



Calder Chronicle

NUMBER 21

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THURSDAY, 23RD JULY 2020

CALENDAR

Friday, 24th July

Monday, 27th July

Wednesday, 29th July

Monday, 3rd August

Wednesday 5th August

Wednesday, 12th August

Friday, 14th August

Monday, 31st August

Semester 1 Student reports emailed to parents

STUDENT REPORTING DAY – PUPIL FREE DAY

School Photo Day – see below for more information

100th Day of School

First Steps and Junior Unit Marine Animals Incursion

Orders due on Qkr, or by phone by 9:00am for Pizza Day

Pizza Day

Curriculum Day

School Organisation

Dear Parents / Guardians,

Despite the chaos in the State with high COVID-19 numbers in Metropolitan Melbourne this week, our time at Big Hill PS has been relatively settled, considering. We are indeed fortunate, at the moment, to be living life as close to normal and running a fairly straight forward program for our students. We'd all like this to continue of course, however, should infections spike in our area, who knows what would happen? I guess all we can do is DO THE RIGHT THING. STAY SAFE. SOCIAL DISTANCE. STAY ISOLATED WHEN FEELING UNWELL etc. If we all keep doing this, hopefully, we'll get those 10 weeks in face-to-face.

COVID-19 OPERATIONAL MATTERS

It's never been more apparent than now that we all need to keep enforcing the following to keep us all safe:

- Restrict adults other than staff on site. Please do not come onto the grounds unless absolutely necessary and definitely not when you feel unwell. Phone calls, emails etc are the way to go,
- Children to drink from a drink bottle. Please send a drink bottle to school each day. They can be filled up from taps,
- Children to wash hands / sanitise before and after using the toilet, playing outside, eating food, changing rooms, coughing, using a tissue etc. Families are encouraged to send children with their own hand sanitiser, however, we have plenty of it at school, as well as good old fashioned soap!
- Children to use good cough etiquette, dispose of tissues in the bin, wash hands etc,
- Dismiss children in Prep, 1 & 2 (along with older siblings) at 3:05pm. Years 3-6 will dismiss at 3:15pm (normal times). Ravenswood bus leaving slightly earlier at 3:10pm and Kangaroo Flat bus normally at 3:25pm,
- Staff social distance and don't congregate in internal areas... as well as encouraging hand hygiene, cough etiquette etc,
- Parents / carers not to congregate outside exits... and if they are waiting outside the school, to social distance. Please also social distance when walking home etc,
- Children and families to make use of different entry / exit points to reduce congestion – when waiting, please spread out and find your own space. Ensure you are not blocking the path for others,
- Exclude staff and children who present with flu-like symptoms (ie: the symptoms of COVID-19),
- Permit the use of a face mask for staff and children whom feel safer wearing. They are not mandated for our area... however, if a child or adult chooses to wear one, that is completely fine. Parents waiting for children outside the school can also wear one as a precaution,
- Temperature testing of children coming to First Aid, complaining that they feel unwell. Whole school temperature testing of students does not need to occur in our local shire at this stage.

UNWELL?

If your child has cold or flu-like symptoms, they must stay home. In the current climate, please seek medical advice and get tested for COVID-19, especially if requested by your GP. If a child is sent to school with cold/flu symptoms, families will be contacted and asked to collect students as soon as practically possible. We are unable to leave unwell students in classes as they risk infecting other children and adults. This arrangement is also in place for staff – if one of us is unwell, even quite mildly... we are staying home and seeking medical advice. This is to keep us all safe and at a low risk with COVID-19.

VISITS TO THE SCHOOL

Do you really need to come on site? Could you make a phone call or send an email instead? If you have to come on site, please follow social distancing rules to keep our staff safe. Parents, as outlined above, are not to be on site unless it's absolutely unavoidable. Visits to the Office need to be distanced and safe. Adults that need to escort a child into the school must not enter learning spaces. If picking up your child, ring the Office to organise collection OR visit when numbers in the Office are not exceeding the recommended amount.

REPORTS – SEMESTER 1

Semester 1 reports will be sent home today or tomorrow. These will not be printed, unless requested, due to COVID-19 concerns. Reports will be emailed to families, so please check your emails Friday afternoon to read your child's report. If you have changed your email details, please contact the Office to update your records. Please remember that progression points showing your child's level and growth will only change for those in Prep, Year 1 & 2. Children in Years 3 – 6 will not have progression points altered. This does not mean your child has not moved with their learning, rather, due to COVID-19 and less face to face time, assessments have not been able to be administered to accurately gauge where a child is at. Rather than guess, we have left children where they were at December 2019 and will add more detail during interviews.

