



Calder Chronicle

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THURSDAY, 4TH DECEMBER 2025

CALENDAR

Friday, 5th December
Monday, 8th December

Tuesday, 9th December
Wednesday, 10th December
Thursday, 11th December
Friday, 12th December
Monday, 15th December
Wednesday, 17th December
Thursday, 18th December
Friday, 19th December

Last day to order Year 6 Graduation Lunch on Compass
Year 6 Graduation from 12pm
Year 1 Stay & Play – 3:15pm to 4:30pm
Statewide Transition Day (including 2026 Foundation 10:00am to 11:45am)
Last day for Pizza Day orders
Junior Unit Break Up
PIZZA DAY (no other food items available, iced treats only)
First Steps, Middle & Senior Unit Break Ups
END OF YEAR PICNIC / CONCERT 5pm – 7pm
Semester 2 Reports available on Compass from 4:00pm
LAST DAY FOR 2025
9:00am assembly, early dismissal of 1:30pm

2026

Tuesday, 27th January
Wednesday, 28th January

Thursday, 29th January

Friday, 30th January

Teachers commence
Year 1 – 6 Launch Interviews – see inside for further information –
(students at school only for their appt time)
Year 1 – 6 students commence
Foundation Assessments
Foundation students commence

School Organisation

Dear Parents, Carers and Greater Community,

As we head into the final two weeks of school, I am endeavouring to ensure the newsletter is full of information about what is occurring over the next two weeks. Hope this is helpful!

YEAR 6 GRADUATION – NEXT MONDAY, 8TH DECEMBER

It's wonderful to announce that our Year 6 Graduation is occurring NEXT Monday, 8th December from midday, with the weather forecast looking kind. Parents of graduates (and close family etc) are invited to attend but must bring a chair to sit on (a camp chair works well) as we will be outdoors in our assembly area. Also wear a hat in case you find yourself in a sunny spot and bring a drink bottle. After the awards ceremony concludes (around 12:45pm), families can head home whilst our Year 6 enjoy their Graduation lunch and then a disco during the last hour of the day. Families are reminded to order Graduation lunches on Compass before Friday, 5th December. Graduation Day is a normal day of school for Year 6; however, many children spend the morning at home getting ready for their graduation. If arriving late in preparation for the event, please ensure your child is signed in at the Office on arrival.

PLANNING WEEK – NEXT WEEK

To prepare for 2026 our teachers will spend one day next week, instead of having normal specialist programs, meeting and planning for 2026. On Wednesday Emma/Dean, Pauline, Wendy/Amanda, Nicole/Nick and Catherine's classes will have an alternate day with specialists or a CRT, on Thursday planning will then shift to Ainsley/Roberta and Jen's classes and finally on Friday planning will affect Brett, Kate and Jayden's classes. This information is to enable you to prepare your child for a different teacher or program on that day. Due to planning normal specialist times will not be in operation.

YEAR 1 – STAY AND PLAY... NEXT MONDAY AFTERNOON

On Monday afternoon our Year 1 students from Nicole, Jen and Jayden's room are invited to participate in the 2025 YEAR 1 STAY AND PLAY. When school dismisses at 3:15pm, our Year 1's stay onsite with their teachers for a bit of extra fun until 4:30pm. This is the first taste of staying beyond the school hours in preparation for the Year 2 Sleepover in 2026. Please consent on Compass so that your child is included. A fun time ahead for Year 1's 😊.

FINAL KINDERGARTEN / FOUNDATION VISIT ON TUESDAY

The final visit for our future Foundation students is next Tuesday, 9th December from 10:00am – 11:45am. During this visit our future students will be in their 2026 class with their 2026 teacher. Exciting times ahead! Information about next year will also be sent home with students to help families prepare for the big start in 2026.

STATEWIDE TRANSITION DAY – TUESDAY, 9TH DECEMBER

Our current Year 6's will head off to their State Secondary School on Tuesday for the day to participate in the Statewide Transition Day. The vast majority of our Year 6's will head to a Government Secondary School on Tuesday, however if your child is going to a Secondary School outside the Government / Public system, it's a normal day of schooling for them OR you may choose to make other arrangements. If doing so, please attend to absence notes via Compass. Year 6's will need to be transported to and from their Secondary School by their families.

