



Calder Chronicle

NUMBER 9

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THURSDAY, 27TH MARCH 2025

CALENDAR

Monday, 31st March

Tuesday, 1st April

Wednesday, 2nd April

Thursday, 3rd April

Friday, 4th April

Tuesday, 22nd April

Friday, 25th April

SCHOOL PHOTO DAY – order on Compass – NO assembly

P&F Easter Raffle Tickets due back at the Office (both sold and unsold please)

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

9:00am assembly for Students of the Term

Jump Rope for Heart – Jump Off Day starting at approx. 12:30pm

PIZZA DAY – no other food items available except iced treats

First Day for Term 2

ANZAC Day Public Holiday

School Organisation

Dear Big Hill Community!

Week 9 has flown past due to it being extremely busy and productive. As we move through to the commencement of Week 10, we come into view with the finish line of Term 1... therefore this newsletter is a good opportunity to cover many important things before we break for the Term 1 holidays.

SMOKING, VAPING ETC NEAR THE SCHOOL

I note reports of parents, carers (or others) smoking / vaping in their car in the vicinity of the school. Regulation states that smoking is prohibited on the school grounds and alongside the boundaries, including car parks... so please refrain from smoking in the car when near the school. It's worth noting that the top car park is actually on school grounds, so absolutely no smoking in this area as it is on the grounds.

LIFE SKILLS PROGRAM

Life Skills continued today for our FIRST STEPS, JUNIOR and MIDDLE UNIT classes in the Multipurpose Room. Next week will be the final LIFE SKILLS visit for this year. Considering how much the children have enjoyed the program I would expect that we will most likely see them return in 2026!

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.

SCHOOL SPEED ZONES

You will be aware that our school zones reduce to 40km/h in key times before and after school near Harvey Norman and to 60km/h out the front of our school. To help drivers this is clearly communicated by flashing speed limits alerting drivers to adjust to the speed limit. As community members please do your bit to stick to these limits and report those who do not to the Police directly.

PARKING AND PATHS – NO DRIVING

Whilst I acknowledge parking is tricky at times, I need to remind all drivers to ensure they park in designated areas and never use the footpath as a road to exit. There have been reports of families doing this and it concerns me as the paths are there for bikes, scooters and pedestrians... not cars. If you have been using the path as a road, please cease doing this as it is dangerous. If you notice drivers doing the wrong thing on paths and around the school please report directly to the Police, as the school cannot enforce the law beyond the gates of our school, however we are happy to remind everyone of the correct behaviours to help keep our children safe.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

We had our Annual General Meeting and March meeting on Tuesday night where we nominated our new office bearers for 2025. Congratulations to Annette Robinson (School Council President), Candice Haines (Vice School Council President), Aaron Fuller (Treasurer) and Pauline Mulcair (Secretary). We welcomed new members Michelle Scott and Jen Nicholls and look forward to welcoming newly co-opted community member, Melissa Tuohey, to our next meeting in May.

SCHOOL PHOTOS – NEXT MONDAY

School photos will be taken next Monday for all students, (see timetable included in the newsletter). Photo ordering is on COMPASS using the MSP Photography link. Please ensure you send your child/ren to school in full school uniform Monday ready for that forever photo to be taken. It's a day to look one's best 😊.

PLANNING WEEK

Next week our normal specialist classes will pause as we provide Term 2 planning for our teacher teams instead. For families to prepare students, please note that the Middle and Junior Unit classes will plan on Tuesday, Seniors on Wednesday and First Steps on Thursday. Some classes may still have library, music or Chinese, where others may get a different program for this week only.

STAFFING

Nick Reid remains on sick leave until Thursday of next week, covered by Lauren Ray during this time. Amy Mountjoy remains on teaching rounds and as a result, MacqLit is paused for our Year 3 – 6's in the program. Wendy Hicks has commenced Long Service Leave and we welcome Giovanna Totta into her classroom until the end of term. Jayden Sheean is also absent on Wednesday and is replaced by Leisha Morrison. Finally I'm in Melbourne on Thursday for more ACADEMY FACILITATOR TRAINING and Roberta Mathers will release Ainsley Stanley and other SIT members for the day.

ANNETTE CLEMENTS – “MANAGING BIG FEELINGS”

It's been great to see so many parents registering to attend our first PARENT INFORMATION SESSION “Managing Big Feelings” with Annette Clements on Monday at 2pm. This will run for an hour and finish in time for parents to collect children at the end of the day. Please register to attend through COMPASS. A big thank you to Dean White for organising the first of many sessions on offer for families in the coming months.

