



# Calder Chronicle

NUMBER 3

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**THURSDAY, 19<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2026**

## CALENDAR

Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February  
Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> February

**Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> March**

Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> March

Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March

**THURSDAY, 2<sup>ND</sup> APRIL**

School Captain badges presented at assembly  
Foundation Day Off (Assessments)

**LABOUR DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY**

NAPLAN commences

Year 1 Stay & Play – more information to follow

**LAST DAY FOR TERM 1 – 2:30pm finish**

## School Organisation

Dear Parents, Carers and Greater Community,

Week 4 has been a very busy one with routines in place across the 5 days and learning well underway as we approach the middle of Term next weekend. Our students have settled in with their new classmates, teachers etc and generally are in the “groove”. From time to time you may find some lethargy etc around getting out of bed to go to school and this is often due to things like the heat, late nights, busy times for the family etc. Where possible always push through and get children to school – attendance routines form early, so having the expectation to be at school every day (within reason) is not only beneficial for the child, but also for you! Life is easier when you have taught your children the routine to get up and go 5 days a week and a day at home is only when necessary 😊.

### SCHOOL WIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT (SWPBS)

We are a SWPBS school and in 2026 we are working closely with a DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION coach who will ensure our SWPBS approaches are spot on. Currently we are reviewing systems for different areas of the school and writing some... for example, our cubby area needs a system written to help ensure all staff enforce the same rules and expectations in the cubby area. This helps avoid confusion and sets the tone for how we behave and play. When we see children following the systems and demonstrating one of our Values, we give out a BIG REWARD. This is a certificate slip that children keep at school. When they get 15 of them, they get a reward from their classroom teacher. To help you at home, remind your child/ren that our values are BE RESPECTFUL, BE RESPONSIBLE and BE RESILIENT. We have just replaced one of our Values with RESILIENT, so across the school we are focusing on resilience being the ability to bounce back. This Value also sits nicely with our RESILIENCE PROJECT work we do across the school 😊.

### PARENT INPUT REQUESTED TOWARDS SWPBS MATRIX

Our school is currently engaged in re-implementing our SWPBS. Part of this process is building a new Matrix of wanted behaviours to support our students as well as our whole school community. Therefore, we are asking for staff, student and parent input through a survey that has been developed by our SWPBS coach Kerry H.

Attached below is a link to the parent survey. This form is designed to gain a greater understanding of the current unwanted behaviours within the school and the behaviours that should be displayed as a replacement behaviour. We would like to encourage all families to complete the form by next Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> February. You can only select one area per form, but we encourage everyone to submit multiple forms to have your say about all areas. The areas are: Cubbyland, Lining up, Basketball Court, Little Kids Playground, Toilets, Big Kids Playground, Tiger Turf, Classroom, Specialists and other. The data from parents will be extremely valuable for our behaviour matrix.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1UQGELt0yiNQuM3ZV9UsMWxVm\\_oAB7KKmNp8Jrrw2Yts/edit](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1UQGELt0yiNQuM3ZV9UsMWxVm_oAB7KKmNp8Jrrw2Yts/edit)

### NAPLAN

The National Assessment Program Literacy And Numeracy will occur in March for our Year 3's and 5's. I have shared information on COMPASS for these families, so please ensure you read this post to be up to date. I have also printed off the same information (Parent Information brochure) and have copies in our foyer on the noticeboard if you prefer.

### SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING NEXT WEEK

Current School Councillors (ie: those who were on School Council last year) have our first meeting of the year next Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> February at 7:00pm in the library. For those wanting to join via Webex, this will be available with the link sent out alongside the Principals Report for February via email Friday.

### FOUNDATION STUDENTS – WEDNESDAYS OFF SCHOOL IN FEBRUARY

Don't forget that our Foundation have their final Wednesday off next week (February 25<sup>th</sup>).

Commencing from Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March, our Foundation students will be full time.