STAFFING

Kate Dole will continue to work remotely next week (Week 3), but is conducting Parent Teacher Student Interviews Monday. On Tuesday, Zoe Wright will teach Kate's class, before Leisha Morrison returns from Wednesday – Friday.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Still plenty of odd jumpers and hoodies being worn to school. Please ensure your child is wearing the correct uniform, including jumper, zip-ups etc. If you have a shortage of uniform, just send your child to school in a plain zip up (black) from Kmart etc. Lowes obviously stock plenty of our uniform if your child has outgrown uniform and our BHPS Parents and Friends now enable you to buy second-hand uniform via our Qkr app. Please ensure you send your child to school in uniform – we shouldn't be seeing sports brands, TV shows and local sporting clubs advertised in our yard. We have a uniform to promote a sense of pride and to ensure all children feel equal. Can all parents please ensure children leave home in full school uniform please? Thank you.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

I've had concerned parents raising social-distancing breaches with me this week between adults waiting for their children after school. Whilst I can't control what people do with their lives, particularly out on the street, can I please at least remind you all of two things – 1. The role model you set for all children (including your own) by social distancing AND 2. The danger posed to our community by infection when adults do not social distance. We have children, staff and parents with chronic illness and whilst the majority might be low-risk with the virus, there are many who are not. To be honest, you just never know who might become really unwell. Fines are being given out by police, so please be mindful after school, walking home etc to be spaced apart at all times.

PARENT TEACHER STUDENT INTERVIEWS – NEXT MONDAY

On Monday, our teachers will be conducting "Parent Teacher Student Interviews" throughout the day. Interviews will be done over the phone, unless your child's teacher makes contact to suggest another platform such as Webex. If you still haven't booked in for your interview, please visit the following site: www.schoolinterviews.com.au and use the log on code "vxrwp" to access Big Hill Parent Teacher Interviews. Interview times allocated are from 8am - 6pm, all set for 20 minutes (5 minutes longer than usual just to take into account the logistics of phone calls OR Webex connections etc). When logging into the site, choose your child's teacher and select a time that suits you for the phone call to occur. If available times don't suit you, please contact your child's teacher to negotiate a different time to catch up, rather than just not attending an interview. When participating in the interview, we encourage you to have your child present to contribute their voice on how they are progressing.

PUPIL FREE DAY – NEXT MONDAY

To enable Parent Teacher Interviews to occur, this coming Monday, 27th July is a Pupil Free Day to enable staff to conduct interviews... as well as allow children to be with parents during interview sessions.

YOU TUBE, FORTNITE, MOBILES ETC

From time to time we have some issues raised with us around children being exposed to inappropriate content online, engaging in bullying behaviours out of school hours, participating in disturbing chats with older individuals and making contact with peers via personal mobile use. The quick answer of course is to ensure children are not using applications etc that are not recommended for their age... and when children are using a device... are supervised carefully. Did you know, YouTube, apart from having some amazing videos etc on it, also has the potential to provide access for children to inappropriate content? Do you also know Fortnite has a chat function where random adults can play under the guise of a child and talk about unsavoury matters? Have you also thought about each time you leave a child in a room with a communication device (ie: phone, iPad, X-box) – you are potentially leaving them in a room alone with a stranger? It's a scary thought... but that is the reality. Phones, iPads and X-boxes/games consoles have chat functions... and through those functions, children and adults can expose your child to the sorts of topics you want to avoid. PLEASE – do one thing today – make bedrooms a no device zone... and supervise carefully all online play. Security settings help, but they are not foolproof... some children are technologically skilled and can get around such settings at times.

MOBILES AT SCHOOL

Children are discouraged, at such a young age, from bringing mobiles to school. Where parents insist that a child needs to travel to and from school with a mobile, these must, by Victorian Law, be switched off on entry into the school and handed into the Office. They are not allowed to stay in bags or classroom – rather, when handed in at the Office, Janet and Kerry store them safely in a container and lock them in a safe... all COVID-19 safe also. If you know your child comes to school with a mobile or iPad, please remind them to take them to the Office. Pick up at the of the day is easy... and when exiting the school... devices can be switched back on in case use is required on the way home. Honestly... unless there is a real need (not a want), don't send your child to school with a mobile.

