



Calder Chronicle

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THURSDAY, 3RD SEPTEMBER 2020

CALENDAR

Tuesday, 15th September

School Council Meeting via Webex

Friday, 18th September

Last Day for Term 3

School Organisation

Dear Parents / Guardians,

It's hard to believe that we are almost at the end of Week 8... with only two weeks to go. This Sunday will hopefully provide us all with some directions for next term. For now, we at least know we are remote until the school holidays, commencing on Friday, 18th September. I truly am hoping that we get to holidays and families can actually move around and enjoy the Great Outdoors a bit. I am even more hopeful that we return to on site learning next term. This is what we are hoping for... like many of you, we aren't particularly fond of remote learning, but understand the need to work that way in such times.

LEARNING AT HOME... TWO WEEKS AND COUNTING

Our teachers continue to do an amazing job of remote learning, with well-thought-out activities planned and presented to our community in a logical way. In addition to the lessons, supports via live meetings are also occurring, making the learning even richer. If you have followed the learning set by staff, engaged in online meetings and shared work with teachers – your child will be on track to progress as they normally would if at school. It's important to try your best to get the work done set by the teacher, as this is aligned with the VICTORIAN CURRICULUM and forms the basis for teachers to report on your child at the end of the year. In addition to our teachers, our Education Support Staff have also supported funded children (and a few other lucky children) on a daily basis to complete tasks – if your child is receiving this support, please continue to facilitate access to our ES staff over the coming weeks. If all families can continue to follow the blogs (or Showbie) and have children attend meetings on Webex for the next two weeks, you have them well-placed for their return in Term 4 – fingers crossed.

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

<https://bhps3.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.

USING OUR ON SITE SUPERVISION PROGRAM

On site supervision is available only to those who either: **1.** Can't work from home and there are no adults to supervise children **2.** Are in Out of Home Care arrangements through DHHS **3.** Have a disability (eg: Funded through the Programs for Students With Disabilities and Impairments program) or **4.** Are labelled VULNERABLE by a community agency/DHHS or the school. This is not self-determined. To access on site supervision for the first time, please contact me to discuss the specifics and how on site supervision works. Forms are shared and are due in each Thursday at 4:00pm. Staffing for the coming week is done early Friday, therefore no late requests can be accepted. A form must be handed in and signed for each week of supervision as a legal requirement. When children are on site they are supervised, not taught... just like they would be at home. We have a mix of Casual Relief Teachers, Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) staff, TAFE students, Training Teachers and locally paid staff supervising children, with occasional sessions provided by some of our set teachers. The majority of teachers are working remotely with their classes, so coming on site does not mean they will work with their usual teacher... just to be clear. Forms are due to either myself (Matthew.Pearce@education.vic.gov.au) or Janet Dean (Janet.Dean@education.vic.gov.au). Alternatively, children can bring the form on site before each Thursday.

OSHC

Our Out of School Hours Care program is running normally, with Before School Care available from 7:00am – 8:45am and After School Care from 3:15pm – 6:00pm. If you are using the On Site Supervision program and are an existing user of OSHC, feel free to book days and times the normal way – contact Janet Dean via email Janet.Dean@education.vic.gov.au or phone the Office. If your child is attending On Site Supervision and you are starting work early, you must book them into OSHC.

FEELING SICK? FLU-LIKE SYMPTOMS?

If your child reports to you that they have any flu-like symptoms, sore throat, runny nose, loss of smell or taste, cough, sneezing etc, then please leave them at home. By law, your child must not come to school if they are feeling unwell in any of the ways outlined. It can be a burden having to stay home with unwell children, but in current times, you will need to. For adults visiting the school for pick up etc, please ensure you stay off site if feeling unwell.

ADULTS ON SITE

The only adults on site should be our staff. We all sign in on a COVID register each day – in case there is an outbreak and contact tracing occurs. If you are dropping your child off or picking them up, please wait in the top carpark, or if collecting earlier, please ring the Office and we will have your child sent up. If you need to come to the Office, the foyer will be locked... please knock or call ahead to advise your arrival.

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.

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) or Janet Dean (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. Enrolments are due in by the end of this term – Friday, 18th September.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our September meeting of School Council is on Tuesday, 15th September via Webex. This is the final Tuesday of Term 3 (Week 10). Our meeting will commence at 6:30pm, with Finance at 6:00pm. Materials for the meeting and Webex invite will be shared late next week.

JOHN MARSDEN'S TIPS FOR PARENTS DURING COVID-19

John Marsden is one of Australia's best-loved and celebrated children's authors... most famous for the TOMORROW WHEN THE WAR BEGAN series and picture story book THE RABBITS. John has kindly reached out to parents to offer some tips on parenting during COVID-19.

