



Calder Chronicle

NUMBER 1

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THURSDAY, 4TH FEBRUARY 2021

CALENDAR

Friday, 5th February

Tuesday, 9th February

Wednesday, 10th February

Thursday, 11th February

Friday, 12th February

Tuesday, 16th February

Wednesday, 17th February

Tuesday, 23rd February

Wednesday, 24th February

Monday, 2nd March

Thursday, 1st April

Instrumental Music Program enrolment forms due by 3:15pm

FREE Breakfast Club 8:30am – 8:45am, all students welcome

Captain / Vice Captain applications due

Preps day off

FREE Breakfast Club starts on Thursdays – 8:30am to 8:45am, all students welcome

Scholastic Book Club orders and money due

First Steps & Junior Unit Information Night

Preps day off

Middle & Senior Units Information Night

School Council Meeting

Preps last day off

Somers Camp

LAST DAY FOR TERM 1 – EARLY DISMISSAL OF 2:15PM

**FACE MASKS REQUIRED
INDOORS BY ADULTS
FROM TODAY**

School Organisation

Dear Parents / Guardians,

Welcome or welcome back... whichever is the case for you! The Calder Chronicle, our Big Hill PS newsletter, is your one stop source of information relating to the school. Published every Thursday thanks to our lovely Administration Officer Janet, you will never be behind the times if you read the newsletter weekly. I seriously can't stress enough how important it is to read the newsletter, as there is always something relevant to your child in every edition... as well as reminders about camps, excursions, special days, fundraising, family support etc.

I do hope you had a wonderful Summer Break, spending some quality time with your child/ren. It's certainly been a strange and uncertain break, with so many changes across the states with COVID-19 border closures etc. Hopefully that didn't affect you and your family enjoying some time together! Holidays are a special time where you break routine, children rest up and time is spent doing things that sometimes go out the window when the usual busy routine begins.

As we launch into 2021... know this... you play a crucial role in supporting the growth of your child academically. Please never forget that by working closely with the school (especially your child's classroom teacher), you are doing the best you can for your loved one/s. Ensure they complete homework, read, practise mathematics, use their Reading Eggs / Mathletics / Math Seeds subscriptions regularly also to ensure that what is learnt at school is reinforced at home... oh and don't worry if your child says they DON'T WANT TO DO IT... remember who is boss at home and ensure they do what is required... because you ultimately know what is best ☺.

Here's looking to an amazing year for you, your family and especially... your child / children!

PREPS

We had 38 new Preps begin this week with Pauline, Rhys, Leisha and Nicole. I'm sure our new students were very excited (and nervous) about their big start to schooling, but will soon settle into routines and will love school like so many of our students do! I'm looking forward to getting to know our new students (and families)... as I'm sure are the rest of our staff. Just a reminder to families that our Prep students do not attend school on Wednesdays during February. During the Wednesdays away from school, entry to school assessments will continue with each child. Wednesdays off also ensure our Preps, like the rest across the State, get used to attending school for full days with no more than 2 consecutive days at a time. They do tire quickly, so a regular rest day really helps them prepare for full time schooling in March.

READING

Goal: 225 days of reading for the year! If your child reads each school night throughout the year, they will achieve this goal easily. Start by recording nightly reading in your child's reading log or diary (depending on age level) so that a total can be collated at the end of the year. It's important for all parents to keep a check on the recording of the nights read on a weekly basis, so make a point of checking diaries and signing them regularly. For younger students, recording in the reading log is usually done by the parent each night anyway. On achieving 225+ nights at the end of the year, children who achieve the goal will receive a special certificate and prize. Can I remind all families that nightly reading is important for all children, including those in Years 5 and 6. If they don't keep reading and practising – they will not keep maturing as a reader.

PARKING

The illegal parking of vehicles adjacent to our school poses a safety concern to children, pedestrians and other road users. Parents are reminded that it is essential to comply with parking restrictions when dropping off and collecting children from school. Motorists must not stop in no stopping areas, even briefly, with or without the motor running.

They must not stop next to a continuous yellow edge line, on resident's nature strips, too close to school crossings, park over driveways or double park. A number of schools have short term time restricted areas, such as 2 minute pick up/drop off. These parking areas are in place to allow for ease of access close to schools and these restrictions must be adhered to – at Big Hill PS, our drop off zone is adjacent to the administration building (behind the rotunda). Please ensure you do not leave your car unattended in this area also, as our Ravenswood bus needs to have access in the morning and afternoon and must be able to park. Drivers should also be aware that they cannot perform a U-turn over an unbroken or continuous dividing line. With regard to children's crossings, the law requires that a driver approaching a children's crossing must drive at a speed at which the driver can, if necessary stop safely before the crossing. Please slow down and take extra care when driving in school zones. City of Greater Bendigo Parking Officers and Bendigo Police do conduct random patrols throughout the school year at various locations to ensure that motorists are adhering to the Road Rules – so please do the right thing for the sake of our children.

NEWSLETTER

Newsletters are uploaded to our school website: www.bighillps.vic.edu.au each Thursday. Parents are asked to ensure that read the newsletter each Thursday as it is the main form of communication between school and parents. A limited number of printed copies will be available from the office (if requested), and an electronic version is available via our email distribution list. To have your name added to this list, please leave your email address at the Office. It is also available via our communication app – Flexischools (see later in newsletter for details). Note: for privacy reasons, the newsletter does not include surnames of students.