SCHOOL PHOTO DAY – NEXT WEDNESDAY

Our rescheduled School Photo Day is next Wednesday, 29th July. If you returned your school photo form at the start of the year (ie: when we were first meant to have photos and we went into Remote and Flexible Learning), you are all organised. If you are unsure, please check by calling the Office. We have spare forms available to send home, including forms for family photos. I know, normally, if your child was unwell on photo day, historically, parents would drop children in for a quick photo and leave. Due to COVID-19, we cannot do this in 2020. If your child is unwell on school photo day, they must stay home. Sorry for the inconvenience, but that is part of the operational expectations placed on us by the Victorian Government.

PARENT OCCUPATION CHANGES

Due to the August census approaching, we are asking that if any families have had occupation changes (or even are no longer employed) to please let the Office know. This affects our funding, so it is important that we have the correct details on our system.

BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to Trent S, Caitlyn B, Dakota J & Cohen S.

As we look toward Week 3, we will be busy with interviews Monday and then 4 days of hard work in class. Next week will also see the quarter mark of the term pass... time flies when you are having fun.

Until next week...

Matt Pearce, Principal

FIRST STEPS NEWS

INCURSION

The children of the First Steps and Junior Unit will be learning about Marine Animals throughout this term. Usually this science topic of study would see us visiting the Melbourne Sea Life Aquarium, however due to current restrictions this is not possible this year. As an alternative we have organised an incursion by Chris Humphrey's Wildlife, who will be visiting our children and bringing along lots of different creatures for use to look at and learn about on Wednesday, 5th August. Please look out for the permission form which will be sent out tomorrow.

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Just a reminder that Parent Teacher interviews will be held on **Monday, 27th July**. This will be a Pupil Free Day and interviews will be conducted remotely due to current restrictions. Nicole and Pauline will be conducting phone interviews while Jen will be conducting interviews by Webex. This is an opportunity to discuss your child's learning and progress for Semester 1.

Please visit www.schoolinterviews.com.au and use the log in code **vrxwp** to book an interview time with your child's teacher. If you do not have access to the internet at home, please arrange a time directly with your child's teacher.

SCHOOL NURSE FORMS 2020

All students enrolled in their first year of school in Victoria are eligible for a free health assessment. This week your child brought home an envelope containing a questionnaire about your child's health and development. This form allows parents / carers to consent to this assessment and provide health information to the nurse that can be followed up if required. It also enables parents to raise any concerns they may have regarding their child's health and development. Please complete the questionnaire, sign it and return it to your child's classroom teacher by Monday, 3rd August.

100th DAY OF SCHOOL

As we near our 100th Day of School celebration, the children's excitement is starting to grow. We will spend Monday, 3rd August investigating the number 100 as part of the celebration.



A zip lock bag with a note attached will be sent home on Friday for your child to fill with 100 small items. This may include things like buttons, toothpicks, 5c pieces or anything your child chooses that will fit in their bag. We ask that the bags are returned to school by next Friday, 31st July in preparation for our whole unit activities on Monday.

SPELLING

Just a reminder that students will be bringing home 5 spelling words in their Take Home Book, to be practised each night and tested weekly. It is important that their Take Home Books remain in their black reader bag and are returned to school each day.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Thank you to our three wonderful families (Westbury, Gill and Leslie) who have volunteered to help contact our new Little Learners Love Literacy Books.

STARS OF THE WEEK

For showing the School Value of 'Being Responsible' by regularly practising their spelling words at home:

FSN *Mason P*
FSP *Cooper S*
FSJ *Jazmine T*

Nicole, Jen, Pauline & Sharyn

JUNIOR UNIT NEWS

REPORTS

Please check your email inbox tomorrow afternoon for your child's report which will be sent home electronically this semester.

INCURSION

The children of the First Steps and Junior Unit will be learning about Marine Animals throughout this term. Usually this science topic of study would see us visiting the Melbourne Sea Life Aquarium, however due to current restrictions this is not possible this year. As an alternative we have organised an incursion by Chris Humphrey's Wildlife, who will be visiting our children and bringing along lots of different creatures for use to look at and learn about on Wednesday, 5th August. Please look out for the permission form which will be sent out tomorrow.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

Our school photos will be taken next Wednesday, 29th July. Please ensure that your child brings along their photo form on or before photo day. Family forms are available. Please call the Office to have one sent home with your child.

MARINE ANIMALS

We would like to ask families to send in items for our classroom marine creature display. Items such as books, sea shells, trinkets, marine toys / stuffed animals, etc would be good to add to our collection in order to immerse ourselves in our Science topic this term.

