

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.

Easter Hat Parade



BLUE AND WHITE

Principal's Message

It doesn't feel that long ago that I was writing to welcome you all back to the school and Term 1. Here we are wrapping up the end of a very busy Term 1!

I hope that all our community members and families weren't affected too much by the recent wet weather. The school was mildly affected with some flooding which has seen Gugara and Dharambang classes relocated for this week until we can get the rooms assessed and cleaned. The basketball court and surrounding garden lost a little of their mulch and dirt, but the rest of the school is fine. Please reach out to the school if you were affected by the recent weather and let us know if you need anything.

This term has been a busy, busy one! All our classes have been working hard to produce their culminating assessment tasks in which teachers assess how their students are achieving and how effective their teaching has been. At the same time the teachers are also planning for Term 2 teaching and learning units of work. They have all received a day off class to plan the curriculum to be taught. During this time the executive staff work with the teachers to analyse student work to determine the focus for the next five weeks of teaching. The team then collaboratively plan together what learning experiences each class will need and write units of work for the following term.

Thank you to the P&C for all the fundraising efforts in the recent Easter raffle. Thanks to our amazing community for all the easter egg donations. There were over 40 baskets expertly wrapped and beautifully displayed. The hat parade is such a huge event at our school, and it warmed my heart to see so many of our parents, grandparents and extended family and community members present to celebrate it.

We head into our school holiday break next week and will return next term we will return on Tuesday 30 April. Teachers and school staff will return on Monday for a Staff Development Day focusing on curriculum delivery. I wish all of our families and students a restful and happy holiday. To our families finishing up Ramadan, a Happy Eid to you all.

Stay safe and see you back next term.

Melanie Bowden
Relieving Principal



School Events

Friday 12 April

Last day of Term 1

Tuesday 30 April

Students return for Term 2
ANZAC Service 10.30am
Cross Country 11.40am in the school playground

