



Calder Chronicle

NUMBER 6

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THURSDAY, 12TH MARCH 2026

CALENDAR

Friday, 13th March
MONDAY, 16TH MARCH
Wednesday, 18th March

Friday, 20th March
Saturday, 21st March

Monday, 23rd March
Tuesday, 24th March
Wednesday, 25th March
Friday, 27th March

Monday 30th March

THURSDAY, 2ND APRIL

Scholastic Book Club Orders due at the Office or via online LOOP 3pm
SRC BADGES PRESENTED AT ASSEMBLY
P&F AGM - 2:00pm, all welcome

Early Harmony Day – WEAR ORANGE & National Ride2School Day
Cultural Diversity Week commences:

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

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 will be

SCHOOL PHOTO DAY (ordering done on Compass)

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

LAST DAY FOR TERM 1 – EASTER HAT PARADE 9am!!

**P&F Easter Raffle, Guess the Eggs & Colouring Comp drawn
2:30pm finish**

School Organisation

Dear Parents, Carers and Greater Community,

Week 7 has been short but busy with NAPLAN testing commencing, making very busy times for our Middle and Senior Units. With three weeks to go of term, we are hard at work ensuring learning is at the forefront along with Wellbeing. We have some busy weeks ahead, so making sure children are at school every day is of paramount importance.

NAPLAN

Testing of Year 3 and 5 commenced yesterday. Unfortunately, there were troubles across the country and testing for our Year 5's was disrupted. We were able to pause and then reset... with testing done a little later when the problems were ironed out. Year 3's were not affected as the writing test done was on paper, not online.

Our testing body, ACARA, has shared this information for families to explain the situation with NAPLAN testing yesterday: *As you may have been made aware, NAPLAN testing was impacted this morning by technical issues with the national assessment platform. ACARA, the national body that oversees testing, has confirmed that testing resumed shortly after the initial incident. ACARA recognises the significant impact to students disrupted during their NAPLAN writing assessments this morning, and for that we apologise unreservedly. Schools have been informed to continue NAPLAN testing as per their planned test schedules. ACARA will continue to work closely with states and territories to support students to complete their NAPLAN tests. Measures are in place to ensure students are not disadvantaged because of this technical issue. Should parents and carers have any further queries about the NAPLAN disruptions this morning, they should contact their child's school in the first instance.*

We completed the Year 3 Reading test today online and this went smoothly, so things seem to have been rectified. Tomorrow testing will continue for Year 3 and 5 and into next week. Catch up tests will also be scheduled when children return from being away due to illness or holiday. We have the next two weeks to do this. If you do not want your child to participate, please contact me to organise a withdrawal rather than keeping them at home and missing school.

STAFFING

This week Kate Dole returned from sick leave on Wednesday. Her class were very happy to have her back on deck 😊. A big thank you to Tracy Pengelly who did an amazing job with the class during Kate's time away. Sadly, Wendy Hicks has had a significant death in her family and has had to take bereavement leave for the rest of this week and next. Amanda Bateman will step in for much of next week and will cover the class as she normally does on a Friday. This will provide their class with a consistent and familiar teacher for the bulk of time Wendy is away. On Tuesday we also welcomed back our Chaplain, Chris Powers, after spending a few weeks caring for his young family. Chris has resumed working with children in small groups etc and will touch base with those 1:1 who have returned consent and need the support.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL (SRC)

Our badge presentation for our SRC is next Monday, 16th March (9:00am). A reminder that our SRC include the following students from their classes: SENIOR KATE: Aria and Mason. SENIOR BRETT: Ella and James. SENIOR JAYDEN: Sonny and Lucas. MIDDLE PAULINE: Rhemmi and Mitchell. MIDDLE EMMA/DEAN: Matilda and Hendrix. MIDDLE WENDY/AMANDA: Mia and Franklin. Families of the SRC are invited to come to Monday's assembly to see them presented with their badge. I'll commence working with them each fortnight moving forward.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - repeat

We have our AGM for Parents and Friends coming up on Wednesday, 18th 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 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 the 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 now to ensure the children in our school now get the benefits of our fundraising.

EASTER RAFFLE AND COMPETITIONS

Our P&F do major fundraising for our school 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 extra also! A big thank you to the families who have donated goods for 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. Why not join in the fun?

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our first meeting of School Council will be on Tuesday, 24th March at 7:00pm in our library. This will be our ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and is open to the public who may attend but not contribute. During this meeting, the Annual Report is shared. At 7:30pm we will then have our March meeting. This will be the first meeting for the newly elected members 😊.

MELBOURNE CUP FAMILY FUN DAY - CHANGE

Whilst a long way off, we wanted to advise the community that we are moving our MELBOURNE CUP FAMILY FUN DAY to the SPRING GULLY ATHLETICS TRACK. Our focus will change to a formalised School Sports Day, with all ages competing in events and races. We also plan to have our P&F there with a food stall and focus the day around physical activity, fun and participation. Melbourne Cup Day falls on the first Tuesday of November, so you have plenty of time to prepare. Our dress up and hats will not be part of the day anymore – instead we plan to have an annual Easter Hat parade and a Book Dress Up morning – ensuring that none of the fun is lost 😊.

