



Calder Chronicle

NUMBER 4

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THURSDAY, 20TH FEBRUARY 2020

CALENDAR

Friday, 21st February
Monday, 24th February
Tuesday, 25th February
Thursday, 27th February
Friday, 28th February

Monday, 2nd March
Thursday, 5th March

Friday, 6th March
Friday, 13th March

Monday, 16th March
Tuesday, 17th March
Thursday, 19th March
Friday, 20th March

Monday, 23rd March
Tuesday, 24th March
Wednesday, 25th March
Thursday, 26th March

Friday, 27th March

Second hand uniform shop open from 3:00pm – 3:30pm
Prep Parent Teacher Interviews – Jen and Nicole-booking sheet on classroom door
Prep Parent Teacher Interviews – Pauline-booking sheet on classroom door
Hot Cross Bun order forms and Easter Raffle tickets being sent home
Second hand uniform shop open from 3:00pm – 3:30pm
Year 6 Leadership booklets due back to Matt
CSEF applications due at the Office

Senior Unit Swimming Program payment due

Guess the Easter Egg Competition starts at Office
Wide Open Road Optometry Visit for Prep students
Second hand uniform shop open from 3:00pm – 3:30pm
Second hand uniform shop open from 3:00pm – 3:30pm

Smile Squad dental checks

School Council AGM
Hot Cross Bun order forms/payment due at the Office by 3:15pm
Second hand uniform shop open from 3:00pm – 3:30pm

Senior Unit Swimming Program commences

Senior Unit Swimming Program continues
Senior Unit Swimming Program continues
Senior Unit Swimming Program concludes
Guess the Easter Egg Competition & Easter Raffle drawn

LAST DAY FOR TERM 1 – early dismissal of 2:15pm (no second hand uniform shop)

School Organisation

Dear Parents / Guardians,
Parent Teacher Student Exchanges has been the main focus of Week 4, with 4 sessions delivered and many families taking up the opportunity to meet teachers and prepare for 2020.

PREPS

Next Wednesday, 26th February will be our final PREP FREE Wednesday. Here's hoping our Preps make the most of their final broken week before commencing full-time enrolment on Monday, 2nd March.

SCHOOL VISION AND MANTRA FOR THIS WEEK

Over the last 6 months, our students, staff and community have been working on our SCHOOL VISION. I'm happy to unveil today for many of you: "Together we support a collaborative learning community that encourages honesty, leadership, teamwork, creativity and kindness." This vision captures in a succinct way what we are trying to achieve at Big Hill PS. We will be referencing it next week at assembly.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS –

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING (DET)

What is a school council and what does it do? All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the broad directions of a school in accordance with their constituting Order and the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006*. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students. *Who is on the school council?* For most primary school councils, there are three possible categories of membership: 1. A mandated elected Parent member category – more than one-third of the total members must be from this category. DET employees can be Parent members at their child's school as long as they are not engaged in work at the school. 2. A mandated elected DET employee member category – members of this category may make up no more than one-third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members. 3. An optional Community member category – members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members. Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections. *Why is parent membership so important?* Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help inform and shape the direction of the school. Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging. *Do I need special experience to be on school council?* Each member brings their own valuable life skills and knowledge to the role. However, councillors may need to develop skills and acquire knowledge in areas that are unfamiliar to them. What you do need is an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

Code of conduct for school councillors - School councils in Victoria are public entities as defined by the *Public Administration Act 2004*. School councillors must abide by the *Code of Conduct – Employees* issued by the Victorian Public Sector Commission. The Code of Conduct is based on the Victorian public sector values and requires councillors to: **act with honesty and integrity** (be truthful, open and clear about their motives and declare any real, potential or perceived conflict of interest and duty), **act in good faith** in the best interests of the school (work cooperatively with other councillors and the school community, be reasonable, and make all decisions with the best interests of students foremost in their minds), **act fairly and impartially** (consider all relevant facts of an issue before making a decision, seek to have a balanced view, never give special treatment to a person or group and never act from self interest), **use information appropriately** (respect confidentiality and use information for the purpose for which it was made available), **exercise due care, diligence and skill** (accept responsibility for decisions and do what is best for the school), **use the position appropriately** (not use the position as a councillor to gain an advantage), **act in a financially responsible manner** (observe all the above principles when making financial decisions), **comply with relevant legislation and policies** (know what legislation and policies are relevant for which decisions and obey the law) AND **demonstrate leadership and stewardship** (set a good example, encourage a culture of accountability, manage risks effectively, exercise care and responsibility to keep the school strong and sustainable).

