



Dear parents, carers, and friends of Berne

I would like to reiterate the message of welcome which I made to all our families at the Parent Information afternoon and would like to thank all the families, both new and returning, who attended as it was a wonderful afternoon.

At the Parent Information afternoon I introduced, to those present, the Mission Statement of The John Berne School which is shown below:

In the Marist tradition The John Berne School welcomes, accepts and loves the young people entrusted into our care. We are committed to holistically educating our students, empowering them to grow, develop and follow the individual paths they need to pursue.

I mentioned during my talk how we at Berne, as a school community and a staff, aim to achieve the goals of the Mission Statement for each individual student by:

1. Upholding our school values of Safety, Respect and Positive Learning
2. Fostering strong Staff-Student-Parent relationships
3. Implementing Restorative Justice practices

The John Berne School staff and myself are dedicated to this mission.

In regards to your child's education this year there is a strong focus on teaching and learning. I am pleased to report the school year has begun well and there is a positive atmosphere in our school, particularly in the classrooms. I am confident the focus on teaching and learning will contribute to very good outcomes for our students.

This year, our educators will participate in the Berne Teaching Cycle. This process involves teachers working collaboratively with their peers to create personal goals for the year and developing an action plan to achieve these goals. The emphasis is on staff continuing to learn and extend themselves professionally, in the way they

teach the students, and pastorally, in the way they care for and nurture the students.

Our educators will also continue to develop the Project Based Learning component of the curriculum. This is an alternate, creative, team based learning experience which challenges students by integrating subject areas and learning outcomes across the curriculum. In addition, staff have created extensive Living Skills programs for both Stage 4 and Stage 5 students and an Activities program. Both programs are intended to make learning relevant, practical and life oriented.

Every year we have a theme to focus on as we journey together as a Christian, Catholic and Marist community. Last year's theme centred on 'Being Holy'. In 2020 we will reflect on the theme of 'One Wild and Precious Life'. During our assemblies, liturgies and times of prayer we will consider this theme and its meaning in our individual lives and for us as a Berne community.

The following excerpt from the Marist documents may help make sense of how we each reflect in our daily lives on the theme of "One Wild and Precious Life".

"Our desire for God and wholeness is a journey towards freedom and an uncovering of what it means to be human. It calls us to examine the brevity and meaning of our lives, to reveal how all life is interconnected, and to consider how we might make the most of this one wild and precious life".

This is certainly a challenging task. Examining the meaning of our lives can be confronting. However, it can also be liberating as we realise our potential to take control of our own lives and make a difference in the lives of others. For me, being human is about the relationships I build with myself, with others, with God and with God's creation. Personally, I try my best every day to be a good person, a good Christian, a good Catholic and a good Marist by showing love, compassion, acceptance and kindness to all. Brother

Issue 1 2020

Upcoming Events

16 — 20 March

Stage 5 Work Experience

9 April

Stations of the Cross Mittagong
Students' last day Term 1

10 April

Good Friday

10 — 27 April

School Holidays

25 April

Anzac Day

27 April

Staff Day - pupil free day

28 April

Students' first day Term 2

1 June

Parent/Staff afternoon meeting

5 June

Champagnat Day Mass

8 June

Queen's Birthday Holiday

15 — 19 June

Stage 5 Work Experience

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Chris and I challenge the students in our Religious Education classes to reflect on their lives and who they are. We challenge and empower them to grow, develop and evolve as individuals in their faith life and to reflect on who they are and how what they do impacts others.

The theme of "One Wild and Precious Life" is an invitation for each of us to consider the lives we are living and our place in the world. I would like to challenge you to accept the invitation.

James Le Huray
Principal

Telstra Kids Grant

Great news! We are delighted to announce our success in applying for a \$1,200 grant from Telstra. Telstra Kids helps kids thrive in their connected world. Our Telstra Kids grant was used to purchase tents and other camping gear for the school camps we run every year. Our camps help students to develop teamwork skills, build self confidence, strengthen relationships and their connection with the wider community.

