



Calder Chronicle

NUMBER 7

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THURSDAY, 19TH MARCH 2026

CALENDAR

Friday, 20th March

Early Harmony Day – WEAR ORANGE

Saturday, 21st March

& National Ride2School Day

Cultural Diversity Week commences:

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

Monday, 23rd March

Year 1 Stay & Play – please consent on Compass

Tuesday, 24th March

School Council AGM 7pm

Wednesday, 25th March

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

Friday, 27th March

PIZZA DAY – no normal food items available – iced treats will be

Monday 30th March

SCHOOL PHOTO DAY (ordering done on Compass)

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

THURSDAY, 2ND APRIL

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

Student Awards Assembly after parade

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

2:30pm finish

School Organisation

Dear Parents, Carers and Greater Community,

This week has been very busy as we finished off the formal NAPLAN testing and complete catch ups. These will continue to occur until Monday of next week, hopefully seeing us catch the bulk of students who were away on scheduled test days. In addition to NAPLAN, the school has been very busy as we continue to work productively in class delivering a comprehensive Curriculum. We make the most of every day so you can expect learning to continue right up until the final day of term. With this in mind, please try to have your child at school every day where possible.

NAPLAN

As mentioned above, this is almost complete for 2026, with only a few catch ups to be completed before Monday. Results for NAPLAN will be available later in the year and parents will have these sent home directly to them at that time.

STAFFING

Wendy has remained on Bereavement Leave this week, with Amanda Bateman working the extra days to provide consistency in their class. Kate Dole has also required a couple of days out for medical check-ups, missing school on Monday and today. Fortunately, we should have Kate back tomorrow to see out the end of the week.

From Monday, Amy Mountjoy will commence teaching rounds at a local primary school and will be absent for the last two weeks of Term 1 and the first two weeks of Term 2. Due to this Amy's MULTILIT lessons will pause until her return. Pauline Mulcair will be out of her class two days this week (Wednesday) and tomorrow and will be covered by Tracy Pengelly for consistency.

INDUSTRIAL ACTION / STOP WORK NEXT TUESDAY

Next Tuesday, 24th March is scheduled as a day of INDUSTRIAL ACTION / STOP WORK by the AUSTRALIAN EDUCATION UNION (AEU). Teachers and Education Support who are AEU members may decide to take action, and this will ultimately affect school operations.

Members have until close of business tomorrow to advise me of their intention to strike and then on Monday I will advise the community of what this looks like for Tuesday. I cannot advise before this time as I will not yet know who is taking action. Apologies!

I anticipate that we may have some classes not covered and due to this families will need to make other arrangements, unless of course you are an essential worker (eg: Police, Ambulance, Nurse etc) and require care. In this instance I will invite you to email me to arrange for your child to be onsite and supervised for the day – this process will be communicated to you on Monday.

PLANNING WEEK

Next week is our PLANNING WEEK for Term 2, with Units released for one of the days to undertake their planning of curriculum and learning for the next term. Due to this, normal specialist programs will be affected with some classes having a Casual Relief Teacher instead of a specialist program. Just advising so you know that a normal timetable for your child's class won't be in operation due to planning next week. MIDDLE UNIT classes will be involved in planning on Tuesday, FOUNDATION and SENIOR UNIT on Wednesday and JUNIOR UNIT on Thursday.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Yesterday our P&F met, as advertised, to hold their AGM to elect new office bearers for the next 12 months. Congratulations to the following parents for taking on important positions over the next 12 months: Mel Guthrie (President), Sharon Jones (Vice President), Liz Grigg (Secretary) and Samara Vance (Treasurer). Our P&F are really hoping to see some new members, particularly families of children in Foundation, Year 1 and 2 – so don't be shy. Let our Office know if you are keen to make contact 😊.