SCHOOL TIMES

A reminder that school times are:

8:45am	Bag Bell – students allowed into classrooms
9:00am	Lessons commence – first learning block
10:00am	Brain food eaten in class
11:15am – 11:25am	Students eat Lunch sized snack/s inside
11:25am – 12:00pm	Morning play break
12:00pm – 1:45pm	Middle learning block
1:45pm – 2:15pm	Afternoon play break. Canteen orders delivered and lunch sized snack eaten undercover (outdoors) during the first 10 minutes of the break.
2:15pm – 3:15pm	Final learning block
3:15pm	Dismissal

Children will remain inside to eat from 11:15am to 11:25am and we're suggesting that this is a good time to eat a larger meal, such as a sandwich. The second break runs from 1:45pm – 2:15pm and is outside. This is a better time to eat smaller snacks, unless your child has a canteen order, which will be eaten at this time in a designated area. A great idea is to pack two good sized snack packs (including a sandwich for the first) for each break. Brain food will still be eaten at 10:00am whilst the children are working in their classes. This snack must be either fresh fruit or vegetables – no tinned or packaged fruit during Brain Food time please. We also have children with a peanut allergy, so ask that all lunch boxes are NUT FREE.

SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS

A teacher is on yard duty from 8:45am. In the afternoon, a teacher is on duty until 3:30pm, monitoring the footpath from the rotunda to the McInnes Street gate and surrounds. We also have two teachers supervising those students who use the Ravenswood and Kangaroo Flat buses. At 3:30pm all children remaining (including those who may be playing on the playground) will gather on the seats in the Office foyer and parents called. If these times do not suit, Outside School Hours Care is available before and after school. As parents, your duty of care is active until 8:45am each morning and after 3:30pm each day. Due to this, please ensure students **aren't at school before 8:45am** and are **picked up in a timely manner at the end of the day**. Thanks for your cooperation.

PERMISSION FORMS

Student Enrolment Information Forms, Privacy/Local Excursion forms (new families only), IT forms, CSEF application forms and Smiles dental forms were sent home this week. Please complete and return to the Office by next Friday, 12th February. Thank you.

PUNCTUALITY

Punctuality is very important. Please assist your child by having them at school on time. Children who arrive late often find it difficult to settle for the day and are disadvantaged in catching up to their classmates and subsequently miss major parts of the reading lesson block – a very important part of the day.

2021 CURRICULUM DAYS

Just a reminder of our Curriculum days for this year:

Term 2	Friday, 4 th June
Term 3	Monday, 23 rd August

VICTORIAN SCHOOL TERM DATES FOR 2017

Term 1:	Wednesday, 27 th January (school teachers start) to Thursday, 1 st April
Term 2:	Monday, 19 th April to Friday, 25 th June
Term 3:	Monday, 12 th July to Friday, 17 th September
Term 4:	Monday, 4 th October to Friday, 17 th December

ARRIVING LATE / LEAVING EARLY

If for some reason your child arrives late or needs to leave the school prior to the end of the school day, we ask that you come via the Office and complete the sign in / out register. These requirements are necessary to comply with Department regulations, minimise legal liabilities, assist with emergency management and to provide adequate duty of care. You will need to identify yourself when collecting children.

PERSONAL GOODS BROUGHT TO SCHOOL AT OWNER'S RISK

Personal property is often brought to school by students, staff and visitors. This can include mobile phones, calculators, toys, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises. The Department of Education and Training (DET) does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it will generally not pay for any loss or damage to such property. Therefore, bringing any unnecessary or particularly valuable items to school is discouraged.

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

As a school we do as much as we can to protect and care for injured students including first aid, notifying parents and emergency contacts if students are injured or hurt, and if necessary, an ambulance is called. Parents and guardians are generally responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs. Most medical costs will be refunded by Medicare. If you are a member of an ambulance or health insurance fund, you may also be able to claim transport or other expenses from that fund. The Department of Education and Training (DET) does not hold accident insurance for school students. Reasonably low cost accident insurance policies are available from the commercial insurance sector and these can be obtained by parents for their children.

2021 BOOKLISTS

The great majority of booklists have been ordered, paid for and delivered to the school. This has allowed staff and students to get off to a good start. All items are stored and cared for by teachers and used by students throughout the year on an ongoing, needs basis. JI Office Products once again did our booklists and I assure you... any issues with booklists will be promptly rectified should you need to call them. If you haven't paid for your booklist and organised for it to be delivered to school, you will need to contact JI Office Products directly on 5444 2242 to organise collection promptly.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our first School Council meeting for 2021 will be on Tuesday, 23rd February. Finance will meet at 6:00pm, before our February meeting at 6:30pm. Elections for School Council 2021 will commence shortly... with information included below. For those that prefer, School Council will be offered in both Webex form and on site this year. Meeting invites will be sent closer to the date along with meeting materials.

