



# Calder Chronicle

NUMBER 7

Phone (03) 5447 7022

Email: [big.hill.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:big.hill.ps@education.vic.gov.au)

Website: [www.bighillps.vic.edu.au](http://www.bighillps.vic.edu.au)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BigHillPrimarySchool/>

**THURSDAY, 13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2025**

## CALENDAR

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March**  
Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> March  
**Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> March**

Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> March  
**Monday, 31<sup>st</sup> March**  
Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April  
Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April  
**Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> April**

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

Life Skills fourth session

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

**Harmony Day – Wear Orange**

Life Skills fifth session

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

**LAST DAY TO ORDER FOR PIZZA DAY**

Life Skills – sixth and final session

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

Jump Rope for Heart – more info to come

**PIZZA DAY – no other food items available**

## School Organisation

Dear Big Hill Community!

Welcome to the Week 7 edition of THE CALDER CHRONICLE. By now we are deep into the term and are full steam ahead with learning. In the blink of an eye, Easter and the School Holidays will be upon us!

### NAPLAN

The 2025 NATIONAL ASSESSMENT IN LITERACY AND NUMERACY (NAPLAN) program is well underway with our Year 3 and 5s completing their *Writing* test on Wednesday, their *Reading* test today and tomorrow our Year 3s will continue with their *Conventions of Language* and *Numeracy* tests. Year 5 will do their *Conventions of Language* on Monday and *Numeracy* on Tuesday of next week. *Catch-up* tests will occur for those Year 3 and 5 students who miss a test. If you are avoiding the tests, please don't. Just drop in and see me. I can organise a withdrawal from the tests if you wish. We do want all students to do the test, however, do understand if you want them to be withdrawn for different reasons. The testing period is a busy one for students and staff alike. We have until Monday March the 24<sup>th</sup> to complete *Catch-up* tests – so until this time, please ensure your Year 3 and 5 child/ren are rested and ready to learn at school. Arrival at 9am is also crucial! A big thank you to the staff supervising our tests and our students who aren't involved and an extra big thank you to Dean and Kate for leading this work across our school.

### 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. They were delayed this week however we will see them next week to begin screening students. 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. If you don't return a consent, your child will not be screened, so to participate, please make sure you have returned a consent form.

### THE VICTORIAN TEACHING ACADEMY

On Monday and Tuesday of next week (17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of March) I will be undertaking facilitator training at the VICTORIAN TEACHING ACADEMY in Melbourne. Once trained I will be facilitating leadership training for up-and-coming teacher leaders in the Bendigo area...with dates occurring throughout Terms 2 and 3. As I will be away from school please direct your queries to the Office (5447 7022) who will direct your concern to the appropriate person or feel free to email me directly [Matthew.Pearce@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Matthew.Pearce@education.vic.gov.au) and I'll get back to you as soon as I can whilst away.

### SCHOOL COUNCIL

The 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 – 7.30pm on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March. 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](mailto: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.

## **LIFE SKILLS PROGRAM CONTINUES NEXT WEEK!**

The Life Skills Program did not run this week due to LIFE SKILLS being unable to staff the program. The session missed today will now occur in the coming weeks. As of next week, LIFE SKILLS will continue each Thursday in the Multipurpose until the end of term.

## **HARMONY WEEK**

Next week across the country is *HARMONY WEEK* from Monday 17 - Sunday 23 March 2025! Harmony Week is the celebration that recognises our diversity and brings together Australians from all different backgrounds. It's about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. You can wear orange to show your support, or you can attend/host a Harmony Week event. At Big Hill we are doing just that on Friday the 21<sup>st</sup> of March all children, staff and parents are encouraged to wear orange. Please send your child to school in orange – there is no gold coin donation required. Friday the 21<sup>st</sup> is also *The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (IDERD)*. While Harmony Week celebrates Australia's rich cultural diversity, it is also important to focus on the urgency of combatting racism wherever and whenever it arises. In the spirit of the 2024 Multicultural Framework Review's findings and recommendations, we encourage everyone to observe and acknowledge IDERD, which will be on the 21<sup>st</sup> by wearing orange and discuss racism with our students. Currently Alice, our wonderful art teacher, is working on a new HARMONY DISPLAY for our foyer. The 2024 display is still on the foyer glass, which is an amazing bunch of flowers done by each student, focused around EVERYONE BELONGS. I wonder what the 2025 display will look like? Speak to your child...they may be able to give you an idea 😊

