

# Calder Chronicle

Number 38

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Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/BigHillPrimarySchool/

#### THURSDAY, 7<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2023

#### CALENDAR

Thursday, 7th December

Year 2 Sleepover - drop off at school at 5:00pm, pick up at 7:00am **LAST NORMAL CANTEEN DAY FOR 2023** 

Friday, 8th December

Payment of \$55 due for the Middle Unit Werribee Zoo Excursion

Payment & form due for 2024 Year 6 Graduation Tops

Year 6 Graduation - 12pm - 1pm Ceremony - all welcome

Monday, 11th December Tuesday, 12th December

LAST DAY FOR PIZZA DAY ORDERS

Payment of \$20 due for Senior Unit Swimming

Final Kinder to Foundation (Prep)Transition Day Visit 10:30am – 12:15pm WHOLE SCHOOL TRANSITION, INCLUDING YEAR 6-7 SECONDARY VISITS

Wednesday, 13th December

Middle Unit Werribee Zoo Excursion Senior Unit Swimming commences

First Steps Teddy Bears Picnic Break Up - more information to follow

**NO CANTEEN** 

Junior Unit KK presents due in classrooms

Thursday, 14th December

Senior Unit Swimming continues

Friday, 15th December

Individual Junior Unit Class KK presents handed out

9:00AM ASSEMBLY - STUDENT & READING AWARDS - all welcome 😊 PIZZA DAY - no normal food items, iced treats will be available-SEE BELOW

Senior Unit Swimming continues – NO PIZZA ORDERS – apologies

FRIDAY, 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER BOOKLIST ORDERS DUE ONLINE

Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> December

Junior Unit Break Up - cost \$16

END OF YEAR PICNIC & CHRISTMAS CAROLS 5:00pm to approx 6:40pm - see inside

Senior Unit Swimming concludes

Tuesday, 19th December

Senior Unit Break Up

Wednesday, 20th December

LAST DAY FOR 2023 – early dismissal of 1:30pm

NO Kangaroo Flat bus, but Ravenswood bus will run at earlier time

Friday, 19th January Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> January Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> January

**Booklist Collection Day at School Teachers & Education Support Start** 

Student Launch Interviews / Student Assessment

Wednesday, 31<sup>st</sup> January Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> February

Year 2 – 6 Students Start & Foundation / Year 1 Testing – more info to follow

Foundation / Year 1 Students Start

#### **School Organisation**

#### Dear School Community,

Week 10 has been unusually settled, with children working very well in class and enjoying the end of year wind up. This has been good to see, particularly with Planning occurring across the school for 2024. With a week and a half left, it's action stations and lots to do!

#### **BOOKLISTS**

Booklists were sent home a couple of weeks ago. If you have not seen your child's, please check their bag and contact the Office if you can't find it. Please take note that orders are due by FRIDAY, 15TH DECEMBER, with payment either then, or on collection day on Friday, 19th January. Note that you don't have to pay now... just order now and pay later if you prefer. This will be beneficial for many I'm sure, with the cost of Christmas and holidays. Families, please note what Unit your child is ordering from, particularly for next year's Year 1, Year 2 and Year 4. Year 1's can be in either the FIRST STEPS or JUNIOR UNIT, Year 2's in the JUNIOR UNIT or MIDDLE UNIT and Year 4's in the MIDDLE UNIT or SENIOR UNIT. Order from the Unit suggested on the booklist sent home. If unsure, please check at the Office.

#### OSHC - WORKS / NEW PROVIDERS

Works, including defects, are still incomplete in OSHC, so due to this, we will finish the year in the portables. Next year, OSHC will be handed over to THEIR CARE... and will not be managed by Big Hill Primary School. All bookings, cancellations etc will be made through THEIR CARE directly. The Office will no longer have anything to do with OSHC. Please see later in the newsletter for a link to a Zoom Information Session.

