



The John Berne School
Hope Always

Newsletter

Dear parents, carers, and friends of Berne

Welcome to the final newsletter of Term 4, 2019. Like most terms this term has been filled with a variety of activities for our students. We are preparing for next year and our Year 10 students have been farewelled by the students in an assembly held on Tuesday 19th November and at a wonderful graduation ceremony on Friday 29th November.

Since the previous newsletter the staff and students have been engaged in a number of activities and these include: The celebration of John Berne Day, All Souls Day Liturgy, The Santa Teresa Immersion, Stage 4 camp, Year 9 Activities (Camp cancelled due the devastating bushfires), Stage 5 Work Experience and Fundraising Golf Day.

At the recent Year 10 graduation the following brief address was made and it is repeated here for the information of the wider community:

Good evening special guests,
parents, staff and students

To the graduating class of 2019 my warmest congratulations you have made it to the end of Year 10!!!! You have dedicated yourselves to the completion of Year 10 and ensured a pathway to further education, training and apprenticeships, employment prospects and you are all well equipped to embrace life and make a contribution to the future of your world.

Well done!

Here we are at the end of your time at Berne and I want you all to be assured just as we prepared you for Berne school camps and activities we will ensure you have all the provisions and are prepared for this next exciting phase of your life.

Wellbeing takes priority, so in our provisions we wrap up a good proportion of spiritual, emotional and physical health and a capacity to cope and thrive. There would be a good sized parcel of lifelong love of learning. We would fill containers of personal qualities; respect, dignity, compassion, generosity, truth and kindness.

Your drink bottle would contain litres of faith to connect you and sustain your soul. Finally and perhaps most importantly we would pack you a healthy serve of integrity. Why is this so important? Because without it, respect for self and the defence of all you believe may be seriously diminished.

Integrity is not easily defined, however it is recognised in people who embody it because they are true to themselves, honest, upright and decent in their relationships with others. Their actions align with their principles and speak for them more eloquently than words ever could. Integrity by its very nature implies consistency. It means being sound, faithful and truthful through and through. Integrity is at the heart and demands courage.

The marathon is the final event on the Olympic Games program and in the Olympic Games in Mexico in 1968 where the stadium was packed there was much excitement as the first athlete, an Ethiopian runner enters the stadium for the final lap. The crowd erupts as Mamo Wolde crosses the finish line.

Way back in the field is another runner John Akhwari of Tanzania. He has been eclipsed by the other runners. After 30 kilometers his head is throbbing, his muscles are aching and he falls to the ground. He has serious leg injuries and the officials are wanting him to retire but he refuses. With his leg bandaged Akhwari picks himself up and continues to hobble the remaining 12 kilometers to the finish line. An hour after the winner has finished Akhwari enters the stadium. Only a few thousand remain to watch as Akhwari moves around the track at a painstakingly slow pace- finally collapsing over the finish line. A truly heroic effort- and asked afterwards why he did not pull out Akhwari said my country did not send me to start the race they sent me to finish.

What an extraordinary demonstration of integrity and courage. And as I look around this room, I see many of you who are still running a Marathon- for Berne, for your family and for yourself because you have started the race and I pray each of you

Issue 5 2019

Upcoming Events

31 January

Students' First Day Term 1, 2020

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Our Sincerest Thanks

Our sincere and heartfelt thanks to Earlwood Bardwell Park RSL Club for their grants totalling \$13,400 in support of our Outdoor Education Program, our Changing Lanes Program and for a series of Science Workshops.



keep going until you reach the finish line.

Your Catholic, Marist education has placed in your lunch box all the values necessary for integrity to be at the heart of your person. I ask that as you step out into the world may those grown up lunch boxes be filled with all the values and qualities integrity embodies.

I feel privileged and honoured to have met each and every one of you and would like to wish you well on your marathon ahead. I pray that each of you remember the wonderful support of your loved ones, the tireless work of the staff at The John Berne School, the vision of St Marcellin Champagnat and the Brothers, the love of Mary and the love and acceptance God has for all of us.

Thank you and good luck

Finally on behalf of the Berne staff I want to thank you for your support of Berne. I would also like to thank the staff on your behalf for their tireless work and ongoing commitment to holistically educating the students. May God's blessings be with all Berne families and friends this Christmas. Wishing you a happy, holy and peaceful Christmas.

Hope always.

James Le Huray
Principal

John Berne Day

In Week 2 this term we marked John Berne Day with Mass celebrated by Father Gary Perritt. During his homily Father Gary encouraged the students to be people who look for what they can give back to the community rather than what they can take out of it. I am hopeful that students will embrace this message and look for ways they can also give back to the Berne school community.



Thank you to the Brothers at the Eastwood community for their support

Br Darren Burge, Br Anthony Vaughan, Br Justin Guthrie and Br Robert Speare from the Eastwood Marist Brothers community joined us to help celebrate this special day. Br Darren, the Vice Provincial and former Principal of The John Berne School, presented awards to students Rowan,

Oliver and Daniel who have persevered through difficulties and have made significant personal improvements.