Thursday 2 May

Assembly 12.40pm

Monday 6 May

P&C Meeting
P&C Mother's Day Stall

Tuesday 7 May

P&C Mother's Day Stall

Tuesday 14 May

Athletics Carnival

Thursday 16 May

Assembly 12.40pm

Friday 17 May

District Cross Country

Wednesday 29 May

First Nations students
Reconciliation Walk

Thursday 30 May

Assembly 12.40pm
P&C Disco

Monday 3 June

P&C Meeting 5.30pm

Thursday 13 June

Assembly 12.40pm

Thursday 27 June

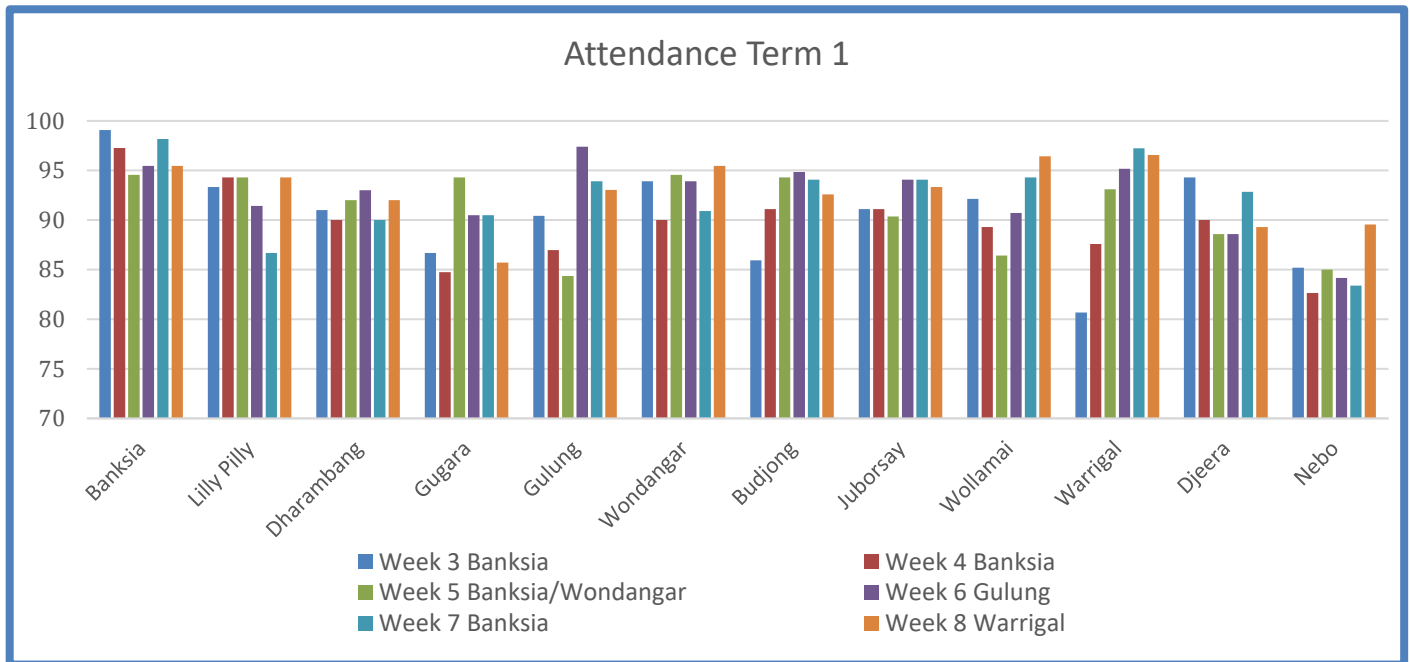
Assembly 12.40pm

Monday 1 July

P&C Meeting 5.30pm

BLUE AND WHITE

Attendance Matters



It's not OK to be away

- Attendance every day at school is important for your child's progress. It helps build friendships, life-long work habits and makes sure learning takes place.
- Wherever possible, dental and medical appointments should be made out of school hours.
- If your child is absent from school, please contact the school or write a brief note to explain your child's absence. You must state the reason why your child has been absent, eg type of illness or reason for leave. Saying my child "was away" is not good enough.
- **An explanation must be provided to the school within 7 days of an absence.**

First Nations News Term 1 Week 10

PLP BBQ

Thank you to the amazing families who attended or first PLP BBQ for the year. It was wonderful to see a large turnout, and I am sure you will agree that the smiles on the kids faces and the laughter shared was enjoyable for all. It was also a great opportunity for families to connect to their teacher and the school community. We look forward to helping our First Nation students achieve their goals and we can't wait for the next PLP catch up.

Reconciliation Walk

The Community of Schools Reconciliation Walk will take place in Week 5 of Term 2 Wednesday 29 May. This will be an opportunity for our students to make connections in the wider community and an inspiring way to make steps towards reconciliation with our Community of School. The team has been working long and hard to make this happen and we can't wait to share this day together.

BLUE AND WHITE

K-2 Cross Country



BLUE AND WHITE

Berkeley Buzz

**The Start of a New Chapter...
Kindergarten 2024**

Kindergarten in 2024....

These little cuties have made a remarkable start settling so peacefully into learning. These students are learning faster than a lightning bolt. Kindy is off to a brilliant start by learning how to write their name, learning to read and also following our Positive Behaviour for Learning values.

Their Year 6 Buddies love taking care of them and being important role models, making sure they are comfortable in a happy learning environment. Their Buddies are also gently nurturing them to be independent and strong on their own. It is clear they are following our school values as soon as they walk through our school gates. Kindergartens are trying their best in all areas of their learning and their teachers have reported that they are doing an exceptionally good job.

Miss Packer and Mrs Denton, teachers of Lilly Pilly, shared their thoughts on Kindergarten's incredible start. One of their highlights is doing morning circles with their class every day. The students always tell funny stories to make the day start off with a smile! Right now, they are working very hard to write and recognise their names and have started to learn to read too, which is always very exciting. The teachers can't wait to see what they will do this year!

Susan from Lilly Pilly felt a bit nervous when she started Kindergarten and had butterflies in my tummy. She enjoys school now and loves it when she does art and colours in class. Susan also likes to play lava monster with her new friends on the playground. Max in Lilly Pilly said he was excited for Kindy. He was happy and nervous for the first day. Max loves the teachers because they help him learn to the best of his abilities. He has learned to use equipment in class properly now. He enjoys coming to school and playing with his new friends.

Mrs Clark commented on Banksia's wonderful start to big school. She also mentioned they have great help from the support teachers in the classroom to assist a variety of learners. Banksia enjoys learning and Mrs Clark tries to plan activities that make the students feel like they are playing but are teaching them important skills.