## **STAFFING**

Kate Dole will remain on sick leave for next week after being away all this week too. We expect that Kate will be away for at least another week, however this could be longer. Tracy Pengelly, one of our regular Casual Relief Teachers (CRT), will continue teaching Kate's class during this time. Our School Chaplain, Chris Powers, is absent for the next few weeks. Chris will return and commence supporting children 1:1... but please remember this can only be done if you have filled in the appropriate 2026 consent form available at the Office. Whilst Chris is away, please reach out to our Mental Health in Primary Schools (MHiPS) Leader, Dean White, if you need anything. Alternatively, you are also most welcome to speak to Ainsley Stanley, Disability Inclusion, or myself. Between the three of us, we are happy to support whilst Chris is away.

## **SCHOOL CAPTAINS**

After lots of wonderful speeches on Monday, the students in Year 3-6 did a preferential vote (1-2-3) for their choice of School Captain. Staff have also done the same. Choosing our new school leaders was not easy – as so many students had put their hand up to try out and did a marvellous job. If your child went for the role and missed out, please congratulate them on doing a wonderful job and let them know that like you, the school is very proud of them for pushing themselves to step into a leadership role. It's a chance to speak to your child too about how they are resilient by bouncing back from not being successful 😊.

We have chosen our School Captains for 2026 and I am happy to announce that our two SCHOOL CAPTAINS are:

*Bonnie S and Ryan W.*

Supporting our two leaders will be our two VICE SCHOOL CAPTAINS: *Mila M and Oli M.*

Congratulations to our leaders! I know they will do an excellent job and lead the school effectively. We are now ready to present badges to our School Captains and this will occur at next Monday's assembly at 9:00am in the hope that families might be able to come along 😊.

## **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL (SRC)**

SRC is in the final stages of selection. By next week I will be able to advise who our SRC Representatives are from the Middle and Senior Units. Badges will also be ordered and awarded to our SRC soon – date to be advised. Once selected the SRC will meet with me a few times each term to plan school activities, look at ways to improve the school and ensure there is an avenue for students to raise ideas and concerns with the leadership of our school. In essence, those chosen will take ideas from their class to these meetings for consideration. Past focus areas were fundraising days, special events, school clean ups, out of uniform days etc.

## **SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS – Information for parents from the Department of Education - repeat**

- Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> February Call for nominations (forms available from the Office)
- Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> February Closing date for nominations (forms must be returned to the Office by 3:20pm on this date). Nominations assessed and the need for a ballot decided. If ballot is not required, new School Council announced and meet soon after this date.  
OR Ballot set up (if required)
- Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> March Close of Ballot (if required)
- Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> March Counting of Ballot (if required). Declaration of Ballot.  
New School Council announced and will meet shortly after this date

### ***AN ELECTION IS TO BE CONDUCTED FOR MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COUNCIL OF BIG HILL PS***

Nomination forms may be obtained from the school office and must be lodged by 3:20pm on Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> February. If a ballot is required (depending on the number of nominations), this will close at 3:20pm on Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> March. Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school. The terms of Office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows:

Membership Category	Terms of Office	Currently Held by	Number of Positions
Department of Education	March 2026 – March 2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Alice Bath</li><li>• Jennifer Nicholls</li></ul> <i>(Alice and Jennifer will need to renominate if they wish to continue)</i>	2
Parent	March 2026 – March 2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Candy Haines</li><li>• Xanthe Clarke</li><li>• Aaron Fuller</li><li>• Annette Robinson</li></ul> <i>(Candy, Xanthe, Aaron and Annette will need to renominate if they wish to continue)</i>	4

Please feel free to contact me for further information. Nomination forms are available from the Office or can be organised to be sent home for signing. We are genuinely looking for new members – the commitment is 8 meetings a year, always on a Tuesday night at 7pm.

## **NEW FLAGS**

Next Tuesday, Federal Member of Parliament, Lisa Chesters, will visit Big Hill PS to present our School / Vice Captains with three new national flags for our flagpoles. The excessive heat and wet spring made our flags age very quickly, so we are very grateful to have a new set arriving Tuesday. It will also be a wonderful chance for our students to see a Member of Parliament onsite when Lisa visits.

