



Calder Chronicle

NUMBER 23

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THURSDAY, 5TH AUGUST 2021

CALENDAR

Monday, 9th August

Wednesday, 11th August

Friday, 13th August

Monday, 16th August

Thursday, 19th August

Friday, 20th August

TUESDAY, 24TH AUGUST

Wednesday, 25th August

Thursday, 26th August

Friday, 27th August

Monday, 30th August

Thursday, 2nd September

Friday, 3rd September

Thursday, 9th September

Wednesday, 15th September

Thursday, 16th September

Friday, 17th September

Monday, 4th October

Payment due for Middle Unit Gym Program \$34

Payment due for Cluster Athletics (selected Year 4-6 students only)

Cluster Athletics (selected Year 4-6 students only) – depart at 9:00am, return at 3pm

Middle Unit Gym Program commences

EXTENDED CUTOFF FOR CSEF APPLICATIONS

Payment due for First Steps & Junior Unit Gym

First Steps & Junior Unit Gym commences

Middle Unit Gym Program continues

CANTEEN DAY IN LIEU OF WEDNESDAY, 25TH AUGUST

RESCHEDULED DATE for the Junior (Prep to Year 2) Concert:

Matinee 12pm, Evening 6pm – TICKETS ON SALE NOW ON QKR:

NO CANTEEN ORDERS ON THIS DAY – ALL students attending Concert Matinee

First Steps & Junior Unit Gym continues

Middle Unit Gym Program continues

Final Payment due for Year 5/6 Camp of \$45

First Steps & Junior Unit Gym continues

Middle Unit Gym Program concludes

First Steps & Junior Unit Gym concludes

Prep CSEF Uniform pack order forms due at the Office

Senior (Years 3 to 6) Concert at the Bendigo Baptist Church – Matinee 12pm, Evening 6pm

LAST DAY FOR TERM 3

First day for Term 4

School Organisation

Dear Parent/s, Guardian/s and Carer/s,

COVID-19 REGULATIONS

It's important to ensure, especially whilst COVID-19 is a threat in Victoria...that you do the following:

- Keep children home from school when they have any COVID-19 symptoms – sore throat, cough, fever etc,
- Do not come onto the school grounds if you are unwell,
- Get tested if you or your child has symptoms,
- Return to school only when a negative result has been returned,
- Get your child tested if they have persistent symptoms that won't go away (eg: winter asthma, cough etc) and return to school with a negative test to indicate they have been screened,
- Socially distance in the car park or when on the grounds (which should only be if absolutely necessary at the moment),
- Wear a mask. If you have an exemption for not wearing a mask, please ensure this is clearly visible on you in the form of a badge/lanyard. If you refuse to wear a mask, you are not allowed to come onto a Department site.

OPERATIONAL CHANGES – no change since last week, but repeated for your information

To keep our school safe, we have introduced some important operational changes. These operational changes require staff and parents to wear face masks and maintain good hygiene practices at all times. At this stage, parents are only permitted on site, if authorised. Any parent or visitor, required to come on site, must check in using the QR Code System and sign in at the Office. For the time being, all playgrounds are off limits to families and students waiting at pick up and drop off times. Please ensure social distancing if you are waiting for children at pick up time.

Monday morning assemblies will continue to occur, but will be held over the PA system and not held outside until further notice. We hope our days of learning remotely are once again behind us all and we look forward to an extended period free of COVID-19 disruption, however, things can change quickly, so the message for us all is to make the most of the time we have when onsite and be poised...ready to switch to remote at a moment's notice. Thank you for your continued support during this time. As always, please don't hesitate to get in touch with any feedback or queries.

At the time of publishing, no operational changes have been announced for school, but could change in the coming days. Updates will be provided via our Website and Facebook and if unsure, feel free to call or email us.

FOUNDATION/PREP ENROLMENTS FOR 2022

Our school has received several calls over the past few weeks for Foundation/Prep enrolments for next year. Unfortunately at present we cannot take new families on a tour of the school but we will be in touch if you have registered at the Office with Janet. If there any current Big Hill PS families who have pre-school aged children and have yet to enrol, please contact Janet at the Office as soon as possible, to assist with planning.

YEAR 6 – YEAR 7 PLACEMENT NOTIFICATION

Year 6 families should have received an email yesterday, Wednesday, 4th August, advising where their child has found placement for Secondary College in 2022. If you have not received an email, please contact Janet at Janet.Dean@education.vic.gov.au. Thank you.

PREP CSEF UNIFORM PACK – DEADLINE EXTENDED

If your child is in Prep this year and you receive the CSEF, you are entitled to a free uniform pack. Please visit <https://stateschoolsrelief.org.au/resources/> to download an order form. Once completed, please send into the Office. If you have already placed an order and received it this year, please disregard this. Orders are due in before Wednesday, 15th September. A reminder also to those who have received their Prep Uniform that the vouchers for Lowes have an expiry in the coming weeks, so please ensure you use the voucher in the coming weeks.