EASTER RAFFLE AND COMPETITIONS

Don't forget our wonderful raffle and competitions underway. Please try and sell your tickets and return them with the funds by the last week of school. Extra books are available. Don't forget there is a GUESS THE EGGS IN THE JAR and COLOURING COMPETITION (Toddler, Foundation, Junior Unit, Middle Unit, Senior Unit and Parent/Carer) running for 50c in our Office.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our first meeting of the newly elected School Council will be next week 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 newly elected members 😊. Documentation for this meeting will be shared via email by 4:00pm Friday. Please keep a look out for this in your inbox if you are part of School Council.

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 your 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 – School captains & SRC

Our annual school photo day is fast approaching – with MSP PHOTOGRAPHY coming on Monday, 30th March. Ordering is on Compass, so check your app and order now 😊. If you wish to order School Captains or SRC photos, they are \$20 each and have to be ordered at the Office with cash only.

STUDENT AWARDS - repeat

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 including 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 😊.

STUDENT SUPPORT GROUP (SSG) MEETINGS – TODAY AND TOMORROW

Today and tomorrow, Ainsley Stanley (our Disability Inclusion Lead), class teachers and parents of nominated children met / 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 you are scheduled to attend an SSG tomorrow, please try hard to make the appointment and advise the Office if not so we can reschedule.

HARMONY DAY AND NATIONAL RIDE2SCHOOL DAY

Harmony Day falls on Saturday, 21st March but we will recognise this important date TOMORROW, Friday, 20th. It is also NATIONAL RIDE2SCHOOL DAY – so we are combining the two. We encourage children to walk, ride or scoot to school from Phillis Street, meeting staff at 8:30am. We also encourage students to come out of uniform and wear ORANGE, the colour for HARMONY DAY. Let's show our support for cultural diversity by wearing orange TOMORROW. 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. This Out of Uniform Day for Harmony Day is free of charge 😊.

SMILE SQUAD

They have now finished the dental sessions at school. There are a few students that haven't been seen as yet, and Smile Squad will contact parents directly to arrange an appointment.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL (SRC)

It was wonderful to see our SRC members wearing their badges this week following Monday's presentation at assembly. We met for the first time on Tuesday and will meet again next week on Thursday, 26th March to discuss our end of term fundraiser and more.

TERM 2 ASSEMBLIES – repeat

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 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.

EVACUATION DRILL

Next Wednesday, 25th March we will be holding the first of our Emergency Drills for the year. For our Foundation / new families, we hold one practise drill each term. This term we will be evacuating to the Tiger Turf. Please reassure your child/ren that this is only a drill and to help prepare us in case of an emergency.

MCKERNS FRESH FRUIT

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

Here are Poppy & Harry with their orange & apple!



BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to Rahm, Mannix, Lyvia, Peyton & Valentine.

With two weeks to go and a short last week, it's really coming down to the wire with holidays not far away. Still lots to do between now and then though, so hoping we see your child/ren at school every day moving forward.

Until next week...

Matt Pearce, Principal

FOUNDATION NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For being responsible by moving safely in the classroom:

FC Annie T
FN Marcus K

Catherine, Nicole & Nick

JUNIOR UNIT NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For enthusiastically participating in classroom discussions and activities:

JAR Axel P
JJ Nixon L

Ainsley, Roberta & Jen

MIDDLE UNIT NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For showing persistence during NAPLAN:

MED Imahni V
MP Maci M
MWA Ryan B

Emma, Dean, Pauline, Wendy & Amanda

SENIOR UNIT NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For staying present and engaged during lessons and learning activities:

SB Vincenzo P
SJ Sienna B
SK Rami A

Brett, Jayden & Kate

THE RESILIENCE PROJECT

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

Mindfulness

Foundation	Evie H
Junior Unit	Everly F
Middle Unit	Poppet B
Senior Unit	Hannah G
Specialist	Zelda L

CANTEEN NEWS

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

VICTORIAN PREMIERS' READING CHALLENGE

The Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge is now open and Big Hill PS is excited to be taking part! Login details for the Premiers' Reading Challenge will be sent home with students this week. Please keep these details in a safe place so your child can log their reading and take part in the challenge. The Challenge is open to all Victorian children from birth to Year 10 and aims to help young readers develop a lifelong love of reading. It is not a competition; it is a personal challenge for children to read a set number of books by 4 September 2026.

