



# Calder Chronicle

NUMBER 5

Phone (03) 5447 7022

Email: [big.hill.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:big.hill.ps@education.vic.gov.au)

Website: [www.bighillps.vic.edu.au](http://www.bighillps.vic.edu.au)

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

**THURSDAY, 5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2026**

## CALENDAR

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

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

Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> March

Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> March

Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> March

### Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> March

<https://www.multiculturalcommission.vic.gov.au/cultural-diversity-week-victorian-multicultural-commission>

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

Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> March

Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> March

Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> March

### Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March

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

### LABOUR DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY

NAPLAN commences – Years 3 & 5

Scholastic Book Club Orders due at the Office or via online LOOP 3pm

P&F AGM - 2:00pm, all welcome

**Early Harmony Day – WEAR ORANGE** & National Ride2School Day

### Cultural Diversity Week commences:

Year 1 Stay & Play – please consent on Compass

School Council AGM 7pm

Orders due by 9am for Pizza Day & LAST CANTEEN DAY FOR TERM 1

PIZZA DAY – no normal food items available – iced treats are

**SCHOOL PHOTO DAY** (ordering available on Compass now)

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

### LAST DAY FOR TERM 1

**P&F Easter Raffle, Guess the Eggs & Colouring Comp drawn**

**2:30pm finish**

## School Organisation

Dear Parents, Carers and Greater Community,

Week 6 has been productive with five days of thorough learning and routines in place. The cooler weather has also been welcome, with our students coping better and as a result, settling into learning faster after each break. Classroom behaviour has been excellent – honestly, it's a joy to walk into classrooms throughout the day and see everyone on task. Our students are doing an amazing job!

### NAPLAN

Testing commences next week for our Year 3's and 5's, with Writing the first test for our students on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> March. Please ensure your child is on time, as the tests are scheduled first thing. Year 3's will then complete the Reading Assessment on Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> March, Language Conventions on Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> March, and Numeracy on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> March. Our Year 5's will complete Reading on Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> March, Language Conventions on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> March, and Numeracy on Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> March. Again – please ensure children are at school on time so as not to miss the start of tests. Please don't avoid the tests either, as we have a two-week period to do catch ups. If you are not wanting your child to do NAPLAN, that is your choice, but you must make contact with me so I can organise the correct forms for families to sign to formally withdraw.

### STAFFING

This week has seen Kate Dole continue to be on Sick Leave after surgery. We have been fortunate to have Tracy Pengelly working in her class during this time and Tracy reports that the students are an absolute delight and working really hard. Well done to our SK students! Ainsley Stanley has also been unwell this week. JAR have worked with a variety of teachers through the week as a result, including their usual teacher Roberta (Wednesdays and Fridays). One of our School Values is RESILIENCE, and I'm pleased to advise that JAR have shown great Resilience working with different teachers throughout this week. I'm hopeful that Ainsley will return to her class on Monday... fingers crossed! Finally, we will welcome back our Chaplain, Chris Powers, next Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> March. I know our students will be very pleased to see him return from some time away with his family 😊.

### STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL (SRC)

Our badges are ready and due to this, I plan to present our 2026 SRC with theirs at our next assembly. This will be on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> March at 9:00am due to next Monday being a public holiday. A reminder that our SRC includes the following students from their classes: SK: Aria and Mason. SB: Ella and James. SJ: Sonny and Lucas. MP: Rhemmi and Cooper. APOLOGIES, it is actually Mitchell. MED: Matilda and Hendrix. MWA: Mia and Franklin. I will catch up with our SRC next week for our first meeting. Unfortunately catching up with our SRC this week was not possible due to multiple mandatory training days taking me out of the school.

## **MONDAY – PUBLIC HOLIDAY**

As next Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> March is the Labour Day holiday in Victoria, there is no school for students or staff. We will see everyone on Tuesday for a shorter week 😊.

## **FOUNDATION STUDENTS – FULL TIME STUDENTS**

By the time you read this our Foundation students will be well on their way to finishing their first full week of attendance. I wouldn't be surprised if they are tired and ready for a weekend by the time we get to Friday afternoon 😊. Lucky it's a long weekend! Please congratulate your child on completing their first full week of school when the time comes. Our Foundation students are now full-time Primary School students!

## **PARENTS AND FRIENDS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

We have our AGM for Parents and Friends coming up on Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> March at 2:00pm. 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 them? Any offer of assistance is appreciated. If keen, please contact the Office so they can forward on your interest to the appropriate person in our P&F. We will be talking about where funds might be best put to use to improve the grounds, including possible new games / line marking on asphalt and maybe even looking into getting a GA GA PIT for the grounds! Sadly, we haven't been able to get anywhere near enough money to upgrade our Tiger Turf, so we will continue to apply for grants etc and look at using our locally raised funds to ensure the children in our school get the benefits of our fundraising now.

