



The John Berne School
Hope Always

Newsletter

Dear parents, carers, and friends of Berne

I would like to welcome you to a new school year at The John Berne School. I had the opportunity to reflect on 2020 over the break and am mindful that last year was one of great uncertainty and change due to the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Having said that, this term has been filled with a variety of activities for our students with Stage 5 having attended a camp and work experience and Stage 4 participating in three days of activities.

In regards to the education of those students entrusted into our care, 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 our classrooms. I am confident the focus on teaching and learning will contribute to very good outcomes for our students.

I would also like to acknowledge the wonderful staff who exemplify "love of work" and provide our students with family unity and love, modelled by Mary, in an effort to achieve personal growth for each individual student. 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.

Our recent school assembly focussed on "A Day of Action against Bullying and Violence". It was well presented by Jayne and Kristina and provided challenges and insights for our students and staff to reflect on in relation to incidents of bullying - something each of us has personally experienced or witnessed during our lives.

I spoke briefly about bullying and the damaging effects it has on individuals and linked it to our own community, where sadly we witness too often students being picked on or harassed. Social media and the internet have certainly contributed to bullying being worse than it has ever been before. I concluded the assembly challenging students to be positive members of the school community and

to stand up against those who bully.

Every year we have a theme to focus on as we journey together as a Christian, Catholic and Marist community. Last year the theme centered on 'One Wild and Precious Life'. In 2021 we will reflect on the theme of 'Breathe'. 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 'Breathe'.

"God's spirit breathes life into all of creation, and it is that breath that provides life to all living things. The Christian life is one powered by the breath of God, transforming and calling us to be people who participate in the mission of Jesus: of building and empowering others into freedom."

As we approach Holy Week and Easter I would ask each of you to nurture harmonious relationships and take time to breathe the glory and goodness of God into our every moment.

I would like to wish you all a very happy and holy Easter.

— James Le Huray, Principal

breathe
the Spirit of life (Rm 8:2)



Issue 1 2021

Upcoming Events

20 April

Students return Term 2

25 April

Anzac Day

24 – 28 May

Stage 5 Work Experience

26 – 28 May

Stage 4 Activities

4 June

Champagnat Day Celebration

9 – 11 June

Stage 4 Camp

14 June

Queens Birthday Holiday

16 – 18 June

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25 June

Students' last day Term 2

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Stage 5 Project Based Learning

For Stage 5 Project Based Learning (PBL) this term students have been exploring the driving question: "How do we create a world where everyone is treated fairly despite race, gender, sexuality, ability or religion?" This has led students to design and create a model of their idea of a fair town. Some of the highlights included a multi denominational church, a sporting arena with disability access and a statue of equality. Students really enjoyed being creative and completing a project which utilised more practical skills. Keep an eye out in our next newsletter for what we create next term for our PBL project!

— Kristina Allan, Stage 5 Teacher

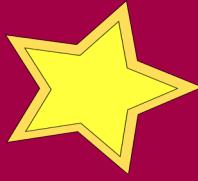


Mid Term Attendance Raffle

Students are encouraged and rewarded for attending school regularly and punctually. Each student who attends school on time earns a ticket to enter our Attendance Raffle which is drawn during the middle and end of each term. The lucky winner of the mid term 1 draw was James. Congratulations to James for winning the draw and keeping up his punctuality and attendance.



Recognition Award



We are pleased to report and acknowledge a good deed performed by one of our Berne students. While on a school excursion to Sydney Aquatic Centre Year 8 student Charlie rescued and pulled to safety a young child who was struggling in the water.

WELL DONE CHARLIE!
We're proud of you

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. Along with their teachers, students enjoyed activities they chose themselves as a team.



We returned to school to work as a team to make yummy chicken and beef burgers for lunch. There was so much food there were plenty of second and third rounds.

On the final day we went to Happy Days games arcade in Broadway which was a lot of noisy fun. We were all super surprised and happy for Lucas who won 1000 tickets on his first spin of the big wheel. We enjoyed healthy wraps for lunch and watched Hunt for the Wilderpeople as a fun indoors activity due to the inclement weather.



Thank you to our 13 students who were fantastic at showing their ability to get along with each other whilst enjoying themselves outside of the school grounds. Also a big thank you to the staff who ensured our students were well looked after, safe and supported.

— Nicole Arathoon, Stage 4 Coordinator

Welcome new students

We would like to welcome new students who have joined our school this term. A very warm welcome to Adriano, Jayden, Levi, Lucas, Patsy and Windara in Stage 4 and Hugo, Jacob, Julian, Kyanna and Vince in Stage 5.