Children from Foundation to Year 2 are encouraged to read or 'experience' 30 books with their parents and teachers. Children from Year 3 to 10 are challenged to read 15 books. All children who meet the Challenge will receive a certificate of achievement signed by the Victorian Premier and former Premiers.

To read the Premiers' letter to parents, view the booklist and for more information about the Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge, visit www.vic.gov.au/premiers-readingchallenge/ Head to <https://vprc.eduweb.vic.gov.au/home> to login and start the challenge!

If you have any questions please contact our Premiers' Reading Challenge coordinator Emma Tuckwell or Ainsley Stanley emma.tuckwell@education.vic.gov.au or ainsley.stanley@education.vic.gov.au

Happy reading! <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/26-010-PRC-Socials-Primary.png>

SOCIAL MEDIA & CYBER SAFETY

Navigating the Digital World: Your GPS for the Online Adventure

When Social Media Stops Being Social

Most parents know the scene. You call out that dinner is ready. No answer. You call again. Still nothing. Eventually you wander down the hallway and find your child glued to a screen, thumb scrolling or clicking like they are trying to win a gold medal in competitive flicking or clicking. *Welcome to modern parenting.*

Researchers are increasingly talking about something called *problematic social media use*, which is a fancy way of saying the scrolling has gone from a bit of fun to something that starts running the show. Problematic use looks a lot like addiction. Kids struggle to control how long they are online, get cranky or restless when they cannot check their phone, ignore other activities because the feed keeps pulling them back in, and start seeing real life consequences from spending too much time online. In short, the phone stops being the tool and starts acting like the boss.

When the Scroll Starts Costing

Studies have found that young people who fall into this pattern often report lower mental and social wellbeing compared with kids who use social media in moderation or not at all. There are also links to higher levels of risky behaviour, including increased substance use. Then there is sleep, or more accurately the lack of it. Teenagers already seem hard wired to stay up later than a possum on a power line. Add a glowing phone beside the pillow and suddenly bedtime drifts well past sensible. Late nights turn into tired mornings, which turn into foggy brains at school. Teachers see it. Parents see it. Anyone who has tried to wake a teenager before 9am on a weekend definitely sees it. Less sleep can affect mood, concentration and learning, which is not exactly ideal when school already demands plenty of focus.

Experts Are Paying Attention

Health experts around the world are starting to raise the alarm about how quickly this is growing. Hans Henri P Kluge from the World Health Organisation has pointed out that social media is a bit like Vegemite. In small amounts it can be fine, even useful. But spread it too thick and things can go downhill pretty quickly. While social media can help young people connect and share ideas, excessive use has also been linked to depression, anxiety, bullying and poor academic performance. One of the biggest problems is that digital literacy has not kept up with technology. Kids are often navigating online spaces long before many adults fully understand how those spaces work. That leaves parents, schools and governments scrambling to keep up with a moving target. Australia has already started moving in this direction, with restricting social media access for younger children and strengthening age limits on platforms. Exactly how effective these changes will be in the long run is still up for debate, but it shows the issue has well and truly landed on the national radar. When governments start looking at rules around kids and technology, you know it is no longer just a "kids these days" conversation around the dinner table.

What Parents Can Do Without Turning Into the Tech Police

The good news is social media itself is not the villain. Like most things, the trick is balance. Start with conversations. Not the interrogation across the kitchen table, more the curious chat. Ask what apps they like, who they talk to, what they enjoy watching. Keep an eye on sleep. Phones quietly sneaking into bedrooms at night are one of the biggest culprits when it comes to teenagers running on empty. Encourage time away from screens. Sport, hobbies, hanging out with friends, kicking a footy in the backyard, anything that reminds them the real world still exists. And perhaps the hardest one of all, model it yourself. Kids are quick to notice when adults say "put the phone down" while checking emails during dinner.