## **EASTER RAFFLE AND COMPETITIONS**

Our P&F do major fundraising for our students each year, raising valuable funds to supplement our budgets and enabling us to do school improvements in our grounds etc. This term the P&F are running a wonderful Easter Raffle, so please sell as many tickets as you can. Extra books can be collected from the Office if you are able to sell them also! A huge thank you to families who have donated goods as raffle prizes... we are still accepting further donations of Easter eggs, bunnies, themed items etc. In addition to the raffle, we have a GUESS HOW MANY EGGS competition running in the office AND a colouring competition for only 50 cents each. Why not join in the fun?

## **SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

We have not needed to go to an election, with numbers of nominees matching the number of positions. Due to this, congratulations to the following community and Department of Education members of our School Council for the next two years.

Department of Education	March 2026 – March 2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Alice Bath</li><li>• Jennifer Nicholls</li></ul>
Parent	March 2026 – March 2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Candy Haines</li><li>• Xanthe Clarke</li><li>• Aaron Fuller</li><li>• Andrew McMillan</li></ul>

Our first meeting of School Council will be on Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> March at 7:00pm in our library. In addition to the above School Councillors, returning members with 1 year to serve include Steve Penno, Michelle Everett, Liz Grigg, Michelle Scott, Pauline Mulcair, Ainsley Stanley, Melissa Tuohey and myself.

## **SCHOOL PHOTO DAY**

Our annual school photo day is fast approaching – with MSP PHOTOGRAPHY here on Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> March. Ordering is now available on Compass to help you prepare for the big day. Sharing now so you can plan ahead and ensure your child/ren doesn't miss out!

## **STUDENT AWARDS**

Our end of Term is always a time of celebration. We have a final assembly on the last day of term where we present special awards in each class. This year the awards have changed from past years, with new awards in the pipeline. These include THE ENGLISH AWARD and THE MATHEMATICS AWARD – presented to a student for either showing great growth in one of these areas or excelling. OUTSTANDING DEMONSTRATION OF SCHOOL VALUES will remain, and we will introduce a SPECIALIST AWARD for each room with one of our specialist teachers choosing a winner from each class for excellent work in their area of study. If your maths is on point, this will mean that there are only 4 awards presented per class, making the selection and announcement of winners even more special. In the final newsletter of term, we will advise our winners in advance, so families can endeavour to make the final assembly to see their child presented!

## **TERM 2 ASSEMBLIES – FRIDAY AFTERNOON TRIAL**

Whilst next term is a little way off, we are going to trial doing our assembly of a Friday afternoon, instead of Monday mornings. There's a couple of reasons for this, namely the interruption to the literacy block of a Monday, anxiety for many students with the start of the week and a big gathering first off and changing weather conditions – Friday afternoons will be milder in Term 2 😊. More information will come, but at this stage expect a Friday assembly commencing at 2:55pm when we return in Term 2. Assemblies will run until the end of the day, with students dismissed by teachers for the weekend directly from assembly.

## **SCHOOL SAVING BONUS – SSB / CAMPS SPORTS EXCURSIONS FUND CSEF**

If you would like to hold your CSEF or SSB to pay for camps/events later in the year, please advise the Office, otherwise we will automatically use them as events occur.

## **PARENT VOLUNTEERS**

If you are volunteering in the classroom or Canteen, please complete an induction at the Office, along with providing a copy of your Working With Children check card. Thank you.

## **PEER MEDIATORS**

It has been great to see that many Senior Unit students and SRC reps from the Middle Unit have applied to be members of our Peer Mediator team for 2026. The Responsibilities of our Peer Mediators are to work in teams to support students during breaktimes by resolving minor conflict, helping students who are having difficulties finding friends to play with, walking students to first aid when needed, referring larger / more complicated issues to teachers for management (ie: Physical fights), and helping in any way that is needed. Training sessions will be conducted soon for our SRC and voluntary mediators. Selected students will be trained in the role of Peer Mediator and then put on a roster for them to work in the yard during break times. Being a Peer Mediator is an excellent student voice and agency opportunity which enables our older students to develop leadership skills and be role models for our younger students. It is for these reasons that students who will be selected to become Peer Mediators have consistently demonstrated our School Values of Be Responsible, Be Respectful, Be Resilient. Therefore, students who have been involved in incidents that have resulted in a time out are unfortunately excluded from being a Peer Mediator. Thanks to all students who applied for this program and volunteering to be student leaders at BHPS. Students will be notified if their application was successful soon.

