



# Calder Chronicle

NUMBER 8

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

## CALENDAR

**Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> March**

Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> March

Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> March

Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> March

**Monday, 31<sup>st</sup> March**

Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> April

Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April

Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April

**Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> April**

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

**Harmony Day – Wear Orange**

Evacuation Drill – please assure your child/ren it is a practice only

School Council Meeting 7:00pm – 7:30pm

Life Skills fifth session

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

P&F Easter Raffle Tickets due in

**LAST DAY TO ORDER FOR PIZZA DAY**

Life Skills – sixth and final session

**EASTER RAFFLE DRAWN**

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

Jump Rope for Heart – Jump Off Day

**PIZZA DAY – no other food items available except iced treats**

## School Organisation

Dear Big Hill Community!

With Week 8 almost complete, signs of tiredness are starting to show. Our Foundation students are well into their schooling routine now and all other students have been working hard each week. With the holidays a couple of weeks off, the signs of fatigue are creeping in for some. Please monitor your child's feelings and read those signs to see if they are tired... and if they are... rather than keeping them at home for a day... enforce earlier bed times, screen free time and quiet patches on weekends or afternoons just to relax. Avoid the GO GO GO approach when you can. This will really help your child/ren navigate the next two weeks 😊.

### NAPLAN TESTING ALMOST COMPLETE

The 2025 NATIONAL ASSESSMENT IN LITERACY AND NUMERACY (NAPLAN) program is almost complete with just a couple of catch-up tests scheduled for tomorrow. The final testing opportunity is Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> March, though we expect to have all tests complete by that time. Results of NAPLAN tests will be released later in the year – with our school receiving your child's official NAPLAN tests hopefully in late Term 2 / early Term 3. We envelope these and send them home to families... with information shared via COMPASS to let you know to keep a look out for this report in your child's bag. More information to come.

### LIFE SKILLS PROGRAM

Life Skills resumed today, with our FIRST STEPS, JUNIOR and MIDDLE UNITS continuing their work on wellbeing – focusing on mindfulness and calming techniques. We look forward to our second last visit next week 😊.

### PARKING – DROP AND GO! PICK UP AND GO!

So I don't offend anyone, I'm going to start endeavouring to move cars to parking bays, instead of idling in our drop off / pick up zone. If you are unaware of this zone, it's the parking spots along the top car park beside the rotunda and behind our bus stop near the Senior Unit. If collecting or dropping off children, please move through to the last park, collect your child and depart. The duty teacher will endeavour to get children organised to hop in the car so you can keep moving. Please do not park and leave your car (if you need to do this, park at the end of the car park in the gravel area). This area is only for quick pick-ups and drop-offs. Thanks for your support.

### FREE DENTAL WORKS FOR YOUR CHILD!

SMILE SQUAD have been onsite this week and screen those who have returned permissions for their child/ren. Remember that this is a free service for all families that support a State School such as ours, so why not make the most of this great service? Consent can be submitted via the advertisement in last week's newsletter but I would action this today if you haven't already, to ensure your child is seen. Once screening is complete, SMILE SQUAD will return in the coming months with the dental van to complete the required dental works free of charge.

### EVACUATION DRILL – MONDAY

Next week we will run through an evacuation drill at school, as part of rehearsing our EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN. Please prepare your child/ren by letting them know we are going to practise what we would do if there was a real emergency, such as a fire. In preparing your child, please stress that this is not a real event, just a chance to be ready if we ever needed to evacuate.

## **HARMONY WEEK**

This week has been extra important as it is HARMONY WEEK! As part of our Harmony Week celebrations all children can wear orange to show their support of diversity and multiculturalism tomorrow. Please send your child to school in orange – there is no gold coin donation required. If you don't have an orange Tshirt, choose something orange, even if it is orange zinc, hairspray, hair-tie, hat whatever. TOMORROW 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 discussing racism with our students. Keep an eye out for our 2025 HARMONY WEEK display coming soon to our foyer... and talk to your child about what they may have done in class this week to focus on Harmony Week. I've seen some great work in my visits to rooms 😊.

## **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 7:00pm – 7:30pm on Tuesday night (25/3). 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. Information for this meeting will be emailed home to School Council members today or tomorrow. Please keep a look out for this information.

## **ATTENDANCE (repeat)**

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 here every day and on time – 9:00am start means a child does not miss out on Reading and Writing instruction. Thanks for your support moving forward 😊.

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

## **KARATE (repeat)**

We have an independent provider of Karate running in our Multipurpose Room each Wednesday at 6:00pm. 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.