STAFFING

First Steps Unit –	Prep/Year 1 Pauline Mulcair, Prep/Year 1 Nicole Peach Monday – Thursday and Leisha Morrison on Friday and Prep/Year 1 Rhys Bull
Junior Unit –	Year 1/2 Jen Nicholls with Zoe Wright (occasional days until Jen is back to full time), Year 1/2 Catherine Kelley
Middle Unit –	Year 2/3 Wendy Hicks, Year 3/4 Dean White and Year 3/4 Renae Westley Tuesday – Friday and Leisha Morrison on Monday
Senior Unit –	Year 4/5 Brett Strange, Year 5/6 Kate Dole, Year 5/6 Ainsley Stanley and Year 5/6 Lauren Adcock Monday – Thursday and Roberta Mathers on Friday
Specialists –	Sharyn Burnett (Reading Recovery), Leisha Morrison (Visual Art Tuesday – Thursday), Shufang Xu / Ella (Chinese Wednesday and Thursday), Roberta Mathers (STEM Wednesday), Nick Reid (Music Tuesday – Thursday), Cheryl Holt (Reading intervention Prep/Year 1 Monday – Thursday), Zoe Wright (Tutor Program Year 3, 4, 5 & 6 Monday – Wednesday and May McLean (Tutor Program Year 1/2 Tuesday – Thursday)
Education Support –	Kerry Prentice (Business Manager), Janet Dean (Administration Manager), Jenny Brown (Integration Aid), Clare Grant (Integration Aid), Pam Farnell (Integration Aid), Tess Tresize (Integration Support), Amy Mountjoy (Integration Support), Tammy Fear (Integration Support and Canteen Manager), Sam Esmore (Integration Support) and Don Serle (Maintenance)

STAFFING UPDATE

We welcomed our new Chinese teacher, Ella (Shufang Xu) to Big Hill PS this week. Ella will take over the teaching of Chinese from Wen. Welcome to Ella ☺. Unfortunately, Jen Nicholls had some health issues and will teach her class at a reduced time fraction (Monday – Wednesday) until she is 100% fit. In the coming weeks, Zoe Wright will work with Jen to teach her each Thursday and Friday.

QKR AND FLEXISCHOOLS

Qkr is our payment app and Flexischools is our communication app. They are available from the app / play store and, once installed allow you to pay for all things school related (including hats, second hand uniform, excursions, OSHC fees and Canteen orders). The newsletter and other important information is sent out through the Flexischools app, and because it sends a notification as soon as posted, you can keep up to date with what is happening when it is happening. If you need any help with these 2 apps, please contact the Office.

FACEBOOK

Our school has a Facebook account and a Parents and Friends account that parents are able to join. Please search for Big Hill PS & Big Hill PS P&F and, once accepted, will get notifications when the newsletter is available and other news/event details.

SCHOOL CAPTAINS

Year 6 students are eligible to apply for our School Captain and Vice School Captain positions. If interested, students are asked to write a letter to myself and the Senior Unit Team, outlining why they would like to be School Captain, what they would hope to achieve in the role, why it would be good for them etc. We encourage any child with a desire to put in an application, as we never know who might take on the role until letters are in. It's a good lesson for children to "have-a-go" and accept the outcome, whether they are successful or not. Please read the SENIOR UNIT section of the newsletter for more information.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL (formerly known as STUDENT VOICE)

Each year, we run a STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL (SRC). The SRC will comprise two students from each class (Years 2-6) and will work with our School Wellbeing Officer (Chaplain), Cara Barnes three times a term. The group, when chosen, will organise fundraisers, talk about school improvement and on occasion, assist around the school on special occasions etc. The process for being selected will be underway shortly. If your child is keen, they need to write a short letter to Cara outlining why they would be a great addition to the Big Hill PS SRC and return it to the Office in the next few weeks.

RAVENSWOOD BUS

At Big Hill PS, we coordinate the Ravenswood bus service, which travels from Big Hill PS, down the Calder Highway to Fogarty's Gap Road (Maldon/Harcourt North exit) and returns to Bendigo on the inbound side of the Calder Highway, past the Ravenswood Petrol Station, Ravenswood Interchange (Calder Highway Alternate Route/Mildura Marong exit) etc and back over Big Hill. This service has strict times that it must adhere to, as part of the association with Public Transport Victoria (PTV). Due to this, Ange (our bus driver) will arrive at the agreed pick up points on time and cannot wait if you are running late. If you are not at the bus stop on time, Ange has been instructed to leave and continue the service. In the event that a family misses the bus, alternative travel arrangements will need to be made to school on these occasions, which most likely means that families will need to drive students to school. Thanks for your understanding.

BUSHFIRE and CODE RED DAYS

Fire danger ratings and warnings are used in Victoria to provide clear direction on the safest options for preserving life. Schools and children's services listed on the DET Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR) will be closed when a Code Red fire danger rating day is determined in their Bureau of Meteorology district. **Our school has been identified as being one of those at high bushfire risk and is listed on the BARR.**



Where possible, we will provide parents with up to four days notice of a potential Code Red day closure by letter, the Big Hill PS website, Big Hill PS and P&F Facebook pages and on the Flexibuzz app. A Code Red day will be determined by the Emergency Management Commissioner no later than 1:00pm the day before the potential closure. Once we are advised of the confirmation of the Code Red day we will provide you with advice before the end of the school day.

Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, regardless of improvements in the weather forecast.

This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child. It is also important to note that: No staff will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Code Red day. Out of school hours care will also be cancelled on these days. School camps will be cancelled if a Code Red fire danger rating day is determined for the Bureau of Meteorology district in which the camp is located.

