



# Calder Chronicle

NUMBER 4

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**THURSDAY, 26<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2026**

## CALENDAR

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

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

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

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March

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

### LABOUR DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY

NAPLAN commences

Year 1 Stay & Play – please consent on Compass

Easter Raffle tickets due at the Office (both sold and unsold please)

### LAST DAY FOR TERM 1 – P&F Easter Raffle drawn

2:30pm finish

## School Organisation

Dear Parents, Carers and Greater Community,

As we approach the end of Week 5, we also pass the middle point of Term 1. By now we have our Foundation students settled into school and all our classes well-underway with learning sequences in areas like Literacy, Numeracy etc. In the second half of term, you can expect to see students beginning to tire and by the time the holidays arrive, you will be reminded why children need school holidays every 10 weeks or so! In the meantime, though, keep up the great work at home by having children in routine, early to bed and up and organised in the mornings. It makes a huge difference to how the day unfolds once children are onsite 😊.

### 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. If you are not wanting your child to take part you need to contact me to organise a withdrawal – feel free to email ([Matthew.Pearce@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Matthew.Pearce@education.vic.gov.au)) or phone the school. As tests run over a two-week period and catch-up tests are also completed for those who miss the main test day, avoiding testing by staying home is not the way. Please just request a formal withdrawal – no questions asked. Our first Year 3 and 5 test will be on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> March.

### STAFFING

Unfortunately, Kate Dole will require an extension of her sick leave after surgery and won't return until Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> March. Tracy Pengelly will continue in the classroom until Kate's return.

### STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL (SRC)

Congratulations to the following students who are our SRC for 2026.

SB: Ella & James

SJ: Sonny & Lucas

SK: Aria & Mason

MED: Matilda & Hendrix

MP: Rhemmi & Cooper

MW/A: Mia & Franklin.

Badges are on order and once they are ready, I will announce an assembly to present our SRC with their badges. I will be meeting with our new SRC on Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March in the last hour of the day to begin our exciting year of work together 😊.

### FOUNDATION STUDENTS – FULL TIME STUDENTS NEXT WEEK

Our Foundation students will commence full time attendance from next Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March. By Thursday / Friday of next week your Foundation child may be extra tired, so monitor how they are going and adjust bedtime routines to an earlier time if required 😊. It will be very exciting to have our Foundation students at school every day from next week!

### PARENTS & FRIENDS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

We have our AGM for Parents and Friends coming up in mid-March. Exact date and time to be advised. We will elect members to positions for another calendar year 😊. We also encourage new families to come along and meet members of the P&F. They are needing new helpers, so why not reach out to the? Any offer of assistance is appreciated. If keen, please email them at [bhpspf@gmail.com](mailto:bhpspf@gmail.com).

### STUDENT ENROLMENT INFORMATION FORMS

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 it back to the Office. Thank you.

## **SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING**

A big thank you to School Council members who made the time to attend our meeting Tuesday night. It was an interesting start with a deluge of rain arriving just as members were trying to come indoors for the meeting – resulting in some very wet council members! This was the final meeting of our 2025 School Council, and we finished the meeting farewelling our School Council President, Annette Forbes, after 4 years in the School Council President position! Annette did a terrific job in this very important position – and we thanked her accordingly for all her efforts and wished her all the best for the future now that the family have moved on. Our School Council meets next in March for our AGM where we will declare all positions vacant and elect new officer bearers, including School Council President.

## **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**

We had a visit by our local Federal member on Tuesday to deliver new flags for our school flag poles. Lisa Chesters spent time with our new School / Vice Captains presenting the school with some new flags that will be erected next week. You may not know this, but it is the job of the elected Federal member to provide flags free of charge to schools when they need to replace their old ones 😊.



## **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 tomorrow, 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 excursions & photo consents. 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 Abigail & Ned with their peach & pear!



## BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to Alexis W, Claudia v, Will W, Cooper M & Saira S.

As we approach another weekend, here's hoping it's a chance to stop and recharge, enabling your child to continue the path to success in 2026 whilst at school.

