



Calder Chronicle

NUMBER 24

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THURSDAY, 12TH AUGUST 2021

CALENDAR

Friday, 13th August

Monday, 16th August

Tuesday, 17th August

Thursday, 19th August

Friday, 20th August

MONDAY, 23RD 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

Middle Unit Gym Program commences - & new EXTRA form sent home today due back

EXTENDED CUTOFF FOR CSEF APPLICATIONS

Payment due for First Steps & Junior Unit Gym

School Council Meeting

First Steps & Junior Unit Gym commences

Middle Unit Gym Program continues

PUPIL FREE DAY

CANTEEN DAY IN LIEU OF WEDNESDAY, 25TH AUGUST

**Junior (Prep to Year 2) Concert: Matinee 12pm, Evening 6pm – TICKETS ON SALE 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

Year 5/6 Basketball – selected students only

First Steps & Junior Unit Gym concludes

Prep CSEF Uniform pack order forms due at the Office

Senior (Years 3 to 6) Concert: Matinee 12pm, Evening 6pm – tickets on sale Thursday, 26th August

LAST DAY FOR TERM 3 – EARLY DISMISSAL OF 2:15PM

First day for Term 4

School Organisation

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

Well... all I can say is what a ride it's been for everyone since last I wrote. By the time last week's email had been sent out, a Lockdown was announced, we moved into immediate Remote Learning and provided on site supervision for those in need. Monday – Thursday looked to be remote, but a snap decision Monday saw us back on site Tuesday. We, of course, were very happy to have the children back – they are best on site... but have to admit the work and stress around moving from one setting to another and then back is taxing. I'm sure you felt the same at home. It just goes to show how quickly things can change, so we will just continue to work hard either on site or remote. It's important that you too treat the remote periods as extremely important... we just can't afford to have children falling behind... so working hard every day (at school and at home) is the only way 😊 A huge thank you to our staff for their effort, our children for their resilience and dedication and for your support at home.

COVID-19 REGULATIONS – A RETURN TO WHERE WE WERE LAST WEEK:

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. No visitors allowed from Lockdown areas during the current period also. 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 as we have just seen, so the message for us all is to make the most of the time we have when on site 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.

If you haven't already, please make a habit of checking the following each day:

- Our school Facebook Page,
- Our school Website,
- Subscribe to Flexischools,
- Read the newsletter each week.

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.

MIDDLE UNIT GYM & FIRST STEPS / JUNIOR UNIT GYM & SPORTS EVENTS

Provided we stay on site, we hope to have our Middle Unit enjoying Gym commencing tomorrow, our First Steps / Junior Unit commencing gym next week and a rescheduling of the Athletics Day – date to be advised as soon as we know. Events such as these are extremely important to your child's wellbeing, so we will always reschedule if we can. Fingers crossed!

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 promptly.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

The next meeting of School Council is Tuesday, 17th August at 7:00pm via Webex. I will resend the Webex address when I email home the Principals Report to members tomorrow. The meeting is only occurring remotely at this time, so either Webex in or call 0438 738 788 to join on the night. Finance Committee meet at 6:30pm, with our August meeting set for 7:00pm. Hope to see all members online 😊.

CURRICULUM DAY – ADVANCED WARNING – MONDAY, 23RD AUGUST

Parents, Carers and Guardians are reminded that our final Curriculum Day for 2021 is on Monday, 23rd August. This is a pupil free day, so therefore... no school. Staff will work on site completing training in reading, writing, use of the Essential Assessment platform, explore the new Department of Education "Individual Learning Improvement Plan" template and focus on Staff Wellbeing. As there is no school for students, there is also no Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) on this day. Families will need to make arrangements for the care of their children on this day.

PARENT OPINION SURVEY

Last week we 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 have us resend 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 have been handed out today. If you are unsure if you have paid, please contact the Office.

FIRST STEPS AND JUNIOR UNIT “BIG HILL 150 YEARS ANNIVERSARY CONCERT”

Wednesday, 25th August is the rescheduled date of the FIRST STEPS and JUNIOR UNIT concert. Our music teacher, Nick Reid, has been working tirelessly to prepare the girls and boys for this exciting night, set to occur on Wednesday, 25th August (if restrictions permit). The concert, held as a matinee and evening performance will showcase our younger students... whilst celebrating elements of our school's 150th Anniversary. Fingers crossed we can run a near-normal concert on Wednesday, 25th August at the Junortoun Baptist Church.

