



# Calder Chronicle

NUMBER 4

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**THURSDAY, 20<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2025**

## CALENDAR

Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> February  
Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> February  
Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> February  
Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March

Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> March  
**Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> March**

Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> March  
Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> March  
Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> March

**Monday, 31<sup>st</sup> March**  
Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> April

Life Skills first session  
Life Skills second session  
School Council Nominations due in at the Office  
Smile Squad commence – see inside to give consent  
Parents & Friends Meeting at 2:00pm – all welcome  
Life Skills third session

### **Labor Day Public Holiday**

Life Skills fourth session  
Life Skills fifth session  
Life Skills – sixth and final session

### **SCHOOL PHOTO DAY – ordering available now on Compass**

Last Day for Term 1 – early dismissal

## School Organisation

Dear Big Hill Community!

With the cooler weather this week, Week 4 has certainly been a lot more pleasant in the yard. Our children are all settled into routines now, with our Foundation students also showing signs of adjusting to full days of school. As we approach Week 5, we will pass the halfway mark of Term 1, and it will be full steam ahead from there with learning. As always if you have any concerns, worries or wonderings, please reach out first to your child's teacher for clarification. Our staff are happy to support with ongoing emails to stay connected and support children on a day-to-day basis. If all are on the same page, it makes for a smoother ride for all, particularly the child.

### **LIFE SKILLS PROGRAM**

Life Skills commenced today for our FIRST STEPS (Nicole / Nick and Jen), JUNIOR (Jayden & Catherine) and MIDDLE UNITS (Pauline, Wendy / Amanda, Emma / Dean). This program will continue each Thursday for 6 weeks in the Multipurpose Room.

### **SRC AND PEER MEDIATORS**

Currently a process is underway to choose our 2025 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL (SRC). From each of our Middle and Senior Unit classes, two representatives will be selected to work with Chris Powers (Chaplain) and Dean White (Mental Health and Wellbeing) each fortnight. Part of their role will be to organise fundraisers, special days and take an active role in improving our school from the viewpoint of the child. Once selected, Chris and Dean will train the SRC in Peer Mediation, a program that will see students wearing coloured vests in the yard and supporting children with minor problems experienced when in the yard. Currently, interested Year 5 and 6 students can also apply as Peer Mediators by submitting a written expression of interest with a character reference from a staff member. For more information on SRC or PEER MEDIATION, please check Compass or speak to Chris or Dean directly or via email.

### **STUDENT SUPPORT GROUP (SSG) MEETINGS AND ILPs**

It's been a very busy week for Stacey Murtagh, our Disability Inclusion Lead, as she has coordinated and participated in the majority of SSG's this week. An SSG is set up generally for children at the start of the year with complex medical needs, significant behavioural issues, reside in Out of Home Care or have significant learning challenges (cognitive) that may lead to submitting funding through a Disability Inclusion Profile (DIP) – if successful, funding then comes to the school to support that child for part of the day whilst at school. It's important for parents to know that funding is done through the DIP pathway and is a rigid process where evidence is collected and submitted under the funded categories to see if a child is eligible. Only a small few are – so where children are not funded, but need adjustments, teachers put these adjustments into their planning documentation and your child will be set up with an INDIVIDUAL LEARNING PLAN (ILP). Next week our staff are meeting to start organising ILP's for their current students – some may even have these in place. If your child is placed on an ILP, it's a sign that the teacher is wanting to work with you as a family to put supports and adjustments in place at school and at home to support the child to have success. Your child's teacher will be in touch if your child requires and ILP.

## **SMILE SQUAD RETURNING**

The SMILE SQUAD are returning to Big Hill this year to provide **free dental screening and services** for all children that have consent from their parent/s / guardian. So you don't miss out on this amazing program, please ensure you have consented online to participate. Please look for our SMILE SQUAD advertisement in the newsletter with details on how to sign up. If you still aren't sure, contact the Office for assistance.

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

Next Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> February will be the last Foundation free Wednesday. Commencing in March, our Foundation students will attend school for a full week of school. If your child is struggling with this, please talk to your child's teacher about options to support as they adjust to full days.

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

Our P&F will meet on Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 2pm. Members of the P&F will be in attendance to vote for our 2025 President, Secretary, Treasurer etc. Only paid members of the P&F can vote. If you would like to join, please contact our wonderful P&F via email [bhpspf@gmail.com](mailto:bhpspf@gmail.com) or have a chat to one of our friendly Office staff if you want more information.

## **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

**SCHOOL COUNCIL – TUESDAY NIGHT**

Our first meeting of the year is next Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> February at 7:00pm in the library. Members can also join via Webex, please contact myself for the link. Finance members will meet at 6:30pm also. If you are unable to make this meeting please advise ASAP so I can mark you as an apology.