As a bus coordinating school all bus routes will be cancelled, ie. Ravenswood bus run. Depending on which Bureau of Meteorology district is impacted other bus route (not coordinated by Big Hill PS) cancellations may affect our school eg. Kangaroo Flat bus.

On these Code Red days families are encouraged to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan – **on such days children should never be left at home or in the care of older children.** For those of us living in a bushfire prone area, the CFA advise that when Code Red days are forecast, the safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Code Red day. As part of preparing our school for potential hazards such as fire, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan, reprioritised any maintenance works that may assist in preparing for the threat of fire and cleared our facility's grounds and gutters.

What can parents do? Make sure your family's bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements in the event that our school is closed. Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers. Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters, by checking our website www.bighillps.vic.edu.au or Facebook pages and by talking to your child's teacher or any other member of the teaching staff about our emergency management plan. Most importantly at this time of year, if you're planning a holiday or short stay in the bush or in a coastal area, you should check warnings in advance of travel and remain vigilant during your stay. If your child is old enough, talk to them about bushfires and your family's bushfire survival plan.

You can access more information about children's services closures on the Department of Education and Training website – see <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/pages/closures.aspx> For up-to-date information on this year's fire season see: <https://emergency.vic.gov.au> Facebook (facebook.com/cfavic) Twitter (twitter.com/CFA_Updates) ABC local radio, Sky News and other emergency broadcasters and the VicEmergency Hotline (1800 226 226).

PARENTS AND FRIENDS (P&F)

Our P&F met today for their February meeting, discussing many things on the radar including a mix of fundraisers, community events and fun activities for the community. The group do a wonderful job raising additional funds for the school and they are always looking for new members. If you can help them, even in the smallest way, why not get in touch via email: bhpspf@gmail.com, I know they would love to hear from you. Alternatively, why not become a member and attend the Annual General Meeting? Details of meetings and events are always outlined in the P&F section of the newsletter. P&F also have a great Facebook page... if you are a Facebook user... why not search up and join Big Hill Parents and Friends AND Big Hill Primary School whilst you are there!

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS –

Information for parents from the Department of Education and Training (DET)

What is a school council and what does it do? All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the broad directions of a school in accordance with their constituting Order and the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006*. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students. **Who is on the school council?** For most primary school councils, there are three possible categories of membership: 1. A mandated elected Parent member category – more than one-third of the total members must be from this category. DET employees can be Parent members at their child's school as long as they are not engaged in work at the school. 2. A mandated elected DET employee member category – members of this category may make up no more than one-third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members. 3. An optional Community member category – members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members. Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections. **Why is parent membership so important?** Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help inform and shape the direction of the school. Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging. **Do I need special experience to be on school council?** Each member brings their own valuable life skills and knowledge to the role. However, councillors may need to develop skills and acquire knowledge in areas that are unfamiliar to them. What you do need is an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

Code of conduct for school councillors - School councils in Victoria are public entities as defined by the *Public Administration Act 2004*. School councillors must abide by the *Code of Conduct – Employees* issued by the Victorian Public Sector Commission. The Code of Conduct is based on the Victorian public sector values and requires councillors to: **act with honesty and integrity** (be truthful, open and clear about their motives and declare any real, potential or perceived conflict of interest and duty), **act in good faith** in the best interests of the school (work cooperatively with other councillors and the school community, be reasonable, and make all decisions with the best interests of students foremost in their minds), **act fairly and impartially** (consider all relevant facts of an issue before making a decision, seek to have a balanced view, never give special treatment to a person or group and never act from self interest), **use information appropriately** (respect confidentiality and use information for the purpose for which it was made available), **exercise due care, diligence and skill** (accept responsibility for decisions and do what is best for the school), **use the position appropriately** (not use the position as a councillor to gain an advantage), **act in a financially responsible manner** (observe all the above principles when making financial decisions), **comply with relevant legislation and policies** (know what legislation and policies are relevant for which decisions and obey the law) AND **demonstrate leadership and stewardship** (set a good example, encourage a culture of accountability, manage risks effectively, exercise care and responsibility to keep the school strong and sustainable).

Indemnity for school council members: School councillors are indemnified against any liability in respect of any loss or damage suffered by the council or any other person in respect of anything necessarily or reasonably done, or omitted to be done by the councillor in good faith in: the exercise of a power or the performance of a function of a councillor, or the reasonable belief that the act or omission was in the exercise of a power or the performance of a function of a council. In other words, school councillors are not legally liable for any loss or damage suffered by council or others as a result of reasonable actions taken in good faith.

How can you become involved? The most obvious way is to vote in the school council elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant. In view of this, you might consider: standing for election as a member of the school council OR encouraging another person to stand for election.

What do you need to do to stand for election? The principal will issue a Notice of Election and Call for Nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year (*It's included in today's newsletter as part of School Council Elections information*). All school council elections must be completed by the end of March unless the usual time line has been varied by the Minister. If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent member category (*forms available from the Office*). DET employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not engaged in work, are eligible to nominate for Parent membership of the school council at that school. Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the Notice of Election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt via post, email or by hand following the receipt of your completed nomination. If there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Remember: Consider standing for election to school council this year. Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do. Be sure to vote in the elections – if we have more nominations than positions. Contact the Principal (Matt Pearce) for further information.