WELLBEING OF STUDENTS

It's no surprise that some children are finding the pandemic and associated in-and-out-of-lockdowns very stressful. A very large percentage of children across the country are reportedly struggling, so if your child is feeling similar... you are not alone. At school, we are working on the basics and prioritising mental health. The RESILIENCE PROJECT has been a great tool used by many teachers to support children during such challenging times. As I said last week, if you are worried, don't know where to go for help... start with your GP then work from there. Prioritise family times and when you can go and do special things – please do so. A child has great resilience and will bounce back if they see you doing “normal” family things when you can. As the weather warms, enjoy the outdoors, walk around the lake, go fishing, kick the footy, hike a trail, visit a park etc regularly. You will see a distinct improvement in how your child is each time you do it. Exercise and the outdoors have a great impact on mental health and wellbeing AND overuse of TV, device, mobile phone etc has the opposite effect... so limit use of screens – especially if your child is acting more withdrawn, upset or out-of-the-ordinary. We're here to help of course... even if it's just an ear to listen and provide some ideas. The key message here is you are not alone... and you can help your child... starting now 😊.

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.

CARPARK – DROP OFF AND PICK UP

Just a reminder to all parents to drop off and pick up children promptly each day to ensure carpark are available for others. To avoid congestion, on a fine day, consider picking your child up from Phillis Street. A short walk to / from 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 their registration and ring the Police, as we are not able to fine drivers... nor are we required to.

BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to Imogen K, Braxton L & Tahlia B.

As we head into Week 6, we cross the official half-way mark of the term. Hopefully the next 5 weeks remain face-to-face and are extremely productive.

Have a terrific Friday and an even better weekend.

Matt Pearce, Principal

FIRST STEPS NEWS

REMOTE LEARNING

Thank to you all First Steps families for your excellent work during Remote Learning. We were all very impressed with your hard work and engagement each day. Well done everyone!

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 and make payment by Monday, 16th August. If you have misplaced the permission form, please let your child's teacher know, or contact the Office for a replacement. We will keep parents updated with any changes to our gymnastics program.

Also, apologies, but an extra permission form is required because of the new contact tracing requirements. This will be sent home tomorrow. Thank you.

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. We will keep parents updated with any changes that may occur to this Anniversary Concert. We ask that you send along your child's labelled concert uniform by next Tuesday, 17th August to your child's classroom teacher.

100 DAYS OF SCHOOL

Unfortunately, our 100th Day of School celebration could not occur on Monday, 9th August. It has been rescheduled for Monday, 16th August. We are all looking forward to this very special celebration. Your child's classroom teacher will have given them a zip-lock bag to take home and fill with 100 small items. This may include things like beads, cotton buds, rubbers or anything else that your child chooses that will fit in a zip-lock bag. We ask that these bags are returned to school by TOMORROW in preparation for our whole unit activities on Monday. Thank you.

STARS OF THE WEEK

For enthusiastically participating in rehearsals for the Junior Concert:

FSN Patrick Q
FSP Sonny H
FSJ Amelia B

Nicole, Leisha, Pauline & Josh

JUNIOR UNIT NEWS

JETS GYMNASTICS PROGRAM

We are excited to be heading to Jets Gym next Thursday and for the following 3 Thursdays after that. These sequential weekly gymnastics lessons are run by accredited instructors and 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. Please return permission forms and make payment by next Monday.

Also, apologies, but an extra permission form is required because of the new contact tracing requirements. This will be sent home tomorrow. Thank you. Thank you.

JUNIOR SCHOOL CONCERT COSTUMES

The children have been practising their performance numbers over the past 5 weeks at school and are all looking forward to putting on our Junior School Concert in just under a week and a half's time. We would like to ask that as soon as you have organised your child's costume, can you please send it to school to be collected by their classroom teacher? Thank you.

All items should be clearly named. If you are unsure of the costume your child requires, please see your child's teacher as soon as possible.

We ask that all costumes are delivered to school by no later than Wednesday, 18th August.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For displaying the School Values of 'Respect' and Responsibility when attending Specialist lesson:

JC Makenzie B
JJ Oscar W

Catherine, Jen & Zoe

MIDDLE UNIT NEWS

RETURN FROM LOCKDOWN

It certainly has been a surprise week for everyone. We were fully prepared for remote learning and Webex meetings, but then we were returned to classroom learning on Tuesday. Thank you to families for your support and flexibility during these trying times.

CURRICULUM NEWS

In Literacy this week our reading and writing tasks have focused on the Tokyo Olympic Games. In the area of Mathematics, students have continued working on Fractions including fractions as parts of a whole and fractions of a group. We encourage the students to use 'fraction' language and terms as used in telling the time, cooking and sport.

