



# Calder Chronicle

NUMBER 11

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**THURSDAY, 24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2025**

## CALENDAR

**Thursday, 24th April**

Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> April

Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> April

Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> May

Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> May

**Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> May**

Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> May

Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> May

Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> May

Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> May

Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> May

**Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> May**

Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> June

**Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> June**

**Payment due for Year 3/4 Camp**

**ANZAC Day Public Holiday**

P&F Meeting at 2pm – all welcome

Shrine of Remembrance – School Leaders

GRIP Leadership – School Leader \$25 cost

Federal Election Polling Place at school

**Mothers' Day Stall**

**Year 3/4 Camp Departs at 8:00am**

**YEAR 7 PLACEMENT APPLICATIONS DUE AT THE OFFICE**

**Year 3/4 Camp Returns at approx 3:45pm**

**EDUCATION WEEK COMMENCES**

Grandparents / Special Visitors morning 10:00am - 11:30am - all welcome 😊

Playground Craze – Years 2 – 6 please consent / pay on Compass ASAP

School Council Meeting 7:00pm

**Student Free Day – TEACHER PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE DAY**

Semester 1 Reports available on Compass

**Student Free Day - Parent / Teacher / Student Interview Day** (more info to come)

\*FOUNDATION\*

\*APPLICATIONS/\*

\*ENROLMENTS\*

\*NOW OPEN\*

## School Organisation

Dear Big Hill Community!

Firstly – I do hope you and yours had a lovely chance to rest and recharge... and if you celebrated Easter... it was a wonderful time with family and loved ones. Term 2 has commenced and it's a long one – with 11 weeks ahead of us providing a multitude of activities, events and learning. Fortunately as the term progresses and children become more tired we have a public holiday (Kings Birthday) and student free days on two Mondays – creating three long weekends to help our students soldier through the term. With this in mind, please commit to school every day knowing that there are plenty of rests coming up 😊.

### ANZAC DAY FRIDAY

Friday is the national Public Holiday to recognise ANZAC Day. Due to this there is no school on Friday for students and staff. Our 4 school leaders and I will attend the ANZAC Day service at the *Soldiers Memorial Gardens* in High Street, Kangaroo Flat (opposite McDonalds) at 9:00am. The 4 leaders will represent our school in full uniform and lay a wreath on behalf of our school. Students and families are welcome to attend, with children encouraged to wear school uniform if attending as a sign of respect. Across the school this week classes have focused on the significance of ANZAC Day also. Lest we forget.

### SHRINE OF REMEMBRANCE TRIP

On Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> April, our 4 school leaders and our chaplain Chris Powers will travel to the SHRINE OF REMEMBRANCE in Melbourne for the annual School Service. Permissions to attend have been sent out on COMPASS to the families of the 4 leaders and will need to be completed before attending. Please send children with a packed lunch, warm water-proof jacket and wear full school uniform (including packing a hat if it is sunny – the group sit outside in sun for an hour). The bus travelling to and from will leave BENDIGO SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT SCHOOL (on Lockwood Road) at 8:00am. Please arrive at 7:50am to be ready to go. Returning at 2:40pm.

### STAFFING UPDATE FOR THIS WEEK

Dean White has been on Long Service Leave this week and has been replaced today by Emma Tuckwell, providing continuity for their shared class. Dean returns on Monday. Wendy Hicks returned this week to her class after taking some Long Service Leave at the end of Term 1. It's been lovely to have Wendy back on deck. Finally, Amy Mountjoy has continued to work offsite completing her teaching rounds as part of her teacher training – due to this her MACQLIT program is paused and will resume on her return in a few weeks' time.

### MOTHERS' DAY STALL / RAFFLE DONATIONS

Our stall will be held on Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> May and Parents & Friends would love some donations if you are able to. Please leave at the Office. Raffle tickets will be sent home shortly. Thank you 😊.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Some children have high absence rates. Ideally your child should have an attendance rate above 90%. To check, please go to COMPASS and click the attendance tab that will give you your child's attendance rate and show you when they have had days absent. I track students who fall below 85% - so if you get an email or call from me, know that I am trying to support families to get children to school regularly. If they aren't here regularly their learning and friendships are disjointed... and the problem compounds with the child wanting to come less and less due to this. If your child is feeling like they don't want to attend school on some mornings, please persevere and set the expectation. If you are having trouble getting them inside, please reach out to one of our Wellbeing team (Stacey, Dean, Chris or myself) to support in the morning – just give the office a call. Together let's work on having children at school every day where possible.

