



Dear parents, carers, and friends of Berne

In Like most terms, Term 2 was filled with a variety of learning and other activities for our students, but unlike any other term, it began with the worry and uncertainty of living with the COVID Pandemic. I am very pleased to say the Berne community has adapted extraordinarily well to our new way of life and has embraced the necessary changes with understanding, flexibility and positivity.

It was wonderful to welcome back the students who returned to face-to-face learning this term and I would like to encourage all students at this time to return to full time attendance. We are a small community who are practicing social distancing and complying with all the regulations as outlined by the New South Wales Department of Health.

Berne staff pray together as a community every morning prior to the commencement of the school day. I tell you this because the other morning one of the staff selected my favourite poem to share during this time. As the poem was read aloud I reflected on the changing world we live in and the uncertainty that has been present in our lives during the pandemic. The poem is one you may know "Footprints in the Sand":

"One night I dreamed a dream. As I was walking on the beach with my Lord. Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life. For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand. One belonging to me and one to my Lord.

After the last scene of my life flashed before me I looked back at the footprints in the sand. I noticed that at many times along the path of my life, especially at the very lowest and saddest times, there was only one set of footprints. "I don't understand why, when I need you the most, you would leave me."

He whispered "My precious child, I love you and will never leave you. Never ever during your trials and testings. When you saw only one set of footprints, it was when I carried you."

As a father, I always enjoyed lifting each

of my four children onto my shoulders to help them when they were tired or could not walk any more. "Footprints" reassures us the Lord our Father carries us in our time of need. Similarly, the Bible tells us *"The Lord God is with us wherever we go" (Joshua 1:9) and he will look after us and keep us safe even at times when we may be lost as in the parable of the lost sheep (Luke 15:3-7). Isaiah 41:10 says "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand".* I hope there is comfort in these words for all of us that our Lord and God will always protect us.

There is a statue of St Marcellin Champagnat at St Peter's Basilica depicting a young person riding on the shoulders of St Marcellin. This symbol encapsulates the essence of our work here at Berne - lifting young people up so they can expand their horizons and find their own place in the world. This is never more relevant than during this time of change and confusion. My hope is for the young people entrusted into our care to continue to work with staff who are present and ready to offer support, guidance and teaching. I also hope there is comfort for all our students in the knowledge the staff and the Berne community will help them and carry those who are in need when they need it the most. The students here at Berne are treasured and we will continue to support them and ease their burden whilst still challenging them to strive for success.

I look forward to Term 3 and the challenges we face in moving forward and would like to thank all our parents and carers for their commitment to the work done here at Berne. I would also like to take the opportunity to thank all our staff for their ongoing commitment and dedication and for their willingness to find new ways of engaging with the students. Finally I wish all in the Berne community a happy and healthy break for the school holidays.

—Mr James Le Huray, Principal

Issue 2 2020

Upcoming Events

2 July

Students' last day Term 2

3 July

Pupil free day - Staff Day

20 & 21 July

Pupil free days - Staff Days

22 July

Students' first day Term 3

14 August

Assumption Day Mass

14 September

Parent Teacher Afternoon

21 September

Strategic Planning Meeting
Pupil Free Day

25 September

Students' last day Term 3

In This Issue

Principal's Address
Hope Always Giving 2020
Thank you ESE Local Community Fund
National Volunteers Week
Students vs Staff Lunchtime Volleyball
Thank you ATC
Champagnat Day
L.O.L. Day - Just for Fun
Cook and Phillip Program
Welcome New Students
Vale Gerard Sullivan
Work Experience
Stage 4 Lino Printing
Thank you Enhance TV

Hope Always Giving 2020

In the absence of our Annual Berne Luncheon, HOPE ALWAYS GIVING 2020 is an initiative at Berne directed to support our Mental Health and Wellbeing Program. Now, more than ever, we rely on your generosity as our community addresses the unprecedented mental health risks our vulnerable students face in the wake of this crisis.

