

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.

Kindergarten 2024 are off to a great start



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Principal's Message

Welcome back to 2024!

We have had a great start to the year with children starting their new classes and meeting their new teachers. We have already snuck in an event and meet the teacher meetings.

Later in this newsletter there is a list of the staff and which role they hold for 2024. You will notice some staff have moved into new stages and roles this year. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's learning or class, please contact the class teacher first. The Stage Supervisor can also assist with any concerns. Call the school office between 8:30 am and 3pm to make an appointment or speak to someone by phone.

There are many great programs and innovations happening here at our school this year. We started off the year with a bang through our involvement in the Mural in a Day program, run by the Arts Unit of our Department of Education. A local artist and high school teacher taught our Year 6 students the fine art of creating a mural on a brick wall with spray paint. The final product was amazing! Each student got to complete a section of the mural and take home a tote bag with a design of their choice. Miss Thompson did a great job in coordinating this project and assisting the artist with the painting.



Our current Minister for Education and Secretary have released Our Plan for Public Education. The mission is to transform lives through learning and the commitment is that every student learns, grows, and belongs in an equitable and outstanding education system. This new plan will have an impact on our school as the plan unfolds over the next four years. If you would like more information about this plan, I have brochures that I can share.

Melanie Bowden
Relieving Principal



School Events

Friday 23 February

District Swimming Carnival
Dapto Pool

Monday 26 February

Meet the Teacher – Kinder
3.15pm
STEPS Vision Screening – K

Tuesday 27 February

STEPS Vision Screening – K

Thursday 29 February

Assembly 12.40pm

Monday 4 March

P&C Meeting 5.30pm

Monday 11 March

Start bringing Easter raffle
donations

Tuesday 12 March

Regional Swimming
Dapto Pool

Thursday 14 March

Assembly 12.40pm

Tuesday 19 March

School photos – all day

Friday 22 March

Easter Hat Parade

Thursday 28 March

Harmony Day

Wednesday 3 April

K-2 Cross Country

Thursday 4 April

3-6 Cross Country (TBC)

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Staffing Arrangements

Year	Class	Teacher
Kindergarten	Banksia	Rina Clark
Kindergarten	Lilly Pilly	Fran Packer (Mon, Tues) and Carly Denton (Wed, Thurs, Fri)
1	Dharambang	Holly Buckley
1	Gugara	Teresa Vasey
2	Gulung	Georgia Garling
2	Wondangar	Lauren Parker (Mon, Tue) and Angela Janeska (Wed, Thur, Fri)
3/4	Budjong	Clayton Whitford
3/4	Jubborsay	Angela Janeska (Mon, Tues) and Kate Lanham (Wed, Thur, Fri)
4/5	Wollamai	Emma Dixon (Mon, Tues) and Jack Dobinson (Wed, Thur, Fri)
5	Warrigal	Ashleigh Newton
6	Djeera	Amber Quintal (Mon, Tues, Wed) and Tegan Davies (Thur, Fri)
6	Nebo	Sue Hollick
AP Curriculum and Instruction	Carly Denton Amber Haworth & Jack Dobinson	
Stage Leaders	Stage 3 Stage 2 Stage 1/ES1	Tegan Davies Trent Peckham Lauren Parker (Mon – Thurs), Carly Denton (Fri)
RFF	Shirley Thompson – Art, Tegan Davies – Kitchen, Josh Swinton - Garden	
Intervention teachers	Barbara Clegg- Stage 1, Megan Gregory- Stage 2, Sherri Mulhall- Stage 3	
Support Teachers	Zerner (Hearing), Kim Condran (Hearing), Jenny Barlow (Hearing)	
Admin Staff	Wendy Oldfield, Sharon Stephenson, Fiona Morgan	
School Learning Support Officers	Karen Ryan, Angie Edwards, Michelle Clifford, Jarrad McKay, Paula Wood, Jo Buckley, Charlotte Day, Janine Bagoly, Jacen Hough, Katie Stone	
General Assistant	John Mackay	
Counsellor	Lainie Ng – Tuesday and Thursday (even weeks), Tuesday (odd weeks)	

Pick Up Arrangement for you Child/Children

Please make arrangement for a regular pick-up location outside the gate prior to coming to school. The office staff take a large number of calls each day for arrangements, and do their best to communicate these with children, but cannot guarantee messages will get to your child.

If the child waits in the same spot every day, then whoever is collecting them can meet the child at that location.

Picking Up Early, Dropping Off Late

A reminder to all parents and carers if you need to take your child from class early, you must contact the office when you arrive at the school via the intercom on the Flagstaff Road gate.

Signing children out from school for an 'early mark' is not a legitimate reason under attendance guidelines. Please only sign children out early if there is a need, e.g. doctor's appointment.

Parents also need to contact the office to sign their child in if they are running late unless prior arrangements have been made. Children should NOT be reporting to the front office by themselves. This is a legal requirement and is recorded in the school rolls.