Indemnity for school council members: School councillors are indemnified against any liability in respect of any loss or damage suffered by the council or any other person in respect of anything necessarily or reasonably done, or omitted to be done by the councillor in good faith in: the exercise of a power or the performance of a function of a councillor, or the reasonable belief that the act or omission was in the exercise of a power or the performance of a function of a council. In other words, school councillors are not legally liable for any loss or damage suffered by council or others as a result of reasonable actions taken in good faith.

How can you become involved? The most obvious way is to vote in the school council elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant. In view of this, you might consider: standing for election as a member of the school council OR encouraging another person to stand for election.

What do you need to do to stand for election? The principal will issue a Notice of Election and Call for Nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year (*It's included in today's newsletter as part of School Council Elections information*). All school council elections must be completed by the end of March unless the usual time line has been varied by the Minister. If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent member category (*forms available from the Office*). DET employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not engaged in work, are eligible to nominate for Parent membership of the school council at that school. Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the Notice of Election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt via post, email or by hand following the receipt of your completed nomination. If there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Remember: Consider standing for election to school council this year. Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do. Be sure to vote in the elections – if we have more nominations than positions. Contact the Principal (Matt Pearce) for further information.

AN ELECTION IS TO BE CONDUCTED FOR MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COUNCIL OF BIG HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Nomination forms may be obtained from the school Office and must be lodged by 3:15pm on Friday, 28th of February, 2020. If a ballot is required (depending on the number of nominations), this will close at 3:15pm on Friday, 6th March 2020.

Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school. The terms of Office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows:

Membership Category	Terms of Office	Currently Held by	Number of Positions
Department of Education and Training	March 2020 – March 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renae Westley • Sharyn Burnett <i>(Both will need to renominate if they wish to continue)</i>	2
Parent	March 2020 – March 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VACANCY • VACANCY • Melissa Miller • Jonothan Westcott <i>(Melissa and Jonathan will need to renominate if they wish to continue)</i>	3

Please feel free to contact me for further information. Nomination forms are available from the Office or can be organised to be sent home for signing. We are genuinely looking for new members – the commitment is 8 meetings a year, always on a Tuesday night at 7:00pm.

ELECTION TIMELINE

Friday, 7th February
Friday, 28th February

Call for nominations (forms available from the Office)
Closing date for nominations (forms must be returned to the Office by 3:15pm on this date). Nominations assessed and the need for a ballot decided.
If ballot is not required, new School Council announced and meet soon after this date.
OR Ballot set up (if required)
Close of Ballot (if required)
Counting of Ballot (if required)
Declaration of Ballot
New School Council announced and will meet shortly after this date

Friday, 7th March
Tuesday, 11th March

PARENT TEACHER EXCHANGES

If you came along this week to our sessions, we appreciate it. Your attendance helps secure knowledge that will help your child succeed in 2020. If you missed the session, please make contact with your child's teacher to ensure vital information is not missed.

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS – PREP

Jen and Nicole will meet with families on Monday, 24th February and Pauline will meet with her families on Tuesday, 25th February. If you have not made a time yet with your child's Prep teacher, please do so ASAP.

CAMPS, SPORT AND EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

The annual CSEF amount per student is: \$125 for primary school students and \$225 for secondary school students. Contact the Office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from the CSEF website. We can't apply for this on your behalf – so please make sure you put in an application if eligible. If you received CSEF funding in 2019 at Big Hill Primary School, you do not need to reapply. If you are unsure, please check with the Office staff. Application forms are due at the Office by Friday, 28th February.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Tuesday night's meeting was a long one, with items such as the trip to China, Calder Highway parking, speed zones, curriculum highlights, staffing, capital works and more all discussed. If you are thinking of joining school council, we have vacancies. Self nomination forms are available from the office...and must be received by Friday, 28th February.

STAFFING UPDATE

Dean White has another week of Long Service Leave...and Leisha Morrison will continue to ensure his class is well taught. Ainsley Stanley heads off for a few months to have her second baby. We wish her all the best and await the exciting announcement! During Ainsley's 3 month absence, Zoe Wright will return to the Senior Unit to teach SA.