END OF TERM AWARDS PRESENTATION

Next Friday, 4th April will be our END OF TERM STUDENT AWARDS presentation. This will happen outdoors at 9:00am if the weather is fine (if not we will present First Steps & Junior Unit in the Multipurpose Room at 9:00am and Middle & Senior Units at 9:30am). Awards will be presented in each class to students in the following areas: EXCELLENCE IN ENGLISH, MATHEMATICS, PERFORMING ARTS and VISUAL ARTS, ENDEAVOUR IN ENGLISH and MATHEMATICS, OUTSTANDING DEMONSTRATION OF SCHOOL VALUES and THE PRINCIPALS AWARD. Winners will be announced in next week's newsletter giving families notice if they want to try and come along to the ceremony to take photos of the occasion. Don't stress if you can't make it – we do take photos and post to FACEBOOK after the event to showcase our winners too 😊.

PIZZA DAY

Orders for pizza close next Wednesday at 9:00am for Friday. If your child does not like pizza, feel free to send along something else.

END OF TERM 1 AND HOLIDAYS

Next Friday, 4th April will see the school holidays commencing at 2:30pm. This is an earlier dismissal in line with schools across the state, so families are reminded to pick up earlier or book into TheirCare, our OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE provider. The Office will close at 3:00pm for the holidays also, so please ensure you have contacted the school prior to 3:00pm if you have anything important to discuss or organise. Both buses will operate on the Friday at 2:30pm, so please adjust your pick up times from your bus stop accordingly. We resume Term 2 on Tuesday, 22nd April at 9:00am, as the Monday is the Easter Monday Public Holiday. Should you need to contact the school during break time please note that staff will respond to you when they recommence on Tuesday, 22nd April.

MCKERNS FRESH FRUIT

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

Here are Ned and Izzy with their banana and apple 😊.



ANZAC DAY BADGES

We have an assortment of badges (\$2 to \$5), one keyring design (\$4), one wrist band design (\$3), and one pen design (\$5) now available to purchase from the Office.

LOST PROPERTY JUMPERS / JACKETS

We have a LARGE number of lost items with no names on them at the Office. Please come and see if any belong to your child, as if they are not claimed by the end of term, we will be donating them. Thank you.

BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to Milly, Luka, Ava M, Rhett & Bailey.

As we approach the end of another week, please continue to support your child with good routines and regular rest. Another week of school isn't too big a task when knowing the next two weeks will provide a good rest with the holiday period for students.

Hoping your Friday is a happy one and the weekend beyond even better!

Until next week...

Matthew Pearce, Principal

FIRST STEPS NEWS

STARS OF THE WEEK

For being a responsible learner by putting in an exceptional effort with their home reading:

FSN *Izzy P*
FSJ *Oliver T*

Nicole, Nick & Jen

JUNIOR UNIT NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For displaying the School Values during the Responsible Pet Ownership session:

JJ *Harry B*
JC *Tommy W*

Jayden & Catherine

MIDDLE UNIT NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For great participation during Cross Country:

MED *Hendrix M*
MP *Lucas Q*
MWA *Ava C*

Emma, Dean, Pauline, Wendy & Amanda

SENIOR UNIT NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For demonstrating kindness and compassion:

SA/R *Felix M*
SB *Jack E*
SK *Evelynne K*

Ainsley, Roberta, Brett & Kate

SCHOOL PHOTO DAY NEWS

School Photos are **NEXT** Monday, 31st March. Please remember to wear full uniform on the day. Ordering is on Compass, via the MSP Photography link.

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.

RUNNING SCHEDULE – (Approximate times)

9:00am – SA/R
9:15am – MW/A
9:30am – FSJ
9:45am – FSN
10:00am – JC
10:15am – JJ
10:30am – ME/D
10:45am – MP

RECESS

11:30am – SB
11:45am – SK

PARENTS & FRIENDS

EASTER RAFFLE

Tickets are 50 cents each 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, 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

Would You Say That in Real Life? The Impact of Online Words

The Power of Words in the Digital World

When we communicate online, the rules can sometimes feel different. With a screen between us and the other person, it's easy to forget that the words we type still have real-life consequences. The anonymity of the internet can sometimes lead people to say things they would never dream of saying face-to-face. So, before hitting 'send', think about whether you'd say it out loud while waiting in line at the bakery for a pie or while chatting with your mates at a local footy match. If it doesn't feel right there, it probably won't feel right online either.

Why Words Matter

Words can hurt, but they can also heal! Whether it's a cheeky comment or an out-and-out insult, words can have lasting effects. Imagine typing something hurtful in a text and realising a few minutes later that it's made someone feel like a kangaroo caught in headlights. It's easy to forget that behind the screen, there's a real person who might be dealing with their own stuff, just like you. Would you want to be the one responsible for making them feel like they've been run over by a Ute?