The Bigger Picture

Social media is not going anywhere. It is part of growing up in the digital world. But just like learning to cross a busy road or ride a bike without stacking it into the nearest fence, kids need guidance to navigate it safely. The goal is not to panic or ban everything. It is to help young people learn how to use technology without letting it take over their lives. Because at the end of the day, the most important connections kids will ever make are not on a screen. They are the ones happening right in front of them, usually while someone is calling them to the dinner table for the third time.

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

Kate



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

THE RESILIENCE PROJECT™

GEM Chats Gratitude

CREATING WELLBEING HABITS & CONNECTION

GEM Chats help families practice The Resilience Project's principles, offering a simple wellbeing check-in while **building stronger connections through daily conversations.**

HOW TO USE GEM CHATS

Make GEM Chats a part of your dinner routine to reflect, check in, and practice gratitude.

Try these prompts:

- ★ What are you **grateful** for today?
- ★ Share a moment that **made you smile.**
- ★ How can you **support** someone tomorrow?
- ★ What was the **best part** of your day?

In **21 days** of practising gratitude, you **rewire your brain** to start scanning the world for the **positives.** You become **three times** more likely to **notice a positive.**



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE RESILIENCE PROJECT, HEAD TO:

The place to be these holidays!

TheirCare

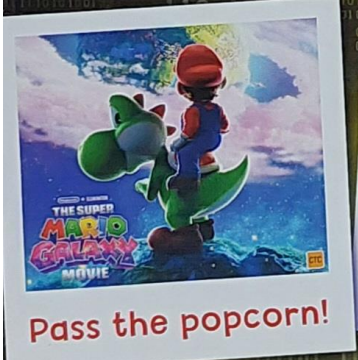
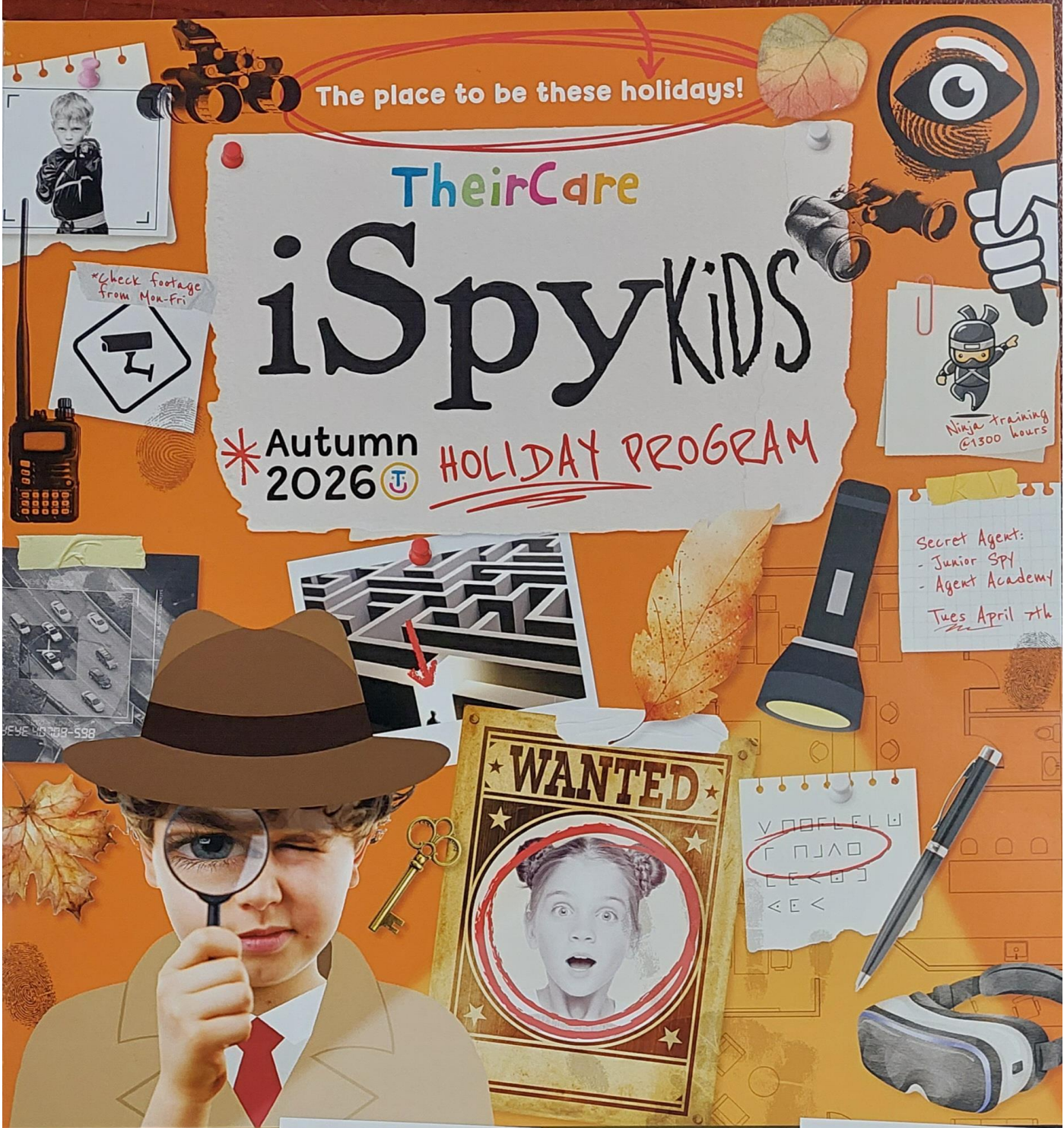
iSpyKIDS

