



Calder Chronicle

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THURSDAY, 28TH OCTOBER 2021

CALENDAR

Friday, 29th October

Tuesday, 2nd November
Tuesday, 16th November

**Day for Daniel Walk, Scoot or Ride to school from 8:30am, Years 2-6:
Prep & Year 1 students requested to do the walk AT school please**

First Steps & Junior Unit Swimming program concludes
P&F Lucky Numbers Fundraiser opens
P&F Coin Drive finishes

School Organisation

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

Week 4 has been a very busy and challenging week, with lots of illness, lots of testing and isolating... all whilst returning everyone to on site. Regardless, we have managed the week well. Children have been happy to be back on site full time (for those returning to that setting this week) and everyone is working hard and adjusting to the new challenges.

COVID-19 CASE AT BIG HILL PS

As advised on Monday, we had a positive case of COVID-19 in one of our Junior Unit classes this week. The class concerned was isolated, parents called directly to be advised of exposure and to pick up immediately and all affected, including teacher and aide went and got tested... then commenced isolation. The class in question is Junior Catherine and from Tuesday to tomorrow, Catherine's class are working remotely from isolation. Today is the Day 13 test for those in isolation, so when a negative result is received tomorrow or over the weekend, children in Junior Catherine can return to school when evidence of a NEGATIVE COVID-19 DAY 13 test is presented to the school. These can be emailed to Janet.Dean@education.vic.gov.au or via text to 0438 738 788. Children in isolation cannot return on site until a Day 13 negative result has been sighted at school. A big thank you to the families affected, teacher Catherine and Education Officer Pam, who swiftly stepped up and followed direction. It's greatly appreciated. As we move forward, please remember that we will contact you directly if your child has been exposed. We will not leave it up to here-say, Facebook chat, online forums etc, to advise you of such an important situation. ALWAYS – if something affects your child, we will contact you directly.

COVID-19 SAFETY

We follow a COVID-SAFE plan at school, ensure children are kept as safe as possible within classroom bubbles and avoid mixing indoors where possible. This means when we contact trace, it is usually the classroom only. Generally, outdoors is considered a very safe setting. Whilst it is a worry having COVID at large in the community, we need children at school each day when they are well. You just can't afford to have them missing school – and when at school, we will take all steps to keep them as protected as possible whilst continuing to learn.

MELBOURNE CUP NEXT TUESDAY

Sadly due to current settings, our recent COVID-19 case and the need to monitor vaccination status of adults, we will run MELBOURNE CUP DAY very differently this year. We will not have fashions on the field, races etc, due to the close-mingling across classes and exposure to many new adults on site. As our children are generally unvaccinated, we have to take protective measures to keep them safe. For 2021, to ensure the day is a bit of fun for the children we are doing the following:

- Children can come in out-of-uniform SUNSMART clothing, free of charge,
- Teachers/classes will operate a day of fun activities in classes – movie, games, mindfulness activities, sports sessions outside,
- Lunch and morning tea will be as normal – packed lunchbox with snacks to be eaten at normal breaks.

SCHOOL COUNCIL – NOVEMBER MEETING

Just for our diaries, the next meeting of Council will be at 7pm on Tuesday, 16th November. This will be via Webex.

CLASS PLACEMENTS FOR 2022 – YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE INFORMATION

Thank you to those families who provided their requests on time. The window to do so has now closed and the commencement of planning for 2022 is underway.

COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS – WHAT IT MEANS FOR OUR STUDENTS ON SITE

To make it clearer for our families, I've broken down below some of the major changes in place at school to keep children safe, signalling changes made due to medical advice from last week with italics. Currently:

- *Children in Prep & Year 1/2 are strongly encouraged to wear a mask indoors. Disposable masks are provided, however, children are encouraged to bring one from home that might fit them better. They don't have to wear masks outdoors,*
- *Children in Years 3-6 must wear a mask when indoors when at school. Some disposable masks are provided, however, children are encouraged to bring one from home that might fit them better,*
- Children are encouraged to wash hands/use hand sanitiser regularly throughout the day and at key times. We have been changing some of our bubbler taps back to washing stations,
- Drink bottles are encouraged for the remainder of the year. Please ensure children come to school with one. We do have some bubblers left for those that forget – eg: at the front of the multipurpose,
- There is no cross Unit mixing of children indoors. This means that only classes in the same unit will do activities outdoors. No mixing of classes indoors will occur,
- Hands off play is encourage in the yard – which is always the case, but so important in current times,
- Regular additional cleaning of touch points occurs every day for all indoor areas,
- No assemblies or mass gatherings of students occur currently, unless via remote methods,
- Children who have flu-like symptoms must not come to school. If a child becomes unwell while at school, they will be sent home. Recurring illnesses must be explained by a negative COVID-19 test result and letter from a Doctor advising of a safe return to school. *Whilst it is hay fever season, the symptoms of COVID-19 are similar to hay fever, therefore children suffering from hay fever will be sent home until a doctors certificate and negative result indicate that it is indeed hay fever,*
- Children who have been to an exposure site need to isolate immediately and get tested – returning to school under the advice of DHHS.

COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS – WHAT IT MEANS FOR PARENTS, CARERS AND ADULT VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL

As I have done above, restrictions have changed for adults in our community too. Any changes made from last week are in italics.

Currently:

- Adults are unable to enter any indoor space/classroom other than the Office,
- Adult visitors must check in using the QR code whenever they come into the Office,
- Meetings with teachers or staff need to be done via telephone, email or Webex,
- Adults on site must wear a mask at all times and social distance,
- When coming into our General Office, please follow the density limits, use the hand sanitiser available and maintain safe distance,
- Stay off site if you are unwell or have any symptoms,
- If you have been to a Tier 1 or 2 exposure site, please ensure you follow the directions of DHHS and not attend the school,
- Adults cannot attend any school events on site during this time,
- *All adults working or volunteering in the school (including parents), as of Tuesday, 26th October, must have their first vaccination. As of Monday, 29th November, all adults working or volunteering in the school must be double-vaccinated. This does not apply to routine tasks like dropping or picking children up, attending the Office or communicating with staff.*

KINDER – PREP ENROLMENT

If you have not enrolled your child for Prep, 2022... please contact the Office / Janet Dean as soon as possible. In addition to this, if you have family or friends you know want to come to the school, please encourage them to make contact ASAP to avoid disappointment. For parents wanting to organise a tour, I believe that as of next week, this will be possible. Please make contact if you would like a personalised tour of the school before your Prep child commences in 2022.

MOVING ON NEXT YEAR?

If a change calls and you are leaving the area, moving to the other side of Bendigo etc, please advise us as early as possible. We are collating numbers of students to begin organising class structures for 2022, so knowing if a child is leaving is really helpful. Please don't feel embarrassed to ring the Office and advise.

STAFFING

With COVID testing affecting us all, the school is no different. This week, having bases covered has been a challenge. Fortunately, with a bit of a shuffle, we have ensured children have quality teachers in front of them. Commencing today, Ainsley Stanley is on Long Service Leave until Monday, 8th November. Rhys Bull will be taking charge of Ainsley's class during this time. Dean White also commenced some Long Service today and will return next Wednesday, 3rd November. Meryl Jacobs will ensure Dean's class is kept in a structured learning routine during this time also. Next week will also be the final week of tutoring for 2021 – but we hope to have May and Zoe continuing to the end of the year on the odd days to support classes, complete testing and catch children up.

SUNSMART – HATS ON IN TERM 4

Remember.... no hat, no play during Term 4. Each day, students need to wear a hat when playing outdoors. Hats are available from the Office for \$10. If your child comes to school without a hat, they can still play, but it must be undercover.

ALTERED SETTINGS – COMMUNITY VS SCHOOLS

As we navigate to more freedoms in the community, we will also change at school, however, may not align with the community as we generally have an unvaccinated population. I'm hoping beginning next week, some things will ease and I look forward to sharing with you what is possible in the remaining 7 weeks of term. Very soon we will be able to have incursions, excursions etc, back on the menu. Sadly, some of our events won't be rescheduled due to timing – such as our two CONCERTS, MIDDLE UNIT SWIMMING (we couldn't get exclusive use of the pool) etc. as it is impossible to fit everything into an already busy term... and in some cases, events won't proceed if we don't feel we can keep our children safe. Ultimately, we would like to do everything normally, but if it doesn't happen, know the underlying reason is to keep children safe.

BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to Macy F, Maeson D, Aleeah M, Ezra B, Sophia C & Scarlett N.

As Week 5 approaches, we are heading towards the middle part of term. With 7 weeks to go it's going to be a mad dash to the end of the year with transition days, planning days, end of year celebrations, graduation, report writing etc. Blink and it will be over... so for now, let's enjoy while we can.