The Culture of Online Communication

This can feel like a wild ride at an amusement park. You might feel safe in your own little bubble, but remember, your words can have a ripple effect across cyberspace faster than a croc's snap! Australian teens are no strangers to platforms like Instagram, TikTok, Discord and Snapchat, where the temptation to crack a joke or get in a dig is strong. But would you say something that makes someone feel like a stunned mullet in real life? Probably not. So, why do it online? If you're about to leave a cheeky comment, think about whether you'd say it with your mates, or at a summer BBQ with the neighbours.

Online Words Can Have Real-World Consequences

The internet might feel like a 'safe as houses' place, but words online can come back and bite you quicker than a kangaroo's kick! A harsh comment or a throwaway remark might seem harmless in the moment, but in reality it can be like dropping a hot chip in a fry pan, it can cause a lot more trouble than you expect. Cyberbullying is a major issue in Australia, with young people being affected at an alarming rate. You might think it's all just banter, but those words can cause long-lasting harm, just like an awkward slip in the surf. Would you want to be remembered as the person who made someone feel like they've just slipped off a high dive into a pool of jelly?

How to Be a Positive Digital Citizen

There's plenty of room for Aussie values like kindness and mateship in the digital world. Think before you post! Would you say something to someone's face while you're down at the beach throwing a frisbee or catching some rays? If you wouldn't, then don't say it online. The digital space might feel like you're sitting at a mate's place with no one looking over your shoulder, but every post or comment carries weight. It's up to you to be a responsible digital citizen and spread the good vibes, just like you'd do at a backyard barbie with everyone cracking jokes and laughing. Encourage others to follow suit, we're all in this together, just like cheering on the footy team from the stands.

Final Thoughts: Respecting the Power of Words

In the end, whether online or offline, words are powerful, more powerful than a Vegemite sandwich for breakfast! They can change someone's day or make a lasting impact. Just like Aussie slang, they can be fun and full of meaning, but they can also hit like a ton of bricks if used carelessly. So remember, words have consequences. If you wouldn't say something in person at a local café or in the car on the way to the footy, then maybe it's not something you should say online either. By thinking before we speak or type, we can create a kinder, more respectful online world for everyone. So before you hit send, take a moment to ask yourself: would you say that at the beach with a bunch of mates, or while waiting for your turn at the servo? If not, give it a pass. Aussie values of mateship, looking out for one another, and respect for the people around us can guide us in creating a more positive space for everyone.

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

Kate Dole

JUMP ROPE FOR HEART



MULTI AGE ROTATION & JUMP OFF DAY

Next Friday we will conduct our **Jump Off** to complete the Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser. Just a reminder for students that next week will be the final week for them to raise money prior to our Jump Off.

The process for the activities will begin with a whole school Multi age tabloid sports rotation at 11:30am where students will compete in a variety of fun activities conducted by our Year 6 students.

This will be followed by the **Jump Off** beginning around 12:30pm where each unit will compete to see who can last the longest jumping rope. Should be great fun for all!!

MUSIC ROOM NEWS

Nick has requested if families have spare 10c bottles, to please bring them to school as he has a tub next to the music room.

He is using the funds raised to help with supplies for the music room.

Thank you to everyone who has helped so far 😊 .

COMMUNITY NEWS



**FALCONS
BASEBALL
CLUB**

**JUNIOR
PLAYERS
WANTED**
Ages 5+
Season Starts
April!

SCAN ME!

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



LA TROBE UNIVERSITY
SPORT

Powered by
humanitix

LA TROBE SPORT
Bendigo Sport Holiday
Easter Camp

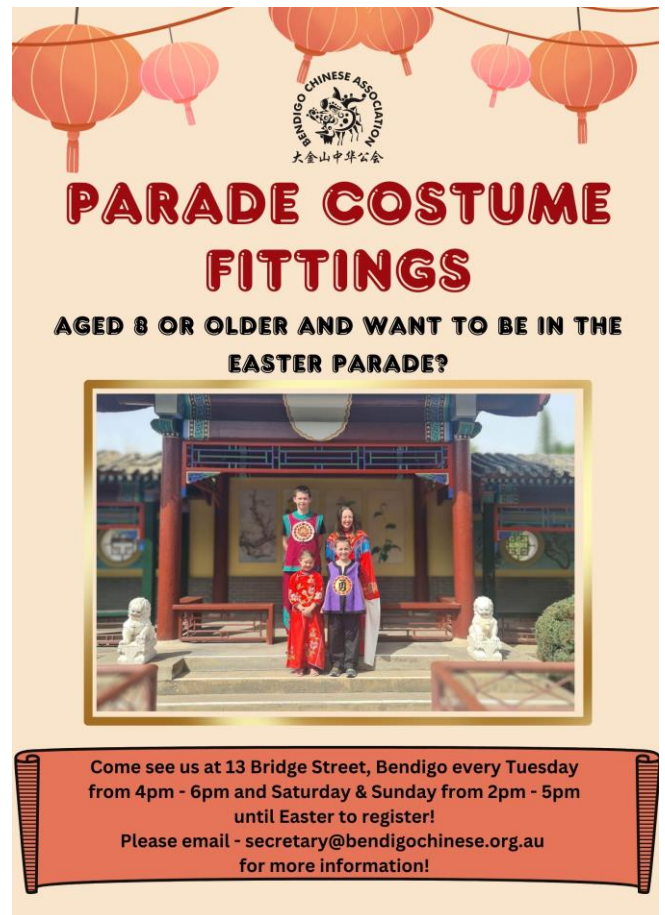
EARLY BIRD
TICKETS
ON SALE
NOW!