## **THE SMILE SQUAD FREE SCHOOL DENTAL PROGRAM COMMENCING TOMORROW**

The Smile Squad team from Bendigo Health is coming to our school TOMORROW. 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 Will & Jax with their banana & apple!

## **BIRTHDAYS**

Happy birthday to Huxley & Christopher.

Here's hoping Friday is a good one for you and your family... and the long weekend is a chance to spend quality time together.



# Matt Pearce, Principal

## **FOUNDATION NEWS**

### **STUDENTS OF THE WEEK**

*For being **persistent** with new challenges:*

FC *Willy T*  
FN *Cash J*

*Catherine, Nicole & Nick*

## **JUNIOR UNIT NEWS**

### **STUDENTS OF THE WEEK**

*For showing responsibility by making good choices in the classroom:*

JAR *Abigail H*  
JJ *Huxley*

*Ainsley, Roberta & Jen*

## **MIDDLE UNIT NEWS**

### **STUDENTS OF THE WEEK**

*For using time effectively during writing:*

MED *Connie P*  
MP *Rhemmi C*  
MWA *Otis J*

*Emma, Dean, Pauline, Wendy & Amanda*

## **SENIOR UNIT NEWS**

### **STUDENTS OF THE WEEK**

*For showing kindness and respect through words and actions at school:*

SB *Jade L*  
SJ *Lucas Q*  
SK *Dante D*

*Brett, Jayden & Kate (Tracy)*

## THE RESILIENCE PROJECT

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

### Gratitude

Foundation	Ada M
Junior Unit	Jack B
Middle Unit	Layla R
Senior Unit	Zoe B
Specialist	Aria P

## CANTEEN NEWS

### NEW MENU ITEM

Hi everyone, we have MILO back on the menu!!

You can choose warm or cold, and it's live on Compass to order now for only \$2.50 😊

### PIZZA DAY

For our new families, we hold a Pizza Day at the end of each term, and because we finish on a Thursday this term, we are holding our Pizza Day on the Friday before – 27<sup>th</sup> March. You can order on Compass, making sure you choose the 27<sup>th</sup> as the order date, and orders need to be in by Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> March. No normal food items are available on that day, but iced treats will be and can be pre-ordered or purchased on the day. This will be the last Canteen day for Term 1, with the Canteen reopening on Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> April in Term 2.

## 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

Please write your name and phone number or your child's name on both sides of each ticket (so the whole book is \$10, and you don't keep any part of the tickets) and return (both sold and unsold tickets) by Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> March. Extras are available from the Office.

*Thanks for your support*

## SCHOOL PHOTO DAY NEWS

### Big Hill Primary School

Photo Day 2026

Date: Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March

To Order Photos:

Order via the Compass Portal.

Order your School Photos before midnight Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April

Late orders can be accepted after 6<sup>th</sup> April by ordering online via the Compass Portal or by contacting 03 5482 3190. Please note that all late orders will incur an additional \$20 postage and handling fee.

Family Photos – Please order online prior to photo day using the Compass Portal.



03 5482 3190  
admin.mrr@msp.com.au  
www.msp.com.au



share*the*dignity

Please donate items if you can at any Woolworths store throughout March, or donate money directly to: <https://www.sharethedignity.org.au/home>

The poster is for 'Harcourt Applefest 2026'. At the top, a brown banner with the word 'HARCOURT' in white serif font is arched over an illustration of two apples, one red and one green, with green leaves. Below this, the words 'APPLEFEST' and '2026' are written in large, bold, brown serif letters. To the left, a woman in a white long-sleeved dress, a blue apron, and a straw hat with a blue band is shown in profile, reaching up with her right hand towards the '2026'. To the right of the woman, three brown rounded rectangular boxes contain the text 'MARKET STALLS', 'COMPETITIONS', and 'ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY' in white capital letters. At the bottom, the date and time 'Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March 10am to 4pm' are written in a dark blue serif font. Below that, 'James Park & surrounds' is written in a smaller dark blue serif font, and 'HARCOURT' is written in the largest, bold, dark blue serif font. In the bottom left corner, there is a small illustration of two red apples with green leaves. At the very bottom, in a small dark blue font, it says 'For more information - <https://applefest.harcourt.vic.au>'.

