



Calder Chronicle

NUMBER 8

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THURSDAY, 19TH MARCH 2020

CALENDAR

Friday, 20th March

Big Hill PS Cross Country now only Years 3-6 and in smaller groups, Prep – Year 2 Monday PM
Second hand uniform shop open from 3:00pm – 3:30pm

Monday, 23rd March

SRC Fundraiser Free Dress Day (Animal themed if you like)

Please bring a gold coin donation for BARC

Wednesday, 25th March

Pizza Day orders due in by 9:00am in classroom and on Qkr

Thursday, 26th March

Guess the Easter Egg Competition & Easter Raffle drawn

Friday, 27th March

PIZZA DAY – no normal food menu but iced treats will be available

LAST DAY FOR TERM 1 – early dismissal of 2:15pm (no second hand uniform shop, and no End of Term Awards assembly-apologies)

Tuesday, 14th April

First day for Term 2

Friday, 17th April

Middle Unit Gym note and payment of \$32 due

SCHOOL PHOTO DAY-full uniform please-photo forms sent home yesterday, family forms available from Office
Middle Unit Gym commences

School Organisation

Dear Parents / Guardians,

Week 8 has certainly been a hectic one, particularly with the landscape changing daily around the COVID-19 situation. Much of the focus this week has been around providing sound teaching and learning, whilst reinforcing safety messages and staying up-to-date with advice. It's important, moving forward, that everyone is reading information sent out via the correct channels, ie: Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Education and Training, Parliament (Victoria and Australia) and of course...the advice we share directly with you...based on the DHHS, DET and Parliament. Knowing the accurate facts when there are so many rumours around, and following the advice given sensibly, will make for less stressful times.

CORONAVIRUS / COVID-19 UPDATE

As advice changes, we have been updating the community as soon as practically possible. This process will continue through the weekly newsletter, Facebook, Flexibuzz and our website. Some of the changes already include all **camp**s scheduled to commence from and including Tuesday, 17th March must be postponed and rescheduled, or, if there is no other option, cancelled. As our camps are in Term 3, we will make a decision closer to the date depending on the current situation/concerns. For the purposes of **excursions**, a school excursion is defined to include local parks and sporting facilities regularly used by the school, including local swimming pools. All excursions outside the school for purposes such as visits to cultural institutions, art galleries, theatres and sporting events or facilities (other than those local facilities regularly used by the school) planned from and including Tuesday, 17th March must also be postponed or cancelled. Due to this advice, we have cancelled or postponed scheduled excursions such as GRIP Leadership Conference, which was supposed to be happening today. Until further notice, all future excursions, including sporting days, will not proceed in the immediate future.

International arrivals - *Everyone* arriving into Australia from overseas from midnight on Sunday, 15th March will be required to self-isolate for 14 days. This obviously includes students and staff who may be returning from overseas excursions or other travel. Importantly, it also includes parents and carers and any other relatives or friends of your students who are returning from overseas travel. As they are required to self-isolate, they must not visit the school to pick up children or for any other reason. As of Wednesday, 18th March, no International Travel is permitted indefinitely.

The **Senior Unit Swimming Program** (next week) has been reviewed in light of the update given on Wednesday, 18th March, outlining no gatherings of more than 100 people indoors. The provision of swimming indoors locally might breach this, whilst also being non-essential learning at the present time. Basically, if the swimming program is not essential to occur at the present time, we won't proceed if there is a risk to student and staff safety. As we can postpone it, we have done so until a time that we can run the program safely.

School closures - as of Wednesday, 18th March...Government schools have been advised to stay open by the Prime Minister and the state and national medical advisors. You will be informed directly if there is any prospect that our school will be closed, either as a stand-alone school closure or as part of a local or area-based closure. Take note of hoax information circulating about schools being closed – none in our area have been closed to date.