## **SCHOOL START AND FINISH TIMES**

A reminder at the start of term to ensure that children do not arrive at school (by car, bike or walking) before 8:45am. Duty of care and supervision of children commences at 8:45am when a teacher goes on duty in the yard. Rooms open at 8:55am to drop in bags, so avoid early drop offs where possible, particularly as the weather gets cooler and wetter. At the end of the day the school dismisses at 3:15pm with a teacher on duty until 3:30pm. Families must ensure children are picked up at 3:15pm and definitely before 3:30pm. After this time children are not supervised and staff attend mandatory meetings and training. Please also avoid dropping off children after 9:00am (as they miss valuable literacy learning) and before 3:15pm (as it disrupts classes and teaching with children exiting). Thanks for your support.

## **PARENT WORKSHOP WITH ANNETTE CLEMENTS – POSTPONED**

Unfortunately the parent workshop with Annette covering the topic of “Children and worry/anxiety” was postponed yesterday due to Annette being unwell. We sent out a message to advise participants of this and look forward to hopefully rescheduling this session, as it seemed to be a popular and in-demand topic!

## **GRIP LEADERSHIP – SCHOOL LEADERS**

Next Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> May the 4 school leaders and I will participate in the GRIP LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE at Red Energy Arena. Information will be released on COMPASS soon advising families of the drop off and pick up arrangements. Please keep an eye out for this and consent / make payment ASAP.

## **FEDERAL ELECTION**

The Federal Election will occur on Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> May, with our Multipurpose Room used once again as a polling place. Expect to see plenty of people onsite on the Saturday as a result... and even a few onsite setting up on the afternoon of Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

## **EDUCATION WEEK CELEBRATIONS**

By now you may have seen Ainsley Stanley's promotion of Education Week at our school. Please pencil in a visit to the school on the morning of Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> May with a 10:00am EDUCATION WEEK PERFORMANCE occurring courtesy of Nick Reid and our students. Make sure you bring a chair!

At 10:30am we will have classrooms open for grandparents / special visitors to see their loved ones working in their classrooms before an 11:00am picnic outdoors.

Our PARENTS AND FRIENDS will be running a food and cake stall once again – so why not come along and grab a treat and have morning tea with your child/ren. Alternatively you can bring something with you. We look forward to seeing you and our grandparents / special visitors on Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> May from 10:00am – 11:30am.

## **YEAR 3/4 CAMP TO UPPER PLENTY**

The camp to Upper Plenty is fast approaching, occurring in two weeks' time on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> & Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> May. Consent / payment is now due, so please attend to completing these on COMPASS remembering you can use your SCHOOL SAVING BONUS to pay. Please come in and see me if finance is your main concern with the camp – we want all children to attend where possible 😊.

## **STUDENT FREE DATES THIS TERM**

So you can be organised with child-care I'm sharing the two student free days occurring this term. On Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> May, there is no school as all teachers will be taking part in their one PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE DAY for 2025. On Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> June there are also no classes, with families and children booking in for Parent / Teacher / Student interviews to follow up the release of the Semester 1 school reports (Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> June).

## **SCHOOL COUNCIL DATES FOR THE TERM**

To support our School Council members, I'm sharing our meeting dates for this term now so you can put them on the calendar. Our May meeting is on Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> and in June we will meet on Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup>. Both meetings will commence at 7:00pm in our library or via Webex.

## **YEAR 6-7 TRANSITION FOR 2026**

Yesterday, we distributed Parent Information packs to our Year 6 students. You can find more information about applying for Year 7 placement at: [Moving from primary to secondary school](#). Please complete the enclosed Application for Placement form and return it to our Office by Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> May.

