



Calder Chronicle

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THURSDAY, 27TH APRIL 2023

CALENDAR

Friday, 28th April
Monday, 1st May
Wednesday, 3rd May
Friday, 5th May
Friday, 12th May
Tuesday, 16th May
Wednesday, 17th May
Thursday, 18th May
Friday, 19th May
Monday, 22nd May
Friday, 27th May
Monday, 29th May
FRIDAY, 9TH JUNE
Monday, 12th June

Scholastic special offer closes – see inside for details
Forms and payment due for Division Cross Country
Division Cross Country – selected students only from Year 3-6
Scholastic orders due both online or at the Office
Payment of \$5 due for the Middle & Senior Units Chinese Incursion
Somers Camp departs – selected students only
Payment of \$17.50 due for Whole School Let's Get Moving
Middle & Senior Units Chinese Incursion
Middle & Senior Units Chinese Incursion
Whole School Let's Get Moving commences
2:15pm Whole School Performance – Let's Get Moving – all welcome
Cluster Athletics – selected students only – Year 4-6

CURRICULUM DAY
King's Birthday Public Holiday

School Organisation

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

Welcome to Term 2 at Big Hill Primary School... a term that promises to be both productive and busy, with many exciting highlights. At 9 weeks in length, it's a short term... with two Public Holidays also making the term even shorter. This signals that every day is important... make the most of every opportunity... which is what we will do and hopefully, you can promote at home with school every day, unless really unwell.

ANZAC DAY

We had a Public Holiday on Tuesday to recognise ANZAC Day across Australia. At 9:00am, our 4 school leaders met me at the Kangaroo Flat Soldiers Memorial and took part in the service, which was heartfelt and reflective. As part of the student leaders responsibilities, a wreath / floral tribute was also laid at the foot of the cenotaph on behalf of our School Community. I wanted to thank our 4 school leaders and their families for privileging this time on Tuesday, as well as the many other families who came along to help their child/ren understand the importance of ANZAC Day. Whilst I didn't get time to catch up with each of you, I did see many Big Hill PS faces and thought it was wonderful to have so much representation at the service 😊. A final thank you to each family whom also supported the ANZAC Day cause through buying pins / wristbands at the Office in the lead up to the day. Before the holidays our 4 leaders also went to the SHRINE OF REMEMBRANCE School ANZAC Day service with Chaplain, Chris Powers as part of the Bendigo Legacy School Tour. As part of the visit, Chris and the students took part in the service, lay a wreath and spent time exploring the grounds and gardens of the SHRINE. A big thank you to Chris for giving up his time to attend with our students and ensure they had a great day. See inside for photos.

MIDDLE UNIT CAMP

At the end of last term our Year 3/4's had two terrific days at the Upper Plenty Camp. So much fun was had, with the tube slide being the potential highlight of the trip. A big thank you to Dean White, Catherine Kelley and Pauline Mulcair for their organisation and willingness to attend camp. Thanks also to Chris Powers, Jo Totta, Stacey Murtagh, Clare Grant, our parent helper, and Tammy Fear who assisted on the camp and give up their time to ensure the camp was a great success. The behaviour of our children was amazing – if your child attended, you should feel proud 😊.

STAFFING

We have returned and the germs have come back with us too, unfortunately. This week, I have had Leisha Morrison away unwell for a few days, with Casual Relief Teachers employed to cover the class. Hopefully Leisha rests up and is back in the coming day/s.

Sharyn Burnett has also taken Carer's Leave, commencing today for the next two weeks, so will not be at school until late in Week 3. If you have any queries for Sharyn, she may not be checking her emails whilst away, so please feel free to contact me directly whilst Sharyn is absent.

Sadly we are losing our great Chinese teacher, Wendy Hung, at the end of next week. Wendy has picked up a job in Melbourne, closer to home... and will leave the Bendigo network of Chinese Teachers. Currently Bendigo Senior Secondary College (BSSC) is recruiting a replacement Chinese teacher for our school and the other Primary School who shares our Chinese teacher. As I am made aware of the replacement, I will let you know.

Finally, it's been lovely to welcome Nick Reid back to the music role this term, after enjoying 6 weeks at home with his new baby boy (and family). Welcome back Nick!

CURRICULUM DAY THIS TERM

Our School Council has selected and set Friday, 9th June as our Term 2 Curriculum Day (Pupil Free). This will align with the June Long Weekend, giving families a chance to get away from Friday to Monday, with Monday being the King's Birthday Public Holiday. As some families will still have work commitments on the Friday, I have announced this early to enable families to begin planning alternative care arrangements for the Friday, 9th June.

CROSS COUNTRY – NEXT WEDNESDAY

As part of our sporting program, each Unit ran a Cross Country / fun run last term. Our Middle and Senior Cross Country runs were used to select children to represent Big Hill PS at the District Cross Country, held next Wednesday, 3rd May at the Bendigo Racecourse. Selected students from Years 3-6 (the event does not include Prep – 2) will travel to the Racecourse by bus next Wednesday, complete in their age grouping and return to school once complete. The Middle Unit will compete earlier in the day and return to school for the afternoon, with the Senior Unit in action through the middle of the day. Brett Strange has organised the participation of our school for this year – which is much appreciated. We look forward to hearing how our students go on Wednesday... and encourage you to go out for a visit, if free, to cheer your child/ren on. For rough times of events, please check with your child's classroom teacher.

