Principal’s Message

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

As Term 2 comes to an end next week, I would like to take the opportunity to thank all members of our school community for your ongoing support of Berkeley Public School. Throughout the term, there have been many activities that our students have participated in such as NAPLAN, excursions to Nowra Animal Park and the Nan Tien Temple, the Sports in Schools program, sporting events, the Biggest Morning Tea and Life Education lessons. The teachers have also been involved in ongoing professional development and have spent time exploring the impact on student learning by making learning ‘Visible’ for their students.

It has been an extremely busy time and I’m sure everyone is looking forward to a well-deserved holiday. However there are still more exciting happenings during the last week of this term.

NAIDOC Celebrations

NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia each July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC is celebrated not only in Indigenous communities, but by Australians from all walks of life.

On Monday 22nd June, all students will be participating in a variety of different activities here at school to acknowledge this important part of Australia’s heritage. Our NAIDOC activities will be happening between 11:40 and 1:40pm, and all parents and families are welcome to come along.

On Wednesday 24th June, all K-2 students will be spending the day at Killalea State Park as part of our NAIDOC Week celebrations, and on Thursday 25th June, all Years 3-6 students will be visiting Killalea to participate in activities designed to develop their knowledge about local Aboriginal culture and history.

Semester 2 Reports and Parent/Teacher Interviews

Semester 2 reports will be going home on Friday this week. The report is designed to give you a summary of your child’s progress at this time. Hopefully, if you have any concerns about their progress, you have taken the opportunity to book an interview with their teacher to discuss the report. Interviews will be held next Tuesday afternoon, 23rd June, from 3:10 to 5:30pm. If for some reason you have not returned the slip and you would like an interview, please speak to your child’s teacher to make a mutually convenient time to meet with them. Most teachers still have some time slots available next Tuesday. Students are welcome to attend the interview with their parents to be involved in the discussion about their learning.
A Journey to Antarctica
On Tuesday 23rd June, Stage 3 students will be involved in a workshop here at school that will take them on a ‘Journey to Antarctica.’ They will have the fantastic opportunity to listen to Chris Olsen who has travelled to Antarctica numerous times, and has first hand experiences to share with the students.

Athletics Carnival
Last Thursday we held our Athletics Carnival for all students from Kindergarten to Year 6. Myimbarr Park is a great venue and the weather was fantastic. It was a wonderful opportunity for students to participate in lots of different events and activities, and for families to spend the day with their children, cheering them on as they competed. A day like that doesn’t just happen, and I would like to thank the team of teachers, led my Mrs Hollick, who organised the day, ensuring everything ran smoothly and efficiently. A special assembly was held this week to present ribbons to all the successful athletes who gained a place in an event at the carnival. Congratulations to all our students for their outstanding participation on the day.

Choral Festival
The students in our school choir have been practising very hard in preparation for the Northern Illawarra Choral Festival. They will be performing on Tuesday 21st July (Week 2 Term 3), at the Wollongong Town Hall. The Choral Festival commences at 7pm. I’m sure they will be fantastic representatives of Berkeley Public School. If you have a child participating in the Choral Festival, you can purchase tickets from the school office.

Kindergarten 2016
It is now time to enrol your child in Kindergarten for 2016. If you have a child who will be starting Kindergarten next year, or know of anyone who is considering enrolling their child in Kindergarten at Berkeley Public School in 2016, please contact the office to collect an enrolment form.

Student Attendance
Just a reminder that if your child is absent from school for any reason, you will need to complete an Absence Form indicating when your child was absent, and explaining why they were absent. These forms are available from the school office for your convenience. It is a legal requirement that all school age children attend school every day unless they are sick or have another acceptable reason for being absent. Mr Lew Edgar the Home School Liaison Officer monitors our attendance figures each week. Families will be contacted if a student has been absent for several consecutive days without an explanation being given to the school.

School resumes for staff on Monday 13th July, when teachers will be participating in workshops that will provide insight into what ‘Visible Learning’ looks like in classrooms and across schools. This professional learning will be held at Woonona Public School. All students return to school on Tuesday 14th July.

I would like to wish everyone a safe and relaxing holiday.

Sharon Newton
Assistant Principal

Attendance
**Attendance and Absences**

**Absentee information**

When children miss out on school they miss out on vital information, their learning routine is broken, they can lose confidence and they miss out on building up friendships.

If your child has to be absent from school for any reason, including arriving late or leaving early, please either tell your child’s teacher or the administrative assistant at the school, or explain the reason by phone, email, SMS or written note as soon as possible, or within **seven days**.

Once children are enrolled parents are legally required to send them to school every day that the school is open for instruction or participation in school activities, such as sports days.

