

The John Berne School

Hope Always

Issue 4 2021 Newsletter

Dear parents, carers, and friends of Berne



Welcome to the last newsletter of Term 4, 2021. We were very pleased to welcome students back to on site learning earlier this term.

Our Year 10 students have been farewelled at our recent Graduation morning which students' families were able to watch via Zoom. I gave the following brief address at the graduation ceremony and it is repeated here for the wider community:

Good morning staff, students, parents and special guests joining us via Zoom.

To the graduating class of 2021 - my warmest congratulations. You have made it to the end of Year 10!!!! In a year like no other, you have dedicated yourselves to the completion of Year 10 and you have ensured yourselves a pathway to further education, training, apprenticeships and employment. I am so confident and so happy that you are all now well equipped to embrace life and make a contribution to the future of our world.

2021! What a year! Future history students will be writing essays about the impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic and you have lived through it!! 14 weeks of lockdown, mask wearing, isolation, daily temperature checks, google classroom assignments, checking in and trying to remember to check out, zoom roll call and remote learning. During this time we have all felt fear, confusion, frustration, grief, anxiety and loss but we never lost hope and that is why we are all here today - and why you are all graduating. Your families made huge adjustments to their daily lives - parents, grandparents, siblings became co-teachers usually while continuing to work, some at home and some on the front lines. Makeshift classrooms were set up in homes - sometimes in dining rooms or bedrooms - and teachers juggled planning online lessons, attending Zoom meetings and becoming Google classroom experts - and occasional internet superstars. Through all the last minute changes and new rules we showed our ability to adapt and be flexible - and we looked forward to the day things returned to "normal" - the new normal. We prayed and we hoped and we were finally rewarded.

Reflecting on our collective journey these last two years, one word sums it up - unprecedented. The definition of unprecedented is never done or known before and I am sure all of you have heard this word countless times in recent years. This morning I would like to connect this word with all of you because what you have all achieved is unprecedented - never seen before in the history of education, let alone at The John Berne School. You are the only Berne graduating class to have their school life disrupted by a

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Upcoming Events 2022

1 February

School resumes Term 1

7 – 11 March

Stage 5 Camp

16 – 18 March

Stage 4 Activities

21 – 25 March

Stage 5 Work Experience

8 April

Last day Term 1

25 April

Anzac Day

27 April

School resumes Term 2

global pandemic - not once but twice - and you are the only Berne graduating class to graduate after 14 continuous weeks of remote learning.

Living in such unprecedented times has made us all cherish the small yet important aspects of life. During lockdown countless Uber eats or delivery orders were our closest taste of the outside world and we valued these moments. However, more importantly we formed new and important relationships with the people we love and care about. Neighbours became exercise partners, friends became Zoom coaches, parents became teachers and teachers became a welcome voice in the silence and isolation. Unprecedented. After lockdown we valued the little things - leaving school at the end of the day to visit friends, browsing in shops, having a meal with our extended family, celebrating birthdays in person, dancing at weddings and playing team sport.

Living in such unprecedented times has taught us how to foster relationships and find the meaning behind sayings like "through thick and thin" and "we're all in this together" at a much younger age than other older folks, like us teachers. You were thrown into a thunderstorm of uncertainty and irregularities this year and you all fought through it in ways we could never have imagined with resilience and courage. Unprecedented.

If there is one sentiment I want you to take away from the Gospel reading today it is this: "Do not worry about tomorrow, tomorrow will worry about itself" - You are all capable of taking on any obstacle in your life at any time. "Do not worry about tomorrow". You have all faced a challenging and unprecedented high school experience and

you overcame it and made it worthwhile. "Do not worry about tomorrow" but remember the families and friends and teachers who looked out for you every step of the way and never forget God is with you.

So - to our unprecedented graduating Year 10 of 2021, I feel privileged and honoured to have met each and every one of you and would like to wish you well. I pray that each of you remember the wonderful support of your loved ones, the tireless work of the staff at The John Berne School, the vision of St Marcellin Champagnat and the Brothers, the love of Mary and the love and acceptance God has for all of us.

I would like you all to continue your Berne journey by doing something you have never done before, do something unprecedented. Do something good and meaningful you never thought you could - challenge yourself and believe in yourself because we believe in you.

Thank you and good luck. May God bless you and guide you always.

