

The John Berne School

Hope Always

Issue 3 2022 Newsletter

Dear parents, carers, and friends of Berne



In a recent reflection I was reminded that Jesus called his followers “to give to those who cannot repay you and to serve others without seeking anything in return”. I feel at this time of increased petrol prices, food costs and increasing interest rates there are many who need support and as Christians we should put Jesus’ words into action and help them. This doesn’t necessarily mean handing out money to strangers. For Jesus helping the ‘other’ or the ‘least’ started with simply talking to them.

However, if we go a step further and consciously help others with material goods or money it is very likely we will find happiness. Scientific research provides compelling data to support anecdotal evidence that giving is a powerful pathway to personal growth and lasting joy. So helping others in need may be the secret to living a life that is not only happier, but also healthier, wealthier, more productive and meaningful. This reminds me of a Chinese saying;- “If you want happiness for an hour, take a nap. If you want happiness for a day, go fishing. If you want happiness for a year, inherit a fortune. If you want happiness for a lifetime, help somebody.”

In the Parable of “The Widow’s Offering” (Mark 12: 41–44), Jesus teaches us the importance of giving and the lesson is not to give greatly but to give as much as we can. For me, this lesson is not only about donating our money but also giving our time and our energy to supporting people in need.

In our school Community here at Berne I want our students to be happy, faith-filled citizens who understand both the gift of receiving and the joy of giving. It upsets me to hear of students experiencing personal hardship either at school or at home. I feel in our Catholic School Community we all have a responsibility to look after each other, especially those who need extra support. School can be a happy place if we have a genuine community of like minded people who share Jesus’ values of giving.

I would therefore like to challenge every member of our Berne Community to take the time over the holidays to give. There are many ways to give and here are just a few suggestions: spend time with people, volunteer, be emotionally available, perform acts of kindness, compliment someone, make someone laugh or give your time to a neighbour, relative or friend who needs your help. As in the beautiful words of Saint Francis of Assisi, “For it is in giving that we receive”.

Hope always
James Le Huray
Principal

Upcoming Events

- 11 October**
Students return Term 4
- 14 October**
John Berne Day
- 24 October**
Parent/Teacher Interviews
- 24-28 October**
Stage 5 Camp (Yr 9 only)
- 1 November**
All Saints Day
- 2 November**
All Souls Day
- 16 – 18 November**
Stage 4 Camp
- 17 – 23 November**
Year 10 Work Experience
- 21 – 25 November**
Year 9 Work Experience
- 25 November**
Year 10 Graduation
- 2 December**
Yrs 7,8,9 last day Term 4
- 1 February 2023**
Students return Term 1

Staff News

Welcome Sara



We would like to extend a very warm welcome to Sara Moore who has joined our Counselling Team this term. We know she will be a great asset to our community.

"I started my career in photography, design and photo retouching. After a decade working in this field, I sought to make a change and do something where I felt I could make a difference and help people. I retrained in psychology and counselling. This led me to working in the disability sector, providing psychosocial education and support to NDIS participants. I love working with young people and becoming a school counsellor became my new goal. The John Berne School provided the perfect opportunity and I am excited to be a part of the team."

- Sara Moore, Counsellor

Br Chris Hogan's Golden Jubilee Celebration



Congratulations to Br Chris Hogan who celebrated his Golden Jubilee as a Marist Brother with family and friends at a special Mass and luncheon at St Joseph's College Hunters Hill on Sunday 17th July. During his 50 years of service Br Chris has worked at Marist schools in Casino, Lismore, Penhurst, Auburn, Cairns and Campbelltown. We have been blessed to have Br Chris with us at The John Berne School for the past twelve years