**Justified Reasons for Missing School:**

- An unavoidable medical or dental appointment
  (preferably these should be made after school or during holidays)
- Special religious ceremony
- Required to attend a serious and/or urgent family situation
  (e.g. a funeral)
- Too sick to go to school, or has an infectious illness.

**Unjustified Reasons for Missing School:**

- Sleeping in or alarm not going off
- Missed the bus
- Traffic/road works
- Walked to school
- Waiting for parent
- Minding sibling
- Shopping
- Other similar reasons

Failure to explain an absence within seven days will be recorded as an unjustified absence on a student’s record. Schools will inform parents if a student is absent from school without an explanation.

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**STAGE 3 - CANBERRA EXCURSION - TERM 4**

We have already received a number of Stage 3 'Expression of Interest' notes for the Stage 3 Canberra excursion we will be attending in Term 4. The deadline for these notes is Friday 17th July, (Friday, Week 1, Term 3). Please note that we can not accept any notes after this date as numbers will be submitted to the bus company to confirm the booking and finalise the costing per student.

If you have any questions regarding the camp please speak to myself or your child's teacher. If you would like to apply for 'Student Assistance' to assist with partial payment for the excursion, please contact our school Administration Office. All applications for 'Student Assistance' are strictly confidential.

**BADGE DESIGN COMPETITION**

Thanks to all of the students who submitted an entry into our School Badge Design Competition. We have had lots of fantastic entries that include images of animals we see in Lake Illawarra, the jetty at Hooka Park, the skate park and of our school values and emblem. It is going to be very difficult to choose just one design. The winners for each stage and overall winner will be announced next term. A special mention to our hardworking SRC students who did a great job explaining and promoting the competition at our school assembly and in their classes.

Miss M
Stage 3 - Assistant Principal
Athletics Carnival

The whole school travelled to Myimbarr Sports Oval on Thursday 11th June to participate in the Athletics Carnival. We had a great day with wonderful weather. Everyone tried their best and we had some excellent performances on the day. Well done and good luck to those athletes going on to compete at the District Athletics Carnival.
Nan Tien Temple
Stage 2 Excursion

On Wednesday 10th June, Stage 2 students walked to the Nan Tien Temple. We had a very enjoyable day touring the Temple and doing two cultural activities. The first activity was Tai Chi, a form of exercising to soft, relaxing music. The second cultural activity was Origami and we made a lotus flower. We saw the Great Temple, rubbed the Buddha's belly, walked around the museum and rang the bell. For lunch, we had a vegetarian meal of vegetarian fried rice and potato wedges.

What We Learnt From Our Excursion to The Nan Tien Temple.
• The Nan Tien Temple is the largest Buddhist temple in the Southern Hemisphere
• It was built in three years
• The Nan Tien Temple built a University next to it and it opened in March 2015
• There are many mystical creatures that protect the temple from natural disasters, such as, floods, fires and earthquakes
• Buddhists are vegetarians
• The different coloured rocks in the gardens mean different things, such as, the white rocks mean 'good days' and the black rocks mean 'bad days'.
• Buddhists believe in the '3 Acts Of Kindness'. These are:
  1. Think good thoughts
  2. Say good things
  3. Do good deeds

5 X 5 SCIENCE CHALLENGE

Well done to our Year 5 students who participated in the Illawarra Sports High School 5x5 Science Challenge this term. Jett Pertovt, Keiren Stevceski, Austin Trevisanut, Abii De Jesus, Aleks Naumoski, Anastasia Maneva and Lily Bugden showcased their work about volcanic eruptions at a special presentation for at ISHS on Monday. These students did a fantastic job and were very keen to share the results of their hard work over the last few weeks. Well done!
This week’s foyer display is by 1GC.
In class, 1GC have been reading books by author Aaron Blabey (who will be visiting the school in Term 3). One of their favourite books is *The Dreadful Fluff*. These are 1GC’s paintings of Fluff.

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**YOUMY MYSTERY CAKE RAFFLE**

Yum! scrumptious!
Tasty! Drawn every Monday at Assembly
Cost: 20¢ a ticket
6 for $1
Where: near the Handball Courts

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**BULLYING**

3 Step Bully Program

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.
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We are pleased to inform you that you can subscribe to receive newsletters, notes and year specific information via push alerts using our school app or via email by subscribing through our new school website.

We would prefer you to receive the news electronically. There are many advantages including:

- easy and direct reminders straight to your email account;
- simple to use mobile apps with alerts;
- your child can’t forget or lose the newsletter;
- access to the newsletter if your child is absent from school;
- reduced photocopying and administration time costs to the school; and
- supporting our environmental initiatives.

Please note that any savings to the school is money that can be better used on classroom resources or for improving your child’s school environment.

Go to our school website http://www.berkeley-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/newsletters-notes and click on the links to download the school app to your Android or Iphone/Ipad or click on the link to subscribe to receive our newsletter/notes via email.

For more information contact the school.