



# Calder Chronicle

NUMBER 12

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**THURSDAY, 7<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2020**

## CALENDAR

Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> May  
Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> May  
Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> May  
Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> June  
Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> June  
Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> July  
Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> July  
Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> August  
Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> September

Scholastic Book Club LOOP orders due online (these will be delivered to school for parents to collect)  
Crusoe 2021 Year 6 – 7 Transition Information from 7:00pm  
Year 5/6 Camp Deposit of \$100 due  
Year 5/6 Camp Second Instalment of \$80 due  
Last day for Term 2  
First day for Term 3  
Year 5/6 Camp Third Instalment of \$80 due  
Year 5/6 Camp Final Instalment of \$60 due  
Year 5/6 Camp departs – proposed date, subject to restrictions

## School Organisation

Dear Parents / Guardians,

With Week 4 now only a day away from completion, we are heading towards the halfway mark of the term. I don't think anyone is going to forget this term – such different times everywhere you turn. Hopefully, sooner rather than later, we can look back at the COVID-19 pandemic and reflect on what was not only challenging, but changes we were forced to make in our lives that made them better. I hear a lot from families saying they are spending more quality time with their children, going out to exercise together more, talking as family in a more functional way and bonding. In every difficult situation there is a positive or two. I do hope you strive to find the positives over the negatives. We need to be kind to ourselves and be reminded that all we can do is our best... and if we are doing that... don't be too harsh on yourself!

### CHANGES TO CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS?

To date, nothing has changed. As far as I know, we can expect remote learning to continue next week and beyond. Announcements were made a few weeks back that all of Term 2 would be remote and flexible learning... however, this is subject to change with medical advice. Our Chief Medical Advisor (Prof Brett Sutton) and Premier (Daniel Andrews) will no doubt direct us all in the coming week as to how we continue to work and live in Victoria. Whilst other States have changes occurring, in Victoria, we have to follow State laws... so to make it less confusing... tune into the Premier and the Victorian Chief Medical Advisor. When we have any changes for our school system in Victoria, I will update you through our communication lines: website, Flexibuzz and Facebook. At the time of writing, for next week... plan to continue as you currently are... remotely following our excellent online programs.

### DONGLES, DEVICES ETC

The school has not received additional devices to date from the State Government, however, we have assisted families in need with the loan of an iPad, shared details of current offers from Telstra, Optus etc on how to top up data for free and even worked with those in dire situations to get some data packs topped up. When the shared dongle devices arrive, I will contact those that indicated the need for support directly. To be clear, we are only being given 4 devices for our school to support... thus why we have issued our own iPads to the community instead.

### REMOTE LEARNING

You would be well aware of just how hard we are working in Victoria, as you work each day with your child / children to navigate through their daily learning tasks. Our teachers report that the great majority of you are managing these tasks so well. Congratulations for sticking at it! I think the first few weeks were the hardest, as we adapted to new ways of working. As adults and children become familiar with the work set and the platforms, things get into a rhythm. I've actually had a few parents indicate that their children are doing a lot of work... and I agree. When I have supervised the students on site, the children have a lot to do and are very busy indeed. To think that claims are made that Victoria needs to get children back to school – you and I both know that we are back at school, just not on site. Again – thanks for sticking at remote learning and for keeping not only your child/ren safe, but also those of supervisors that have no choice but to be on site when families have no other option but to use the on site supervision.

The following platforms are working successfully – please check in daily to find out what your child should be doing:

<https://firststepsunitbhps.edublogs.org/>

For children in Pauline, Nicole and Jen's classes – Prep and Year 1

<https://juniorunitbhps.edublogs.org/2020/03/24/welcome-to-our-remote-learning-blog/>

For children in Rhys or Catherine's classes – Year 1 & 2

<https://34bighill.edublogs.org/sample-page/>

For children in Dean, Wendy and Renae/Sandra's classes – Year 3 & 4

<https://sites.google.com/view/learnchinesebendigo/home>

For children Prep – Year 6 to access their Chinese lesson each week

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

## **ON SITE SUPERVISION**

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. 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 4pm 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.

## **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. On site supervision is made as safe as possible, but following a recent outbreak in a Victorian Primary School, you can understand why we want children picked up straight away if they become unwell. Whilst numbers of unwell are lowering, there are still cases and outbreaks, such as the current Abattoir / Meatworks in Melbourne... and where outbreaks occur, 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 area. General school grounds are out-of-bounds, unless prior arrangement has been made. We need to keep our grounds safe for those limited staff and children on site. As mentioned before, playgrounds are closed, as are drink stations. These are used out-of-hours and can't be hygienically cleaned for the protection of those on site Monday to Friday.

