



Calder Chronicle

NUMBER 10

Phone (03) 5447 7022

Email: big.hill.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Website: www.bighillps.vic.edu.au

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

THURSDAY, 22ND APRIL 2021

CALENDAR

Thursday, 22nd April

Monday, 26th April
Thursday, 29th April
Friday, 30th April

Wednesday, 5th May
Thursday, 6th May

Tuesday, 11th May

Wednesday, 12th May
Thursday 13th May
Monday, 24th May

Tuesday, 25th May
Wednesday, 26th May

Thursday, 27th May
Thursday, 27th May – Thursday, 3rd June
Wednesday, 2nd June

Friday, 4th June

Final payment of \$60 due for Year 3/4 Camp

Division Cross Country payment of \$10 due at the Office or via our Qkr app
Year 3/4 (including Senior Unit Year 4's) Camp departs at 8:45am, be here by 8:30am please
Year 3/4 (including Senior Unit Year 4's) Camp returns approx. 3:30pm
Year 5/6 Camp Deposit of \$100 due to be paid at the Office or via our Qkr app
Division Cross Country – selected Students only
P&F Mother's Day Stall – raffle tickets due in by 9:00am –
Please bring 'green' bags for your child/ren to put their gifts in
Gifts from 50 cents to \$10
NAPLAN (Years 3 & 5)
School Council Meeting 7:00pm
NAPLAN (Years 3 & 5)
NAPLAN (Years 3 & 5)
Education Week commences
Special Assembly at 9:00am
2022 Foundation Parents School Tour at 10:00am
2022 Foundation Information Session / Tour from 5:30pm – 7:30pm
Current families school tour 9:30am – 10:30am –
Especially for those families who missed out due to COVID-19 regulations in 2020
Active Travel to School Day and FREE breakfast
National Reconciliation Week
First Steps / Junior Unit Ballarat Wildlife Excursion – note sent home today

CURRICULUM DAY

School Organisation

Dear Parents / Guardians,

Welcome to Term 2. Here's hoping you had a bit of a break with the public holidays included in this period of time. It's always a bonus if you get some down time with your child/ren. Term 2, at 10 weeks long, is a busy but productive term. We have a lot on in the next 10 weeks, which will keep everyone busy, including the Year 3/4 Camp, a couple of major excursions, District Cross Country, NAPLAN (for Years 3 and 5), Education Week, Semester 1 Reports and much more. With this in mind, it is reassuring to see the school year ticking along in a fairly normal capacity. Here's hoping it continues that way – things can change so quickly with COVID-19 still an annoying reality to operations.

CURRENT COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

Please keep in mind the following for Term 2:

- Wear a mask when you can't social distance. Preference is to wear a mask in the Office, but you don't have to if there are no others in the foyer and you can social distance,
- Hand sanitise on entry to the school grounds,
- Stay off site if unwell,
- Keep children at home if unwell – sore throat, runny nose, cough, fever/chills etc. Children at school who are unwell have to be sent home – please ensure your emergency contacts are up-to-date,
- If your child has a recurring illness with symptoms similar to COVID-19, such as an allergy, persistent cough etc, the advice is you must take your child to see a GP, get COVID tested and return your child to school with a doctor's certificate and negative test result.

YEAR 3/4 CAMP TO BILLABONG RANCH, ECHUCA

Next Thursday and Friday, our Year 3/4's will head off to Billabong Ranch, just outside Echuca for a two day adventure. Dean, Renae, Brett, Jenny, Pam, Clare and I will be attending with our excited students – and to be honest, they should be excited! It's a great camp, with lots of outdoor activities and exploration of tourist attractions in Echuca too. Please be aware that children must be at school, ready to go by 8:30am on Thursday. We anticipate returning by 3:30pm on the Friday, so please ensure you are there ready to help your child with luggage and to take them home for a rest – they will be tired! A huge thank you to the Middle Unit, particularly Dean White, for organising this exciting camp. Thanks also to all adults who will attend and stay overnight so the children have a great time.

RAVENSWOOD BUS

Sadly, Angie, our Ravenswood bus driver, has moved onto another exciting career opportunity during the break. Lucky for us we have an excellent replacement who has already taken on the task of keeping our bus run moving along. A big welcome to Kevin Oakenfull, who will ensure our Ravenswood travellers get safely to and from school. If you use the service, please ensure you introduce yourself to Kevin when you next use the service.

