



Calder Chronicle

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THURSDAY, 4TH SEPTEMBER 2025

CALENDAR

Friday, 5 th September	Smile Squad fluoride varnish visit concludes Division Basketball – selected Year 5/6 students
Tuesday, 9 th September	School Council Meeting
Wednesday, 10th September	Whole School Incursion – Ghana Beat my Drum – consent / pay on Compass
Thursday, 11 th September	R U OK Day First Steps Gym continues
Monday, 15 th September	Division Athletics Carnival – qualifying Year 5/6 students
Tuesday 16th September	Junior Concert – matinee & evening tickets ON SALE NOW
Wednesday, 17 th September	LAST DAY TO ORDER PIZZA ON COMPASS OR AT THE OFFICE
Thursday, 18 th September	First Steps Gym concludes
Thursday, 18th September	Senior Concert – matinee & evening tickets ON SALE NOW
Friday, 19th September	LAST DAY FOR TERM 3 – 9:00am Assembly – Students of the Term – ALL WELCOME 😊 PIZZA DAY (12:30PM LUNCH) 1:15PM COLOUR FUN RUN – fundraising done online-see inside for info early dismissal of 2:30pm
Monday, 6th October	FIRST DAY OF TERM 4
Wednesday, 8 th October	Year 5/6 Camp departs

School Organisation

Dear Parents, Carers and Greater Community,

Our students have enjoyed Week 7 a lot more than last week thanks mainly to drier weather enabling normal routines outside. Behaviour this week has also been far more settled because of being able to have a good run around and stretch between learning sessions. With two weeks to go, it won't be long and our children will be enjoying a well-earned break, but there's still lots to do in the remaining weeks. Here's a reminder below of what's happened/is happening at Big Hill PS.

GYM PROGRAM

Our First Steps students continued their Gym program at JETS GYM today. Each Thursday for the next 2 weeks, our First Steps students will continue to head to the gym from 9:30am – 11:00am. Our Senior Unit students also had their final rescheduled gym session on Tuesday, with this marking their last session at Palmers Gym.

SCOOTER EDUCATION

Our First Steps and Junior Unit students have continued to enjoy Scooter Ed, with lessons occurring this week. We have one more week for Junior Unit on Monday and First Steps on Thursday before scooter ed finishes up.

FATHERS' DAY – STALL, RAFFLE & THE BIG DAY!

We have had our wonderful P&F onsite Monday setting up for our Fathers' Day stall, then working all day Wednesday to sell items to our students so they have something special for that loved one. Many quality gifts have been sold to students who can then gift to their dad, grandfather, uncle, brother or special person on Sunday. A huge thank you to our P&F for running another wonderful event for our students. Your support of the school and in particular, our children, is very much appreciated! In addition to the stall running, our raffle for Fathers' Day was drawn, with winners announced in our newsletter. Congratulations to those who came out with a prize and thanks to all who donated items and sold tickets. Finally, Happy Fathers' Day to all of our dads, grandfathers, uncles etc on Sunday. May it be a wonderful day to spend time with those they love most!

SCHOOL CONCERTS – BIG HILL'S GOT TALENT

Nick is hard at work preparing students for our two big events in Week 9 of Term 3 – BIG HILL'S GOT TALENT! This is only two weeks away! We will be holding a matinee (12:30pm) and evening performance (6:00pm) on Tuesday, 16th September for Junior School (F – Year 2) and Thursday, 18th September for Senior School (Year 3-6). Tickets are on sale now on Compass or at the Office. If you haven't seen Nick's latest post on Compass about **Lyrics + Actions / Dance Moves List**, please have a look as there's some helpful information there to guide families to prepare. If you are confused or have concerns, please reach out to Nick by emailing Nicholas.Reid@education.vic.gov.au.

PARENT OPINION SURVEY – HAVE YOU HAD YOUR SAY?