## **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.

## **WORKLOAD FOR PARENTS AND CARERS**

On days when it all gets too much for you at home, have a break as a family. Sometimes, it might be best to just do the reading, writing and maths for the day... then have some exercise together. If you do the BASICS, this can be broken up as a couple of short blocks. Ideally, children should only need to be sitting focused on academic work (ie: Literacy and Numeracy) for about 2 ½ hours a day maximum. From what I see supervising children on site, our Senior Unit Students are all capable of almost running themselves with little assistance and the Middle Unit are also pretty independent. Don't let them fool you at home – they can do it! I think our Junior Unit and First Steps students do require more assistance... so as I said, pace yourself.

Do the basics... and honestly, if you can't get through the specialist subjects (ART, MUSIC, CHINESE, ICT/Coding, SCIENCE) – then don't stress. Some families are also changing things up... if your child works better in the afternoon, they school then. I know of a couple of families that have Saturday and Sunday as school days, then have Monday and Tuesday as rest days to enable the adult to focus on work at home while the children are relaxing. Be creative! Your week does not have to be conventional 9:00am – 3:15pm. It's probably easier if it is routine-wise... but it doesn't always suit different households. Don't be afraid to mix it up if it means you can make it work better.

## **PAT ON THE BACK**

I just wanted to also give a shout out to our staff. Honestly, they have been amazing and continue to be. All teachers and Education Support Officers are working remotely, supporting the Flexible Learning occurring at home. This has been a huge task and many are busy well beyond normal business hours. I know of many staff phoning families, contacting via WebEx, Facetime or even doing home visits if a concern arises. Truly – they all care and are doing such an amazing job. For some, there are times where teachers are running a remote learning program and trying to support me with on site supervision – two jobs at once! Tricky – but because they want to help the team, they are doing it. As I said above, our parents are doing an amazing job... and therefore, it would be amiss of me not to applaud our staff also on their commitment to education. At Big Hill PS, we really have staff that go above and beyond!

## **STUDENTS**

Who can forget our students? Obviously, they are why we all are connected in the first place... and again, like parents and staff, our little humans are doing such a great job in scary times. For 90% working remotely, well done on staying engaged and working hard, whilst missing your friends and socialising. It's scary times for children, with the media constantly playing on repeat, revealing worrying information... whilst our little ones tune in... in the background. From the blogs and also when supervising on site, I see our students excelling in difficult times.

The learning they are doing is so different to normal classrooms, however, let's not forget the lessons from day-to-day that times like this provide – the importance of family, exercise, creativity, socialisation, friendship, conversation, history, how to cook, garden, care for others etc. Sometimes the learning our students are getting is not immediately obvious to us – but believe me, in the future, much will stay with them about these times... and they will be valuable lessons for life... and for many, some relationships forming now in the home will be strengthened beyond our imagining. Our online platforms are rich learning experiences... but what you do with your children in these times cannot be dismissed. I think this is why so many of our children are doing so well... a team effort between parent, child and staff. Keep up the great work students of Big Hill PS!

### **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, make sure you are responding to teacher emails, answering phone calls, webex meetings OR return completed work to teachers when requested. The 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. For our First Steps children, teachers ask for samples of work to be shared regularly... this also helps us know you are all ok and working effectively at home. Should your child be unwell, please email your child's teacher, myself ([pearce.matthew.d@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:pearce.matthew.d@edumail.vic.gov.au)) or Janet Dean ([dean.janet.j@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:dean.janet.j@edumail.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.

### **CAMPS**

Our Senior and Middle Camps are scheduled for early September. Whilst we can't predict if they will go ahead, you might want to save for the camps just in case. Our Senior Unit have already sent out the first note with payment plans etc, whereas, our Middle Unit are waiting for clearer directions in the coming few weeks. It's too grey an area to say it WILL go ahead, or WON'T go ahead at this stage. Be guided by your child's teacher and Unit... and in the end, save for the camp just in case. At the very worst... your child won't have a camp, but you might have saved quite a bit of money instead that can be used on something else.

### **YEAR 6 – YEAR 7 APPLICATIONS**

By now, all current Year 6 students would have been contacted by Janet Dean outlining the process to enrol for Year 7 at a local State Secondary School. Details of the virtual Information Evening at Crusoe College have also been shared on Facebook, webpage and today's newsletter also. Please direct all your queries to Janet via email – she will be able to help you with any questions you might have.

### **KINDER – PREP ENROLMENT**

The time is fast approaching where current kinder parents will choose the school of their choice. As we work in partnership with our local primary schools, our enrolment program and processes will be shared on our webpage and in local media in the near future. 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. Our contact for Prep enrolment is Janet Dean, who is able to email our information and enrolment packs when required. If you would like one emailed, please do not hesitate to email her at [dean.janet.j@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:dean.janet.j@edumail.vic.gov.au).

