



Calder Chronicle

NUMBER 9

Phone (03) 5447 7022

Email: big.hill.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Website: www.bighillps.vic.edu.au

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

WEDNESDAY, 1ST APRIL 2026

CALENDAR

THURSDAY, 2ND APRIL

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

Student Awards Assembly after parade

OUT OF UNIFORM DAY – gold coin donation please

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

2:30pm finish

Monday, 20th April

Tuesday, 21st April

First Day of Term 2

Footsteps commences – whole school – please consent and pay on Compass ASAP

School Organisation

Dear Parents, Carers and Greater Community,

With only tomorrow to go, Term 1 is almost complete. Tomorrow is rather busy though and Term 2 is not too far away, so advise having a read through today's newsletter to stay up-to-date and prepared. Being on the front foot is the best way forward 😊

STAFFING

This week we have had Education Support officers, Jenny Brown and Amy Mountjoy, away all week. This has given us a chance to trial some young casual Education Support workers – with Keely Farnell, Jaci Rutter and Molly Heard Van Emmerik all working different days this week. When we return next term Jenny and Amy will continue their absence for the first two weeks of school. Illness has also struck and taken Education Support workers – Tammy and Clare out of the picture also – meaning that we have been short staffed with our Education Support due to no Jenny, Amy, Tammy and Clare on set days. We welcomed Eve Acquisto back to Big Hill today also, covering Kate's class due to a medical appointment.

END OF TERM OUT OF UNIFORM

Our SRC have met and decided that tomorrow is out of uniform, with students encouraged to bring a donation for the ROYAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL GOOD FRIDAY APPEAL. If your child would like to come out of uniform tomorrow, Thursday the 2nd of April, please remember that they should be SunSmart and will need a monetary donation for the RCH. A gold coin is enough, however if you would like to donate more, this is welcomed as the RCH is a facility that many of our families have needed in the past...and sadly, may need in the future.

EASTER RAFFLE AND COMPETITIONS

Thanks to everyone who sold tickets, donated prizes, and supported the competitions. We will announce winners tomorrow at our awards ceremony. A big thank you to our P&F for coordinating this wonderful fundraiser. We will advise how successful it has been early next term 😊

EASTER HAT PARADE

We have an Easter Hat Parade scheduled for tomorrow morning at 9am. All children are encouraged to come to school with **Easter Themed** hats. Some children may not celebrate Easter, so we welcome a themed hat of their choice – eg flowers, Big Hill themed, sports themed, Character/Movie themed etc. It's also totally fine for any child to choose their own hat theme even if they celebrate Easter. It's all just for a bit of fun. We will have each class do a couple of laps of the undercover area with participation the focus, rather than having designated winners. All students who make the effort will receive a certificate of appreciation.

HAMPERS FOR FAMILIES

We have multiple hampers bagged in our foyer for families who would appreciate the additional support of some groceries heading into the holidays. The photos below show what's on offer, so don't be shy...drop in and help yourself to one. We only ask that adults collect these hampers please. Should you need more than what is on offer reach out to one of us...Erin, Janet, Dean, Ainsley, Chris or myself. Happy to help. Alternatively email me to have one sent home Matthew.Pearce@education.vic.gov.au. If you are shy or prefer to be discreet, drop in at 3.30pm when things have quietened down...and help yourself. Remember we are here to help you. Don't do it alone.

SCHOOL PHOTO DAY

School photo day went off really well on Monday. A big thank you to our School and Vice Captains for their excellent work organising classes for MSP throughout the morning. If you missed ordering photos, you can still do so on Compass, ordering after 6th April will incur a processing fee. Don't forget also that School Captain and SRC photo envelopes went home with these students...and need to be returned tomorrow to ensure you don't miss out.

ATTENDANCE

We have just updated our Attendance Policy which is now live on our webpage. Please remember if your child is away, you need to contact the school to advise. Children should be at school every day unless there is a valid reason. If you do not let us know why your child is away, we are legally required to contact you by COMPASS message, text or phone call. Please work with us by advising early in the day if your child is away. I'll be checking through attendance rates during the holidays and emailing families to advise of low attendance percentages in the hopes that families become more aware and work with the school to improve attendance. If you hear from me, it's just a friendly reminder of attendance goals and how we can improve this together moving forward.