## **STATE SCHOOLS RELIEF (SSR) FOUNDATION CSEF UNIFORM PACKAGE**

Please complete and return these to the Office at your earliest convenience. If you are a Foundation parent but have yet to apply for CSEF, please do so ASAP, then you will be eligible for the SSR Uniform Package.

## **DJARRA TRAINING**

Next Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> February Jayden and I will complete Djarra Competency Training for Educators at the DUMAWUL CULTURAL TOURISM AND CREATIVE ARTS HUB in Bendigo. This important training will continue to strengthen our school's relationship with Djarra / Dja Dja Wurrung, enabling us to embed local indigenous perspectives into our curriculum. Many families may not realise that across Australia teaching indigenous perspectives across the curriculum is mandated, so we are very lucky to have our local language group working closely with the school to have a local context and connection.

## **INSPIRE TRAINING**

Next Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> February I will be heading to the VICTORIAN TEACHING AND LEARNING ACADEMY in Melbourne to be briefed on the INSPIRE 2026 PROGRAM. INSPIRE is local teacher leader training delivered by the Academy and presented by local Principals. Like last year, I will again be facilitating this training for up-and-coming leaders from across our local area. This forms a large part of the systems work I must do as part of my Principal duty statement 😊 and I do enjoy helping guide the future leaders of education by being a facilitator.

## **2026 PARENT PAYMENT CONTRIBUTIONS**

If you have not paid for your PARENT PAYMENT CONTRIBUTION (ie: Stationery, iPad lease, subscriptions like Reading Eggs, individual student diaries etc), these can be paid in full or by instalments on COMPASS. Access to resources will possibly be restricted if payment / payment plan is not made on Compass or at the Office. Thanks for attending to this matter, as the school is not funded for these items that help your child in learning.

**For those parents who have selected a payment plan, this will commence next Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> February.**

## **COMPASS CONSENTS REMINDER**

Please consent on Compass for our Yearly and Single consents for your children. These allow ICT use, PG movies, local excursion & photo consents. Thank you.

## **STUDENT ENROLMENT INFORMATION FORMS**

These were handed out to students last week. Please check information is correct, sign and return it to the Office ASAP. If anything needs changing, please make a note on the form and send back to the Office. Thank you.

## **THE SMILE SQUAD FREE SCHOOL DENTAL PROGRAM IS COMING TO OUR SCHOOL**

The Smile Squad team from Bendigo Health is coming to our school soon. Smile Squad is the Victorian Government's free school dental program. This means *all* students can receive a free dental check-up, preventive services, and treatment at school.

### **How to access free dental care**

We need your consent before we can provide services. Consent is usually provided by a parent or guardian. Sign up to Smile Squad at: <https://bit.ly/smilesquadvic> OR use the QR code →

Paper copies of the consent form are also available from the Office if you would like one.



## **MCKERNS FRESH FRUIT**

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

Here are Noah & Maeve with their banana & pear!



## **BIRTHDAYS**

Happy birthday to Clementine, Hendrix, Bradley & Ava S.

As Week 5 approaches the weather is looking a little more comfortable and not quite as hot. This will certainly be helpful for students as they continue to settle into the school year. I do hope you are finding that your child is settling in well and remind you to always reach out to your child's teacher if there is a problem, concern or wondering. We are here to help 😊.

Until next week,

*Matt Pearce, Principal*

## FOUNDATION NEWS

### STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For displaying excellent listening skills in the classroom:

FC Evander R  
FN Xavier S

Catherine, Nicole & Nick

## JUNIOR UNIT NEWS

### STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For demonstrating respect by using their listening skills:

JAR Chloe V  
JJ Willow S

Ainsley, Roberta & Jen

## MIDDLE UNIT NEWS

### STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For being an active learner in the classroom and trying their best:

MED Ava M  
MP Harvey B  
MWA Paige A

Emma, Dean, Pauline, Wendy & Amanda

## SENIOR UNIT NEWS

### YEAR 6 GRAD TOPS

We have one size 12 and one size 14 grad top available for purchase from the Office for \$35 each. First in, best dressed!

### STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For showing care and understanding towards classmates and teachers:

SB Valentine J  
SJ Celeste N  
SK Aria P

Brett, Jayden & Kate

## THE RESILIENT PROJECT

Staff have chosen the following students to receive this week's GEM award for:

### Empathy

Foundation	Raven O
Junior Unit	Hudson K
Middle Unit	Logan H
Senior Unit	Anna S
Specialist	Levi D

## SECOND HAND UNIFORM NEWS

At the Office foyer we have our Second Hand Uniform rack with items for sale for only \$2.

Donations are gratefully accepted, just please no tracksuit pants as they don't sell. Thank you.

## PARENTS & FRIENDS NEWS

### EASTER RAFFLE

We are holding our annual Easter Raffle again this year and are requesting donations. If you are able to donate something, please leave it at the Office.

Suggestions:

- ✚ Eggs
- ✚ Bunnies
- ✚ Cellophane
- ✚ Activity/sticker books
- ✚ Non chocolate Easter goodies

Thanks for your support

## COMMUNITY NEWS



## COME & TRY CLASSES

Calisthenics combines **dancing, movement, flexibility, strength and performance** all in one exciting class! Build confidence, make new friends and have fun while learning skills that last a lifetime.

All classes held at: Strathdale Community Centre, Crook St, Strathdale

**Tinies (3-7 years)** – Wednesdays 4:15-5:30 pm  
**Sub Juniors (8-10 years)** – Mondays 4:15-6:30 pm  
**Juniors (11-13 years)** – Thursdays 4:15-6:30 pm  
**Intermediates (14-17 years)** – Mondays 6:30-8:30 pm  
**Seniors (17+ years)** – Tuesdays 6:30-9:30 pm  
**Masters (26+ years)** – Wednesdays 6:30-9:30 pm

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME  
Two FREE Come & Try Classes!

For enquiries: [admin@bendigocalisthenics.com](mailto:admin@bendigocalisthenics.com)  
Find us on Facebook: Bendigo Calisthenics Club Inc

### Bendigo Walking Group for Carers

Lake Weeroona

Meet at:

Peppergreen Farm Car Park  
40 Thunder Street,  
North Bendigo

EVERY THURSDAY  
(during school term)

TIME: 9:30am-11am



riac  
Rights Information  
and Advisory Centre  
Call Carolyn for  
more information  
on 0488 605 363



## *Hop on board and join the Roos in 2026!!!*

### **New Junior Player Expressions of Interest Now Open**

Are you interested in playing junior football at Kangaroo Flat? We want you!!!  
If you are considering playing junior football next season, we would love to welcome you and your family to the Kangaroo Flat Junior Football Club.

### *Why Kangaroo Flat?*

- We are a fun, inclusive, family friendly club
- We offer junior boys, girls & mixed football programs including in season social activities
- We have passionate, dedicated accredited coaches focused on the progressive development of players as individuals and their teams
- We provide a pathway into the Bendigo Football Netball League, the premier competition within the Greater Bendigo region
- We are located in the magnificent Dower Park facility in Station Street Kangaroo Flat, just a short 5-minute walk from the bus interchange @ Crusoe College

#### **2026 Age Groups**

(Date of Birth Requirements)

##### **Under 9 Mixed**

Born 2017, 2018 or before 30 April 2019

##### **Under 10 Mixed**

Born 2016 or 2017

##### **Under 12 Girls or Mixed**

Born 2014, 2015 or 2016

##### **Under 14 Boys**

Born 2012, 2013 or 2014

##### **Under 15 Girls**

Born 2011, 2012 or 2013

##### **Under 16 Boys**

Born 2010, 2011 or 2012

Please email enquiries to: [kangarooflatjfc@hotmail.com.au](mailto:kangarooflatjfc@hotmail.com.au)



<https://www.facebook.com/KangarooFlatJuniorFC>



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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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 