CAMPS – COST

School camps are expensive – the cost of a camp includes bus travel, food, accommodation and activities / tourist attractions etc. Sometimes, if you have more than one attending, this can be just too overwhelming. Can I remind families to apply for Camps Sports Excursions Funding (CSEF) if eligible – it's not too late to apply. This gives each eligible child \$125 of credit to use towards activities like camp. If you are unsure of your entitlement, please contact the Office. In addition to this, we offer part payment options – enabling families to pay off a camp over time with direct deposits set up fortnightly to the school. Our Senior Camp is in Term 4... so why not start now? As always, if financial difficulty is an issue for a family, I'd prefer you speak to me to see what I can do to help you RATHER than a child miss out. Ultimately, it's your choice of course, but our camping program is designed to foster independence away from home, develop friendships, expose children to new situations, opportunities and much more. If you want your child to attend, but they aren't going due to finance – please speak to me. Your personal situation is always discreetly discussed with school staff or myself. We're here to help – so drop in for a chat if you need.

CHICKENPOX

If your child is diagnosed with chickenpox in the coming term, or someone in your home is, please contact the Office immediately to advise. We have a child attending school currently who has a compromised immune system and cannot afford to come into contact with chickenpox. By alerting us to the virus being present in your home, we can discreetly alert the family of this child to keep them at home and safe. Thanks for your cooperation.

ANZAC DAY ITEMS FOR SALE

From \$1 to \$5, we have a lot of different goodies on sale at the Office to support the ANZAC Day cause. Badges cost from \$1 - \$5, bracelets \$3 and pens \$5. If you or your child would like to buy something, drop in to the Office this week to make your purchase.

ANZAC DAY SERVICE

This Friday, at 11:00am, we will have an early ANZAC Day service for the whole school. The children will respectfully learn about ANZAC Day, hear from a special guest speaker, listen to THE LAST POST and ROUSE, with a minutes silence to end the service. On Sunday, our School Leaders and I will attend the KANGAROO FLAT service at the cenotaph from 9:30am. Ben M, Charlotte C and Matilda R will lay a wreath on behalf of the school... as well as lower and raise flags. What an honour!

MSP SCHOOL PHOTO DAY

On Tuesday we had a visit from MSP School Photography to take our 2021 school photos. If you missed ordering, it's not too late. You have until tomorrow afternoon to get online and order – visit www.msp.com.au and use the shoot key provided to you on the information sent home. If you don't have this, please contact the Office. SRC and School Captain photos cost \$20 and need to be ordered and paid using cash only in the red envelopes handed out on the day by tomorrow also. If your child lost yours, please let the Office know.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES FROM SCHOOL, ABSENCES ETC

It's concerning to sometimes see children dropped off at school way too early. By law, your child should not be on site until 8:45am or after. If you need your child to be at school before this time, please enrol your child at our BEFORE school care service by calling the Office. At the end of the day, children need to be promptly collected at 3:15pm, with collection no later than 3:30pm. If you cannot collect your child until after 3:30pm, please enrol your child in our AFTER school care service by calling the Office. When arriving late to school, please sign your child in at the Office. When collecting children early, ensure you sign them out. Finally, on days where your child is away, either ring the school and talk to us / leave a message OR text 0438 738 788 to advise that your child is away and the reason why – eg: illness, family holiday, appointment etc. It is a Department of Education and Training regulation that we have to code absences, thus the reason why we need to know why they are away. Thanks for your cooperation.

READING GOAL & HOMEWORK

Across the school, we have a reading goal of 225 nights of reading. If your child reads 5 nights a week each term and a couple of nights in the holidays... they will meet this goal easily. Reading awards are presented at the end of the year for children achieving this goal – as well as a prize. Children in our First Steps and Junior Units are also given milestone certificates, presented at assembly... for 25, 50, 75, 100, 125 etc nights read. We endeavour to take photos at assembly and share these on our Facebook Page. Homework is also set across all year levels and is encouraged. Whilst we can't mandate it, we do ask families to try to fit in practise of spelling words, nightly reading, practise of maths facts, completion of unfinished work, set homework tasks and projects. As this falls into your domain – ie: the home, we ask you to consider prioritising homework when possible at home.

SECURITY

Sadly the school was burgled during the school holidays. Luckily, we didn't experience major loss, however, have had the cost of replacing locks etc around the school. I draw this to your attention only to remind of how much we appreciate eyes on the school... particularly after dark. If you see strange cars, lights on at weird times of night, suspicious activities, loitering etc, please don't hesitate to contact the Police on 000. Thank you.

NAPLAN – NATIONAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM LITERACY AND NUMERACY

We have the resumption of NAPLAN testing in Week 4 of this term for all Year 3 and 5 students. Last year NAPLAN did not go ahead due to COVID-19 and restrictions / lockdown. Thankfully this year, it resumes for children in Years 3 and 5.

Testing dates this year are Tuesday 11th, Wednesday 12th and Thursday 13th of May. Tests occur in the morning blocks and assess READING, WRITING, LANGUAGE CONVENTIONS (spelling, grammar etc) and MATHEMATICS. If you are concerned about your child and NAPLAN testing, please speak to me.