**2025 PARENT PAYMENT CONTRIBUTIONS**

As advised in previous weeks we require families to pay their contributions or have a conversation with the Office or myself if there are financial issues. Commencing next week we will contact directly those who have not yet paid the parent payment contribution to ascertain if there are any issues or if particular families have just accidentally overlooked this requirement. A reminder that this payment covers the cost of items that belong directly to your child, such as diaries and online subscriptions. A payment plan is available on Compass to help families.

## **NAPLAN – YEARS 3 & 5**

Yesterday I shared information about this year's NAPLAN testing occurring next month via Compass. For those who missed it, here it is again so you are in the loop... *The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) assesses literacy and numeracy skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life. Students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 participate in the annual NAPLAN tests in reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. The tests provide parents and schools with an understanding of how individual students are performing at the time of the tests. NAPLAN tests are just one aspect of a school's assessment and reporting process; they do not replace ongoing assessments made by teachers about student performance. NAPLAN tests also provide schools, education authorities and governments with information about how education programs are working and whether young Australians are meeting important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy.*

For more information visit the site linked below to view the FAQ's or have access to this information in another language: <https://vcaa.vic.edu.au/assessment/f-10assessment/naplan/Pages/parents/index.aspx>

If you have questions or concerns reach out to Dean White (Year 3), Kate Dole (Year 5) or myself. Additionally if you do not want your child to participate (either due to disability or you just want to withdraw them) you must speak to me to organise the relevant paperwork required – happy to help if this is what you want.

## **NO HAT NO PLAY – HOT WEATHER IS BACK!**

The weather is warming up for tomorrow, so I remind families of our NO HAT NO PLAY policy. Children must wear a broad brimmed hat during Terms 1 and 4 or play undercover. Hats are inexpensive and available from our Office for \$10 should you need another. Please ensure they are named so they come back to your child. Drink bottles are essential too... so with next week also looking warm, ensure they have a drink bottle of water only to use during the day and top up as required.

## **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 is on Compass. **Please read and consent or deny consent at your earliest convenience. Thank you.**

## **CONSENTS ON COMPASS**

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

## **BIRTHDAYS**

Happy Birthday to Clementine W, Hendrix M, Bradley H, Ava S, Alexis W & Claudia V.

## **MCKERNS FRESH FRUIT**

With thanks to McKerns and sponsors for our beautiful selection of fruit this week.

Here are Maisie and Cohen with their pear and peach 🍌.



Here's hoping you have a great Friday and an even better weekend. I look forward to continued settled behaviour and hard work across the school next week!

Until then, kind regards...

*Matthew Pearce, Principal*

## FIRST STEPS NEWS

### STARS OF THE WEEK

*For being persistent with new challenges:*

**FSN** Willow S

**FSJ** Nixon L

*Nicole, Nick & Jen*

## JUNIOR UNIT NEWS

### STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

*For displaying our School Values during the Life Skills lesson:*

**JJ** Harper A

**JC** Paige A

*Jayden & Catherine*

## MIDDLE UNIT NEWS

### STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

*For coming to school with a positive attitude:*

**MED** Bonnie E

**MP** Hudson W

**MWA** Celeste N

*Emma, Dean, Pauline, Wendy & Amanda*

## SENIOR UNIT NEWS

### STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

*For showing empathy:*

**SA/R** Avery F

**SB** Mia T

**SK** Otis M

*Ainsley, Roberta, Brett & Kate*

## SCHOOL PHOTO DAY NEWS

### Big Hill Primary School

Photo Day 2025

Date: Monday 31st March

To Order Photos:

Order via the Compass Portal.

Order your School Photos before midnight Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April

Late Orders can be accepted after 6<sup>th</sup> April by ordering online via the Compass Portal or by contacting 03 5482 3190. All late orders incur an extra \$20 for postage and handling.

Family Photos - Please order online prior to photo day using the Compass Portal.



  
msp  
photography

03 5482 3190  
admin.mirr@msp.com.au  
www.msp.com.au

## WHOLE SCHOOL NEWS SMILE SQUAD

### 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

Parking Services from the City of Greater Bendigo have contacted our school to request that we share the following important information with our school community.

The illegal parking of vehicles near our school poses a significant safety risk to children, pedestrians, and other road users. Parents are reminded to follow all parking restrictions when dropping off and collecting children to help ensure a safe environment for everyone.