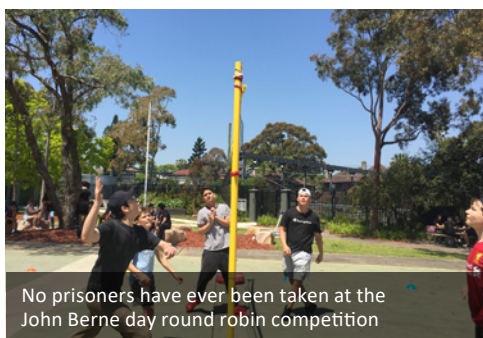
Congratulations to Daniel for winning the John Berne Day award

A lovely morning tea was shared by all and it was wonderful for the staff and students to be able to meet and share stories with our visitors.

— Tanja Dunne, Stage 5 Coordinator

Sports Carnival

John Berne Day continued in the afternoon with our Annual Sports Carnival held at Petersham Oval. Students participated in a series of modified events including a 50 metre sprint, 3 legged race, sack race, marathon lap around the oval and vortex throw.



No prisoners have ever been taken at the John Berne day round robin competition

Students gained points for finishing in the top three and for participation and good sportsmanship. The two fastest runners from each year group competed in a final race for the title of "Fastest in the School". Congratulations to Kylan for winning the event this year.



Kylan - fastest in school standing still long enough to receive his award

After the carnival we came back to school where students and staff joined in a round robin style volleyball competition.

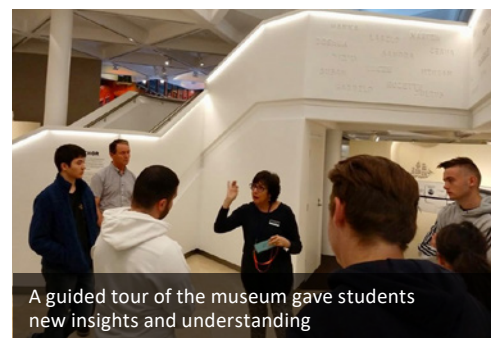
Again, students were awarded points on how successful their group was and for displaying good teamwork. Following this, we were treated to a BBQ lunch and the student with the most points in each year group was then recognised and awarded for their efforts. It was a great success with both students and staff getting into the spirit of the day.

— Melissa Painter, PDHPE Teacher

Jewish Museum Visit

A group of our students were respectfully awed as a holocaust survivor, Jack, told them about his experiences escaping two concentration camps, including Auschwitz.

The students were at the Jewish Holocaust Museum, developing their understanding of this terrible point in history, as part of their research project on *Is Our World Heading in the Right Direction?*



A guided tour of the museum gave students new insights and understanding

Jack's story, and the guided tour of many exhibits, helped the students understand the freedoms most of us enjoy in our society, and the need for us all to resist the erosion of these freedoms.

After the Museum tour the students walked through Darlinghurst, picking up a delicious gelato on the way, before relaxing in Rushcutters Bay Park with ham and salad wraps they had put together earlier at school.

— Grant Lee, Stage 5 Teacher

Welcome New Students

We would like to welcome new students who have recently joined our school. A very warm welcome to: Joseph, Simon, Molly, Dylan, Lenny, Jemma, Gabriel and Hemi (Stage 5) and Oskar, Jesse, Ben, Laleitah, Patrick, Ethan and Riley (Stage 4).

Year 10 Graduation 2019

Special guests, staff, students and their families gathered together to celebrate the successes of the Year 10 students. All our graduands arrived with a nervous but excited energy, not entirely believing that their efforts and the support they received from their families and Berne staff had led to the completion of our program and that they would be awarded the Record of School Achievement.



Congratulations to Noah Lanson, winner of this year's Champagnat Award

Congratulations to all our graduates for 2019:

- Oskar Azar
- Jamilah Bates
- Daniel Gaeta
- Kylan Gomes
- Noah Lanson
- Matthew McAuley
- Molly Murray
- Rebecca Scott
- Harry Skandalakis
- Luke Simpson
- Alexander Theoclitou
- Garang Yai

Many thanks to Father Paul Mahony for celebrating Mass with us and for his poignant and uplifting homily. The nerves had settled by the time the students got up to read during Mass and were proud to be able to take an active part in the celebration.



All the graduating students for 2019 at the rehearsal

Refreshments were served with a light supper after Mass and the celebration continued with a formal and joyful recognition of all the hard work, effort, blood, sweat and tears that have gone into getting to this point.