AN ELECTION IS TO BE CONDUCTED FOR MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COUNCIL OF BIG HILL PS

Nomination forms may be obtained from the Office and must be lodged by 3:15pm on Friday, 5th March 2021. If a ballot is required (depending on the number of nominations), this will close at 3:15pm on Friday, 12th March 2021.

Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school. The terms of Office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows:

Membership Category	Terms of Office	Currently Held by	Number of Positions
Department of Education and Training	March 2021 – March 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pauline Mulcair • Kate Dole <p><i>(Both will need to renominate if they wish to continue)</i></p>	2
Parent	March 2021 – March 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toby Sullivan • Shane Chapman • Naomi Pietzsch <p><i>(Toby, Shane and Naomi will need to renominate if they wish to continue)</i></p>	3

Please feel free to contact me for further information. Nomination forms are available from the Office or can be organised to be sent home for signing.

ELECTION TIMELINE

- Friday, 5th February** Call for nominations (forms available from the Office)
- Friday, 5th March** Closing date for nominations (forms must be returned to the Office by 3:15pm on this date). Nominations assessed and the need for a ballot decided.
If ballot is not required, new School Council announced and meet soon after this date.
OR Ballot set up (if required)
- Friday, 12th March** Close of Ballot (if required)
- Tuesday, 16th March** Counting of Ballot (if required)
Declaration of Ballot
New School Council announced and will meet shortly after this date

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

This year, we will again run our beginning of the year meetings as a group. The format, like the last few years, will see parents and their child/ren attending a session, where all staff in the Unit introduce themselves, outline important curriculum information (literacy, numeracy etc), discuss expectations (such as homework, behaviour, use of ICT etc.) and organise follow-up interviews (where required) or telephone / email communication alternatives. This short session (30 minutes) will conclude and then students will escort parents to their classrooms where they will share their learning to date, as well as allowing students to share different elements of their classrooms with their families. While this is occurring, classroom teachers will be available to meet and greet and answer any questions. As stated, for parents who feel they need a more private form of exchanging information after this meeting, an additional catch up can be organised at this time, or alternatively phone or email contact can be established. I do encourage all families to attend, particularly to allow your child to show you where they learn, what they have been doing in class and to ensure you and your child's teacher have met and have communication set up for the year. To be fair to working families, our sessions begin at either 5:30pm or 6:30pm and will go no longer than 45-60 minutes. Dates and times for particular units are listed below. **Due to COVID-19 we are having to ask families to indicate if they are attending so that we can ensure we meet regulations when meeting indoors. To be safe, visitors on this night will also need to wear a FACE MASK indoors.**

FIRST STEPS UNIT – PREP/YEAR 1 Pauline Mulcair, Rhys Bull and Nicole Peach / Leisha Morrison Tuesday, 16 th February, 5:30pm Venue to be determined on site at Big Hill PS	MIDDLE UNIT – YEAR 3/4 Renae Westley / Leisha Morrison, Dean White and Wendy Hicks Wednesday, 17 th February, 5:30pm Venue to be determined on site at Big Hill PS
JUNIOR UNIT – YEAR 1/2 Catherine Kelley and Jennifer Nicholls (and Zoe Wright) Tuesday, 16 th February, 6:30pm Venue to be determined on site at Big Hill PS	SENIOR UNIT – YEAR 4/5/6 Brett Strange, Ainsley Stanley, Lauren Adcock / Roberta Mathers and Kate Dole Wednesday, 17 th February, 6:30pm Venue to be determined on site at Big Hill PS

More information about these important nights for families will be shared next week, but for now, you can save the date to ensure attendance is possible.

CAMPS, SPORT AND EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

DO YOU HAVE A CONCESSION CARD? WOULD YOU LIKE \$125 TO PAY FOR SCHOOL COSTS? MAKE SURE YOU READ THIS SECTION!

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student misses out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their achievements. CSEF will be provided to eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities. If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child. The annual CSEF amount per student is: \$125 for primary school students and \$225 for secondary school students. CSEF application forms were sent home this week. If you didn't receive one, we have spares at the Office. Parents/carers are reminded that all CSEF applications are due as soon as possible to enable funds to be used for excursions and camps. We can't apply for this on your behalf – so please make sure you put in an application if eligible. If you received CSEF funding in 2020 at Big Hill Primary School, you do not need to reapply. If you are unsure, please check at the Office.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Every week a student from each class is chosen as STUDENT OF THE WEEK, based on different criteria chosen by the teacher. Sometimes it might be for displaying one of our School Values. At other times it might be for demonstrating a special quality that has been the focus of work within the class for the previous week, or for displaying desirable work practices and attitudes during class. As part of our Thursday newsletter, STUDENTS OF THE WEEK will be announced. On Monday, a special certificate is handed to winners by their classroom teachers. Parents and family are more than welcome to attend Monday morning assemblies at 9:00am to see their child get presented. If you follow us on Facebook (Big Hill Primary School Facebook Page) you may just see photos of the occasion online too!

TUTOR PROGRAM

This year our school will run additional tutoring (in class times and most of the time within the class structures) for children who may have not progressed as well during the REMOTE AND FLEXIBLE PERIOD OF LEARNING in 2020 (due to COVID-19). Children are chosen by the teacher judgement at the end of 2020 to qualify. We have children from Year 1 – 6 involved this year, who will work with either May McLean or Zoe Wright. We will have both ladies working at school until the end of Term 3, helping support the learning of those children identified.