AN ANNOUCEMENT FOR KATE

Some of you might be aware that Kate Dole, one of our Year 5/6 teachers, has been in and out of the school since the end of 2019. Kate wishes me to update you all to set the record straight so no one is left wondering or guessing. Kate is fighting breast cancer at the moment. The journey she is on is well-underway...and her prognosis is positive. As with many cancer journeys, surgery and treatment are commonplace and for Kate this is no different. What lays ahead for Kate are periods of treatment where she may need to be absent for periods of time. She would like you to understand the reasons why she is away...and I know you will appreciate this and support her. Thanks for your understanding. Kate also is planning an appropriate way to help her class understand her situation and to be optimistic, rather than fearful for Kate.

MANTRA OF THE WEEK – QUICK QUIET CLEAN

We have been reminding children of quick visits to the toilet...being quiet as it is not a play area or social space...and to be clean. As many germs such as the common cold, flu, gastro and worse are caught by poor handwashing techniques, it's worth us all reviewing this with our children. Talk about QUICK QUIET CLEAN...and the need to wash hands for the singing of a short rhyme such as HAPPY BIRTHDAY or MARY HAD A LITTLE LAMB. Remind children also that soap or hand wash needs to be used at all times. QUICK QUIET CLEAN – a mantra to keep us safe.

ISSUES IN THE YARD

If your child comes home, has an issue...and their teacher knows nothing about it...your first port of call to solve the dilemma is to talk to your child's teacher. Children rarely include their poor choices in their accounts. What you get is a story with the prickly bits removed. To get a clear picture, talk to the teacher. To solve problems quickly, always remind your child to talk to the teacher immediately. It's not dobbing. If it's a problem, we need to know straight away to solve it. Thanks for reinforcing this with your child. Fortunately issues in the yard have been few and far between. This is therefore a good general reminder for the start of the year.

BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to Marlee K, Jai N, Chase D & Claudia D.

With the weekend not too far away, here's hoping you have a productive Friday and a restful Saturday and Sunday!

Matt Pearce, Principal

FIRST STEPS NEWS

FIRST STEPS INFORMATION EVENING

We would like to thank the families that came along to our First Steps Information Evening on Tuesday night. Hopefully you all had a chance to learn more about the curriculum we offer, the programs we run and the staff in our Unit.

Please remember that on Monday for FSJ and FSN and Tuesday for FSP that we are offering interview times for our Prep families. These interviews will give you a chance to discuss how your child is settling in, the progress they are making and help us to get to know you and your child so we can cater our program to their different needs. Signup sheets with times available are posted outside the First Steps classrooms.

WEDNESDAY 26TH FEBRUARY

Just a reminder that Prep students are not required at school next Wednesday. This will be their final Wednesday at home before commencing school full time. Thank you to all families who have bought their children in for assessment on these days.

ALL ABOUT ME BAGS

All students have taken home brown bags to place their 5 items for our Show and Tell. These items should be things that help us to get to know your students interests and experiences and should be able to fit inside the paper bag.

We will keep these bags at school until your child has presented theirs, then they will return home. These bags will take the place of our usual Show and Tell until all students have had the chance to present, we will then notify you of your child's regular Show and Tell day after this.

LIFE SKILLS

Last week we completed the first of six Life Skills lessons. Our students were excited to learn more about mindfulness, practise simple yoga poses and learn more about our key word for the week – Respect. Congratulations to those students that earned stickers due to their excellent listening, enthusiastic participation and displays of respect within this program. We look forward to next week!

TAKE HOME BOOKS

The First Steps students have started using their Take Home Books. These books contain a letter which outlines the expectations for the tasks within and should be returned to school in their black bags each day. Try and include this work along with their reader to get into the habit of completing nightly homework.

STARS OF THE WEEK

For showing the School Value of 'Responsibility' by taking care of their belongings and keeping their lockers, bag spots and table areas tidy:

FSN Patrick R
FSP Rhett C
FSJ Abbi D

Nicole, Sharyn & Pauline & Jen

JUNIOR UNIT NEWS

HOME READING

We are so happy to see that so many of our children are consistently reading at home this year and look forward to presenting the first of many reading awards at next week's assembly!