ASSEMBLY REMINDER FOR TERM 2

Remember when we return next term our assemblies will move to Friday afternoons at 2.55pm. We are trialling this new time next term to see if it makes Monday mornings more productive, less hectic and smoother for students.

STUDENT AWARDS

Tomorrow, straight after our EASTER HAT PARADE (around 9.30am) we will present our Term 1 winners. Selected students are announced in today's newsletter, so take a look and be very proud if your loved one has been chosen. Hopefully you can make it tomorrow to see them presented on stage. Congratulations to all Term 1 winners!

EARLY DISMISSAL – TOMORROW, THURSDAY THE 2ND OF APRIL

The school holidays commence TOMORROW, Thursday the 2nd of April, with school dismissing at 2.30pm in line with schools across the region. Please adjust your pickup times to 2.30pm as a result of the early dismissal or book your child into OSHC by contacting THEIRCARE if you cannot arrive earlier. Our Ravenswood and Kangaroo Flat Town Bus will run at this earlier time also – so please adjust your pickup times from bus stops to ensure your child is not left waiting alone. Parents should note that dismissal is at 2.30pm and children must be picked up by 2.45pm when our duty teachers leave the yard. Our Office will also close at 3pm, so please make contact before this time if you require anything.

HOLIDAY SECURITY

Whilst we have CCTV cameras installed around the school, there's nothing more powerful than a community watching over school when driving nearby. If you see any suspicious behaviour on the school grounds over the next two weeks, don't hesitate to report it directly to Victoria Police by calling 000. They will come and doublecheck – so don't worry if you aren't sure if reporting is required. Better to be safe than sorry!

TERM 2 RETURN

Term 2 will commence on Monday the 20th of April at 9am. We look forward to seeing everyone back onsite ready for another productive term at this time.

MCKERNS FRESH FRUIT

We would like to thank McKerns and sponsors for supplying the fruit throughout Term 1, the students love receiving this delivery each week.

BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to Bailey F, Makenzie B, Diamond T, Harrison B, Zaylan D, Ruby S, Maisie C, Cooper C, Piper C & Parker H.

Term 1 has been very successful. Our Foundation students have settled in well and all other classes are working extremely well! Behaviour has improved significantly from the end of last year and class time has been very productive. I thank you and our staff for the outstanding work you have done to ensure your child/ren have blossomed in Term 1. With continued work for the remaining terms, we are set for a very positive year. With the Easter break commencing please be safe on the roads during this busy time. I look forward to seeing everyone back in Term 2.

Kind regards, Happy Easter if you celebrate and happy holidays

Matt Pearce, Principal

Navigating the Digital World: Your GPS for the Online Adventure Holiday? More Like *Hide Your Data!*

Ah, holidays. The sun, the sand, and the sacred freedom of switching off... unless your phone keeps pinging like a kookaburra on espresso. With fuel prices keeping many of us closer to home this year, it's tempting to think a "staycation" means zero worries, but your digital life still needs looking after.

Wi-Fi Wonderland: Or Not

Free hotel, café, or even your mate's "guest Wi-Fi" can feel like striking gold, but sometimes it's more like a croc in the billabong, looks safe, but don't get too close. Avoid logging into banking apps or sharing personal info unless you've got a proper VPN. Otherwise, you might return from your backyard BBQ with a tan *and* someone else's online shopping spree on your tab.

Social Media Flex: Think Twice

Posting that flawless sunset pic from your local beach or a cheeky shot of your backyard cricket. Cute! But also telling every wannabe burglar you're taking a day off. Consider scheduling posts for later or just enjoy the moment offline. Your mates will survive one day without seeing your avocado smash or the tragic collapse of your sandcastle.

Charging Stations Aren't Innocent

Airport USB ports look handy, like finding a sausage sizzle on a hot day, but plug in at your peril. Public charging can be a sneaky malware delivery. Bring your own charger and stick to wall sockets. Your phone (and dignity) will thank you.

Passwords Are Like Sunscreen

Slap them on generously and often! Reusing passwords is basically inviting cybercrime to your beachside BBQ. Make them strong, unique, and don't scribble them on a napkin next to your Tim Tams.