The Easter Hat Parade was a very exciting time for kinder, and they showcased some singing and dancing for families and community.

Oliana from Banksia says Miss Clark is her favourite teacher. She loves to play with play dough and has made lots of new friends. She felt nervous at the start of school but it's fine now. Havana from Banksia loves playing sports and doing teddy bear drawings. She really loves playing with her brother too.

A great achievement that they can look forward to will be celebrating their 100 days of kindergarten. This consists of the children dressing up as 100-year-olds and doing activities that incorporate the number 100.

Reporters:

Joni Bligh

Alira Murtezani

Paige Allen

Compulsory School Attendance

Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age. The *Education Act 1990* requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards for homeschooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

What if my child has to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child's school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child's absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child's school principal. An *Application for Extended Leave* may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child's total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child's school principal.





My child won't go to school. What should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school's learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education and Communities may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- Compulsory Schooling Conferences

You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child's attendance at school.

- Application to the Children's Court – Compulsory Schooling Order

If your child's attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department

may apply to the Children's Court for a *Compulsory Schooling Order*. The Children's Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

- Prosecution in the Local Court

School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child's full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to [complete their schooling](#).

Working in Partnership

The Department of Education and Communities recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.

If a student misses as little as 8 days in a school term, by the end of primary school they'll have missed over a year of school.

Further information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites:

Policy, information and brochures:

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/goto/school/a-z/attendance.php>

The school leaving age:

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/leaving-school/index.php>

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are available on request, including for the hearing impaired. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 131 450. You will not be charged for this service.

For further advice and questions contact your educational services team

T 131 536

Learning and Engagement

Student Engagement & Interagency Partnerships

T 9244 5129

www.dec.nsw.gov.au

© February 2015

NSW Department of Education and Communities

Coomaditchie United Aboriginal Corporation

Invites you to attend a **FREE**

COMMUNITY CULTURE DAY

Monday 15 April 2024 at 10am -2pm

Location: Coomaditchie Lagoon, Port Kembla – meet at 10am by the facilities block, near the corner of Parkes St & Shellharbour Rd, Port Kembla.

What to expect:

- Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony, followed by community yarning circle about cultural heritage, bush regeneration and water management at Coomie Lagoon.
- Free Bush Care and Planting workshop, led by the Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council and Wollongong City Council.
- Free BBQ / Sausage Sizzle.

RSVP: Please register with Kristy (Lil) by emailing coomaditchie@gmail.com



ILLAWARRA LOCAL ABORIGINAL LAND COUNCIL



New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council

RECONCILIATION WALK 2024

Bellambi Public School invites you to our annual Reconciliation Walk for 2024.

This years theme is Now More Than Ever. It is a reminder to us all that, no matter what, the fight for justice and the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people will – and must – continue.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RSVP BY SCANNING THE QR CODE BELOW:





**Disability
Sports**
Australia



Free School Holiday Clinic

A free, fun and inclusive day of activities connecting people with disabilities to local sport and active recreation opportunities.

Thursday 18 April, 2024
10 am - 1 pm
Shellharbour City
Stadium, 110 Croome Rd,
Croom NSW 2527

Click here
or scan the
QR code
to register:



Contact: Kristy Rohrer
kristy@sports.org.au



MatchWorks



Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission



Abilities Unleashed School Holiday Program is a national initiative by Disability Sports Australia focused on promoting active pathways for people with disabilities aged 25 years old and under during the school holidays.

These multi-sport come and try days mark the initial steps in the active journey of children living with disabilities. Each event aims to motivate and enable participants to discover local opportunities by trying a variety of sport and active recreation within a fun, safe, and inclusive environment.

The program provides a platform for local inclusive program and disability service providers to collaborate and connect to people with disabilities in their area.

What Ability 

Benefits of attending the day:

- physical and mental health benefits of exercise
- social wellbeing, friendships, and community connection
- strengthening balance, coordination and mobility skills
- teamwork, collaboration and planning
- increased self-esteem through a sense of achievement

Disability Sports Australia (DSA) is a National Sporting Organisation and charity whose mission is to enable more Australians with disabilities to be more active, more often.

Donate now to make sports and active recreation accessible for all!



Volunteer with DSA!
sports.org.au/volunteer

Powered by...