SPELLING HOMEWORK

The children have started their individual spelling program and have begun bringing their Home Spelling Books home in order to practise their spelling words throughout the week. Your child has 6 spelling words which are chosen for them based on their Oxford Spelling tests. Please ensure that your child practises these words at home throughout the week using the spelling practise grid in their books.

Rhys' class will receive their weekly spelling words on a Monday and be tested on Friday and Catherine's class will be tested and bring home new spelling words each Monday. Please look out for your child's new words each week.

PARENT INFORMATION EVENING

We would like to thank the parents that came along to our Parent Information Evening on Tuesday. We hope you enjoyed the opportunity to hear firsthand what we are doing in the classroom and taking the opportunity to look through your child's work.

HOCKEY VICTORIA CLINIC

The children had a great time participating in the Hockey Victoria clinic on Tuesday. They were taught many hockey skills, including dribbling the ball, stopping, turning and passing and used these to play games, such as Rob the Nest. If you're interested in enrolling your child in a 7 week clinic on either Tuesday afternoons or Saturday mornings, head along on either day for a free trial and then enrol online. Please see the note handed out on the day for further details.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For outstanding participation and enthusiasm in the Junior Unit hockey clinic:

JC Isabelle O
JR Mia M

Catherine & Rhys

MIDDLE UNIT NEWS

INFORMATION NIGHT

Thank you to the families who attended the Middle Unit Information Night. It was an opportunity for parents to become familiar with our programs and extra-curricular activities. Please contact your child's teacher if you require further information.

LIFE SKILLS

Last Friday, students participated in their first Life Skills Program. The session included breathing exercises, being mindful, calm and learning the value of respect through fun games and activities. We look forward to our second session tomorrow morning.

HOCKEY CLINIC

On Tuesday, students participated in a Hockey Clinic. They had the opportunity to practise a variety of hockey skills during drills and minor games. Students were given a flyer with information regarding after school or weekend hockey sessions.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For showing the School Value of 'Safety':

MR *Chelsea H*
MW *Snow Win T*
MD *RJ T*

Renaë, Sandra, Wendy & Dean

SENIOR UNIT NEWS

CONTACT DETAILS

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mathers.roberta.n@edumail.vic.gov.au

HOMEWORK

Well done to all students who have been able to successfully complete their homework for the first time last week! Homework in the Senior Unit consists of at least 4 nights of reading recorded in diaries, 4 spelling activities and completion of a maths sheet.

The homework cycle will be the following for our classes;

SA: Monday - Monday
SB: Monday - Friday
SK: Monday - Friday
SL: Monday - Friday

SENIOR UNIT DIARIES

You may have noticed our fabulous new diaries that are aligned with The Resilience Project Program that is beginning at BHPS this year. Our students have really responded well to the daily **GEM** (Gratitude, Empathy & Mindfulness) tasks and will use these every day in class. There is a section to tick that you have received important notes and for you to sign.

SWIMMING NOTES

These have been handed out and are to be signed and returned with payment. Thanks to all families who have returned these already! **Please organise note and payment by March 2nd.**

SCHOOL LEADERS

Congratulations to our successful applicants for School Leadership positions, Lochie C & Mia A as our School Captains and Zac N & Matilda B as our Vice Captains. They will be awarded their badges at Monday's assembly.

It was great to see so many students apply for School and Vice Captains and we look forward to seeing all of our Year 6 students continue to grow their leadership skills. Just a reminder that Year 6 students have until Friday, 28th February to hand in their Public Leadership booklet.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For showing leadership qualities in the Senior Unit:

SA *Lochie C*
SB *Tarniah D*
SK *Mia A*
SL *Oliver S*

Ainsley, Brett, Kate, Lauren & Roberta

PARENTS & FRIENDS NEWS

PREP MORNING TEA

We had a great turn out last Friday for the Prep Morning Tea. Thank you to everyone who came along and joined us, it was lovely to meet you all and look forward to seeing your friendly faces around the school. Thank you to everyone who helped out on the day as well, we had a great spread for morning tea and we couldn't have done it without your help.

EASTER RAFFLE DONATIONS

We are running our annual Easter Raffle again this year and would greatly appreciate anything anyone might be able to donate towards the raffle.

If you need some ideas here are a few things you might like to donate:

- Easter Eggs
- Easter Craft Activities
- Blocks of Chocolate
- Easter Baskets
- Cellophane or Wrapping Paper

We would like to thank you all again so much for your support with our fundraisers, we couldn't do it without your support.

