



# Calder Chronicle

NUMBER 35

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**THURSDAY, 28<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2024**

## CALENDAR

Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December  
TUESDAY, 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER

Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> December  
Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> December  
Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> December

**Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> December**  
TUESDAY, 10<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

**Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> December**

Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> December  
Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> December  
Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> December

Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> December

Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> December

**FRIDAY, 20<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER LAST DAY FOR 2024** – 9:00AM ASSEMBLY / YR 6 AVENUE OF HONOUR  
- 1:30PM DISMISSAL

Year 1 Stay and Play – 3:30pm to 4:30pm  
SECOND 2025 FOUNDATION TRANSITION VISIT 10:30AM – 12:15PM  
Senior Unit Swimming program commences  
Senior Unit Swimming program continues  
Senior Unit Swimming program continues  
2025 Year 6 Graduation Top orders due at the Office  
Senior Unit Swimming program concludes  
**Year 6 Graduation** (more details to follow)  
LAST 2025 FOUNDATION TRANSITION VISIT 10:30AM – 12:15PM  
STATEWIDE TRANSITION DAY–All Year Levels & 2025 classes announced  
**PIZZA DAY ORDERS DUE**  
2025 MEET & GREET / ASSESSMENT BOOKINGS OPEN ON COMPASS  
Year 2 Sleepover  
PIZZA DAY, no normal food items, but iced treats are available  
Junior Unit Break Up – Bendigo Cinemas  
Senior Unit Break Up  
END OF YEAR PICNIC (see inside for more information)  
First Steps Break Up  
Middle Unit Break Up

## School Organisation

Dear Big Hill Community!

We are almost at the end of Week 8 and with three weeks remaining, the end of the year is fast approaching. There is still a lot of work to do, so please stay up-to-date with events and reminders via our newsletter and COMPASS. If you have lost your COMPASS login please contact the Office.

### STRUCTURE FOR 2025

We will have a similar structure to this year in 2025, however staffing has changed. Please take note of the following:  
FIRST STEPS: Foundation / Year 1 Nicole Peach / Nick Reid (Friday) and Foundation / Year 1 Jen Nicholls  
JUNIOR UNIT: Year 1/2 Jayden Sheean and Year 2 Catherine Kelley  
MIDDLE UNIT: Year 3/4 Pauline Mulcair, Year 3/4 Wendy Hicks / Amanda Bateman (Friday) and Year 3/4 Emma Tuckwell (Monday - Wednesday) / Dean White (Thursday / Friday)  
SENIOR UNIT: Year 4/5 Kate Dole, Year 5/6 Brett Strange and Year 5/6 Ainsley Stanley / Roberta Mathers (Friday)  
SPECIALISTS: Alice Bath will return and teach Visual Arts Tuesday - Friday.  
Nick Reid will continue with performing arts on Tuesday - Thursday.  
Roberta Mathers will deliver STEM on Wednesdays  
Dean White will lead MENTAL HEALTH IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS Monday – Wednesday  
Chinese teacher TBC

### SCHOOL TIMES IN 2025

Next year we will have a change to our daily schedule. The structure of our day will see learning divided into two blocks of 2 hours and one block of 1 hour. We will also dismiss earlier in 2025. Buses and After School Care will alter to meet this earlier dismissal time. Here's what it will look like:

9:00am – 11:00am 2 hour learning block  
11:00am – 11:30am 10 minutes of supervised eating then 20 minutes of play time  
11:30am – 1:30pm 2 hour learning block  
1:30pm – 2:15pm 15 minute eating block then 30 minute play time  
2:15pm – 3:15pm 1 hour learning block  
3:15pm Dismissal

## **END OF YEAR AWARDS AND YEAR 6 AVENUE OF HONOUR**

I've had a few people wondering about the final assembly and whilst it is a little way off, felt it is important to give you notice that it will be on the last day of school (Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> December) at 9:00am (weather permitting). At the conclusion of the assembly, our Year 6 Avenue of Honour will be in place to formally farewell our wonderful Year 6 students. I anticipate this will begin just after 9:30am.

