



The John Berne School  
Hope Always

CELEBRATING **25** YEARS  
*Acceptance. Hope. Change.*

Hope Always

Issue 1 2023 Newsletter

Dear parents, carers, and friends of Berne



This year The John Berne School is celebrating its 25th anniversary. That's a quarter of a century of Catholic education in the Marist tradition supporting students who find a mainstream setting challenging. What a wonderful and significant milestone! Over the past 25 years, our small school has been pivotal in the lives of countless students and their families, providing a safe and nurturing environment which allows every student to reach their full potential.

The John Berne School gives hope and comfort to all God's children and, just like Jesus Christ the good shepherd, we give special attention to the lost sheep. Through innovative teaching methods, specialised resources and a team of dedicated professionals, The John Berne School has helped shape the future of so many young people who at some point felt alone and discarded. As we celebrate this momentous anniversary this year, we honour our school's history, its founders the Marist Brothers, all former and current staff, students and families, and we look forward to continuing to make a positive impact in the lives of students for many years to come.

As we come to the end of Term 1, 2023, I would like to reiterate my message of welcome from the Parent Information afternoon and I would like to thank all the families both new and returning, who attended as it was a wonderful afternoon. We hope you and your child have found their place at The John Berne School and know that you are an important part of our unique community.

We are almost at the end of the Lenten season. Lent is a time of preparation for Holy Week and Easter when we remember the death and resurrection of Jesus. During this time, which lasts for 40 days, we are asked to consider how we can be "better people"- who live as God would want us to live. At The John Berne School, our school mission statement encourages every community member to be a "Berne Person"- someone who is welcoming, accepting and loving and serves God by empowering and developing others.

*Continued next page*

## Upcoming Events

**26 April**

Students return Term 2

**27 April**

The John Berne School 25 year  
Celebration Mass

**17 – 19 May**

Stage 4 Camp

**22 May**

Parent Teacher Interviews

**29 May – 2 June**

Stage 5 Work Experience

**7 June**

Champagnat Day

**8 – 9 June**

Stage 5 Activities

**12 June**

Queens' Birthday Public Holiday

**29 June**

Students last day of Term 2

**18 July**

Students return Term 3

Each year we have a theme to focus on as we journey together as a Christian, Catholic and Marist community. Last year's theme was "Known and Loved"- dignity for all. In 2023 we will reflect on the theme "Created and Called"- a revolution of love and tenderness. 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. For me, this theme is about God creating us and calling us to be witnesses for Him and if we put our faith in God and follow where he leads we will find our "calling" and the place where we are needed to show his love.

The following excerpt from the Marist documents may help make sense of how to reflect in our daily lives on the theme of "Created and Called":

"Be who God created you to be and you will set the world on fire". These words from St Catherine of Siena express our deepest desire to be our deepest and truest selves in response to being known and loved by God. God's love changes us and by sharing God's love at Berne we see significant changes in the young people entrusted into our care. The change may be slow and at times hard to see, however, the change is occurring through God's love for all.

At times we might feel we don't understand who God has created us to be, or it feels we are far from who God wants us to be and we are not setting the world

on fire. At these times I find solace in the words of Michelangelo as he believed a sculptor was a tool of God, not creating but simply revealing the powerful figures already there. He once said, "I saw the angel in the marble and carved it to set it free". We must trust that we are already created as God desires us to be but our faith and his love shapes us to make a difference in the world. I ask you not to be afraid to do something great with your life. God has created each and every one of us and called us to be witnesses to our faith. Let us have the courage to not waste a moment and start a revolution of love and tenderness.

As Easter approaches, I would like to take a moment to extend my warmest wishes to the The John Berne School community. This is a time of great significance for Christians around the world as we celebrate the hope and renewal Christ's resurrection brings to our lives. May this Easter season be a time of reflection, gratitude, and joy for each and every one of you. May you be surrounded by the love and support of your family, friends and community, and may you find comfort in the knowledge that you are a part of a greater spiritual family that shares in your faith and values. Happy Easter!!

Hope Always

James Le Huray  
Principal



## Welcome new students

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to the students who have joined our school this term – Patrick and Zacharias in Year 7; Ryan, Sam and Will in Year 8; Angus in Year 9.

# Stage 4 Activities

In week 6 of Term 1, Stage 4 students along with their teachers Kristina, Luke, Jayne, and counsellors Gemma, Phoebe and Emily went on a series of activities over three days.

On Day 1, Wednesday 8th March, students went to Manly where we had a surfing lesson and a picnic lunch. We were blessed with the weather, as it was a gorgeous warm day and the waves were quite big. Unfortunately, it was high tide during our surfing lesson so many of us ended up surfing onto the sand on shore but it was definitely a fun and crazy time in the surf. Afterwards we had lunch and had a much more sedate swim in the flagged area which was lovely.

On Day 2, Thursday 8th March, students went to treetops in Abbotsbury where we wore harnesses and completed a number of high ropes activities suspended in the trees. For some students (Ewan) it was a walk in the park but for others more afraid of heights (counsellor Phoebe) it took courage to step outside their comfort zone. The courses were labelled green, blue, red and black according to their difficulty and all students were able to successfully complete the first three courses with the exception of Ewan who made it all the way through the black.