#### **BUSHFIRE / EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

Each year, to prepare for bushfires and grassfires, schools and early childhood services complete a range of activities. The Department of Education runs an annual fire risk assessment of schools and early childhood services. They are allocated a category of risk (categories 0 to 4) and are published on the Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR). All schools and early childhood services listed on the BARR and Category 4 list will also close when a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast in their fire weather district. When the Bureau of Meteorology provides public fire danger rating forecasts or fire weather warnings, they use fire weather district areas. In Victoria, there are 9 fire weather districts, which are based on Local Government Area boundaries. Our school is in the Northern Country fire weather district. As part of preparing our school for the fire season, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan and reprioritised any maintenance works that may assist in preparing for the threat of fire and cleared our facility's grounds and gutters. What does this mean for our school? Our school has been identified as being at risk of bushfire or grassfire and is a Category 3 school. Our school will close on a day forecasted as Catastrophic fire danger rating in the Northern Country fire weather district. What is the department's policy? The department's Bushfire and Grassfire Preparedness Policy requires all schools and early childhood services on the BARR and the Category 4 list to close when a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast in their fire weather district. All school bus routes which travel in or through a district with Catastrophic fire danger must also be cancelled. When will our school be closed due to Catastrophic fire danger? Our school will close on a day forecasted as Catastrophic fire danger rating in the Northern Country fire weather district fire district. Closure of the school due to a forecast Catastrophic day will be confirmed on the day prior and we will provide you with advice before the end of the school day. Any information regarding potential or confirmed Catastrophic fire danger days will be communicated to you by text message, via COMPASS and via our Website/Facebook account. Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, even if the weather forecast changes. This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child. It is also important to be aware that:

- No one will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Catastrophic day.
- Out-of-school-hours care will also be cancelled on these days.
- All bus routes that travel through the Catastrophic area will be cancelled.
- School camps will be cancelled if a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast for fire weather district in which the camp is located, or if the travel involves passing through areas that have Catastrophic fire danger.

Families are encouraged to action their Bushfire Survival Plan on Catastrophic fire danger rating days. On such days, children should never be left at home alone or in the care of older children. For those of us living in a bushfire prone area, the Country Fire Authority (CFA) advises that when Catastrophic days are forecast, the safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Catastrophic day. What can families and the school community do to help us prepare?

- Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers.
- Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters, checking our website <a href="https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.bighillps.vic.edu.au%2F&data=05%7C01%7CJanet.Dean%40education.vic.gov.au%7Cadf945f5ddb04804b82a08dbf6b27126%7Cd96cb3371a8744cfb69b3cec334a4c1f%7C0%7C0%7C638375018487605593%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQljoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6lk1haWwiLCJXVCl6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=%2F0FBOgbbUaCxzZH0GWoC3uVf7DIRhHlarYLFYy2hYq8%3D&reserved=0/20, by talking to your child's teacher or any other member of the teaching staff about our emergency management plan and by staying connected to COMPASS and FACEBOOK.
- Make sure your family's bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements in the event that our school is relocated, undertaking learning from home or closed due to elevated fire danger or closed due to a Catastrophic fire danger. Further information can be found on the CFA's website.
- Action your family's bushfire survival plan if your own triggers are met. Our school community may be spread out across many areas and some families may be at higher risk than others. Your family's safety is critical, so please let us know if you are actioning your bushfire survival plan and if your children will be absent on these days.
- If your child is old enough, talk to them about bushfires and your family's bushfire survival plan.

You can find more information on emergencies, warnings and preparedness actions here:

- VicEmergency app that can be downloaded on your android and iOS mobile devices
- VicEmergency Hotline (1800 226 226)
- Website

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#### Facebook

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#### Twitter

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ABC local radio, Sky News and other emergency broadcasters

#### **STAFFING**

It's been great to welcome Catherine back this week after a period of illness  $\bigcirc$ . Her students were very pleased to see her back on deck Monday. Staffing generally this week has been very settled, with a few Casual Teachers coming onsite to support planning. Tomorrow Brett is absent and will be replaced by Rhys.

#### **CLASS PLACEMENTS**

You will find out your child's class and teacher on Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> December. This is the Statewide Transition Day, with our Kinder children coming for their last visit and Years 1-5 moving up a year level for the morning... meeting their 2024 class teacher and classmates. Our Year 6's step up into Year 7 on this day spending the full day at the 2024 Secondary School (ie: Crusoe, Bendigo South East, Weeroona and Eaglehawk). This year children will be sent home with a slip advising of their teachers for next year also - this is to ensure there is absolutely no confusion . Once again, I thank families for putting in requests and remind you that we have considered them all, but we can't meet everyone's requests at times. Please be understanding if this is the case with your request.