*Autumn 2026  HOLIDAY PROGRAM

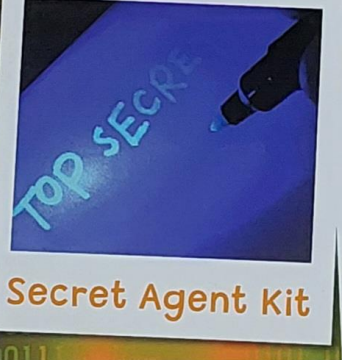
*Check footage from Mon-Fri

Ninja training @1300 hours

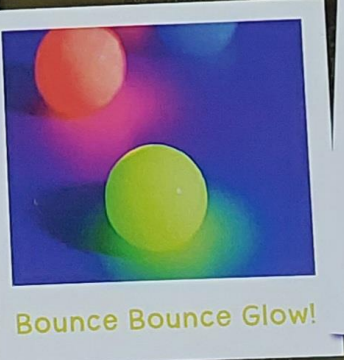
Secret Agent:
- Junior SPI
- Agent Academy
Tues April 7th



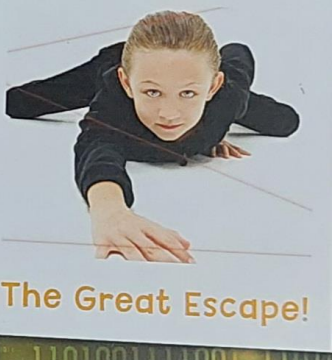
Pass the popcorn!



Secret Agent Kit



Bounce Bounce Glow!



The Great Escape!

Book now at TheirCare.com.au

Save up to 90% with the Child Care Subsidy

Scan to find your nearest holiday program location



TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

MONDAY



7 APR



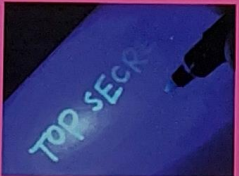
Mission: Possible!

Become a secret agent for the day with highly classified fun! Decode and discover secret messages, test your knowledge in a trivia Pacman group game, sharpen your observation skills in wink detective, create clever pipe cleaner disguises, and explore sound and communication with a hands-on cup phone STEM challenge.