A huge thank you to Michael Jones from Telstra, who is the referrer, for applying for the funding for us. We are very excited to share in the million dollars the Telstra Foundation provides each year to help kids connect to a digital future.



Hygiene Campaign for Coronavirus

With so much about COVID-19 I would like to update you on some key measures that the school is putting in place to reduce the risk to our community. I would like to emphasise that there is no current risk to The John Berne School, and the following information is to reduce any potential risk to health. To this end I am asking for the support of all staff and students in caring for their own health and that of their friends and family.

Hygiene Campaign:

Good hygiene practices are essential to minimise the risk of infection. This includes:

- **Washing Hands Well And Often:** We are encouraging staff and students to wash their hands frequently throughout the day, but especially after using the bathroom and before eating. We are ensuring that soap containers are filled and students and staff are asked to wash their hands for at least 30 seconds and dry properly with disposable towels. Reminders have been placed in bathrooms and classrooms
- **Using Hand Sanitiser:** We are in the process of installing hand sanitising stations throughout the school. Until these become available we encourage students and staff to use personal hand sanitisers. Bottles of hand sanitiser are also available in student services
- **Not Touching Your Face, Eyes Or Nose:** We frequently touch our face without even noticing and this is a quick way to transfer illness. We have reminded students to be conscious of this
- **Taking Care When Sneezing:** Our community is advised to cover coughs and sneezes using the crook of the elbow, dispose of tissues and use alcohol-based hand sanitiser.
- **Avoiding Contact:** We have asked our community to avoid contact with others (shaking hands, touching, kissing, hugging).

Wellness Plan:

NSW Health have advised individuals to err on the side of caution and not to 'soldier on' if they are sick:

- **If staff or students are unwell, they should stay at home:** Staff and students should not come to school if they have a raised temperature, are coughing or sneezing and shortness of breath.
- **If your child presents with these symptoms or develops them during the day:** they will be isolated from other students and staff in an area of the office and you will be asked to collect them. It would be appreciated if they could attend their doctor before returning to school.

How The John Berne School would respond to school closure

In NSW the spread of the virus has meant a temporary closure of a small number of schools. Whilst there is no immediate threat to The John Berne School, I am currently working with the leadership team to develop a contingency plan in such an event. This plan will ensure that there is a continuation of learning for

the students. NESAs have provided advice to schools on what to do under such circumstances. We have provisions and technology in place that will allow us to keep operating and delivering lessons. We would utilise Google Classroom along with email communication to deliver online lessons and work. Assessments may be modified or rescheduled if the need arises.

We have also discussed the best way to communicate with parents. Please be aware that we will be in contact via email and telephone. It is important that you have notified the school of any changes to your contact details.

Thanking you and kind regards

James Le Huray
Principal

Stage 5 Living Skills Program

This term as part of the Living Skills Program Stage 5 students are learning more about how to maintain their wellbeing. So far the students have had the opportunity to investigate different types of diets and discuss their advantages and disadvantages. While one group of students ventured out to activities such as indoor rock climbing and Clovelly Beach, the others stayed at school, and



creating delicious salads. Some of the best combinations included watermelon, mint and feta and the Italian panzanella salad.

Over the course of the term students will explore topics of stress, sleep and growth mindset. They will also have the opportunity to take part in activities at Sydney Taronga Zoo and the Royal National Park.

— Tanja Kosovski, Stage 5 Coordinator



Finn - rock climbing superstar

Stage 4 Activities

Stage 4 students had a wonderful three days of activities aimed at building good relationships, getting along with others and improving social skills. The students as a team chose the Activities and both the teachers and students enjoyed all three days.

On the first day we enjoyed ice skating at Ice Zoo followed by a pizza lunch at



DJ takes a penguin break



Cafe Goia in Leichhardt. There were many spills and falls on the ice but lots of laughing and good humour too.

On the second day we caught the public bus to Happy Days games arcade in Broadway which was a lot of noisy fun and then went shopping to buy all the ingredients we needed to make yummy chicken and beef burgers for lunch for the school community. There was so much food there were plenty of second and third rounds.

