



# Calder Chronicle

NUMBER 24

Phone (03) 5447 7022

Email: [big\\_hill.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:big_hill.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au)

Website: [www.bighillps.vic.edu.au](http://www.bighillps.vic.edu.au)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BigHillPrimarySchool/>

THURSDAY, 13<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2020

## CALENDAR

Monday, 31<sup>st</sup> August Curriculum Day cancelled

Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> September Last Day for Term 3

## School Organisation

Dear Parents / Guardians,

Our first week of Remote and Flexible Learning is almost at an end and honestly, things this time around seem to be running a lot smoother for the majority. Children seem settled, most parents calm and teachers / education support focused.

### **REMOTE LEARNING**

By now everyone is in the swing of remote learning, with the vast majority of children and parents reporting that the blogs and Showbie are working well... and the addition of Webex across all units is a real hit. Apparently the children love remotely being able to access teachers and see their friends. If you have found this week difficult, don't despair... you are not alone... even our on site supervisors have had glitches with connectivity, getting children to work independently etc. It takes time to settle in a routine, so please don't be too hard on yourself.

The following platforms are being used across the school – please check in each day to find out what your child should be doing:

<https://bhpst3.edublogs.org> - For children in Pauline, Jen & Nicole/Sharyn's classes – Prep and Year 1

<https://juniorunitbhps.edublogs.org> - For children in Rhys or Catherine's classes – Year 1 and 2

<https://34bighill.edublogs.org> - For children in Dean, Wendy and Renae/Sandra's classes – Year 3 and 4

For children in Prep – Year 6 to access their Chinese lesson each week, the website we are going to use for Chinese remote learning this term is: <https://padlet.com/learnchinesebendigo/remote>. It is recommended that students use Chrome to access the site.

Our Senior Unit Students are working through Showbie – instructions for children and families from Lauren/Roberta, Brett, Ainsley and Kate's classes have been shared. If you have access issues, please contact your child's teacher via email.

### **ON SITE SUPERVISION & OSHC**

On site supervision is a last resort. It should only be used when a family have exhausted all avenues to provide care of their children utilising family, friends, changing work hours, rostered days off etc. The direction by law is clear – if your child can learn from home, they MUST learn from home. Please respect this and use our on site supervision only when you have to – if you are at home, by law, your child should be with you. Each week we will review cases of on site attendance in light of guidance as it changes. To organise your child to work on site, please contact Matthew Pearce by phone to discuss – this must occur prior to your **first** use of the service. Parents using the service will be provided with the correct documentation to use. Care must be booked for the upcoming week by close of business, Thursdays. **No late applications after 4:00pm will be accepted in line with guidelines.** As staff are generally not on site, attendance numbers must be known to enable the school to hire in supervisors on Friday for the week ahead. Thanks for your cooperation. OSHC is also running for those using on site supervision – but is only available to existing OSHC clients. You must pay a registration fee to use OSHC and currently, families have to pay for child care services.

### **UNWELL?**

If your child is unwell, you are unwell etc, please act accordingly and get tested. Please do not come on site until you have clearance – and your child is cleared as well. We need to keep our service running. This means we all need to be vigilant. Each day, adults and children on site are temperature tested in the morning and the afternoon. If a child registers a temperature spike, you will be contacted directly and must, according to the legal document signed, arrange to pick your child up as soon as possible. On site supervision is made as safe as possible, but considering the number of local cases, you can understand why we want children picked up straight away. Where outbreaks occur in our local community, many exposures occur... so to keep our children on site and staff on site safe... stay home if you are sick and be available to come on site if your child falls ill whilst being supervised on site.

## **VISITS TO THE SCHOOL**

If you have to come on site, please follow social distancing rules to keep our staff safe. Visits should only be to the Office – which may be locked. Ring ahead to avoid disappointment – or knock and the door and if a staff member is available they will let you in. If collecting work, please organise with your child's teacher suitable times to pick up. When dropping children off for on site attendance, please do so at the top carpark and encourage them to walk to the multipurpose alone. If collecting, please call the Office to arrange for them to meet you at the top car park, or walk to the undercover area and signal to a supervisor... who can organise your children to head home. General school grounds are out-of-bounds for all adults who are not staff, unless prior arrangement has been made. We need to keep our grounds safe for those limited staff and children on site.

