



Calder Chronicle

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THURSDAY, 6TH MARCH 2025

CALENDAR

Friday, 7th March

Monday, 10th March Labor Day Public Holiday

Tuesday, 11th March

Thursday, 13th March

Monday 17th March

Thursday, 20th March

Friday, 21st March

Thursday, 27th March

Monday, 31st March

Thursday, 3rd April

Friday, 4th April

Scholastic Book Club orders due

Smile Squad commence (consent information inside)

Life Skills fourth session postponed

SRC Badge and Peer Mediator Vest presentation 9:00am – all welcome

Life Skills fourth session

Deposit of \$50 due for Year 3/4 Camp

Life Skills fifth session

SCHOOL PHOTO DAY – ordering available now on Compass

Life Skills – sixth and final session

Last Day for Term 1 – early dismissal 2:30pm

School Organisation

Dear Big Hill Community!

Week 6 has been productive, with children completing some excellent work in classrooms. I'm enjoying visiting each room and seeing our students hard at work with their teacher/s and education support aides. Our Foundation/Prep students have also completed their first Wednesday of school and will finish this week as a full-time student. No doubt they will be tired, so a restful long weekend will be in order 😊

BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT AT BIG HILL PS – WHEN THINGS GO WRONG 😊

Our school follows the SCHOOL WIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR (SWPBS) approach which is consistent across all State Schools. As part of this, we focus on our three school values of BE RESPECTFUL, BE RESPONSIBLE and BE SAFE...and set our expectations under the values in an EXPECTED BEHAVIOURS MATRIX (shared last week). Sometimes children make poor decisions and we re-teach. If they are low level behaviours, a warning/reminder might be given or time to sit and think (red dot) provided to allow children to re-set. We use brain breaks and other strategies too to support children when they are not regulating well, such as going to get a drink, movement break, mindfulness activity etc. Of course we also have times where a child can get it totally wrong. This is expected. They are children after all and whilst they are learning academically, they are also learning socially. When a behaviour is extreme, we follow our BHPS BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT FLOWCHART (attached for your reference) that may result in your child having a "Time Out" where your child is listed on the Discipline Log. When "Time Out" occurs – 11.15am each day, the child comes to the library during the first play and does a reflection with a duty teacher. This is a RESTORATIVE PRACTICE and helps the child reflect on the situation – What happened? Who was hurt? What needs to happen now? What could you do differently next time? (including exploration of strategies to de-escalate or problem solve if faced with a similar situation in the future). Time Out forms are sent home to parents/carers after completion so they are aware of a breach and what has been done to help the child make a better choice next time. We ask families to merely read the document and talk through with your child steps to take in the future. Be wary – often children don't like to admit where they were wrong or tend to blame others. Be assured we check carefully straight after events happen to get the story straight... as they do change as time goes forward. The biggest takeaway is that a TIME OUT is not the end of the world... or a big deal. It's actually a positive moment in time where a child is taught a better way of responding... because like I said above, schooling is teaching academics and behaviours (in a social setting).

LIFE SKILLS PROGRAM CONTINUES

Life Skills will continue next week on Thursday for children in the FIRST STEPS, JUNIOR and MIDDLE UNITS. Teaching mindfulness through yoga and other activities – Life Skills engages children and is a proactive program to help children address their mental health needs... giving them strategies to manage in the future.

FREE DENTAL WORKS FOR YOUR CHILD! SMILE SQUAD RETURNING...

The SMILE SQUAD are returning to Big Hill NEXT WEEK to provide **free** dental screening and services for all children. So you don't miss out on this amazing program, please ensure you have returned the consent 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. In the era of COST OF LIVING this program is a breath of fresh air for all families who now have no need to worry about dental costs. Why not make use of this FREE service?

PUBLIC HOLIDAY NEXT MONDAY / NO ASSEMBLY NEXT WEEK!

Next Monday is the Labor Day holiday in Victoria, therefore there is no school for students and staff. Everyone can enjoy a long weekend this week... and we'll see our students back onsite Tuesday. Please note there will be no assembly on Tuesday. Students of the Week and BIG REWARDS will be presented over the PA system Tuesday morning with photos taken in the foyer for our Facebook page.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS (P&F)

Our P&F met on Monday and conducted their AGM, electing members into OFFICE for another 12 months. Congratulations to the following parents:

- President – Mel Guthrie
- Vice President – Sharon Jones
- Treasurer – Samara Vance
- Secretary – Xanthe Clark

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Congratulations to the following parents and staff who nominated for School Council and have been re-elected without the need for an election.