Backup Before You Bask

Nothing ruins a holiday faster than a drowned phone, stolen bag, or a rogue magpie swooping down and taking your camera. Cloud backups are your best mate here, so your snaps of the surf, the shrimp on the barbie, or even your ill-fated attempt at cricket on the sand aren't gone forever.

Beware the "Freebies" Trap

Free apps, giveaways, or dodgy travel apps can be more dangerous than a redback in your doona. If it looks too good to be true, it probably is. Check permissions and reviews before downloading, or risk getting more than just a virus, like a lifetime supply of spam emails.

Whether you're exploring the coast or just your own backyard thanks to fuel prices, enjoy your holiday like a true Aussie: barefoot, sunburnt, and with all your digital ducks safely in a row. Because nothing's worse than coming back from a staycation only to find your online life has gone walkabout!

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

PARENTS & FRIENDS NEWS

EASTER RAFFLE

Thank you so much to everyone who donated items and purchased tickets, it was fantastic 😊. Winners will be announced at tomorrow's assembly and as a Compass post. Happy Easter everyone 😊.

EASTER COLOURING COMPETITION/GUESS THE EGGS IN THE JAR

Winners will be announced at assembly tomorrow with prizes awarded to them 😊.

MOTHERS' DAY STALL / RAFFLE

This will be held next term in week 3, and raffle tickets will be sent home early next term. Donations of chocolate, wine glasses, tissue paper, mugs, beauty products etc would be greatly appreciated 😊.

Thanks for your support

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>

THIS RIAC ONE NEEDS TO GO IN, SENT BY DEAN / CAROLINE – THANKS 😊



RIAC's Tips for Carers/Parents of Neurodiverse and/or Autistic children **Tips for successful school camps and excursions**

Attending school camps and excursions is often an exciting part of the school year. However, for neurodiverse and/or autistic children, these events can feel overwhelming. The anticipation of being in an unfamiliar environment, following different schedules, and trying new activities can lead to stress and anxiety.

Planning with the School

Connecting with the school well in advance can make a significant difference. Early planning provides staff with the time they need to make reasonable adjustments. Student Support Group (SSG) meetings are an ideal place to start these conversations.

Helpful Topics to Discuss with the School

Group and Supervision

- Request that your child is placed in the smallest group.
- Ask for them to be grouped with peers they know and feel comfortable with.
- Confirm which teacher or staff member will be in charge of their group.

Transport

- Ask if your child can have a designated seat on the bus— perhaps near the front or close to adults.
- Consider requesting a “travel buddy” to provide familiarity and reassurance.

Activities and Adjustments

- Discuss any required adjustments, modifications, or alternative options for planned activities

Routines and Personal Needs

- Discuss - Your child's usual bedtime routine and what helps them settle at night.
Medical or personal care needs (including sensory needs and/or toileting routines).
Dietary requirements, including whether they can bring their own food.

Managing Anxiety or Overwhelm

- Discuss what your child can do if they become overwhelmed, anxious, or overstimulated.

Come along [to](#) our **Carer Support groups** to learn more tips and enjoy a cuppa and a chat with other parents who have faced similar struggles.

Bendigo Walking Group
When: 9.30am – 11am Every Thursday during school term
Where: Meet at Peppergreen Farm carpark 40 Thunder Street North Bendigo

For more information – EMAIL: carers@riac.org.au
PHONE: Carolyn – 0488 605 363



Victorian Miniature Railway

The newest family attraction in the Goldfields Region



Open every Sunday

Check online for seasonal hours

Only \$5 per person

Children under 2 and companion card holders, ride for free

Located in Harcourt

At 3643 Harmony Way, Only 25 mins from Bendigo

www.vmr.com.au



**TICKETS HANDED OUT TO STUDENTS YESTERDAY –
MORE FREE CHILD TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM THE OFFICE**

Get up to \$500 for education costs.

Achieve a savings goal for 10 months and ANZ will match it up to \$500.

1300 610 355
saverplus.org.au

EASTER SUNDAY 5TH APRIL 2026

SANDEMAN BUILD

NEIL MACDONALD DRAGON MILE

MILE LONG FOOT RACE ON THE FAMOUS EASTER PROCESSION ROUTE

WHERE: PALL MALL AT GOLD MONUMENT
TIME: 10:00AM START
Scan the QR code for more information on pricing, age groups, registration and live results or visit:
<https://my.raceresult.com/377219/>

Proudly sponsored by

DO YOU LOVE YOUR FOOTY?

