



# Calder Chronicle

NUMBER 2

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**THURSDAY, 6<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2025**

## CALENDAR

Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> February  
Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> February  
Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> February  
Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> February  
Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March

Scholastic Book Club Orders Due on LOOP  
Foundation School Nursing Program forms due back at the Office  
Payment of \$20 \$40 (apologies) due for Life Skills – FS, JU & MU  
Life Skills commences, running for 6 Thursdays  
Smile Squad commence – see inside to give consent

## School Organisation

Dear Big Hill Community!

Our first full week of the year has certainly been a hot one and this has really been a test for all of our students as they navigate getting back into school routines or tackling the school routine for the first time! Overall, the students are settling in well and as we progress through February, we should have the vast majority settled and working well by the end of the month. Each child is different, so don't be too worried if your child is taking longer to adjust, especially if they are new to Big Hill PS or a Foundation student. Change always challenges us as humans, so why should it be any different for young ones? Lots of patience, encouragement and commitment will ensure all is on track quickly. If not, please reach out – we are all here to help you with your child/ren's needs. This week in our newsletter, I've repeated a lot of items that are NEED TO KNOW at the start of the year. Just in case you missed this last week, we repeat again for your information 😊.

### SUNSMART – NO HAT NO PLAY

We are a SunSmart school and as part of our policy, children must wear a broad brimmed hat when outside during Term 1 for play or set lessons. Due to this, children need to come to school with their school hat. If you don't have one, they can be purchased from the Office for \$10. Remember to name them so they return to you! If a child does not have a hat, we then have children play in our undercover areas for the day.

### BRAIN FOOD, SNACKS AND DRINKS

Each day we allow children to have Brain Food at 10:00am. This must be fresh fruit or vegetables. It is not processed foods, bars or fruits in juice or jelly. The purpose of brain food is to give our young minds the right fuel at the right time which is smack bang in the middle of their Literacy block! Larger snacks are then eaten outdoors at 11:00am and 1:30pm. Canteen orders are eaten at the second of these times. When packing lunches from home, the best advice I can give is to pack two equal sized snacks to eat at both breaks, including a sandwich, fruit, bars etc. Where possible, try to cut down on rubbish by sending items that can be packed in a named lunchbox or container. This is good for the environment 😊.

When the weather is wet, don't despair our First Steps & Junior Unit students will eat in the Library and our Middle & Senior Unit students in the Multipurpose Room. A good-sized drink bottle is also important to send to school – filled with water. Please refrain from sending sugary drinks – water is the best! We have numerous bubble taps around the school that supply fresh water for our students too when playing outside during breaks. Finally, please name all lunchboxes, drink bottles and food containers (including lids) so they can come back home!

### LIFE SKILLS PROGRAM

Thursdays will be very busy indeed with LIFE SKILLS returning for our FIRST STEPS, JUNIOR and MIDDLE UNITS – a program where children will develop their mindfulness and wellbeing through exercise such as yoga. This program will run each Thursday in the Multipurpose Room for each of our FIRST STEPS, JUNIOR and MIDDLE UNIT classes. A payment of \$40 per child is requested from families – please look for this request on COMPASS (you can use CSEF or SSB to pay for this incursion). LIFE SKILLS will commence on Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> February and will run for 6 weeks. Payment is due by Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> February.

### SCHOOL CAPTAINS

Ainsley, Roberta, Brett and Kate will be conducting speeches for our new School Captains on Monday. This year students applying will deliver a speech to our Middle & Senior Unit students answering a couple of set questions. A ballot will be held and students will vote. Our staff will follow a similar process as the students, with the successful students chosen based on merit and track-record. Next week stay tuned as we announce our 2025 School Captains and Vice School Captains to the community in the newsletter & Compass. A badge ceremony will occur in the coming weeks also.

