



Calder Chronicle

NUMBER 1

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FRIDAY, 3RD FEBRUARY 2023

CALENDAR

Friday, 3rd February
Thursday, 9th February
Friday, 10th February
Monday, 13th February
Wednesday, 15th February
Tuesday, 22nd February

Payment of \$10 due for Life Skills Program
Life Skills Program starts – Whole School Incursion over 6 weeks
All permission/enrolment information forms due at the Office
Year 6 Student Leader / School Captain Positions Speeches
SRC Application Forms due at the Office (Year 2-6)
First School Council Meeting for 2023

School Organisation

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

Welcome OR welcome back to BIG HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL! I do hope you had an amazing Summer break, enjoyed Christmas (if you celebrate it) and found some time for you and your family out of routine. 2023 is shaping up to be an exciting year with many wonderful learning experiences planned for the future. Can I start by saying an important thing – READ THE NEWSLETTER EACH WEEK... and you will always know what is going on 😊. We get busy and forget, I know, but please, we aim to keep you informed... which is usually through the newsletter. Another great port of call for information is the BIG HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL FACEBOOK PAGE. Between the newsletter and this page, you'll always be up-to-date! It's important also to remember that any child does best where the school, parent/s and child work together. THE TRIANGLE OF POWER! To help you with tips on working positively with us, please visit: <https://www.vic.gov.au/building-positive-relationship-your-childs-school>.

PREPS

We had 37 new Preps begin school yesterday – all of whom worked hard and settled, so well done to our new little members of Big Hill Primary School 😊. I'm sure our new students are very excited (and nervous) about their start to Primary schooling, but will soon settle into routines and will love school like so many of our other 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. I'm sure Prep parents will notice that by the time Wednesdays come around, students will be ready for that day off. Our Department website has some great tips for starting school also, so families might like to visit: <https://www.vic.gov.au/tips-starting-school>.

ATTENDANCE

When students are absent from school (because it can't be helped) parents are asked to please submit an absence through our new COMPASS app or ring the school to advise that your child will be absent (5447 7022) as early as possible on the day. If parents know in advance of a child's absence from school on a particular day/s, then a note prior to the absence will suffice.

Just like previous years, regulations from the Department of Education and Training (DET) mean that we have to contact you on the day of your child's absence, if we haven't been contacted first. To avoid COMPASS messages, please get into the habit of either texting, emailing, using COMPASS or calling, explaining why your child is away. We have to code all absences for DET, so we do require an explanation. If you do get a text or call, please don't be annoyed with the staff calling, as we're purely doing what has been laid in law through DET and ultimately, we are trying to get every child to school as much as possible.

It doesn't matter how good school programs are... if your child misses too much school, it doesn't matter how good a job we are doing. A good way of thinking is 10 days absence for the year is 2 weeks of school (almost a quarter of a term). That's about the average for the State of Victoria – **so aim for 10 or MUCH less for the year**. Track your child's absences and work hard to get them to school every day, unless they are sick of course. All children go through periods of not wanting to attend school throughout the 7 years of Primary, it's like adults not feeling like going to work on some days, but just like adults, children need to learn that it is something they need to do to grow into educated and well-balanced adults into the future. This is something I think all parents want for their child/ren – so persevere even in the toughest of times 😊. If ever you need help, we're a phone call away... or drop in! Please note, beginning of the year Prep Wednesdays off are not counted as absences.

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 Year 5 and 6. If they don't keep reading and practising – they will not keep maturing as a reader.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL (SRC) – YEAR 2 TO 6

Our SRC work each year to fundraise for charities, discuss ways to improve Big Hill PS, introduce new ideas and solve problems together. At the start of Term 1, we encourage children to apply for a position on our STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL. Junior, Middle and Senior Unit (Year 2-6) will have two representatives chosen by the CHAPLAIN Chris. To be considered, children need to write a letter to Chris outlining why they think they would be an excellent addition to the SRC in 2023. What skills would they bring? Why would they like to be part of the SRC? What things would they like to do if chosen as part of the SRC? Adults can help little ones at home complete this task and when done, letters need to be sent to the OFFICE in an envelope marked "SRC SELECTION – ATTENTION Chris" by 9:00am, Wednesday, 15th February for consideration. After this time, Chris will reflect on the letters and discuss with classroom teachers choices of whom will be our SRC representatives for 2023. Shortly after this time, a formal badge presentation will be made at assembly.