Children can be EXEMPT from NAPLAN testing due to a disability or English Language Proficiency issue. They can also be WITHDRAWN by parents if a parent is concerned that the testing may not be in the best interests of the child. Both exemption and withdrawal are a formal process, so contact with myself is required to ensure this occurs.

NEW TEACHER

Our new teacher, Joshua Savage, began at Big Hill PS with week with his Prep / Year 1 class. Josh has settled in well and is enjoying working with the girls and boys in his class. Please endeavour to drop in over the next few weeks and introduce yourself to Josh – it's nice to put a face to a name.

RIDING OF BIKES – DANGEROUS BEHAVIOUR

Last night I had a report from a random driver that some Big Hill PS students were riding erratically – seen doing so after using the Calder Highway Crossing and heading past Harvey Norman on their way home. The behaviour reported was concerning, as it involved weaving in and out of traffic and being generally unsafe. We don't want a tragedy, so I urge you to speak to your child/ren if they ride to school... reminding them of appropriate ways to stay safe when riding to and from school. I'd appreciate parents and community members keeping an eye on our bike riders on the way to and from school and reporting any issues to the Office so we can follow up. To be safe, I ask parents to only allow children in Years 3-6 to ride to school unaccompanied by an adult. Years 2 and under require adult supervision as peripheral vision development has not matured at such a young age... so riding unsupervised so much more dangerous. Hoping we can collectively keep all of our bike riders safe on their way to and from school.

BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to Clare P, Remy W & Indigo B.

We have the Year 3/4 camp next week, so our Middle School students will need to rest up over the weekend in preparation for the excitement. I might have to also! Have a wonderful Friday, a terrific weekend and a contemplative ANZAC Day on Sunday. Lest we forget...

Matt Pearce, Principal

FIRST STEPS NEWS

WELCOME BACK

Welcome back to all students and their families. We hope you had a relaxing holiday and we look forward to a busy term.

SHOW AND TELL

Next week all First Steps classes will be starting 'Show and Tell'. All children will have the opportunity to share some things with their class each week. Children can bring one special item from home or they might just like to talk about something. You will find your child's allocated day written in their 'Take Home Book'.

STARS OF THE WEEK

For being responsible by quickly and quietly lining up at bell times:

FSN *Edward M*

FSP *Eden M*

FSJ *Charlie L*

Nicole, Leisha, Pauline & Josh

JUNIOR UNIT NEWS

WELCOME BACK

We were so happy to see all of our students return to school this week ready to have a successful Term 2. We have a few exciting things coming up this term in the Junior Unit, one being our upcoming excursion to the Ballarat Wildlife Park on Wednesday, 2nd June.

A note will be sent home today with additional details regarding this excursion. We will be looking for a parent volunteer from each class for this excursion, so please let your child's teacher know if you are able to come along. The cost is \$40 and will be covered by the CSEF (please contact the Office to check if you are eligible, or if you still have funds leftover from 2020).

LABELLING BELONGINGS

With the cooler weather here, especially in the morning, we are starting to collect some lost property and would appreciate it if all jumpers, drink bottles and coats could be labelled with your child's name so we are able to hand them back promptly. Thank you.

READING AT HOME

Just a reminder of the homework expectations in the Junior Unit. We expect our students to be reading and recording this in their journal each night. These numbers are tracked by your classroom teacher in order to hand out reading certificates at Assembly on Monday mornings. We are aiming to achieve 225 nights reading by the end of the year. We also send home 6 spelling words on a Monday, to be practised each night and tested on a Friday. Thank you for supporting your child with this.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

For being a flexible, creative learner who enjoys new challenges:

JC *Kelson G*

JJ *Mila M*

Catherine, Jen & Zoe

MIDDLE UNIT NEWS

WELCOME BACK

Welcome back to all students, staff and families. We are looking forward to a wonderful term of learning.

YEAR 3/4 CAMP

Excitement is building as the Year 3/4 camp to Billabong Ranch at Echuca is quickly approaching. A medical form was sent home on Tuesday and is due back to school this week to assist in final camp preparations. Just a reminder that students attending the camp are expected to be at school next Thursday, 29th April at 8:30am ready for the 8:45am departure. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the upcoming camp next week, please contact your child's teacher.

The classroom program will run as normal for the Year 2 students in MW and any Year 3/4 students not attending the camp.

JUMPERS AND JACKETS

With the colder mornings upon us, please ensure that your child's name is clearly labelled on all jumpers and jackets. This really does assist in the return of these clothing items. Thank you.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

For a great start to Term 2:

MW **Connor W**
MR **Jacob V**
MD **Alissa M**

Renaë, Leisha, Wendy & Dean

SENIOR UNIT NEWS

WELCOME BACK

Welcome back to all Senior Unit students and families, we look forward another productive and busy Term 2.

DIVISION CROSS COUNTRY

Selected students received a permission note this week to attend Division Cross Country which will be taking place in Week 3 on Wednesday, 5th May. Notes and payment due by next Monday, 26th April.

