



Calder Chronicle

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THURSDAY, 6TH NOVEMBER 2025

CALENDAR

Friday, 7th November
Monday, 10th November
Tuesday, 11th November
Thursday, 13th November
Sunday, 16th November
Tuesday, 18th November
Tuesday, 25th November

Division Cricket – selected Year 5/6 students
Rescheduled Melbourne Cup Family Fun Day 😊
2026 Foundation Transition Evening 5:00pm to 6:00pm
Year 2 Sleepover
2026 Year 6 Grad tops ordering closes (online only)
2026 Foundation Transition 9:30am – 10:30am
2026 Foundation Transition 10:30am – 11:45am
School Council

Friday, 28th November

CURRICULUM DAY – REPORT WRITING

Monday, 8th December

Year 6 Graduation – order lunch on Compass

Tuesday, 9th December

Statewide Transition Day (including 2026 Foundation 10:00am to 11:45am)

Friday, 19th December

LAST DAY FOR 2025

School Organisation

Dear Parents, Carers and Greater Community,

Our Week 5 didn't run as planned with wet / unsettled weather forcing us to choose community safety and subsequently postponing our Melbourne Cup Family Fun Day. Whilst not a lot of rain ended up falling, the wind that started around 12:30pm was terrible, as was the cold... making it the right decision in the end.

MELBOURNE CUP FAMILY FUN DAY - MONDAY

As outlined above we had to postpone our Tuesday celebrations and have rescheduled for Monday, 10th November. This will mean the day will run exactly as planned with hats and fashions just after 9:00am in the undercover area, long distance races at 11:00am and picnic races to follow (11:45am – 1:00pm and 2:00pm – 3:00pm). Our P&F BBQ is running also... with orders closing tomorrow on Compass, though you should be able to buy on the day. A coffee van will also be present for you to purchase a hot drink... whilst our library will house a cup of tea/coffee for visitors for morning tea. An amazing Art Show will also be running in the Multipurpose Room on Monday (possibly on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday straight after school too!) – don't miss it, it's totally brilliant! Whilst some of you won't be able to come due to work, please rest assured we rescheduled to try and ensure the day had a chance of running for our students. Fingers crossed we have a better forecast for Monday.

Here's the rundown of the day from last week's newsletter in case you missed it: *To make the day fun, we always have a PICNIC RACES DAY onsite. This includes hats and fashion competitions in the morning, competitive long-distance races mid-morning (before it gets hot) and shorter picnic style races like egg & spoon, sack races, three-legged races etc, focused around fun and inclusion – everyone can have a go! New this year is an Art Show in the Multipurpose Room, showcasing The Arts as an area of excellence. Families can visit during our two breaks throughout the day. Our P&F are running a BBQ if you choose to not bring your own picnic, the school is providing a light morning tea for parents (no children) in our Library and a coffee van will be onsite for members of the community to buy their preferred beverage too! We encourage families to come along, bring a chair and be SunSmart with a hat and sunscreen. You are welcome to take children home early on the day also, please just ensure you sign them out at the Office and advise your child's teacher. Information about categories for hats and fashions is included in our advertising flyer – and feel free to talk to your child's teacher if you need more information. If your child is not attending, please ensure you have advised the school with a call or absence note on Compass.*

SWIMMING

Our swimming week has finished and all students who participated did well. It's great to have had the vast majority participate in the program and I encourage all families to back it up with some additional lessons over the summer. Water safety is so important, and education and lessons are the keys to ensuring children are confident near water OR at least know how to keep themselves safe if they accidentally end up in the deep.

DIVISION CRICKET THIS FRIDAY

A team of Year 5/6 boys and Year 5/6 girls will head off to represent our school at the Division Cricket tournament held at Catherine McAuley College in Junortoun this Friday. Brett Strange (District Coordinator), Jayden Sheean and Roberta Mathers will be in attendance to supervise and coach the teams... and a great day is set to unfold. If your child has been lucky enough to be selected to participate, please consent and make payment on Compass.

REMEMBRANCE DAY – NEXT TUESDAY

We will stop to remember those who have served the country over the years to keep Australia safe during armed-conflict / war next Tuesday. On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month we, along with the rest of the country, will pause to pay our respects with a minute's silence. Last year we were given Flanders Poppy seeds after a visit to the Shrine. Here is a photo of one of these very poppies flowering in the pots near the Office foyer door – if you are visiting the school, make sure you have a look. Lest we forget!