STEP UP TRANSITION MORNING FOR YEARS 1 – 6 (2026) AND UPDATED CLASS STRUCTURES

Whilst our current Year 6's are at their Secondary School on Tuesday and our new Foundation students are onsite, the rest of the school will also transition, with children in current FOUNDATION to YEAR 5 students stepping up into their next Year Level and spending the morning with their 2026 classmates and teacher. We will run classes in the 2026 structure from 9:30am – 12:30pm, before returning students to their 2025 classrooms. To help prepare we have the following structure next year: FOUNDATION NICOLE / NICK and FOUNDATION CATHERINE, JUNIOR JEN and JUNIOR AINSLEY (Year 1/2), MIDDLE WENDY (Year 2/3), MIDDLE PAULINE and MIDDLE EMMA / DEAN (Year 3/4) and SENIOR KATE, SENIOR BRETT and SENIOR JAYDEN (all now Year 5/6's). Please note that we do not have to run a Year 4/5 class anymore.

SCHOOL COUNCIL DINNER

Just a reminder that we have our School Council Christmas dinner on Tuesday, 9th December at 6:30pm. Members of School Council are reminded to RSVP to me by TOMORROW, Friday, 5th December.

JUNIOR UNIT BREAKUP

The students in Jayden and Catherine's class will be looking forward to their END OF YEAR BREAKUP at the Golden Square Pool next Thursday, 11th December from 9:15 – 1:30pm. Families are reminded to consent and make payment on Compass, and order what your child would like from the BBQ on offer under the Canteen menu, and ensure their child/ren have all they need for their exciting end of year treat 😊.

PIZZA DAY / FINAL CANTEEN DAY FOR 2025!

Next Friday, 12th December our canteen is closed for normal food items with Pizza Day running instead. Please ensure you have your orders in on time by **next Wednesday, 10th December** to avoid missing out. During the final week of the year the canteen will be closed for stocktake and a tidy-up for the holidays. Students will therefore need packed lunches for the final days of school – Monday, 15th – Friday, 19th December.

MIDDLE AND SENIOR UNIT BREAKUPS

Our Middle and Senior Units will combine to have their BREAKUP on Monday, 15th December. Both Units will head to the Bendigo Cinema to enjoy a movie with popcorn and a drink, with hot chips for lunch when they return to school. Families are reminded to consent and make payment on Compass by Friday, 12th December please.

END OF YEAR PICNIC TEA AND CHRISTMAS CAROLS – WEDNESDAY, 17TH DECEMBER

Our end of year farewell is fast approaching... with the picnic tea from 5:00pm – 6:00pm. Families can purchase from the P&F Food Truck or bring a picnic dinner. We also hope to have snow cones, a coffee truck and maybe even a sweet/cake stall present... so bring some cash!

At 6:00pm we will then have our students performing CHRISTMAS CAROLS / SONGS to end the night. This will run from 6:00pm – 6:45pm. Children are to come dressed for the season. Those who don't celebrate Christmas are still encouraged to attend from 5:00pm – 6:00pm, heading home after this time to avoid the carols. Whilst it is two weeks away, a bit of notice is helpful!

WHEN WILL I GET MY CHILD'S REPORT?

End of Semester 2 reports will be released to families on Thursday, 18th December. Please access Compass from 4:00pm to view your child's reports for the second half of the year.

END OF TERM AWARDS AND YEAR 6 AVENUE OF HONOUR

On our final day of term we will present STUDENT AWARDS at a 9:00am assembly. Students from each class will be awarded in the following categories: EXCELLENCE IN ENGLISH, MATHEMATICS, VISUAL ART, PERFORMING ARTS and CHINESE, ENDEAVOUR IN ENGLISH and MATHEMATICS, OUTSTANDING DEMONSTRATION OF SCHOOL VALUES and THE PRINCIPALS AWARD. Winners will be announced in the final newsletter of the year enabling families to prepare to attend or not. Immediately after the awards, we will hold our YEAR 6 AVENUE OF HONOUR, where each Year 6 student will be announced individually and will parade down the avenue of staff and students to roaring cheers and high 5's. It's a special moment, so try not to miss it if you have a graduating student. We expect this to occur at approximately 9:30am.