Organised Gatherings - the Commonwealth Government has announced that mass gatherings of more than 100 people are now prohibited as of Wednesday, 18th March. This explicitly does not include schools running normal teaching and learning programs. It does, however, apply to any school event that involves attendance by community members who are not students or staff (where staff includes support staff) and where total attendance will exceed 100. This includes school assemblies and sporting events. Due to this information, our School Assemblies are temporarily cancelled.

Our **End of Term Awards Ceremony** will also be cancelled. Awards will be handed to students in class instead and taken home. Please celebrate with your child their achievement should this occur for your child next week. Please note, due to the exclusion and quarantine imposed on children and families, **NO Attendance Awards** will be given for Term 1. Sorry for any inconvenience – but we don't want to encourage anyone sick this week or next to come to school for a certificate NOR do we want to unfairly disadvantage children who are doing the right thing quarantining if a member of the family has recently arrived in Australia.

Our **Big Hill PS Cross Country**, occurring tomorrow, will be modified to provide time trial selections for Year 3-6 (organised in smaller groupings outdoors)...in the event that the District Cross Country is rescheduled later in the year (as it is currently postponed). First Steps and Junior Unit will have their event on Monday afternoon. Sadly, these need to be small events, with the children and teachers only. We can't have large numbers of parents attending due to the restrictions and safety concerns – sorry to discourage you, but we are just following advice once again.

Good hygiene practises - for weeks now, we have been taking all of the necessary steps to contain the spread of COVID-19 should it present in the school (nb. There have been no confirmed cases). We continue to ensure that toilets have hand wash – and generally, we provide hand sanitiser in each classroom. Whilst this is available, we continue to promote children bringing their own hand sanitiser and having this in their lunchbox...or in their bag for easy access and for a reminder. We are experiencing delays with delivery of hand sanitiser from our suppliers too and are in the process of trying to get additional stock for the coming weeks – this is a widespread problem across the country. Best course of action is to again send your child to school with their own for use if you have some – if not, they are again encouraged to wash hands thoroughly regularly and especially after the toilet and before eating food – for 20 seconds “Happy Birthday” / “Mary Had A Little Lamb” twice.

School Cleaning - while there are no reported cases of COVID-19 among the staff or students, the current school cleaning contracts and operations are appropriate and adequate. Most of our teachers and staff are taking extra measures and re-cleaning surfaces also.

Social distancing etc - we take the advice of the Department and Chief Medical Advisor seriously and are reminding children of HANDS OFF, maintaining distance between each other (supposed to be 1.5m but impossible...perhaps really press home the need to be hands off and have a degree of personal space when mingling with classmates and in the playground), coughing into the crook of your arm etc.

With all of the above, we are following the regulations imposed upon us and acting safely in the best interest of all children – the medical experts have given us directives and we are following them for the good of all. Apologies if this frightens anyone – however, we again are trying to prevent illness etc as we move through difficult times. The whole COVID-19 situation is evolving, so please understand this update is based on current information that can change at any moment. Should I have a substantial change in circumstance, I will update you as soon as practically possible.

STAY AT HOME WHEN UNWELL

If your child is unwell, please keep them at home. Ensure you keep them at home until they are well. Should you be concerned about their health at any time, please seek medical advice and assistance.

MANTRA FOR THIS WEEK

“HANDS OFF” – in the light of social distancing measures...we will talk to children again about being hands off...which means “Don't touch one another” – this is in any way, both friendly and aggressively...and in the current light of the outbreak...includes during sports such as football, tiggly etc. If you could reinforce at home, that would be great.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Congratulations to Melissa Miller, who will continue as our School Council President for the next 12 months. Our Vice School Council President is now Toby Sullivan and Treasurer, Naomi Pietzsch. Pauline Mulcair continues as our Secretary. Well done Toby, Naomi and Pauline!

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Our 2019 Annual Report to the School Community was presented to School Council on Tuesday night. Copies of the report are now available in the Office foyer, should you like a copy. In addition to this, I will share sections of the Annual Report in our newsletter and also place a copy on our website in the near future.