It is very important that parents explain the absence. Parents can use School Bytes app, reply to an automated SMS from the school or send in a note with the student.

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Students Arriving Early

Parents are reminded that students should not be at school before 8.30am. Teachers are on duty from this time to supervise students in the playground. There is no adult staff available to ensure the safety of children in the playground prior to that time. If children do arrive before 8.30am they must sit quietly in their designated area until the morning bell is rung. This bell means that a teacher is now on duty.

Addressing Occupational Violence at School

This term, you will notice new posters around the school that aim to help support a safe and respectful culture at our school. These posters are part of an initiative to remind everybody to treat our hard-working school staff with kindness and respect. Every school community around the state is very different. While most schools are respectful and harmonious, violence and unsafe behaviour in any form is not acceptable in schools. School staff and students have the right to learn and work in safe and respectful learning environments.

With that in mind, I encourage you to join everyone at our school in getting behind this important work to make a positive change. We value our partnerships with you to support our students to learn, grow, and belong. It is up to us – the school and the parent-body - to be good respectful role models to our students. Together, we can create a safe and harmonious environment for our students and staff.

I hope you will support this initiative. What do you need to do? It is easy: Please treat our students and staff with kindness and respect, always. We are here to help you.

I invite you to contact me if you have any questions.

NSW Department of Education



Everyone
deserves to
feel safe at
school



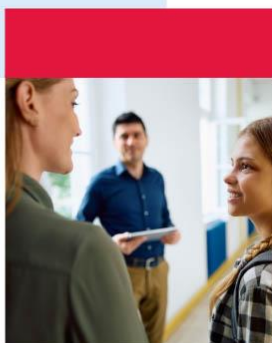
Please treat our staff and students with **kindness and respect**



Aggressive behaviour will **not be tolerated**



Together, **we can create a safe and harmonious environment** for our students and staff



education.nsw.gov.au

First Nations News Term 1 Week 3

Welcome Back

Welcome back to the new year. It is great to see some new families and familiar ones too. The students are settling in well to their new classrooms. Teachers are currently developing Acknowledgment of Country in their classrooms as well as learning about the classroom names, which are named after significant local features using Dharawal language. This is an exciting opportunity for all our students and staff to connect and learn about First Nations culture.

Reconciliation Walk

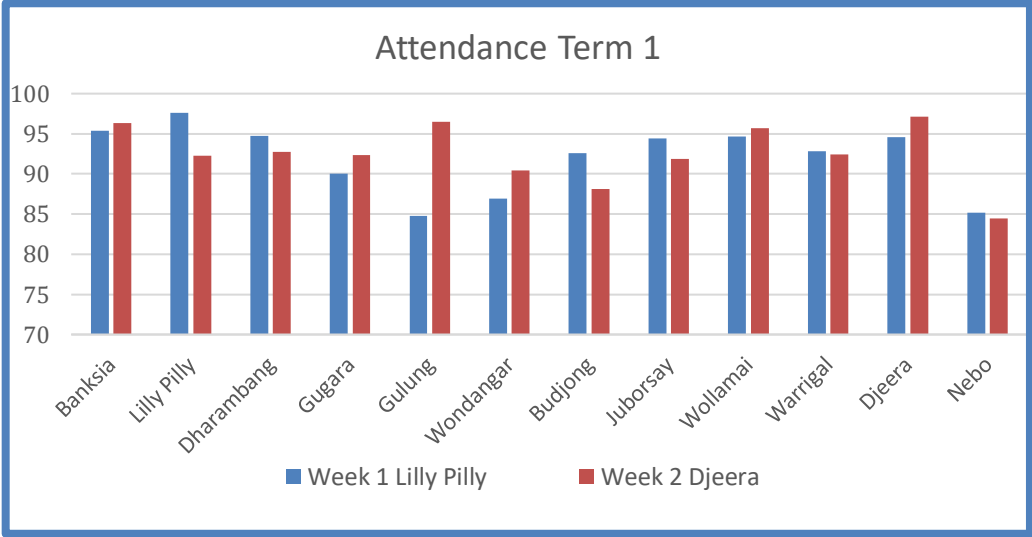
Berkeley PS is taking a leading role in organising the 2024 Reconciliation Walk with our Community of Schools. Planning has been underway since Term 4 2023 and we look forward to sharing the final dates and process in our upcoming newsletters. Watch this space.

Sports Shirts

A big thanks you to all involved with the planning and design of the new sports shirts. A special mention to The Aunties from Coomaditchie whose murals were the inspiration and to Mr Steven Poole who inspired the Wondangar (Whale) on the shirt. We look forward to seeing our students and staff in their new sports shirts each Friday.

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Attendance Matters



EVERY DAY COUNTS....

A day here or there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just...	that equals...	which is...	and therefore, from Kindy to Year 12, that is...	This means that the best your child can achieve is ...
1 day each fortnight	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1½ years of school	Equal to finishing Year 11
1 day a week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2½ years of school	Equal to finishing Year 10
2 days a week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years of learning	Equal to finishing Year 7
3 days a week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years of learning	Equal to finishing Year 4

School Attendance

Parents/Caregivers are reminded that children must attend school on every school day unless they have a reasonable excuse for being away, such as illness.

