



Calder Chronicle

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THURSDAY, 19TH DECEMBER 2024

CALENDAR

FRIDAY, 20TH DECEMBER LAST DAY FOR 2024 – 9:00AM ASSEMBLY / YR 6 AVENUE OF HONOUR
1:30PM DISMISSAL no Kangaroo Flat bus, Ravenswood will run
Booklist Orders Due online at Ed Plus
(no payment required this year, can be paid on collection day, you must get your orders in)

2025

Wednesday, 22nd January

Tuesday, 28th January

Wednesday, 29th January

Thursday, 30th January

Friday, 31st January

9:00am – 2:00pm – Booklist Collection Day at BHPS

Teachers commence

Launch Interviews / assessments – book on Compass now

Year 2 – 6 students commence

Foundation / Year 1 assessments – book on Compass now

Foundation students commence

CURRICULUM DAYS FOR 2025

Tuesday, 28th January

Monday, 3rd November

Friday, 15th August

Friday, 28th November

School Organisation

Dear Big Hill Community!

Welcome to the last newsletter of the year! It's hard to believe we are facing the final day and then the 2025 school year is done and dusted.

YEAR 6 GRADUATION STUDENT AWARDS

Due to an error last week (apologies), we are republishing this section with all the correct winners. CONGRATULATIONS to our winners: Braxton & Isla (Excellence Award), Liam and Izzy (School Values Award), Chase and Willow (Big Hill PS Parents & Friends Achievement Award), Henry and Thalia (Citizenship / Y's Club Award), Eh Doh Soe and Mia (Sports Award / Kangaroo Flat Sports Club), Sophie (STEM / Discovery Centre Award) and Jarrod (Masonic Award). We are very proud of all Year 6 students and know they will shine in the future. A big thank you to our P&F for again providing an amazing lunch and beautifully decorated Multipurpose Room for the afternoon. Thanks also to Kate, Michelle & Tracy for all of their hard work ensuring the day was a great success!

FAREWELLS

I did outline last week upcoming retirements and changes, however here's a repeat for you so you are aware who we are saying goodbye to!

- Michelle Simons – commencing at Eppalock Primary School in 2025
- Tracy Pengally – finishing her term in Brett's 5/6 tomorrow. We welcome Brett back in 2025
- Yilin Lewis – commencing Chinese at Kangaroo Flat PS and Crusoe College in 2025
- Kevin Oakenfield – our Ravenswood bus driver will retire at the end of the year... new driver TBA
- Pam Farnell – retiring at the end of the year after many years working as an Education Support at Big Hill PS
- Kerry Prentice – retiring at the end of the year after many years working as our Business Manager
- Sharyn Burnett – retiring early next year after 31 years of service to Big Hill Primary School – both as a classroom teacher and Assistant Principal

A big thank you and all the very best to our staff moving on or retiring!

BOOKLISTS

At the conclusion of the transition session over a week ago, students were sent home with a **booklist** for 2025 in their bag. If you did not get the booklist, please contact our Office ASAP! A reminder that booklists should be ORDERED BY TOMORROW, but you can ELECT TO PAY ON PICKUP DAY on Wednesday, 22nd January.

If you can't make it on collection day, prepaid boxes will be sent to the classrooms.

Unpaid boxes will need to be collected / paid from Education Plus on Tuesday, 28th January from 1pm to 5pm.

ARTWORK

For those families who don't visit the First Steps end of the school, below is a photo of our new artwork, designed and painted by Alicia Huddy – thank you Alicia and also to Alice for organising it for the school – it looks beautiful!



END OF YEAR AWARDS AND YEAR 6 AVENUE OF HONOUR

Don't forget that tomorrow is the last day of the school year (Friday, 20th December) we will hold our END OF YEAR AWARDS at 9:00am (weather permitting). Term 4 winners will be presented certificates at this event – congratulations to all winners who are announced in today's newsletter. 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. Parents and loved ones are welcome to come and join the avenue and get that special photo! As we wave goodbye to our Year 6, I wish them all the very best for the future, knowing that they will shine and make all of us very proud!

SEMESTER 2 REPORTS – AVAILABLE NOW ON COMPASS

Your child/ren's Semester 2 reports was released on COMPASS yesterday, Wednesday, 18th December. Please read these ASAP – we enjoying receiving read receipts indicating that parents have looked at these reports and have prioritised their importance. Please ensure you do read through your child's report to get a full picture of how they are going at school and what is required in the future to support them further.

END OF THE YEAR – DISMISSAL

Don't forget that on the final day of the school year (tomorrow, Friday 20th December) **we dismiss at 1:30pm!** As a result, families will either need to pick up earlier or book children into OSHC by contacting TheirCare. The Ravenswood bus will run at this earlier time; however the Kangaroo Flat town bus will not be available. Those using the Kangaroo Flat bus will need to make other arrangements.

OUT OF UNIFORM DAY TOMORROW – NO COST!

