

# The John Berne School

Hope Always

Issue 4 2022 Newsletter

Dear parents, carers, and friends of Berne



Welcome to our final newsletter for 2022. This term has been filled with a variety of activities for our students. We are preparing for next year and our Year 10 students were farewelled at a wonderful Graduation on 25 November. I gave the following address at the ceremony, and it is repeated here for the wider community:

*Good morning and welcome to The John Berne School graduation ceremony for the class of 2022. I am honoured to be able to stand here today welcoming all of you. A special welcome to our graduates and our special guests. Welcome also to the parents, other family members and friends who are here today and to our brilliant Berne Staff. Thank you to all of you for being in the lives of these wonderful young men and women because your love, support, encouragement, and commitment to these amazing students has allowed them to be where they are today.*

*To our graduates - Congratulations! You have made it here today, in the face of all the challenges we have had to deal with in our world over the past few years. But we are not here to talk about that today, we are here to celebrate all of you, the outstanding young men and women seated before us.*

*I ask that as you leave here today, your last day as a student and your first day as an alumnus, you always remember where you have come from. These early chapters are important ones in each and every one of your life stories. The John Berne School has helped shape who you are today. But who you want to be tomorrow lies in front of you and will be the outcome of the decisions you make going forward. Fortunately, I am confident all of you have the tools you need to lead you on a path of success, no matter what your pursuit may be.*

*In thinking about how you will move forward, I ask you to do so with a kind heart, a stout work ethic, a positive outlook and as faith filled students with integrity. These four simple things will allow you to thrive and succeed in this world. As American author and psychiatrist Theodore Isaac Rubin writes, "kindness is more important than wisdom, and the recognition of this is the beginning of wisdom."*

*This simple statement is so powerful and yet so important, now more than ever, as the need to come together is critical. We are facing challenges in our local communities, in our state, in our country, and in our world, none of which we will ever be able to properly address, solve, or resolve without kindness, as it is kindness that allows people with different views and perspectives to come together and be the change they want to see in the world. These words of Gandhi are used often but never lose their meaning for me. "Be the change you want to see in the world". Live as you would like others to live. As the world changes, you can make personal changes and be people others will follow.*

Continued next page

## Upcoming Events

**1 February 2023**

Students return Term 4

**6 February**

Parent Information Meeting

**7 February**

Opening School Mass

**22 February**

Ash Wednesday

**27 February – 3 March**

Stage 5 Camp Week

**15 – 27 March**

NAPLAN Years 7 & 9

**6 April**

Stations of the Cross at Mittagong  
Students' Last Day T1

**7 April**

Good Friday Holiday

**25 April**

Anzac Day Public Holiday

**26 April**

Students return Term 2

**28 April**

The John Berne School  
25 Year Celebration  
Mass

*Change will not be easy, which is why a solid work ethic is so critical to your success and something I hope Berne has taught you. The ability to work hard, show up on time, be collaborative and see things to completion are all attributes of a strong work ethic. Excelling in these areas will set you up to shine positively, while at the same time allowing you to stand out from the crowd. Work ethic is important because, unlike intelligence, athleticism, charisma, or any other natural attribute, it's a choice. And it is a choice you can make every day as you take on the world in whatever role that may be; whether in the workforce, continuing your education, serving our country, parenting, volunteering, serving in the local government, or joining a charitable organization. Just like you made the choice to come to Berne and work hard to graduate today, you can make the choice to be committed, follow through and help make a difference in our world, however big or small. The other thing I ask of you all as you move forward after today, is to have a positive outlook. I know we live in a world where so much attention is paid to the negative things that are going on, much a product of our media and social media outlets, but remember there are so many more positive things happening all of the time all around you.*

*As the character Albus Dumbledore states in the Harry Potter series, "Happiness can be found even in the darkest of times if one only remembers to turn on the light." And so I am asking all of you today to please turn on the light, whether it be a small flashlight, a giant beaming spotlight or a brilliant ray of sunshine. Please turn on the light and find the positives in our world and make them your focus. And perhaps - more importantly - turn on your light - bring your positive attributes to the forefront and shine brightly as I know you can.*

*Your Catholic Marist education has placed in each and every one of you the values necessary for integrity to be at the heart of your person. Integrity is not easily defined, however it is recognised in people who embody it because they are true to themselves, honest, upright and decent in their relationships with others. I know each of you will step out into the world filled with all the values and qualities integrity embodies and you will shine.*

*In closing I would like to express how privileged and honoured I feel to have met each and every one of you graduates and I would like to wish you well as you move into the next phase of your life. 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. We are all so proud of what you have each achieved individually and collectively. You have all shown that with courage and perseverance you can do great things. So, John Berne School Class of 2022 - be brave - work hard - and be great. Thank you - Congratulations! - farewell.*

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

Hope Always

James Le Huray  
Principal

## Welcome new students

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to students who have joined our school this term – Ewan and Breanna in Year 7; Eoin in Year 8 and Riley in Year 9.



