



Dear parents, carers, and friends of Berne

As I write I am mindful the end of Term 3 is fast approaching. Like most of 2020, Term 3 has been one of great uncertainty and change due to the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Unfortunately, the co-curricular activities our students look forward to and enjoy have had to be cancelled, for example Work Experience and the Snowy Camp. With this in mind, I would like to thank our students, staff and families for their patience, understanding and willingness to continue to comply with and adapt to our ever changing protocols.

This term, Dr Michael Bezzina was asked by Marist Schools Australia to conduct a whole school review of The John Berne School to assist with future planning and compilation of a four year strategic plan. I feel it is important to share the findings of the school review with the Berne Community.

The process utilised three major data sources: surveys, interviews and document analysis. Surveys were completed by staff and Principals of our major feeder schools. Interviews were conducted with members of staff, students at Berne, ex-parents and current parents. The documents accessed for analysis included items on the school website (for example, the school newsletter), our published mission and strategic plan and relevant financial, enrolment and staffing reports.

The following excerpt is taken from the report compiled by Dr Bezzina:

“The John Berne School offers an effective, unique and necessary service to young people. The school is a safe, welcoming family-like community. Students would recommend it to others and are comfortable in attending. Currently the operation of the school is only sustainable with the support of the Marist Brothers and among the strongest positive perceptions of the school are the ratings on spirituality and Marist identity.

The school clearly makes a difference in student attitudes and behaviour. The staff are passionate and committed to their students, with whom they build

relationships of trust and growth. There is a culture of mutual support and collaboration and there is evidence of strong and positive leadership. There needs to be increased attention to the academic side of the school, making better use of individual data in order to track measurable learning gains”.

The review has reinforced the necessity of Berne in reaching out to those students who need extra support. It is particularly evident this year there is an ongoing need for Berne’s unique educational setting as, for the first time in the school’s history, there is a waitlist for student enrolment. There are certainly a few areas the school will focus on improving in devising a new strategic plan, however, most pleasing in the review was that Catholic Identity and Marist Spirituality achieved the highest overall rating in the whole survey with one person interviewed commenting: *“All of the work we do here at The John Berne School is informed by the Marist ethos and staff endeavour to take on the qualities of Mary in all of the ways they approach the work they do with the students they teach”.*

We are a Catholic school in the Marist tradition and to see the staff exemplify “love of work” and provide the students with family unity and love, modelled by Mary, in an effort to achieve personal growth for each individual student is inspiring. In our faith filled community, with the presence of family spirit so evident, I pray all our students find their way on their faith journey and in doing so become good Catholic men and women who make a difference through the way they live their lives.

I would like to once again thank all staff, students and their families for their patience and continued support throughout Term 3 and look forward to continuing working with the young people entrusted into our care in Term 4.

With Hope Always!

Mr James Le Huray
Principal

Issue 3 2020

Upcoming Events

25 September

Students’ last day Term 3

12 October

Pupil free day - Staff Day

13 October

Students’ first day Term 4

23 October

John Berne Day - Liturgy

9 November

Parent Teacher Afternoon

26 November

Year 10 last day at School.

27 November

Year 10 Graduation

4 December

Years 7, 8, 9 last day Term 4

7 – 11 December

Staff Week

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Welcome New Staff

I would like to welcome Jayne Layland to the teaching staff at The John Berne School. Jayne has over 27 years experience in educating disengaged and disenfranchised young people. Jayne has a passion for teaching students with social, emotional and behavioural issues and enjoys building positive relationships with students and parents.



We wish Jayne every success at Berne and look forward to the students engaging with the highly interactive, stimulating and inquisitive classroom in order for them to achieve their full potential.

— James Le Huray, Principal

Lamington Drive Fundraiser

Thank you Ex Marist Mothers' Association of North Sydney who held a Lamington Drive this term as a fundraiser for our school. These wonderful ladies raised \$3,000 which they have donated to The John Berne School towards our school Breakfast Program. Our thanks to everyone who supported us by buying lamingtons. They were delicious!

Medication at School

When a medical practitioner has prescribed medication for your child which needs to be administered during the school day parents/carers must:

- notify the school in writing indicating dosage, timing and other instructions with signed authorisation by the prescribing medical practitioner.
- provide the school with written authority to administer the medication.
- supply the medication to the school office in the packaging in which it was dispensed.
- notify the school office immediately of any changes.

