



Calder Chronicle

NUMBER 40

Phone (03) 5447 7022

Email: big.hill.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Website: www.bighillps.vic.edu.au

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BigHillPrimarySchool/>

THURSDAY, 11TH DECEMBER 2025

CALENDAR

Friday, 12th December

Monday, 15th December

Wednesday, 17th December

Thursday, 18th December

Friday, 19th December

PIZZA DAY (no other food items available, iced treats only)

First Steps, Middle & Senior Unit Break Ups

END OF YEAR PICNIC / CONCERT / P&F BBQ 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

Wednesday, 4th February

Teachers commence

Year 1 – 6 Launch Interviews (students at school only for their appt time)

Foundation Assessments

Year 1 – 6 students commence

Foundation Assessments

Foundation students commence

NO SCHOOL for Foundation students (all Wednesdays in February)

Foundation Assessments

School Organisation

Dear Parents, Carers and Greater Community,

Matt is unfortunately away sick this week and possibly part of next week with Influenza A. We hope he feels better and is back on deck to see out 2025 😊.

YEAR 1 – 6 LAUNCH INTERVIEWS – BOOKINGS NOW OPEN

Compass Conferences are now open to make a booking to speak to your child/ren's 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.

MIDDLE AND SENIOR UNIT BREAK UPS - repeat

Our Middle and Senior Units will combine to have their BREAKUP next 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 **TOMORROW, Friday, 12th December** please.

FIRST STEPS BREAK UP

First Steps students will be having a Teddy Bear Picnic next Monday, 15th December. Please bring your teddy and a plate of food to share with your class.

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

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? - repeat

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.

THEIRCARE HOLIDAY PROGRAM

TheirCare will be holding a holiday program on site from Monday, 5th January to Friday, 23rd January. Please visit their website for more information and to book in.

END OF TERM AWARDS AND YEAR 6 AVENUE OF HONOUR - repeat

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 next week's newsletter 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, students and parents 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 - repeat

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 – repeat

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 Carter & Parker having fun with their mandarin & pear.



BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to Heath B, Prezleigh P, Sonny H, Ryan W, Conor J & Georgia E.

Ainsley Stanley, Acting Principal

FIRST STEPS NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For participating with enthusiasm during our Transition activities:

FSN Charlotte S
FSJ Harlem D

Nicole, Nick & Jen

MIDDLE UNIT NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For adapting to changes with a positive attitude:

MED Harry E
MP Malachi B
MWA Ezra B

Emma, Dean, Pauline, Wendy & Amanda

JUNIOR UNIT NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For displaying all of our School Values at the Junior Unit Break Up:

JJ Phoenix B
JC Harvey B

Jayden & Catherine

SENIOR UNIT NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For demonstrating 'Respectful' and 'Responsible' behaviours in the classroom:

SA/R Makenzie B
SB Mia Ta
SK Milly B

Ainsley, Roberta, Brett & Kate

SOCIAL MEDIA & CYBER SAFETY

Navigating the Digital World: Your GPS for the Online Adventure

Everybody, Pause Before You Post!

We worry about teens uploading too much, but many adults are out here:

- posting photos of the new decking, complete with street views
- sharing their holiday dates while the house sits empty
- uploading beach pics with the kids' school hats clearly visible
- tagging the exact cafe they are in, at that exact moment
- and giving scammers an entire biography without even realising

Honestly, if strangers wanted to work out where half of us live, all they would need is a quiet afternoon and our Facebook profiles.

We cannot point the finger at young people when we are practically offering up a digital treasure map with our own posts.

And Look, I Know I Have Said It Before...

But it is still the truest line in the cyber safety world: If something feels too good to be true, it probably is.

Adults fall for scams too, sometimes even faster than the kids. The free caravan giveaway, the unbelievable Black Friday deal, the surprise message from a long-lost friend whose account was obviously hacked, we have all seen them. Half of us have clicked on them.

We lecture teens about online traps while falling straight into the digital ditches ourselves.

What Are We Really Sharing with the World?

Before we post anything, it is worth asking:

- Does this show where I live or where I am going to be?
- Does this reveal my child's school, sport or weekly routine?
- Are my pet's names in this post, and also my passwords?
- Would I be comfortable with my teen posting this much?

If the answer makes you squirm even a little, maybe hit save instead of share.

We Set the Tone, Whether We Mean to or Not

Kids model what they see.

If adults post everything online, the good, the bad, the burnt snags from Bunnings, then kids learn that is normal. But if we show them, it is okay to keep some things private, to think before sharing, to protect their personal information, that sticks too. And with the new under 16 restrictions kicking in, the pressure eases off kids just a smidge and shifts quietly onto us.

Reality Check!

We love a yarn. We love sharing the wins, the laughs, the holidays and the classic moments, kookaburras on the fence, kids covered in mud after backyard cricket, sunsets over the beach and that photo of Uncle Kev asleep in the camping chair again. But the online world is not like the backyard or the footy club.

It is bigger! It is permanent! And, it is not always friendly!

Oversharing might feel harmless, but sometimes it leaves cracks for scammers, creeps and unwanted eyes.

Final Thought

As the new social media rules for teens and tweens come into play, maybe it is time we do our own digital spring clean. The kids are not the only ones navigating this online maze, we are right there with them.

So, while the naughty elves are lurking in lounge rooms and the kids are buzzing with holiday energy, take a quiet moment for yourself.

Have a look at what your posts are revealing.

Ask what you are sharing.

Think about who might be seeing it.

Pause before you post, not just for your own safety, but to model the kind of digital habits we want our kids to grow up with.

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

Kate

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 and bring back to school ASAP. Thank you 😊

COMMUNITY NEWS



Need new SCHOOL SHOES?

Head into selected Williams stores this January for our famous Back to School sale.

20% off COLORADO School Shoes OR **2nd Pair 1/2 Price Storewide!**

**PLUS
RECEIVE A
FREE COLORADO
SPORTS BAG
WITH ANY SCHOOL SHOE
PURCHASE***



*Offer is valid from Thursday 1st January 2026 in VIC & SA Williams stores ONLY. While stocks last. No rainchecks. Flyer must be shown to receive free gift with purchase instore. Exclusive to participants of the Victorian Athletic League and SAAL. Full promotional terms and conditions available online.

WILLIAMS
Proudly Supporting



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 

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS SORTED



4 - 7 YEAR OLDS

A safe and fun program led by experienced AFL coaches, your child will learn basic footy skills, and enjoy mini-games, all while experiencing NAB AFL Auskick in a supportive environment, leaving with big smiles and a day of Good Clean Fun!

Children who turn 5 in 2026 can register!



8 - 12 YEAR OLDS

Get a taste of NAB AFL Superkick, with a mix of skill development, modified game play. See their confidence grow in a supportive environment where buddies, mud & fun collide!



Bendigo School Holiday Program
Monday 19th January at Harry Trott Oval
9am to 3pm - \$55 which includes a football
A day of footy fun!