On Day 3, Friday 9th March, students went to Strathfield for laser tag and bowling. This provided a well needed rest after the very adventurous previous two days. This was followed by a picnic lunch in the Richard Murden Reserve with a game of touch and a stroll.

Over the three days we developed closer ties with each other especially as there had been so many new students starting this year in Term 1.

We look forward to more Stage 4 adventures together at the camp in Term 2 week 4!

Our sincere thanks to Dooleys Lidcombe Catholic Club for their generous financial support of this program.

Kristina Allan  
Stage 4 Coordinator





# The Wests Tigers Unite Harmony Program

The Wests Tigers Unite Harmony Program has only recently started this term from Week 6 onwards. The programme, which aims to mould our students' behaviours, relationships, decision-making, and general health and wellbeing, is run by a Wests Tigers representative each Wednesday. We were lucky enough to have two representatives; Botille Vett-Welsh and Kenny Tuala. The sessions that Bo and Kenny ran were both theoretical and practical. Each week was based on certain themes that cater towards our students. Then students would engage in sport based games emphasising team work and creating a sense of belonging. Overall, the program seeks to inspire and bring together high school students to serve as community leaders.

Supi Taufu'ao  
Teacher Assistant



# Stage 4 First Aid Training

On Monday 27th February, the pupils of stage 4 were lucky enough to have Life Saving and CPR training by Lee Alafaci from DRSABCD. The pupils went through the Life Support checklist before testing out their knowledge and skills on real life size dummies. The pupils were also given instructions on how to use an EpiPen for anaphylaxis treatment. All pupils enjoyed the course, learnt valuable lifesaving skills and had fun during the course.

We'd also like to thank Lee for going out of his way to educate our students from the kindness of his heart.

Jayne Layland  
Stage 4 Teacher





# Stage 5 Camp

Stage 5 held two successful camps near Bundeena in The Royal National Park this term. Students were split into two groups and sent to camp in Week 5. Each group engaged in three days and two nights of bushwalking, playing cricket, fishing, paddle boarding and swimming.

The students did a fantastic job setting up camp and very quickly made themselves at home. Being surrounded by nature, the local wildlife regularly visited our campsite. Staff and students delighted in frequent visits by goannas, ducks, cockatoos and even a cheeky fox.

The best thing about our camp, besides the food, was that it was only a short distance from the beach, where the students could go swimming and fishing whenever they wanted to. For many of the students, it was their first time paddle boarding, so it was undoubtedly a highlight for some. They also had a chance to explore and look around the Royal National Park, where they had opportunities to go on bush walks and enjoy stargazing at night.

Here are some of the student's highlights:

"I enjoyed challenging staff in games during camp" - Hugh

"I really enjoyed paddle boarding, it was my first time and I would do it again." - Jonathan

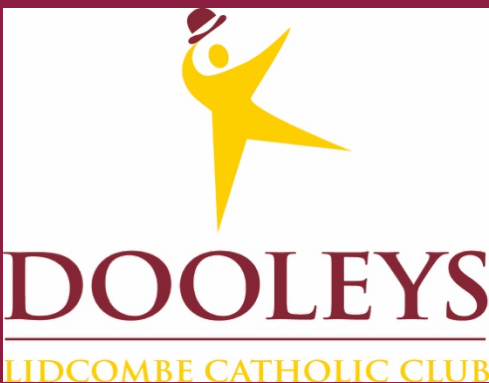
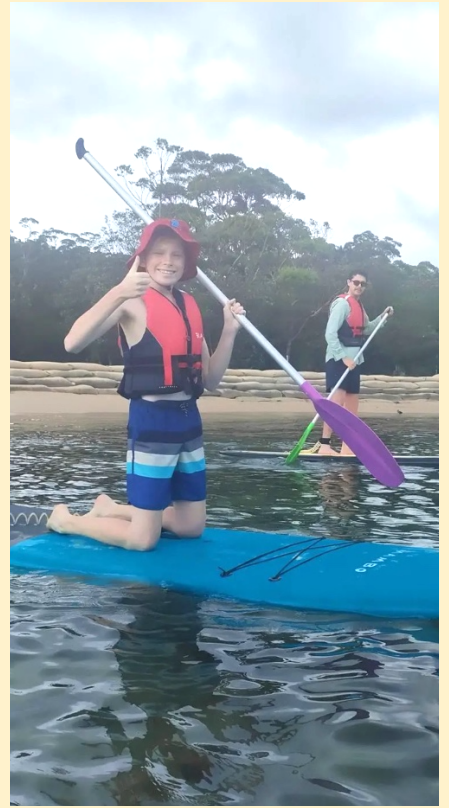
"Playing at the beach was one of our favourite things to do at camp" - Mia and MJ

This was truly an experience enjoyed by all who were present. Thank you to staff and students who worked hard and made the camps enjoyable. A special thank you to Tanja, Stage 5 Coordinator, who organised and led camp while staying on site for the entire week with both groups. Stage 5 will be looking forward to more camps this year.