## **WHOOPING COUGH**

We have had further confirmed cases of Whooping Cough at Big Hill PS. Whooping Cough is quite contagious and if your child has a significant and persistent cough, please see a doctor and get tested. Whilst the majority of the population are vaccinated, you can still catch it and be unwell. To fully recover from the illness, a 5 day course of antibiotics is required and if positive, a child should not be at school until the antibiotic course has been completed. This is in line with advice from Health Professionals. In the remaining weeks if your child tests positive to Whooping Cough, please also advise the school as we must report it. Thanks in advance.

## **SCHOOL COUNCIL**

We had our final meeting of School Council on Tuesday night, approving the expenditure for the previous month, discussing current challenges and issues, approving the Year 2 Sleepover and the final fundraising activities of our P&F for 2025. Our School Council have worked hard this year to support our school and I thank each of them for their dedication and support above and beyond! A School Council dinner is set for Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> December at the Foundry Hotel, 6:30pm. School Councilors and members of our Finance Committee are invited and requested to RSVP to myself in the coming week please.

## **YEAR 1 STAY AND PLAY**

Families of Year 1 students are reminded that next Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December is our annual YEAR 1 STAY AND PLAY. All Year 1's are invited to remain at school with their teachers from 3:20pm – 4:30pm for a little bit of extra fun 😊. A big thank you to Ainsley and Wendy for making this a part of the Year 1 calendar of events. Please ensure you are onsite at 4:30pm to pick up your child/ren at the conclusion of the event.

## **SENIOR UNIT SWIMMING PROGRAM NEXT WEEK**

Our final swimming program for the year will occur next Tuesday - Friday for our Senior Unit students. Michelle, Tracy and Kate's classes will be heading to the pool to complete their mandatory swimming lessons as part of the Victorian Curriculum expectations. Please ensure that your child is taking part, even if they don't want to. Learning to swim is part of the curriculum across the country and an essential skill to keep children safe should they unexpectedly land in deep water. This program will occur at the outdoor pool, providing an environment where students can learn to tread water effectively, whilst also helping children become accustomed to cooler and deeper water (ie: the environment where most drownings occur). By learning in deep, cold water, our children will learn what it is like to experience such conditions and subsequently will be less likely to experience difficulties from the shock of that first time experience. Lifesaving lessons will also skill our students to safely support others who may get into trouble in the future whilst keeping themselves safe. Hopefully this helps families see the importance of sending their child/ren to swimming... the program is extremely important. If you are having push-back at home, please talk to your child's teacher who can support you in this area. Permissions and payment are due - see COMPASS. Fingers crossed the weather remains warm 😊.

## **TRANSITION – KINDERGARTEN / FOUNDATION**

Transitions are underway for much of the school. This week we had our Kinder / Foundation 2025 students visit after school on Tuesday with their families where they explored the school as part of a Treasure Hunt. Our future Foundation students enjoyed visiting Nicole to do some literacy activities, Jayden's room to work on maths, the library to meet Jen and read some lovely picture books, the art room to make a Christmas decoration with Alice, the music room to play drums with Nick, the Multipurpose Room to use the Perceptual Motor Program (PMP) equipment with myself and also have a play on the playground. The night was extremely well attended and lots of fun. A big thanks to the staff who stayed back late to make this night such a success! Our Kinder / Foundation 2025 students will return again next week for their third visit from 10:30am – 12:15pm.