YEAR 6 VERSES STAFF WATERFIGHT

On the final day of the school year our Year 6's may come prepared for a water fight. Select staff will participate and send off our Year 6's with a bit of fun. We ask Year 6 families to ensure children bring only super soakers, water pistols or buckets. No water bombs please! Only Year 6 students will participate with the rest of the school watching from a vantage point. It's important to speak to your child about them only wetting staff involved in the water fight and other Year 6's. If you do not want your child to participate, they do not have to. Please just advise your child's class teacher. More information to come!

DISMISSAL

On Friday, 19th December we finish for the year at 1:30pm. This is in line with other schools in our area and this earlier dismissal is only allowed on the final day of the school year. Due to the 1:30pm dismissal, families will need to adjust and ensure their child/ren are picked up earlier or are booked into OSHC (contact TheirCare). The Ravenswood bus will run at this earlier time, with families asked to pick up in line with this dismissal from bus stops. At this stage I cannot confirm if the Kangaroo Flat bus will run or not. More information to come!

MCKERNS FRESH FRUIT

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

Here is Izzy & Mannie having fun with their banana & mandarin.



With two weeks to go, we are down to the wire now. All past advice around rest, reduced screen time, early nights, quiet moments, lots to drink and good food all stand. Every little adjustment helps.

Hoping you have a lovely Friday and a terrific weekend. Until next week...

Matt Pearce, Principal

FIRST STEPS NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For displaying the School Values during the Discovery Centre excursion:

FSN *Carter B*
FSJ *Cohen B*

Nicole, Nick & Jen

JUNIOR UNIT NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For being a respectful member of the class:

JJ *Harper W*
JC *Claudia K*

Jayden & Catherine

MIDDLE UNIT NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For showing all School Values in Specialists Classes:

MED *Patrick T*
MP *Haize W*
MWA *Rhemmi C*

Emma, Dean, Pauline, Wendy & Amanda

SENIOR UNIT NEWS

GRADUATION LUNCH

Please order on Compass by Friday, 5th December. Please pick this date on the Canteen tile to place your order. If you need help, please contact the Office. Thank you 😊.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For listening respectfully and supporting others during group activities:

SA/R *Grace v*
SB *Macy F*
SK *Claudia K*

Ainsley, Roberta, Brett & Kate

SOCIAL MEDIA & CYBER SAFETY

Navigating the Digital World: Your GPS for the Online Adventure

Our Kidlets: More Adaptable Than We Think

If there's one thing grown-ups consistently underestimate, it's the sheer adaptability of our tweens and teens. These little legends are more flexible than a gymnast at the Commonwealth Games, and quicker to move on than a rat off a sinking ship. The moment you think you've wrapped your head around the platforms they're using BAM! They've already migrated somewhere else.

While our eSafety Commissioner has been working overtime, flat out like a lizard drinking, trying to roll out the under-16 social media bans to protect kids from cyberbullying, grooming, and the general rubbish floating around online... the children have already side-stepped and found new digital playgrounds.

Of course they have.

They're built for this.

The "Alternative" Platforms Causing Havoc

Just this week, we've seen more schoolyard tension tied to **Discord** and **Roblox chats** than from any of the big social media names. Even though these apps aren't technically labelled as "social media," the chat functions make them just as tricky.

Kids will tell you they're "just playing a game," but the moment someone:

- blocks someone
- kicks someone from a server
- changes a group name
- or "accidentally" says something snarky in the chat

... it becomes the talk of the classroom faster than you can say "Who ate my BBQ Shapes?"

Some of these chat dramas would put *Neighbours* and *Home and Away* combined to shame, and yes, they will absolutely retell every detail with the intensity of a royal commission.

Why the eSafety Mob Brought in the Ban

The social media restrictions coming in are not about being the fun-police.

They're about:

- reducing cyberbullying
- stopping random online strangers from chatting with kids
- keeping adult content out of young eyes
- protecting kids' data
- forcing platforms to PROVE age, not just accept "Yeah mate, I'm totally 16" typed by someone who still collects Pokémon cards

It's all about creating a safer digital environment, something all parents, carers, and educators can get behind.