GYM PROGRAM

Our Gym Program is set to go ahead tomorrow. The Middle Unit will attend Palmer's Gym tomorrow afternoon in two groups. We will follow the guidelines set out for us by the Department and Palmer's Gym. If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher.

Just a reminder for students to wear appropriate clothing (eg tracksuit pants or shorts), runners and no jewellery. Please remember a water bottle too!

Also, apologies, but an extra permission form has been handed out today, it is because of the new contact tracing requirements. Please complete and return TOMORROW. Thank you.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For displaying the School Value of 'Respect':

MW Rydder G
MR Isabelle O
MD Jack E

Renaë, Leisha, Wendy & Dean

SENIOR UNIT NEWS

CAMP NOTES

Thank you to those families who have signed the consent and medical forms and returned them to school. If you are yet to complete these, please do so as soon as possible. Also please ensure that outstanding payments are also made, this can be done by contacting Janet at the Office or via Qkr.

ATHLETICS

This has had to be postponed and a new date will hopefully be advised soon.

HEALTH & HUMAN RELATIONS SESSION

This has also been postponed and we will advise when a new date is scheduled.

BASKETBALL

Selected students from Year 5/6 will be competing at Division Basketball on Friday, 3rd September. Permission notes will be sent home with selected students. Please note, no parents are permitted to attend the tournament due to the current restrictions.

SCIENCE SHOW

This will be taking place tomorrow during our rotations.

SENIOR CONCERT COSTUMES

Each class has a list of suggested costume designs, so it would be good idea to start preparing these costumes early.

- ✚ Kate has suggested white T-shirts which she will modify to suit, please send them in with your child.
- ✚ Lauren would like students to also bring along a white T-shirt which we will be modifying in class. These tops will be painted on. If they could also wear coloured pants on the night that would be great.
- ✚ Ainsley's students will need to have a white shirt and coloured pants.
- ✚ Brett's class are required to wear blue.

Tickets will go on sale after the Junior Concert. They will be available on Qkr or from the Office.

CRUSOE BIG DAY OUT

Notes have been sent home with students this week, this will take place on Monday, 6th September. Please sign and return directly to Ainsley by Friday, 3rd September.

Please also be aware that students will be required to wear a mask during their transition day.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For demonstrating the School Value of 'Responsibility' during class:

SA Isobel Y
SB Wilkie H
SK Charlie W
SL Piper 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 is
Wednesday, 25th August**
(restrictions permitting)

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 contact 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

CRUSOE TRANSITION NEWS

Crusoe College invites 2022 Year 7 students to our 'Big Day Out'.

This event will be held on Monday, 6th September and will start at 12:45pm and conclude at 2:45pm.

We will be meeting in the JB Osborne Theatre at 12:45pm and will then break the students off into their groups and our current Year 7 helpers will escort them to their activities. We will conclude back in the JB Osborne Theatre at 2:45pm.

Please return permission notes to Ainsley by Friday, 3rd September.

CANTEEN NEWS

CANTEEN DAY IN LIEU OF JNR 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, so the students don't miss out 😊.

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, aunties, 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*

OSHC NEWS

Students from OSHC celebrated National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day.

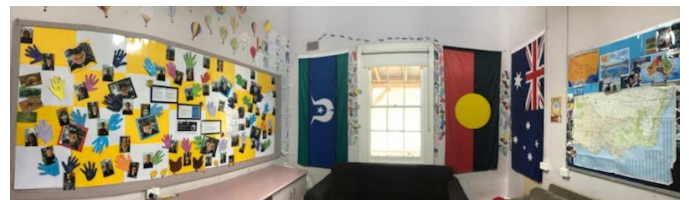
Our students have learnt symbols (see below) of how their family would sit around a campfire or waterhole.



Benji chose a waterhole to sit around with his mum and a campfire with his dad.



The display wall is looking very colourful with photos and hands.



National Science Week

Free coding
class with LIVE tutor
support!



- ➔ A fun introduction to drag & drop coding, 1-2 hour lesson
- ➔ Inspire kids aged 7-12 years with important tech skills of the future
- ➔ It's flexible! Complete the free video lesson anytime that suits your kids for the rest of Term 3
- ➔ LIVE tutor support 3:30-5:30 pm each day to assist your kids

Usually \$22. Completely free for Term 3.
No catches. Just Code Camp inspiring kids!

<https://www.codecamp.com.au/offers/free-online-code-camp>