## **STATEWIDE TRANSITION DAY / BOOKLISTS / 2025 CLASS PLACEMENTS**

On Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> December we have our Statewide Transition Day. Our Year 6's will head off to their local secondary school (ie: Crusoe College) on this date for a full day of transition. How exciting! Those few Year 6's going elsewhere will have the option to still come to school on this day. During the morning of the 10<sup>th</sup> our Kinder / Foundation 2025 students will return for their last visit from 10:30am – 12:15pm. During this visit students will be placed in their classroom with their teacher and classmates for 2025. Finally, all our current students from Foundation – Year 5 will step up into their 2025 classes and meet their teacher and classmates throughout a morning of transition. At the conclusion of the transition session, students will come home with a booklist for 2025 in their bag with a class placement slip stapled to it. This will advise families who their teacher is for 2025. Please keep an eye out for this on the night of the 10th!

## **YEAR 2 SLEEPOVER**

It won't be long and our Year 2's will be staying overnight at Big Hill PS as part of their first school camp experience. On Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> December all Year 2 students are invited to stay overnight at school with Ainsley, Pauline, Wendy and Caleb. Lots of exciting things are planned, so don't forget to consent and make payment before the due date. Please see COMPASS for more information.

## 2025

Next year's dates will start appearing on the newsletter calendar from next week, and the details for our 2025 Meet and Greet / Assessment sessions with your child's new teacher will open on COMPASS on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> December.

## SCHOOL SAVING BONUS (SSB)

Hopefully by today you will have received an email from the Department of Education and Training Victoria with your login details for the portal to access your SSB. When you wish to use this for school activities, you will need to allocate the amount on the portal before we can mark it as paid at school.

## YEAR 6 GRADUATION

Just a reminder to families of Year 6 that we will be holding our YEAR 6 GRADUATION outdoors on Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> December. Loved ones are invited to come along and watch the presentation of awards and delivery of speeches commencing at midday. As there will be limited seating, please ensure you bring your own chair and a sunhat just in case! At the conclusion of the ceremony, families will depart and our Year 6's will enjoy a Graduation lunch, served by our expert Year 5 wait staff (applications open now - see COMPASS). To really finish in style, the Year 6's will then enjoy an afternoon disco in our Multipurpose Room! Fun times ahead for our Year 6's 😊.

## BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to Heath B, Prezleigh P, Sonny H, Ryan W, Conor O, Georgia E & Emma P.

## MCKERNS FRESH FRUIT

Thank you so much for our latest mix of yummy fruit.

Here are Lewis and Harper enjoying their apple and pear 😊



The remaining three weeks will be very busy with swimming programs, Break Up's, reports, Graduation, Year 2 Sleepover, class end of year celebrations, transitions and much more. School is getting very busy. I assume home will be the same, so like us, do try and find moments for normal routines, early to bed, lots of rest and quiet times to reset. It all really helps to get children across the line this time of year.

With Friday ahead, may it be a good one and the weekend beyond even better 😊

Until next week...

*Matthew Pearce, Principal*

## **FIRST STEPS NEWS**

### STARS OF THE WEEK

*For participating respectfully in Music lessons:*

**FSN** *Abigail v*  
**FSJ** *Atlas D*

*Nicole, Nick & Jayden*

## **SENIOR UNIT NEWS**

### STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

*For demonstrating great improvement in effort and attitude towards learning:*

**SB** *Sophie B*  
**SK** *Ethan M*  
**SM** *Wil G*

*Kate, Tracy & Michelle*

## **JUNIOR UNIT NEWS**

### STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

*For demonstrating enthusiasm towards learning:*

**JA/R** *Maci M*  
**JW/A** *Lily C*

*Roberta, Wendy & Amanda*

## **YEAR 7 2025 STATEWIDE TRANSITION VISIT & CAMP – CRUSOE COLLEGE**

### LUNCH ORDERS

Just a reminder to Year 6 students to please place their lunch orders for Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> December.

Parents/Carers can use the Flexischools App or drop the order with money into Crusoe College by Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> December.

### 2025 YEAR 7 CAMP

Also please pay the \$100 deposit for camp to the Crusoe College Office by Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> December. If you are having any difficulty paying or concerns about the camp, please contact Colleen at Crusoe College.