HOT CROSS BUN DRIVE & EASTER RAFFLE TICKETS

We are running our annual Hot Cross Bun Drive again this year and Easter Raffle. It has been such a great success the last few years and we enjoy running this drive. Order Forms will be sent home on Thursday, 27th February with your child and will need to be returned and paid for by Thursday, 19th March to the Office. Collection Day for the Hot Cross Buns will be confirmed soon, will keep you updated so keep an eye out for the date.

We are also running our Easter Raffle and Guess The Easter Egg Competition again. Raffle Tickets will also be coming home on Thursday, 27th February and there will be extra raffle ticket books at the Office if anyone would like some more. Guess the Easter Egg Competition will also be at the Office on display from Thursday, 5th March. It will be 50 cents per guess of the jar! Good luck to everyone and we hope you all enjoy guessing.

P&F FACEBOOK PAGE

Keep up to date with our P&F activities by joining our Facebook Community: (<http://www.facebook.com/groups/bhpspf/>) Our page provides reminders and updates on all the activities as well as connecting you with other families at our school.

CASH REWARDS PROGRAM – EARN REAL CASH FOR YOURSELF & THE SCHOOL

Have you signed up for our cash rewards program yet?? Its FREE to join and by simply doing your usual online shopping through our unique landing page, you will contribute towards the school without even leaving your home. Better still you'll earn cash rewards for yourself at the same time. You really can't lose! Signing up is easy just head to our unique landing page and follow the prompts.

(<https://www.cashrewards.com.au/community/schools/big-hill-primary-school>)

Thank you all for your support with P&F activities, it's really appreciated.

CANTEEN NEWS

VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED

Due to a lot of families no longer being able to help in the canteen, we are calling for more volunteers. You would only be required once or twice per term and your help is greatly appreciated. Don't forget, you don't have to be a mum or dad to help, aunties, uncles and grandparents are all welcome. Thank you.

CANTEEN VOLUNTEER FORM

NAME _____

PH NUMBER _____

TIME AVAILABLE 9:00am to 10:00am

12:45pm to 2:00pm

*Tammy Fear
Canteen Manager*

SECOND HAND UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

WANTED

Donations of pants/skirts hangers please. If you have any you would be able to donate, please leave them at the Office. Thank you.

The shop will be open every Friday (except the last day of each term) from 3:00pm – 3:30pm in the side entrance to the art room/canteen building, accessible from the second set of stairs at the top of the school.

All items are \$2, so come along and grab a bargain!

COMMUNITY NEWS



Re-partnering with Kids

Bendigo



This two session program is aimed at parents who are newly re-partnered, as well as those already living as a stepfamily: It aims to equip parents and stepparents to support children, while also building their own relationship.

Term 1, 2020

When:	Tuesdays, 10th and 17th March 2020
Time:	Arrival and registration 6.15pm Session 6.30pm - 9.00pm
Where:	CCS Family and Relationship Services, 176-178 McCrae Street Bendigo
Cost:	\$30 per person or \$60 per couple Concession \$20 per person or \$40 per couple
Child Care:	Sorry, child care is not provided
Facilitators:	CCS Family and Relationship Services
Parking:	On-site parking available - enter via 116 Hargreaves Street Refreshments provided



For bookings and enquiries contact reception on Ph: 5438 1300

Groups are subject to maximum and minimum numbers determined seven working days prior to the commencement date. Early registration is encouraged

MUM! **JUNIOR NETBALLERS WANTED** **DAD!**



HELP BUILD OUR
JUNIOR PROGRAM

**WE NEED MORE
UNDER 11 AND UNDER 17
NETBALLERS FOR THE DEN20
SEASON**

Harcourt Football Netball Club

Please Contact: Kiriilly McKay

M: 0421 353 710

JETS NETBALL CLUB

Jets Netball Club is looking for interested Year 5 or 6 players to join our Club. We play in the Bendigo Strathdale Netball Association (BSNA) competition at Flora Hill.

Training is on Wednesday evenings and Competition on Saturday.

All Jets Coaches are Netball Vic Accredited and have current WWC.

For further information please contact Vicki 0418470160 or Lynn 0429666359

Email: jetsnetballclub@yahoo.com.au

Jets Netball – Just Enjoy The Sport