Motorists must:

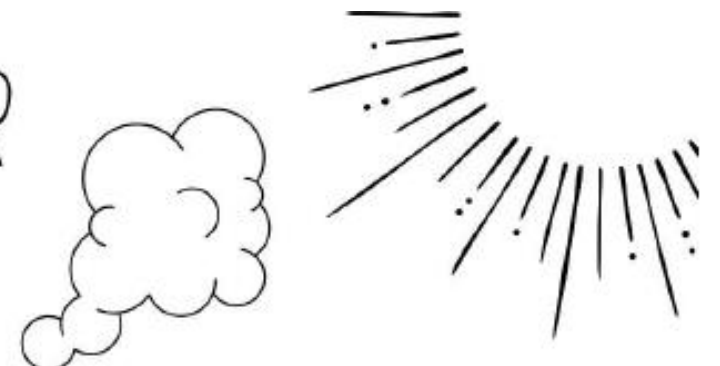
- **Not stop** in "No Stopping" areas, even briefly, regardless of whether the engine is running.
- **Not park** next to a continuous yellow edge line, on nature strips, over driveways, too close to school crossings, or double park.
- **Observe time-restricted parking zones**, such as 2-minute pick-up/drop-off areas, which are in place to maintain traffic flow and safety near schools.
- **Not perform U-turns** over an unbroken or continuous dividing line.

Regarding children's crossings, the law requires drivers to approach at a speed that allows them to stop safely if needed. Please slow down and take extra care when driving in school zones.

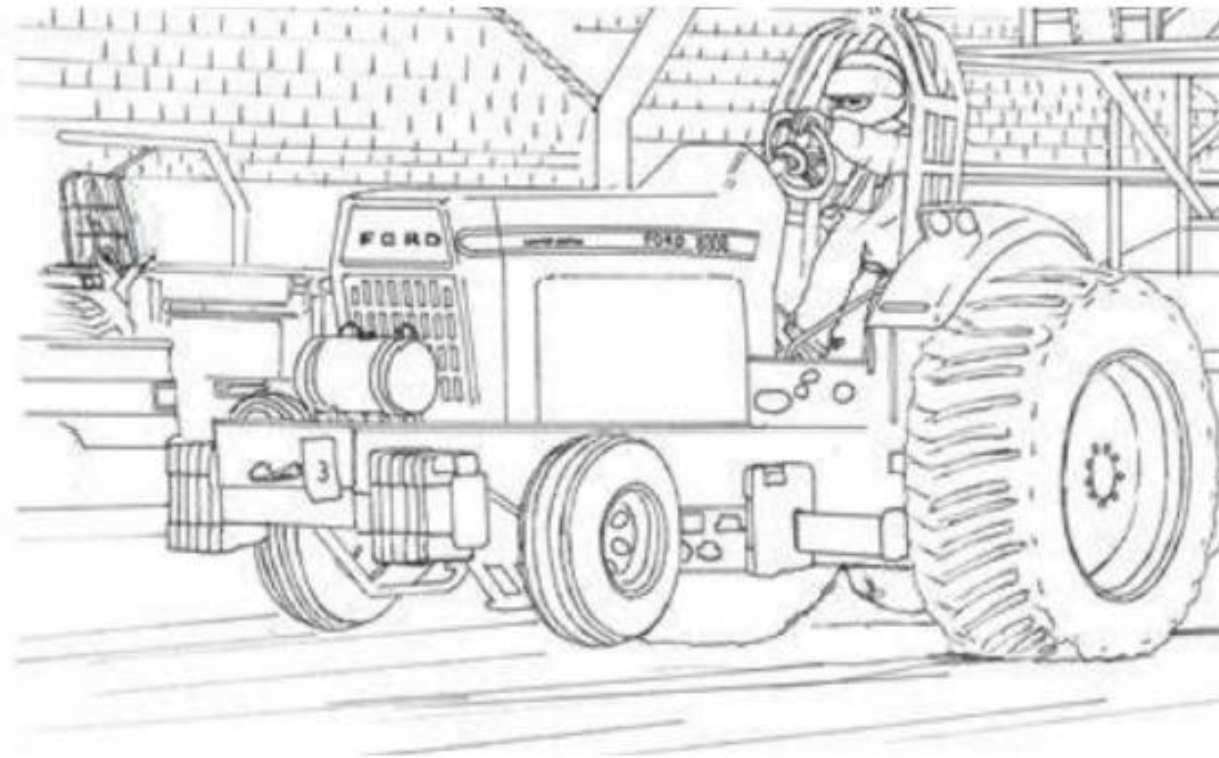
City of Greater Bendigo Parking Officers and Bendigo Police conduct random patrols throughout the school year at various locations to ensure compliance with Road Safety Road Rules.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our school community safe.

# ELMORE TRACTOR PULL



15TH  
MARCH  
2025



**McKEES**  
Garage and Engineering Pty Ltd

**PRIZES FOR WINNERS: FAMILY PASSES AND CHILDREN'S PASSES!  
ENTRIES CLOSE 8TH MARCH 2025.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_  
School: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please post to:  
Elmore Events Centre  
PO Box 27, Elmore VIC 3558  
Or scan to:  
[info@elmorefielddays.com.au](mailto:info@elmorefielddays.com.au)

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children **WEEKLY**



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