OSHC FEE INCREASE

In Term 2 of 2021, due to ever increasing operating costs, we have been forced to raise the prices for both our Before School Care & After School Care sessions. The new cost will be \$11 for Before School Care (before CCS) and \$18 for After School Care (before CCS). Apologies, but to remain open, we need to cover all costs.

BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to Rylan S, Nikirra S, Lexi C, Abby M, Olivia K, Matilda R, Wil G, Blair W, Isabella B, Tellium M, Wilkie H, Anna S, Tasman HL, Celeste N, Hope G, Mia P, Ayla R, Lily J, Kohen S, Shanay O, Jobe D & Harley W.

It's a big first newsletter, but there's always a lot of information to start the year... I promise most week's won't be as long! Have a great Friday and an even better weekend!

Matt Pearce, Principal

FIRST STEPS NEWS

WELCOME BACK

Welcome to all returning and new families to the First Steps Unit for 2020. We are looking forward to an exciting year filled with wonderful learning experiences.

SPECIALIST

Students have really enjoyed attending some specialist programs this week. Just a reminder that children need to bring in an Art Smock to protect their uniform during Art sessions and a Library Bag to protect the library books. Thank you to the parents who have already sent in these items. Please remember to clearly label these items.

Specialist Timetable		
	Tuesday	Thursday
FS Nicole	Art	Chinese Music Library
FS Pauline	Art	Chinese Music Library
FS Rhys		Art Chinese Music Library

BRAIN FOOD

This week students have been learning about and revising the importance of Brain Food and how it helps us to maintain energy and concentration levels. We have seen lots of delicious fruit and vegetables in our classes over the last two weeks. We would like to remind parents that Brain Food is only a quick snack during class time therefore it would be great if parents could cut up the fruit and vegetables at home to make it easier for your child to eat. Thank you for your co-operation.

DRINK BOTTLES AND HATS

Just a reminder to send a named water bottle and a school broad brim hat to school every day with your child in order to keep them hydrated and Sunsmart during the day.

PREPS DAY OFF

Just a reminder that all Prep students are not required at school on Wednesdays during February (3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th) and will commence school 5 days a week starting in March.

STARS OF THE WEEK

For a great start to Term 1!

FSN, FSP, FSR ALL STUDENTS

Nicole, Leisha, Pauline & Rhys

JUNIOR UNIT NEWS

WELCOME BACK

The Junior Unit staff would like to welcome all students and families back to school for what promises to be a wonderful year. We hope that you all enjoyed a nice, relaxing break. The children have returned to school happy, energetic and ready to learn. We are looking forward to an exciting year ahead.

DRINK BOTTLES AND HATS

As we have returned to school and we have had some warm days, it is important to send your child to school with a named water bottle and hat in order to keep them hydrated and SunSmart during the day. If your child does not bring a hat to school, they will be asked to play in the undercover area outside of the multipurpose room.

HOME READING

As we begin our year, we would like to remind you of the importance of home reading. Our goal this year is to achieve 225 nights of home reading by the end of the year. We would like to remind families of the importance of reading at home daily in order to further develop your child's decoding and comprehension skills. We wish all of our children the best in achieving the 225 nights of home reading goal and thank you for your support in this endeavour.

SPECIALIST CLASSES

Our specialist classes this term include Music, Library, Art and Chinese. Please see the timetable below and ensure that children bring along their Library bags on their allocated day and that their Art Smocks are returned to school as soon as possible.

JJ Music & Art - Tuesday,
Library & Chinese – Wednesday

JC Music & Art - Tuesday,
Library & Chinese – Wednesday

NOTES

Last Friday children were sent home with several notes including an IT form, student information update, local excursion/privacy permission form (new families only) and a school dentist permission form. Thank you to those who have returned these already. If you have not yet sent the forms back to school, please return these to the Office by Friday, 12th February.

ALL ABOUT ME BOOKS

As we begin the new school year with children brought together from different 2020 First Steps and Junior Unit classes we would like to give children the opportunity to share important details about themselves with their new classmates. Your child has brought home an 'All About Me' mini book today which we would like them to complete at home and return to school over the coming weeks.

Please take the time to help your child work through the booklet as neatly as possible. During the next 3 or 4 weeks, your child will share their booklet with the class and answer questions about their favourite things and themselves. We look forward to hearing all about our new students and the things they love.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

For a fantastic start to the school year:

JC & JJ

ALL STUDENTS

Catherine, Jen & Zoe

MIDDLE UNIT NEWS

WELCOME

Welcome to the 2021 school year. We look forward to a wonderful year of learning in the Middle Unit.

DOJO

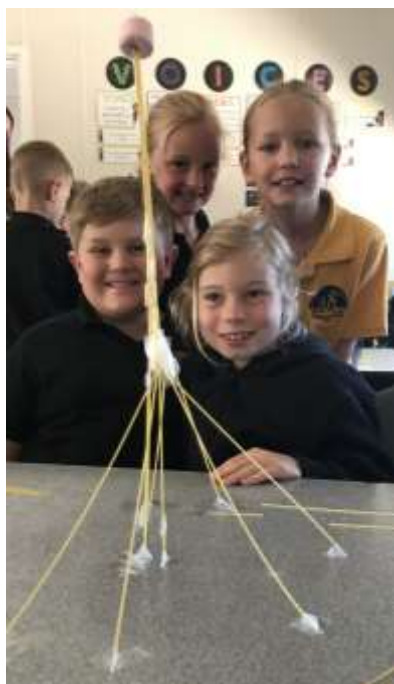
Thank you to the parents who have joined up to Class Dojo this year. We encourage all parents to sign up as it does assist in communication between home and school. Please contact your child's teacher if you require assistance with Dojo.