Children can come out of uniform tomorrow free of charge – Christmas / celebration themed and SunSmart please! No singlets – please ensure tops have sleeves 😊. Hats still must be worn and should be broad brimmed. In addition to this, children must also have suitable footwear on that includes closed toes – sneakers are best in case there is any physical activity!

OFFICE CLOSSES TOMORROW EARLY!

Our Office staff, like the rest of the school, will be anxious to head home and get organised for Christmas. To enable this to occur, **our Office will close at 2:30pm tomorrow** for the year. Please ensure you have made contact before this time otherwise there will be a long wait until late January.

HOLIDAY SECURITY

As always, please keep an eye on the grounds over the break as you walk, ride or drive by. If you see any suspicious behaviour, please call the police straight away! Thanks for keeping our facilities safe during quieter times.

BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to: Malachi B, Hailee H, Skylah D, Elaina H, Edward M, Claudia K, Lexi D, Hudson W.

Finally, a big thank you to our community for your support at home. Without you, we can't achieve the outcomes that our children have met. Big Hill PS students are doing extremely well academically & socially and part of this is thanks to you. Please accept my gratitude and well-wishes for a safe holiday period. If you celebrate Christmas – may it be merry and bright. If you don't, may you have a wonderful rest and time with loved ones. I hope the New Year period is joyous and you all find time to rest and enjoy the great outdoors. Finally, if you are saying goodbye... all the very best for the future!

Kind regards,

Matthew Pearce, Principal

Screen Time: A Part of a Healthy Lifestyle, But Don't Let It Take Over

As we fast approach the Christmas holidays, it's important to remember that while screen time and digital technology can be part of a healthy lifestyle, they need to be balanced with other activities. Too often, we see students (and let's be honest, adults too) getting lost in hours of screen time. Whether it's gaming, scrolling through TikTok, or watching endless YouTube clips, it's easy to get sucked in.

But just like we wouldn't only eat lollies for dinner, we need to be mindful of how much time is spent glued to devices.

And yes, I'll admit it, I'm guilty of this myself! There have been more than a few times when I've gotten caught up scrolling through TikTok or binge-watching something "just for a bit," only to realise hours have passed. It happens to the best of us, like being trapped in a never-ending cycle of looking for a parking spot at the local Bunnings. But it's important to find that balance. Just as it's crucial to fuel your body with good food, it's just as important to feed your mind and body with other activities that keep you healthy, both physically and mentally.

How to Keep a Healthy Balance

- **Limit Screen Time:** While it's okay to enjoy a bit of downtime in front of a screen, it's important not to let it consume the day. The Australian Department of Health recommends no more than one hour of recreational screen time for kids aged 2-5 years, and less than two hours of recreational screen time for children aged 5-12 years. Don't let those hours sneak up on you like a sneaky kangaroo hopping past!
- **Get Active:** Balance out screen time with some good old-fashioned Aussie outdoor fun. Whether it's kicking a footy, going for a swim, or having a backyard cricket match, physical activity is key to maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Plus, it's way more fun to play outside than staring at a screen all day! And let's face it, who doesn't love the idea of a backyard BBQ with the footy on in the background?
- **Engage in Creative Activities:** Encourage activities that involve the hands and the brain. Art, cooking, or building something (even if it's just a fort in the lounge room) are great alternatives to the digital world. Activities that make the brain work in different ways can improve focus and creativity, and they're a great way to spend time together as a family. Why not whip up some fairy bread or bake an Aussie pavlova with the kids? Nothing says Aussie fun like getting your hands in the mix!
- **Use Quality Digital Media:** Not all screen time is created equal. If your child is going to spend time online, make sure it's quality content. Educational games, documentaries, or apps that promote learning can be a good choice. TikTok is full of fun, but let's be honest, some of the content is a bit like the deep end of a swimming pool. You don't always know what's lurking down there! So, encourage safe browsing with age-appropriate content and steer clear of anything that doesn't feel right. It's like picking a good spot for a picnic, don't settle for a patch full of ants when you could have a nice, sunny patch by the beach.

Why It's Important to Find Balance

Too much screen time can come with risks. Kids (and adults) who spend long hours on screens might miss out on important social interactions, become less active, and struggle with sleep. There's also the risk of exposure to inappropriate content or online bullying. So, while it's okay to enjoy some screen time, it's vital that kids spend plenty of time doing other activities that promote good health, both physically and mentally. With the Christmas holidays just around the corner, let's be mindful of the time spent on devices. Encourage your kids to get outside, try something new, and spend quality time with family and friends. After all, the best memories are often made off-screen. So, make sure to balance that screen time with plenty of playtime, and let's make these holidays the most memorable ones yet! Who doesn't love a good beach day, a hike in the bush, or a game of backyard cricket?

Final Thought

As we wrap up the year, remember screen time is fine in moderation, but don't let it rule the roost. Let's help our kids and ourselves develop healthy habits that will last a lifetime. And who knows, maybe we'll end up swapping a few hours of TikTok scrolling for some classic Aussie fun, like a lazy afternoon at the local park or a BBQ with mates. Let's all get off our screens and create some memories that will last far longer than any digital trend!