SCHOOL CAPTAINS / LEADERS

All Year 6's are encouraged to apply for one of our STUDENT LEADER / SCHOOL CAPTAIN POSITIONS. This year, all Year 6's are encouraged to write a speech, practise it at home (and at school) and deliver their speech to the Middle and Senior Units on Monday, 13th February, time to be advised. Parents of children applying will also be invited to come along and listen to the speeches. After the speeches, our Middle and Senior Unit students will have a chance to indicate whom they think would be our School Captains, however, the final decision will be made by staff (considering the recommendations of children). By end of Week 3 (Friday, 17th February), we should know who our new School and Vice School Captains are! Badges and a presentation at an assembly will occur soon after the announcement. More details to follow.

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.

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
11:20am – 11:30am	Students eat lunch sized snack/s inside
11:30am – 12:00pm	Morning play break
12:00pm – 1:40pm	Middle learning block
1:40pm – 1:50pm	Lunch eaten inside which includes Canteen orders on Wednesdays and Fridays.
1:50pm – 2:20pm	Afternoon play break
2:20pm – 3:20 pm	Final learning block
3:20pm	Dismissal

Children will remain inside to eat from 11:20am to 11:30am and again from 1:40pm – 1:50pm. As both breaks are well-spaced, two adequate snacks / meals are suggested, unless your child has a canteen order, which will be eaten during the second 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.

NEWSLETTER

Newsletters will *usually* be on COMPASS, the website, Facebook, and emailed home (to those who have requested to be on Janet's DL-email Janet if you would like to be added to it) each THURSDAY (apologies for the late newsletter – this week only). Parents are asked to read newsletter each Thursday by accessing COMPASS, the website, Facebook, or emails, as it is the main form of communication between school and parents. A limited number of printed copies will be available from the Office each week. Note: for privacy reasons, the newsletter does not include surnames of students, only initials.

SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS

A teacher is on yard duty from 8:45am daily. In the afternoon, a teacher is on duty until 3:35pm, 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 3:35pm all children remaining (including those who may be playing on the playground) will gather on the seats in the Office foyer where their parents will be called. Please ensure you are on time at 3:20pm though, as children become stressed or embarrassed when families have not arrived. 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, and after 3:35pm 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. If walking / riding to school, please ensure children don't leave so early that they are onsite before 8:45am. Thanks for your cooperation.

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. Habits formed from a young age are hard to break later in life... so please set up positive habits for future success.

2023 CURRICULUM DAYS

Below are the Curriculum days for this year:

- Term 1: Friday, 27th January
- Term 2: Friday, 9th June (just before the June long weekend)
- Term 3: Friday, 18th August
- Term 4: Monday, 20th November

MOBILE PHONE BAN IN STATE SCHOOLS

Like ALL schools in Victoria, Big Hill PS has a ban on mobile phones at school. Students will not be permitted to have a mobile phone on site, unless they are switched off and handed into the Office on entry to the school. Phones must not be turned on until leaving the school grounds. The ban also includes devices such as Apple Watches etc. The only exemptions are for children with a medical condition, where a mobile phone is included as part of the monitoring of conditions such as diabetes. When handing in mobile phones / devices at the start of the day, Kerry / Erin / Janet will follow safety procedures and lock devices / phones away securely. They can only be collected on departure and again, only turned on when off the school grounds. The ban is part of regulations set by the MINISTER FOR EDUCATION and THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING. We suggest, unless your child really needs a phone on them for travel to and from school, to keep mobile phones and devices at home on school days. Please talk to your child about these rules to remind them and ensure they are compliant, as non-compliance will result in consequences outlined in our Behavior Management Flow Chart. Again, this is in line with DET expectations. Thanks for your cooperation.

VICTORIAN SCHOOL TERM DATES FOR 2023

- | | | | |
|--------|----------------------------------|----|--------------------------------------|
| Term 1 | Monday, 30 th January | to | Thursday, 6 th April |
| Term 2 | Monday, 24 th April | to | Friday, 23 rd June |
| Term 3 | Monday, 10 th July | to | Friday, 15 th September |
| Term 4 | Monday, 2 nd October | to | Wednesday, 20 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 book. Soon we will have an electronic kiosk to sign in and out, replacing the old paper method – keep an eye out for this new addition very soon 😊. Such requirements to sign in and out 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 also – as no adult can pick up a child unless authorised as part of your enrolment form OR if you have called the school to advise on the day, outlining what the changes are.

