



Calder Chronicle

NUMBER 3

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THURSDAY, 16TH FEBRUARY 2023

CALENDAR

Monday, 21st February
Tuesday, 22nd February
Friday, 24th February
Monday, 1st March
Monday, 20th March
Monday, 27th March

School Captains / School Vice Captains Badges awards at 9am assembly
First School Council Meeting for 2023
School Council Nomination Forms due by 3:20pm
Smile Squad Dental Permission due
Payment of \$20 due for the Junior Unit Central Deborah Goldmine Excursion
Junior Unit Central Deborah Goldmine Excursion

School Organisation

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

Week 3 has been very productive, with children now enjoying routines and settling into learning. Relationships have formed and that "new feel" is starting to disappear, with faces and places becoming familiar.

PREP WEDNESDAYS

Just a reminder that next Wednesday, 22nd February is the FINAL PREP FREE WEDNESDAY. The week after, Preps will commence full weeks of schooling. This may be a big adjustment for some, so rest and routines leading up to the full week will help. Remember also, if a child is really struggling with the adjustment, you can speak to your child's teacher about an earlier pick up, a sleep-in or a day at home if they are really exhausted. Obviously the main goal is to try and attend for the full week straight up – so see how you go 😊.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL (SRC)

Applications for SRC have now closed, with School Chaplain, Chris Powers reviewing applications and consulting teachers before making a decision. Two SRC representatives will be chosen from each of our Junior, Middle and Senior Unit classes, with children being in Year 2 and up. Chris hopes to announce our SRC at Monday's assembly, with a badge presentation the following week.

SCHOOL CAPTAINS / LEADERS

On Monday I had the pleasure of listening to many of our Year 6 students as they spoke about their desire to be our SCHOOL or VICE SCHOOL CAPTAINS. I was impressed with the effort, resilience and commitment shown by so many children – such a huge step to stand in front of peers, younger students, staff and visiting parents... so my congratulations to all who put their hand up. My advice to students who spoke and missed out, is to not let it stop them from moving forward. They are already leaders and will be so throughout all of Year 6 – in the yard, in the class, with buddies and through many of our special events... in fact, they will continue to be leaders each day, without even knowing it. For those whom have been announced as our School Leaders, congratulations! I know that Sam H and Zoe W will be awesome School Captains and will be well-supported by Harley N and Alexis C as our Vice Captains. After hearing the speeches, I have no doubt that the students from Year 3-6 (who voted) have chosen well, and I look forward to working with our new leaders in the near future. Badges will be presented on Monday at assembly. Parents of our leaders are invited to attend to take that special photo as your child receives their badge.

ISSUES, QUERIES OR CONCERNS

At Big Hill PS, we welcome ongoing communication and value this as an important way to avoid small things becoming issues. To set yourself up for success, ensure you have communication lines with your child's teacher/s via email, phone or at drop off / pick up. As soon as there is a problem, speak to your child's teacher/s first. Often what is reported at home is not quite the case – situations are complex and a child isn't always able to determine the full story... this is why it's always good to stay in touch with staff, check in and discuss. Research shows the power of teacher, parent and child (the triangle) working together as the most powerful means to support children through school - so please ensure your first port of call is always your child's teacher.

HOT WEATHER

Today, tomorrow and into next week, we are seeing a late rush of summer. Temperatures are extremely high and the children really don't cope with the heat. We do have shaded areas in the yard and encourage quieter play - and if the temperature is excessive and the UV rating high, we move to indoor play. Please, as we experience hot days, ensure your child has a hat, is wearing sunscreen (and can reapply from their bag through the day) and has a large drink bottle full of water.