BEREAVEMENT LEAVE

I have returned from bereavement leave this week and it's been great to be back. Whilst my time away was very challenging and sad... a return to routine, our great school and to work with your child/ren has been the best medicine. On return I have seen our incredible staff hard at work, ensuring all children are getting quality programs while on site – I've also seen the children engaged... working to their best and thriving... despite the challenges of remote and the uncertainty of lockdowns and the pandemic. I had a few weeks away from Big Hill PS – and the step away has allowed me to see what an amazing school I am lucky enough to lead. A big thank you to all (students, staff and parents/carers/guardians) for doing an amazing job during the Lockdown period while I was away too!

PARENT / TEACHER / STUDENT INTERVIEWS - DONE AS PHONE / WEBEX – PUPIL FREE DAY

If you missed catching up with your child's teacher/s last Friday when we did interviews... it's never too late. Please email your teacher to set up a time for a chat. It's important to talk about your child's progress in Semester 1 and have a shared understanding of where supports need to be targeted in the coming 6 months.

PARENT OPINION SURVEY

This week we have sent home a personal email to each family to complete the 2021 Parent Opinion Survey. For some of you who have multiple children at school (or multiple emails recorded at school), you will have received this email several times. Don't panic – YOU ONLY DO THE SURVEY ONCE. If you have more than one child, you still only do the survey once. Links to the survey and your password have been emailed. If you have not received the Parent Opinion Survey, it may mean that your email at school is incorrect. Please contact us to ensure this is not the case and to send the survey link and password home. Parents/Carers/Guardians have until mid-August to complete the survey. Please consider doing the survey, as the results help us to improve our school and also celebrate our successes collectively. Like everyone, times have been tough during the pandemic, so if you are really happy with how we have worked, we'd love some positive feedback too! It really is appreciated knowing if we have got things right for our families.

ABSENCES

Please ensure that each time your child is away, you contact the school before 9:30am to report the absence and reason for being away. We have to record all absences and code the reason why a child is absent. If you don't tell us, we have to code the absence as UNEXPLAINED, which in reality, doesn't look good when absences build up. As I am back at work, mobile 0438 739 788 can be used to text an absence each morning. The school landline can also be called... with messages left on the answering machine at any time.

SCHOOL ACCOUNTS

Essential Items / iPad accounts will be sent home within the next week or so. If you are unsure if you have paid, please contact the Office.

THE RETURN OF SPECIAL EVENTS

Next week will see us returning to some normality, with some special events occurring. Wednesday will see quite a few of our Year 4, 5 & 6's heading to the Flora Hill Athletics Track to compete against several other local schools. Brett Strange has been busy organising the girls and boys and those lucky enough to have qualified should return their permission form to the Office by Monday. Next Friday, 13th August will also be a busy day for our Year 6's as they undertake their PREPARATION FOR PUBERTY program with one our DEPARTMENT School Nurses in the multipurpose. Next Friday, 13th August is the first of our PALMER'S GYM PROGRAM for the Middle Unit – again... payment and forms are due at the Office by Monday. Little by little we hope to enjoy programs across the school – which are incredibly important to help children bounce back from the fatigue and worry of Lockdowns. Normal routines are good for you – it just takes a little time to get back to routine each time a child returns.

FOUND

2 wallets have been handed in at the Office. One has some coins in it, and the other one has a gift card in it. If you believe one is yours, please call the Office to claim. Thank you.

MENTAL HEALTH

For many children across the country, mental health concerns are rising due to the fear and worry of the pandemic, Lockdowns, isolation, family upheaval etc. If your child seems stressed, teary, is uncertain about school / leaving you etc – they are not alone. Many children across the State are exactly the same... so what can you do? Supports during such times are important, so don't hesitate to contact your GP, discuss your concerns and look into ways you can help your child if experiencing increased anxiety. Also look after yourselves! It's important also to work with your child's teacher... keep them up-to-date with what is going on... so that they may support them further. We also run some great wellbeing programs at school, including THE RESILIENCE PROJECT, Mindfulness/Smiling Minds (in a lot of classes) and special targeted programs like LIFE SKILLS (Prep to Year 4 Term 4). At school we have our Chaplain (Cara) available to support also – please just let us know if you would like Cara to catch up with your child... and ensure you have filled in a permission form. Cara can't see your child unless you consent.

CARPARK – DROP OFF AND PICK UP

Just a reminder to all parents to drop off and pick up children promptly each day to ensure carparks are available for others. To avoid congestion, on a fine day, consider picking your child up from Phillis Street. A short walk to school is really good for children and with the weather set to improve in spring... there's the perfect opportunity! Families are also reminded that parking on the edge of the highway is extremely dangerous and should not occur – your child and family's safety is compromised... so please, I encourage you not to park on the edge of the Calder Highway. Driver behaviour is a matter for the Police – we have no control over how people behave in their cars, even when parking near the school. If you have concerns about another driver, note registration and ring the police, as we are not able to fine drivers... nor are we required to.