## **FACE MASKS / COVERINGS**

All adults attending on site, whether staff, parent or other have to wear a face mask / covering under new Victorian law. Please ensure you have a mask on when out of your car, on site etc. Children do not have to wear masks in Primary Schools, even those who are 12. If your child is on site, they are more than welcome to wear one if they feel safer.

## **WELLBEING SUPPORTS**

We have posted our wellbeing supports online via our Website, through Flexibuzz and over Facebook. Should you require assistance, please refer to this extensive list of supports and advice. Sharyn Burnett, Megan Haddon and I are also available to assist you should you require it... we are only a phone call away and are completely understanding of the raft of issues facing families in the current climate.

## **STAFF CONTACTS**

In addition to the wellbeing supports outlined above, we have also clearly shared contact details for each staff member, their days of work and contact hours on our website, through Flexibuzz and on Facebook. Please remember, like you, our staff have set hours of service and are not contactable 24 hours a day. Please be patient and understanding if there is a delay in a response, especially when contact is made out-of-hours or on weekends. I know our staff are very dedicated and happy to help – so please, always approach them with respect and consideration – even if you are feeling really under pressure. Tough times for all – we're all in this together etc 😊

## **SOCIAL INTERACTION**

It's important for your child not to feel isolated. Our learning platforms are purely set to ensure parents and children can work from home. They are not designed to socialise. Can we ask families to organise alternative ways to stay in touch with close friends – maybe your child can phone a friend, face time, use Skype, Messenger etc. Ideally, if your child has friendships, you will most likely know the family and can reach out. If you need help with this, we can email a parent your details if you give us permission to do so. Beyond that, we will leave contact up to you and your child to organise social chats.

## **WORK SMART**

We set about 2 & 1/2 hours a day per child. If you get into a routine, you will find it easy to follow the set tasks and finish up by 1:00pm. As mentioned last week, endeavour to get the Literacy and Numeracy work done as the first focus area... then if you can, try to do the specialist subjects. Honestly, subjects like VISUAL ARTS and MUSIC are really good wellbeing subjects where children will feel more relaxed and happy – please try to do these subjects when you can. Sometimes you might do the literacy, have a break, then do the numeracy, then have a longer break... and in the afternoon, pick a specialist subject. If you have more than 1 child at home, stagger work times... have children alternating between doing their work and resting. Run the specialist classes at the same time to so you can have your children doing similar things. It's ok to get creative with how you get the work done. Some even do short stints on weekends – a great idea considering we can't go anywhere 😊 Maybe your family could have an art afternoon each Saturday, using Sandra's lesson as the guide? Keep up the good work Mums, Dads and Carers... if you are working at it, we are so grateful for all you are doing 😊

## **ATTENDANCE**

We mark the roll each day... however, if a teacher feels a child is not engaging in their work, they may have to mark the roll as an absence. To ensure your child is marked present each day, ensure you are responding to teacher emails, answering phone calls, attending scheduled Webex meetings OR return completed work to teachers when requested. The First Steps, Junior Unit and Middle Unit are using Class Dojo now to communicate – making things easier.... whereas the Senior Unit have the children working on Showbie and submitting work there. All Units are using Webex this time around too, so if your child attends a meeting... this is a sign of attendance. Should your child be unwell, please email your child's teacher, myself ([Matthew.Pearce@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Matthew.Pearce@education.vic.gov.au)) or Janet Dean ([Janet.Dean@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Janet.Dean@education.vic.gov.au)) so the roll can be marked accordingly. When your child is unwell, there is no expectation that they would be working remotely... we just need to mark the roll to reflect this.

## **KINDER – PREP ENROLMENT**

If you have not enrolled your child for Prep, 2021... please contact the Office / Janet Dean as soon as possible. For parents wanting to organise a tour, we are unable to provide school tours currently due to COVID-19 restrictions. When a time arrives when this can be done safely, we will advise on our website.

## **SCHOOL COUNCIL**

At this point in time, School Council documentation won't be sent out until perhaps next month. I am not holding an August meeting as scheduled, due to the reduction in meeting requirements from 8 to 6. So we aren't meeting excessively in uncertain times, please note that School Council will meet once this Term in September.