### **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL (SRC)**

The SRC will comprise two students from each class (Year 3-6) and will work with our School Wellbeing Officers three times a term. The group, when chosen, will organise fundraisers, talk about school improvement and on occasion, assist around the school on special occasions etc. The process for being selected has commenced, with our Chaplain, Chris, overseeing this process. Once selected, badges will also be presented to successful students. Date to be advised 😊.

### **RAVENSWOOD BUS - repeat**

At Big Hill PS, we coordinate the Ravenswood bus service, which travels from Big Hill PS, down the Calder Highway to Fogarty's Gap Road (Maldon/Harcourt North exit) and returns to Bendigo on the inbound side of the Calder Highway, past the Ravenswood Petrol Station, Ravenswood Interchange (Calder Highway Alternate Route/Mildura Marong exit) etc and back over Big Hill. This service has strict times that it must adhere to, as part of the association with Public Transport Victoria (PTV). Due to this, our bus driver will arrive at the agreed pick up points on time and cannot wait if you are running late. If you are not at the bus stop on time, the driver has been instructed to leave and continue the service. In the event that a family misses the bus, alternative travel arrangements will need to be made to school on these occasions, which most likely means that families will need to drive students to school. Thanks for your understanding 😊. If you live in the RAVENSWOOD bus zone outlined above and would like to make use of this service, please visit [https://studenttravelassistance.educationapps.vic.gov.au/s/?c\\_tab=home](https://studenttravelassistance.educationapps.vic.gov.au/s/?c_tab=home). For existing users, please note that the bus will arrive 5 minutes EARLIER each afternoon due to our earlier dismissal time of 3:15pm. We also have a new bus driver, Steve Hanna who has settled in well in the role with the children reporting favourably. Welcome Steve!

### **ATTENDANCE – repeat**

Whilst we tried bringing back our attendance awards and certificates in 2024, we found them to be problematic and often a stress for some children who weren't in control of being at school. Due to this we'll celebrate all students with high attendance rates and my focus will be on working with families where attendance is a concern and is not explained. Attendance is so important. Here's some recent research from THE KIDS RESEARCH INSTITUTE AUSTRALIA: **Each day of school missed makes a difference, with the effect on learning accumulating over time. From an early age, if children are taught that they need to 'show up' for school and make a commitment, this positive mentality aids academic and career success and brings benefits in adulthood.** With that in mind we go with the motto SCHOOL EVERYDAY IS THE ONLY WAY...meaning that every day counts and the effort is made from families to show up. You can't afford to miss a day, unless you are sick of course! An average student in our school will miss around 8 days for the year (appointments, bereavement and illness) – this roughly equates to two days a term, however if you approach each term with the plan to miss no days, your child will benefit from the development of a positive mind set to set them up for a successful future.

### **FOUNDATION STUDENTS– WEDNESDAYS OFF SCHOOL IN FEBRUARY**

Our FOUNDATION students have had a settled start and are in the process of adapting to full days at school. This is a bit of a shock to the system for our littlest students, as the majority are not used to a full day of structured learning. To help students settle in, all Foundation students have Wednesdays off school in February. This is so students have two days consecutive, then a rest. Hopefully by March, they are well in routine. Don't stress if they aren't though. Some students can take longer to get into a routine – each is an individual and will reach milestones in their own time. Foundation testing is occurring on Wednesdays also, so if Nicole or Jen book an interview with you, please ensure you attend with your child as these tests are mandatory Department of Education tests for all students.