ZERO TOLERANCE

Just to reinforce Sharyn's message last week about aggressive or threatening behaviour not being tolerated... the Department of Education and Training (DET) does not accept such behaviours. Even if you are frustrated, upset, have a lot happening etc, there is no excuse to ring up or be aggressive in person. It's never ok to be aggressive or to threaten staff. We are here to help, conduct ourselves with Respect and expect the same from our community. 99% of our interactions with families are positive and helpful, so this is a reminder to a small minority in our community. Should behaviours of this nature occur, staff are instructed to advise the aggressor that they are being aggressive, threatening or disrespectful and it's to stop. I'm sure it won't be a problem, but just to ensure our school remains safe for all, it's important to put these reminders out there.

BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to Mason P, Jack E, Korbin C, Abigail H, Shelby S, Nate S, Khayden P & Jacinta D.

As we finish Week 4, it's hard to believe we are heading into Week 5... and will soon be at the halfway mark of Term 3. As stated earlier... make the most of the time we have... work with your child, hear them read, support their schooling, enjoy their sporting activities after school etc. Time is precious and it goes fast. Let's make hay while the shines... so to speak!

Until next week...

Matt Pearce, Principal

FIRST STEPS NEWS

GYMNASTICS

As part of our Physical Education Program, we will be attending Jets Gym in Hattam Street. This is a great opportunity for your child to take part in 4 sequential weekly Gym sessions. Permission notes were sent home last week. Please return the permission form by Monday, 16th August. If you have misplaced the permission form please let your child's teacher know.

100 DAYS OF SCHOOL



Children and Teachers are looking forward to our 100th Day of School on Monday, 9th August. This week your child brought home a zip-lock bag to fill with 100 small items. This may include things like beads, cotton buds, rubber bands or anything that your child chooses that will fit in the zip-lock bag. We ask that the bags are returned to school by TOMORROW, Friday, 6th August in preparation for our whole unit activities on Monday.

POTATO OLYMPICS



To celebrate and learn about the Olympics, students have been involved in our Potato Olympics. Children created their own potato athlete and designed a flag for their athlete.

The Potato Athletes will take part in events such as shot put, bowling and spinning. The Potato Olympics have also inspired students to write about their experiences.

BHPS 150th ANNIVERSARY SCHOOL CONCERT

The First Steps and Junior Unit concert will be on Wednesday, 25th August at the Bendigo Baptist Church Junortoun. Details about costumes and songs are on your child's Dojo. Children will be making masks during their Art session however each class is required to wear a particular colour T-shirt and pants. Tickets are available at the office or on Qkr.

STARS OF THE WEEK

For showing good sportsmanship during our Potato Olympics:

FSN *Axel N*
FSP *Kayden M*
FSJ *Hunter G*

Nicole, Leisha, Pauline & Josh

JUNIOR UNIT NEWS

FAMILY TREE TEMPLATES

Thanks so much to those who have already returned their Family Tree Templates to school. If you have not done so yet, please return the form as soon as possible so that your child is able to create their own family tree poster with the rest of the grade. We will be beginning our family tree in the classroom next week so if your child has not returned their information to school this will need to be done by next Monday, 9th August.

JETS GYMNASTICS PROGRAM

As part of our Physical Education Gymnastics Program, we will be attending Jets Gym in Hattam Street. Students will participate in a sequential weekly gymnastics program run by accredited instructors. The program will consist of 4 one-hour sessions. Whilst participating in our gym program children need to wear tracksuit pants, leggings or shorts and are not permitted to wear dresses, skirts or tights for safety reasons. Permission notes were sent home last week and outlined the dates, session times and cost. If you have yet to do so, please complete and return this form as soon as possible.

THANK YOU

We would like to thank all of the families that sent in milk bottle lids for our skip counting focus. The children have enjoyed using them to practise skip counting during our morning practice and will continue to do so as the year progresses.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

For enthusiastically participating in our history unit by sharing their ideas and asking questions about the past:

JC *Tasman H-L*
JJ *Jarryn S*

Catherine, Jen & Zoe

MIDDLE UNIT NEWS

CURRICULUM NEWS

In Literacy this week the Middle Unit has been focusing on two text types: writing procedures and reading explanations. In the area of Mathematics students have started working on Fractions including fractions as parts of a whole and fractions of a group. We encourage the students to become familiar with 'fraction' language and terms (eg. whole, half, quarter and tenths) as used in telling the time, sport, cooking and measurement.