Maternity Leave



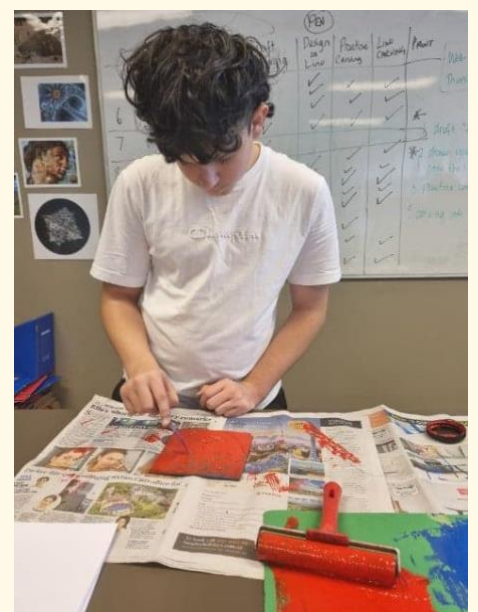
Best wishes to Nicole Arathoon who is taking maternity leave from the end of this term for the birth of her first child. We are all very happy and excited for Nicole as she embarks on this next chapter in her life. In her absence, Kristina Allan will take on the role of Stage 4 Coordinator and Craig Fraser will take on the role of Stage 5 Pastoral Care teacher. We will also be welcoming back Phoebe Taylor from maternity leave next term. Phoebe will be resuming her position as School Counsellor three days a week.

Stage 4 Visual Arts

This term Stage 4 have engaged in printing as their unit of work for Visual Arts. We started with printing using leaves and potatoes and then started to draw our faces as our design for lino printing.

Each student drew their own face onto a 16cm x 16cm piece of lino which they carved into to produce multiple copies of their design. The students were very engaged in the task even though the process took four to five weeks to complete which was impressive. The end products are fantastic and each student should be very proud of their efforts.

- Nicole Arathoon, Stage 4 Coordinator



Snap, Crackle & Pop

In August this term our students made over 100 delicious chocolate crackles for the Sydney Night Patrol. Sydney Night Patrol is a special work of the St Vincent de Paul Society and part of the Sydney Vinnies Van Services operating seven nights a week providing snacks, meals, blankets, toiletries, hot beverages and giving companionship to people at risk of homelessness in the inner city of Sydney. Every Berne class took a turn at making the crackles which were individually wrapped for delivery. Thank you to all the students involved in the making of these treats for people in need in our wider community.



Theatre Excursion

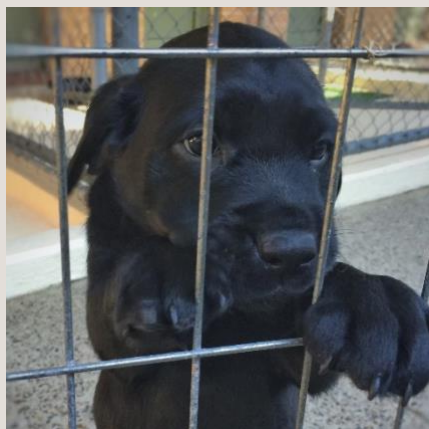
On Thursday 11 August six students were selected to attend the musical, Fangirls, at the Opera House. Fangirls told the story of a group of friends who were in love with the lead singer in a boy band and one of them decided to kidnap him when they were not allowed to go to the concert. It was a wonderful show and it felt at times you were in a real concert, where the audience interacted with the actors. It was unlike anything the students had ever experienced and they really enjoyed the performance.

We also celebrated the birthday of one student with some cake while we were out which made the day extra special.

- Kristina Allan, Stage 5 Teacher



Positive Paws Project



A group of our Stage 4 and 5 students participated in the Positive Paws Project again this term. The aim of the program is to educate the pupils on how to interact with and help train guide dog puppies before they leave the Center to go on to their puppy trainers.

The students were taught how to test each dog and observe how it behaves in various situations to see if they will make suitable guide dogs. The different tests used include seeing how the puppies react in various settings and scenarios such as: Do they react to their reflection? Are they afraid of tight spaces? Will they walk through water? And various physical exercises which all need to be related back to the puppy trainers.

The group was praised by the puppy trainers on how focused they were and what an excellent job they did at the Center.

In the third week of the program pupils had the opportunity to talk with a guide dog trainer. She thanked the pupils for their hard work and explained how the feedback she gets from the students is vital to help her work on any weaknesses a puppy may have.

- Jayne Layland, Stage 4 Teacher



Welcome new students

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to students who have joined our school this term – Bax in Year 8; Nicholas in Year 9 and Thomas in Year 10.