## **2025 PARENT PAYMENT CONTRIBUTIONS**

If you haven't paid your PARENT PAYMENT CONTRIBUTION and this is due to financial struggles, please contact Erin in the office, or myself, to discuss. We are happy to support – but can't unless we know there is a need. Whilst it can be hard to reach out for help, know that we treat your privacy with the utmost confidentiality and honesty...you aren't alone with financial struggles. A reminder that this contribution covers the cost of leasing iPads/computers for children to use in class – the cost in lower years 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 therefore. 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, MATHS SEEDS, 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. Again – please contact us for a chat if there is a need. If you are able to pay the contribution, even with a minimal payment plan, please do so. We appreciate your support of our school 😊

## **ATTENDANCE**

How many days is ok for your child to miss school? The honest answer is none, however, being realistic, kids will miss days due to being sick, bereavement and appointments. Where possible children should not miss school due to birthdays, holidays, visitors etc. Throughout the year we have 6 weeks of school holidays to enable children to rest. In addition to this, we also have 5 pupil free days that we strategically place alongside a weekend to enable families the chance to get away. With these adjustments in place, families should be able to organise private holidays either during school holidays or on long weekends or school-generated-long-weekends (Curriculum Day). Yes holidays cost more during School Holidays...but the cost of missing too much school is greater! Your child falls behind when going away. To help, I've included the pupil free dates again to help you plan. If your child has an average year of illness – they will most likely miss 2 – 5 days of school for the year. This should be your goal. If they are already more than 5 days, you need to take drastic steps to improve this...but how do you know how many days? Access COMPASS, click the ATTENDANCE tab and you can see a graphic that shows you their attendance pattern. It's really helpful...and worth revisiting regularly. I'm contacting families via email and phone where I am concerned with attendance. Please work with the school and I to ensure your child is at school every day and on time – 9am start means a child does not miss out on Reading and Writing instruction. Thanks for your support moving forward 😊

- Monday the 26<sup>th</sup> of May
- Friday the 15<sup>th</sup> of August
- Monday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November
- Friday the 28<sup>th</sup> of November

## **MENTAL HEALTH IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS (MHIPS)**

Last week we completed training in the MHIPS program. This was a great opportunity to learn how this program will evolve at Big Hill in our first year of implementation. Dean White is our MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING LEADER (MHWL) and is working out of class each Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday (am) to get MHIPS underway. Moving forward, if you have any concerns regarding your child's mental health, try Dean as your first point of contact [Dean.White@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Dean.White@education.vic.gov.au)

## **KARATE**

We have an independent provider of Karate running in our Multipurpose each Wednesday at 6pm. If your child is interested, why not pop along at this time and meet Alex for a chat. We hope to have some information coming to provide to families who would like more information about this program, but for now I encourage you to grab Alex for a chat if you are interested.

## WELLBEING TEAM

At Big Hill in 2025 we have developed a WELLBEING TEAM structure to support our students and families. To help you know who is within the school to assist, here's a short outline of who, days and role:

CHRIS POWERS	Monday and Tuesday	Chaplaincy, SRC, Peer Mediation, Counselling 1:1
STACEY MURTAGH	Wed, Thurs + Fri	Disability Inclusion, Coordination of Allied Health/Departmental Wellbeing Supports, Student Support Groups
DEAN WHITE	Mon, Tues + Wed (am)	Mental Health and Wellbeing, SRC, Peer Mediation, The Resilience Project, Life Skills
MATT PEARCE	Mon – Fri	Point of contact for Wellbeing – student and family support...referral to the relevant person above

## BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to Bobby S.

## MCKERNS FRESH FRUIT

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

Here are Layla and Carter with their Peach and Banana 🍌.