BUSHFIRE & CODE RED DAYS

Fire danger ratings and warnings are used in Victoria to provide clear direction on the safest options for preserving life. Schools and children's services listed on the DET Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR) will be closed when a Code Red fire danger rating day is determined in their Bureau of Meteorology district. **Our school has been identified as being one of those at high bushfire risk and is listed on the BARR.**

Where possible, we will provide parents with up to four days notice of a potential Code Red day closure by letter, through COMPASS, the Big Hill PS website, email, and Big Hill PS / P&F Facebook pages. A Code Red day will be determined by the Emergency Management Commissioner no later than 1:00pm the day before the potential closure. Once we are advised of the confirmation of the Code Red day we will provide you with advice before the end of the school day.

Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, regardless of improvements in the weather forecast. This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child. It is also important to note that: No staff will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Code Red day. Out of School Hours Care will also be cancelled on these days. School camps will be cancelled if a Code Red fire danger rating day is determined for the Bureau of Meteorology district in which the camp is located.

As a bus coordinating school, all bus routes will be cancelled, ie: Ravenswood bus run. Depending on which Bureau of Meteorology district is impacted other bus route (not coordinated by Big Hill PS) cancellations may affect our school eg: Kangaroo Flat bus.

On these Code Red days families are encouraged to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan – **on such days children should never be left at home or in the care of older children.** For those of us living in a bushfire prone area, the CFA advise that when Code Red days are forecast, the safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Code Red day. As part of preparing our school for potential hazards such as fire, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan, reprioritised any maintenance works that may assist in preparing for the threat of fire and cleared our facility's grounds and gutters.

What can parents do? Make sure your family's bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements in the event that our school is closed. Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers and email addresses. Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters, by checking our website www.bighillps.vic.edu.au or Facebook pages and by talking to your child's teacher or any other member of the teaching staff about our emergency management plan. Most importantly at this time of year, if you're planning a holiday or short stay in the bush or in a coastal area, you should check warnings in advance of travel and remain vigilant during your stay. If your child is old enough, talk to them about bushfires & your family's bushfire survival plan.

You can access more information about children's services closures on the Department of Education and Training website – see <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/pages/closures.aspx>. For up-to-date information on this year's fire season see: <https://emergency.vic.gov.au> Facebook ([facebook.com/cfavic](https://www.facebook.com/cfavic)) Twitter (twitter.com/CFA_Updates) ABC local radio, Sky News and other emergency broadcasters and the VicEmergency Hotline (1800 226 226).

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS –

Information for parents from the Department of Education and Training (DET)

What is a school council and what does it do? All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the broad directions of a school in accordance with their constituting Order and the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006*. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council? For most primary school councils, there are three possible categories of membership: 1. A mandated elected Parent member category – more than one-third of the total members must be from this category. DET employees can be Parent members at their child's school as long as they are not engaged in work at the school. 2. A mandated elected DET employee member category – members of this category may make up no more than one-third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members. 3. An optional Community member category – members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members. Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is parent membership so important? Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help inform and shape the direction of the school. Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

Do I need special experience to be on school council? Each member brings their own valuable life skills and knowledge to the role. However, councillors may need to develop skills and acquire knowledge in areas that are unfamiliar to them. What you do need is an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

Code of conduct for school councillors - School councils in Victoria are public entities as defined by the *Public Administration Act 2004*. School councillors must abide by the *Code of Conduct – Employees* issued by the Victorian Public Sector Commission. The Code of Conduct is based on the Victorian public sector values and requires councillors to: **act with honesty and integrity** (be truthful, open and clear about their motives and declare any real, potential or perceived conflict of interest and duty), **act in good faith** in the best interests of the school (work cooperatively with other councillors and the school community, be reasonable, and make all decisions with the best interests of students foremost in their minds), **act fairly and impartially** (consider all relevant facts of an issue before making a decision, seek to have a balanced view, never give special treatment to a person or group and never act from self interest), **use information appropriately** (respect confidentiality and use information for the purpose for which it was made available), **exercise due care, diligence and skill** (accept responsibility for decisions and do what is best for the school), **use the position appropriately** (not use the position as a councillor to gain an advantage), **act in a financially responsible manner** (observe all the above principles when making financial decisions), **comply with relevant legislation and policies** (know what legislation and policies are relevant for which decisions and obey the law) AND **demonstrate leadership and stewardship** (set a good example, encourage a culture of accountability, manage risks effectively, exercise care and responsibility to keep the school strong and sustainable).

