Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to Term 2. I hope you all enjoyed a safe and happy holiday break with your children and family. We have had some new students start this term and I know all of our students will welcome them into our school.

This term we are very fortunate to welcome Ms Melanie Bourne to our great school. Following a merit selection process Ms Bourne has been appointed as our new Assistant Principal and will be working with the Stage 2 students and teachers. Ms Bourne will be replacing Ms Cox on the 4/5 class.

Staffing
For the remainder of the year Mrs Pencil and Ms Cox will be working with 1P (now 1PC). Mrs Pencil will be teaching the class Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and Ms Cox will be teaching the class on Thursday and Friday. We also welcome back Mrs Brown and Mrs Dimitrovski, who will be working across the school, supporting students with literacy and numeracy within their classrooms. Mrs Brown will be working with K-2 on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and Mrs Dimitrovski on Wednesdays and Thursdays with the 3-6 students.

Easter Hat Parade
On Thursday 10th April we had a successful Easter Hat Parade. The children paraded around the COLA, showing off their fantastic creations. We were also entertained by the K-2 students, who sang and danced to some very boppy tunes. I was also very impressed with the many parents, family and friends who came up to watch the parade, and support their children. I also spotted a very special “visitor” who came along and handed out Easter eggs to all the young visitors. Thank you to everyone for the wonderful support that was shown with our Easter Raffle. The donation of eggs and ticket sales were plentiful. Also thanks must go to the parents who made over 30 Easter baskets as prizes. They looked fantastic. Congratulations to all the winners.

ANZAC Day Ceremony
On Wednesday morning all Berkeley students from Kindergarten to Year 6 participated in an ANZAC day ceremony. Our school leaders, Alex, Tiarna, Sam and Bianca, under the guidance of Ms Kydes, led a very respectful and moving ceremony, which included 5/6SR reciting an ANZAC poem, the whole school joining in for a moving rendition of Eric Bogels “And The Band Played Waltzing Matilda”, and the laying of the wreaths by our special guests Mr Butler, Mrs Okoniowski and our school leaders.
NAPLAN
Week 3 is when the NAPLAN testing will be conducted. The tests go over three days and a fourth is set aside for any catch up tests. The students will be tested on reading, literacy and mathematics. The test results are not returned to the school until October. The results of these tests provide useful diagnostic information for teachers and parents.

Reports
Over the coming weeks all teachers will be busy completing assessments and writing end of Semester 1 reports which will be sent home at the end of Term 2. Parents will be invited to make appointments to see their child’s teacher to discuss their child’s report and progress.

2015 Opportunity Class
If you are thinking of applying for Opportunity Class Placement for Year 5 in 2015, apply online from Monday 28th April, at www.schools.nsw.edu.au/ocplacement. Applications forms and information are also available from the school office. Please be aware that paper applications need to be returned to the school by Friday 16th May 2014, and online applications also close on this date.

Mother Day Stall
On Monday 5th May we will be holding a Mothers Day stall at school. Gifts will range in price from $2 to $10. There will be some very happy mums on Sunday morning as I have had a glimpse at some of the gifts that will be on sale.

Gymnastics
Our gymnastics program started on Tuesday and from my observations and what the children have been telling me, it was a great success! The program will run every Tuesday throughout Term 2 during school hours. It will run over eight weeks for $20 dollars per student. (Families with more than three children participating will only have to pay for three children.) The money must be paid in one payment as the administration costs in time are far too high to have weekly payments. Permission notes and money must be brought in by next Monday 5th May.

Student Behaviour
At Berkeley Public School we implement positive, pro-active student welfare practices and work to establish a caring and safe environment where individual differences are respected. All students have a right to be happy and safe at schools. We have high expectations of our students in terms of their behaviour and continue to reinforce messages to students that physical violence or bullying will not be tolerated in any form. When there are strong student welfare practices operating within a school, the focus can be directed on what matters most – quality teaching and learning. We seek parents’ support when issues arise in terms of students’ behaviour. When the school and home are working in partnership, we can attain the best results for our students. We encourage students to implement the following 3-Step Bully Program to assist students dealing with a problem in the playground.

1. Say “STOP! I don’t like it.” Walk away
2. Repeat, “Stop it, or I will tell the teacher”.
3. Tell the teacher in a calm way.

We will not tolerate any bullying at Berkeley Public School. These steps are displayed in every classroom and all teachers have spoken to their classes and are aware of the processes we use.

Red Cross – Mufti Day
Next Friday 9th May the school will be having a “Red Cross Mufti Day”. The funds raised will be going to the Red Cross Society to support all the great work they do in our community. It is hoped that all students are able to participate with a gold coin donation, for wearing something red.

P & C Meeting
The next meeting of our P & C will be held on Monday 5th May at 7.00 pm in the staffroom.

Have a great fortnight

Vicky McGee
Principal
Parent Tips

*Kik, Vine, Instagram, Facebook – are they safe?*

It’s no contest – kids discover and understand new social media long before we adults do. If your child is thinking about creating a new social media account – or complains that “everyone else is doing it”, you can get the facts a glance from School A to Z’s technology glossary. You’ll also find information about age restrictions and things to watch out for: [http://bit.ly/188OerY](http://bit.ly/188OerY)

**Food and School**

*At a glance*

- Children with good diets perform better at school.
- Breakfast is vital to set kids up for learning.
- Choose low-GI foods for energy where possible.
- Foods rich in proteins and omega-3 fatty acids help children concentrate and learn.
- Iron deficiency can leave kids tired and unable to concentrate.

*Breakfast booster*

The most important meal of the day, just like our mothers told us, is breakfast. Ideally, that breakfast should have in it some grainy toast and wholegrain cereals or porridge that will provide a slow release of energy to keep the kids going until recess. Even packaged breakfast cereals are OK, but experts say you should choose those that are low in sugar.

"Try to include as many low-GI foods [foods that release carbohydrates slowly into the body] as possible in your children’s diet, too," adds Karen.

"For instance, try to get them on to fruit at recess and away from packaged snacks."
ANZAC DAY 2014

Wreath Laying at Berkeley Public School Memorial

EASTER HAT PARADE