FIRST KINDERGARTEN VISIT

Next Tuesday, 11th November, will see our first visit from our 2026 Foundation students (current Kindergarten students). From 5:00pm – 6:00pm, our new students will participate in a treasure hunt around our school, discovering different learning areas and completing some fun activities as they go. This is done with parents and carers, making it a fun night for all. Visitors will be greeted in the foyer of the school on arrival and briefed on their mission. Looking forward to seeing some new faces on Tuesday at 5:00pm.

BIG DAY OUT – YEAR 6 TO YEAR 7 AT CRUSOE

Next Wednesday from 9:00am – 12:00pm, our Crusoe College-bound Year 6's will participate in the BIG DAY OUT. Students will visit Crusoe College and participate in some fun orientation activities in readiness for their full transition day in early December.

MOVING ON NEXT YEAR? OR COMING TO BIG HILL PS NEXT YEAR?

It's that time of year where we are making classes for 2026. It's important to know if you plan to be here or not. If your child is moving on because you are moving... please advise the Office ASAP. We appreciate knowing purely for organisational reasons...ie: making up classes and ensuring children are matched with friends who will be here. Don't be embarrassed – if you are moving, we will understand. The reverse is true too... if you have friends, family or a young one not currently enrolled, please action this ASAP to be included in 2026 planning.

YEAR 2 SLEEPOVER – NEXT THURSDAY NIGHT

Our Year 2's are in for some fun next Thursday, 13th November, spending the night at THE DISCOVERY CENTRE as part of their Year 2 Sleepover. Catherine, Jayden, Clare and I will be staying overnight with the students... as we enjoy full use of the facility including the planetarium and dinner onsite. Families are reminded to attend to consent / payment on Compass and to contact your child's teacher if you need any further information. If tired on Friday on pick up from the centre in the morning, please just advise the school if they are staying home to rest.

MCKERNS FRESH FRUIT

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

Here is Jack & Chloe with their pear and mandarin.



BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to Mav H, Addison H, Ava C, Lily C, Sienna B, Callum V, Wade G, Heath G & Kelson G.

Week 6 is shaping up to be very busy with the rescheduling of our Family Fun Day... Foundation transition, Year 6 transition, a Year 2 Sleepover and more! Never a dull moment! Busy times at Big Hill PS as the term continues to fly by...

Until next week,

Matt Pearce, Principal

FIRST STEPS NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

*For demonstrating great **teamwork and collaboration** skills:*

FSN *Lucy M*
FSJ *Mason M*

Nicole, Nick & Jen

JUNIOR UNIT NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For showing resilience by bouncing back when faced with a problem:

JJ *Billy A*
JC *Ava M*

Jayden & Catherine

MIDDLE UNIT NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For showing respect in the classroom and playground:

MED Elaina H
MP Parker H
MWA Callum V

Emma, Dean, Pauline, Wendy & Amanda

SENIOR UNIT NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For saying thank you and showing appreciation for others' by helping around the school:

SA/R Poppy S
SB Allyera G
SK Eden M

GRADUATION LUNCH – YEAR 6 STUDENTS ONLY

- 6 nuggets, chips with tomato sauce OR gravy with prima \$13
- Burger with tomato, cheese, lettuce, mayo and chips with prima \$15
- Chips with tomato sauce OR gravy with prima \$10

Order on Compass by Friday, 5th December. Please put 5th December as the order date.

Ainsley, Roberta, Brett & Kate

SOCIAL MEDIA & CYBER SAFETY

Navigating the Digital World: Your GPS for the Online Adventure

No Account, Mate!

The Big Social Media Shake-Up for Under-16s

It's not just another headline to scroll past, this one's a real game-changer. In just over a month, Australia's giving the online world a bit of a shake-up. From December 10, anyone under 16 won't be able to have an account on the big social media platforms, think Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, X, and YouTube. They'll still be able to *peek* at some publicly available content, but posting, commenting, and following their mates? That's off the table.

So, what's the big deal?

The old tick-a-box "Yep, I'm over 13" trick isn't going to cut it anymore. The government's decided that pop-up honesty tests aren't exactly keeping kids safe online (shock horror). Platforms now need proper age-assurance technology, not just good vibes and guesswork or they could be hit with whopping fines of up to \$50 million per breach.