On our final day we loved jumping on the trampolines at Skyzone Alexandria with a fantastic match of dodgeball against another local school. We enjoyed healthy wraps at school afterwards and we watched the film *The Martian* for our Project Based Learning studies on Mars.

Thank you to our nine students who showed their ability to get along with each other whilst enjoying themselves outside of the school grounds and also a big thank you to the staff who ensured our students were safe, supported and well looked after.

— Nicole Arathoon, Stage 4 Coordinator

Drumbeat

We are very fortunate to have Sally Riley from Catholic Care Lewisham, delivering the DRUMBEAT program for Stage 5



Dylan keeping the beat

students at our school again this year.

Holyoake's DRUMBEAT program is the world's first structured learning program using music (drums), psychology and neurobiology to reconnect with ourselves and others. The name DRUMBEAT is an acronym for Discovering Relationships Using Music, Beliefs, Emotions, Attitudes, and Thoughts.

Each DRUMBEAT session uses the drum and focuses on different relationship themes including identity, social responsibility, values, dealing with emotions, peer pressure, harmony, communication and teamwork. This program forms part of our anti-bullying initiative at the school by increasing social skills and awareness of others. We have completed six of eight sessions and I have been impressed with the students' engagement. At the end of the program students will produce a final group performance.

— Phoebe Taylor, Counsellor

Welcome New Students

We would like to welcome new students who have joined our school this year. A very warm welcome to: Augustin, Ben, Johnathon, DJ, Braydon, Matthew, Emily, Sydney in Stage 4 and Ziggy, Michael, Crystal, Kevin, Hayden and James in Stage 5.

Shrove Tuesday

The Berne community enjoyed yummy pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, 25th February.



Tania serves up her delicious pancakes

Traditionally, Shrove Tuesday (or Pancake Day as it has come to be known) represents the last day of feasting and celebration before the commencement of Lent.

A big thank you for preparing a feast of delicious pancakes for us to our resident 'Berne mum', Tania who runs our school canteen

Stage 5 Camp

Despite the very wet and miserable weather, Stage 5 students had a very successful camp at Green Patch, Jervis Bay, during week 6. The answer to any difficult situation is food and the campers certainly put this into practice with a sumptuous Mexican feast, barbeques, pancakes and bacon and egg breakfasts and burgers with chips for lunch. When not sheltering from the rain and



high and more than one student was heard to say that they would rather stay at camp than go home, although the teachers did not necessarily feel the same way by the end of the week.

— Michael Muranty, Stage 5 Teacher



eating, the campers swam, fished, walked, hunted crabs on the rocks, fed the native birds and animals and swam some more.

There was more than enough activity to send everyone to bed at night quite exhausted. Impressively, spirits remained

Notifying the School about Absences

We thank parents and carers who have been upholding their obligation under the Education Act (1990) and notifying the school office with a reason for their child's absence from school on the day of the absence.

Parents and carers are reminded that a written note or email must be returned to the school within seven days of a student absence. Unexplained absences are recorded on a student's attendance record unless the school receives a legitimate reason for the absence. Days absent with and without explanation are recorded on all student reports.

We ask for administrative purposes that all correspondence regarding student absences be directed to the school office Tel: 9560 9260 office@johnberneschool.org. Again, please remember that you need to provide a reason for your child's absence.

Punctuality

Students, together with parents and carers, are reminded of the importance of punctuality as both a requirement upon enrolment and a significant contributor to student learning.

Every day students attend school and every day they arrive on time their name goes into a raffle draw held each term. Students with regular and punctual attendance have more chance to win!

Thank you Club Central Hurstville

The John Berne School gratefully acknowledges the generosity of Illawarra Catholic Club, Club Central Hurstville for their grants in support of our Breakfast Program and Outdoor Education Program last year. We sincerely thank them for their ongoing support which is greatly appreciated by our whole school community.



Follow us on Facebook

To find out what we are up to on a regular basis, you can follow Berne on Facebook. We regularly post photos and stories about what's happening at Berne. We're easy to find on Facebook - simply enter '@TheJohnBerneSchool' in the search tab.



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