On the first day we enjoyed a game of bowling and three laser missions followed by a delicious pizza lunch at Cafe Goia in Leichhardt. There were many wins and losses but lots of laughing and good humour too. On the second day we changed our plans to go to Coojee Beach because of the predicted rainy day. We went to Sydney Aquatic Centre instead and had a lot of fun moving around the whirlpool even as one big connected group.

Stage 5 Camp

Students in Stage 5 attended camp at Bristol Point in Booderee National Park, Jervis Bay Territory. Booderee National Park land belongs to the Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community. The traditional language spoken in the Booderee National Park is Dhurga Language. The local Aboriginal people gave this park its name. The word Booderee means “bay of plenty” or “plenty of fish”. Our campers experienced an abundance of bites and plenty of fish landed on shore. DJ and Hugo even provided us with a light fish snack that was cooked over the fire. If you have ever been lucky enough to visit this beautiful part of the world you will be very familiar with its pristine white sand beaches and abundance of native wildlife.



We had close encounters with possums, kangaroos and kookaburras on our bushwalks and saw some colourful fish while snorkeling.

On our second day of camp we got to explore the beautiful white sand beaches near Huskisson while floating down Moona Moona Creek enjoying the sun surf and fishing. Unlike most school camps, Berne camp is more like



going camping with your family and friends, where everybody is expected to contribute, including the non glamorous bits of cooking, cleaning and setting up of camp. Congratulations to all the campers for putting their best foot forward and making it an enjoyable experience.

— Tanja Dunne, Stage 5 Coordinator

Stage 4 History

We know that Aboriginal people owned Australia before non-Aboriginals arrived. We are also coming to recognise the important role Aboriginal people played in farming and fishing and the significant way in which Aboriginal people were supported by traditional methods of agriculture and aquaculture. How can we know what really happened? We can listen to the white people who explored this Aboriginal land!

During this term Years 7 and 8 students studied a new History unit: Investigating the Ancient Past - Aboriginal History. Students are learning to be historians, working out what happened by questioning the meaning of evidence left behind. They are looking at journals and letters of white Australian explorers, settlers and invaders to get first-hand accounts of what Aboriginal life

was like. They are checking out further clues from archaeological evidence.



Most of the sources are collected from a book called Young Dark Emu - A Truer History by Bruce Pascoe. Students also used video documentaries and their own wider research to explore the topic.

— Grant Lee, Stage 5 Teacher

Stage 4 First Aid Training

Stage 4's focus for Personal Development and Health this term has been all about basic first aid. Our students engaged in a variety of first aid and CPR training sessions with first aid trainer, Lee Alafaci, who is also an experienced volunteer ski patroller at Perisher. Lee was impressed with the students' enthusiasm, their willingness to learn and especially with some of the very interesting questions they threw at him. Thank you Lee for educating and equipping our students with these important life skills.



Welcome New Staff

We extend a very warm welcome to our Berne community to **Emily Montuori**. Emily, a Registered Psychologist, joined the Berne Counselling Team at the start of 2021. Previously, she worked as a Psychologist in various settings with adolescents and their families including education, government and in private practice.



We also welcome Stage 4 Teacher, **Luke Drummond**. Luke, who is a keen sportsman, has extensive experience working in school settings similar to Berne and understands the importance of nurturing positive relationships with students and their families.

Thank you Morpheus Foundation

Our sincere thanks to the Morpheus Foundation for providing funding for our literacy program enabling us to purchase workbooks, readers and specialised testing tools. We also extend our appreciation to Schools Plus. Our school community is grateful for this generous support.



At Berne We're Doin' Our Bit

The number of recyclable plastic bottles that can be found in the Berne bins has risen dramatically since COVID-19 closed down the school's bubblers. Enter Hugo and his construction abilities! We now have a very visual and practical receptacle for keeping those recyclables out of the world's oceans. Well done Hugo, you have added to our ability to care for the environment as a school, and learn about the consequences of our actions in the larger world. Well done!

— Claire Pate, Teacher



Work Experience

Congratulations to Stage 5 students who successfully completed a week of Work Experience this term undertaking work placements in areas including retail, childcare, plumbing, building and construction. We are grateful for the businesses which provided these valuable work experiences for our students. So impressed were employers that a couple of our students have been offered jobs.

Thomas Street Lewisham NSW 2049
Locked Bag 6 Petersham NSW 2049
T: 02 9560 9260
F: 02 9560 9290

office@johnberneschool.org
www.thejohnberneschool.org

Schools Plus