## **FOUNDATION ENROLMENTS 2026**

Apply now to enrol your child in Foundation (Prep) for 2026. The Department of Education has a statewide timeline for enrolling in Foundation for the 2026 school year. If you have a child starting primary school in 2026, it's time to enrol. Make sure to submit your enrolment application by Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> July. If you are enrolling the sibling of a student at our school for Foundation in 2026, and both children will be attending our school at the same time, your child is prioritised for a place at our school as per the department's Placement Policy. It is important to follow the statewide timeline to enrol your child in Foundation. Enrolling your child in line with the timelines allows us to plan our classrooms, staffing and transition activities and ensures your child has the best start to school. For more information, please read about when and how to enrol your child in Foundation at [www.vic.gov.au/enrolling-foundation-prep](http://www.vic.gov.au/enrolling-foundation-prep).

If you are seeking to enrol your child into Foundation next year, please contact the Office on 5447 7022 to request an Enrolment form (Application form if you are out of zone).

## **MCKERNS FRESH FRUIT**

With thanks to McKerns and sponsors, our beautiful selection of fruit will recommence next week 😊.

## **BIRTHDAYS**

Happy Birthday to Minuli, Diamond, Zaylan, Harrison & Ruby.

I apologise for the lengthy first newsletter but do hope it helps to map out a bit of the term and prepare you for some of the great activities happening in the first quarter of the term.

Until next week,

*Matthew Pearce, Principal*

### **FIRST STEPS NEWS**

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

*For an enthusiastic start to Term 2:*

**FSN** Parker S  
**FSJ** Hudson K

*Nicole, Nick & Jen*

### **JUNIOR UNIT NEWS**

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

*For returning to school with a positive attitude towards their learning:*

**JJ** Kelahni K  
**JC** Sophie H

*Jayden & Catherine*

### **MIDDLE UNIT NEWS**

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

*For writing an excellent holiday recount:*

**MED** Edward M  
**MP** Emma P  
**MWA** Rhemmi C

*Emma, Dean, Pauline, Wendy & Amanda*

### **SENIOR UNIT NEWS**

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

*For a positive return to school:*

**SA/R** Eli V  
**SB** Sienna B  
**SK** Dante D

*Ainsley, Roberta, Brett & Kate*

### **YEAR 3/4 CAMP**

Camp is only 2 weeks away! Payment / Consent is now due on Compass. Please complete ASAP. We depart on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> May and return on Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> May. Any queries, please contact the Office.

### **PLAYGROUND CRAZE YEARS 2 – 6**

This is a live, evidence-based theatre show performed at school for Year 2-6 students. It will cover topics relating to online safety, cyberbullying, seeking help and support, and making good decisions in the digital world.

The Playground Craze uses trending hip hop dance and positive pop music to encourage confidence, resilience and kindness in students.

This performance will be at school in the Multipurpose Room on Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> May.

Please pay and consent ASAP. You may use the School Saving Bonus (SSB) or Camps, Sports Excursions Fund (CSEF) to pay for this event. Please consent and indicate method of payment.

Please note if you haven't already allocated your SSB to 'School Activities' you will need to go onto the SSB Portal and complete this. Any issues please contact the Office.

### **YEAR 5/6 CAMP**

Year 5/6 expression of interest / deposit – Coastal Forest camp – Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> October to Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> October. Please pay and consent ASAP!

We are in the process of finalising the cost of this amazing camp so if you have any questions, please speak to your child's teacher.

# CREATING SCHOOLS OOLS

"a deep, comprehensive and much needed exploration of what's broken in the Australian education system and what can improve it."

— Maggie Dent  
Author, Educator and Parenting & Resilience Coach

WHERE STUDENTS AND TEACHERS  
WANT TO BE Michael Lawrence and Dr Fabio D'Agostin

## AUTHOR TALK

Michael Lawrence, Dr Fabio D'Agostin, Castlemaine Library and Melbourne Books are pleased to invite you to celebrate the launch of

# CREATING SCHOOLS

WHERE STUDENTS AND TEACHERS WANT TO BE

Castlemaine Library

1 May, 5:30 PM  
212 Barker St, Castlemaine VIC 3450

Join Michael Lawrence and Dr Fabio D'Agostin to discuss their new book.

M  
Melbourne books



## 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)

Congratulations to Lacey B, Avery F, Bonnie E, Grace V, Jake F and Vincenzo P for completing the VPRC already! There is still plenty of time to add your books and we can't wait to award a record number of students this year!

Happy reading!

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 😊