

BERKELEY PUBLIC SCHOOL

BLUE AND WHITE

NEWSLETTER

Respect

Respect means caring for and valuing yourself and sharing kindness and consideration for others.

Responsibility

Responsibility means being trustworthy and accountable for your behaviour.

Safety

Safety means protecting the well-being and security of everyone in our school.

Cooperation

Cooperation means getting along by working and playing together.

Presentation Assembly



Dux – Jasmine Kominkovski



School Leaders 2023 and 2024



**Nathanial Edwards -
Outstanding Citizenship**



Sports Award – Reponse Iradukuna

See Facebook for all photos.

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Principal's Message

I cannot believe that this is the very last newsletter for 2023! I have been so grateful to have had the chance to relieve for Mr. Osborne while he has been on leave as the principal. I truly love this job and have enjoyed every single moment of the role over the year. Mr Osborne will continue his leave heading into 2024 for the first term and I will stay on in the role during this time.

We have a few changes to staff for 2024. Miss Burnett, Miss Lipovic, Mr Gore and Miss Beehag who have been working in temporary roles during 2023 will not continue with us in 2024. We wish them well in the future and hope to see them back at our school someday. Miss Green will be taking a new role in 2024 based at Albion Park Rail PS working with preschool students transitioning to school. This will be a temporary role for the year, so we won't lose her from BPS. We wish her all the best on this exciting new opportunity. Ms Vujasin will continue to work at Windang PS in 2024, also with a great opportunity in an executive role.

Our teachers are madly cleaning, tidying and some are moving rooms over the week in preparation for 2024. Our students have had a chance to visit the grade they will be going into next year as part of our improvements to our school transition plan. They have had chances to visit classrooms and meet with students in their grade during art, sport and literacy and numeracy activities. Day one Term 1 the children will go into their 2023 classes while we confirm our student numbers. If your child is feeling anxious about a change to a new class or teacher, it is a good idea to talk with them in a positive light around change. Change can make us feel uncomfortable and it is ok to recognise and sit with these feelings. Change can also push us into a zone that promotes learning, which is a positive thing. You can reach out to the school if you find your child's anxiety about returning to school is impacting on family life.

Last week we celebrated the last P&C meeting of the year with dinner. We are so lucky to have such a great team of parents and carers who support our school through fundraising events and the running of the uniform shop. Each week they give up countless hours of their time to volunteer to help our school. We thank them for the money donated towards our playground and this year the donation towards Stage 3 camp. As camp organisation had already started, we made the decision to put this year's money towards the Year 6 Farewell, which has meant the event was free for all our Stage 3 students this year. Next year the P&C will donate funds raised towards bringing the camp costs down for students wishing to attend. I am so grateful we have members who recognise the impact of the increase in cost of living and are supporting our children in not missing out. The Fun Fair Day held earlier this year was also a great success and meant that our children had a day of fun and rides. This was heavily subsidised by the P&C so all students could have access to the fun. Thanks to Dee and the team for another great year. They are always looking for new members if you are keen to help. Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month in the staffroom starting at 5:30 pm.

Our students will finish the year this Friday 15 December. Staff still have another two days of learning on the Staff Development days held on Monday 18 and Tuesday 19. The staff will be planning for teaching for Term 1 2024 and undertaking Verbal Interventions Training with our Assistant Principal Learning and Support.

In 2024 all students first day back will be Thursday 1 February. Kindergarten students will be starting on this day but finishing early at 2pm for the first two days. Staff will return for another two staff development days Tuesday 30 and Wednesday 31.

I would like to wish you all a very happy holiday break and enjoy the time with your families. Please use this time to relax, rejuvenate and hope that you all come back ready for another great year of learning and fun in 2024. On behalf of the staff at BPS we thank you all for the investment you make in your child's education and the support you provide us to teach your little ones.

Melanie Bowden
Relieving Principal



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Presentation Assembly 2023

Awards were handed out at our recent Annual Presentation Assembly. Congratulations to the following students on their excellent performance throughout the year.