Supi Taufa'ao  
Teacher Assistant







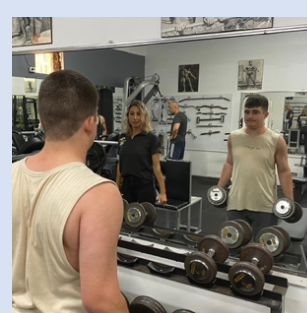
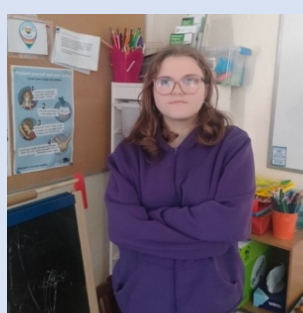
# Thank you

Our sincere thanks to Dooleys Lidcombe Catholic Club for their grant in support of our Active Kids Program enabling our students to go out and participate in activities week. We are very grateful to Dooleys Lidcombe Catholic Club for their generosity and faith in the good work of our school.



# Work Experience

The educational experiences at The John Berne School include a significant amount of work experience, which gives our students more chances to develop. We congratulate our Stage 5 students who successfully completed a week of work experience in the fields of youth services, pet care, photography, retail, hospitality, childcare, mechanics, restaurants, art galleries, gyms, agriculture and education this term. We appreciate the employers' assistance in this matter and for providing our students with the chance to explore the various pathways of potential careers for our students.



# Anti-bullying Day

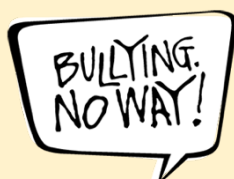
During week seven, the pupils of John Berne took part in a school assembly to take a stand with other Australian schools united in their communities to celebrate the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence (NDA).

The National Day of Action is Australia's key anti-bullying event for schools to take a stand together against bullying. The day brings together more than 60% of schools nationwide, involving more than two million students in finding workable solutions to address bullying and violence. The theme for 2023 was REACH OUT. The idea is that by REACHing OUT together, schools can promote inclusion, respect and community belonging for all students across Australia.

At the John Berne school we encourage the values of inclusion, respect and a sense of belonging in our community. Our students took part in group discussions and various activities in their pastoral care groups which promote anti-bullying.

The John Berne School takes incidents of bullying very seriously and has a process to reduce and resolve incidents that may occur at our school. This assembly also provided an opportunity early in the year, to inform students of our zero tolerance to bullying and what the processes are, if ever they witness or are bullied themselves.

Jayne Layland  
Stage 4 Teacher





# The Annual Berne Luncheon 2023

**The John Berne School are celebrating 25 Years of Marist Education.**

**Please celebrate this wonderful occasion by joining us and booking your seats.**

The John Berne School exists to fill a gap in the education system: the education of young people who find themselves excluded from mainstream education.

The school gives students in difficulty a second chance at achieving the educational outcomes that will enable them the opportunity to reach their potential.

Berne is for students who specifically need time out to improve their literacy, numeracy and social skills in a flexible learning environment.

**Date:**  
**Friday,**  
**22 September 2023**  
11.30am – 3.30pm

**Venue:**  
**Doltone House**, Jones Bay Wharf  
level 3/26-32 Pirrama Rd, Pyrmont  
NSW 2009

**Dress:**  
Lounge Suit

**Tickets:**

**Individual:** \$170  
**Table of 10:** \$1,600



**Tickets available here:**

<https://www.trybooking.com/CGZDB>

**Enquiries:**

For any inquiries please contact us:

**T:** 9560 9260

**E:** [events@johnberneschool.org](mailto:events@johnberneschool.org)

**W:** [www.thejohnberneschool.org](http://www.thejohnberneschool.org)



## Kitchen Update

We wanted to share with you the fun and delicious activity that our small class enjoyed on a recent Friday - cooking sausage rolls!

As part of our flexible learning program on Friday, we decided to try our hand at making sausage rolls. We divided our class into small teams and each team was responsible for a different aspect of the cooking process - from rolling out the pastry to seasoning the meat to carefully wrapping the sausage in the dough.

It was great to see everyone getting involved and working together to create something delicious. As we waited for our sausage rolls to bake in the oven, we had some fun guessing how they would all turn out and what the best condiment would be to have with them. All bets were off, tomato sauce was the clear winner.

When the timer finally went off, we all gathered around to admire our handiwork and, of course, taste the finished product. The smell of our freshly baked pastries filled the room, and everyone eagerly dug in.

Overall, it was a fantastic way to end the week and spend some quality time together as a class. We're already looking forward to our next lesson in the kitchen and can't wait to share what we'll cook up next!

Declan Martin

Stage 5 Teacher



## Vale – John Edward Halmarick

With great sadness we report the passing of John Halmarick (12.9.1935 - 4.3.2023). John was a dedicated volunteer at Berne who worked with our students here for almost 10 years. John will be greatly missed by all who knew him.



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