## **STAFFING**

Nick Reid has had to take a couple of weeks off for some elective surgery and will return just before the end of term. During his absence Lauren Ray will deliver the majority of his music lessons and Nicole Peach will cover tomorrow and next Friday for consistency. This week we had Jenny Brown return from Long Service Leave and next week Amy Mountjoy will be absent for over a month as she undertakes a teaching placement at another school. This will see Amy's MACQLIT lessons for Years 3 – 6 pause for a few weeks.

## **PROFESSIONAL LEARNING**

Next week I'm linking once again with local Principals on Tuesday at our second GREATER BENDIGO PRINCIPALS meeting of the term (this will be for the majority of the day), then on Wednesday Ainsley, Pauline and I will undertake in-depth training on the SCIENCE OF LEARNING approach... enabling us to lead the reforms in teaching and learning that are coming through schools as part of the VICTORIAN TEACHING AND LEARNING MODEL 2.0 and new approaches to READING / PHONICS.

## **BIRTHDAYS**

Happy Birthday to Rahm, Mannix, Lyvia, Peyton, Valentine, Logan E & Archie M.

## **MCKERNS FRESH FRUIT**

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

Here are Rahm and Chloe with their peach and pear 😊.



With Friday not far away and the end of term only two weeks off, here's hoping that the weekend is an opportunity to recharge batteries and return next week ready for the last sprint to the end of Term 1.

Until next week...

*Matthew Pearce, Principal*

### **FIRST STEPS NEWS**

#### **STARS OF THE WEEK**

*For being a kind and caring friend who includes others:*

FSN *Everly F*  
FSJ *Chloe V*

*Nicole, Nick & Jen*

### **JUNIOR UNIT NEWS**

#### **STUDENTS OF THE WEEK**

*For being kind, caring and a good friend to others in the classroom:*

JJ *Mila C*  
JC *Zelda L*

*Jayden & Catherine*

### **MIDDLE UNIT NEWS**

#### **STUDENTS OF THE WEEK**

*For displaying a positive attitude during NAPLAN:*

MED *Bentley G*  
MP *Blake M*  
MWA *Callum V*

*Emma, Dean, Pauline, Wendy & Amanda*

### **SENIOR UNIT NEWS**

#### **STUDENTS OF THE WEEK**

*For supporting their class to create a safe learning space:*

SA/R *Oli M*  
SB *Mila M*  
SK *Christopher W*

*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 have been handed out 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 have been sent home. 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 all tickets – both sold and unsold – to the Office by **Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> April**. The raffle will be drawn on **Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 😊*

### **STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**

From Judo Victoria, Hannah & Mitchell G have passed a Judo practical and knowledge test called a grading at the Judo Bendigo Club. This is no easy task and requires a great deal of practice. The grade is awarded by the presentation of a coloured Judo belt. Junior Judo belts are in varying colours signifying age and expertise. Hannah has been awarded a Junior Yellow belt, and Mitchell has been awarded a White-Yellow belt. CONGRATULATIONS Hannah & Mitchell!!

# SOCIAL MEDIA & CYBER SAFETY

## The Digital Dilemma: Trust vs Protection

### **Should I Read My Kid's Messages? Balancing Privacy and Safety**

In an age where children and teens are more connected than ever, parents often struggle with a tough question: Should I read my child's messages? While monitoring can provide a sense of security, it can also feel like an invasion of privacy. Striking the right balance between keeping them safe and respecting their independence is key.

### **Why Parents Feel the Need to Check**

*Many parents worry about the risks their kids face online, including:*

#### **Cyberbullying:**

Harassment through texts and social media is a common concern. According to the eSafety Commissioner, around 1 in 5 Australian children have experienced cyberbullying, so it's not just schoolyard banter anymore.

#### **Online Predators:**

Strangers may try to befriend children through messaging apps. Reports from the Australian Federal Police indicate an increase in online grooming cases. It's not just dodgy blokes in trench coats anymore, predators can hide behind friendly emojis and gaming avatars.

#### **Inappropriate Content:**

Kids may be exposed to harmful or age-inappropriate material. The Office of the eSafety Commissioner provides guidelines for parents on managing content filters, because the last thing you want is your child stumbling across something dodgier than a cheap sausage sizzle at Bunnings on a Saturday.

#### **Peer Pressure:**

Conversations may involve dangerous trends, challenges, or risky behaviour, like when Aussie kids got caught up in those ridiculous TikTok milk crate challenges, one minute they're stacking crates, next minute they're stacking it in the emergency department.

### **When Should You Check?**

*There is no one-size-fits-all answer, but certain situations may justify closer monitoring:*

#### **Drastic Behavioural Changes:**

If your child suddenly becomes withdrawn, anxious, or secretive, it could be a sign of trouble, kind of like when you see a magpie eyeing you off in spring. Something's coming, and it's best to be prepared.

#### **Warning Signs of Bullying or Predatory Behaviour:**

If they seem distressed after using their phone or avoid certain people, it might be worth investigating. Think of it like when your mate stops answering texts about paying back that twenty bucks, something's up!