Indemnity for school council members: School councillors are indemnified against any liability in respect of any loss or damage suffered by the council or any other person in respect of anything necessarily or reasonably done, or omitted to be done by the councillor in good faith in: the exercise of a power or the performance of a function of a councillor, or the reasonable belief that the act or omission was in the exercise of a power or the performance of a function of a council. In other words, school councillors are not legally liable for any loss or damage suffered by council or others as a result of reasonable actions taken in good faith.

How can you become involved? The most obvious way is to vote in the school council elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant. In view of this, you might consider: standing for election as a member of the school council OR encouraging another person to stand for election.

What do you need to do to stand for election? The principal will issue a Notice of Election and Call for Nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year (*It's included in today's newsletter as part of School Council Elections information*). All school council elections must be completed by the end of March unless the usual time line has been varied by the Minister. If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent member category (*forms available from the Office*). DET employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not engaged in work, are eligible to nominate for Parent membership of the school council at that school. Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the Notice of Election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt via post, email or by hand following the receipt of your completed nomination. If there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Remember: Consider standing for election to school council this year. Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do. Be sure to vote in the elections – if we have more nominations than positions. Contact the Principal (Matt Pearce) for further information.

AN ELECTION IS TO BE CONDUCTED FOR MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COUNCIL OF BIG HILL PS

Nomination forms may be obtained from the Office and must be lodged by 3:15pm on Friday, 24th February, 2023. If a ballot is required (depending on the number of nominations), this will close at 3:15pm on Friday, 3rd March 2023. Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school. The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows:

Membership Category	Terms of Office	Currently Held by	Number of Positions
Department of Education and Training	March 2023 – March 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ainsley Stanley • Pauline Mulcair <i>(Ainsley and Pauline will need to renominate if they wish to continue)</i>	2
Parent	March 2023 – March 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shane Chapman • Nicole Blythman • VACANCY • Daniel Bourke <i>(Shane, Nicole and Daniel will need to renominate if they wish to continue)</i>	4

Please feel free to contact me for further information. Nomination forms are available from the Office or can be organised to be sent home for signing. We are genuinely looking for new members – the commitment is 8 meetings a year, always on a Tuesday night (2 per term) at 7:00pm.

ELECTION TIMELINE

Friday, 10th February

Call for nominations (forms available from the Office)

Friday, 24th February

Closing date for nominations (forms must be returned to the Office by 3:20pm on this date). Nominations assessed and the need for a ballot decided. If ballot is not required, new School Council announced and meet soon after this date OR Ballot set up (if required).

Friday, 3rd March

Close of Ballot (if required).

Tuesday, 7th March

Counting of Ballot (if required),

Declaration of Ballot,

New School Council announced and will meet shortly after this date.

PART C – BOOKLISTS

If you received a letter recently advising you have not paid your PART C of your child's BOOKLIST, please attend to this ASAP. PART C includes subscriptions that belong to your child (eg. Reading Eggs, Showbie etc and can be utilised at home), payment towards our lease of iPads and Laptops (which means you don't have to buy a device, rather, you lease a portion of a device's use) and are used by your child in class, payment towards diary / Resilience Journal purchase (which helps us cover some of the cost) etc. If families don't pay these fees, the school ends up wearing the cost, which we aren't funded for. When this occurs, we have to take the money from somewhere else, so it might be less books for the library, reduced sports equipment, art materials etc. Please, if you can, attend to the payment of PART C. If having financial trouble, please speak to the Office to set up a payment plan... see below 😊.