### **PARKING - repeat**

The illegal parking of vehicles adjacent to our school poses a safety concern to children, pedestrians and other road users. Parents are reminded that it is essential to comply with parking restrictions when dropping off and collecting children from school. Motorists must not stop in no stopping areas, even briefly, with or without the motor running. They must not stop next to a continuous yellow edge line, on resident's nature strips, too close to school crossings, park over driveways or double park. A number of schools have short term time restricted areas, such as 2 minute pick up/drop off. These parking areas are in place to allow for ease of access close to schools and these restrictions must be adhered to – at Big Hill PS, our drop off zone is adjacent to the administration building (behind the rotunda). Please ensure you do not leave your car unattended in this area also, as our Ravenswood bus needs to have access in the morning and afternoon and must be able to park. Drivers should also be aware that they cannot perform a U-turn over an unbroken or continuous dividing line. With regard to children's crossings, the law requires that a driver approaching a children's crossing must drive at a speed at which the driver can, if necessary, stop safely before the crossing. Please slow down and take extra care when driving in school zones. City of Greater Bendigo Parking Officers and Bendigo Police do conduct random patrols throughout the school year at various locations to ensure that motorists are adhering to the Road Rules – so please do the right thing for the sake of our children.

### **PUNCTUALITY - repeat**

Punctuality is very important. Please assist your child by having them at school on time. Children who arrive late often find it difficult to settle for the day and are disadvantaged in catching up to their classmates and subsequently miss major parts of the reading lesson block – a very important part of the day. Habits formed from a young age are hard to break later in life... so please set up positive habits for future success. This also applies for the end of day – therefore we discourage pick-ups before 3:15pm unless absolutely necessary. School finishes at 3:15pm and this should be your normal time to collect students from school – as learning occurs right up until the end of the day.

## **BUSHFIRE/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT - repeat**

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 re-prioritised 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. 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 <https://www.bighillps.vic.edu.au/> 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:

Vic Emergency App –download on your android or iOS mobile device

Vic Emergency Hotline (1800 226 226)

Vic Emergency Website: <https://emergency.vic.gov.au/respond/>

ABC local radio, Sky News and other emergency broadcasters

## **JUNIOR UNIT – TARGETING HANDWRITING WORKBOOK PAYMENT**

Families of Junior Unit (Catherine and Jayden) students may not be aware that a handwriting student workbook was accidentally deleted off the booklist – *Targeting Handwriting*. These books are required for our Junior Unit students this year and therefore the school has ordered each child a copy and will cover some of the cost. If families of students in Jayden and Catherine's class could make payment of the workbook at their earliest convenience at the Office (or over the phone), that would be wonderful. The cost incurred by families has been reduced to \$15. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

### **SCHOOL TIMES - repeat**

A reminder that school times are:

<b>8:55am</b>	Bag Bell – students first allowed into classrooms for the day. <b>Please note new time!</b>
9:00am	Lessons commence – first two-hour learning block
10:00am	Brain food eaten in class (this is fresh fruit or vegetables only – no tinned or packaged foods)
11:00am – 11:10am	Students eat lunch sized snack/s outside. FIRST STEPS and JUNIOR UNIT eat on the turf outside their rooms, whilst MIDDLE and SENIOR UNIT eat in the undercover area.
11:10am – 11:30am	Morning recess
11:30am – 1:30pm	Second two-hour learning block
1:30pm – 1:40pm	Students eat lunch sized snack/s outside, same arrangements as above. Canteen lunch orders eaten Wednesday and Friday at this time after delivery to rooms
1:40pm – 2:15pm	Afternoon recess
2:15pm – 3:15 pm	Final learning block
<b>3:15pm</b>	Dismissal. <b>Please note new time!</b>

### **SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS - repeat**

A teacher is on yard duty from 8:45am in the morning. In the afternoon, there are teachers on duty until 3:30pm, monitoring children exiting the school from the pavilion/rotunda and sending off the Ravenswood and Kangaroo Flat buses. At 3:30pm all children remaining (including those who may be playing on the playground) will gather on the seats in the Office foyer where their parents will be called. If these times do not suit, Outside School Hours Care is available before and after school. This is organised now through the TheirCare website, not through school. As parents/carers, your duty of care is active until 8:45am each morning and after 3:30pm each day. Due to this, please ensure students aren't at school before 8:45am and are picked up in a timely manner at the end of the day. Thanks for your cooperation.