Three weeks ago I sent out details on COMPASS for completing this year's PARENT OPINION SURVEY (POS). To date I have only had a couple of families complete the survey and ideally we would need at least 20 families to complete the survey to give us valid data. If you could take the time on behalf of your household to give honest feedback, that would be much appreciated. We use this to celebrate our successes and look for areas to improve. Please use the PIN 151529 to access.

ISSUES ON THE FOOTPATH TO SCHOOL

When facing issues with the public on the way to and from school, please report this immediately and directly to Police by calling 000. Whilst in this instance it might feel like I'm focusing on an individual, I'm actually reminding all in the community what to do with any unknown or unpredictable pedestrian on our paths... so... if a person, any person, is being unsafe or creates a danger for our students when travelling to or from school, then it is reportable. We appreciate you advising us... and like many of you... we are also reporting when situations arise where there could be a safety concern for our students. What is in your control is keeping an eye on the paths and making decisions about the right time to walk or ride to school, reminding your child not to engage with members of the public in any discourse and to avoid walking onto the road / highway to avoid danger... as the highway is an even bigger risk. Collectively we can work with our students around safe ways to travel to and from school whilst also reporting to those who can manage the situation, ie: the Police, in the hope that there can be a good outcome for all involved.

VICTORIAN PRINCIPALS ASSOCIATION (VPA) CONFERENCE (TODAY, TOMORROW) AND REGIONAL PRINCIPALS FORUM (MONDAY)

Today and tomorrow I'm at the VPA Conference in Melbourne with hundreds of principals from across the State, as outlined in last week's newsletter. I'm in Melbourne until tomorrow and then attending our local Principals meeting on Monday – so during this time please contact the Office to be put in touch with a staff member who may help you with your query.

SMILE SQUAD

Our friends from Smile Squad returned today and will also work tomorrow to catch up with some of our students who have indicated they require fluoride treatment... all free of charge, thanks Smile Squad 😊.

BASKETBALL TOMORROW

Tomorrow is a grand day out for some of our Year 5/6's selected to participate in Division Basketball at Red Energy Arena. Brett has chosen teams and will run the day with the support of Roberta. Good luck to all of our basketballers! I'm sure they will do us proud and have a great time!

PLANNING WEEK – NEXT WEEK

Normal specialist timetables won't run next week, with a PLANNING WEEK timetable in place instead to provide time for teachers to work on Term 4 curriculum development, teaching and learning and organisation of events. To help your child prepare our MIDDLE UNIT and FIRST STEPS students will have SPECIALIST / CASUAL RELIEF TEACHERS on Tuesday, JUNIOR UNIT on Wednesday and SENIOR UNIT on Thursday.

COLOUR FUN RUN – LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

Our Colour Fun Run is fast approaching. Hopefully you and your child/ren have been hard at work seeking sponsorship to help raise funds for a Tiger Turf upgrade. We have an ambitious target of \$15,000 – which seems a lot but is quite achievable if everyone really gets behind raising some money through family and friends sponsoring. It's not too late to start raising funds either, see further in the newsletter for the website to visit to set up your fundraising platform. Set to start at 1:15pm on Friday, 19th September, it is bound to be lots of fun and we encourage families to come along and join in. At the conclusion of the event children can head home at 2:30pm for their school holidays 😊.

END OF TERM AWARDS

Each term we recognise the contributions of our students in the classroom and around the school. On Friday, 19th September at 9:00am we will hold an assembly to present awards to students in each class in the following areas: EXCELLENCE IN MATHS, ENGLISH, CHINESE, VISUAL ARTS and PERFORMING ARTS, ENDEAVOUR IN ENGLISH and MATHS, OUTSTANDING DEMONSTRATION OF SCHOOL VALUES and THE PRINCIPALS AWARD. Winners will be announced in the final newsletter of term on Thursday, 18th September, advising families who our recipients are and then enabling family members the chance to come along. If the weather is dry, the assembly will happen outdoors at 9:00am for the whole school. If wet, we will present to F – Year 2 at 9:00am in the Multipurpose Room and Years 3-6 at 9:30am. As we get closer to the date we will hopefully get a clearer picture of how we will run the event.