CLASS	ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT	ACADEMIC PROGRESS	CITIZENSHIP
K - Banksia	Kalani Lakalaka	Eli Catalan	Darcy Johnstone
K - Lilly Pilly	Thomas Preston	Trey Donnelly	Blaise Kelly
1 - Gugara	Calista Pratt	Ella Butcher	Katara Rees
1 - Dharambang	Reign South	Ruby Thew	Benjamin Teixeira De Souza
2 - Gulung	Jacob Midgley	Kayleigh Kaye	Sadie-May Johnstone
2 - Wondangar	Knox Ingledew	Aidan Flood	Amira Ali
3/4 - Budjong	Lilly Hickey	Haysem Farache	Scarlett Scerri
3/4 - Juborsay	Bailey Lawless	Alexander Bevan	Ava Coupe
3/4 - Wollamai	Deo Pratt	Hana Almajd	Mikayla Herraman
5/6 - Burelli	Jasmine Kominkovski	Jacob Ellsworth	Indiana Stevceski
5/6 - Djeera	Sailor Zeidler	Jorge Willingale	Mia Payne
5/6 - Nebo	Joni Bligh	Summer Caught	Riley Collins

Smith Family Award	Jorge Willingale	<i>Encouragement Award for Yr 6 student. Consistency in all areas.</i>
Rotary Award	Nathanial Edwards	Outstanding Citizenship
Stephen Jones Award	Audry Tagliaferro Garcia	Active Citizenship
Paul Scully Award	Siennah Kembrey	Community Leadership Award
Dux	Jasmine Kominkovski	Academic Dux
Sports Award	Reponse Iradukunda	Sportsperson of the Year
Premier's Sporting Challenge	Jaxon Worthy	Effort in Sport
Thompson Award for Creative Arts	Paige Allen	Creative and Performing Arts



First Nations News

Library Upgrade and Sports Shirts

Our new sports shirts are in process and will be delivered over the holidays. We can't wait to see how good our students will look in the new design. We thank everyone involved in the process and all who helped come up with the design.

The school library is looking amazing with our new first nation designed furniture arriving that accompany our murals in a designated space to share First Nations literature. We are looking for our students and community utilising this space in 2024.

Aboriginal Education Community of Schools Meeting (CoS)

Berkeley Public School is helping plan and deliver a community Reconciliation Walk in 2024 with our Community of Schools. Planning is well underway, and we look forward to sharing more details about this event in Term 1 2024.

Yarning Circle

Thank you to all community members who attended the Yarning Circles throughout the year. Your ongoing support for our school community is highly valued and appreciated. We look forward to seeing you all at our Yarning Circles in the new year. Next year we will revamp our process and will be looking to venture out into the community. Watch this space in 2024.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.

Thanks

Aboriginal Education Team

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Swim Scheme

This week Year 2 and 3 students participated in the School Swimming and Water Safety Program. They have had lots of fun in the water, while learning lots of new skills to keep them safe, ready for summer.



HPAG Extended Class

Over the past 25 school weeks, 240 students, from Helensburgh to Kiama Public Schools, have participated in our HPAG Extend classes. These weekly classes have been conducted across eight host schools throughout the Illawarra and Shoalhaven regions. Our primary objective with these sessions is to nurture the spirit of curiosity, encourage discovery, and stimulate creativity among High Potential and Academically Gifted students.

This year, it is with immense pride that we acknowledge the commitment and dedication of the following students from our school: Alira Murtezani, Indya Donnelly, Ayah Abou-Maraseh, Sailor Zeidler and Joni Bligh.

To mark the culmination of this year's program, we celebrated with the Curiosity and Creativity Exhibition where students had the opportunity to share some of their learning.

The afternoon commenced with our students sharing their learning journeys and performing the periodic table song before they presented their Bluescope Land Transformation projects. Our guests then had the privilege of exploring an array of exhibits that had been meticulously crafted with creativity, driven by a continuous thirst for knowledge, and organised with thoughtful precision. The exhibits encompassed a wide spectrum of learning experiences, including artwork, coded games, film trailers, animations, websites, 3D models, information posters, novels, dioramas, and so much more.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to these exceptional students for their courage in embracing a new and challenging learning environment, not just academically but socially and emotionally as well. We commend their efforts in grappling with concepts that extend far beyond the typical primary school curriculum. They've ventured into the realms of the universe's evolution, delving into topics like the Big Bang theory, star formation, the emergence of elements, and even mathematical concepts typically introduced in years 7-9. They've also explored the intriguing world of 3D design, website building and the the United Nation's 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Students delved into the world of leadership where they had the opportunity to explore and challenge leadership paradigms. Alongside this, students solved some very out-of-the-box thinking challenges!

Thank you to all the participating students, our wonderful host schools, and the dedicated team of school executives who have played an integral role in making this entire program possible. We can't wait for next year!

Jemmah Layton
Lifelong Learner' Lake Heights PS HPAG Teacher