# Staff News

## Welcome Back



A big welcome back to Phoebe Taylor, school counsellor, who returned to school this term from maternity leave.



We will also be welcoming back fellow school counsellor, Gemma Peters, who will be returning from maternity leave Term 1 next year.

## Thank you and Farewell



We would like to take this opportunity to thank Sara Moore for being a valuable member of our counselling team this year. In her short time with us, Sara has been a wonderful support to our students and staff and we thank her for hard work and for sharing her many talents with us.

# The 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 Mia Adams-Birch and Jayden Gheorghisor who have been awarded the 2023 Marie Byrne Scholarship receiving \$250 each towards their school fees at Berne next year.

# Stage 4 Camp

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of November, eight students from Stage 4 and four staff members piled their camping gear into the school bus and set off for Gerroa. Located at the northern end of the famous Seven Mile Beach, Gerroa was the perfect setting for two days of action-packed camping. On the way, we stopped off at the Kiama Blow Hole and had lunch. We arrived at Gerroa in the early afternoon and students enjoyed the waves at Seven Mile Beach. The evening entailed countless rounds of Spotlight and some ghost stories were told before bed. The next day campers visited the beautiful Callala Beach which was like being transported to a beautiful Fijian island. We cooled off in the water and played many innings of cricket on the pristine sand. We enjoyed the afternoon back at our campsite, relaxing poolside, go-karting, fishing and defying gravity on the bouncing pillow.

All campers had a wonderful time, and the students are to be commended on their excellent behaviour throughout.

- Kristina Allan, Stage 4 Coordinator and Sara Moore, School Counsellor



# Year 10 Graduation

Congratulations to our Year 10 students of 2022 who graduated on Friday 25 November. Students were warmly farewelled, acknowledged for all their hard work and dedication to completing their Year 10 education. Congratulations to all our graduates for 2022:

- Darren Blair
- Rose Clapham
- Nathan Farrugia
- Sonny Galea
- Paul Gerges
- Sydney Kurucz-Petrou
- Nakita Mondo
- Thomas O'Carroll
- Liam O'Regan
- Jamie Panuccio

Many thanks to Father Gary Perritt for celebrating Mass with us and for his inspirational homily.

Thank you again to our supporters, special guests, Dr John Robinson, Br Darren Burge and Br Michael Flanagan and to Berne staff, parents and students for making the graduation such a wonderful event.

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

## **David Hordern Award**

Presented for excellence in Work Experience

- Darren Blair

## **Liza Adams Award**

Presented for application or achievement in Mathematics

- Sonny Galea

## **Jenny Keys Award**

Presented for application or achievement in English

- Rose Clapham

## **Reuben F Scarf Award**

Presented to recognise and honour consistent effort and desire to improve

- Darren Blair

## **Geoffrey George Award**

Presented for service to the school community

- Paul Gerges

## **Br Michael Flanagan Award**

Presented for courage and perseverance in adversity

- Sydney Kurucz-Petrou

## **Jean-Baptiste Berne Award**

Presented for personal improvement

- Paul Gerges

## **Champagnat Award**

Presented for character, stability, and good example

- Nathan Farrugia



# Year 10 Graduation



# Listen Up Music Workshops



A group of students had the privilege of working with Phil, an Australian Hip Hop producer. Phil ran a series of creative workshops at Berne giving students the opportunity to write and produce an awe-inspiring piece of music titled "It's Your Turn".

Through this experience they were able to use technical electronic music equipment learning new skills and collaboratively produce their own piece of music from start to finish. They were justifiably proud of the music they created together. You can listen to their song via the link on our Facebook page.

Our sincere thanks to Club Ashfield for giving us a grant to conduct the workshops and give our students this amazing experience.

<https://www.facebook.com/100063572613014/videos/503083445087334>



# Stage 5 History



Stage 5 borrowed a Memorial Box from the Australian War Memorial as part of their studies about the Second World War. The box contained educational resources, equipment, clothing and other war mementos giving students new experiences and insights into the world at that time.

