

Berkley Normal Middle School

Promoting Berkley

Thank you for supporting our annual Open Evening. This is the time when families are looking at their schooling options for next year. Providing an opportunity for the entire family to experience what our school is proud to offer, assists many in this very important decision. Each school has its unique strengths and character, so there will be learning environments that are more suited for students than others. An open transparent process places parents in a stronger position to make their choice(s).

Although it is challenging to replicate a “typical” school day, having samples of our school in action does provide an experiential dimension to all the other promotional material that is available.

We are very fortunate that our students are very proud of their school, understand our “we share, we care, we dare” mission statement and can bring this to life for our visitors.

Academic Hot Spot!

Waimaths

This is an annual competition where teams of three students solve 20 problems in 45 minutes. Our students always perform well and this year was no exception!

- Year 7 team of Helen Luo, Max Edwards and Rex Pan placed 5th
- Year 8 team of Craig Scott, Caitlin Weren and Ted Hu placed 2nd
- Year 9 team of Emma Jeong, Shaun Besley and Douglas Shepherd, finished 4th

The next competition is in September when teams will participate in the Bay of Plenty. These students attend an extension class as a part of the selection and preparation process.

Upcoming Events

18 August	Open Evening
22 August	Focus - Kia Kaha
23 August	Interschool X Country
24 August	Mufti Day for SPCA Berkley Spelling Bee ESOL Conferences
28 Aug-2 Sept	AIMS Games
30 August	ESL Farm Trip Focus - Tainui
31 August	ESL Farm Trip
2 Sept	Enrolments for 2012 close
6 Sept	BOT Meeting
7 Sept	Mufti Day Focus - Aranui
13 Sept	Interschool Basketball
14 Sept	Yr 9 Indoor Netball
15 Sept	SS8 Large Ball

ICAS Competitions

The season is in full swing. Tests sat are: Computer Skills, Science, Spelling, Writing, English and Mathematics.

Results to date are:

Computers

High Distinction

Year 7 - Michelle Tiang

Distinction

Year 7 - Liam Gilroy, Chelsea Lin, Helen Luo, Rex Pan, Matilda Plant and Annabel Zhou.

Year 8 - Seonghwan Hoangbo, Juliet Johnson, Alex Porritt, Jena Scott, Merinda Scott, Josh Wright, Wei Wen Yim and Lisa Zhang

Results from other ICAS competitions will be shared in the Korero as they come to hand.

Waikato Science Fair

The work of 20 of our top budding scientists is on display today and tomorrow at the Rose Gardens pavilion. Students were chosen from over 60 entries in our school Science fair, held two weeks ago.

The range of topics is very far ranging and the quality of research and experimentation amazing. If you are interested in the work of our young scientists we encourage you to visit the exhibits at the Rose Gardens. The results of judges will be announced on Friday morning.

The following students are to be congratulated for having their work in the Waikato competition:

Becky Su & Jena Scott, James Van Der Klip, Lucie Bardoul & Rebecca Pickering, Sam Dickson & Freddie Ray, Jamie Lumsden, Kate Bizo & Ira Azmi, Kendra Boyle, Zara Olifent, Braedyn Girven, Gabrielle Dumble, Shivali Harman & Zoe Ryan, Caitlin Weren, Merinda Scott & Xavier Taylor-Hewitt, Douglas Shephard & Matthew Graham, Jonathon Hogg & Sophie Lye, Hamish Weren & Alex Porritt.

Sporting Achievements

A very busy start to the third term. Our students are fortunate to be able to participate in such a wide array of sports. Being fit and healthy has a very strong correlation with success in the classroom.

Cross Country –

Last Thursday the entire school participated in our annual cross country at Jansen Park. The weather was very kind, the racing very competitive and participation almost 100%.

First 6 placegetters in each event are:

Year 7 Girls - *Lily Butler, Jessica Phillips, Annie Brown, Ce'nedra Taylor-Hewitt, Rachael Aird & Brianna Thomas.*

Year 7 Boys - *Isaac Boyce, Marlon George, Oliver Bell, Joseph Frengley, Elliot Ware & Aonghas Robertson.*

Year 8 Girls - *Victoria Morgan, Paige Hallam, Teri Wathen-Smith, Jena Scott, Tessa Impey & Juliet Johnson.*

Year 8 Boys - *Sasha Wallbank, Xavier Taylor-Hewitt, Max Gabolinscy, Edward Harrison, Alex Frank & Ronin Stephenson.*

These students will represent our school at the Inter-school Cross Country on Tuesday 23rd August at Porritt Stadium - approximately 11.00am – 1.00pm.