#### KINDER TRANSITION - CONCLUDES NEXT TUESDAY!

Next Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> December, our Kindergarten children (2024 Preps) will visit Big Hill PS for the final time for 2023, visiting from 10:30am – 12:15pm. This visit will have Kinder children in their 2024 classrooms, with their classmates for next year and 2024 teacher. It's the final visit before the big start to school next year on Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> February .

#### **ENROLMENTS**

Planning for next year is well-underway. As part of planning, we need to know enrolments or departures. If you have family or friends who intend to enroll, please contact the school ASAP. If families are moving away, we also appreciate a heads up for planning. Your support with keeping us updated is greatly appreciated.

#### **CONGRATULATIONS!**

Congratulations to Leisha Morrison and her husband, who welcomed a healthy baby boy into their family recently! We are very excited for Leisha and thrilled to hear that she has named her little boy Hayes. Mum and baby are doing very well  $\odot$ .

#### YEAR 2 SLEEPOVER

Tonight our Year 2 students are staying for our Sleepover at Big Hill Primary School. Students will head home after school and return at 5:00pm for a night of fun... and a Sleepover in the Multipurpose Room with staff including Ainsley, Wendy, Jen and Caleb. It will be lots of fun and I'm sure there will be a few tired ones tomorrow. Due to this we have made the following day a Planning Day for staff involved, which may also support families if they feel their child is overtired and needs to rest at home. School is of course operating for those that need and want to come to school after the Sleepover. Families are reminded to send children along with the appropriate bedding and sleepwear requested, along with required medications for overnight. Children are to be picked up by 7:00am, taken home for a shower etc, and returned to school when ready, unless of course they are staying home to rest... please advise the school if this is the case. Please advise the staff if you need your child taken to Before School Care in the morning. A big thank you to our Junior Unit staff for their coordination and work ensuring the Sleepover will be a memorable experience for our Year 2's this year.

#### **CANTEEN - LAST DAY TOMORROW**

I wanted to remind you all that tomorrow, Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> December, is the final canteen day of 2023 – so don't miss out on your last chance to enjoy lunch from the canteen ©. Don't forget that next week we have Pizza Day on Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> December with orders due by next Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> December.

#### **YEAR 6 GRADUATION - NEXT MONDAY**

Our Year 6 Graduation is occurring from 12:00pm on Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> December. Parents / families can come to our event, held outdoors to see students presented with awards and graduation certificates. Please bring your own chair and sunhat! After the service, visitors will head home and the Year 6's will enjoy a special lunch prepared by our PARENTS AND FRIENDS... and some of our Year 5's will provide expert service during this event as they take on the role of waiters. Following the meal Year 6's will enjoy a disco for the last hour of the day in our Multipurpose Room. Once again, the P&F will be working hard to set up the room to look amazing for our Graduates. It's set to be a big day indeed!

#### **END OF TERM AWARDS**

We will be holding our END OF TERM AWARDS on Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> December from 9:00am. This is expected to be outdoors, and all families are invited to attend. At the event we will award from each class EXCELLENCE IN ENGLISH, MATHS, VISUAL and PERFORMING ARTS, ENDEAVOUR in ENGLISH and MATHEMATICS, OUTSTANDING DEMONSTRATION OF SCHOOL VALUES, THE PRINCIPALS AWARD and 225 NIGHTS OF READING. Winners will be announced in next Thursday's newsletter to enable families to be prepared.

#### YEAR 6 AVENUE OF HONOUR

Following our END OF TERM AWARDS on Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> December will be our YEAR 6 AVENUE OF HONOUR where we announce our Year 6's one-by-one as GRADUATES and they run down an avenue of staff and students who applaud them. We are holding this event Friday as the final week is very busy and we wanted to ensure we have the majority of students onsite to enjoy the event. Families are once again invited to stay on and witness / enjoy this special occasion  $\mathfrak{S}$ .

#### **END OF YEAR PICNIC & CHRISTMAS CAROLS**

On Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> December, families are invited from 5:00pm to come to school with their children and enjoy a picnic tea - bring your own or order from the P&F BBQ (pre-orders available on Qkr now) ©. At 6:00pm, there is the CHRISTMAS MINI CONCERT. Each Unit will sing two Christmas Carols / songs before we finish up around 6:40pm. Please feel free to come dressed in festive colours etc for a bit of fun ©.