Finally, on behalf of the Berne staff I want to thank you for your support of our school. I would also like to thank the staff for their tireless work and commitment to our students. May God's blessings be with all Berne families and friends this Christmas. Wishing you all a happy, holy and peaceful Christmas.

Hope Always

James Le Huray
Principal

Thank you



Our sincere thanks to Club Ashfield for their grants in support of our Skills for Living Program for food for our cooking classes and for a new music program to be held next year. Club Ashfield has been one of our major sponsors for many years and with Clubs doing it tough with COVID restrictions, we are especially grateful for their generous donations.

Welcome

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to Year 7 student, Roberto, who joined our school this term.

Marist Schools Australia Incorporation Project

Next year the Marist Brothers will celebrate 150 years in education in Australia.

I want to update you of an important evolution in the Marist Brothers' education ministry.

The Marist Brothers, who own The John Berne School and 12 other Colleges across Australia, in collaboration with the Marist Association of Saint Marcellin Champagnat, have been working with Marist Schools Australia to formalise and further strengthen school governance arrangements for Marist Colleges. This process has involved close collaboration over many months with the various State and Territory school education regulators.

The work has culminated this year with the decision by the Marist Brothers' Provincial Council to incorporate Marist Schools Australia, which has provided support to the Province in the governance and management of the Marist Colleges for the past decade. From 1 January 2022, all Colleges, including this one, will operate under Marist Schools Australia Limited, a not for profit company. The Marist Brothers will continue to be closely involved as members of the Company.

For you and all at The John Berne School, there will be little noticeable difference and no difference in the day-to-day operation of the School. The terms under which your child was enrolled are not changing but your enrolment contract will, from 1 January 2022, be with Marist Schools Australia Limited by virtue of your child coming to school next year.

The creation of Marist Schools Australia Limited is a very positive step forward that will ensure the Marist mission in education in Australia continues with renewed energy and supported by a strengthened governance that reflects modern education.

Mr James Le Huray
Principal



Berne Staff and Community News

Welcome New Staff

We would like to welcome teacher Craig Fraser who joined our staff this term. Craig is working with Br Chris providing focussed literacy support. Students have been working positively with Craig throughout Term 4 to improve their reading, comprehension and spelling skills.



"I've really enjoyed getting to know all the students at Berne and helping them discover that reading is actually enjoyable and not something to be avoided. They've all welcomed me to the school and I'm really happy with their reading progress over such a short time." – Craig Fraser

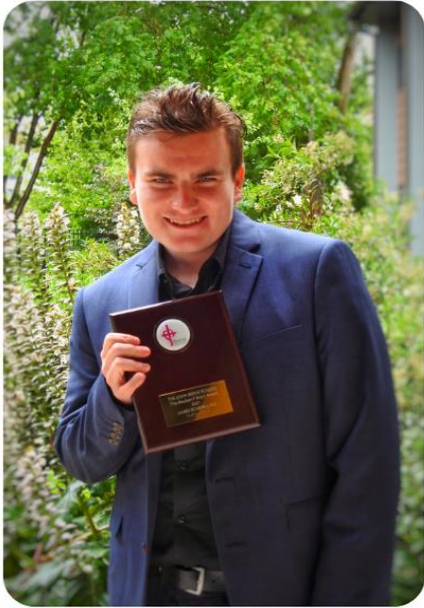
Congratulations

We are delighted to announce that School Counsellor, Phoebe's precious daughter, Ruby, arrived safely this October.

Congratulations from everyone at Berne. We send Phoebe and her husband, Ben, our love and best wishes and look forward to you visiting us soon.



Year 10 Graduation Award Winners



Year 10 Graduation

Congratulations to our Year 10 students of 2021 who graduated this year.

- Anyssia Alexiou
- Riley Butcher
- Ayden Chandra
- Alecia Chang
- Dylan Cicogna-McNab
- Jacob Claymore
- Jesse Close
- Vince Del Rosso
- Hugo Harrington
- Finn Hoffman
- Kody Honeysett
- Molly Lehmann-Monck
- Nikolas Martsoukos Abi-Merhi
- Oskar Mulders
- Jack Nunley
- James Scarpellino
- Patrick Williamson

Special congratulations to our major prize winners who were recognised for their achievements and contributions to the school community.