### **2024 CURRICULUM DAYS & COMBINED PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE DAY ie. PUPIL FREE DAYS - repeat**

Please add these dates to your calendars so you can organise care of your children due to these being set PUPIL FREE DAYS:

<u>TERM 3</u>	<i>Friday 15<sup>th</sup> August</i>
<u>TERM 4</u>	<i>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November</i> <i>Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November</i>

And the COMBINED PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE DAY (PPD – PUPIL FREE) is:

<u>TERM 2</u>	<i>Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May</i>
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### **MOBILE PHONE BAN IN STATE SCHOOLS FOR 2025 AND BEYOND - repeat**

Like ALL schools in Victoria, this year, Big Hill PS will continue with the STATEWIDE ban on mobile phones/devices at school. Students will not be permitted to have a mobile phone on site, unless they are switched off and handed into the office on entry to the school. Phones must not be turned on until leaving the school grounds. The ban also includes devices such as Smart Watches, Apple Watches (or similar) that can make/receive calls texts. The only exemptions are for children with a medical condition, where a mobile phone is included as part of the monitoring of conditions such as diabetes. When handing in mobile phones/devices at the start of the day, Janet/Erin will follow the same security procedures as in the past and will lock mobile phones/devices away securely. They can only be collected on departure and again, only turned on when off the school grounds. The ban is part of regulations set by the MINISTER FOR EDUCATION and THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING. We suggest, unless your child really needs a phone on them for travel to and from school, to keep mobile phones and devices at home on school days. Please talk to your child about these rules for 2025 and ensure they are compliant, as non-compliance will result in consequences outlined in our Behavior Management Flow Chart. Again, this is in line with DET expectations. Thanks for your cooperation.

### **ARRIVING LATE / LEAVING EARLY - repeat**

If for some reason your child arrives late or needs to leave the school prior to the end of the school day, we ask that you come via the Office and complete the sign in/out on our COMPASS KIOSK. These requirements are necessary to comply with Department regulations, minimise legal liabilities, assist with emergency management and to provide adequate duty of care. You will need to identify yourself when collecting children. After this has been done, we will issue you with a sign-out slip to take to the classroom and hand to your child's teacher when collecting.

### **PERSONAL GOODS BROUGHT TO SCHOOL AT OWNER'S RISK - repeat**

Personal property is often brought to school by students, staff and visitors. This can include mobile phones, calculators, toys, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises. The Department does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it will generally not pay for any loss or damage to such property. Therefore, bringing any unnecessary or particularly valuable items to school is discouraged.

## **STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE - repeat**

As a school we do as much as we can to protect and care for injured students including first aid, notifying parents and emergency contacts if students are injured or hurt, and if necessary, an ambulance is called. Parents and guardians are generally responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs. Most medical costs will be refunded by Medicare. If you are a member of an ambulance or health insurance fund, you may also be able to claim transport or other expenses from that fund. The Department of Education does not hold accident insurance for school students. Reasonably low cost accident insurance policies are available from the commercial insurance sector and these can be obtained by parents for their children and families are encouraged therefore to pursue insurance options if they wish.

## **PARENTS AND FRIENDS (P&F)- repeat**

Our P&F will meet shortly to discuss many things on the radar including a mix of fundraisers, community events and fun activities for the community. The group do a wonderful job raising additional funds for the school and they are always looking for new members. If you can help them, even in the smallest way, why not get in touch via email: [bhpspf@gmail.com](mailto:bhpspf@gmail.com), I know they would love to hear from you. Alternatively, why not become a member and attend the Annual General Meeting? Details of meetings and events are always outlined in the P&F section of the newsletter. P&F also have a great Facebook page...if you are a Facebook user...why not search up and join Big Hill Parents and Friends AND Big Hill Primary School whilst you are there!