### **Younger Children or New to Social Media:**

If your child is still learning how to navigate digital communication, occasional monitoring may help guide them, like teaching them to check for rips before diving into the surf.

### **Prior Incidents of Risky Online Behaviour:**

If they have previously engaged in unsafe online activities, some oversight may be necessary. Trust is earned, not given just like getting the good camping spot on the Murray at Easter.

### **Respecting Their Privacy While Keeping Them Safe**

*Rather than secretly reading messages, consider these alternative approaches:*

#### **Open Conversations:**

Talk about online safety, cyberbullying, and the importance of responsible messaging. The eSafety Commissioner website offers conversation starters for parents, because let's face it, getting your teen to talk can be harder than getting a seagull to share a chip.

#### **Set Boundaries and Guidelines:**

Establish clear rules about appropriate communication and what apps they can use, just like you set rules about not running around barefoot in Bunnings (even though it's tempting).

#### **Encourage Trust and Transparency:**

Let them know they can come to you if they encounter something uncomfortable online, kind of like when they finally admit they lost their school hat (again) and need your help.

#### **Use Parental Controls Wisely:**

Many apps allow parents to set up alerts or limit messaging without reading every text. The Australian Government's eSafety Guide provides recommendations on parental control tools, because just like a pool fence, a little protection goes a long way.

#### **Check Device Usage, Not Every Message:**

Reviewing contacts, app usage, and general behaviour may be enough. No need to go full detective mode, unless they suddenly start getting messages from 'Free V-Bucks Now' or 'You've Won a New iPhone' at 3:00am.

### **Final Thoughts: Finding the Middle Ground**

Every family is different, and the level of oversight should depend on your child's age, maturity, and online behaviour. The goal is to foster trust and educate them on digital safety while ensuring they feel respected.

Instead of secretly checking messages, keeping communication open and setting clear expectations will help build a safer online experience for your child, because at the end of the day, you want to raise a smart, safe, and independent kid, not one who thinks 'Straya Day means doing donuts and burnouts around the local roundabout.

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

**Kate Dole**



## COMMUNITY NEWS



**2025 footy at Golden Square**  
Register to play

### Want to play junior footy at Golden Square?

#### You're invited

If you've played with Golden Square before, or perhaps thinking about joining, we welcome you to register your request to play junior football with us in 2025.

#### About us

We are an inclusive family club, committed to an ethos of respect, player development and ensuring our kids have fun!

Our strong linkage with the senior club enables pathways from junior sport through to senior ranks, in a nurturing environment that feels like one big family.

Our home ground is centrally located at Wade Street, Golden Square and we wear the blue and the gold with pride.

Register now



SCAN CODE  
or access our website  
[www.gsfn juniors.com.au](http://www.gsfn juniors.com.au)

#### 2025 Age Groups (date of birth requirements)

**Under 9**  
born 2016, 2017 or prior to 30 Apr 2018

**Under 10**  
born 2015 or 2016

**Under 12**  
born 2013, 2014 or 2015

**Under 14 boys**  
born 2011, 2012 or 2013

**Under 15 Girls**  
born 2010, 2011 or 2012

**Under 16 boys**  
born 2009, 2010, 2011

Please email enquiries to: [gsfnjuniors@yahoo.com.au](mailto:gsfnjuniors@yahoo.com.au)  
[www.gsfnjuniors.com.au](http://www.gsfnjuniors.com.au)

GOLDEN SQUARE FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB - JUNIORS

## AFL SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

### 4 - 7 YEAR OLDS

A safe and fun program led by experienced AFL coaches, your child will learn basic footy skills, and enjoy mini-games, all while experiencing NAB AFL Auskick in a supportive environment, leaving with big smiles and a day of Good Clean Fun!



### 8 - 12 YEAR OLDS

Get a taste of NAB AFL Superkick, with a mix of skill development, modified game play. See their confidence grow in a supportive environment where buddies, mud & fun collide!



**9AM-3PM - \$55 - FOOTBALL INCLUDED**

**Bendigo - Monday 7th April - Mixed Program**



**Bendigo - Friday 11th April - ALL GIRLS Program**



share *the* dignity

Help end  
period poverty

Thank you for helping those in need  
during Dignity Drive

Collection points for our March Dignity Drive are now open at  
Woolworths Supermarkets and select businesses.

Visit:

<https://www.sharethedignity.org.au/dignity-drives>

to find out where you can donate items



SCAN ME!

**JUNIOR  
PLAYERS  
WANTED**

Ages 5+  
Season Starts  
April!