HOMEWORK AND DIARIES

All students received their Homework and Diaries this week. These are due in every Friday morning to be checked by the classroom teacher. Students who do not hand in their weekly homework booklet will be expected to complete the work at school. There is also an expectation that all students will read between 20-30 minutes each night. We encourage students to keep a record of their nights read during the year.

VALUES PROGRAM

This week the Middle Unit students have been busy participating in our Values Program. There was a team challenge that involved making tall towers using spaghetti sticks, sticky tape and a marshmallow. The students displayed their listening, speaking and problem solving skills.



INFORMATION NIGHT

The Middle Unit Information Night will be held on Wednesday, 17th February. Further details of the evening will be included in next week's newsletter.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

For displaying the School Value of 'Respect':

MW

Sophia C

MR

Braxton L

MD

Blair K

Rena, Leisha, Wendy & Dean

SENIOR UNIT NEWS

WELCOME BACK

Welcome back to all our Senior Unit students and their families. We look forward to a productive and fun year ahead.

HOMEWORK

This year in order to support families and students in the Senior Unit, we are giving students the **option** to complete homework each week. Students will be provided spelling and maths homework in the form of spelling words from targeted lists and access to activities via Essential Assessment: Sunset Maths for **all** students but it will be not considered mandatory for students to complete weekly. We feel that with the strain of COVID-19 and the extra-curricular activities that impact on families as students progress throughout their schooling, we want to support all students emotional & mental health. Please keep in mind that **all** students will have work given to them but it is up to **students and families** to decide whether it can be completed in the week that it is due. Please feel free to contact your child's teacher for any concerns or questions.

LEADERSHIP DAYS

Year 6 Leadership Day – Friday, 19th February

Year 5 Leadership Day – Friday, 23rd February

More information to follow.

CAPTAIN / VICE CAPTAIN POSITIONS

Vice Captain and School Captain selection process will be taking place next week. Those students in Year 6 who would like express an interest in one of these positions, need to complete a letter addressed to Matt or Ainsley outlining why they would be a good fit for the role.

The letter should include the following:

- what they have contributed to BHPS and
- what they aim to achieve this year in the role.

Applications close on Tuesday, 9th February.

NEW DIARIES

All Senior Unit students have received a new diary. They should be utilising their diaries to assist them to plan each week. Please encourage your child to fill in their diary, including extra curricular activities (for example: out of school sports etc), nights they are able to complete homework as well as nightly reading. This will assist them to be organised and prepared for each week. PLEASE NOTE: Students are responsible for their own diaries, they cannot be replaced if damaged or lost and are required at school each day.

HATS AND DRINK BOTTLES

Please ensure your child has both of these items each day at school. If your child has misplaced or lost their hat, they can be purchased from the Office or via our Qkr payment app.

STAFF EMAILS

ainsley.stanley@education.vic.gov.au

brett.strange@education.vic.gov.au

lauren.adcock@education.vic.gov.au

roberta.mathers@education.vic.gov.au

antoinette.dole@education.vic.gov.au

Please contact us if you have any queries.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For demonstrating a positive attitude:

SA **Jai N**
SB **Emily A**
SK **Harry L**
SL **Ethan J**

Ainsley, Brett, Kate, Lauren & Roberta

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!

While the internet undoubtedly presents fantastic opportunities for children, it is equally clear that there is a real opportunity for children to be put at risk by their exposure to material and/or individuals which may be harmful. With the rapid evolution of internet technology, through internet on mobile phones and any other of the multitude of connected devices, parents need to understand that access to the internet is becoming increasingly diverse and therefore increasingly difficult to supervise.

Kate's Safe Travel Tips

There are some simple, practical steps you can take to help limit the risks, as well as clear advice you can give your child. The best way of doing this is to get involved and understand how your children use the internet. Developing your knowledge of the technology involved and understanding how your child uses this technology will greatly assist you in guiding and supporting your children to ensure that they are using it in the safest possible manner.

The best place to start is by understanding the technology that is being used by your children when they are interacting on the internet. Many parents find this immensely daunting. It is not necessary to be completely proficient in Information Technology to do this, even a basic understanding of these technologies will give you the necessary knowledge to help identify the potential risks and to ensure that you and your children can enjoy the internet in the safest possible manner?

In the coming weeks we will publish hints and advice to help you, in your travels through the ever changing, ever evolving Digital World.

Safe Travel ☺
Kate Dole,
ICT Coordinator

FREE BREAKFAST CLUB DAY CHANGING

Tomorrow mornings will be the last Friday for the Breakfast Club.

It will be moving to Thursdays from next week. It is open from 8:30am to 8:45am and all students are welcome ☺.

We have Cheerios, Weetbix, milk and fruit cups.

CANTEEN NEWS

2021 VOLUNTEERS

ATTENTION new families! We need your help ☺.