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.

2023 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. This year, our supplier changed hands and become COS, who did our booklists. If there are any issues with booklists we will make sure they are rectified. If you haven't paid for your booklist and organised for it to be delivered to school, you will need to call COS on 1300 61 41 33 to arrange Part A and, if applicable, Part B. We appreciate each family paying Part C to the School to ensure we can cover purchases and to ensure the school is not running into a deficit –we are not funded for individual items used by students in class, such as books, pencils, online subscriptions, iPads etc.

TROUBLE PAYING FEES / FINANCIALLY CHALLENGED etc...

There are a number of ways to support families whom are financially challenged. Always speak to us to see what we can do to help. In addition to this, visit the DET site to learn about ways to be supported financially. Here's a link: <https://www.vic.gov.au/help-school-costs-and-fees>.

STATE SCHOOLS RELIEF – HELP FOR FAMILIES (PREP UNIFORM / GLASSES FOR KIDS INFO)

At the start of Term 2, Prep families will receive information about a FREE prep uniform pack. If you are receiving the CSEF, you will be eligible, so keep an eye out early next term. They also offer a Glasses For Kids Program, click this link for more information: <https://stateschoolsrelief.org.au/programs/glasses-for-kids-program/>.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our first School Council meeting for 2023 will be on Tuesday, 22nd February. Finance will meet at 6:30pm, before our February meeting at 7:00pm. Elections for School Council 2023 will commence shortly... with information included in next week's newsletter. Keep an eye out! Please note that this is the last meeting of our 2022 School Council and includes parents whom may have children who have left and commenced Secondary School or moved location.

STAFFING

First Steps Unit: Prep (Jayden Sheean) and Prep (Nicole Peach Monday – Thursday / Nick Reid Friday)




Junior Unit: Year 1/2 (Wendy Hicks), Year 1/2 (Jen Nicholls) and Year 1/2 (Ainsley Stanley Tuesday – Friday / Roberta Mathers Monday)

Middle Unit: Year 3/4 (Dean White), Year 3/4 (Catherine Kelley) and Year 2/3 (Pauline Mulcair)

Senior Unit: Year 5/6 (Leisha Morrison), Year 5/6 (Kate Dole) and Year 5/6 (Brett Strange)

Specialists: May McLean (Tutoring / Intervention)
Jo Totta (Tutoring / Intervention)
Alice Bath (Visual Art Tuesday – Thursday)
Wendy Hung (Chinese Thursday and Friday)
Roberta Mathers (STEM Year 5/6, Wednesday)
Nick Reid (Music Tuesday – Thursday) and
Sharyn Burnett (Library / Intervention).

Education Support Officers:

-  Kerry Prentice (Business Manager),
-  Erin Neller (Business Manager),
-  Janet Dean (Administration Manager),

Integration Aids:

- ❖ Jenny Brown,
- ❖ Clare Grant,
- ❖ Stacey Murtagh,
- ❖ Amy Mountjoy,
- ❖ Pam Farnell,
- ❖ Caleb Barras and
- ❖ Tammy Fear.

Chaplain:

- Chris Powers (Monday and Wednesday)

Handyman / Grounds:

- Don Serle (Monday)

PRIVACY POLICY

Our school collects, uses, discloses and stores student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the Schools' Privacy Policy. Please take time to remind yourself of our school's collection notice, found on our website <https://www.bighillps.vic.edu.au>. For more information about privacy, refer to: Schools' Privacy Policy (<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Pages/schoolsprivacypolicy.aspx>) — information for parents. This information is also available in nine community languages.

STAFFING UPDATE

We welcome to Big Hill PS our new Chinese teacher, Wendy Hung. Wendy will take over the teaching of Chinese from Ella Xu. Welcome aboard Wendy 😊. This year, for the first time, we will have a dedicated Chinese room and Wendy is excited to set the room up with displays and examples of Chinese culture etc. At the end of last year we farewelled Zoe Wright and Joshua Savage and I'm pleased to advise you that both are settling into their new schools – Marist (Zoe) and Axedale (Josh). Finally, welcome back to Jo Totta, whom worked for a period of time last year as one of our tutors and returns this year to deliver tutoring for our Year 3-6 students.