Your support
of our mission
is important.
Every gift
makes a huge
difference and is
instrumental in
transforming our
students' lives.

To support us go to: <https://www.thejohnberneschool.org/get-involved/donate-now/> and make a donation. We appreciate all the support no matter how big or small!



Thankyou

We are pleased to announce The John Berne School has received \$5005 from the **Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment Local Schools Community Fund** to purchase laptop computers for our classrooms. The Berne community is grateful for this support which will help many students with their educational needs.

National Volunteer Week

National Volunteer Week is the annual celebration to acknowledge the generous contribution of our volunteers. The theme this year is "Changing Communities. Changing Lives". At this uncertain time we feel that it is more important than ever to recognise and acknowledge Berne's volunteers.



We've all been missing their presence at school and the generous work they do here very much. Our sincere thanks to you all. Looking forward to seeing you back here with us soon.

Students vs Staff Volleyball

During Term 2 teachers have had to come up with new and innovative ways to connect with students due to



Covid restrictions preventing us from having excursions or incursions. To build relationships, teachers have organised a weekly staff versus students Volleyball game on Thursdays at lunchtime. Initially students were hesitant to give up their touch football for a sport they were not as familiar with. However, they have now engaged with the game and their competitive spirits have taken over! Lots of fun has been had by all - and the teachers are the reigning champions so far. We will see what result next week's game brings...

— Kristina Allan, Stage 4 Teacher

Australian Turf Club®

It was wonderful to have three volunteers from the Australian Turf Club (ATC) - Amarjot, Flynn and Celeste - working at our school this term assisting with the maintenance of our school gardens and lawns. We are very grateful for all their hard work as they did a fabulous job clearing garden beds, weeding and moving debris to our overflowing compost!!



ATC Volunteers Amarjot, Flynn and Celeste



Amarjot, in her role at ATC as Director, Head of Social Responsibility, has long been a supporter of the work we do here at Berne. The ATC Foundation has generously granted The John Berne School \$5000 towards new sporting equipment for our students as well as items for fundraising at our trivia nights. Once again our sincere thanks for this wonderful support and the school is hopeful there will be further opportunities to work with the ATC in the future.

— James Le Huray, Principal

Champagnat Day

The 6th of June, feast day of St Marcellin Champagnat, founder of the Marist Brothers, is a significant day in our calendar. For this day, we recognise a student who demonstrates the qualities that St Marcellin personified: Character, Stability and Good Example. Congratulations go to Year 10 student, Maxwell Kelly, who received the award this year.

We also celebrate the occasion with our annual sports carnival. The event traditionally is held at Petersham Oval - not possible this year due to COVID restrictions - however our wonderful PDHPE team put together a fun events



Johnathon blitzes the long jump

program on the school grounds with everyone joining in with great enthusiasm. The most prestigious title 'Fastest in School' was easily won by our running superstar, Kevin. Congratulations Kevin!

On this day we were very pleased to acknowledge and celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Br Chris Hogan as a Marist Brother. Br Chris has been teaching at Berne for more than 10 years. We would like to congratulate Br Chris and thank him for his years of service and for everything he does for the Berne community. Br Chris is an integral and well loved member of the



Golden Jubilee Congratulations Br Chris Hogan

Berne community and we would like to acknowledge the continued work he does at Berne particularly in the area of literacy.

Champagnat Day is a time where all Marists celebrate the work of St Marcellin Champagnat. Marists schools across the country celebrate and we, as part of the Marist network, shared a lovely BBQ lunch

of hamburgers and spent some valuable time building positive relationships.

L.O.L. Day - Just for Fun

On Friday 12th June our students joined in the fun of our Love of Learning (LOL) Just for Fun Day. Working in Pastoral Care Groups, the challenge was to 'Make a Brand New Country' designing and creating:-

- Country's name
- Map of its towns, rivers, borders etc
- National flag
- National sport
- National food dish
- National costume
- Key national expressions
- National dance

The students were thoroughly engaged with the task, working collaboratively with staff and the end results of their work



were outstanding. Upon completion of the task students were asked to showcase their new country to a judging panel which included Br Chris, James Le Huray and Supi.