The Problem? Kids Are Digital Houdinis

Give any kid just one rule and watch them find three different loopholes before breakfast.

Discord? Safe.

Roblox? Totally fine.

A random chat function hidden inside a cooking game that nobody over the age of 12 has ever heard of? Even better. They don't see themselves as "breaking rules." They're just being... well... kids. Curious, chatty, and desperate to stay connected to their mates.

What Adults Can Do (Besides a Deep, Dramatic Sigh!)

Until the tech, the law, and the platform developers catch up, our best defences are the low-tech, old-fashioned ones:

- **Talk to them, often.** Ask what they're playing. Ask who they're talking to.
- **Keep devices visible**, not sneaky under blankets or stuffed inside hoodies.
- **Set boundaries that make sense**, not punishment-style lockdowns that kids will immediately try to wiggle out of.
- **Normalise coming to you** when things feel dodgy or uncomfortable online.
- **Stay curious**, even when their descriptions make about as much sense as a magpie with a GPS.

A Final Thought

Our kidlets are clever, adaptable, social little beings. They're not trying to be sneaky villains; they're just growing up in a world where digital connections are as normal as riding a bike.

The bans will help, absolutely!

But real safety is built through conversations, relationships, and keeping the door wide open for chats when things get weird online. Because at the end of the day, no matter how many apps get banned, blocked, patched, age-verified, or made "kid-safe," nothing beats a grown-up who's present, listening, and willing to jump into the digital deep end with them.

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

Kate

LAUNCH INTERVIEWS

Compass Conference will open on Wednesday afternoon to support families to make a booking to speak to their child's/rens 2026 teacher.

Launch Interviews or 'Meet and Greet' for Year 1 to Year 6 will occur on **WEDNESDAY, 28TH JANUARY** and bookings will consist of a 10-minute discussion with the teacher about their child and 5 mins of transition time with the child.

FOUNDATION TESTING

Foundation testing will begin on Wednesday, 28th January and continue on Thursday, 29th January, 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th February.

Sign-up sheets will be ready next Tuesday to sign up for a testing time which consists of a 10-minute Meet and Greet at the start.

LIBRARY NEWS

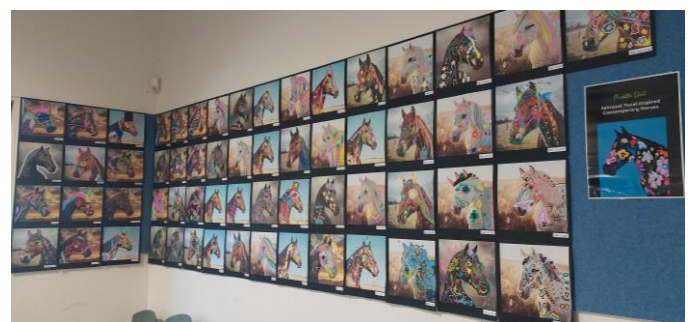
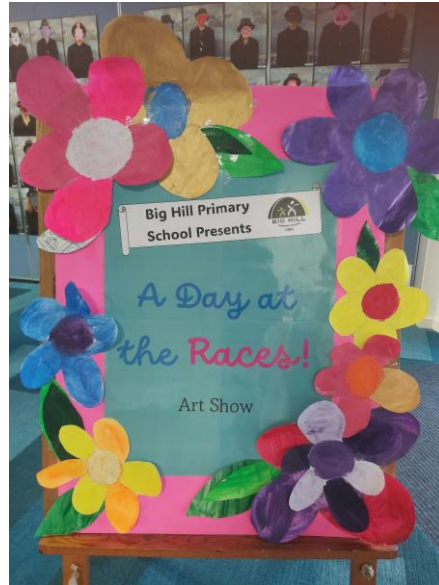
The library is now closed for the borrowing of books. Please return all books so that they can be processed and sorted ready for 2026.

Please check backpacks and home bookshelves for any unreturned items. Thank you 😊

MELBOURNE CUP FAMILY FUN DAY PHOTOS



ART SHOW PHOTOS



YEAR 2 SLEEPOVER PHOTOS



FRIDAY, 12TH DECEMBER

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, 10TH DECEMBER. 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



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