## **SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS – Information for parents from the Department of Education**

*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 school 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. Department 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*). Department 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 PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
 Nomination forms may be obtained from the Office and must be lodged by 3:15pm on Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2025. If a ballot is required (depending on the number of nominations), this will close at 3:15pm on Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025. 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	March 2025 – March 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pauline Mulcair</li> <li>• Ainsley Stanley</li> </ul> <i>(Ainsley and Pauline will need to renominate if they wish to continue)</i>	2
Parent	March 2025 – March 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daniel Bourke</li> <li>• Liz Grigg</li> <li>• Michelle Everett</li> <li>• Steve Penno</li> </ul> <i>(Daniel, Liz, Michelle and Steve 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 at 7:00pm.

**ELECTION TIMELINE**

- Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> February – Call for nominations (forms available from the Office)
- Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> February – Closing date for nominations (forms must be returned to the Office by 3:15pm 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, 7<sup>th</sup> March – Close of Ballot (if required)
- Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> March – Counting of Ballot (if required). Declaration of Ballot. New School Council announced and will meet shortly after this date

**CAMPS, SPORT AND EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF) - repeat**

**DO YOU HAVE A CONCESSION CARD?**

**WOULD YOU LIKE \$150 TO PAY FOR SCHOOL COSTS? MAKE SURE YOU READ THIS SECTION!**

Do you hold a pension or health care card? If so, you could be eligible for the 2025 CSEF payment. This can be used towards all Camps, Sports Events, Excursions (swimming, gym etc) and Incursions (Life Skills, etc). If you received CSEF last year, you do not need to reapply unless you have a new sibling starting school this year. Forms are available from the Office. If you can't make it into the Office to collect, we can send one home with your child. If you have any queries, please contact the Office.

## **STUDENT OF THE WEEK**

Our first STUDENTS OF THE WEEK have been announced in today's newsletter. Congratulations to the first winners for 2025! At next Monday's assembly we will present each with a certificate on stage and take a photo (if permissions allow). These photos then get posted on our Facebook page to celebrate (we only put in first name, no surnames). Each Monday when your child is going to be awarded a certificate at assembly, please come along. Assemblies are held in the undercover area near our blue multipurpose building at 9am each Monday morning. If wet or very cold, we meet inside the multi.

## **2025 CURRICULUM CONTRIBUTIONS (PARENT PAYMENTS)**

Yesterday all families were sent a text to remind them to pay for their CURRICULUM CONTRIBUTIONS (everyone got this text including those who have paid – generic text). If you have not paid (ie: iPad lease, subscriptions like Reading Eggs, Resilience journal, diaries etc found in the Parent Payment Policy), then please pay on Compass (payment plan available). Access to resources will be restricted possibly if a payment or a payment plan is not made. Thanks for attending to this matter, as the school is not funded for these items that belong to your child.

## **PRIVACY POLICY / CONSENT**

Our school collects and uses student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the [Schools' Privacy Policy](#) and the [Schools' Privacy Collection Notice](#). Our Photographing, Filming and Recording Students Policy describes how we collect and use photographs, video and recordings of students. The policy also explains when parent consent is required and how it can be provided and withdrawn. We ask parents to also review the guidance we provide on how we use Microsoft and Google applications safely at the school and what parents can do to further protect their child's information. If after reviewing the guidance, you have any questions or concerns regarding your child using Microsoft and Google applications please contact the school. For more information about privacy, refer to: [Schools' Privacy Policy — information for parents](#).

The Photographing, Filming and Recording Students consent form will be on Compass this week. Please read and consent or deny consent at your earliest convenience. Thank you.

## **CARLTON FOOTBALL CLUB VISIT**

On Monday we had 3 Carlton AFL Football Club players come along and talk to our students in the last half hour of the day. The three reps, including forward and Coleman medal winner Harry McKay, spent time answering our students' questions. It was great to hear some great questions asked as well as listen to some well-thought-out responses by the footballers. A big thank you to Jayden Sheean for organising and to the AFL for once again bringing the players to our students so they can see they are real people who were once just like them – a student in a state school 😊. Anything is possible for our students and hopefully listening to these top tier players inspires them for the future endeavors they dream of.