## **BIRTHDAYS**

Happy birthday to Imogen K & Braxton L.

*Matt Pearce, Principal*

## **FIRST STEPS NEWS**

### **REMOTE LEARNING**

Thank you to all First Steps families for the effort you have put into organising your child for Remote Learning again this term. We appreciate the time and effort you are putting into your child's learning while still attending to other family and work commitments. We understand it is difficult and we have done our best to make this as smooth a transition as possible. A reminder that our weekly planners can be found on our blog which can be found at <https://bhpst3.edublogs.org/>.

**Please remember that we are here to help you and your child and are available between 8:45am and 4:00pm each day and can be contacted via Dojo (preferred platform) or email.**

### **WEBEX**

At 9:40am each day all First Steps classes will be holding their Webex class meeting. During this time we mark the attendance roll, explain the daily timetable and do Show and Tell. If your child can not attend one of the WebEx meetings throughout the week but will still be participating in remote learning tasks for the day it is important that you notify your child's classroom teacher via Dojo or email. If there is no contact made throughout the day your child will be marked as absent.

### **EMAILS**

P/1 Pauline (FSP) Monday to Friday:  
[Pauline.Mulcair@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Pauline.Mulcair@education.vic.gov.au)

P/1 Jen (FSJ) Monday to Friday:  
[Jennifer.Nicholls2@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Jennifer.Nicholls2@education.vic.gov.au)

P/1 Nicole (FSN) Monday to Thursday:  
[Nicole.Argall@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Nicole.Argall@education.vic.gov.au)  
Sharyn – Friday:  
[Sharyn.Burnett@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Sharyn.Burnett@education.vic.gov.au)

### **CLASS DOJO**

Thank you to all the parents who have joined their child's Class Dojo platform. Dojo is a platform that we will be using to communicate with parents and a place where student work will be submitted. Submitting student work on Dojo will make the process much more efficient rather than emailing student work to the classroom teacher. When using the Dojo platform parents are able to click on their child's name and see all the previous work samples they have submitted and submit any new work samples in the one place. Teachers can also provide feedback on student work samples on the Dojo platform too.

### **STARS OF THE WEEK**

*For producing a high quality piece of writing about whales:*

**FSJ Calae D**  
**FSP Lacey B**  
**FSN Bonnie S**

*Jen, Pauline, Nicole & Sharyn*

## **MIDDLE UNIT NEWS**

### **REMOTE LEARNING**

We would like to welcome back all our students to Remote Learning. It has been a smooth transition with the return of the 3/4 Blog and Class Dojo. We have also recently introduced daily class meetings and individual student conferences via Webex. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your child's teacher:

[Rena.Westley@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Rena.Westley@education.vic.gov.au)

[Dean.White@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Dean.White@education.vic.gov.au)

[Wendy.Hicks@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Wendy.Hicks@education.vic.gov.au)

### **WEEKLY PLANNER**

The Weekly Planner will be sent to parents every Thursday afternoon on Dojo and email. It is also available on the 3/4 Blog (34bighill.edublogs.org). Just a reminder that only the **one** highlighted activity each day needs to be submitted. Teachers will then provide students with feedback.

### **STUDENT WORKBOOKS**

Please ensure your child has all their workbooks. There are still some student workbooks at the Office awaiting collection.

### **STUDENT OF THE WEEK**

*For a great start to Remote Learning:*

**MW Erica K**  
**MR Korbin H**  
**MD Gregory K**

## **SENIOR UNIT NEWS**

### **MIA A'S WRITING:**

Reflection on Round 2 of Remote Learning.

From some time in term 2 till the 5th of June, we had our first online school sessions. After 2 weeks we went back to school. Soon after, maybe 6 weeks later, COVID got worse and we had to, once again, go back to online learning. Online learning was fun and easy! And I have composed a list of Positives & Negatives of online learning. Here they are!: **NEGATIVES:** 1. You can't see your friends. This one is probably the one negative I can 100% tell you that if you ask a kid "what is the worst thing about online learning," at least, 75% will say they miss their friends. 2. Having to do work with your siblings. Now, if you have siblings with a year or so age gap, you would probably say your siblings, or at least I can. Working with my brother was kind of difficult as we had a different working pace. 3. Parents. My friends and I can all agree that our parents were one of the hardest parts of online learning. **POSITIVES:** 1. I can personally say that I was able to finish my school work much quicker than I would at school. I would start around 9:30 - 10 am till 12 - 1 pm. compared to the actual school times, 9 am - 3:15 pm. 2. In my household, we can have regular breaks whenever we want. Say I would do 2 tasks and then have a 5-10 minute break, but you cant do that at school.