David Hordern Award

Presented for outstanding application or achievement in work experience:

- Hugo Harrington

Liza Adams Award

Presented for application or achievement in Mathematics:

- Alecia Chang

Jenny Keys Award

Presented for application or achievement in English:

- Anyssia Alexiou

Graeme Ellis Award

Presented for outstanding application or achievement in a co-curricular activity:

- Riley Butcher

Br Mark Farrelly Award

Presented to the Dux of the graduating class

- Molly Lehmann-Monck

Reuben F Scarf Award

Presented to recognise consistent effort and desire to improve

- James Scarpellino

Br Michael Flanagan Award

Presented for courage and perseverance in adversity

- Alecia Chang and Dylan McNab

Jean-Baptiste Berne Award

Presented for personal improvement

- Oskar Mulders and Jack Nunley

Champagnat Award

Presented for character stability and good example

- Jacob Claymore



One Kind Word

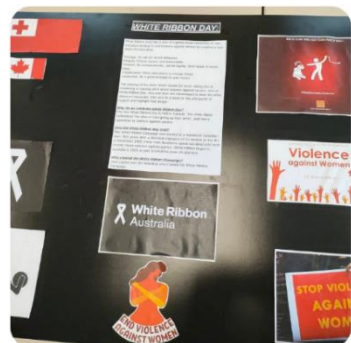
For Anti-Bullying Week (15 – 19 November) we held a One Kind Word campaign. Teachers were on the listen-out for kind comments made by students towards each other or staff. Tallies were taken each day with the Pastoral Care group scoring the most points for saying the most kind words over the week being awarded a special lunch of their choice from the school canteen. Congratulations and well done to Jayne's Stage 4 class for winning the competition.

Best of all, one kind word leads to another



White Ribbon Day

As part of White Ribbon Day, our students created campaigns with the purpose of ending violence against women and girls. Students did a great job in their campaigns conveying the importance of this day, what we can do to raise awareness, and the actions that need to be taken. Well done to everyone involved!



Marie Byrne Scholarship

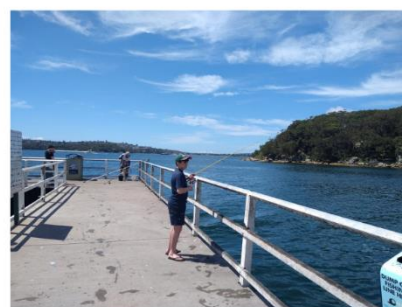
Marie Byrne was the single mother of three boys from Greenacre. She worked hard at the TAB to ensure they received a good Catholic education - which they did. Her eldest son is a school principal, and her youngest son was a renowned entertainment manager and performer. Sadly, her middle son suffered addiction issues and clashes with the justice system with resultant mental health challenges. Marie always valued education and this annual scholarship is to encourage and acknowledge two students at The John Berne School who also really value their education and give their best effort to be the best person they can be.

Congratulations to Laleitah Morris and Charlie Rumble who have been awarded the 2022 Marie Byrne Scholarship receiving \$250 each towards their school fees at Berne next year. Our sincere and heartfelt thanks to the Byrne family for their generosity.



Picnic Day

On Thursday 2 December students and staff celebrated the year with a picnic at Clifton Gardens, Mosman. Everyone made the most of the beautiful weather and had a great time swimming, fishing, playing ball games and, of course, devouring a delicious chicken lunch.



Berne breakfast program needs your help



Our Breakfast Program provides students with breakfast before school each morning as well as fruit and yogurt for recess. The program is not just about good nutrition, it also welcomes students to the school community each morning creating a friendly and calm “family spirit”. Eating a healthy breakfast helps students settle better into class and maintain their focus throughout the day.

We need your help to keep the program going. We appreciate any support no matter how big or small.

To support us please go to: www.johnberneschool.org/get-involved/donate-now/

Positive Paws Program



At the start of Term 1 2022, commencing Thursday 10 February, Berne students will have the opportunity to participate in the Positive Paws

Project. This project is run by Guide Dogs in partnership with Western Sydney University and The Rali Foundation. The aim of the project is to evaluate the impact the Positive Paws Project can have on the social and emotional development of high school students.

Students are welcome to express their interest in the program by speaking with their Pastoral Care Teacher or their Stage Coordinator.

Students participating in the Positive Paws Project will have the opportunity to spend time with guide dog puppies. They will be given specific tasks to teach their puppy certain things or simply make them more familiar with new and different environments. Students will be required to wear coveralls to protect the puppies from infections and all students participating in the program must be fully vaccinated and committed to attending the program every Thursday for eight weeks.



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Donations to The John Berne School of \$2.00 or more are tax-deductible
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