#### **END OF TERM DISMISSAL**

We dismiss on Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> December at 1:30pm. Ravenswood bus will operate at this earlier time, with families using the service asked to adjust pick up times from their drop-off point to ensure children are safely collected. Unfortunately, the KANGAROO FLAT BUS will not operate at this earlier time. Those using the KANGAROO FLAT BUS will need to make alternative arrangements. Children must be collected at 1:30pm and if work is a concern, please book into our OSHC service. The office will close at 2:00pm on this day.

#### **LAST NEWSLETTER FOR 2023**

Next week's newsletter will be our last for the year. We will not be doing a newsletter in the final week due to dismissing early on the Wednesday.

#### **SCHOOL COUNCIL**

A reminder to School Council of our dinner next Tuesday night, 6:15pm at the National Hotel. Looking forward to seeing many of you there for a farewell meal and thank you for your voluntary efforts in 2023.

#### **MOBILE PHONE BAN IN SCHOOLS**

A reminder that the Department of Education has in place a mobile phone ban that requires students who bring mobiles phones to school to have them switched off and securely put away during school hours. The department is requiring all schools to ensure this ban is in place and enforced from the start of the 2024 school year. The ban applies equally to all government schools right across the state. This helps ensure that school is a learning environment, free from unnecessary distractions and disruptions. By ensuring mobile phones are kept away at recess and lunch times, students can interact with each other face-to-face, without the distractions and social pressures that mobile phones can cause. I ask for the support of all our families, staff and students in continuing to support the implementation of this policy in our school. Emergencies: In the event of an emergency or if you need to immediately contact your child, I ask that families contact the school Office who will pass on a message as required. School mobile phone policy: A copy of our school's local mobile phone policy, which implements the government's mobile policy in line with our local context, is available on our school website.

#### MCKERNS FRESH FRUIT

Thank you so much for our latest mix of yummy fruit that was delivered yesterday. Here are Layla and Lewis enjoying their mandarin and banana 😊.

#### **BIRTHDAYS**

Happy birthday to Addisyn J, Heath B & Arya B.

The remaining one and a half weeks will be very busy... so please stay connected via COMPASS, by reading our newsletter etc. We have many celebrations ahead, so advise as-quiet-as-possible times at home to help children manage the business of the end of year.

The weekend isn't far away, so stay safe and enjoy!

## Mall Pearce, Principal

#### FIRST STEPS NEWS

#### STARS OF THE WEEK

For always being polite, friendly and well mannered:

FSN Lewis T FSJ Sophie-Lea H

Nicole, Nick & Jayden

#### JUNIOR UNIT NEWS

#### **YEAR 2 SLEEPOVER**

Tonight we will be conducting our Year 2 Sleepover here at Big Hill Primary School. Students are to arrive at 5:00pm for an evening of Kelly Sports, dinner and a movie. Students will be required to be picked up at 7:00am tomorrow morning. Please remember they will need a sleeping bag, pillow, pj's, toiletries and clean clothes for Friday morning.

They will also need a broad brimmed hat, a drink bottle and sunscreen for our activities outside this evening. As we have limited sleeping mats, if you would like to bring an additional mat that would be appreciated. Thank you for your support.

#### JUNIOR UNIT POOL PARTY BREAK UP

Monday 18th December will see our celebration of the end of our amazing year together at the Bendigo East Swimming Pool. Thank you to those families who have completed the Compass consent form and made payment for this event.

#### STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For showing empathy for their peers:

JA/R Jade L JW Zoe B JJ Malachi B

Ainsley, Roberta, Wendy & Jen

#### MIDDLE UNIT NEWS

#### **STUDENTS OF THE WEEK**

For the School Value of 'Safety':

MD Amber L
MC Georgia E
MP Mackenzie L

Dean, Catherine & Pauline

#### **SENIOR UNIT NEWS**

#### STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For demonstrating an ability to be a future leader:

SB Willow W SK Aleeah M SL Isla G

Brett, Kate & Eve

#### **PARENTS & FRIENDS NEWS**

#### **MANGO DRIVE**

Although we don't have a definite date, they have suggested it will be in the last 3 days of this year (18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> December). We will update you once we have a confirmed date. Apologies for any inconvenience.

#### **CHRISTMAS RAFFLE**

This year we will be selling the raffle tickets on the night of the BBQ only. We have some great prizes to win, so don't forget your cash for tickets on Monday, 18th December .