*Ainsley, Brett, Kate, Lauren & Roberta*

## SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB

Please note that Issue 6 of the Scholastic Book Club can be viewed and ordered from online at:

<https://www.scholastic.com.au/media/5667/bc-620.pdf>

Due to remote learning, parents have the option to have their order delivered straight to the home.

## COMMUNITY NEWS



### Growing Up Digital Australia: Invitation for parents and grandparents to have your say!

Are you a parent, carer or grandparent of children aged 5 to 17?

Do you wonder how digital media and technologies that they live with might affect their wellbeing, health and learning? If your answer to these questions is 'yes', we would invite you to share your views with us here:

[https://unsw.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_8G6lesTYKXcAymV](https://unsw.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8G6lesTYKXcAymV)

We at the Gonski Institute of Education at the University of NSW are working on a ground-breaking research project called *Growing Up Digital Australia*. This international research project that we partner with Harvard Medical School, the University of Alberta and Alberta Teachers Association seeks to understand the health, wellbeing and learning impacts of growing up in a digital world on our young people. A number of Australian organisations are supporting this project, including Departments of Education, parent organisations and teacher associations. This longitudinal study will reframe issues surrounding children's consumption of media and digital technologies moving into an evidence-based solutions to parents, educators and young people to live healthier, safer and happier lives here in Australia.

The Growing Up Digital project Phase 1 saw us work with almost 2,000 educators from around the country and find out what is happening in classrooms through the eyes of teachers and principals. Now with this Phase 2 survey, it is your turn as parents and grandparents to have your say.

This project has Ethics approval, and poses no risk to you. Participation is voluntary and you will never be identified at any stage. By completing the survey, you have the chance to be entered into the draw for one of four \$100 Coles Myer gift cards.

This Phase 2 survey will be open until 11 October, 2020. If you are a parent, carer or grandparent of any child aged 5-17, please complete the survey here:

[https://unsw.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_8G6lesTYKXcAymV](https://unsw.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8G6lesTYKXcAymV)

You may also share this invitation to take part in this research with others by sharing the link to the questionnaire. If you are a parent, we would be delighted if you would invite one of your child's grandparents to take part in this survey.

To find out more about our project, and the results from Phase 1, visit us here:

<https://www.gie.unsw.edu.au/growing-digital-australia-phase-1-results-how-screen-based-technologies-are-impacting-school-students>



### 2019–20 BALANCING HAS STARTED

Child Care Subsidy (CCS) balancing for the 2019–20 financial year started on 10 August 2020.

Families need to confirm their income for Services Australia to balance their CCS.

Find out more at:

<https://www.education.gov.au/child-care-subsidy-balancing>

If you require assistance please visit:

<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/topics/balancing-your-family-assistance-payments/29376>



**Managing all your different emotions can be hard...**



Use the link below for more information and to register for your free session:

[https://kidshelpline.com.au/schools/sessions/managing-emotions?mobilelid=0&mobiledraw=0&utm\\_source=KHL2013P1&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=kids+helpline+%7C+misc+%7C+primary+school+%7C+free+support+for+you+r+students+to+help+with+managing+emotions+%7C+&utm\\_content=image%20link%20%7C%20managing%20all%20yo ur%20different%20emotions%20img2-1%20%7C%20schools-kids-helpline-school%20%7C%20KHL2013](https://kidshelpline.com.au/schools/sessions/managing-emotions?mobilelid=0&mobiledraw=0&utm_source=KHL2013P1&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=kids+helpline+%7C+misc+%7C+primary+school+%7C+free+support+for+you+r+students+to+help+with+managing+emotions+%7C+&utm_content=image%20link%20%7C%20managing%20all%20yo ur%20different%20emotions%20img2-1%20%7C%20schools-kids-helpline-school%20%7C%20KHL2013)