Stage 5 Snow Camp

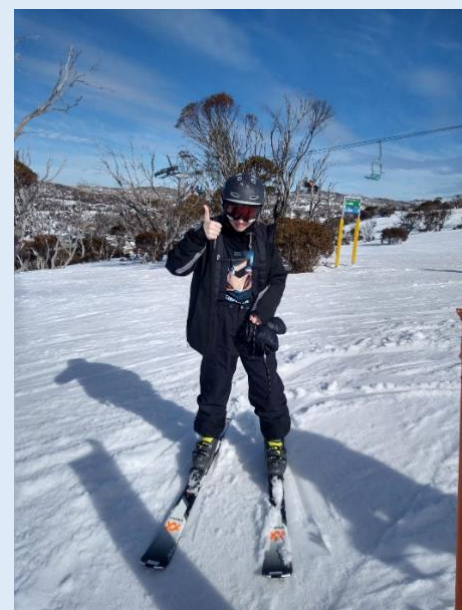
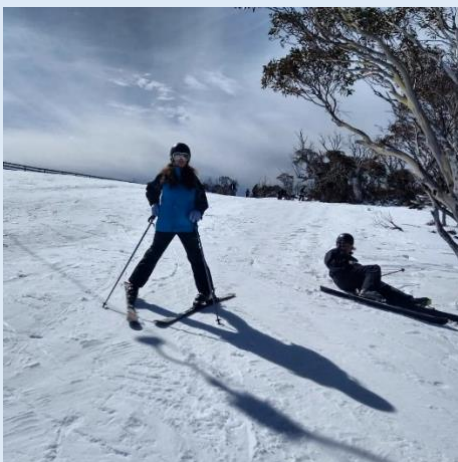
Berne hit the snow this term making it the first snow trip since the outbreak of COVID-19. On 16th August, ten Stage 5 students and four staff members departed for our snow camp and had the opportunity to travel to Perisher in the Snowy Mountains.

On the first day at the snow we spent the morning taking ski lessons. After that we were able to hone our new skills by taking on the mountain, or in my case, the hill, and putting ourselves to the test. By the end of the day, we were exhausted.

The second day proved to be a challenging one as the weather was freezing and we experienced some strong winds. However, our students proved their resilience, their determination and overall positive attitude by continuing to ski, having snowball fights and making the most of our time in the snow.

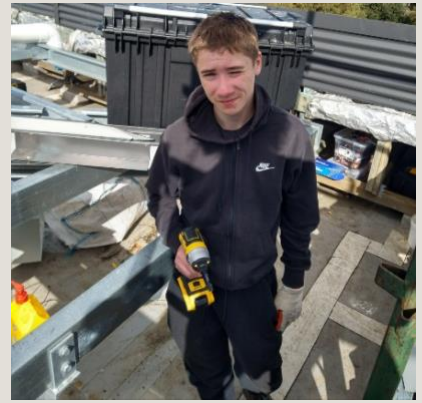
This snow camp was definitely a camp to remember, especially for our students as it was the first time most of them had experienced the snow. It was truly a delightful and joyful experience which was enjoyed by both staff and students.

- Supi Taufa'ao, Teacher Assistant



Work Experience

Work Experience plays an important part of the educational experiences provided at The John Berne School and gives our students further opportunities to grow. Congratulations to our Stage 5 students who successfully completed a week of work experience this term including placements in childcare, butcher, youth services, carpentry, pet care, garage door repairs, retail, hospitality, construction, building, mechanics and education. Thank you to the employers for supporting our students in this way and giving them the chance to try possible career choices for the future.



Thank you

Our sincere thanks to Club Ashfield for their grant in support of our Rewards and Incentives Program providing gift vouchers to reward good behaviour and positive outcomes by our students. We are very grateful for Club Ashfield's long-term and loyal support of The John Berne School.

Marist Association National Assembly



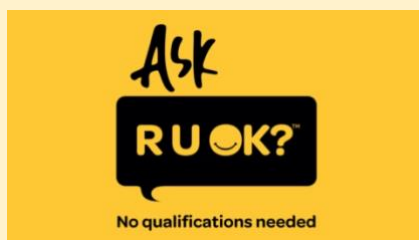
The Marist family gathered at the National Assembly of the Marist Association of St Marcellin Champagnat (Australia) at the Mary Mackillop Centre in Sydney in August 2022. The John Berne School was represented there by Tanja and Sharon. As a large, passionate and diverse family this was a chance for participants to listen to each other as they explored new possibilities and directions for the Marist Project here in Australia.

