



The John Berne School
Hope Always

Newsletter

Dear parents, carers, and friends of Berne

Term 2 has been a term filled with a variety of learning and other activities for our students. The students have attended the theatre, participated in activities for three days, completed work experience and had a three day camp at Gerroa. I am very pleased the school community and in particular the students have embraced the challenges they have faced and have grown to accept Berne will continue to holistically educate them and challenge them to strive for success.

In the recent Champagnat Day celebrations I was reminded of the statue of St Marcellin Champagnat at St Peter's Basilica depicting a young person riding on the shoulders of St Marcellin. As a father I have carried each of my four children on my shoulders many times in an effort to support them, just as each of your children have been held and supported in ways they may never realise - by staff, by family, by friends and by God.

Berne is happy to continue to support each of your children just as Marcellin encourages, however at times each of your children needs to come down off the shoulders of those around them and move forward on their own. Not because they are no longer supported but because they are ready to walk on their own and experience life on the ground. The experience of life on the ground may be very challenging and at times difficult and just like the experiences the students have encountered at Berne this term, the hope is Berne has equipped students with skills to handle these times.

Like Marcellin, at Berne we believe students are at the centre of our concerns and we are here to assist them to acquire learning, competence and values through discovering the world, others, themselves and God. We continually encourage the students to strive to improve and do so through creating learning situations where each student can succeed and is affirmed. It is our hope that through participating in differing experiences, as clearly outlined earlier in the article, students will be equipped with the skills to confront their fears, manage their feelings and learn that in these times there will always

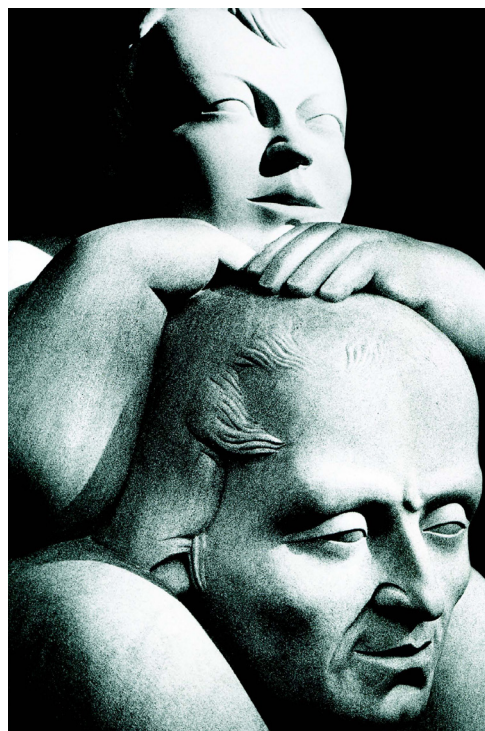
be someone there to support you.

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 students. Finally I wish all in the Berne community a happy and healthy break for the school holidays.

With hope always,

Mr James Le Huray
Principal

Thank you for your support in this ever changing COVID-19 environment. Parents please check your emails as I will endeavour to keep you updated regarding any changes throughout the holiday break.



Issue 2 2021

Upcoming Events

25 June

Students' last day Term 2

13 July

Students' first day Term 3

2 August

Parent / Teacher Interviews

12 August

Assumption Day Mass

17 – 20 August

Stage 5 Snow Camp

30 August – 3 September

Stage 5 Work Experience

1 – 3 September

Stage 4 Activities

17 September

Students' last day Term 3

6 October

Students' first day Term 4

In This Issue

Principal's Address
Front Office Messages
Stage 4 Theatre Excursion
Stage 4 Screen Printing
Welcome New Students
Champagnat Day
Stage 5 Activities Week
Stage 4 Camp at Gerroa
Term 2 Work Experience
Thank you WestConnex
Stage 4 Wood Technology

Front Office Messages:

School Absences

If for any reason your child is going to be late to school or absent from school we ask for administrative purposes that all correspondence be directed to the school office T: 9560 9260 office@johnberneschool.org. Again, please remember that you need to provide a reason for your child's absence.

Medication

If your child takes any medication regularly (at home or at school) please let us know in writing when any changes are made by the prescribing doctor. If any medication is to be administered at school please ensure medication is provided to the school office in prescribed packaging with your written authorisation noting name of medication, dosage and time to be administered. If ½ or ¼ tablet is required for a correct dosage, it is the parent/carer's responsibility to provide pre-cut tablets.