PARENT TEACHER STUDENT – LAUNCH INTERVIEWS

We listened to our community and reintroduced 1:1 interviews at the start of the year for Year 1-6. This replaced the usual group session conducted in Weeks 3 or 4 – where start of the year information is shared. This year, families booked an interview with staff on the first day of school (Monday, 30th January) and shared information about the child, talked about the year ahead and got to know each other. We had an amazing number of families take up this opportunity – ensuring a smooth start to the year. If you missed your chance, please contact teachers directly to organise a phone call or quick catch up when possible. For our new Preps, families have had three days (Monday, 30th January – Wednesday, 1st February) to bring new Prep students in for ENTRY TO SCHOOL ASSESSMENTS. As part of this process, families were encouraged to meet and greet and exchange information – which will continue in the first few weeks of school with drop offs and pick ups. If you would like to speak to your child's Prep teacher in more detail, please contact them directly or via email Nicole.Argall@education.vic.gov.au (Nicole Peach) and Jayden.Sheean@education.vic.gov.au. If you enjoyed the information shared in previous years, we plan to deliver this information to families electronically in the coming weeks – ensuring you know how all things work in each Unit of the school.

STUDENT ENROLMENT INFORMATION FORMS, PRIVACY / LOCAL EXCURSION, PG MOVIE PERMISSIONS, CSEF, CHAPLAIN PERMISSION, & WHOLE SCHOOL ACCESS NOTE (IT PERMISSION)

The above forms were handed out earlier this week to all families.

The Student Enrolment Information Form is for every child, so that we can make sure our details on file are correct.

The Privacy / Local Excursion forms & PG Movie Forms are only for new students as we already have these on file for our current students.

CSEF (Camps, Sports, Excursions Fund) forms are for families who hold a current Health Care Card or Pension Card to help with the above costs. Families receive \$125 per child directly to the school.

The Chaplain form is voluntary. Families who gave permission last year will need to complete a new form for this year – apologies for any inconvenience.

The Whole School Access note is for every child to complete as it sets out the rules / responsibilities for using our IT devices whilst at school and is updated each year, therefore all students need a new one this year.

If all forms can please be returned by Friday, 10th February, that would be appreciated.

STAYING SAFE FROM MOSQUITOES

Recent wet and warm weather has increased mosquito breeding. Mosquitoes can carry diseases that may be passed on to people through mosquito bites. A range of mosquito-borne diseases have recently been detected in mosquitoes in northern Victoria. Mosquito-borne diseases can cause serious illness, including infections of the brain, with children particularly at risk.

The best way to prevent mosquito-borne diseases is to avoid mosquito bites.

In line with community health advice, families can protect against mosquito bites by:

- using insect repellent that contains picaridin or DEET on all exposed skin if outdoors when mosquitoes are observed, from October to March,
- wearing long, loose-fitting clothing outdoors if possible if mosquitoes are around and covering exposed skin as much as possible. Summer school uniforms, including polos and shorts, can continue to be worn, but students should use insect repellent on exposed skin if mosquitoes are active,
- limiting outdoor activity when mosquitoes are active.

Further information: A [handy guide](#) to help protect you and your family from mosquito-borne disease, and the Better Health Channel [information about preventing mosquito-borne diseases](#).

BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to Paige A, Nikirra S, Hudson M-B, Memphis J, Abby M, Olivia K, Wil G, Layla R, Anna S, Sophie H, Tasman H-L, Celeste N, Hope G, Kohen S, Benji T, Ash W & Oscar A.

With the first week almost complete, here's hoping that Friday was also full of fun, learning & anticipation. It's great to get a good start to the year 😊. Again, welcome / welcome back! Looking forward to working with you all during 2023,

Matt Pearce, Principal

FIRST STEPS NEWS

WELCOME BACK

Welcome to all our new families to the First Steps Unit for 2023. We are looking forward to an exciting term 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.