## **STUDENT ENROLMENT INFORMATION FORMS**

These were handed out to families last week. Please look through all the information, make any changes, sign and return to the Office by next Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> February.

## **CONSENTS ON COMPASS**

We will soon have the PG movie, Local Excursion, ICT and the abovementioned Photographing, Filming and Recording Students (previously known as our Privacy Permission) consent forms on Compass. Please consent (or deny) at your earliest convenience. Thank you.

## **CURRICULUM DAYS FOR 2025**

Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> January  
Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November

Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> August  
Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> November

## **MCKERNS FRESH FRUIT**

With thanks to McKerns and sponsors for our beautiful selection of fruit this week. Here are Everly and Mannie with their nectarine and peach 😊.

Week 3 lays ahead and is looking hot! In light of this, please ensure your child is sent to school with a drink bottle and a hat, gets plenty of rest each night (they get cranky in the heat) and don't forget to pack the sunscreen which can be applied throughout the day if accessible in your child's bag.



Here's hoping your Friday is wonderful and the weekend even better!

Kind regards,

*Matthew Pearce, Principal*

## FIRST STEPS NEWS

### STARS OF THE WEEK

*For being a good role model in the classroom:*

FSN *Lucy M*  
FSJ *Phoebe I*

*Nicole, Nick & Jen*

## JUNIOR UNIT NEWS

### STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

*For returning to school with a positive attitude towards their learning:*

JJ *Phoenix B*  
JC *Henry M*

*Jayden & Catherine*

## MIDDLE UNIT NEWS

### STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

*For a great start to the year:*

MED *Oscar A*  
MP *Chad M*  
MWA *Hannah G*

*Emma, Dean, Pauline, Wendy & Amanda*

## SENIOR UNIT NEWS

### STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

*For demonstrating positivity towards learning:*

SA/R *Amber L*  
SB *Dexter L*  
SK *Eden M*

*Ainsley, Roberta, Brett & Kate*

## SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB

Issue 1 was handed out today. You can order online via the LOOP parent payment system, or cash/card at the Office. Please have orders in by Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> February.

## SMILE SQUAD WHOLE SCHOOL NEWS

**The Smile Squad free school dental program is coming to our school in March!**

The Smile Squad team from Bendigo Health are coming to our school soon. 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:



The electronic consent form can be translated into more than 100 languages, and the paper form is currently available in 13 languages.

### Smile Squad oral health packs

All children deserve a healthy smile, and the Smile Squad free school dental program is working hard to help make sure this happens.

Your child(ren) will have received a free oral health pack today. The pack contains a toothbrush, full sized toothpaste, and an oral health brochure. Please take the time to read the brochure. It's full of helpful hints and tips to help your whole family eat well, drink well and clean well – for life.

Standard strength toothpaste

Smile Squad provides standard strength fluoride toothpaste that is generally used by ages six and over, unless recommended by a dental or trained health professional.

If your child is under six, please talk to a dental or trained health professional to find out if your child might benefit from using this toothpaste. You can also choose to put the toothpaste away until they turn six or give it to someone else in your family to use.

### 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.

## COMMUNITY NEWS



**JOIN WITH FRIENDS  
PLAY TOGETHER**

**CRICKET VICTORIA FREE- ALL GIRLS CRICKET BLAST**  
**BENDIGO DISTRICT CRICKET ASSOCIATION**  
**WEDNESDAY 12TH, 19TH, 26TH FEB AND 5TH MAR**  
**TIME: 4.30PM-5.30PM**  
**SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER!**



**OFFICIAL KIDS  
PROGRAM**



**Q Play Cricket**



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 😊