Membership Category	Terms of Office	Currently Held by	Number of Positions
Department of Education	March 2025 – March 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pauline Mulcair• Ainsley Stanley• Jen Nicholls (replaces Sharyn Burnett for 12 months)	2 + 1
Parent	March 2025 – March 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Michelle Scott• Liz Grigg• Michelle Everett• Steve Penno	4
		Please note all other School Council members continue – Annette, Candy, Xanthe, Aaron and Alice	

Our first meeting of the new council is our ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – where new members will attend and the ANNUAL REPORT for 2024 will be presented. This is an open meeting of SCHOOL COUNCIL and runs from 7:00pm – 7:30pm. All members of our community are invited to come and sit in (watch/not participate) – please email me if you would like to attend... Matthew.Pearce@education.vic.gov.au. In addition to this, we will elect SCHOOL COUNCIL PRESIDENT, VICE SCHOOL COUNCIL PRESIDENT, TREASURER and SECRETARY for the next 12 months. At 7:30pm our new Council will formally meet for our March meeting – new members will attend this meeting and the AGM.

2025 PARENT PAYMENT CONTRIBUTIONS

After sending out a general reminder text to all families a few weeks ago, we have now sent a text to each family who have overlooked payment of their PARENT PAYMENT CONTRIBUTION. This contribution covers the cost of leasing iPads for children to use in class – the cost in lower year levels is reduced significantly due to students using them only a fraction of the time, whereas children in the SENIOR UNIT pay a higher cost as they have 1:1 use of the device each day. We lease to prevent families having to supply an iPad or laptop from home and also buy the associated programs to use in class. This would be a mammoth cost for families if you had to bring your own device. Our costs charged include access to the device, software updates, firewalls to protect children from inappropriate content and overnight charge/update processes to ensure the device is working at an optimal level. As you can imagine, we need families to pay for their child's device. We simply are not funded for these items. Additionally, subscriptions like READING EGGS, MATHSEEDS, SHOWBIE, MATHLETICS etc, all belong to your child, can be used at home... and should be paid for by families as it is your property. If you received a text message asking for payment, please contact us and we can help you set up a payment plan. If finance is the issue – please reach out to me for a chat. I'm happy to help.

NAPLAN – YEARS 3 AND 5

NAPLAN testing commences next week on Wednesday for our Year 3 and 5 students. All students will participate and if absent on the day of a test, a catch-up session will be organised. Please don't avoid the test day... if your child does not want to do the test... and you don't want them to... please speak to me about withdrawing them – this is the only way legally they can be withdrawn.

More information about NAPLAN is repeated for families here - *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 FAQs, read the Parent Information Brochure or have access to this information in another language: [Pages - Information for Parents](#) 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.*

MENTAL HEALTH IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS (MHIPS)

Today, Dean White, Ainsley Stanley and I will commence two full days of training in the MHIPS program. Due to this, the three of us will be offsite and will return Tuesday. Dean's class is covered by Emma Tuckwell during this time and Ainsley's by Roberta Mathers. Dean White is our MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING LEADER (MHWL) and will lead this work as we complete training. As training is undertaken, Dean will begin to undertake his new role in the school and promote it with our community.

BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to Samuel S & Christopher W.

MCKERNS FRESH FRUIT

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

Here are Jack and Abigail with their peach and pear 😊.



Hoping your Friday is a perfect segway to the long weekend. I do hope your time over the weekend is restful and just what the doctor ordered!

Until next week...

Matthew Pearce, Principal

FIRST STEPS NEWS

STARS OF THE WEEK

For displaying our School Values by playing safely in the yard:

FSN Ned
FSJ Oaklynn

Nicole, Nick & Jen

JUNIOR UNIT NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For displaying our School Values and playing appropriately in the yard:

JJ Otis
JC Harvey

Jayden & Catherine

MIDDLE UNIT NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For great participation during Life Skills:

MED Zoe
MP Parker
MWA Ezra

Emma, Dean, Pauline, Wendy & Amanda

SENIOR UNIT NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For demonstrating Respect:

SA/R Makenzie B
SB Nathaniel S
SK Harry R

Ainsley, Roberta, Brett & Kate

SOCIAL MEDIA & CYBER SAFETY

Emojis: More Than Just a Bit of Banter?

Back in the day, a wink was just a wink, and a peach was something you chucked in your lunchbox. But in the wild world of emojis, things aren't always what they seem.

One wrong emoji, and you could go from sounding like a legend to looking like a total galah!

So, before you fire off that next message, let's take a squiz at what some of these little icons really mean.

While a smiley face might seem harmless, emojis have taken on meanings beyond their original designs.

That innocent fire emoji? Could mean something's great... or that someone's in trouble.

The cowboy hat emoji? Might just be a nod to the Outback or could be someone calling themselves a bit of a larrikin.