		Monday	Tuesday	Thursday
Room	Nicole/Nick		PE	Chinese
1	FSN	Library	Art	Music
Room	Jayden		PE	Chinese
2	FSJ	Library	Art	Music

BRAIN FOOD

Next week students will be learning about and 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 week. 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-brimmed hat (available year round at the Office for \$10) 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 (8th, 15th, & 22nd) and will commence school 5 days a week starting on Wednesday 1st March.

STARS OF THE WEEK

This will commence next week, as we've only just begun 😊

Nicole, Nick & Jayden

JUNIOR UNIT NEWS

WELCOME

A big welcome to all of our Junior Unit families. We have been so impressed with the way our students have begun to settle in and get to know their new routine, new classroom, new teachers and new classmates. It's been a big change for every child in our Unit, and their teachers too! This year we have some exciting things planned for the Junior Unit and hope that they are as excited to be here as we are to be teaching them. Please do not hesitate to contact any of the Junior Unit staff if you have anything you wish to discuss further. We can be contacted at:

ainsley.stanley@education.vic.gov.au
roberta.mathers@education.vic.gov.au
wendy.hicks@education.vic.gov.au
jennifer.nicholls2@education.vic.gov.au

Thank you to everyone who came along to our meet and greet sessions on Monday. It was terrific to have a chance to get to know our new families and exchange information related to our students and our programs. If you were unable to attend the interviews on Monday, please feel free to contact your classroom teacher and organise a suitable time.

READING NIGHTS

This year our nightly reading goal is once again 225 nights. To recognise the hard work of our students and their families we will be announcing our reading milestones in our newsletter. Every 25 nights read we will have a list of students who have achieved these mini milestones and are well on their way to reading their ultimate goal of more than 225 nights. Student's journals will be checked each week by their teacher, and nights read will be noted. To keep on track to achieve 225 nights, a possible schedule could look something like this:

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
40-50 nights	100-120 nights	170-190 nights	225+ nights

SPECIALIST CLASSES

This year we will be having our Specialist program on a Tuesday morning. Our students will need to bring their library books back each Tuesday and ensure that they have returned their Art smocks to their teacher, ready for Alice by next week. On a Wednesday we will have Morning Fitness and on a Friday we will have our PE sessions. Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for these active sessions. Chinese lessons will be conducted on a Thursday in Junior Jen and Junior Wendy and on a Friday in Junior Ainsley / Roberta.

REMINDERS

Notes went home this week from the Office regarding enrolment details. Please ensure these are checked, changes made if necessary and returned to the Office by next Friday. We have also sent home notes regarding our upcoming Life Skills program. Please attend to these as soon as you are able, as Life Skills starts next Thursday. Thank you.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For a positive return to school in Term 1:

JA **Sienna D**
JW **Valentine J**
JJ **Malachi B**

Ainsley, Roberta, Wendy & Jen

MIDDLE UNIT NEWS

WELCOME BACK

The Middle 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 (available from the Office year-round for \$10) 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.

MEET & GREET SESSIONS

Thank you to all of the parents and guardians that attended our Meet and Greet meetings on Monday. It was fantastic to meet you all and have the opportunity to discuss your child's year ahead. Please feel free to contact us if you have any concerns or queries throughout the year:

Dean White:

dean.white@education.vic.gov.au

Catherine Kelley:

catherine.kelley@education.vic.gov.au

Pauline Mulcair:

pauline.mulcair@education.vic.gov.au

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For a fantastic start to the school year:

MD **Jack E**
MC **Bonnie S**
MP **Dante D**

Dean, Catherine & Pauline

SENIOR UNIT NEWS

WELCOME

- ✚ A warm welcome all students and parents to the Senior Unit to the 2023 school year.
- ✚ It was lovely to see all the happy smiling faces of both the students and parents.
- ✚ We have had a smooth start to the year with students settling into classrooms quickly.

HOMEWORK

Nightly reading is to be recorded in diaries each night, access to My Literacy and My Numeracy at home, 10 spelling words are in diaries to be learnt / practised.

VICE & SCHOOL CAPTAIN

APPLICATION SPEECHES ON MONDAY 13TH FEB

Year 6 students who are wanting to apply for leadership positions this year are asked to develop a speech to present to their peers. Speeches should include why the student would be a suitable school or vice captain, what they have contributed to BHPS and what they aim to achieve this year in the role.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For demonstrating a positive start to school:

SB **Mia M**
SK **Hope G**
SL **Lily C**

Brett, Kate & Leisha

OSHC NEWS

WELCOME AND ACCOUNTS

Welcome to our new families, and welcome back to our current families 😊.