PALMER'S GYM

Just a reminder that the Middle Unit Gym Program starts on Friday, 13th August. Permission notes and a payment of \$34.00 is now due at the Office. We will keep parents updated of any changes to the program.

SCHOOL JACKETS

Please ensure that your child's name is clearly printed on their school jackets. This will assist in the return of the jackets and reduce our lost property.

HOMEWORK

We have resumed Homework Booklets this week. It is Week 4 and your child should be working on the Week 24 Spelling Activities and Tables Quiz. Please keep up the home reading too!

PARENT / TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Thank you to all the families who had a Parent / Teacher Interview last Friday via Webex or phone. It was a great opportunity to share student learning and areas for improvement.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

For displaying the School Value of 'Safety':

MW *Clare P*
MR *Addisyn J*
MD *Xavier D*

Renae, Leisha, Wendy & Dean

SENIOR UNIT NEWS

YEAR 5/6 CAMP

Today Year 5 and Year 6 students who will be attending the Senior Unit camp next term, have taken home a medical note and a list of items to take on camp. Please ensure the medical form is returned to your child's teacher as soon as possible. If you also have outstanding payments due, please ensure this is paid immediately. Thank you.

CLUSTER ATHLETICS

These are taking place next Wednesday, 11th August. Selected students have received a permission note earlier this week, please sign and return to the Office, along with payment by Monday, 9th August.

PLEASE NOTE:

Health & Human Development has been rescheduled for Year 6 students and will be taking place on Friday, 13th August.

SCIENCE SHOW

Senior Unit students have been working hard during their STEM / Science classes with Roberta on natural disasters and will have the opportunity to share their work during the Science show which will be held during their rotations on Friday.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For demonstrating respect during specialist programs:

SA *Ava A*
SB *Sonny D*
SK *Ruby H*
SL *Khye H*

Ainsley, Brett, Kate, Lauren & Roberta

SCHOOL CONCERT NEWS

The BHPS 150th Anniversary School Concert note went home with all students this week. The note outlines vital information about the concert dates, tickets, costumes etc. Please ensure students hand this to parents and families carefully read through it, keeping the information in a safe place.

The date of the Junior School Concert has been changed from Thursday, 12th August to Wednesday, 25th August.

This will allow students enough time to rehearse their performance songs, since the Lockdown resulted in us missing out on vital face-to-face class time. The note that went home reflects this update.

The best way to purchase the Junior Concert Tickets is by using our Qkr app. Once your order has been filled, we will text you to advise they are ready, so you can collect them yourself, or give permission for us to send them home with your child.

You can also purchase tickets from the Office if you wish, but you will need to check in using the QR code on the front door first.

If you need tickets for a child under Primary School age, please call the Office and we can put one aside to then place in the envelope with adult ticket/s once they have been purchased on the Qkr app, or at the Office.

Senior Concert Tickets are not yet on sale sorry, they will go on sale after the Junior Concert on Wednesday, 25th August.

Nick Reid
Performing Arts Coordinator

PARENTS & FRIENDS NEWS

TRIVIA NIGHT

Unfortunately, due to the Lockdown, we have had to postpone this great event. Hopefully we will be able to reschedule at a later date.

If you have already purchased tickets, please hold onto them at this stage, if we have to cancel the event, then we will refund all monies paid, but fingers crossed it can be rescheduled.

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

CANTEEN NEWS

We have a new drink on the menu

AVAILABLE NOW!

CHILLj Sparkling 100% Fruit Juice
\$2.00 each, rated 'green'

Available in Raspberry, Grape, Watermelon & Lemonade

CANTEEN DAY IN LIEU OF CONCERT DAY

Due to there being no Canteen on Wednesday, 25th August due the Junior Concert, we have decided to open on the Tuesday, 24th August. Apologies for any inconvenience, just a change of day for this one week.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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, aunts, uncles and grandparents are all welcome. Thank you.

CANTEEN VOLUNTEER FORM FRIDAYS

NAME _____

PH NUMBER _____

TIME AVAILABLE 9:00am to 10:00am

12:45pm to 2:00pm

Tammy Fear,
Canteen Manager

STARTS TODAY!
2 DAY EVENT
5TH & 6TH AUGUST!

ZERO & REWARDS CARD HOLDERS



20% OFF*
SCHOOLWEAR
& EVERYTHING ELSE!

IN-STORE & ONLINE

**DON'T HAVE A CARD? APPLY IN-STORE OR
ONLINE & START ENJOYING THE BENEFITS**

*T&C'S APPLY. SAVINGS OFF ORIGINAL PRICES. INSTORE & ONLINE



Olympic STEM Fun

The Senior Unit were inspired by the Olympics to take on a challenge. In one hour, they had to create a Catapult or Chariot with functioning wheels. They all worked so hard and enjoyed the design and build challenge. Next week we will see who can send a marble the furthest in their catapult and who can keep their wheels on in the Chariot race.