SCHOOL COUNCIL NEXT WEEK

We have a school council meeting next week on Tuesday, 9th September. This is a week earlier than normal due to the Concerts the following week. My Principals Report will be sent out in advance via email, as will other meeting documentation. Please keep an eye out and I will see you either at 6:30pm for Finance or 7:00pm for our September meeting. As always, an option to meet via Webex will be shared in my email to council members.

CHILD SAFETY POLICY, CHILD SAFETY CODE OF CONDUCT & CHILD SAFETY RESPONDING AND REPORTING OBLIGATIONS POLICY AND PROCEDURES - PARENT FEEDBACK ENCOURAGED

We have updated the above 3 policies, and they are up on our website. Please read them, and if you have any feedback, let myself or the Office know. Thank you.

CLASS PLACEMENT FOR 2026

Next year might be a little way off, but planning for our classes and structures is underway. Each year we ask families their opinions about where your child/ren is best placed. At this stage we anticipate a similar structure to this year with a FIRST STEPS, JUNIOR, MIDDLE and SENIOR UNIT, however we cannot predict where teachers will be in 2026 yet. If you are emailing me to put in a request, please read through the attached CLASS PLACEMENT POLICY before doing so, to ensure your request is in line with the policy. Some of the usual requests might be children to be placed with or placed away from certain children, changing teacher because your child has worked with that teacher already, academic stretch, remaining with a teacher because it's been very beneficial etc. It's not a I DON'T WANT opportunity. Past requests are null and void, so if there is a historical reason we need to consider, please email me. If you have spoken to a teacher about your request, still email me. If it's not in writing to me, it won't be considered – so please email Matthew.Pearce@education.vic.gov.au before the closing date to be considered.

All class placement requests need to be received by the first Friday of Term 4 – Friday, 10th of October.

MCKERNS FRESH FRUIT

With thanks to McKerns and sponsors, for our beautiful selection of fruit 🍌.

Here is Rylan & Phoebe enjoying their banana and pear.

BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to Kayden M, Oliver B, Luken T & Harry E.

With two weeks left, the term is flying towards a finish. With much yet to happen, it's busy times ahead for our students and staff. Thanks for your ongoing support with ensuring children are well-rested and at school each day where possible.

Until next week...

Matt Pearce, Principal



FIRST STEPS NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For displaying the School Values and being persistent at Gym:

FSN **Thimil G**
FSJ **Linc M**

Nicole, Nick & Jen

SENIOR UNIT NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For showing mindfulness by regulating self when frustrated and choosing to respond calmly:

SA/R **Lacey B**
SB **Dexter L**
SK **Evelynne K**

Ainsley, Roberta, Brett & Kate

JUNIOR UNIT NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For demonstrating the School Value of 'Responsibility' by working hard to improve their focus in the classroom:

JJ **Lewis T**
JC **Mason E**

Giovanna & Catherine

JUNIOR & SENIOR CONCERT TICKETS ON SALE

You can now purchase tickets for both Concerts on Compass and at the Office.

The cost is \$15 for adults (Secondary Aged & over) and free for Primary Aged & under.

To order on Compass, you will need to go to the Canteen tile, and pick the date as 12th September.

Choose Junior or Senior Concert tickets, add the item to cart, proceed to review order, customise and then you can add the free Primary Aged & under tickets.

These will then be sent home with the eldest child in the family within 48 hours of purchase.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Office.

Thanks 🍌

MIDDLE UNIT NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For working hard on their persuasive writing skills:

MED **Harmony N**
MP **Valentine J**
MWA **Ava C**

Emma, Dean, Pauline, Wendy & Amanda

SOCIAL MEDIA & CYBER SAFETY

Navigating the Digital World: Your GPS for the Online Adventure What's New and Coming Soon:

No Helmet, No Ride, and Now, No Click Without an Age Check

The old saying goes, *"On the internet, nobody knows you're a dog."* But here in Australia, that might soon change. From search engines and social media sites to app stores and AI chatbots, companies will be required to know the ages of their users, and not just with a simple tick-box pop-up asking if someone is over 18. That kind of system no longer cuts it!