Visiting family, being tired, and staying home on birthdays are not acceptable reasons to be away from school.



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Parking Near the School

Could all parents and carers please be mindful of the local residents when dropping off and picking up children from school. We ask that you do not leave rubbish on footpaths or in gutters outside houses. **Please do not park across or in driveways.**

Council rangers and police will be in the area enforcing road rules.

ALLERGIES

We kindly ask that parents do not send any food containing **nuts** (eg. peanut butter, whole nuts, cashews, nut bars) or **eggs** (eg. egg sandwiches, boiled eggs) as we have some students at the school who are highly allergic to these ingredients.



School Bytes

Parent Portal and App

Sign up now for up to date
information, notes and news



FREE PROGRAMS TERM 1, 2024



ALBION PARK RAIL
SCHOOL AS COMMUNITY CENTRE
FAMILY CENTRED, CHILD FOCUSED
CONNECTING SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES



Contact Claire for booking and enquiries

PH: 0448 564 219

Programs start Tuesday 6 February

TUESDAY**PLAYGROUP****9:00am - 11:00am**

Playgroup is a safe space for families with young children. Our experienced and trained staff offer a variety of activities to promote early learning and wellbeing in children. Parents have the opportunity to meet other adults in a welcoming and relaxed environment.

What to bring: hat & water bottle. Fruit, tea and coffee provided.

TUESDAY
PLAYSTRONG TRANSITION TO SCHOOL PLAYGROUP
12:30pm - 2:30pm

Families are welcome to join us for activities to prepare children in their readiness for big school.

What to bring: School bag, hat water, crunch & sip.

Presented in partnership with Playgroup NSW

**WEDNESDAY****MYTIME****PARENT SUPPORT GROUP****9:30am - 11:30am**

MyTime is a support group for parents and carers of children with disabilities or other additional needs. It's a place for you to unwind and talk about your experiences. Trained staff help group members get to know each other and learn more about resources and support services.

Children welcome
While you unwind, your child is kept engaged nearby by our MyTime play leaders.

**Thursday**
CIRCLE OF SECURITY PARENTING PROGRAM
9:30AM - 11:30AM

The group runs over 8 sessions 8 February to 28 March 2024 Circle Of Security Parenting program focuses on building relationships between parents and children. The idea of a circle of security helps parents understand their child's need for security as well as their child's need to explore. This helps with understanding the emotional needs of children and improves behaviour and self-esteem.



All families, including those experiencing stressful events, divorce, conflict, mental health issues, disability or adoptive parents will benefit from this program.

Presented in partnership with Family Services Australia

**FRIDAY****KINDERGYM****9:30 am - 10:15am**

KinderGym is a movement based playgroup for families with young children, crawlers to 6 years old. Families will experience a wide range of movement activities and be encouraged to think, create, construct and solve problems with their own bodies.

What to bring: a bottle of water


TRANSITION TO SCHOOL GYM
10:30am - 11:30am

TTS Gym is a gymnastics based movement class for children starting school in 2025. Children will have the opportunity to develop and practice skills needed for school through fun, hands-on play-based activities.

What to bring: a bottle of water

Claire M: 0448 564 219

E: Claire.jones42@det.nsw.edu.au



APR School as Community Centre (SaCC)

MISSION AUSTRALIA

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren



The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren program supports grandparents who have assumed the role of primary caregivers to their grandchildren (or other related children), often in difficult family circumstances.

The program helps grandparents to develop their confidence and parenting skills, and helps them connect with schools, the service system, and other supports in the community. The service works with grandparents raising grandchildren aged 0-18 years of age.

Our program can provide a range of support including:

Fortnightly support group and range of social activities

Advocacy, counselling and support

Information on services, financial support and referrals

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren group meets every fortnight in:

- Shellharbour
- Nowra
- Ulladulla
- Goulburn

For referrals and information please contact:

Kristina on 0428070670

Email: ChapmanKr@missionaustralia.com.au



Young Yarns Playgroup

Let's Play, Learn & Grow Together

Aboriginal families are welcome to come along to the Noah's free weekly playgroup in the Illawarra.

Our playgroup is a fun place for you to play with your Booris, connect with other families and be supported in your important role as your child's first teacher.

You and your Booris can read books together, play music, sing, dance, paint, draw, cook, meet new friends, try new activities and enjoy free morning tea. Bring spare clothes for your child in case of messy play.

Young Yarns Playgroup - Mondays 9.30am to 11.30am
Albion Park Rail School, Tongarra Road, Albion Park Rail



Contact
Jocelyn McGrath from
Noah's on 0427 565 697 or
Marg Sutherland on
0412 556 484 for more
information



Noah's
EVERY CHILD.
EVERY OPPORTUNITY.