Badminton

The Interschool event was held at Badminton Hall on Monday. Berkley finished 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th. We have a proud record in this sport with many going onto play at Waikato and NZ level. We currently have 5 ex Berkley students competing at this level.

The place getting teams are:

1st - Matthew Graham, Tara Vishwanath, Udari Herath and Josh Beattie.

3rd Whiti Kairau, Kacey Bennett, Douglas Shephard and Aliasha McKillop.

Gymnastics

The following participated in the interschool competition on Tuesday:

Girls - *Katherine Coombes, Matilda Plant, Shania Hix, Janey Charleston, & Manar Mahmud.*

Boys – *Eru Paine, Edward Harrison, & EJ Bai*

These teams finished third. Great individual performances by EJ Bai - 1st individual and Matilda Plant - 3rd overall.

Year 9 Get 2 Go Competition

This is a trans disciplinary competition involving orienteering, mountain biking, canoeing, and team challenges. It was a bit on the chilly side on Tuesday when the competition was scheduled. Although we did not achieve a top three placing, our team of participated really well against other Year 9's from High Schools across the Waikato region.

Yr 9 Team: *Khashayar Ghafouri, Tiara Smith, Pearl Scobie, Hayden Fogg, Hannah Fox, Tyler Deverson, Bronwyn Clunie, Charlotte Goldsbury, Taylor Campbell and Tim Berkhan.*

NZAIMS

Our annual national sports competition is in week 5 of this term. Teams are practising intensively in preparation. Our Soccer and Netball team are having weekly practices and game time together. There is plenty for our high achieving sports people to be involved in.

A new opportunity is our Mountain Bike Night /Day thriller in Taupo coming up. Nobody can suggest that our Berkley students are not fit and active.

International Language Week

15-19 August

Each day this week we have been focusing on a particular Language. Activities centre around the country of origin are celebrated. Students are able to purchase food from the particular Language/country being celebrated and participate in a range of activities.

On Wednesday it was French/France day. Escargot and other foods were available to sample, petanque on the lawn and language games played. Everyday there is an international soccer match played. Yesterday it was France against Spain - won of course by France.

These daily celebrations are fun and bring focus upon the languages we teach in our school.

Change of date for School Social

Due to the high number of students participating in AIMS next week, the date of the school social has been changed to Wednesday 28 September (week 9).

Health Focus

We are still receiving advice and guidance from Waikato Health about Measles outbreak. To date we have no recorded cases at Berkley. We want to keep it this way! Please continue your vigilance in looking for those early warning signs. It is important that we err on the side of caution and keep unwell students at home.

Collective action increases the chances of ensuring our environment at school remains healthy!

School Transport Information

Buses - Thank you to parents/caregivers for informing us if your child is a bus pupil when reporting absences. We currently have 179 students using Cambridge Travel Lines plus our own bus service and most students are diligent in marking the roll.

After the bus accident on Monday, this is indeed a timely reminder.

BOT Report

The current economic recession is at the forefront of the minds of both the school and the Board of Trustees when considering financial requests made to our school community.

Berkley school donations have been kept at the same reasonable level for the past 4 years. Stationery and printing costs are a modest \$20.00 and \$50.00 respectively. You are not being asked to sell pies, calendars or to organise gala days, yet halfway through the school year, only 51% of school donations have been paid – are you in the 49% group of debtors? Reminders will be sent home soon but the Board of Trustees wanted to take this opportunity to inform you as to how school donations are vital to our school community.

Government funding received by the school must be applied to specific allocated areas e.g. property money spent on property and operations grants spent on salaries. School donations give the Board of Trustees the ability to think laterally and individually for our school.

Over the past year, this discretionary funding has been used to provide additional staffing in the areas of science, intensives and a school counsellor. Special programmes have been implemented to target group learning in numeracy and literacy (with associated resourcing). Our facilities have been enhanced e.g. AstroTurf and padel tennis and we provide transportation in the mini-bus to sporting events at no cost. Professional development to the staff has been extended to include mountain safety and first aid courses – all areas that assist your children when they attend camp or New Horizons.

Our physical environment is first class and the office remains open for extended hours to support after-school activities.

No doubt your child is currently benefitting from these additional features of Berkley – please enable us to continue to offer these “add-ons” by meeting outstanding donations. Time payment options are available and remember – it is tax deductible. Everyone has the benefit of what we offer so let’s ensure a fair contribution by all.

Tracey Gunn
BOT