The push is all about keeping kids safe from harmful material online, recognising that a quick "yes, I'm 18" click doesn't protect anyone. The eSafety Commissioner is stepping in as the watchdog, making sure the big tech players lift their game and put real safeguards in place. It's about moving beyond lip service and ensuring genuine responsibility when it comes to protecting our youngest Aussies online.

Sadly, many of us grew up in an era where kids once rode bikes without helmets, but now it's unthinkable. The online world is no different. For years, we've been told that pop-ups, disclaimers, and a simple "click yes if you're over 18" button were enough to keep kids safe online. But, just like those old sunscreen ads, we know better now.

From 27 December 2025, tech giants like Google and Microsoft will be required to verify the ages of logged-in users, or face fines of almost \$50 million per breach. This follows Australia's quiet introduction of new rules back in June, designed to reduce children's exposure to harmful online material. But rules alone won't solve everything!

Parents know the reality: kids are quick learners, and many find ways around barriers. Age-assurance technology is an improvement, but it isn't foolproof. Just as we've taught kids about stranger danger, road safety, and sun safety, online safety is another area where families and schools must work hand-in-hand.

The government and the eSafety Commissioner are set to release further details for social media platforms in the coming weeks, ahead of the ban's commencement. But even then, challenges remain. Can age-assurance technology really be accurate? Will there ever be a one-size-fits-all solution? Or is this just the start of a longer journey?

And let's not forget, harmful material online doesn't only come from obvious sites. Pop-ups can carry malware, games often include chat features that aren't well-policed, and even mainstream search engines can lead kids somewhere they're not ready for. This is why the upcoming code for search engines is such an important step.

Final Thoughts

New rules are a step in the right direction, but they don't replace the role of parents, carers, and teachers. Just as we learned to slip, slop, slap, we now need to model and teach good digital habits. That means open conversations at home, building critical thinking skills, and encouraging kids to pause before they click.

Technology may provide the guardrails, but it's our guidance, at school and at home, that truly keeps our kids safe.

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

Kate Dole

PIZZA DAY PRICE INCREASES

Hi everyone,

Due to price rises, we have had to increase the price of our Pizza Day meals from \$5.50 to \$6.00 and the Gluten Free option from \$7.50 to \$8.00. Apologies for any inconvenience. Thankyou.

Tammy Fear, Canteen Manager

WHOLE SCHOOL SWIMMING

The whole school will be participating in the Swimming Program at the same time this year, commencing on Monday, 27th October.

Please consent/pay on Compass. If you can't see an option to pay, it is because we have used the SSB / credit to cover it.

You will need to cut and paste the website address to complete the survey. Once done, select the date under that question and submit. Thank you.

PARENTS & FRIENDS NEWS

FATHERS' DAY STALL / RAFFLE

Thank you to everyone who donated items for our stall and raffle, we sure have some generous families here at Big Hill PS 😊.

Congratulations to the following prize winners:

1. Zoe B
2. Ruby S
3. Harry E
4. Carter B
5. Ned D
6. Laylah R
7. Matt
8. Sonny H
9. Mason E
10. Kate
11. Valentine J

Thanks for your ongoing support

COMMUNITY NEWS



Click below to book your free tickets (Bookings essential)
<https://www.artbystevenstanley.com.au/events/p/free-kids-collage-workshop>

CHINESE NEWS

Celebrating Chinese Language and Culture

We are excited to share two upcoming opportunities for our students to engage with Chinese language and culture:

1. Chinese Language & Culture Online Challenges
Students can take part in fun, year-level activities such as counting numbers (Foundation), character-making & singing (Years 1–2), and kite design & Jianzi kick (Years 3–6). Entries are due online by Friday, 17 October 2025.
2. Chinese Speech & Singing Competition
Finalists will represent their schools at the regional event on Saturday, 25 October 2025 at Bendigo Senior Secondary College. Categories include speech and singing, with winners eligible for state-level nomination in 2026.