ATTENDANCE

The object for each parent / carer is to have their child at school as much as possible. Children should be at school every day in the ideal world... and only miss school when they are really unwell. In the State of Victoria, the average days of absence last year was 20 days – which is pretty high and due to the nature of COVID isolation rules in 2022 and a nasty flu season. This year, we expect the State average to be much less. If you worked on 10 days away for the year and achieved this, your child will make very good progress with their learning. More days than this starts to affect learning. To help you, please only have your child at home when they are quite unwell. Please avoid days off for birthdays, if possible – holidays, rest days etc, as they really do add up. **Moving forward, if your child is absent for more than 2 days consecutive, we need you to provide us with a medical certificate**, so please visit the doctor if your child is very unwell and home for more than 2 days. On COMPASS, you can track your child's percentage rate of attendance. The goal is to have attendance in the 90 – 100% bracket, so if your child is below this level now, really work on school every day (when they are well) to get attendance rates back in the "green". Of course there are always going to be one-off-situations where a child is hospitalised, or really unwell for an extended period... and this is both a fact of life and something we do understand. All you do in this situation is provide a certificate. The DEPARTMENT has once again resumed the expectation that schools must follow up every absence and that parents / carers must have their children at school. With this in mind, please understand us contacting you about absences is part of the role expected of us by the DEPARTMENT. We also have a duty of care, along with families, to make sure each child is given access to education and does not miss out / fall behind.

ISSUES / PROBLEMS

As always, we can only manage issues if we are made aware, so if your child is having any problems at school, please don't assume that the school knows – even if your child states they have told an adult. The best person to speak to is your child's teacher, so please ensure you work with them to address any issues experienced throughout the year. Our staff are very dedicated, value your child and want the best for them, just like you do... so please reach out... even if it's just to clarify something.

MCKERNS FRESH FRUIT



We are very fortunate to be able to continue to participate in the Fresh Fruit Program this term. Thank you once again, a lovely big selection delivered yesterday. Here are Sophie & Levi enjoying their pear and mandarin.

BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to Mia T, Xavier P & Dante D.

As we come to the end of Week 1, we are off to a great start for the Term... with children and staff getting straight back into routines and work. Term 2 has many highlights, including EDUCATION WEEK, NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK, the GRIP LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE, student leaders on PHOENIX FM RADIO, FOOTY CLINICS PREP – YEAR 4, CHINESE KUNGFU / DRAGON DANCE INCURSION for Middle & Senior Units, Whole School LET'S GET MOVING and performance for the community, DIVISION SOCCER (YEAR 5/6) and Semester 1 reports sent home... to name but a few of the major things happening.

As the weekend approaches, stay dry and I look forward to touching base with you again next week.

Kind regards,

Matt Pearce, Principal

FIRST STEPS NEWS

WELCOME BACK

Welcome back to all students and their families. We hope you had a relaxing holiday, and we look forward to a busy term.

STARS OF THE WEEK

For displaying a happy and enthusiastic attitude towards school:

FSN Hudson M

FSJ Zelda L

Nicole, Nick & Jayden

JUNIOR UNIT NEWS

JETS GYM

Notes were sent home yesterday regarding our upcoming gym program at Jets Gym.

Notes and money are due back at school by the Friday, 26th May, with the program commencing each Wednesday beginning on 31st May and finishing up on Wednesday, 21st June.

This program will replace our usual Wednesday morning fitness sessions, yet students still need to be at school with suitable footwear and uniform items.

We recommend that school dresses with tights are not appropriate for these sessions. Thank you.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For their confident and enthusiastic start to Term 2:

JAR Logan H

JW Patrick T

JJ Sofia D

Ainsley, Roberta, Wendy & Jen

MIDDLE UNIT NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For displaying the School Value of 'Responsibility':

MD Allyera G

MC Nikirra S

MP Abby M

Dean, Catherine & Pauline

SENIOR UNIT NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For displaying gratitude at school:

SB Liam W

SK Bobby S

SL tba

Brett, Kate & Leisha

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB

Issue 3 brochures have been handed out today. Please have orders in (either online or at school) by Friday, 5th May. Thank you 😊.

There is an early bird offer, so if you order online by **TOMORROW** and the total of your order is over \$25, you will receive \$5 off – use code MAGIC.

LOTS OF SOCKS

If you are interested in supporting Down Syndrome Australia and love your socks, please order online at:

<https://dsa.promogearonline.com.au/site/product/socks-single-pair/>



At only \$12.50 per pair in adults and kids sizes, it's a great way to help raise funds and look cool 😊

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

"We are pleased to let you know that Gabrielle B has passed a Judo practical and knowledge test called a grading at the Judo Bendigo Club.

This is no easy task and requires a great deal of practice. The grade is awarded by the presentation of a coloured Judo belt.

Junior Judo belts are in varying colours signifying age and expertise. Gabrielle has been awarded a Yellow-Black belt.

Derren Jones

Judo Victoria Secretary

Judo Victoria is the home of Olympic and Commonwealth Games Judo in Victoria"

Congratulations Gabrielle 😊

COMMUNITY NEWS

LOWES
3 DAY VIP EVENT
20% OFF EVERYTHING*
MAY 3RD-5TH
SHOP INSTORE & ONLINE

*T&Cs apply, no rainchecks, savings off original prices.

ANZAC DAY CEREMONY PHOTOS