And let's not even get started on the sneaky double meanings of certain fruit and vegetable emojis.

Let's just say, they're not always about your weekend Bunnings sausage sizzle.

It's all fun and games until an emoji lands you in hot water. Whether it's a work email, a text to a mate, or a message to your kid's teacher, it's worth taking a moment to think before you hit send.

Just like how sarcasm doesn't always translate in a text, emojis can be misinterpreted faster than you can say "yeah, nah."

But beyond awkward mix-ups, some emojis can have more serious implications.

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) and the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation (ACCCE) have warned that certain emojis are being used in concerning ways online.

The devil face emoji 🖐️, for example, can be a signal of inappropriate behaviour, while common symbols like the eggplant 🍆 and peach 🍑 aren't always just about fruit.

Even seemingly random icons like the corn emoji 🌽 can be used as a substitute for "adult materials."

And let's be real, no one's talking about a trip to the servo when they use the petrol pump emoji 🛢️ while it might seem like it's just about filling up the Ute before a road trip. Online it has a very different meaning. In certain contexts, it's used as slang for drugs, particularly petrol sniffing, inhalants, or even dealing substances.

So, while you might just be talking about fuel prices making you cry at the bowser in your messages, it's worth being aware that emojis don't always mean what they seem!

The AFP has also highlighted coded messages among young people, including acronyms like CD9 (which means "parents are watching") and LMIRL ("Let's meet in real life").

While not every emoji or acronym is a red flag, parents are encouraged to keep an eye on digital conversations and have open discussions about online safety.

At the end of the day, no one wants to be the drongo who accidentally sends their boss a wink instead of a thumbs-up or responds to a school email with an emoji that belongs in an M-rated group chat.

So, play it smart, keep it classy, and if you're ever unsure, maybe just stick to good old-fashioned words.

Keep it fun, keep it Aussie, and remember. When in doubt, spell it out!

Australian Federal Police (AFP): <https://www.afp.gov.au/>

Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation (ACCCE): <https://www.accce.gov.au/>

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

Kate Dole

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL (SRC) AND PEER MEDIATOR NEWS

Hello Friends and Families of the Big Hill Primary Community. We are pleased to announce our SRC representatives and Volunteer Peer Mediators for 2025. Our annual SRC Badge and Peer Mediator Vest presentation will be held during Assembly on Monday, 17th March at 9:00am for any families who would like to attend.

SRC Reps:

1. Abby M
2. Ryan W
3. Amber L
4. Mica B
5. Jobe D
6. Georgia E
7. Jax N
8. Ava S
9. Axel N
10. Anna S
11. Levi S
12. Ava C

(Captains: Mia Tr, Rhett C, Isabella G, Samuel S)

Volunteer Peer Mediators:

1. Avery F
2. Poppy S
3. Jack E
4. Addison H
5. Patrick R
6. Bonnie S
7. Ella M
8. Remi R
9. Lacey B
10. Grace V
11. Linken A
12. Mila M
13. Harper O
14. Archer M
15. Abigail H.
16. Nathaniel S

SCHOOL PHOTO DAY NEWS

School Photos will be taken on Monday, 31st March. Please remember to wear full uniform on the day.

Ordering is via Compass and there will be a banner at the top right of your screen with the MSP logo. Tap on the 'click here to place your order today' to see the packages and prices.

You can order family packs, single child photos and packs with single child and class photos from \$26.

SRC PHOTOS

Envelopes have been handed out today to those students for ordering of the group photo. There is no obligation to purchase, but if you would like to, cash is the only payment method available. Apologies for any inconvenience. Thank you.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS



Marlee from Emma/Dean's class won gold in the Jiu Jitsu ACT CHAMPIONSHIPS with a 30 second submission. Congratulations Marlee 🏆

Eh Say from Jayden's class broke a record in 60m hurdles that had stood for decades - well done Eh Say!

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB

Issue 2 was handed out last week.

Please submit orders via LOOP online or at the Office by **TOMORROW Friday, 7th March.**

Thank you.

WHOLE SCHOOL NEWS SMILE SQUAD FREE DENTAL

The Smile Squad free school dental program commences next Tuesday, 11th March

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:



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.



Our week

This week at big hill TheirCare the children and staff have all enjoyed around the world themed as everyone participated in activities such as water passport creations, origami, county paintings and more. For the rest of the week TheirCare has entertaining activities such as paper plane flying competition.

Some of the positive aspects of this week has been the children engaging in the activities making everyone's time so enjoyable. Children have also been displaying some respectful manners towards each other and staff creating a welcoming environment.