It's part of a broader push to give Aussie kids a fair go when it comes to online safety. Because let's be real, the internet's not all dancing cockatoos and cute puppy clips. There's some pretty rough content out there, and the goal here is to help our young ones steer clear of the dodgy stuff until they're old enough to navigate it with a bit more street smarts.

What will actually change?

For kids under 16, creating new accounts on major platforms will be blocked. Existing accounts may be suspended or converted to limited viewing-only versions. So, your tween might still be able to watch a footy highlight reel on YouTube, but they won't be posting their own dance challenges on TikTok anytime soon.

Each platform's been told to sort out how they'll make it happen, meaning you might start seeing ID checks, parental verification steps, or new "family-safe" modes popping up before Christmas. And if companies don't comply? Well, the fines will hit harder than a magpie in swooping season.

What about the kids already online?

This is where it gets tricky. Many Aussie tweens already have social media accounts, often with a little creative truth-telling about their age. So, what happens to them now? Platforms will have to audit their users and take "reasonable steps" to remove or restrict under-age accounts. Some might ask for proof of age, while others could quietly deactivate accounts that look suspiciously young. It might feel like a pain, but it's a golden opportunity for families to have a proper chat about online life. What's safe? What's real? And why are these new rules coming in? After all, it's not about punishing kids, it's about protecting them from the nastier corners of the internet.

Why the sudden crackdown?

According to the eSafety Commissioner, Aussie children are being exposed to harmful content and predatory behaviour earlier than ever. Social media's fast pace, the constant pressure to post and compare, and those sneaky algorithms designed to keep us glued, it's a tough combo for young minds. This new law gives kids a bit more breathing room before they dive into the deep end of digital life. Think of it as giving them training wheels before the big ride.

What can parents do right now?

- Have the chat: Let your kids know what's coming and why.
- Do a quick account audit: Check what accounts exist and whether they're appropriate.
- Look into safety settings: Many platforms already have parental controls or "family modes."
- Stay in the loop: Follow updates from the eSafety Commissioner (esafety.gov.au) to keep on top of what's changing.
- Model good behaviour: Kids watch what we do, not just what we say. So maybe hold off on your own late-night scrolls through Marketplace while you're at it.

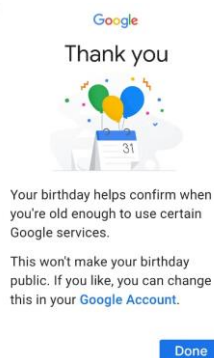
Final word

This isn't about wrapping kids in bubble wrap, it's about giving them a fair start. As parents, carers, and educators, we've got the chance to work hand-in-hand with the eSafety team to make sure our young Aussies are safe, savvy, and ready when their time online begins.

So, have a yarn around the dinner table, pour yourself a cuppa, and take a look at your family's digital habits. Social media will still be there when they're ready and by then, they'll be better equipped to tell the difference between a real mate and a red flag.

Because at the end of the day, we all want the same thing: our kids safe, smart, and still enjoying the sunshine outside, not just the glow of a screen.

And as a timely reminder, I got a taste of the new system myself just last night when Google asked me to verify my date of birth to check how old I am! Don't worry, I'm well and truly a dinosaur, so I don't think I'll be blocked from social media anytime soon. But it did make me chuckle and think, change really is on the way, and it's coming faster than you can say "just one more scroll."



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

Kate

2026 CANTEEN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We will be losing quite a few volunteers from our departing Year 6 families, so we are in need of new volunteers.

No cooking experience required and it is only ONE HOUR, once or twice a term on a Friday (either 9:00am-10:00am or 12:45-1:45pm).

Please leave your details at the Office if you would be interested. Thank you 😊

Tammy Fear, Canteen Manager

COMMUNITY NEWS

Golden Square Pool Opening Day
Saturday 15 November
1pm-7pm // FREE ENTRY!
Purchase your Season Pass!
Get ready for a summer of fun!

Golden Square Pool
 14a Maple Street, Golden Square
 (the hidden oasis along the bike track and creek between Maple and Wade Streets!)

Phone: 0401 804 701
www.goldensquarepool.com.au

Sunshine Bendigo WIN NETWORK

CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE
Give a toy, share the joy!