Here's his 10 tips. Hope they are helpful:

- 1.** Give children space. Back off. Let them roam. Let them be bored. Don't over-plan their lives. Cut way back on the after-school activities programs when things go back to normal
- 2.** Keep away from all those ghastly, soulless, sterile playgrounds. Keep away from shopping malls. Look for real places. Wild places.
- 3.** Be an adult. Say no to your children at least once a day. If the role of Adult in your family is vacant, then one of your children will fill it. And it won't be pretty.
- 4.** Don't take up all the space. If you are dominating, loud, forceful, your children are highly likely to become passive, lacking spirit and personality... and/or sullen.
- 5.** Believe about 40 per cent of the dramatic stories your children tell you of the injustices, corruption and satanic practices happening at school.
- 6.** Teach them empathy. For example, after their jubilant victory celebrations when they win a sporting match, remind them that their jubilation was only possible because someone else – the losers – have been made to feel awful.
- 7.** Help them develop language skills. Don't finish their sentences for them. Don't correct them when they mispronounce a word – they'll work it out sooner or later. Ask them open-ended questions, that need a detailed answer, not Yes/No questions.
- 8.** Make sure they have regular jobs/duties at home and that those jobs are done to a consistently high standard.
- 9.** Don't whinge endlessly about the miseries of your adult life. A lot of children now are fearful about growing up because their parents paint such a grim picture of the awfulness ahead.
- 10.** Teach them to be very wary of people who Absolutely Know the Absolute Truth about Absolutely Everything! The colour of truth is always grey. Extreme positions are for the ignorant. Every creature, every person and every situation is complex. The universe is a wonderful mystery.

THIS WEEK'S 5 ACTIVITIES TO DO AT HOME, WITHOUT NEEDING A TEACHER

When you have done the majority of work classroom teachers have set OR your child needs a diversion... I have been suggesting 5 things each week to try during the day or over the weekend to beat the boredom, but still be educational. Here's this week's 5: **1.** Play music, dance and sing – a great way to be active! Look at music from different eras... with different instruments and if you have some dance skill, show children some of your moves from the day. Have a family disco, take turns choosing the next song to get variety, do karaoke on YouTube etc. **2.** Make a wish list of the things you're going to do together once lock down is over (pin the list to the fridge so you can all look forward to it) – it's important to remind children of the bright future ahead... and to plan for fun times together **3.** Write letters to a friend or relative that lives far away – social isolation can be helped by writing to others. Even if it can't be posted, write the letter and get your child to ring the relative OR friend and read it over the phone. Honestly, children love writing letters and receiving them. **4.** Tell jokes, make your own jokes - laugh! Make a collection of jokes in written form to keep for the future. We forget so easily! **5.** Research and work out a costings budget for your next holiday – you might not be able to go away now, but why not plan for next year and involve your child in looking at places, working out costs, places to visit etc. Use maps, websites etc to do the planning.

THE DANGERS OF TIKTOK

This week our ICT Coordinator, Kate Dole, shared an amazing article on our Facebook Page about TikTok and the associated dangers. TikTok, whilst appealing to almost everyone, is not for children. Users actually should be 13 years and over... as the application can expose children to inappropriate content, online bullying behaviours and contact with undesirable adults / strangers. It's your call as a parent to manage your home the best way you think, but honestly our advice as an eSmart School is... don't have your child on TikTok, Instagram or Facebook until they are over 13... and if you do make an exception... supervise all online activities anyway. We want our children safe – so to ensure you know the dangers, we will continue to share the best advice available to us. We have included the article in this newsletter in case you missed it.

SUNDAY – MORE CLARITY ABOUT THE FUTURE

As you would be aware, Premier Daniel Andrews will announcement the ROADMAP out of Stage 3 Regional Restrictions this Sunday. This will be the first time any of us will know what the future will bring around restrictions and schooling for our girls and boys. Obviously once any announcements are made, you will be made aware at the same time I am about what changes will occur for general lifestyle and future schooling arrangements. Once the announcement is made and the changes trickle through to the Department of Education and Training, I will then be in a position to outline how things will look for Big Hill PS. Please understand that I can only update you through school lines when given the go-ahead by the Department, which may be some days after the Premier has spoken. For now, tune in Sunday and read between the lines. I also anticipate that remote learning will continue until at least the end of Term 3 (this was advised in the past)... but we will just have to wait and see.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

These have arrived back at school and will be handed out when the students return to normal learning, hopefully at the start of next term. If you simply cannot wait that long, please email janet.dean@education.vic.gov.au to arrange a pick up day and time.

BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to Ayman M, Asha M, Sophie W & Owen G.

With only Friday between us and the weekend, here's hoping it's a great end to the week for you... and the weekend is super special when you get there! Find the beauty in "being" with your loved ones.