Accounts are emailed out weekly on Mondays, and payment is expected at a minimum of fortnightly. Please note that you can also pay more than your account owing total and be in credit if you like. Accounts will still be emailed so you can keep track.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Janet in the Office.

CANTEEN NEWS

HOW TO PLACE AN ORDER

The canteen is open on Wednesday and Friday. Lunch orders are to be placed using our Qkr app by 9:00am.

*A paper bag is required for each child, so please add one before you checkout on the app.

Your order will be filled and lunch monitors from each class collect them from the Canteen during the second break at 1:40pm to be eaten in classrooms.

If you order iced treats, your child will need to bring the bag back to the canteen at 1:50pm to collect it / them.

We do have a small number of printed menus available at the Office if required.

ITEM BACK IN STOCK FROM 2022

Dim sims are now back on the menu for 2023 😊.

VOLUNTEERS

We are looking for volunteers as some of our past volunteer families left Big Hill PS at the end of last year. You don't need to be a parent, you can be an aunt, uncle or a grandparent 😊.

If you can spare 1 hour once or twice per term on a Friday, and if you are able to help (it's lots of fun and you don't need any cooking experience), please leave your contact details at the Office. Thank you.

Tammy Fear
Canteen Manager

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB

Issue 1 has been given out today. Please either order online, or cash / card can be accepted at the Office, by Friday, 10th February.

Also, we receive some issues of the Scholastic Book Club, but not all, so please feel free to browse / order online and select our school, and they will be delivered directly to us, with a percentage of sales going towards helping to stock the Library and classrooms.

Their website is:

<https://www.scholastic.com.au/book-club/book-club-home/>

PE NEWS

Some of the **Essendon Bombers** will be at school for a Q&A and short photo / autograph session for Year 3-6 students only next Thursday, 9th February from 12pm – 1pm!!

WHOLE SCHOOL NEWS

FREE WEEKLY BREAKFAST CLUB

We again this year have the FREE Breakfast Club every Friday morning, from 8:30am – 8:50am at the front of the Multipurpose Room (big blue building).

All students are welcome to come and have some cereal, milk, fruit cup and sometimes we even have oranges. All students are welcome!

FREE FRUIT WEDNESDAYS

We are very lucky to be a part of McKern's Fresh Fruit Program. Every Wednesday we get a delivery of assorted fresh fruit for each class to share. Thank you to McKern's and other sponsors of this fantastic program.

SECOND HAND UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

Our Second-Hand uniform shop is available on Qkr only at the moment, but we are hoping to have a regular opening day some time soon, watch this space!

Stock will be updated in the coming week, so if what you want isn't there now, please check back then.

COMMUNITY NEWS



JOIN THE FUN

The Kangaroo Flat Junior Football Club is seeking expressions of interest for players in the girls U12, U14 and U16 divisions for 2023.



If you are looking for fun and friendship in a positive team environment, then why not try AFL in 2023? The KFJFC is taking an active role in encouraging young girls to participate in team sport. With modern female friendly facilities, experienced coaches and a strong passion for developing leadership and foundation football skills, we look forward to welcoming new and experienced players to our club in 2023.

Training for all age groups is Wednesday afternoon at Dower. Under 12 girls play a modified rules competition on Friday evenings with Under 14 & 16 play Sunday mornings games. You can register for the 2023 season at: <https://www.playhq.com/afl/register/557000>

Registration Night

Monday, 13th February 2023, 5pm
Dower Park Oval, Kangaroo Flat

Email: kangarooflatjfc@hotmail.com.au



#AFLW #HERSPORT @KangarooFlatJuniorFC



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- SOUTH BENDIGO TENNIS CLUB

gianttennis.com.au

MARCHING/DRILLDANCE

FREE COME AND TRY DAY

AGES 8-12
(CONTACT US FOR OTHER AGES 4YEARS-ADULT)
WEDNESDAY FEB 8TH 5:30-6:30PM
AT THE LONG GULLY COMMUNITY CENTRE
23-29 HAVILAH ROAD, LONG GULLY
TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT REGISTER AT
WWW.EJSDRILLDANCE.COM AND CLICK ON TRY
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