EASTER HAT PARADE!!

We have an Easter Hat Parade scheduled for the morning of Thursday, 2nd April at 9:00am. All children are encouraged to come to school with **Easter Themed** hats (or another themed hat of a child's choice if Easter is not celebrated). We will have each class do a couple of laps of the undercover area, with judges selected to choose finalists... and awards presented to the winners in each class. This is also the last day of Term 1 and a fun way to finish, so why not get behind our first EASTER HAT PARADE by helping your child prepare. There's no need to go to a lot of trouble – it's all in the name of fun... so please don't feel you have to spend hours on the construction.

SCHOOL PHOTO DAY - repeat

Our annual school photo day is fast approaching – with MSP PHOTOGRAPHY here on Monday, 30th 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 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! This Award presentation will happen straight after our Easter Hat Parade on Thursday the 2nd of April 😊.

SMILE SQUAD

Due to staff illness, they were unable to commence last Friday but have been here this week seeing students whose parents had consented. This year there won't be physical notes going home, it will be done digitally, so please check your emails for any from Smile Squad.

STUDENT SUPPORT GROUP (SSG) MEETINGS – NEXT WEEK

Next Thursday and Friday, the 19th and 20th of March, Ainsley Stanley (our Disability Inclusion Lead), class teachers and parents of nominated children will meet for the Term 1 SSG meetings. These meetings are of paramount importance and run once a term for those children and families where a need is required. If invited to an SSG, please ensure you keep to the appointment time or advise early if you can't make it so we can try and reschedule. This is due to the cost associated with releasing staff to attend these important catch ups. We are hoping to keep these meetings short and focused at around half an hour to ensure that families can prioritise this shorter time between work commitments.

HARMONY DAY AND NATIONAL RIDE2SCHOOL DAY

Harmony Day falls on Saturday, 21st March this year, however we will be recognising this important date on Friday, 20th instead. Friday is also NATIONAL RIDE2SCHOOL DAY – so we are combining the two. Next Friday, 20th (not tomorrow) we encourage children to walk, ride or scoot to school from Phillis Street... meeting staff at 8:30am for a departure. We also encourage students to come out of uniform and wear ORANGE, the colour for HARMONY DAY/WEEK. Let's show our support for cultural diversity by wearing orange on Friday, 20th March. If you don't have an orange t shirt, why not do an orange head band, hair spray, ribbon, sneakers, shorts etc. As we have a diverse community with different cultural backgrounds, let's show how embracing we are of our differences by wearing orange.

TERM 2 ASSEMBLIES – CHANGE OF DAY

Whilst next term is a little way off, we are going to trial doing our assembly on 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 in the undercover area 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.

MCKERNS FRESH FRUIT

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

Here are Pru & Willy with their pear & peach!

BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to Jax E, Bobby S & Frankie C.

It's been a change to have some cooler weather, however next week the weather warms up again, so please remember to have your child at school with a hat and drink bottle each day 😊. Hoping your Friday is productive and your weekend even better.

Until next week...



Matt Pearce, Principal

FOUNDATION NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For being a responsible learner by reading at home every night:

FC *Lyla M*
FN *Freya C*

Catherine, Nicole & Nick

JUNIOR UNIT NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For displaying our School Values by playing safely in the yard:

JAR *Rylan E*
JJ *Layla B*

Ainsley, Roberta & Jen

MIDDLE UNIT NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For achieving great spelling results:

MED *Bailey F*
MP *Mila C*
MWA *Claudia K*

Emma, Dean, Pauline, Wendy & Amanda

SENIOR UNIT NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For managing emotions to make positive choices in the classroom and playground:

SB *Brady M*
SJ *Jacob S*
SK *Abigail H*

Brett, Jayden & Kate

THE RESILIENCE PROJECT

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

Empathy

Foundation	Theo H
Junior Unit	Poppy H
Middle Unit	Clementine W
Senior Unit	Oli M
Specialist	Zoe B

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 – 27th March. You can order on Compass, making sure you choose the 27th as the order date, and orders need to be in by Wednesday, 25th 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, 22nd April in Term 2.

PARENTS & FRIENDS NEWS

EASTER RAFFLE

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 😊. We have some of the prizes on display at the Office and they are looking fantastic, thanks again!

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, 30th March. Extras are available from the Office.

Thanks for your support

SCHOOL PHOTO DAY NEWS

Big Hill Primary School

Photo Day 2026

Date: Monday 30th March

To Order Photos:

Order via the Compass Portal.

Order your School Photos before midnight Monday 6th April

Late orders can be accepted after 6th 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.




msp
photography

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

SOCIAL MEDIA & CYBER SAFETY

Navigating the Digital World: Your GPS for the Online Adventure

Lost in the Digital Noise: Are We All Addicted?

Road Hazards: What Parents Need to Know About Roblox

If you have kids, chances are you have heard, "Muuuum, can I get more Robux?" shouted from somewhere between the couch cushions and the snack cupboard.