RUOK? Day



On 1 September we acknowledged RUOK? Day at school. RUOK? Day was started in 2009 by a young man who sadly lost his father to suicide. This young man wanted to raise awareness about suicide and remind us of the power of human connection and reaching out in support of others. RUOK? Day taught us that it is not always obvious who is struggling. As humans and members of The John Berne School community, we have a responsibility to take care of each other...not just on RUOK? Day...but every day.

- Emily Montuori, School Counsellor



Wests Ashfield

Thank you

Our sincere thanks to Wests Ashfield for their grant in support of our Skills for Living Program providing food for cooking classes for our students and kitchen equipment. We are very grateful to Wests Ashfield for their generosity and faith in the good work of our school.

Stage 4 Activities

During Week 8, Stage 4 along with their teachers had a fantastic three days of activities. Every day was a great success and enjoyed by all pupils. Here are some accounts of each activity written by the pupils:

The Treetops: By Lana.I.Thompson

On the 7th of September 2022, staff members accompanied Stage 4 students to the Treetops course in Abbotsbury. The staff members who worked at the Treetops course taught us how to use the harnesses correctly and safely then we walked on the path to the first Treetops course. The obstacles or 'challenges' per say, were actually much harder and scarier than I originally thought. Bax, Jake and Ben glided through the first course with ease, I can't say if they were fast with the second one as I was too far behind them. I began to cry during my second course, I was terrified! A staff member had to come up on the course with me to help me overcome my fear, and apparently Bax flew into a tree while he was on a different course than me! (Must've hurt a bunch, I'm wincing just thinking about it!) After we completed the course we had some pre-made wraps for lunch with some chips and chocolate chip cookies, so I felt better. Overall I laugh about it now, even if it was only a few days later. I'd rate the day a solid 9.5/10. I have a feeling it would've been a 10/10 if I hadn't cried. I think all of us had a good time.



Clifton Gardens: By Bax Karam

On Thursday the 8th of September, Stage 4 went to Clifton Gardens for activities week. We had such an awesome, fun time at the beach. We started the day off by hopping on the minibus for about 45-50 mins to get to Clifton Gardens. As soon as we got there we unpacked everything and headed straight to the pier. We were all super excited to jump in. We all did flips and jumps off the pier into the water. After we did that we all swam back to the beach and grabbed our towels to dry off. Then we had a snack and kicked the ball around for 20 minutes, it was super fun. We all played footy on the beach, did some fishing {no one caught anything} and had lunch which was good. It was roast chicken, wraps, and salad. The annoying bin chickens kept trying to eat them. After lunch we went for another swim. We all had so much fun and definitely would go back. My favourite part of the day was jumping off the pier and kicking the footy.



Flip Out: By Jayden Gheorghisor

On Friday 9th of September, Stage 4 travelled to Flip-Out. Flip-Out is a big warehouse, it has a lot of obstacles to go on and different trampolines. My favourite part was the one that had a lot of obstacles to go around. We played tips, Bax was so fast he would catch you but we jumped in the big foam pit to escape. We were there all day and we had a lot of fun! When we were done, we ate the wraps that we made in the morning. They were nice and we had cupcakes with chocolate and sprinkles topping.



Love of Learning (LOL) Day

In Week 9, we had our Love of Learning (LOL) Day. The main focus of this LOL Day was P.E. In pastoral care classes, students were assigned to team colours and participated in our very own, 'Amazing Race'. The Amazing Race was based on completing 10 stations that had activities that challenged our students both mentally and physically. There were 3 ways to win LOL – First team to finish the race, secondly, the team with the most points scored for the challenges at the end of the day, and lastly, the team with the most steps. All students participated in the activity with vigorous enthusiasm and the support of St Joseph's College students made the day even better.

Congratulations to Jayne's class for winning the Amazing Race, the team with the most steps and receiving the most points at the end of the day. We'd also like to thank St Joseph College, Hunter's Hill for their Year 12 students who volunteer their time with us and to all our students that engaged in LOL.



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