— Sharon & Sandra

Stage 4 Theatre Excursion

To support the Project Based Learning theme this term of "How do Aboriginal stories teach us about the Aboriginal people and their culture", Stage 4 students attended a drama performance at The Sydney Theatre Company, Walsh



Bay. The performance was called "The Seven Stages of Grieving" and was a dynamic, one person performance telling the story of the Aboriginal people over time. During the one hour performance, the seven phases of Aboriginal history were explored – Dreaming, Invasion, Genocide, Protection, Assimilation, Self-Determination and Reconciliation.

— Nicole Arathoon, Year 4 Coordinator



Stage 4 Screen Printing

In their Visual Arts studies this term on Aboriginal Art, students in Stage 4 explored Aboriginal symbols in artworks and their meaning. They experimented with writing their own personal stories through symbols and then designed an image using Aboriginal symbols. Students used this image to create a template which was used in screen printing. The end products were excellent.

— Nicole Arathoon, Year 4 Coordinator



Champagnat Day

Each year the whole school celebrates the Feast Day of the founder of the Marist Brothers, Saint Marcellin Champagnat. This year we celebrated the Feast Day, the 6th of June, with a Mass followed by a school community lunch and afternoon bowling at North Strathfield.

On this day, we recognise students who uphold the values that St Marcellin personified: Character, Stability and Good Example. Congratulations to Lucas and Anyssia who were awarded our very special Champagnat Day Award this year.

Stage 5 teacher, Kristina Allan, was also acknowledged for her ten years of service to Marist Education.

— James Le Huray, Principal



Welcome New Students

We would like to welcome new students who have joined our school this term. A very warm welcome to Cruz and William in Stage 4 and Liam, Paul, Rose and Tyrell in Stage 5.

Stage 5 Activities Week

During Week 7 this term Stage 5 held an activities week for our students to engage in new and exciting activities.

On Tuesday our class started a fantastic day playing some sport outside with both students and teachers using this to practice their kicking and catching as well as basketball skills. After a morning outside playing in the sun we headed off to Burwood Cinema to watch *A Quiet Place Part II*. We all enjoyed the movie however I think we preferred to watch each other's reactions to the jump-scares in the film. For lunch we ate in the food court with students choosing a wide variety of cuisines which we finished off with an ice cream before heading back to school.

On Wednesday our class left school early and headed off to Manly Dam. We were



treated with sensational weather for a beautiful day canoeing and fishing. The students were happy to help unpack the canoes and set them up, getting straight in the water at a record pace. It was wonderful to see the students paddling across the dam and hearing their excitement as their voices echoed off the dam wall. A barbeque lunch cooked over a well maintained fire was a real treat after being out on the water. After a quick walk over the dam wall the students climbed onto the bus for the journey home with a number of students using this as an opportunity to have a re energizing nap.

On Thursday our class braved the wet weather and headed on the bus to Annandale to go bouldering. The students were eager to get kitted up in their climbing shoes and after all safely demonstrating how to fall from the wall they were off. It may have been intimidating to start as a few of us were a little afraid of heights, myself included, however we all supported each other making even the toughest climb surmountable. After two hours of intense climbing we were well and truly worn out and it was time to refuel. For lunch we made chicken and salad wraps with some of us choosing to add some chips to replace all of those lost carbs. As a treat for all the students participating and supporting each other so well we grabbed an ice cream to finish off a wonderful day.



Overall the students had a really successful week. It was sensational to see them not only participating in, but engaging with new tasks as well as supporting each other. The aim of activities week is to foster community spirit among students, promote student development and new learning opportunities. I am sure that all staff and students will agree that not only were our goals achieved for the week but we also sure did have fun achieving them.



The three other Stage 5 classes also reported a very successful fun-filled week.