YEAR 5/6 CAMP

The Year 5/6 Camp notes were sent home last term, so if your child has not yet given it to you, or they have not returned it to their teacher, please do so as soon as possible. A \$100 deposit is required to secure your child's booking by Friday, 30th April. Please note CSEF cannot be used for the deposit, however can be used for subsequent payments.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For demonstrating a positive attitude:

SA **Harry S**
SB **Lacey J**
SK **Harley L**
SL **Mitchell G**

Ainsley, Brett, Kate, Lauren & Roberta

PARENTS & FRIENDS NEWS

MOTHERS DAY STALL AND RAFFLE

We are running our annual Mothers Day Stall and Raffle this year and we sent home a book of Raffle Tickets with your child this week. If you did not receive your raffle tickets there are spare books at the Office for you to collect. Our Raffle will be drawn on the same day as the Mothers Day stall, Thursday 6th May.

Any donations towards our raffle would also be greatly appreciated. If you need some ideas, here are a few things you might like to donate:

- ✚ Blocks / Boxes of Chocolates,
- ✚ Mugs,
- ✚ Biscuits (eg: Tim Tams),
- ✚ Gardening Items,
- ✚ Bathroom accessories (eg: soaps, hand cream, face washers),
- ✚ Cellophane or wrapping paper.

We would like to thank you all again so much for your support with our fundraisers, we couldn't do it without you.

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.

Thank you all for your support with P&F activities, its really appreciated.

Parents and Friends

HEAD LICE NEWS

There has been quite a number of cases of Head Lice throughout Big Hill PS. Please remember to let the school know if your child has head lice – there is no shame – we just need to know so we can inform everyone from their class that head lice are around, without naming anyone, and advise ways to treat head lice and the eggs.

If you do discover head lice, please keep your child home until the day after treatment. Please be vigilant with weekly home checks.

Thank you for your cooperation.

OSHC NEWS

FEE INCREASE – REMINDER

Just a reminder that the fees have increased this term to \$11 for Before School Care and \$18 for After School Care. Apologies for the increase, but due to ever rising costs, we have had no choice.

ACCOUNTS

Thank you to all families who are keeping up with their payments, remember, we are here to help if you are having trouble with your payments.

PROJECT

Students

Writing a letter to a loved one

With **Anzac day this Sunday 25th April**, watch this beautiful video created by the Department of Veteran Affairs- [Here they come - A day to remember.](#)

After watching the video, take some time to reflect before writing a letter to someone you love or someone who has **done something special for you.**

Here are some questions below to get your started;

- When was a time when someone else **put themselves in your shoes?**
- What has someone done for you in the past that has made you feel happy?
- Can you remember when someone sacrificed something for you?

After finishing the letter, sign it, put it in an envelope and send it to that special person!



Looking for some additional classroom ideas to commemorate Anzac day this Sunday?

[CLICK HERE!](#)

PROJECT

Parents & Carers

Practicing empathy and kindness

With Anzac day approaching, what better time to practice **empathy and kindness**?

Check out this amazing video that tracks an act of kindness throughout a single day - [Kindness Boomerang - "One Day"](#).

After watching the video, **pick three people from your contact list** on your phone and send them a message or call them. Ask them how they are going and thank them for something they have done for you.

If you have some time, complete a **random act of kindness** for someone. Here are some ideas to get you started:

- Offer your seat to someone else on a train/tram
- Let someone in, in a traffic jam
- Compliment someone genuinely
- Hold the door open for someone
- Smile at someone you don't know
- Thank someone for helping you in the last few weeks



Interested in delving deeper into the research behind being **kind**? [CLICK HERE!](#)



Tuning in to Kids

Want to learn how to help your child manage feelings and emotions (emotional intelligence)?

Children with emotional intelligence have greater success making and keeping friends, are more able to calm down when upset or angry and have better concentration at school.

In this program you'll find out how to help your child understand and manage feelings such as frustration, worry and anger.

✓Connection

✓Emotions

✓ Self Esteem

Workshop date & location:

Location Name – CatholicCare Victoria
176-178 McCrae Street, Bendigo

Dates: Tuesdays, 12th May to 15th June 2021
Arrival and Registration – 11:45AM
Session: 12:00PM – 2:00PM

This Program has 6 weekly sessions

There is a cost of \$20.00 for the Program

Groups are subject to maximum and minimum numbers determined seven working days prior to the commencement date. Early registration is encouraged

RSVP:

Reception | CatholicCare Victoria
T (03) 5438 1300 | E email@ccds.org.au

Please remember your mask. We ask that all participants follow social distancing and face mask regulations.



Tuning in to Kids
176 – 178 McCrae Street, Bendigo VIC 3550
T (03) 5438 1300

www.ccds.org.au