# Stage 5 Science Experiments

Throughout Term 4, Stage 5 students in Alex and Michael's class conducted a number of exciting chemistry experiments. Morokai demonstrated how Carbon Dioxide gas can inflate a balloon – which the class really enjoyed! MJ also showed the class how to make 'elephant toothpaste' in which Hydrogen Peroxide was mixed with oxygen, food dye and water to create bubbles and foam. The class also tried to make 'Rock Candy' by diluting sugar into boiling water and letting it settle ... the colourful glasses stayed in class for a week and we were surprised by the results by the time they were checked on Friday.

- Alex Gonda, Stage 5 Teacher



# Pickled!

Recently we have been taking advantage of the beautiful variety of vegetables that were planted in the Berne garden by Michael and his class last term. The students and staff have been harvesting luscious lettuce, spectacular spinach, handfuls of herbs, a zillion zucchini, and a corral of cucumbers.

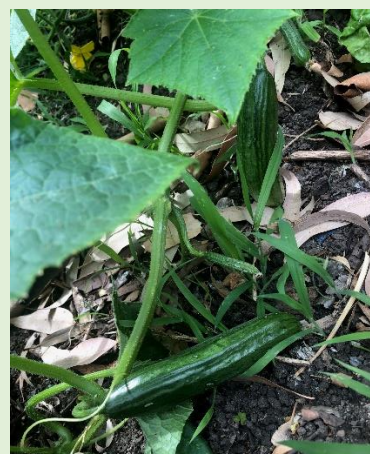
There have been so many of the cucumbers that it was quickly becoming an issue. Our solution to the pickle we found ourselves in was to pickle our crowd of cucumbers.

Here is our simple pickle recipe that can be used for cucumbers, onions or any vegetables you please.

- Declan Martin, Stage 5 Teacher

## Ingredients

- ½ Kilo of the vegetables of your choice
- 2 sprigs fresh herbs, such as thyme, dill, or rosemary (optional)
- 1 to 2 teaspoons whole spices, such as black peppercorns, coriander, or mustard seeds (optional)
- 1 teaspoon dried herbs or ground spices (optional)
- 2 cloves garlic, smashed or sliced (optional)
- 1 cup vinegar, such as white, apple cider, or rice
- 1 cup water
- 1 tablespoon kosher salt, or 2 teaspoons pickling salt
- 1 tablespoon granulated sugar (optional)



## Instructions

1. **Prepare the jars.** Wash wide-mouth jars, lids, and rings in warm, soapy water and rinse well. Set aside to dry.
2. **Prepare the vegetables.** Wash and dry vegetables. Peel carrots. Cut vegetables into desired shapes and sizes.
3. **Add the flavourings.** Divide the herbs, spices, or garlic you are using between the jars.
4. **Add the vegetables.** Pack the vegetables. Pack them in as tightly as you can without smashing.
5. **Make the brine.** Place vinegar, water, salt, and sugar (if using) in a small saucepan over high heat. Bring to a boil, stirring to dissolve the salt and sugar. Pour the brine over the vegetables, filling each jar to within ½ inch of the top. You might not use all the brine.
6. **Remove air bubbles.** Gently tap the jars against the counter a few times to remove all the air bubbles. Top off with more brine if necessary.
7. **Seal the jars.** Place the lids on the jars and screw on the rings until tight.
8. **Cool and refrigerate.** Let the jars cool to room temperature. Store the pickles in refrigerator. The pickles will improve with flavour as they age – try to wait at least 48 hours before opening.





# Work Experience

This term Stage 5 students undertook work experience placements in a wide range of fields including construction, hairdressing, bike retail and repairs, childcare, hospitality, auto repairs, office work, labouring and cleaning. The John Berne School Work Experience Program can be challenging for our students. It necessitates students travelling to sometimes unfamiliar locations, working with people they might not know, possibly starting early in the morning or working long hours and being expected to perform tasks they may not enjoy. Students are well monitored and supported at all stages of their work placement by their teachers and the program can play an important role in building self confidence and learning valuable work and life skills. Congratulations to all our students who successfully completed work experience this term and thank you to the many employers who gave them the opportunity.