Kind regards,

Matt Pearce, Principal

FIRST STEPS NEWS

SWIMMING

We have been able to attend a number of our swimming sessions and it has been fantastic to see everyone trying their best and participating safely and respectfully. Thank you as well to all parents and guardians who filled out the swimming level assessment form which made putting everyone in their swimming groups easy and straightforward, and avoided a lot of unnecessary running around. The final session will be running tomorrow. Everyone had an excellent time at the pool.

Just a reminder that children need to bring their swimming clothes, goggles, underwear, towel and thongs (optional) with them and have them on underneath their school clothes as we will be changing at the swimming pool. Please ensure that your child's clothing is named as this makes it easier to return lost or misplaced clothing to children.

HATS AND DRINK BOTTLES

In Term 4, children are required to wear a hat outside when playing. If your child does not have a hat, they will still be able to play but will have to do so outside undercover. Hats are available for purchase from the Office for \$10. Please make sure that hats are labelled with your child's name so we can return lost hats to their rightful owner.

Along with our hats, as the weather warms up, please send your child to school with a labelled drink bottle so that they are able to have a quick drink in the classroom instead of having to leave the classroom to go and have a drink from the bubble taps.

MELBOURNE CUP DAY

Melbourne Cup Day is a casual clothes day without needing to make a donation. The current plan is to run different activities on the day in our classroom bubbles and unfortunately without parents on site. We will keep you updated as we get closer to the day.

STARS OF THE WEEK

For displaying our School Values when participating in our swimming program:

FSJ *Lily J*
FSN *Valentine J*
FSP *Patrick T*

Nicole, Leisha, Pauline & Josh

JUNIOR UNIT NEWS

SWIMMING

Thank you for your continued flexibility and resilience with our attempts to continue on with a normal program during these times. Although the kids very disappointed to have missed out on Tuesday's lesson, they have really enjoyed learning to swim and having fun with their friends again at the pool. Luckily the changerooms were available for our use again today, making the trip back to school a little easier on us all. A credit will be placed on all Junior Catherine's students school accounts to be used towards future events.

YEAR 2 SLEEPOVER

It's about that time again - Year 2 Sleepover! A note will be sent home shortly outlining all of the details regarding our upcoming Year 2 Sleepover at Discovery Centre on Thursday, 25th November.

Please fill out the permission form and return this and your payment to the Office. Remember you can also pay over the phone or use our Qkr app.

The Year 2 Sleepover forms the beginning of our camps program at Big Hill PS. It is an opportunity for our students to sleep away from home and their families for an evening and experience the planetarium, giant slide and all of the fun activities at Discovery Centre for an evening. I wonder if any teachers will attempt the slide this year?

JUNIOR UNIT BREAK UP

On Tuesday, 14th December the Junior Unit will be celebrating the end of our year together by having our break up at the Golden Square swimming pool. A note will be coming home in the next few weeks but we are planning on having a sausage sizzle lunch and are looking for any volunteers who could assist us with cooking and serving this to the kids. Please see Catherine, Jen or Zoe if you are available to help out on the day.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For displaying the School Values of 'Safety', 'Respect' and 'Responsibility' during our swimming program:

JC *Tasman H-L*
JJ *Imogen K*

Catherine, Jen & Zoe

MIDDLE UNIT NEWS

DAY FOR DANIEL

Tomorrow, Friday 29th October is 'Day for Daniel'. There will be a Walk To and At School day in the morning. The walk will depart from Phillis Street at 8:20am or students have the option to walk around the oval. Everyone is encouraged to wear an item of red clothing.

MELBOURNE CUP DAY

Next Tuesday, 2nd November is Melbourne Cup Day. Students are encouraged to wear casual clothes on this day. Please ensure students have a pair of runners, hat and drink bottle as Long Distance races will be held during the day.

CURRICULUM NEWS

In Literacy, the students have continued working on Information Reports. In Mathematics, the learning focus has been on 2D shapes and polygons including triangles and quadrilaterals.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For displaying the School Value of 'Safety':

MW *Chase L*
MR *tba*
MD *tba*

Rena, Leisha, Wendy & Dean

SENIOR UNIT NEWS

PREP PHOTOS

Please email these to Brett at:

Brett.Strange@education.vic.gov.au

SWIMMING NOTES

Please return these forms including the swimming levels and make payment ASAP.

SENIOR UNIT BREAK UP

Please return form and make payment ASAP.