Until next week,

*Matt Pearce, Principal*

## **FOUNDATION NEWS**

### STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

*For building resilience during morning drop off:*

FC *Frankie C*  
FN *Addison M*

*Catherine, Nicole & Nick*

## **JUNIOR UNIT NEWS**

### STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

*For being persistent with new challenges:*

JAR *Charlotte S*  
JJ *Oaklynn V*

*Ainsley, Roberta & Jen*

## **MIDDLE UNIT NEWS**

### STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

*For showing resilience in the classroom:*

MED *Harvey*  
MP *Oscar*  
MWA *Harper*

*Emma, Dean, Pauline, Wendy & Amanda*

## **SENIOR UNIT NEWS**

### STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

*For persevering with learning tasks and keeps trying when work is challenging:*

SB *Arlow D*  
SJ *Jazmine T*  
SK *Ezra B*

*Brett, Jayden & Kate (Tracy)*

## **THE RESILIENT PROJECT**

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

## **Mindfulness**

Foundation	<i>Felix C</i>
Junior Unit	<i>Lucy M</i>
Middle Unit	<i>Teddy R</i>
Senior Unit	<i>Allyera G</i>
Specialist	<i>Hunter G</i>

## **PARENTS & FRIENDS NEWS**

### EASTER RAFFLE

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

Suggestions:

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

Thank you so much to everyone who has already donated items, it's great to see how creative people are getting with donating so many items that aren't chocolate 😊.

### RAFFLE TICKETS

These have been sent home today. Please return books (both sold and unsold) by Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> March. Extras are available from the Office.

*Thanks for your support*

## COMMUNITY NEWS

# 2026 WINTER SEASON TRY-OUTS

Shout out to all current and NEW players!  
Come and try out basketball with our amazing club, The Flamingos.  
We are seeking boys and girls, players of all skills- whether you're a champion  
or brand new to the game, we want you to help grow our club!

Come along to one of our session times listed below. Or if you would like  
more information, you can check out our Facebook page, or please contact  
us via email [flamingosbasketballclub@outlook.com](mailto:flamingosbasketballclub@outlook.com)

**SESSIONS:**  
**THURS 5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**  
**6**  
**THURS 12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**  
**4:15PM - 5:15PM**  
**@ EAGLEHAWK SOCCER CLUB**  
**STADIUM**



## 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**



## We are SunSmart - a note for families

Too much of the sun's ultraviolet (UV) radiation can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer.

UV damage accumulated during childhood and adolescence is associated with an increased risk of skin cancer later in life. Skin cancer is the most common cancer in Australia. It is also one of the most preventable cancers.

You can't see or feel the sun's UV. Whatever the weather, if the UV levels are three or more, it's important to *Slip, Slop, Slap, Seek and Slide!*

### Sun protection times

Don't just wait for hot and sunny days to use sun protection. Check the sun protection times each day so your family can be protected when they need to be.



Daily local sun protection times and weather details are available from the SunSmart widget on our school website, in the weather section of the newspaper, on the SunSmart website at [sunsmart.com.au](http://sunsmart.com.au) and as a free SunSmart app. Sun protection times can also be found at the [Bureau of Meteorology website](http://Bureau of Meteorology website) and live UV levels are available from [ARPANSA](http://ARPANSA).

### SunSmart membership

Our school is a registered member of Cancer Council Victoria's SunSmart Schools Program. We aim to protect students and staff from too much UV.

Sun protection and skin cancer prevention is a shared responsibility. Please help support our SunSmart membership and sun protection efforts by ensuring your child follows the SunSmart measures included in our policy at school and at home.

During the daily local sun protection times (usually from mid-August to the end of April), *use these 5 SunSmart steps – even if it's cool and cloudy.*

### 1. *SLIP* on covering clothing

For free dress days, ensure your child wears clothing that covers as much skin as possible (e.g. elbow length tops with a higher neckline or collar and longer style shorts or skirts). Densely woven fabrics are best.



### 2. *SLOP* on SPF50+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen

Apply a generous amount of sunscreen at the start of the day and make sure children have sunscreen in their bag ready to reapply throughout the day. Sunscreen should be reapplied every two hours. Please ensure children get plenty of sunscreen application practice at home so they'll be all set when they are at school. Under supervision, ask children to put a dot of sunscreen on each cheek, nose and chin and rub it in (avoiding the eye area) and sunscreen squiggles or dots on the back of the neck, arms and legs to cover these areas.

### 3. *SLAP* on a hat that protects the face, neck and ears

Choose a wide-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket hat. Peak caps and visors do not offer enough UV protection so please leave them at home. Please help your child remember to bring and wear their approved *school hat*. Please keep this at school so they will always be ready for outdoor activities, outdoor learning and play during school days. For the walk to and from school and weekends, please have an extra *home hat* to help keep children protected at home.

### 4. *SEEK* shade

Choose shady spots for learning and play whenever possible.

### 5. *SLIDE* on wrap-around AS1067 sunglasses

When appropriate and practical, help protect the eyes with sunglasses.

*Need information in another language? Call 13 14 50 and ask to be connected to Cancer Council Victoria in your language*

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 