With Friday upon us, we face the commencement of Week 8 and the reminder that there are only 3 weeks left of Term 1!

Until next week...

*Matthew Pearce, Principal*

## **FIRST STEPS NEWS**

### STARS OF THE WEEK

*For enthusiastically participating in classroom discussions and activities:*

**FSN** Poppy H  
**FSJ** Malia H-S

*Nicole, Nick & Jen*

## **JUNIOR UNIT NEWS**

### STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

*For using their class time efficiently and completing their work tasks to the best of their ability:*

**JJ** Ryan B  
**JC** Mitchell G

*Jayden & Catherine*

## **MIDDLE UNIT NEWS**

### STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

*For showing respect during specialist classes:*

**MED** Minuli S  
**MP** Ruby S  
**MWA** Piper C

*Emma, Dean, Pauline, Wendy & Amanda*

## **SENIOR UNIT NEWS**

### STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

*For showing responsibility:*

**SA/R** Linken A  
**SB** Jazmine T  
**SK** Abby Mc

*Ainsley, Roberta, Brett & Kate*

## **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 were handed out last week 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.

## **PARENTS & FRIENDS**

### EASTER RAFFLE

Tickets for the Easter raffle were sent home today. They are 50 cents a ticket and please write your name and phone number, or your child's name and home group on both sides of the tickets (so 20 tickets in total, \$10 a book). Please return tickets – both sold and unsold – to the Office by Tuesday, 1st April. The raffle will be drawn on Thursday, 3rd April.

### EASTER RAFFLE DONATIONS

If you have any items to donate towards the raffle – Easter eggs, Easter arts & crafts, activity books, cellophane etc, please leave at the Office. Thank you.

*Thanks for your support 🍌*



## SOCIAL MEDIA & CYBER SAFETY

### Private Means Private... Or Does It? Understanding Online Privacy Settings

These days, kids are more tech-savvy than a kelpie at a sheepdog trial and growing up in a world where being online is as normal as kicking a footy at lunch.

But while they're quick to pick up new apps and games, **understanding what "private" really means online is a whole other ball game.**

Even the cleverest kids (and sometimes us grown-ups!) can get caught out like a deer in the headlights when it comes to online privacy.

Many children (and even us adults!) assume that when something is set to "private," it's completely hidden.

But just like a backyard fence doesn't stop neighbours from peeking over, online privacy settings don't always offer full protection.

Here are a few key things to chat about with your child:

#### 🔒 1. "Private" doesn't always mean hidden

Even if an account is set to private, things like profile pictures, usernames, and friends lists can often still be seen.

It's worth reminding kids that some information is always on show, like wearing your BHPS school hat with your name stitched on the back in hi-vis pink.

#### 👥 2. Friends of friends might not be friendly

Sharing with "friends of friends" can mean hundreds of people your child doesn't know and sadly, not everyone has good intentions.

A good way to explain this, if you wouldn't tell a stranger at the footy or down at the local park, don't share it online.

#### 📱 3. Private chats aren't always private

Even in private messages, screenshots can be taken and shared, turning a quiet chat into public news faster than a magpie swoop in spring.

Encourage kids to think before they share, if they wouldn't want it shown at school assembly, read out by their teacher in class, or read by Mum or Dad it probably shouldn't be online.

#### ⚙️ 4. Settings can change without notice

Apps and games update their privacy rules often, sometimes sneakier than a magpie in spring!

Checking privacy settings together every now and then is a great way to stay ahead of any changes and it can make sure your child's info stays safe.

#### 🚫 5. It's okay to block or ignore

Kids can feel pressure to accept requests or reply to messages, even from people they don't know.

Remind them it's absolutely fine to say **"no thanks," hit block, or walk away**, just like they would if a stranger rocked up at the park for a chat.

And if they're unsure, talking to a trusted adult is always the best move.