### **SCHOOL COUNCIL**

At this point in time, School Council documentation is being emailed out to members to read over. I'm not permitted to have a meeting on site, so will propose a meeting time via webex in the coming week. At this stage, we will postpone next week's meeting to a later date. Check your emails for the rescheduled time and how to access the meeting remotely.

### **BIRTHDAYS**

Happy birthday to Blaik Y, Bonnie S, Poppy S, Chloe V, Nash B, Dexter L & Henry P.

Tomorrow is going to be cool again, as will the weekend... so here's hoping you enjoy some much needed rest over the weekend indoors. Stay warm everyone and keep up the excellent work at home!

Kind regards...

*Matt Pearce, Principal*

## **FIRST STEPS NEWS**

### **BOOK COLLECTION**

Just a reminder that students' Handwriting books are now at the Office ready for collection. Thank you to the families who have already collected their child's books. These books will need to be returned to school when classes resume.



## **WEBEX CLASS MEETINGS**

Now that our families are familiar with using the blog for remote learning, we would like to begin holding WebEx meetings with our classes. We have set up a tentative meeting time for Thursdays at 10:00am. This will give families a chance to set it up and become familiar with using WebEx. We will be sending out an email soon with the meeting code and details as to how to access the meeting. We will be using this time as a catch up with the kids and are looking forward to seeing them, we've missed them!

## **REMOTE LEARNERS OF THE WEEK**

A huge congratulations to the following students for being engaged and enthusiastic remote learners. You have gone above and beyond our expectations and we are all so proud of you! During our WebEx meeting next Thursday we would like to invite you to speak to your classmates about what you have been doing or maybe you have some favourite items you might like to share - your very own Show and Tell from home as a reward for all your hard work.

**FSJ** Jazmine T and Lyla E  
**FSN** Patrick R and Sophia C  
**FSP** Makenzie B and Tasman H-L

**Nicole, Jen, Pauline & Sharyn**

## **JUNIOR UNIT NEWS**

### **FUTURE ASSESSMENTS**

A big thank you to all Junior Unit families again for their efforts this week helping our remote learning program be as successful as possible. Just like all of you we are unsure how long remote learning will continue. As it could potentially be for the remainder of term, we have started to think about the best way to assess students for reports. We will be able to use the work you have been sharing as well as some assessments completed in Term 1. We will also need to book times for one on one sessions with students via WebEx for assessment. We will have more details on these assessment meetings in the coming weeks.

### **READING GROUPS**

Just a reminder for students to attend their weekly reading group if possible. Every reading group starts at 10:30am, you can find your child's day on the 'Video Meetings' section on the Junior Unit blog.

### **REMOTE LEARNERS OF THE WEEK**

We have decided to start recognising students every week in the newsletter who have had a great week of remote learning. They will receive a certificate in the mail and get some special share time during our morning meetings. Our very first remote learners of the week are:

**JR** Xavier P  
**JC** Willow W

Congratulations to these two students! We look forward to seeing some more fantastic work over the next week and recognising two more star remote learners next week.

**Catherine & Rhys**

## **MIDDLE UNIT NEWS**

### **DAILY CHECK IN**

It is great to see many parents and students using Class Dojo each day. We request that all students use Dojo to check in daily with their teacher. This could include posting a photo of a piece of work or just a 'Hi' and short comment about the day's learning. Please use Dojo throughout the day if there are any concerns or questions about students work.

### **WEEK 5**

This week in Reading, students are expected to read every day with a focus on tuning into interesting words. Please remember to fill in the Student Diaries on a daily basis.

In Writing, students will work on a procedural piece that relates to the current handwashing requirements.

In Mathematics, students will be expected to revise the times tables with an emphasis on the 2's, 3's, 4's, 5's and 10's. Lessons will also focus on the teaching of vertical multiplication without renaming then onto problems that require renaming. There will be videos and instructions provided to assist in teaching this process.

### **CONTACT DETAILS**

Please note that teachers can be contacted via Class Dojo or email:

[westley.renae.a@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:westley.renae.a@edumail.vic.gov.au)

[white.dean.a@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:white.dean.a@edumail.vic.gov.au)

[hicks.wendy.e@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:hicks.wendy.e@edumail.vic.gov.au)

You can access our blog at: **34bighill.edublogs.org**.

**Rena, Sandra, Wendy & Dean**

## **SENIOR UNIT NEWS**

### **KEEP GOING!**

Congratulations to all those students and families working hard whilst at home to ensure they are submitting the required work to their teacher. We know that it can be difficult to maintain motivation, and we encourage you all to keep going and keep trying your best. You are doing an amazing job!!