LIFE SKILLS PROGRAM

Life Skills will continue tomorrow for First Steps, Junior and Middle Units in the multipurpose. Minor modifications have been made to ensure adequate distancing and hygiene. We anticipate being able to finish this excellent program next Tuesday.

END OF TERM AWARDS

Each year, we have End of Term Awards, usually presented on the last day of the term at 9:00am in the multipurpose room – however, these will now be presented to children in class to take home (due to the COVID-19 restrictions on assemblies). From each class, we award 8 awards per term. For Term 1, we will present certificates to children on Friday, 27th March. Awards are presented to children in the following categories: *Excellence in English, Mathematics, Visual Arts and Performing Arts; Endeavour in English and Mathematics; Principals Award AND Outstanding Demonstration of School Values*. Being awarded a certificate is a real honour for the child and should be celebrated, so look out for the announcement of our Term 1 winners in the final newsletter of the Term – Thursday, 26th March. As this is not a community event, we hope to have photos of our winners to post – enabling you to have a record of the event and to share with loved ones at home.

RIDE SAFELY TO SCHOOL DAY

This was a great success! Thanks to Brett for organising such a fun travel to school day – and to all of our staff and parents who came along to support the boys and girls!

SMILE SQUAD / DENTIST

Sadly, this visit was another casualty of the COVID-19 outbreak. We will see Smile Squad later in the year instead, when it is safe to perform oral examinations.

CAPITAL WORKS

We are almost done...fences are down...the areas are being tidied up and defects are being attended to! Still no use of the rear carpark or buildings yet...but not long!

CANTEEN AND PIZZA DAY

Our canteen has soldiered on, providing a reduced menu on Wednesday (due to supply shortages) and aiming for a slightly more productive service on Friday. Canteen should continue as normal until next Wednesday (last normal canteen day for Term 1), just ensure you order from the attached reduced menu. Tammy, our canteen manager, is taking every extra precaution to ensure the canteen provides the highest level of hygiene during such trying times. Our last day of term PIZZA DAY is proceeding at this stage – no advice warns us from doing so...and hygiene controls are in place. We think the children would like to see some normal routines continue where possible. Watch this space in case advice changes though!

BIG HILL PS CROSS COUNTRY

Tomorrow, from 9:00am – 11:00am our Senior Unit will do a modified trail for selection purposes only. From 12:00pm – 1:30pm our Middle Unit will do the same. On Monday, First Steps and Junior Unit will have a fun Cross Country event too – but due to not needing selection for the Division Cross Country (as it only has events for Years 3-6)...the purpose of the event is for a bit of fun! Sadly, we discourage spectators...as we try and keep gatherings to a minimum and not expose each other to contagion, should it be unknowingly present in the community. Sorry for any inconvenience.

ANZAC FUNDRAISING

Sadly, the annual ANZAC services and fundraising drives have been severely impacted with cancellations etc. We are selling ANZAC items at the Office...ranging from \$1 - \$5. If you could support with a purchase, it would be much appreciated. The drive will really struggle in the community under the current climate, so let's do what we can to raise funds to support those affected by war.

EMAIL ADDRESSES

Please make sure you have provided your classroom teachers with your most up-to-date email addresses. This will be important in the event that there was a school closure, as teachers would communicate and share work with you through these channels. In the coming days, please update the Office and classroom teachers with your email address if it has changed. If you are unsure, check to be sure. Thank you.

HEAD LICE-REPEAT

There have been confirmed cases of head lice in some of our classrooms. If you have found head lice in your child's hair, please ensure that you treat each night for the next week and then once a week thereafter. Please let the school know if your child has head lice so that we can reduce the spread within our classes in the future. Thank you.

2020 ESSENTIAL ITEMS / IPADS PAYMENTS-REPEAT

If you have not paid for your Part C from the booklist (ie iPad etc), please do so before the end of Term 1. If you need an extension, please contact the Office to arrange a payment plan. Thank you.

BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to Sam P, Erica K, Noah P, Mia L, Nate J, Sonny D & Bel Y.

One week to go after tomorrow...so here's looking forward to as steady count down to the holidays!

Stay safe and healthy. Kind regards,

Matt Pearce, Principal

FIRST STEPS NEWS

MORNING ROUTINE

All students have been working on their morning reading routine when they arrive at school. It's great to see so many students being responsible by remembering to change their own reader independently.

Each morning our Prep students have been practising writing their own name with a capital letter at the beginning and then lowercase letters. They have also been practising forming lowercase letters and numbers to 10 correctly.

Our Year 1 students have been practising their spelling words by filling out their individual Look, Cover, Write, Check books, and they have also been practising writing numbers to 100 as well as writing out the 10's counting pattern.

100TH DAY OF SCHOOL

From the very first day of school, each class has been keeping track of the number of days they've been in school in anticipation of the 100th day. We have been keeping track in a variety of different ways including: using a calendar, 100 number chart, tens frames, number line, writing numbers and counting straws to develop an understanding of place value. Next time you are in the classroom why don't you ask your child to show you our special number wall.

CROSS COUNTRY

Please note that a modified Cross Country will now take place for Preps/Year 1 students on Monday, 23rd March instead of tomorrow, in order to minimise interactions with larger groups of students.

THANK YOU

A big thank you to Narelle Moore for the donation of many new 'Thelma the Unicorn' books. We appreciate your generosity and look forward to reading them.

LEARNING AT HOME PACKS

In the event of a school closure, we have prepared a Learning At Home pack for each student which contains reading, writing and maths. Please contact your child's teacher if you require one. Thank you.

STARS OF THE WEEK

For displaying the School Value of 'Safety' in the playground:

FSN *Patrick Q*
FSP *Jacob F*
FSJ *Cooper C*

Nicole, Sharyn & Pauline & Jen

JUNIOR UNIT NEWS

LEARNING AT HOME PACKS

In the event of a school closure, we have prepared a Learning At Home pack for each student which contains reading, writing and maths. Please contact your child's teacher if you require one. Thank you.

CROSS COUNTRY

Please note that a modified Cross Country will now take place for Junior Unit students on Monday, 23rd March instead of tomorrow, in order to minimise interactions with larger groups of students.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For displaying excellent organisation when working on planning, drafting and publishing in writing:

JC *Isla G*
JR *Aleeah M*

Catherine & Rhys

MIDDLE UNIT NEWS

PALMER'S GYM

Our Middle Unit Gym Program is currently under review. We await further updates to determine if the program can be run safely next term.

Parents will be notified of any changes to the gym program. If it is necessary to postpone, then we will attempt to reschedule at a later date.

TAKE HOME PACKS

If parents have chosen to withdraw students from school during this time, please pick up a Middle Unit Work Pack from the Office.

It will contain Writing, Reading, Spelling and Maths worksheets. Remember to keep up the home reading, fill in the Student Diary and complete the Homework Booklet.

LIFE SKILLS AND CROSS COUNTRY

The Middle Unit classes will be attending another Life Skills session tomorrow morning. This will be followed by the running of our Cross Country at midday.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For displaying the School Value of 'Respect':

MR *Melia H*
MW *Josh VS*
MD *Jack E*

Rena, Sandra, Wendy & Dean

SENIOR UNIT NEWS

GRIP LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

This was unfortunately cancelled, apologies. If you had paid, a credit will be placed on your Big Hill PS account for future use.

SWIMMING PROGRAM

Due to the new restrictions on groups of people, this has been postponed until further notice.

SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY

A modified Cross Country will be taking place for Years 3-6 tomorrow. To minimise interactions with larger groups of students, students will be running in their class groups, which will be timed by their teachers.

LEARNING AT HOME PACK

In the event of a school closure, we have prepared a Learning At Home pack for each student within the Senior Unit. It consists of multiple activities.