Kind regards,

Matt Pearce, Principal

FIRST STEPS NEWS

INCURSION CREDIT

Unfortunately due to COVID-19 our Chris Humphrey Wildlife Incursion can no longer go ahead. If you have already paid for this incursion your school account will be credited the amount for the incursion and this money can be used towards our swimming program in Term 4 or any future incursions or expenses.

REMOTE LEARNING

A reminder that our weekly planners can be found on our blog: <https://bhpst3.edublogs.org/>.

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 the 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.

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.

DOJO

Dojo is a platform that we are using to communicate with parents and a place where student work will be submitted. Most parents have accepted the invite to Dojo and are now using the program successfully and with ease. If you haven't joined Dojo, please look out for an invite from Dojo in your emails. If you cannot locate this invite, please email your child's teacher and they will send another invite out to you.

Emails:

P/1 Pauline (FSP) – Monday to Friday
Pauline.Mulcair@education.vic.gov.au

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

P/1 Nicole (FSN) – Monday to Thursday:
Nicole.Argall@education.vic.gov.au

P/1 Sharyn (FSN) – Friday
Sharyn.Burnett@education.vic.gov.au

STARS OF THE WEEK

For extending themselves in all areas of their learning:

FSJ **Addison H**
FSP **Abigail L**
FSN **Amber L**

Jen, Pauline, Nicole & Sharyn

JUNIOR UNIT NEWS

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

For doing outstanding work during remote learning and putting in an enormous effort to achieve their best work possible:

JC **Clare P**
JR **Mia McG**

Catherine & Rhys

MIDDLE UNIT NEWS

COMMUNICATION

Just a reminder that our weekly Learning Schedule can be accessed on the 3/4Blog. (34bighill.edublogs.org), Class Dojo and email. Daily class meetings and individual conferences are conducted via Webex. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's learning.

Rena.Westley@education.vic.gov.au
Dean.White@education.vic.gov.au
Wendy.Hicks@education.vic.gov.au

BRAIN BREAKS

During a learning day at home it is important to have 'brain breaks'- mental or physical. These can include mindfulness or PE activities. Try the PE ideas on our 3/4 Blog.

THANK YOU

We would like to thank parents and families for their continuing support and assistance during this time of Remote Learning.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

For displaying effort in the completion and uploading of work to Dojo:

MW **Alissa M**
MR **Indigo B**
MD **Jazmin P**

Rena, Sandra, Wendy & Dean

SENIOR UNIT NEWS

YEAR 7 ENROLMENT PACKS / FORMS

BSE packs were posted directly to families yesterday.

Crusoe enrolment forms that were handed in here have been collected by Crusoe today, so if you have still to return your enrolment form, please return it directly to Crusoe ASAP. Thank you.

Ainsley, Brett, Kate, Lauren & Roberta

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Charlie W took part in the MS Readathon this year and has read a total of 40 books, and raised a total of \$313. Well done Charlie!



DIGITAL WORLD TRAVEL

Just, as we cannot guarantee risk free travel on the highways, the air, or by sea, we cannot guarantee 100% risk free travel in the ever-expanding Digital World.

However, we can try to help you limit the risks! There is much publicity in the media about how dangerous Facebook is for underage users, but have you ever considered that TikTok could be just as bad, if not worse!

With 1.65 billion downloads to date, TikTok is currently the hottest social media site for tweens and teens.

The good, the bad, and the truly ugly!
It's all there on TikTok.



Kate's Safe Travel Tips

While our kids are hitting download, parents have questions: What is it? Where'd it come from? And, most importantly, is it safe?

While it may seem like it came out of nowhere, the app actually began in 2014. TikTok is a free social media app designed for creating and sharing short music videos. It replaced Musical.ly that shut down in August 2018 having all of its 100 million users transferred to the TikTok app.

TikTok is a site that allows the over 13 aged user, according to their rules, to upload and share original videos. It's a popular place for children and adults to go to see the latest silly Internet video that everyone's talking about.

TikTok has become a world-wide sensation. It's an open platform where people of different ages and cultures can upload clips to showcase their talent, their collections, funny videos or their rants and rambles.

It seems as though many people have found a love for TikTok, sadly this includes very young children.

These days, clips of children can be found all over TikTok, some of the videos go viral, receiving millions of hits, and can even jumpstart a career or two. However, there's a lot of mature content on TikTok and it has easy to use inbuilt features where users can also comment on clips they watch. Because it's such a simple process to comment on any clip, sadly the comments on even the most innocent of clips can be cruel, hurtful and at worst inappropriate.

What worries me about TikTok is the openness of the children in many of the clips. They innocently or inadvertently give away personal information. I have seen clips with young children's faces fully visible and in some clips they stated their names.