# END OF YEAR PICNIC AND CHRISTMAS CAROLS

All families of BHPS are invited to join our END OF YEAR PICNIC AND CHRISTMAS CAROLS at school on **Monday**, **18**<sup>th</sup> **December** in front of the Multipurpose Room.

Starting at 5:00pm, there will be a BBQ with food and drinks available for pre-order on Qkr now (BYO chairs and shade) and families are welcome to come and socialise and freely roam the school grounds.

Then, at 6:00pm, we will have a short Christmas Carol Concert on the steps of the Multipurpose Room. There will be two Christmas songs and dances performed by each unit, with 8 songs performed in total.

Students and families are encouraged to wear Christmas colours – Santa Hats, red and white clothes etc, however this is not compulsory.

#### Timeline of the Evening:

5:00pm BBQ Picnic

**6:00pm** First Steps Unit Performance

Jingle Bells

We Wish You a Merry Christmas

**6:10pm** Junior Unit Performance

**Deck** the Halls

Santa Claus is Coming to Town

**6:20pm** Middle Unit Performance

Winter Wonderland

It's the Most Wonderful Time of the

<u>Year</u>

**6:30pm** Senior Unit Performance

Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree

Jingle Bell Rock

**6:40pm** Conclusion of Performances

If students would like extra time to practise their Christmas Songs at home, simply click the links above. I have also attached a QR code (or link) with all of those songs available - <a href="https://linktr.ee/bhpsmusic">https://linktr.ee/bhpsmusic</a> - including a document with all dance moves listed.

Regards,

Nick (Music Teacher)

#### P&F NEWS - BBQ

Pre-orders are now being taken on Qkr for the P&F BBQ, held on Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> December.

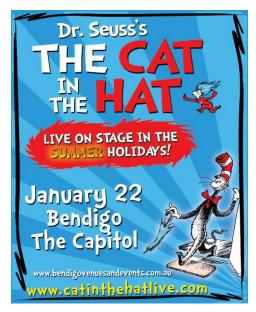
If you have credit with the school (not CSEF) and wish to use it, please email Janet with your child's order.

We have sausages in bread with or without onion, loaded baked potatoes with 3 toppings or fully loaded baked potatoes with 6 toppings, cans of drink, juice boxes, bottles of water and zooper doopers available. Ordering closes on Friday, 15th December.

Thanks for your ongoing support,

Parents & Friends

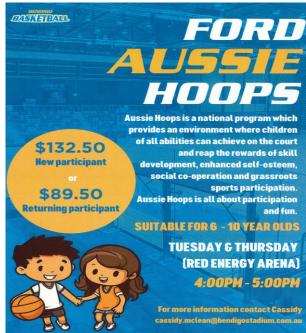
#### **COMMUNITY NEWS**

















Parent Information

Session



# You are invited

to learn about TheirCare!





Exceptional Before & After School Care & Amazing School Holiday Programs

are coming to..



# Big Hill Primary School

#### WHERE

Held Via Zoom
Link: click here
Meeting ID: 886 8974 8431
Passcode: 112606

#### WHEN

Date: Thursday 14th of December

Time: 6:30pm

## Join here!



MORE INFO
theircare.com.au
or call
1300 072 410

# FRIDAY, 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

## UNAVAILABLE TO SENIOR UNIT STUDENTS-DUE TO SWIMMING, APOLOGIES

\$5.00

# **HAWAIIAN**

OR





OR

## VEGETARIAN

### WITH PRIMA OR MILK

(No choice in flavours, sorry, can only choose between prima or milk)

- ♣ If you wish to order an extra slice, the cost is \$2.00 per slice
- Orders can be cash and order details put in an envelope, or ordered on our Qkr app
- **♣** Orders need to be placed by 9:00am on <u>TUESDAY</u>, 12<sup>TH</sup> <u>DECEMBER</u>. Late orders cannot be accepted.
- ♣ Iced treats will be available as normal
- **♣** YOU CAN ALSO PREORDER ICED TREATS ON QKR!

THE CANTEEN'S NORMAL FOOD MENU IS NOT AVAILABLE ON THIS DAY



# In mckern steel\* foundation



THANK YOU TO MCKERN STEEL FOUNDATION & SPONSORS
WE ARE SO GRATEFUL TO BE A PART OF THIS WONDERFUL PROGRAM ©