If students are required to stay at home, we strongly encourage them to continue with their schooling as best they can by completing the set tasks. We have also included our email addresses within the packs should you wish to contact us during school hours.

GOOD HYGIENE

The students have been doing a fantastic job of keeping themselves and their peers safe during this time, by practising good hygiene, and we would like to congratulate them and encourage them to continue this practise.

We would also like to ask that if you can and are willing to send your child to school with their own hand sanitiser please do so (although we know how tricky this can be to get at this time). Rest assured, we have a large quantity of hand soap, so hand washing can continue as normal.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For demonstrating 'Responsibility' during class:

SA	Eliza K
SB	Matilda B
SK	Connor S
SL	Charlotte C

Brett, Kate, Lauren, Roberta & Zoe

PARENTS & FRIENDS NEWS

HOT CROSS BUN DRIVE-CANCELLED

Your child received a note yesterday about our hot cross bun drive being cancelled. Due to the lack of stock on Woolworths shelves, from the impact of the Coronavirus we have had to cancel our drive. We look forward to running this drive again next year and apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused. Thank you all again for your ongoing support with our fundraisers, we couldn't do it without you.

GUESS THE EASTER EGG COMPETITION

Our Guess the Easter Egg competition has started at the Office, so good luck to everyone who has already had a guess! If you haven't already had a turn at guessing how many Easter Eggs are in the jar it's only 50 cents per guess so come up to the Office and have a go! Good luck to everyone and hope you all enjoy this competition.

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.

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.

SRC FUNDRAISER NEWS



Our fundraiser for Term 1 will be for BARC (Bendigo Animal Relief Centre).

THIS WILL BE HELD NEXT MONDAY, 23RD MARCH and please bring a gold coin donation. It is a Free Dress (Animal themed if you like) with a prize for the class with the 'heaviest' coins.

*Megan
Chaplain / Wellbeing*

OSHC NEWS

Just a friendly reminder to keep making fortnightly payments to ensure your place is secure in our OSHC program. Thank you to those families who have been making regular payments, much appreciated.

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!

FRIDAY, 27TH MARCH

PIZZA DAY MEAL
\$5.00

HAWAIIAN
OR
MEATLOVERS
OR
VEGETARIAN



WITH PRIMA OR MILK

(No choice in flavours, sorry, can only choose between prima or milk)

- ✚ If you wish to order an extra slice, the cost is \$2.00 per slice
- ✚ Orders can be put in an envelope, or ordered on our Qkr app
- ✚ **Orders are to be placed in the classroom or ordered using the Qkr app by 9am Wednesday, 25th March. Late orders cannot be accepted.**
- ✚ Ice creams will be available as normal,
- ✚ **AND YOU CAN NOW ORDER ICED TREATS ON QKR!**

**THE CANTEEN'S NORMAL FOOD MENU
IS NOT AVAILABLE ON THIS DAY**



say cheese!

School Photo Day is fast approaching.
Have your child's school memories captured forever
on **Friday 17th April 2020**

Your photo order envelopes will arrive shortly. Please start planning your purchases and payment options.

Remember these helpful points:

- Read all relevant instructions for your preferred payment method. **All payments are due on photo day.**
- You may pay **online** using your credit card. Each child will have an individual 'shootkey' listed on their envelope. This will help identify your child's order.
- You may pay by cash using the individual envelope provided. **Please enclose correct money as no change will be given.**
- *Sibling photo envelopes are available at the school office upon request. **THESE PHOTOS WILL BE TAKEN DURING SCHOOL, ON PHOTO DAY, USUALLY AT RECESS***
 - Please instruct siblings to attend the photo studio during this time. Photographers are unable to search for students who do not attend.
- Do not seal envelopes inside each other. You may include payment for all children in one envelope, however, please indicate on this envelope the names of all the children you are paying for.
- All students should wear their correct school uniform.



For any enquiries, please feel free to contact

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