**Come & try Baseball!**

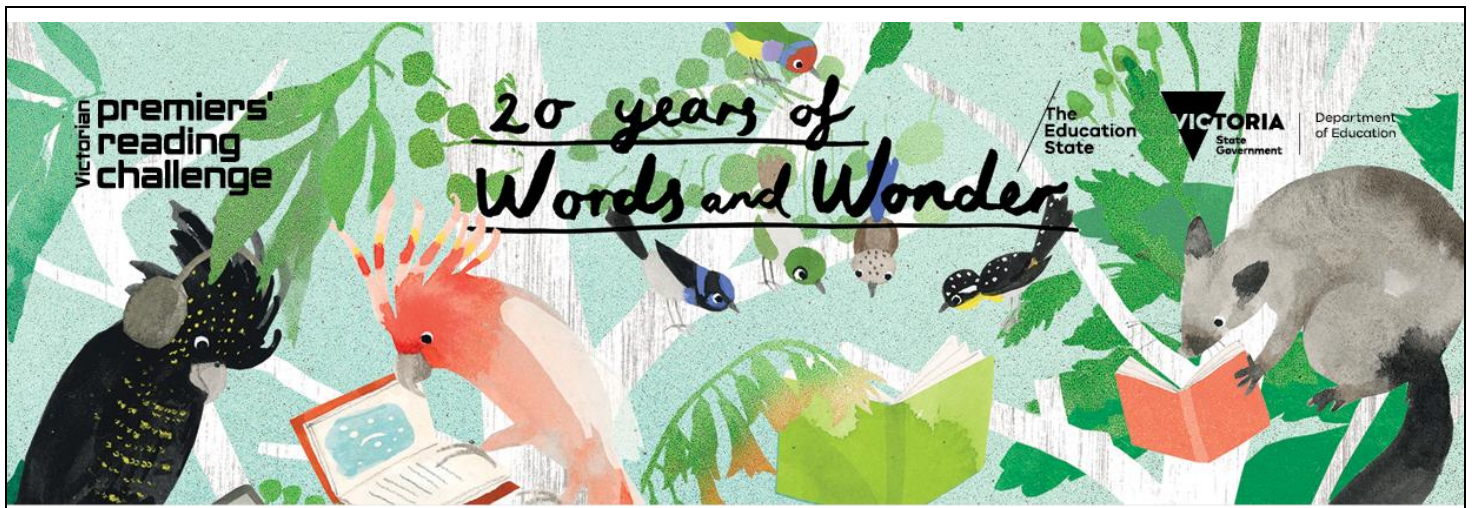
Tuesdays 5:30 pm - 7 pm

Wednesdays 6 pm - 7:30 pm

Fridays 6 pm - 7:30 pm

Albert Roy Reserve, Eaglehawk

Contact Seb Smith - 0468 968 490



# 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 Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> September 2025. Children from Foundation 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. You can also contact our school's Challenge coordinators at [emma.tuckwell@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:emma.tuckwell@education.vic.gov.au), [jennifer.nicholls2@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:jennifer.nicholls2@education.vic.gov.au), [ainsley.stanley@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:ainsley.stanley@education.vic.gov.au)

Happy reading!



## KELLY SPORTS

AUTUMN HOLIDAY PROGRAM  
CLINICS & TOURNAMENTS



 <b>MONDAY APRIL 7</b> <b>DANCE &amp; GYMNASTICS WORKSHOP</b>	 <b>TUESDAY APRIL 8</b> <b>INDOOR CRICKET TOURNAMENT</b>	 <b>WEDNESDAY APRIL 9</b> <b>NETBALL MASTERCLASS</b>	 <b>WEDNESDAY APRIL 9</b> <b>RAPID RACQUET SPORTS</b>	 <b>THURSDAY APRIL 10</b> <b>FUTSAL CLINIC</b>
 <b>FRIDAY APRIL 11</b> <b>FUTSAL TOURNAMENT</b>	 <b>MONDAY APRIL 14</b> <b>DANCE &amp; GYMNASTICS WORKSHOP</b>	 <b>TUESDAY APRIL 15</b> <b>AFL 9'S TOURNAMENT</b>	 <b>WEDNESDAY APRIL 16</b> <b>FAST 5 NETBALL TOURNAMENT</b>	 <b>THURSDAY APRIL 17</b> <b>FUTSAL CLINIC</b>

BOOK NOW | [WWW.KELLYSPORTS.COM.AU/BENDIGO](http://WWW.KELLYSPORTS.COM.AU/BENDIGO) | SIGN UP INDIVIDUALLY | SIGN UP A TEAM



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

PIZZA DAY MEAL

**\$5.50**

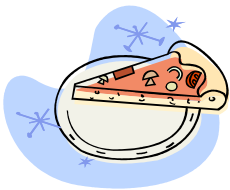
**HAWAIIAN**

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 😊