# JOIN BENDIGO CALISTHENICS CLUB

DANCE • MOVE • ENJOY

## OUR CLASSES

- ✓ **Tinies** 3-7 years
- ✓ **Sub-Juniors** 8-10 years
- ✓ **Juniors** 11-13 years
- ✓ **Inters** 14-17 years
- ✓ **Seniors** 17+ years
- ✓ **Masters** 26+ years
- ✓ **Rec Masters** 26+ - Recreational

## 2026 CLASS TIMES

<b>TINIES</b> 3-7 years Wednesday 4.15-5.30pm	<b>SUB-JUNIORS</b> 8-10 years Monday 4.15-6.30pm*	
<b>JUNIORS</b> 11-13 years Thursday 4.15-6.30pm*		
<b>INTERS</b> 14-17 years Monday 6.30-8.30pm*	<b>SENIORS</b> 17+ years Tuesday 6.30-9.30pm*	<b>MASTERS</b> 26+ years Wednesday 6.30-9.30pm

\* class times may change depending on numbers and class structure

All of our classes are run by

### ACCREDITED COACHES

Including a variety of dance, gymnastics, ballet, apparatus, acting & *fun in a team environment!*

Expressions of interest welcome to email:

✉ [admin@bendigocalisthenics.com](mailto:admin@bendigocalisthenics.com)

[bendigocalisthenics.com](http://bendigocalisthenics.com) 



# MOVIE FUNDRAISER

## THE MAGIC FARAWAY TREE

Grab your family & friends and help us raise funds for our mid-year rehearsal!

SUNDAY **29** MARCH 3:00 PM

TICKETS: \$25 ADULTS, \$20 KIDS (14 & UNDER)

BENDIGO CINEMAS  
 107-109 QUEEN ST BENDIGO 3550

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT  
[BENDIGOCALISTHENICS.COM/EVENTS](http://BENDIGOCALISTHENICS.COM/EVENTS)





# Girls Footy

## Expressions of interest

The Kangaroo Flat Junior Football club is actively seeking junior girls interested in playing football in 2026.

We are focused on teaching 9-16 year olds foundation and advanced football skills in a fun, safe and supportive environment.

**Register your interest for the 2026 BJFL season**

*in the following age groups:*

- AUSKICK • UNDER 9 MIXED
- UNDER 10 MIXED • UNDER 12 GIRLS
- UNDER 15 GIRLS



*Register your interest via the qr code or our email address*

Email: kangarooflatjfc@hotmail.com.au

Dower Park - 1A Station Street, Kangaroo Flat VIC 3555

### GO ROOS!



## Being Active Everyday

### Aim for 30 minutes of active movement.

Being active has many physical, social and emotional benefits, and everyone can benefit from movement throughout the day.

Finding it hard to fit in 30 mins at one time? Try two 15 min sessions or three 10 min sessions! You can also build up from shorter sessions to longer ones!

Find resources and information below:



**HLC - Geocaching & other activities**



**Bendigo Cycling & Walking Trails**



**Get Active Vic**



### What are the benefits?

- Time spent with friends and family
- Assists with emotional regulation
- Improved confidence
- Lower stress and anxiety
- Healthy growth & development
- Lowered risk of disease

### Tips:

- Sports such as football or netball.
- Bike or scooter riding
- Swimming
- Dancing in the house
- Yoga
- Walking to/from school
- Walking the dog
- Helping with chores around the house
- Make it a family activity!



www.bchs.com.au



## 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*

# FRIDAY, 27<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

PIZZA DAY MEAL

**\$6.00**

HAWAIIAN

OR

MEATLOVERS

OR

VEGETARIAN

OR

**GLUTEN FREE HAWAIIAN AVAILABLE**

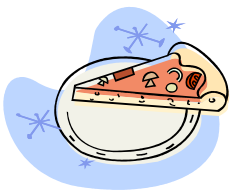
(additional cost)

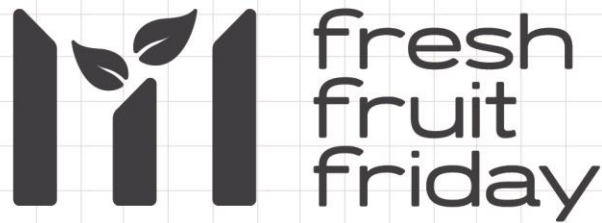
WITH PRIMA OR MILK

(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 – put 27<sup>th</sup> March as order date
- Orders need to be placed by 9:00am, WEDNESDAY, 25<sup>TH</sup> MARCH  
Late orders cannot be accepted.
- Iced treats will be available as normal

**THE CANTEEN'S NORMAL FOOD MENU  
IS NOT AVAILABLE ON THIS DAY**








# fresh fruit friday



Running for over a decade, the program now delivers 1,300kg of free fruit to Bendigo school children every week.

 mckern steel™  
foundation

   @mckernsteelfoundation

Made possible thanks to McKern Foundation and our supporting partners:



Want to support the program? Contact us to sponsor and provide more fruit to your school.