And while we're talking about making memories, remember to *record those special moments*. Recently, while searching for family photos, I realised there's always one person behind the camera, and in the end, this means there are precious memories of the family that go undocumented. For those of us (me included!) who prefer to stay behind the lens, *you are an important part of your family's story*, so don't forget to jump in front of the camera every now and then. Document the laughs, the backyard cricket games, the silly moments with the kids, and everything in between, because these memories will be far more treasured than any viral TikTok. So, grab that camera and capture all the good times this holiday season!

Wishing All Our Families a Happy, Safe Holiday!

As we head into the holiday season, we want to extend our warmest wishes to all our Big Hill families. May your holidays be filled with laughter, fun, and plenty of relaxation. Whether you're soaking up the sun at the beach, enjoying a BBQ with family, or simply kicking back at home, we hope you make the most of this special time. And remember, as you travel the internet highway, keep your data safe, your personal information is the passenger, but you're the navigator! Stay safe, stay smart, and enjoy every moment.

See you all in the new year, ready to make more great memories together!

Happy holidays, everyone!

Kate

2024 READING AWARDS

FSN:

Abigail V
Wade G
Heath G
Lucy M
Harper A
Phoenix B
Everly F
Bobby S
Paige A
Ollie Q

FSJ:

Claudia K
Tithorpi P
Abel L

JA/R:

Mia M
Logan HF
Tommy W

JW/A:

Elena T
Layla R
Lily C
Jack LB
Hendrix M
Mila C
Harvey B

MC:

Mila M
Jacob S
Archer M
Valentine J
Abby M
Evelynne
Cooper C
Vincenzo P
Brax B
Claudia vD
Celeste N

MD:

Linken A
Ezra B
Conna B
Ava C
Harry E
Allyera G
Abigail H
Charlie L
Abigael L
Jade L
Ella M
Mason P
Bonnie S
Ryan W

MP:

Rami A
Mannix A
Malachi B
Zoe B
Gabrielle B
Archer B
Dante D
Jake F
Hannah G
Blake M
Chad M
Brady M
Cooper M
Edward M
Lucas Q
Ruby S
Elias S
Benji T

SB:

Mia M
Isla G

SM:

Nathaniel S
Poppy S
Avery F

SK:

Xavier P

STUDENT AWARDS – TERM 4, 2024

To be presented at the 9:00am assembly, tomorrow, Friday, 20th December – all welcome 😊

Outstanding Achievement in English:

FSJ: Eh Say O	FSN: Teddy R	
JA/R: Oscar A	JW/A: Mitchell G	
MC: Archer M	MD: Ella M	MP: Rhemmi C
SB: Charlotte A	SM: Isabella G	SK: Braxton L

Outstanding Achievement in Mathematics:

FSJ: Maverick H	FSN: Malia HJ	
JA/R: Lleyton H	JW/A: Mila C	
MC: Conor F	MD: Ryan W	MP: Benji T
SB: Mica B	SM: Eli V	SK: Jack E

Endeavour Award in English:

FSJ: Phoebe I	FSN: Everly F	
JA/R: Elisabeth A	JW/A: Franklin B	
MC: Macy F	MD: Ava C	MP: Gabrielle B
SB: Xavier D	SM: Benji S	SK: Levi B

Endeavour Award in Mathematics:

FSJ: Tithorpi P	FSN: Abigail vD	
JA/R: Ryan B	JW/A: Jack LB	
MC: Hunter C	MD: Allyera G	MP: Bailey F
SB: Clare P	SM: Wil G	SK: Tasman HL

Outstanding Display of School Values:

FSJ: Claudia K	FSN: Poppy H	
JA/R: Sienna D	JW/A: Clementine W	
MC: Luken T	MD: Jade L	MP: Zoe B
SB: Mia T	SM: Nikirra S	SK: Hailee H

Principal's Award:

FSJ: Levi D	FSN: Lewis T	
JA/R: Callum V	JW/A: Harvey	
MC: Bradley H	MD: Charlie L	MP: Arlow D
SB: Scarlett N	SM: Avery F	SK: Kelson G

Outstanding Achievement in Art:

FSJ: Mason EH	FSN: Paige A	
JA/R: Levi S	JW/A: Conor O	
MC: Evelynne K	MD: Makenzie B	MP: Memphis J
SB: Sophie B	SM: Jasmine T	SK: Tasman HL

Outstanding Achievement in MUSIC:

FSJ: ATLAS D	FSN: HARRY BR	
JA/R: MINULI S	JW/A: PARKER H	
MC: ANNA S	MD: ABIGAIL L	MP: EDWARD M
SB: SAMUEL S	SM: CALEB H	SK: ISABELLA O

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friday



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fresh fruit to
Bendigo school
children **WEEKLY**



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