Students are not to self administer medication (prescribed or 'over the counter') at school without supervision by school staff and without written authorisation from parents/carers and approved by the school Principal.

Stage 4 Music

During Term 3, we have had a number of new students join our class. These students all get along very well and have enjoyed interesting conversations and sharing of experiences. They have also been having a great time being creative in the music room every Tuesday afternoon, where they have made up songs, played along with music and really let go of any self consciousness. It has been wonderful to witness this as their teacher and I look forward to more fun times ahead!

— Kristina Allan, Year 8 Teacher



RUOK? Day

We were very fortunate to have Natalie Nickson, a Beyond Blue ambassador, volunteer to speak during an assembly at school sharing her story and raising awareness about mental health. Natalie shared her story in order to raise awareness about anxiety, depression, reduce the associated stigma and encourage people to seek help. Natalie feels that through sharing our stories and lived experiences with mental health we can inevitably help others and continue to widen the network of support and understanding in the wider community.



Stage 4 History

For Stage 4 History this term students are studying Ancient Egypt. In Week 8 we experimented by mummifying an apple and observed the changes in the following weeks.

— Kristina Allan, Stage 4 Teacher



Berne's Garden

After the Christmas break students and staff came back to find the school garden understandably a bit worse for wear. Thankfully there are a few green thumbs amongst the student body and throughout the year the garden was



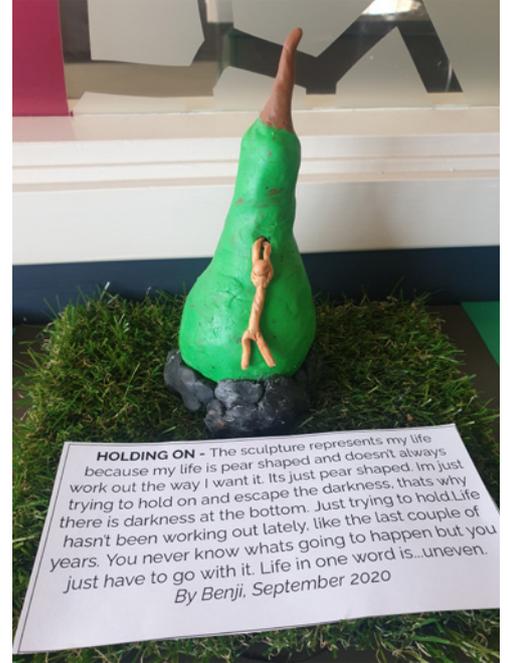
Welcome New Students

We would like to welcome new students who have joined our school this term. A very warm welcome to: Benji, Tyla, Nathan, Brayden, Ethan and Jamie in Stage 4 and Molly and Nikolas in Stage 5.

tidied and maintained to the best it's ever been. The beds are now full of lovely green broccoli, brussel sprouts, potatoes and all kinds of wonderful herbs.

This term Stage 5 students were divided into flexible learning groups one of which was gardening. These students thoroughly enjoyed putting in the extra effort sowing and harvesting. The produce of this is shared amongst the school making for a lot of happy teachers and parents.

— David Stevens, Stage 5 Teacher



HOLDING ON - The sculpture represents my life because my life is pear shaped and doesn't always work out the way I want it. Its just pear shaped. Im just trying to hold on and escape the darkness, thats why there is darkness at the bottom. Just trying to hold. Life hasn't been working out lately, like the last couple of years. You never know whats going to happen but you just have to go with it. Life in one word is...uneven.
By Benji, September 2020

Thank you Club Ashfield

Our sincere and heartfelt thanks to Club Ashfield for their grants totalling \$5,500 for ingredients for cooking classes, kitchen equipment and to purchase literacy resources for our students. This generous support is greatly appreciated.



Working in the kitchen involves a number of stages such as; planning in the classroom looking at the nutritional value of food, organising shopping lists and calculating volumes of ingredients, especially when increasing servings for whole classes. This provides students with a great opportunity providing some insight into cooking at home for their families or working in small commercial kitchens.

When it comes to the cooking itself, we have a number of very active participants who are always up to the task and willing to try something new. I really enjoy spending time with our students in the kitchen as I am able to share my interest in cooking with them which enables them to pick up recipes, skills and confidence in the kitchen as well as strengthen their ability to work collaboratively in small teams.