GIFTS SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN FROM NEWBORN TO AGE 6*
 *Donated toys need to be new, in original packaging and unwrapped

All toys will be distributed via Sunshine Bendigo's social agency network to the many vulnerable families, experiencing challenging times, across our region

BHPS ARE TAKING DONATIONS FOR THE CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE – PLEASE SEE BELOW FOR GIFT IDEAS PLEASE BRING TOYS TO THE OFFICE BY TUESDAY, 25TH NOVEMBER

BABIES Soft Toys Cloth books Sensory Toys Rattles	1-2 YEARS Board Books Blocks Bath Toys Puzzles	3-4 YEARS Dolls Ball Games Books Trucks/Trains Colouring Construction
5-6 YEARS Puzzles Sporting Equipment Craft/Colouring Ball Games Outdoors Games	TOYS TO AVOID Guns Weapons Device Operated Games Sharp Toys	Collecting until 27/11/25 Donated toys need to be new, in original packaging and unwrapped.

Woop Woop

Aussie Sculpture Gardens
 171 Blackjack Road
 Harcourt
 0417 485 327
woop-woop.au

Woop Woop is uniquely Australian, wildly fun, and full of character

- Funny sculptures of Aussie slang and sayings
- Gumboot chucking & other games
- Bush Band music made by you!
- Gift shop with quirky, fun items
- Tea rooms

Group Bookings open most days - contact us!

OPEN WEEKENDS AND SCHOOL HOLIDAYS 10 - 4

WOOP WOOP

BIG HILL
PRIMARY SCHOOL
1551

SENIOR POLO ORDERING PORTAL NOW OPEN!

The cut-off date to order your senior polo is **16 November 2025** so be sure to get your order in on time.

PORTAL CODE: 1170

Scan to Shop Now!

SIZE CHART

Unisex Fit

YOUTH SIZES:	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16
½ CHEST (CM)	36	38	40	42	44	46	49	52
BODY LENGTH	46	48	50	52	57	60	63	71

ADULT SIZES:	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL	4XL	5XL	6XL
½ CHEST (CM)	54	56	58	60	62	64	66	68	70
BODY LENGTH	72.5	74.5	76.5	78.5	80.5	81.5	82.5	83.5	84.5

*Garment Measurements

visit www.readysetorder.com.au/sign-in/ to order today

PORTAL CODE: 1170

The Yugumbir State School Uniform Shop is proudly managed by P&C Uniforms

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UNIFORMS
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YEAR 6 GRAD TOPS – ORDER BY 16TH NOVEMBER

Dear Year 5 Families,

We hope you're having a lovely week!

The deadline to order your child's Year 6 Grad Top for 2026 is 16th November 2025, it's just around the corner.

Quick details:

- **Order by:** 16th November (unfortunately, no orders can be accepted after this date)
- **How:** Order directly through the Uniform Portal – please see the attached guide with the link and simple steps
- **School's role:** We do not process orders; everything is handled by the supplier

Sample tops are still available in the Senior Unit Teacher's office if you'd like to pop in before or after school to check sizing.

Recommendation: Many families choose to order two tops, as students wear them often. Having a spare is handy for washing cycles, and reorders can sometimes involve minimum order quantities and extra costs, so it's easier to decide now.

All the information you need, sizing, design, and ordering instructions, is included in the attached guide. If you need assistance, the supplier's contact details are also provided, and they're very helpful.

Thank you for submitting your order soon. We're excited for the Year 6's to have their Grad Tops ready for next year!

Regards,
Kate

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 ☺

Big Hill Primary School Melbourne Cup Family Fun Day

MONDAY, 10TH NOVEMBER

All families are invited to come and join in
the day of fun and festivities!



The morning program will begin at 9:10am and will
include **Fashions on the Asphalt** and the **Hat Parades**.
Parents are invited to **Morning Tea** which will be held in the
Library at 10:30am.

After first break, at 11:00am, the **Long Distance Races**
will be held for each year level.
These are optional competitive races. 😊



From 11:45am there will be **Picnic Races** for all
ages (including toddlers and parents).
These races are for fun, participation and inclusion.



For lunch Parents and Friends will be running a
fundraising **BBQ** (pre-order on Compass now open)
or feel free to bring a rug and a picnic basket.



New this year is a wonderful art show, open in the
Multipurpose at both breaks, showcasing excellence
in another avenue - The Arts.