The judges all commented on how great the students' presentations were and the effort they had put into the task. It was extremely difficult for the judges to decide an overall winner. In a close decision the judges were unanimous and Michael

Muranty's class, whose country was named "Harmony", walked away with first prize.

A special thanks to all staff who were so enthusiastic and engaged with the LOL day. Due to the outstanding effort of all students, James Le Huray decided he would shout the school a pizza lunch!



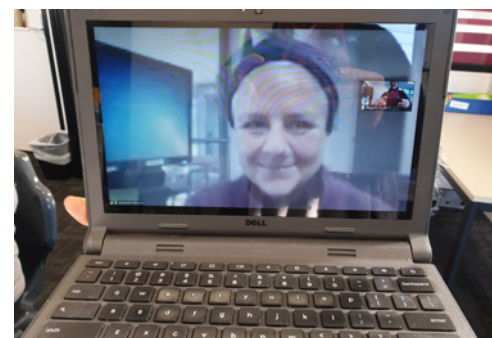
Berne's very own pizza delivery guys

Cook and Phillip Program

Jacqueline Moreno-Ovidi from CatholicCare has been delivering the Cook and Phillip Program on Friday's to Stages 4 and 5 during Term 2.

Stage 4 focussed on developing skills to increase their well-being and resilience. Topics included self care, decision making, thinking strategies and understanding emotions.

Stage 5 focussed on skills needed for being job ready including learning about different job pathways, the qualifications required and resume writing.



Due to COVID-19 the program was delivered via Zoom. Whilst this had it's challenges the students learned new skills through practical and fun activities. We are very thankful for CatholicCare's partnership with the School to deliver this valuable program.

— Phoebe Taylor, Psychologist

Welcome New Students

We would like to welcome new students who have recently joined our school. A very warm welcome to Anyssia and Kody in Stage 5 and Charlie and Dana in Stage 4.

Vale Gerard Sullivan 1.10.68 ~ 1.5.20

The Berne community is mourning the passing of Gerard Sullivan, one of the founding teachers of The John Berne School, formally called Berne Education Centre, which was established in 1998.

Gerard was a passionate and dedicated teacher, full of energy and enthusiasm. He had a particular place in his heart for troubled kids and for difficult students who could not find a place for themselves in a mainstream school. He taught them well and challenged them to be the best people they could be. Gerard contributed much in the early years of Berne and helped lay a solid foundation on which The John Berne School is built.



Work Experience

In Week 8 of Term 1 Stage 5 completed their first round of Work Experience for the year. A wide range of jobs were surveyed by students including plumbing, veterinary, child care, retail, construction, barbering and more. Congratulations must go to all students who successfully completed the week. We received many great reports from employers and feedback from students who enjoyed their experiences and learned a lot about working in their chosen fields. Unfortunately some work experience placements were cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns and it was also not possible for students to undertake work experience placements in Term 2.



Finn's work experience at Rebel Macquarie Centre

Stage 4 Lino Printing

Stage 4 harnessed their inner artist this term learning how to create and use lino printing. They drew, carved and finally printed their own faces as art masterpieces. This was a new experience for our students and they really appreciated this hands-on artistic expression using this art medium.



Reflection

For peace of soul

Let nothing disturb you,

Let nothing frighten you.

All things are passing:

God alone is changeless.

Patience gains all things,

Who has God wants nothing.

God alone suffices.

St Teresa of Avila



Joe's work experience placement at Tony's Barber Shop Five Dock

Many thanks to employers for their support. Thanks also to the Stage 5 teachers who undertook all the follow up calls and visits to workplaces in Term 1.

Thank you Enhance TV

The John Berne School would like to thank Chris Singh, Director Customer Success of Enhance TV, for the generosity in providing our school with a free annual membership to help the teachers provide interesting in-class learning experiences.

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