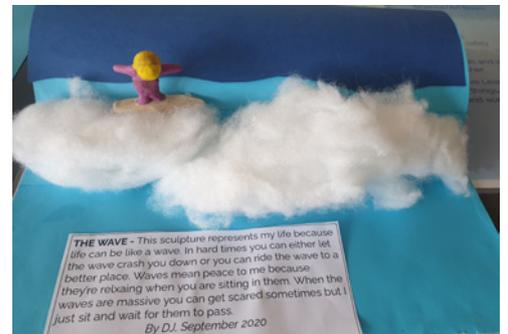
— Declan Martin, Stage 5 Teacher

What's Cooking @ Berne?

At The John Berne School we are fortunate, not only have wonderful cooking facilities, but also a number of staff and students who are keen cooks. This term in Living Skills it has been wonderful to see students and staff cooking together in our kitchen whipping up some tasty treats and magnificent meals ranging from healthy breakfasts to multiple course meals.

Stage 4 - Exploring their Artistic Side

This term, Stage 4 have engaged in a Visual Arts unit on Sculpture. Students explored plasticine, clay and papier mache as mediums for making vases, bowls and small pots. The papier mache bowls were particularly fun as students spent three weeks moulding the shape of the bowl around a balloon popped



THE WAVE - This sculpture represents my life because life can be like a wave. In hard times you can either let the wave crash you down or you can ride the wave to a better place. Waves mean peace to me because they're relaxing when you are sitting in them. When the waves are massive you can get scared sometimes but I just sit and wait for them to pass.
By DJ, September 2020

on a science tripod. Using newspaper, tissue paper and craft glue they layered the balloon and left it to dry until they had a hard bowl which they painted. To paint the bowls, students needed to give the design a meaning. Most students chose their culture or favourite football team as the inspiration for their colour choice. The end products looked great.

We also spent the last four weeks of the term working on a major sculpture using any material they liked such as: foam, foil, plastics, plasticine. Their sculpture needed to have a meaning and be able to convey a message about their life to the audience. These were all wonderful creations.

— Nicole Arathoon, Stage 4 Coordinator

Attendance Raffle

Each student who attends school on time earns a ticket to enter our Attendance Raffle which gets drawn during the middle and end of each term. The lucky winner of the mid term 3 draw was Joe. Congratulations to Joe for winning the draw and keeping up his punctuality and attendance.



Stage 4 Technology

Students in Stage 4 have been doing the subject Technology Mandatory this term. Technology Mandatory engages students in design and production as they develop solutions to identified needs and opportunities. This has been done using the material of wood, since we have a well set up woodwork room through the efforts of the people at Berne and the generosity of outside donors who, in past years, have provided funding. Our thanks to Dooleys Lidcombe Catholic Club, Club Ashfield, Ashfield RSL Club and Marist College Penshurst for this support.

Students were tasked to come up with a design for containing serviettes in an outside eating area. In working on this they were introduced to a design process, technical sketching and working drawings, safety in the use of hand tools, the finer points of



checking and using a natural material and cutting, joining and finishing wood.

Although most had decided on a box there were many variations. Some had three sides, some with moveable lids, others with

a sliding drawer. The solution of how to keep the serviettes in place while outside had a simple heavy weight, an opening on the side, a counter levered weight, a door and a movable wooden plate.

The students' interest and enthusiasm has been excellent but it has to be tempered with the need to be accurate with their saw work and their nailing. Many are learning that mistakes have to be accepted and a way around them has to be found.

— Br Chris Hogan, Teacher

Stage 5 Living Skills Program

During Stage 5 Living Skills, some students have taken up photography. This is a fantastic opportunity for our students to harness their photography skills which are also applicable in real life, including patience, concentration and creativity.



Bike maintenance is another opportunity that Stage 5 experiences as part of our Living Skills program. The students were interested in learning the ins and outs of maintaining a pushbike. They gained practical skills, a sense of independence and their new skills will help them save money too.



Berne Staff Step Challenge

Berne Staff took the initiative to participate in a friendly team-bonding competition - the Weekly Step Challenge. Our three staff teams competed each week for a month tallying the number of steps they did each day. The Challenge was a great way to stay fit, boost morale and have fun!

Congratulations to Team C comprising Nicole, Kristina, Jayne, Supi, Sandra and Sharon for putting in an amazing effort and winning the competition with a total of 1,456,830 steps.



We wish all families a happy, safe and restful break over the school holidays.

Students will return to school for Term 4 on

Tuesday 13th October

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