400 9429 2973
bendigosp@latrobe.edu.au

LA TROBE
UNIVERSITY

La Trobe Sport Bendigo Holiday Camp (Age 6+) - Easter 2025


For information and to book, please visit:
<https://events.humanitix.com/la-trobe-sport-holiday-camp-bendigo-easter-2025/tickets>



BENDIGO CHINESE ASSOCIATION
大金山中华公会

PARADE COSTUME FITTINGS

AGED 8 OR OLDER AND WANT TO BE IN THE
EASTER PARADE?



Come see us at 13 Bridge Street, Bendigo every Tuesday
from 4pm - 6pm and Saturday & Sunday from 2pm - 5pm
until Easter to register!
Please email - secretary@bendigochinese.org.au
for more information!



JOIN THE DRAGON CHALLENGE

DAI GUM LOONG NEEDS YOUR LEGS!

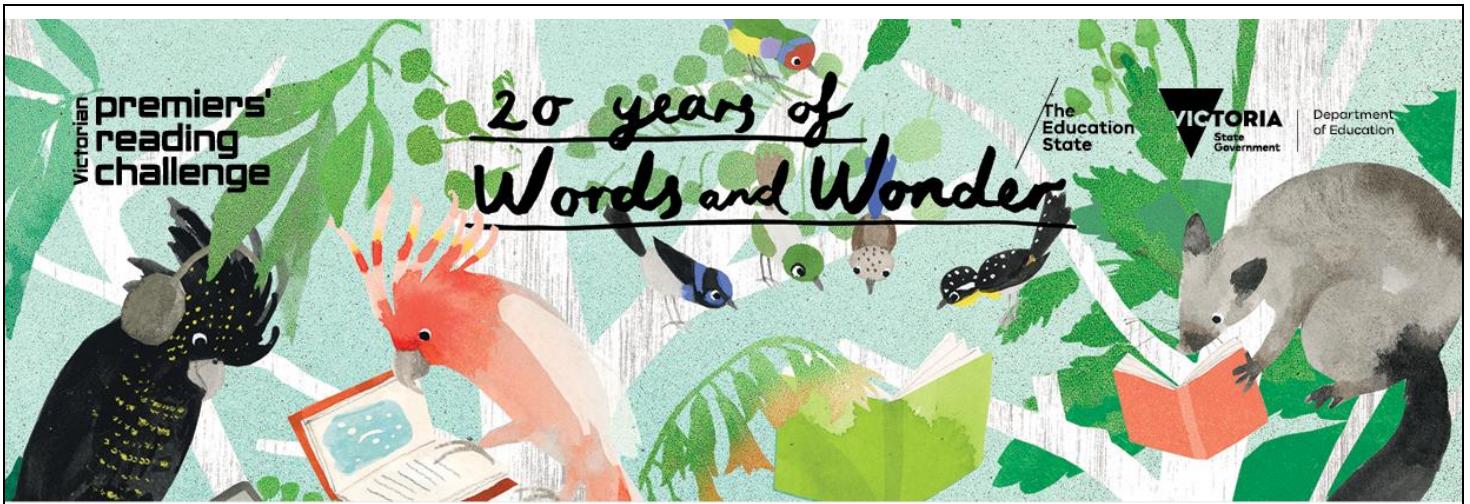


AGE 16+

MEN AND
WOMEN
WELCOME

BENDIGO CHINESE ASSOCIATION
大金山中华公会

Come see us at 13 Bridge Street, Bendigo every Tuesday from 4pm - 6pm and
Saturday & Sunday from 2pm - 5pm until Easter to register!
Please email - secretary@bendigochinese.org.au
for more information!



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, 5th 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

Please contact your classroom teacher for login details. You can also contact our school's Challenge coordinators at emma.tuckwell@education.vic.gov.au, jennifer.nicholls2@education.vic.gov.au, ainsley.stanley@education.vic.gov.au

Happy reading!



sharethedignity****

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

FRIDAY, 4TH APRIL

PIZZA DAY MEAL

\$5.50

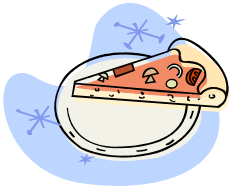
HAWAIIAN

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, 2ND 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 😊