Some of our favourite activities so far have been playing with our sensory toys such as slime, playdoh and sand

Upcoming

Next week at big hill primary school TheirCare our theme is music requested by the children, therefore we will do activities such as music related trivia, musical statues, colouring related to music, board games and more

Reminders

Please remember to bring hats to OSHC and bring them home

If you have been handed paperwork pls fill it out and hand it in by the end of the week 😊

Value of the Week

This week our value is being mindful of each other this value will be incorporated into our program by highlighting the considerate words and action from children towards one and people around them

Contact Us

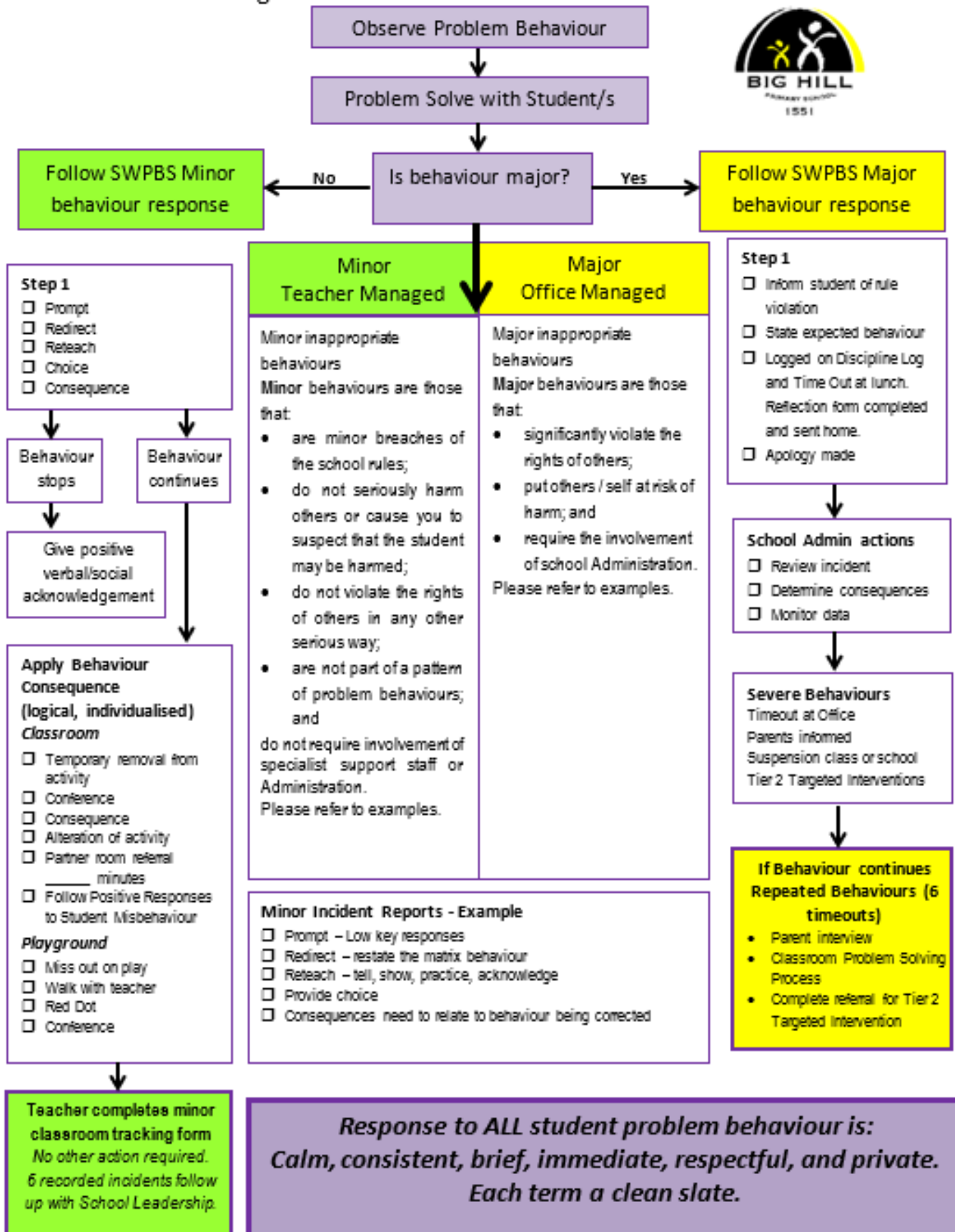
bighill@theircare.com.au

0475 072 819

www.theircare.com.au



BHPS Behaviour Management Flowchart



If student requires specialized support from Psych, Speech, Occupational Therapy, Social Worker or other wellbeing needs please refer to wellbeing team (Prin, Chaplin, AP).

OUR WEEKLY FREE FRESH FRUIT IS MADE POSSIBLE BY:

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fruit
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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 