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

We would like to remind you that children are not required at school on Monday, 27th July as this is a Pupil Free Day.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For working hard to research and write their first marine animal information report:

JR **Kelson G**
JC **Chad S**

Catherine & Rhys

MIDDLE UNIT NEWS

REPORTS

Student reports will be emailed to parents tomorrow. Most families will access their child's Semester One reports via email. If parents do not have an email address then alternative arrangements can be made.

PARENT / TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Just a reminder that next Monday will be a Pupil Free Day as teachers will be conducting phone interviews throughout the day. If you would like to book an interview with your child's teacher, please go to schoolinterviews.com for available times. This will be an opportunity to discuss your child's Semester One report.

HOMEWORK

Last week saw the return of Homework Booklets that include spelling, writing and numeracy tasks. Although Homework Books and Diaries are due back to school every Friday, teachers do encourage students to return the booklets earlier in the week for correction. Students are reminded to learn their 10 allocated words each week in preparation for Friday's spelling test. It is great to see students keeping up their home reading and completing diary entries.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For displaying the Value of 'Safety':

MD **Caitlyn B**
MR **Tyrone D**
MW **Jett G**

Renae, Sandra, Wendy & Dean

SENIOR UNIT NEWS

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Our parent teacher interviews will be conducted via phone by Senior Unit staff. Please note that when the call comes in, you will see an unknown or No Caller ID number on your phone which will most likely be your child's teacher.

REPORTS

Your child's report will be emailed out shortly, please read through carefully and if you have any questions, ensure that you make a booking for Monday's Parent Teacher Interviews.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

As there has been quite a lot of cold weather this term we are asking that all students wear either a school jacket / jumper or a plain black jacket / jumper. We are noticing a lot of our students regularly out of school uniform without notes from parents. Remember that our P&F have their second hand uniform available via our Qkr app if you need it.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For demonstrating GEM principles:

SA **Adalia C**
SB **Tait R**
SK **Ella G**
SL **Mikayla F**

Ainsley, Brett, Kate, Lauren & Roberta

PARENTS & FRIENDS NEWS

SECOND HAND UNIFORM SHOP

We now have our online platform through Qkr open to purchase items. Once the payment comes through to us, we will pack and send home your order with your child. If it is ordered before 5:30pm it will be sent home the next school day, but if it is after 5:30pm, it will be sent home the day after that.

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?? It's FREE to join and by simply doing your usual online shopping through our unique landing page, you will contribute towards the school without even leaving your home. Better still you'll earn cash rewards for yourself at the same time. You really can't lose! Signing up is easy just head to our unique landing page and follow the prompts: (<https://www.cashrewards.com.au/community/schools/big-hill-primary-school>)

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

CANTEEN NEWS

EXCITING NEWS!

As some activities have had to be cancelled this year, we thought that we could enjoy one of the students' favourite days and have pizza TWICE this term!

The first pizza day will be mid-term on Friday, 14th August, and the second one at the end of term as usual.

Orders can be placed now on the Qkr app, or over the phone to the Office. No cash orders please. Don't forget, you can also order iced treats via the app, eliminating the need for cash on the day.

QKR APP ISSUES

Qkr Functionally Update for Users Not Able to **Connect to Server**

If you are having trouble using the app, you will need to reinstall it to apply the current changes. You may also need to reset your password. Apologies for any inconvenience.

If you still can't get it to work, you can always pay for Canteen orders or OSHC using your card over the phone through the Office by calling 5447 7022.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB

Issue 5 is now available to peruse and order online. Apologies, but due to the current climate, we are unable to send out paper copies.

Go to <https://www.scholastic.com.au/book-club/book-club-parents/> to see the latest catalogue and order online.

COMMUNITY NEWS

BENDIGO AND SURROUNDS MULTIPLE BIRTH ASSOCIATION Starting School for Multiples

Wed 5th August - 8pm

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST NOW!!

through facebook or email @ bendigo_mba@live.com

Come join our Q and A with school aged multiples parents and educators to hear their experiences, recommendations, and strategies for multiples starting school.

In this session we welcome all families with multiples who are starting school, in the foundation years, and those with children who will be attending school in the coming years.

Our sessions will be run on the 'GoToMeeting' platform (www.gotomeeting.com). Please register your interest to receive the meeting ID and link to join.

We hope to see you there!

FRIDAY, 14TH AUGUST

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, 12th August. Late orders cannot be accepted.
- ✚ **AND YOU CAN NOW ORDER ICED TREATS ON QKR!**

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