Special congratulations go to the major prize winners this year:

Champagnat Award presented for character, stability, and good example: Noah Lanson

Jean-Baptiste Berne Award presented for personal improvement: Harry Skandalakis



Well done Matthew McAuley, winner of the Graeme Ellis Award for 2019

Br Michael Flanagan Award presented for courage and perseverance in adversity: Daniel Gaeta

Geoffrey George Award presented for service to the school community: Noah Lanson



Many thanks to Ms Jennifer Simpson for giving the parent reply this year

Dave Hordern Award presented for excellence in work experience: Rebecca Scott

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



Congratulation to Harry, winner of this year's Jean-Baptiste Berne Award

Br Mark Farrelly Award presented to the Dux of the graduating class: Noah Lanson

Jenny Keys Award presented for application or achievement in English: Kylan Gomes and Daniel Gaeta

Liza Adams Award presented for application or achievement in Mathematics: Noah Lanson and Jamilah Bates

Reuben F Scarf Award presented for consistent effort and desire to improve: Luke Simpson



Mr John Robinson presenting Daniel with the Br Michael Flanagan Award

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.

— Tanja Dunne, Stage 5 Coordinator

Science Workshops

This term students engaged in a science workshop with Ben from Fizzics Education. The 40 minute interactive workshop for Stage 5 was The Chemistry Show where they experienced dry ice bubbling, colour changing chemical reactions, glow in the dark pigments, elephants toothpaste, stringy slimes and different coloured flames. Learning more about the chemistry of fireworks, properties of solids, liquids and gases and physical changes vs. chemical reactions.



Stage 4 students and Nicole in disbelief at the brittle tennis ball

Stage 4 enjoyed The Liquid Nitrogen Show where they had the opportunity to assist in many cool liquid nitrogen demonstrations finding out how solids, liquids and gases change when rapidly heated and cooled. Smashing a tennis ball in your hands and shrinking a balloon instantly were highlights. Running these workshops for our students ensures they experience all facets of Science. Always a fun, hands-on educational session for our students.

Our thanks to Earlwood Bardwell Park

RSL Club for giving us a grant for these very special Science Workshops.

— Nicole Arathoon, Stage 4 Coordinator

Paddock to Plate

As part of our Living Skills Program, teachers and students are busy creating a new garden area where students will grow produce for our "Paddock to Plate" program and to cook and make things such as kombucha, yoghurt and other ferments.



James harvesting the fruits of our labour

Students will be responsible for designing, ordering supplies, building garden beds, planting, fertilising, watering, nurturing and maintaining the garden.

The John Berne School would like to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to WestConnex and specifically the WestConnex Community Grant Scheme 2019 for recognising the value and worth of our "Paddock to Plate" program and have generously provided the funding for our project.

— David Riddington, Stage 4 Teacher

Santa Teresa Immersion

The Santa Teresa Immersion allows a plethora of opportunities for our students to engage in the cultural richness of the Arrernte people.

This year, seven students and three staff members had the chance to travel to this Indigenous rural community of Santa Teresa.



Well done to all the students who attended this year's immersion to Santa Teresa

We were first introduced to Sister Liz, who gave us an introduction to the history and culture of Santa Teresa and was also our caretaker throughout our stay.

During this immersion, we were given the opportunity to engage in the local community, experience the Santa Teresa lifestyle and partake in ministry. We were fortunate enough to support the toddlers in the crèche, assist the primary kids in the local school and prepare meals ready for delivery to locals in the community centre throughout our stay.

Overall, we came into this immersion with an open heart and an open mind, ready to help any way we can. Little did we know, as much as we've helped them, they too have helped us by gifting us with a new perspective and the importance of family spirit and presence with one another.

— Supi Taufao, Teachers' Aide

Year 9 Activities

In Week 5 Year 9 students were due to go on camp, unfortunately due to bushfires the camp had to be cancelled. So instead we hit the beaches to cool off and enjoy some fun and sun.

Students and staff had a great time exploring the coastal walks around Coogee on Wednesday and enjoyed a barbeque. Joe and Jake even climbed the famous Coogee stairs to work off the burgers we had for lunch.



Joseph and Jake leading the way

On Thursday we visited Clifton Gardens and enjoyed a swim followed by lunch.

On our final day we visited Clovelly and enjoyed a sausage sizzle followed by some coastal exploring and swimming. Thank you to all the students who attended and for their excellent behaviour on the three days.

— Tanja Dunne, Stage 5 Coordinator

PARENTS' CORNER

Technology and Tantrums

Australian Parenting website, Raising Children, suggest the following to help your child maintain a healthy balance between family, peers, technology, school and homework:

- Set rules about screen use - such as when, where and how technology can be used in your home.
- Aim for short screen time sessions - having a break every 30 minutes is encouraged as moving around is important for a child's energy levels, development, sleep and overall health and wellbeing.
- Prioritise physical activity - often if it is not 'timetabled' it doesn't happen.
- Extra-curricular involvement - allowing for a chance to meet new people and develop new skills.
- Encourage face-to-face socialising - helps to further develop social skills.
- Avoid screen time before bed - watching a screen can impact on the length and quality of a child's sleep. Teenagers need between 8-10 hours of sleep per night.
- Keep devices out of rooms, especially at night - this allows for greater control of screen time as well as providing an environment conducive to sleep.

For more information you can visit the Raising Children website <https://raisingchildren.net.au/teens/entertainment-technology>

By putting a few simple changes into place, you will make a long-term difference for your child.

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