### **YEAR 5/6 CAMP**

Reminder that the first note for the Year 5/6 camp went home in last week's newsletter and is attached again this week. Please inform your child's teacher whether or not your child will be attending as soon as possible.

### **LOOK AFTER YOURSELF**

Whilst we are super impressed with the effort that you have all put into your learning, is also VERY important to look after your mental health (including you, parents). That is why we suggest you take frequent mini breaks between subjects as well as longer breaks for lunch and \*recess\* time. Use this time to breathe in the fresh air and enjoy that beautiful sunshine on your face. Go for a walk / bike ride / scoot. Jump on the trampoline (yes, you too parents) play chase in the backyard and don't forget to laugh (as we know laughter is the best medicine and helps to reduce stress and anxiety)!

## TESTING

As we approach the end of our Math unit on division and begin a new one next week on time, we would just like to remind families that students will be required to complete testing this Friday and Monday on Essential Assessment. Please remember this a time for the students to demonstrate the learning growth whilst at home, so please no help during this phase. Thank you.

## WAYS TO STAY MENTALLY HEALTHY

### 1. Maintain a healthy lifestyle:

- ❖ Setting up a daily routine,
- ❖ Do fun activities throughout the day like reading, baking something scrumptious, learning a new skill,
- ❖ Stay active - Try to do at least 30 minutes of exercise each day,
- ❖ Eat well,
- ❖ Stay connected - with your friends, family and of course, your teacher 😊

### 2. Stay Positive:

- ❖ Remember that this may be a unpleasant time for some, but it will pass, it's not forever,
- ❖ Positive self-talk is important - what you say to yourself does matter, change negative to positive.

### 3. Seek Support

If you or your child need support, seek it. There are many organisations that are offering support during this time, so please reach out if you feel you need it.

Take care and keep up the good work,

**Brett, Kate, Lauren, Roberta & Zoe**



**Year 6 – 7 transition information**

Log on to <http://www.crusoecollege.vic.edu.au/>

Wednesday May 13 from 7:00pm

Click on **Enrolment** then click on **Year 7 2021**



## School Camp Information Year 5/6 2020

The Year 5/6 camp is booked from **Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> September to Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> September**.  
We will be staying at Coastal Forest Lodge Camp, Forest Road, Bellbrae (near Anglesea), Victoria.

***At this stage our camp will be going ahead in Term 3 as long as the State Government of Victoria deems it safe to do so. In order to successfully run the camp we need to get a gauge of how many students will be attending the camp. In the event that the camp is cancelled as directed by the Department of Education, all monies will be refunded/credited to families.***

The camp is fully catered and provides a wide range of fun and challenging activities. The itinerary of the camp will include some of the following activities as well as a day out with SeaEarth Adventures participating in kayaking, raft building and a coastal walk.

- Bushwalk
- Ropes Course
- Archery
- Night Walk
- Bush craft
- Tabloid sports

We will be traveling to the camp by bus. While the camp is fully catered, the students will still need a packed recess and lunch on the first day for the trip to the camp. We will send out more information on the camp including our exact itinerary, contact details and permission forms closer to the camp date.

The cost of the camp will be **\$320**

We require a \$100 deposit to secure bookings which is due to be paid by **Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> May**.  
*Please note that CSEF **cannot** be used for the initial deposit.*

Payment will need to be finalised by **Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> August** (3 weeks prior to the camp). You may pay the total cost in one payment, or by the suggested instalment dates below. If these dates/payment amounts don't suit, you can pay what you can afford when you can afford it, so long as it is paid in full by the due date. Payment options are over the phone using credit card and Qkr **from Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> May** (instalment amounts will be on individually, so if wanting to pay in full, select all instalments), and CSEF for the remainder of \$220 (after deposit) if you are eligible and have applied - if you are not sure if you've applied, please email Janet: [dean.janet.i@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:dean.janet.i@edumail.vic.gov.au).

Deposit of \$100	due by Wednesday, 20 <sup>th</sup> May
Second instalment of \$80	due by Wednesday, 24 <sup>th</sup> June
Third instalment of \$80	due by Wednesday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> July
Final instalment of \$60	due by Wednesday, 12 <sup>th</sup> August

It is extremely important you let your child's teacher know if they ARE (or ARE NOT) attending so we can finalise numbers for organisational purposes.

Please complete and return the form below to your child's teacher. If you have any questions or concerns about the camp please contact your child's teacher. This camp has a very good reputation and we are urging all students to attend.

Kind regards, Ainsley, Brett, Kate, Lauren and Roberta.



### Year 5/6 Camp - Coastal Forest Lodge

My child \_\_\_\_\_, will / will not (please circle) be attending the 2020 – Year 5/6 Coastal Forest Lodge Camp

Parents / Carer's name ..... Signature .....