

BER facilities instil new learning culture at Gwynne Park

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| School: | Gwynne Park Primary School |
| BER Projects: | Covered Assembly with Music and Art, and Library |
| Builder: | Building Solutions |
| Architect: | Jones Coulter Young Pty Ltd |
| Project Manager: | Arup Pty Ltd |



New Covered Assembly Building

Recent improvements to Gwynne Park Primary School, provided as part of the Building the Education Revolution (BER) program, are helping to instil a new learning culture and sense of pride, according to Principal Lee Bates.

“The improvements are having a positive impact on students, parents and teachers. The school community is proud of the new facilities and the results are evident in students’ attitudes and attainment,” Mr Bates said.

The \$1.26 billion BER program is providing building, refurbishment and maintenance works across 773 Western Australian Government primary and high schools. The Department of Treasury and Finance, Building Management and Works (BMW) has been managing the successful roll-out of the program across WA since March 2009.

BMW’s commitment to providing modern buildings in a timely manner is evidenced in its long history of successfully managing the construction of buildings that reflect value for money, whole of lifecycle objectives, sustainable initiatives and educational strategies to Western Australian Government schools.

New buildings at Gwynne Park include a library, designated Science and Art space, an undercover canteen and a music and movement room. The improvements have also enabled the school to make better use of existing learning areas and provide three additional classrooms.

Mr Bates, who has spent almost four years at Gwynne Park, said the school’s new facilities were among the best in the state.

“For many years, Gwynne Park had to compete with two nearby independent schools with modern, well-maintained facilities. Following the BER improvements I am confident that our facilities are now on a par with any other primary school in Western Australia,” Mr Bates said.

“Our Science learning area is particularly impressive. Other funding streams have enabled us to appoint a specialist Science teacher to fully utilise the modern laboratory provided as part of the BER package.

“Our new buildings have reinvigorated the school. There is a renewed sense of optimism and parents, students and teachers are looking forward to the future with confidence.”



Library

The improvements to Gwynne Park Primary School were carried out by Building Solutions. Director Marcus Kotsoglo was equally enthusiastic about the BER program and said the company found each of its eight projects extremely rewarding.

“Our team built a great relationship with each of the schools we worked on. We were delighted by the reactions of staff and students to the new buildings,” Mr Kotsoglo said.

The BER project represented the company’s first piece of work for a government department, and Mr Kotsoglo believes the stimulus sustained and strengthened the construction industry at a difficult time.

“As a result of the BER stimulus, Building Solutions has maintained strong relationships with each of its contractors and hired additional staff including a mature age apprentice.”