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>.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our first School Council meeting for 2023 will be next Tuesday, 22nd February. Finance will meet at 6:30pm, before our February meeting at 7:00pm. Elections for School Council 2023 have also commenced... with information included in today's newsletter. 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.

MCKERNS FRESH FRUIT

Thank you so much to McKern's and sponsors for providing this wonderful initiative again in 2023. The children really enjoy Wednesdays to see what kind of fruit they'll get each week! Here is Paige and Ryan enjoying their pear and banana 😊.



SMILE SQUAD IS COMING TO BIG HILL PS

The Smile Squad team from Bendigo Health are coming to our school in March. Smile Squad is the Victorian Government **FREE** school dental program. This means all students can get a free dental check-up, preventive services, and treatment at school.

How to access free dental care

We need your consent before we can provide services. Consent is usually provided by a parent or guardian. Sign up to Smile Squad at: <https://bit.ly/smilesquadvic> OR use the below QR code. Please complete and submit the consent form by Monday, 1st March.



Paper copies of the consent form are available at the Office if you would prefer. The electronic consent form can be translated into more than 100 languages, and the paper form is available in 13 languages.

Do I need to attend my child's appointment?

No, you do not need to attend your child's appointment. You can attend if you would like to, and you can take your child to the community dental clinic if you prefer.

The Bendigo Health Smile Squad team look forward to seeing you soon.

With a hot Friday ahead, here's hoping you find a cool way to start your weekend when we all get there.

Until next week...

Matt Pearce, Principal

FIRST STEPS NEWS

STARS OF THE WEEK

For demonstrating the School Value of 'Respect' by displaying excellent listening skills:

FSN *Harvey B*
FSJ *Clementine W*

Nicole, Nick & Jayden

JUNIOR UNIT NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For showing the School Value of 'Respect' during Inquiry Rotations:

JA *Harry E*
JW *Cooper M*
JJ *Parker H*

Ainsley, Roberta, Wendy & Jen

MIDDLE UNIT NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For displaying the School Value of 'Safety':

MD *Poppy S*
MC *Jacob S*
MP *Otis M*

Dean, Catherine & Pauline

SENIOR UNIT NEWS

SCHOOL CAPTAINS

Many students strive to become our Year 6 School Captains each year. It is a highly respected role, that the students take pride in.

After listening to many amazing speeches Monday morning, and tallying the votes of their peers, we are happy to announce the appointments of our School Captains and School Vice Captains for 2023.

In their role over the next 10 months our Captains and Vice Captains will thank special guests for coming to our school, run the School Assembly, represent Big Hill PS at special events and they will be active members of the SRC. They will have many valuable opportunities to continue to develop their skills in being leaders.

Introducing School Captains for 2023:

Captains:

Sam H & Zoe W

Vice Captains:

Alexis C & Harley N

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For demonstrating great Courage and Leadership skills:

SB *Chelsea A*
SK *Ashley B*
SL *Logan K*

Brett, Kate & Leisha

CANTEEN NEWS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC NEWS

Nick will again be doing instrument instruction for the following instruments from the start of Term 2:

- 🎵 Drums
- 🎵 Acoustic Guitar
- 🎵 Electric Bass
- 🎵 Ukelele

There will also be musical productions later in the year.

Enrolment forms with further information and prices will be handed out to those students interested from Years 3 to 6 later this term.

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 sometime soon, watch this space!

Stock has been updated on Qkr, so please have a look if there is something you need, remember, **it's only \$2** per item 😊.

OSHC NEWS

OSHC JOKES 2023

- 🎵 Why did the seagull fly over the sea? If it flew over the bay, it would be called a baygull!!
- 🎵 Why did the teacher wear sunglasses? Because her students were so BRIGHT!!

FRESH FRUIT FRIDAY

Benefiting the health
and wellbeing of our
Bendigo school children



SCHOOL VISITS COMING SOON!

Proudly funded and supported by:



mckern steel[™]
foundation