Even if they didn't state their names, their information such as age, name, and location could be viewed by clicking their user name and following them, this then allows access to their profile. Information on a profile could be viewed by anyone in the world, anywhere! The scariest thing of all is that when children utilise TikTok they make it easy for predators and web bullies to stalk and taunt them. Chat rooms were once the platform to taunt, bully, and leer children over the web, but it seems as though TikTok is a more sophisticated way to do these things, as users can actually see their target and plan from there! The question that comes to my mind is... are parents aware of what their children are posting for the entire world to see?

The other risk of TikTok is exposure to inappropriate material. TikTok can expose your children to a huge range of human behavior and activities. Sure there are many completely innocent clips, many of them even educational, but be aware there are also plenty of "iffy" clips. With thousands of videos uploaded every hour, it is easy for your children to lose their way on the website and stumble upon some inappropriate and illicit content. If your children do come across the latter, you should talk to them about what they've seen.

Talk to them about safety measures, remind your children to protect their identities. **No-no's** for clips include images of car license plate numbers, images of your house, street names, their bedrooms, bathrooms, or their school, school uniforms. Make sure that none of their "tags" (*search identifiers*) reveal their real names, locations, schools, or anything else that could lead people to your door.

Bottom line! TikTok can be a fabulously creative medium and a place where individuals can showcase their lives. But the app has had some problems, widely publicised in the media such as illegally collecting data on users under 13, notoriously inappropriate comments, and awkward settings that can leave you with unwanted followers. Still, its viral "challenges," creative tools, and just-plain-fun features mean your kids are probably going to want it!

But it's only as responsible as the person uploading or commenting on the clips.

The reality is that this world is just too scary for young children to broadcast themselves so freely!

A parent's guide to TikTok:

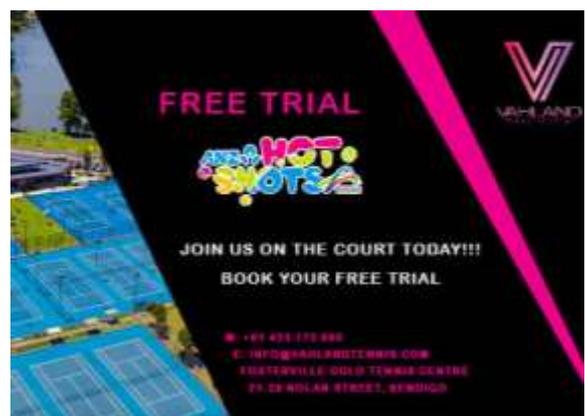
<https://www.common sense media.org/blog/parents-ultimate-guide-to-tiktok>

Safe Travel ☺

Kate Dole

ICT Coordinator

COMMUNITY NEWS



As most of you would be aware, we have a family at Big Hill PS going through an enormous medical situation at the moment.

They have a fundraiser set up and would appreciate any donation you could spare.

Thank you.

Please visit:

<https://www.mycause.com.au/page/230474/ride-for-ella-fight-against-leukemia/1>

Dear parents and carers,

There are two helpful new resources to help you support your children during remote and flexible learning.

Raising Learners podcast

The Department of Education and Training has funded a 10-episode podcast series through the Raising Children Network called 'Raising Learners'. It features parenting experts from organisations including the Murdoch Children's Research Institute, Career Education Association Victoria, as well as the Australian eSafety Commissioner, Julie Inman-Grant.

Raising Learners provides parents with practical advice, tips and ideas for supporting children's health, wellbeing and engagement at school and at home. Topics include how to connect with your child's school and community, how to best support your child's learning, what to expect for VCE and VCAL students and how to keep your child safe online.

These topics were drawn from common questions that parents raised with the Department's coronavirus (COVID-19) hotline and Parentline.

The first three episodes will be available on 1 September, and the rest throughout terms 3 and 4. Raising Learners can be accessed via podcast apps and the Raising Children Network website: <https://raisingchildren.net.au/guides/podcasts-and-webinars/podcasts>.

Managing the Coronacoaster webinar

Renowned child psychologist Dr Michael Carr-Gregg is back by popular demand to repeat his Coronacoaster webinar.

On 15 September, Dr Michael Carr-Gregg will again present Managing the Coronacoaster – Tips for building resilient families in the coronavirus era. His first webinar in August booked out in three days, with more than 12,000 registrations.

In this webinar, Dr Carr-Gregg provides tools and strategies for parents and carers to help manage the lockdown period and remote learning. Topics include:

- your supportive role
- setting the emotional tone
- focusing on what you can control
- how to deal with disappointment
- more resources and where to get help.

Webinar details

When:

7:30pm,

Tuesday 15th September

Duration:

**45-minute presentation,
followed by a 15-minute
question-and-answer session**

Format:

online via live stream

Cost:

FREE

**Register for the Managing
the Coronacoaster webinar
via Eventbrite:**

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/managing-the-coronacoaster-tips-for-building-resilient-families-registration-117927100131>