#### Final tip:

Having honest, casual conversations about online privacy is one of the best ways to protect our kids.

Whether it's over dinner or on the way to sport, keeping the chat open helps them know you're there if something doesn't feel right.

Together, we can make sure our kids are as safe online as they are crossing the road, looking both ways and knowing when to stop!

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

Kate Dole

## 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.

## COMMUNITY NEWS



**HOLIDAY FOOTY FRENZY**  
MONDAY 7TH & TUESDAY 8TH APRIL  
8.30AM - 5PM  
ATKINS ST, NORTH BENDIGO  
AGES: 5 - 14  
SNACKS AND LUNCH PROVIDED

MORE INFO AND SIGN UP HERE

1 DAY - \$80  
2 DAYS - \$150

Who will win the Fitzpatrick Cup?



## Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge

The Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge is now open, and Big Hill PS is excited to be taking part!

The Challenge is open to all Victorian children from birth to Year 10 and aims to help young readers develop a lifelong love of reading.

It is not a competition; it is a personal challenge for children to read a set number of books by 5 September 2025. Children from Prep to Year 2 are encouraged to read or 'experience' 30 books with their parents and teachers. Children from Year 3 to Year 10 are challenged to read 15 books.

All children who meet the Challenge will receive a certificate of achievement signed by the Victorian Premier and former Premiers.

This year, the Challenge is celebrating its 20th anniversary with the theme '20 years of words and wonder' and a year of special activities. For details, follow the [Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge Facebook](#)

Since it began in 2005, more than 4.5 million young readers have taken part and together read more than 63 million books!

To read the Premier's letter to parents, view the booklist and for more information about the Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge, visit [www.vic.gov.au/premiers-reading-challenge](http://www.vic.gov.au/premiers-reading-challenge)

Please contact your classroom teacher for login details.

Happy reading!





## Our Week

This week at big hill primary school their care children have engaging in activities such as slime, sand and play-doh and a personal favourite of the children's has been cricket.

some of this weeks positives has been the children settling in and feeling more comfortable within the service and showing of their amazing personality by telling jokes and engaging with staff and peers more. At OSHC the children have enjoyed our theme of music by picking child friendly songs in the morning and having a fun dance.

## Value of the Week

Our Value at OSHC this week is teamwork the children have demonstrated this value in a caring way, as they all work together to ensure the supplies such as pencils and texters are in working order.

One of the highlighted behaviour around Teamwork this week has to be a child choosing to come inside and help the other children clean up, making the other's feel supported

## Reminders

please bring in required paperwork to ensure your child is able to attend the service

## Contact

bighill@theircare.com.au  
0475 072 819  
www.theircare.com.au

## Upcoming

next week within our OSHC world we are doing a superhero theme as the children have been super stars.

Our value for next week is Harmony chosen by the children so we are all looking forwards to creating an environment that has calm energy for all staff and student to demonstrate some of the fun activities planned for next week are Markers up game on Monday, talent show on Tuesday and many more



# FRIDAY, 4<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

PIZZA DAY MEAL

**\$5.50**

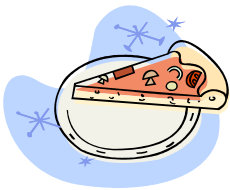
**HAWAIIAN**

OR

**MEATLOVERS**

OR

**VEGETARIAN**



WITH PRIMA OR MILK

(No choice in flavours, sorry, can only choose between prima or milk)

- If you wish to order an extra slice, the cost is \$2.00 per slice
- Orders can be cash and order details put in an envelope, or ordered on COMPASS
- **Orders need to be placed by 9:00am, WEDNESDAY, 2<sup>ND</sup> APRIL.**  
**Late orders cannot be accepted.**
- Iced treats will be available as normal

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



OUR WEEKLY FREE FRESH FRUIT IS MADE POSSIBLE BY:

 mckern steel™  
foundation



fresh  
fruit  
friday



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



THANK YOU TO MCKERN STEEL FOUNDATION & SPONSORS

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