Roblox, or "Roadblox" as plenty of parents call it after the third request for screen time, is not just one game. It is a massive online platform made up of millions of user created games. Think obstacle courses, role plays, fashion runways, survival challenges, haunted houses and virtual pizza shops, all wrapped up in bright, blocky graphics that look about as threatening as a box of Lego. And that is exactly why it can catch families off guard.

How Roblox Actually Works

Unlike the games we grew up with, cartridge in, play, game over, go outside, Roblox is more like a giant digital footy oval, anyone can jump on and start a new game.

- Players create games for other players
- Kids can switch between games in seconds
- Most games include live chat features
- Players can message friends privately
- Some accounts can access voice chat

Because the content is user generated, it is a mixed bag. One minute your child might be running a virtual bakery. The next, they are in a dark role play game with strangers from who knows where. It is less sit down and finish a level, and more wander through an endless arcade.

The Chat Feature, Where the Real Risk Lies

For most families, the biggest road hazard is not the games themselves, it is the chat function.

Roblox allows

- Public chat inside games
- Private direct messages
- Friend requests from strangers
- Group chats
- Voice chat for eligible users

While filters are in place, kids are savvy, and unfortunately, so are people who do not have good intentions. Inappropriate conversations, grooming behaviour and requests to move to other apps, like Snapchat or Discord, are real concerns. It is a bit like letting your child roam the local park, but the park is global, and you cannot always see who is sitting on the seat nearby.

The eSafety Commissioner Steps In

Australia's eSafety Commissioner has recently put Roblox on notice as part of stronger moves to improve online safety for kids. Under new Online Safety powers, platforms are being pushed to

- Improve moderation systems
- Strengthen age verification
- Reduce exposure to harmful content
- Be more transparent about complaints

That is a solid step in the right direction. It is Canberra saying, "Righto, lift your game." But here is the honest question many parents are quietly asking over a cuppa, even with new rules, how safe will it really be? Regulation helps, but no filter or compliance notice replaces good old-fashioned supervision and conversation.

What Parents Can Do, Without Going Full Tech Ban

Banning it outright can sometimes backfire, it just moves the gaming to a mate's house. Instead, try a practical approach.

1. Set Up the Account Together: Use the correct birthdate, switch on parental controls, and do not just click agree faster than a sausage sizzle sells out.
2. Lock Down Communication: Set chat to friends only, or disable it for younger kids.
3. Keep Devices in Shared Spaces: If it is happening in the lounge room, you are far more likely to notice if something feels off.
4. Have the No Moving Platforms Chat: No one should ask your child to take a conversation elsewhere, full stop.
5. Check In Casually: Instead of grilling them like it is Question Time, try
 - Who were you playing with,
 - What was the game about,
 - Did anything weird pop up,
 - Making it normal to talk about it.

The Bigger Picture

Roblox is not automatically the villain of the story. For plenty of kids, it is creative, social and genuinely fun. It can build problem solving skills and even spark an interest in coding. But it is also a vast online ecosystem where adults and children can interact, and that means road hazards exist. Government pressure from the eSafety Commissioner adds an important layer of protection. Still, the strongest safety net is not an algorithm, it is informed parents who understand where their kids are hanging out online. Because in the digital world, there are not always speed signs, roundabouts or crossing guards. Sometimes the best safety feature is you, steady at the wheel, keeping an eye on the road ahead.

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

Kate

COMMUNITY NEWS



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



SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM TERM ONE 2026

These programs offer parents and their children aged 7-11 support with mental health and wellbeing. The one-hour sessions are run by mental health staff from the Loddon Children's Health & Wellbeing Local. Sessions are fun, educational and interactive. **Groups are small: five children with one parent per child attending.**



TOPICS

10am Handling Feelings learn to name feelings, identify the zone they are in and practice ways to handle feelings. Age group 7-11

11.30am Magnificent Me Age group 7-11 will explore what is unique to you and how you can appreciate yourself more every day.

2pm All about Anger learn what is going on in the body when your child is angry, and how to handle it differently. Age group 7-11

DATES AND LOCATIONS:

April 8th Maryborough, The Nest

April 9th Kyneton Omnia Community Health

April 13th Castlemaine, Delkava Health

April 14th Echuca, Echuca Health

April 17th Bendigo, The Local

Bookings are essential:

Please call 1800 433 977 or email us with your child's name, which sessions you want to attend, your name and contact details lcfhwlocals@bchs.com.au

We will be in touch at least two weeks prior to the session to confirm details including how to access the venue.

FRIDAY, 27TH MARCH

PIZZA DAY MEAL

\$6.00

HAWAIIAN

OR

MEATLOVERS

OR

VEGETARIAN

OR

GLUTEN FREE HAWAIIAN AVAILABLE

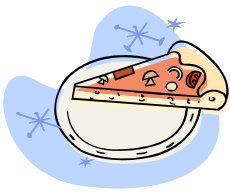
(additional cost)

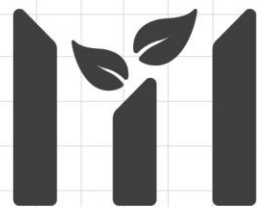
WITH PRIMA OR MILK

(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 27th March as order date
- Orders need to be placed by 9:00am, WEDNESDAY, 25TH 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.