Our canteen is run by the school with profits going back into the school. With the help of our volunteers, we are able to keep prices down.

If you are interested, you will only be required once or twice per term and your help is greatly appreciated.

Don't forget, you don't have to be a mum or dad to help, aunties, uncles and grandparents are all welcome. Thank you.

The 2021 menu is attached, and you can order on our Qkr app (preferred) or you can order by putting your child's name, class and what they wish to eat on a paper bag and including cash. Orders are due by 9am on the morning of every canteen day.

If ordering via the app, you will need to add a paper bag to your cart for each child's order. Thank you.

2021 CANTEEN VOLUNTEER FORM FRIDAYS

NAME _____

PH NUMBER _____

TIME AVAILABLE 9:00am to 10:00am

12:45pm to 2:00pm

Tammy Fear, Canteen Manager

OSHC NEWS

ENROLMENT FORMS

These are available from the Office and the OSHC building. If you were enrolled last year, and want to continue care this year, you will need to complete a new set of enrolment forms.

Please remember to make fortnightly payments to keep your accounts manageable.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Janet Dean,
OSHC Admin

SECOND HAND UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

Our stock on the Qkr app has been updated to our Summer stock, so get in quick – ALL ITEMS \$2. If you don't have access to the Qkr app, please contact Janet in the Office to see what is available.

We do still have some winter uniform, so if you need something, please call Janet in the Office.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB

Issue 1 was distributed this week. If you didn't receive one, spares are at the Office.

Orders can be placed online, or at the Office paying by card or cash.

Orders are due by Friday, 12th February.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

As part of the Parent Payment Policy, families can make voluntary contributions to the school to help in the following areas:

- ❖ General School
- ❖ Library
- ❖ Buildings and Grounds

We appreciate any contribution which will enable the school to enhance facilities and programs for students.

Please notify the Office if you would like to contribute and to which area. Thank you to those who have already made contributions.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM

Information and enrolment forms have been sent home with all students in Years 3-6 for Instrumental Music lessons. Spare copies are available from the Office.

Instruments available are:

- ✚ guitar with Leigh
- ✚ flute with Alyse
- ✚ drums, bass guitar and ukele with Nick
- ✚ keyboard, clarinet and saxophone with Phil

It would be appreciated if signed enrolment forms could be returned promptly this week as teaching will commence next week and final numbers are needed in order to schedule groups.

Parents and students will be notified of lesson days and times. An invoice for payment will be given to students at their first lesson with payment required by the following week.

COMMUNITY NEWS



Saver Plus

School costs sorted with Saver Plus

- ✓ Your savings matched to \$500 for laptops, uniforms, books and more
- ✓ Free online money skills training
- ✓ Support to achieve your savings goal... *money power for you and your family!*

"I would say go for it, best thing I ever did paying for school uniform, shoes and computer seemed overwhelming, but not when you do Saver Plus" - GC

If you have a Concession Card you may be eligible

Contact us today!

BendigoSP@bsl.org.au 1300 610 355
Saverplus.org.au Saver Plus Facebook

Start saving NOW....2022 costs sorted!



Registration day Sunday, 21st February

11am-2pm Social Rooms Dower Park

All 2020 players are encouraged to register prior to registration day.

Please follow the player registration section on team app or visit the clubs website, Kangaroo Flat Junior Football Club.

Merchandise will be available to purchase and order at registration.

Please contact Veronica our club secretary if you have any questions on 0437 330 036.

ICE CREAMS

Quelch	\$1.00
Juicies	\$1.50
Paddle Pops	\$1.50
Moosie	\$1.50
Cruncha	\$1.50
Icy Poles	\$1.00

SWEETS

Popcorn	\$1.00
Iced Donut	\$1.50
Cinnamon Donut	\$1.50
Lamington	\$1.50
Jelly Cup	\$1.50

SANDWICHES

Vegemite	\$2.00
Vegemite & Cheese	\$2.50
Salad	\$3.50
Ham & Cheese	\$3.00
Ham & Salad	\$4.00
Chicken & Salad	\$4.00
Chicken Lett & Mayo	\$3.50
Tub of Salad	\$4.00
with chicken or ham	\$5.00

WHOLEMEAL ROLLS NOW AVAILABLE

DRINKS

Milo to go	\$2.00
Choc Oak Milk	\$2.00
Strawberry Oak Milk	\$2.00
Vanilla Breaka Milk	\$2.00
Water	\$1.50
Golden Circle Apple Juice	\$1.60
Golden Circle Apple Blackcurrant Juice	\$1.60
Golden Circle Orange Juice	\$1.60

ROLLS & WRAPS

	\$2.50
	\$3.00
	\$4.00
	\$3.50
	\$4.50
	\$4.50
	\$4.00

HOT FOOD

Mac 'n Cheese	\$4.00
Lasagne	\$4.00
Party Pies	\$1.10
Chicken Burger	\$4.30
Meat Pie	\$3.80
Pastie	\$3.80
Sausage Roll	\$2.80
Chicken Nuggets x3	\$1.80
Chicken Nuggets x 6	\$3.60
Dim Sim	\$1.00
Tomato Sauce	\$0.20
Soy Sauce	\$0.20
Hot Dog	\$3.30
Paper Bag	\$0.10
(REQUIRED FOR ALL ORDERS)	