— Declan Martin, Stage 5 Teacher

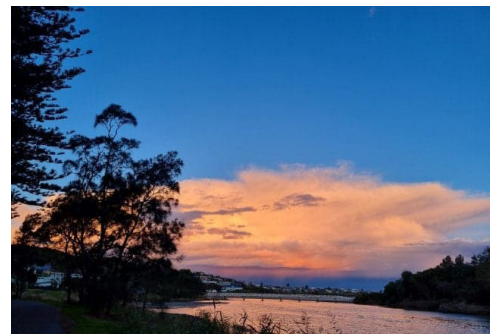
Stage 4 Camp at Gerroa

This term students from Stage 4 attended a camp in Gerroa. On the way there we stopped at Robertson for morning tea to see The Big Potato and then we stopped in Wollongong for lunch. Afterwards we visited Kiama to see the blow hole and we enjoyed a coastal walk. We reached the campground at 2pm and we set up our tents before going for a walk around the campground and then a walk to the beach for a quick bit of fishing and a look for seashells. For dinner we cooked up lovely hamburgers in the camp kitchen and students spent some time building a glorious campfire. We also played spotlight which the students really enjoyed, finding some great spots to hide!

The next day was a particularly cold day so we luckily had a clear blue sky in the morning till 11am where we rode around the campgrounds on go karts, went for a beach walk and did some more fishing. At 11am it started raining so we huddled undercover and played a super competitive and fun game of Monopoly. In the evening after a lovely dinner of chicken and salad, we decided to go to the movies as the rain had not stopped. We headed to Nowra



for a 6pm session of *Dreamhorse* which told the true tale of a group of friends in a Welsh community who band together to buy a horse who wins the Welsh National Championships. A feel-good movie with lots of wonderful memories for Jayne, our Welsh born Stage 4 teacher. Back at the campgrounds we attempted to get a campfire going but the spitting rain didn't help so instead we enjoyed a chocolate cake Lucas and Emily made for dessert.



The next day the students packed up the camp in record time. We were all exhausted returning to school but a fun time was had by all. A big thankyou and well done to our great team of campers; Lucas, Tyla, Adriano, Ben, Dana, Emily, Jayne and Nicole.

— Nicole Arathoon, Stage 4 Coordinator

Term 2 Work Experience

Work Experience offers students the opportunity to try out different career options and have authentic experiences of the work environment. Congratulations to our Stage 5 students who successfully completed a week of work experience this term. We are grateful for the very many employers across a range of industries in the local community who support us in this way.



Thanks this term to: Birdsville, Alexandria; Penrith Mechanical Automotive & Tyres; Woolworths Leichhardt; Service Fox, Annandale; Vinnies Paddington, West Ryde, Hurstville and Maroubra; Infinite Air Conditioning Russell Lea; IGA St Ives; Newtown Garden Centre; Pink Cactus Props; Hurstville Aquarium; Artesian Pools Mortdale; Prolux Carpentry Greenacre; GS Building NSW; Target Bankstown; Brammers Bricks; PCYC Redfern; Gen San Hygiene Blacktown and Waratah Florist Earlwood.



Special commendation to Year 9 student, DJ, who received a glowing report from his work experience employer.

— Stage 5 Teachers

Thank you WestConnex

This year 16 Stage 5 students have undertaken General Construction Induction Training (white card) with the grant provided by WestConnex. Many of these students have used their qualification to do work experiences in the construction industry in areas such as bricklaying, carpentry and plumbing. One of these students has an ongoing work experience arrangement with an employer with a view to becoming a permanent employee at the completion of Year 10.

During COVID-19 restrictions when students were unable to leave the school campus a registered training organisation visited the school to conduct a day course for ten students to obtain their qualification. Since normal school and work operations have resumed students have been attending courses at a local training organisation. Once again, our sincere thanks to WestConnex for this wonderful support.

Stage 4 Wood Technology

Stage 4 students, as part of their Project Based Learning topic of “What can Australian Aboriginal stories teach us about their culture and people?” ventured into the sphere of Wood Technology this term.

They had to design a way of presenting their family tree using the tools and materials available in the Woodwork room at school. The safe use of these tools and materials was an important first step. Then there were reminders about the safety gear needed, the securing of the work, the need for concentration throughout the lessons were a vital part of the manufacture of their design.

Having drafted a tree design out of cardboard, students used this as a template to draw onto plywood, which was carefully selected for its stability and hardness. All were offered the use of the portable powered jig saw but some elected to use a hand tool, the coping saw. They appreciated the fact that careful cutting out made the finishing steps much quicker and easier. All students, had their design well sanded and undercoated ready for the application of information.

— Br Chris Hogan, Teacher



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