From as low as \$6.59*
Full fee \$65.90**



8 APR



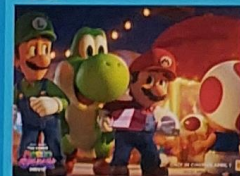
Secret Agent Kit

Step into the life of a secret agent! Use the blue light secret pen to reveal hidden messages, see the world in reverse with your spy glasses and unlock the detective within! Then keep the mystery going as you collect DIY detective fingerprints and put your skills to the test in an exciting detective group game!

From as low as \$8.18*
Full fee \$81.77**



9 APR



Super Mario Galaxy

The Super Mario Galaxy Movie is an animated film based on the world of Super Mario Bros., and follows The Super Mario Bros. Movie, which was released in 2023. Mario ventures into space, exploring cosmic worlds and tackling galactic challenges far from the familiar Mushroom Kingdom.

From as low as \$11.77*
Full fee \$117.70**



10 APR



Apple-icious Autumn

An apple a day brings autumn play our way! We will get to create vibrant and colourful autumn wreaths, explore all sorts of textures and designs with leaf printing, and we will then head outdoors for a rainbow scavenger hunt filled with movement, creativity and lots of fresh Autumn air!

From as low as \$6.59*
Full fee \$65.90**



13 APR



The Great Escape

Step into stealth mode and put your skills to the test in The Greatest Escape ever! Take part in a series of challenges. Tackle the Ninja Training Group Game, navigate the tricky Construction Tape Maze Challenge, craft your own secret code, design a daring DIY Wanted Poster, and race to freedom in the ultimate Ninja Escape Room.

From as low as \$6.59*
Full fee \$65.90**

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

MONDAY



14 APR



Way Of The Ninja

Gear up for an action-packed adventure as a ninja! Get ready to test your ninja skills as you play and navigate through an array of thrilling and obstacle courses. Afterwards, the fun continues back at service with a fast-paced game of cops and robbers, and crafting STEM Autumn Leaf Boats!

From as low as \$12.97*
Full fee \$129.69**



15 APR



Bounce Bounce Glow

Light up the fun with your very own DIY Glow in the Dark Bouncy Ball Kit! Children will create their own glowing bouncy balls and watch them come to life in the dark. Then the action continues as we challenge each other in a fast-paced downhill/handball tournament and test teamwork and balance in the blind leap group challenge.

From as low as \$8.18*
Full fee \$81.77**



16 APR



Agent Academy

Get ready for a day in the life of an agent at Agent Academy! Challenge yourself with fun fitness activities, build strength and teamwork with team-based activities and challenges! Afterwards, keep the fun going with an over and under relay race challenge, then get more creative as we make our very own ninja stress ball!

From as low as \$9.34*
Full fee \$93.40**



17 APR



Wilderness Wonders

Embark on an exciting wildlife journey, where you will meet fascinating animals and explore their incredible world! Then back at service we will jump into more fun activities! Craft colourful and vibrant 3D paper flower chatterboxes and DIY Autumn window stickers!

From as low as \$11.77*
Full fee \$117.70**



20 APR



Commando Kids

Attention recruits! It's time to gear up for Commando Kids! Put your memory to the test with a fast paced Memory Game on the Move, take the challenge of untangling yourself in The Human Knot Challenge, craft sneaky Pipe Cleaner Ninjas, decode secret messages with Invisible Clues, and race through a playground obstacle course.

From as low as \$6.59*
Full fee \$65.90**

FRIDAY, 27TH MARCH

PIZZA DAY MEAL

\$6.00

HAWAIIAN

OR

MEATLOVERS

OR

VEGETARIAN

OR

GLUTEN FREE HAWAIIAN AVAILABLE

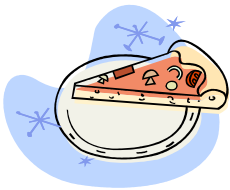
(additional cost)

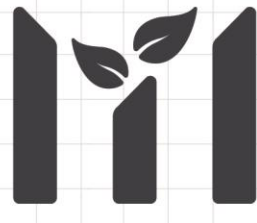
WITH PRIMA OR MILK

(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.