## **MIDDLE UNIT NEWS**

### STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

*For showing the School Value of 'Respect' by using kind words:*

**MD** *Harmony N*  
**MC** *Valentine J*  
**MP** *Edward M*

*Dean, Catherine & Pauline*

# Don't Be Sheep: Stand Up Against Bullying on Social Media

At Big Hill Primary School, we hold our Values close; Respect, Responsibility, and Safety, and when we hear reports of students not living up to those ideals, it's more disappointing than a cold pie at a footy game.

Social media can be a great way to stay connected, but it can also turn into a breeding ground for bullying, exclusion, and all sorts of unkind behaviour. And let's be real, that's just not on!

It's easy to follow the crowd like a bunch of sheep being herded, but we all know that's not the Aussie way. Just because others are being unkind online doesn't mean you have to join in. Bullying and name-calling aren't just bad manners, they go against everything we stand for at Big Hill PS. If you're taking part in this kind of behaviour, or standing by and watching it happen, you're not doing anyone any favours, not even yourself.

## So, What Does Respect, Responsibility, and Safety Look Like Online?

- **Respect:** If you wouldn't say it to someone's face, don't say it online. It's like the classic Aussie saying: "If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all."

Words pack a punch, and online comments can sting more than a hot beach on Christmas Day!

Respecting others means thinking before you type and realising that everyone behind the screen has feelings too.

- **Responsibility:** Just because it's easy to type and hit send doesn't mean it's the right thing to do. Ask yourself: Will this post make someone's day better or worse? Is it adding value to the conversation, or just dragging someone down? Being responsible means thinking twice before sharing something and choosing kindness every time.

- **Safety:** This isn't just about keeping your passwords locked down tighter than a Vegemite jar, it's about looking out for others. If you see bullying or exclusion happening online, don't just sit back like a stunned mullet, speak up! Let an adult know or tell someone you trust. Being a good digital citizen means keeping the online space as safe and friendly as the local footy club.

## A Quick Reminder About the New Rules

Australia has recently introduced some new laws to help keep kids safe online, and it's important to pay attention to them. For instance, there are age limits for social media platforms, if you're under 13, you shouldn't be using most of them, as they're not designed for younger kids. These laws aim to protect your privacy, keep you safe from harmful content, and make sure the digital space is a place where you can have fun, without all the risks. If you're thinking about joining a social media site or app, make sure you're the right age and always be aware of the rules around privacy settings and online behaviour.

Let's be honest, no one wants to be remembered as the person who jumped on the bullying bandwagon or stood by doing nothing. Next time you're online, remember, you don't have to follow the herd. Stand out, lead by example, and let's keep Big Hill Primary School a place where everyone feels safe, respected, and valued.

So, don't be a drongo, be the mate who makes the internet a better place for everyone.

Safe travels on the internet highway, where your data's the passenger, and you're the navigator!

Kate Dole

# FRIDAY, 13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

PIZZA DAY MEAL

**\$5.50**

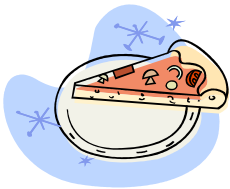
**HAWAIIAN**

OR

**MEATLOVERS**

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 COMPASS
- **Orders need to be placed by 9:00am, WEDNESDAY, 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER. Late orders cannot be accepted.**
- Iced treats will be available as normal

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



OUR WEEKLY FREE FRESH FRUIT IS MADE POSSIBLE BY:

mckern steel™  
foundation



fresh  
fruit  
friday



Delivering  
10,000kg of  
fresh fruit to  
Bendigo school  
children WEEKLY



THANK YOU TO MCKERN STEEL FOUNDATION & SPONSORS

WE ARE SO GRATEFUL TO BE A PART OF THIS WONDERFUL PROGRAM 😊