Michael Muranty, Work Experience Coordinator

Thanks To Our Sponsors At This Year's Berne Luncheon

Many thanks once again for the generous support of our sponsors at the Berne Luncheon without whose help none of what appears in these pages would be possible.

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Work and Young People

Working can impact on the development of adolescents in many positive ways. In particular, work can help the young person develop a sense of autonomy and independence, develop maturity and forge their own identity. How do we, as parents discuss the issue of working with our children?

It is important that they have good role models in their life so they feel that what they are doing is worthwhile and gives them a sense of purpose. The way we speak about our own jobs in front of our children is often the most influential marker for how they perceive work, careers and vocations. It is often a good idea for young people to have discussions with different people in their lives about various types of work - including Aunts and Uncles.

The Berne Work Experience program has always been a significant component of our overall education program. In our 20 years of operation there have been a number of students who have gained apprenticeships, traineeships and careers as a result of their work placement. As much as some students will experience fear and even anxiety, it is important that we encourage them to participate in this program for their own benefit as they grow and mature. Any job can have positive impacts on our life - even those jobs that are not necessarily going to be our chosen career. Discussing these aspects with our students is imperative to helping them see the role and purpose of work experience in not only their education path but for their future.

A sense of purpose, is an important aspect of promoting positive mental health and work experience allows our students to have a very positive sense of purpose.

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