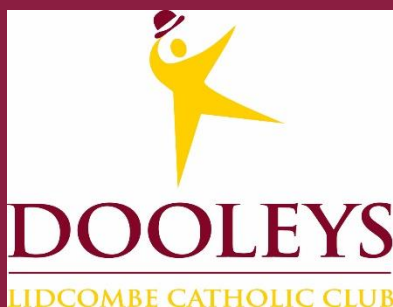
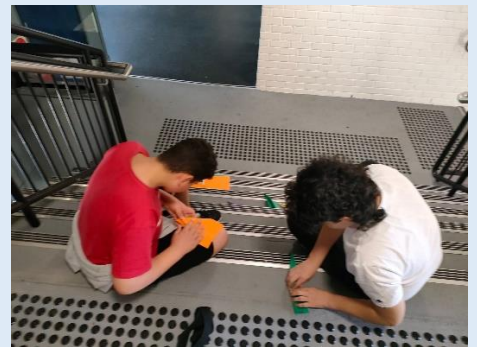
# John Berne Day

On 14<sup>th</sup> October we celebrated John Berne Day. Our school was named in remembrance of Jean-Baptiste Berne, an orphaned boy adopted by Saint Marcellin Champagnat.

We began John Berne Day in the morning with Mass with Father Gary where we remembered the story and inspiration of St Marcellin Champagnat and Jean-Baptiste Berne. A story that challenges us to reach out to young people in need and be present just as Marcellin did.

From there we had a day of festivities where we completed our school sports carnival. Due to the wet weather, we had to alter some activities. The events included: paper aeroplane throw; sack races, sit and reach, standing long jump, sink the black ball and egg and spoon races.

All students participated enthusiastically and it was a great way to start Term 4!



## Thank you

Our sincere thanks to Dooleys Lidcombe Catholic Club for their grants this year in support of our Breakfast, Active Kids and Outdoor Education Programs. We are very grateful for Dooley's long-term and loyal support of The John Berne School.

# Picnic Day

Picnic Day is a Berne tradition where staff and students celebrate the successes of the year. It is a time where we, as a community, bonded together sharing a meal and partaking in various group activities at Clifton Gardens on the beautiful Sydney Harbour.



As soon as we arrived, we dispersed, wasting no time to making the most of the day. Students and staff took straight to the basketball court to play ball. There were lots of MVP (most valuable player) moments during the games – Ewan’s consistent three-pointers, Mel’s netball skills transitioning amazingly to the game and Eoin’s lay-ups and crazy dunks.

Meanwhile, other staff and students took to the sea to splash around, swimming and jumping off the wharf. This was an enjoyable experience, but the unicorn floatie was definitely a highlight for the swimmers, making Grant and Emily’s effort of blowing the floatie up well worth the hassle. While all this was going on, our fishers were waiting patiently for their catch and their patience paid off with a fish finally being caught. The undersized fish was dutifully released but the kids had lots of fun.



It wouldn’t a proper Berne Picnic Day without playing a game of cricket. Nothing compares with the feeling of running after hitting a four or the thrill of getting someone out by diving for a catch. Most people participated, but the game was deemed over when lunch arrived. We gathered together to enjoy a warm and delicious meal – sliders, chicken schnitzel rolls with a side of hot chips. I can definitely say that no one was left hungry after the feast we

enjoyed and we were able to bring back leftovers to share with the staff who stayed back at the school to hold down the fort.



Exhilaration, joy and a little bit of fatigue carried us back to school with nothing but stories of the adventures we had at Clifton Gardens. This was a wonderful way to wrap up the school year.

- Supi Taufa’ao, Teacher Assistant



## Stage 4 LOTE Excursion



On Thursday the 17<sup>th</sup> November Stage 4 students and staff went on a LOTE excursion to support our study of Italian. We first attended the Café Gioia in Leichhardt where we sampled some authentic Italian Pizza. Students tried the margarita, meat lovers, capricciosa and Napoli pizzas. They were delicious! Next we travelled by school bus to The Tramsheds in Harold Park where we sampled some authentic gelato from Messina. The most popular flavours were cookies and cream and chocolate. This was decadent and delicious! The students had a good time experiencing the Italian cuisine and were also fortunate to witness the gelato being prepared as we were there in the store. It was just like we had seen on The Italian Food Safari program. A fun time was had by all and we were all feeling full by the end of the day.

- Kristina Allan, Stage 4 Coordinator

## Vale ~ Judith Ann Ingham OAM



With great sadness we report the passing of Judy Ingham (21.1.33 – 21.9.22). Judy was a dedicated volunteer at Berne who worked with our students here for almost 20 years. We are grateful for her unflappable patience and for the many hours of time she so freely gave to the very many students she helped. Judy will be greatly missed by all who knew her.



The John Berne School  
Hope Always

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