2022 YEAR 6 GRADUATION SHIRTS

These orders will be put through tomorrow (Friday 29th October)

YEAR 6 GRADUATION

Monday, 13th December

We will be running an at school Graduation similar to last year's format. Once details are confirmed, we will let our school community know.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For a Positive Return to Face to Face Learning!:

SA *Cordy M*
SB *Owen G*
SK *Sophie W*
SL *RJ T*

Ainsley, Brett, Kate, Lauren & Roberta

PARENTS & FRIENDS NEWS

COIN RUSH DRIVE

Tubs are in each classroom now. Each class will get the chance to put spare change into their tubs and the class with the most coins at the end of the drive wins the competition. It will run for 3 weeks ending on Tuesday, 16th November. The class which raises the most money receives a FANTASTIC prize! We hope you all enjoy this fundraiser again this year and good luck to all the children and classes.

LUCKY NUMBERS FUNDRAISER

We are running a new fundraiser this term due to our Trivia Night being cancelled. It's called Lucky Numbers!

We have all our prizes from the Trivia Night that we would love for everyone to have a chance to still win. There will be a note coming home with your child to explain how LUCKY NUMBERS will run. We look forward to seeing how this fundraiser runs and hope everyone enjoys having a bit of FUN with it!

MANGO DRIVE

We are running our annual mango drive again this year. There will be a bit of a change with the mangoes due to seasonal conditions beyond our control they are little smaller in size, but same great quality. Tray sizes will be 4.5kg instead of 7kg and the price will also be reduced to \$20 per tray.

Order forms have been sent home with your child and will need to be returned by Friday, 12th November.

The delivery date for the mangoes will be confirmed closer to the date. Thank you all again for your ongoing support with Parents & Friends we really appreciate it.

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, it's really appreciated



Dear Parent/Guardian,

We will be holding the *Day for Daniel FUNraiser* this year on Friday, 29th October. We're doing it in support of the Daniel Morcombe Foundation, with funds helping them achieve their mission of keeping kids safe in Australia! This event is only open to students from Big Hill PS.

Big Hill PS Day for Daniel Friday, 29th October

Wear Red and Walk, Scoot and Ride to School – YEAR 2-6's

**Or Wear Red and Walk AT School – OPEN TO EVERYONE
BUT PREP & YEAR 1's MUST DO THE WALK AT SCHOOL
13 laps of the Oval**

- Wear red on the day and make a gold coin donation,
- Start at Phillis Street from 8:30am and walk, scoot and ride to school,
- Or arrive at school and join in the walk on the oval – 13 laps is approximately the same distance (only walking on the oval),
- Classroom activities centred around child safety, thanks to the Foundation,
- Everyone can enjoy a free frozen iced treat at 1st break (thanks for participating and having fun with friends),
- We're walking to school and wearing red in support of the Daniel Morcombe Foundation, helping them achieve their mission of keeping kids safe in Australia.

Wearing red and walking, scooting and riding to school give opportunities for fundraising all money goes to the Daniel Morcombe Foundation. Unfortunately, this year is the same as 2020, only children at BHPS can participate (not family members).

How Does My Child Fundraise?

All fundraising is completed online, so please create your profile at d4dFUNraiser.com.au. Share your link through social media, email and even text. As a bonus, all donations are tax deductible! For raising just \$10, students will receive a reward for their effort. The more they raise, the better the reward!

Remember, the money raised will help the Daniel Morcombe Foundation raise awareness, so please share your fundraising link far, wide and often! It will guarantee the best results.

About the Day for Daniel FUNraiser

The *Day for Daniel FUNraiser* promotes awareness for child safety while raising funds for the Daniel Morcombe Foundation. The Foundation works tirelessly to educate communities on child safety strategies and support victims of crime involving children. We're supporting by holding a *Day for Daniel FUNraiser* and we hope you will support us by participating in the fundraising and organise for children to wear red on Friday, 29th October.

What will the money raised go towards?

This year the Foundation is hoping to raise \$150,000, which will allow them to create a new educational program called 'Keeping Safe With Morky'. This program can educate millions of Australian children, so we hope we can help them get there! If not, the money raised certainly won't be wasted. In fact, \$1,000 provides counselling for one young victim of crime, \$2,000 funds 20 schools with resources to help Keep Kids Safe and \$25,000 funds the creation of one Australia's Biggest Child Safety Lesson, which is free for everyone and educates children on relevant child safety.

Ordering Prizes – ALL PRIZES MUST BE ORDERED ONLINE

Make sure you keep an eye on their website, as it will tell you when to order your prizes. If you have any questions, please call the FUNraiser team on 1800 386 786.

Thank you, good luck and happy fundraising!