Student winners' performances will be featured on a dedicated event webpage.

More information: bendigomandarin2025.weebly.com

JOIN THE 2025 CHINESE LANGUAGE & CULTURE SHOWCASE



The Bendigo Chinese Language Teachers Network is excited to announce two upcoming events celebrating our students' engagement with Chinese language and culture.

More info & consent forms: www.bendigomandarin2025.weebly.com

Online Challenges – Submissions due Fri 17 Oct

- Counting Numbers (Prep)
- Character-Making & Singing (Gr 1–2)
- Kite Design & Jianzi Kick (Gr 3–6)



More info & consent forms: www.bendigomandarin2025.weebly.com

Speech & Singing Competition – Sat 25 Oct @ BSSC

- Categories: Speech & Singing (individual/group)
- Winners may be nominated for the state competition!
- Winning performances will be shared on our event webpage.



For more info & consent forms, scan the QR code.

Celebrate creativity, language learning, and culture – we can't wait to see our students shine!



COLOUR FUN RUN NEWS

Our colour fun run is fast approaching, and we've raised over \$2,000, thank YOU!

Remember, all fundraising is done online, and you can earn rewards from just \$10!

Visit: <https://myprofilepage.com.au/> to set up your fundraising page - happy fundraising 😊





CLASS PLACEMENT POLICY 2025

Purpose

To create the best possible learning environment, which is equitable, to all students and their families.

Guidelines

- 1. That the underlying principles are educational and in the best interests of all children,*
- 2. That involvement in the process is within the framework of specified criteria,*
- 3. That the final responsibility for class placement and / or pupil movement remains primarily with the Principal / delegate.*

Implementation

- The specified criteria for movement of a child from one class to another are as follows:
 - Special needs of children (ie: emotional, psychological, behavioural, disabilities),
 - Equitable distribution of children (ie: learning, gender, behaviour considerations),
 - Within Unit requests (ie: for children to be placed or not placed within a class for family groupings),
 - Flexibility in grouping will be encouraged in movement between Units or Year levels,
 - Children should have at least one friend accompany him or her to the next class,
 - Parents of a Preschool child are provided with the opportunity to indicate a friend with whom they would like their child placed as part of the enrolment process.
- People who may be involved in the class selection process are as follows:
 - The child's class teacher,
 - The school's transition teachers,
 - Parent(s) of a special needs child,
 - Parent(s) who have views regarding family grouping,
 - Other staff involved in the child's education, such as specialists who have specific special needs information,
 - Preschool staff,
 - First Steps, Junior Unit, Middle Unit and Senior Unit staff,
 - The Principal.
- Parents are to write to the Principal stating any educational considerations by **Friday, 10th October**.
 - Records of decisions which have been made regarding placement of children for various reasons, especially behaviour, will be kept,
 - The Principal / delegate will be responsible for keeping this information,
 - All requests will receive either a verbal or written reply so parents understand staff reasons for student placement.
- If there has been an ongoing concern during the year and there has been contact between the parent, teacher and Principal, a child could be moved to another class in the following year. This action should take place only after discussions with the Principal / delegate and the involved parties.
- In the event of new students altering the class structure or dynamics, some children may need to be moved to another class early in the school year.

Student enrolment numbers will be a major factor in determining class structures.

FRIDAY, 19TH SEPTEMBER

PIZZA DAY MEAL

\$6.00

HAWAIIAN

OR

MEATLOVERS

OR

VEGETARIAN

OR

GLUTEN FREE HAWAIIAN NOW AVAILABLE

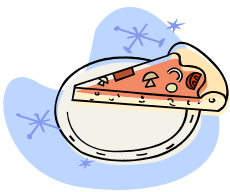
(additional cost)

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, 17TH SEPTEMBER.
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:



Celebrating
10 years

Delivering
1,000kg of free
fruit to Bendigo
school children
every week

 mckern steel[™]
foundation



@mckernsteelfoundation

Made possible thanks to our Foundation Partners



THANK YOU TO MCKERN STEEL FOUNDATION & SPONSORS

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