FEATURING:
Famous Fitzpatrick Cup & Medal
Giveaways, skills acquisition and a whole lot more...

WHO WILL WIN THE FITZPATRICK MEDAL?

FITZY! FITZY!

JUNIOR FOOTY

FUN HOLIDAY PROGRAM

A TWO DAY PROGRAM FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

\$85 per day
\$160 for 2 days

**TUESDAY, 7 APRIL
WEDNESDAY, 8 APRIL**

8:30am - 4:30pm
Venue: Atkins St, North Bendigo

REGISTER ONLINE

THE PROGRAM CATERES FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

FUN HOLIDAY PROGRAM DETAILS

The North Bendigo Football Netball Club will be holding a Football based holiday program.
THE PROGRAM WILL RUN ON TUESDAY 7 APRIL & WEDNESDAY 8 APRIL.

Time schedule from 8:30am to 4:30pm
The program is applicable to ages ranging from 5 to 15.
WE ENCOURAGE BOTH BOYS AND GIRLS TO BE INVOLVED.

Day One (Tuesday 7 April)

Day one will be based at Atkins St, North Bendigo and will focus on a variety of Football based activities.

These include Australian Rules Football skill acquisition, healthy lifestyle and nutrition, Day 1 Draft and trades and beginning of the Fitzpatrick Cup. Morning and afternoon snacks as well as lunch will be provided for participants on this day. Structured aged games, with an emphasis on fun, will feature throughout the day.

Day Two (Wednesday 8 April)

Day two will be based at the Atkins St, North Bendigo and will focus on a variety of Football based activities and more.

Wednesday will see the business end of the famous Fitzpatrick Cup culminating in the Grand Final and the prestigious vote count of the Fitzpatrick Medal. Morning and afternoon snacks as well as lunch will be provided for participants on this day. Parents/guardians are more than welcome to visit throughout course of the two days, especially the staging of the Famous Fitzpatrick Cup and the prestigious Fitzpatrick medal kicking off from 3:15 pm on the Wednesday of the program.

The program will be co-ordinated by experienced teachers and incorporates male and female accredited personnel (Working With Children Certified).
We encourage both boys and girls to be involved in the program.
The program will run regardless of the weather conditions (with modified activities).
The program incorporating Tuesday 7 April & Wednesday 8 April is priced at \$160 (or \$85 for single day).

All enquiries phone 0409 495 372 (Nathan)

In one fun-filled day, kids will learn and play footy in a safe, inclusive environment. They'll pick up new skills, play mini-games and get creative with designing a footy or uniform. Plus have a footy goodie bag to take home.

4-7 YEAR OLDS

Our youngest players learn footy through fun, age appropriate games that build skills, confidence and teamwork, led by W&A Auskick coaches.

8-12 YEAR OLDS

Older kids level up their footy skills through modified games and challenging activities that build teamwork, leadership and lasting memories in a fun, energetic day.

Kids can join W&A Auskick if they are turning 5 in the calendar year (before 30th June or 9th)

BENDIGO AFL SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

MONDAY 13TH APRIL | 9AM-3PM
WEEROONA OVAL, BENDIGO
\$55 PER PERSON

The grass stains you get playing as a kid stay with you your whole life. So for fun, friendship, and getting your hands dirty, it's gotta be NAB AFL Auskick.

PLAY.AFL/AUSKICK

Kangaroo Flat Auskick Centre

Monday | 4:30pm - 5:30pm
Starting 27th April | Dower Park

Auskick Coordinator | Stacey Thatcher

REGISTER NOW

STUDENTS OF THE TERM – TERM 1

ENGLISH AWARD

FC: Frankie C	FN: Maeve B	
JAR: Abigail H	JJ: Connie M	
ME/D: Matilda W	MP: Memphis J	MW/A: Otis J
SB: Ella M	SJ: Jazmine T	SK: Aria P

MATHEMATICS AWARD

FC: Ronin D	FN: Jaxton W	
JAR: Chloe V	JJ: Nixon L	
ME/D: Logan H	MP: Levi S	MW/A: Mav H
SB: Conna B	SJ: Jax N	SK: Linken A

SCHOOL VALUES

FC: Annie T	FN: Bu Gay Paw T	
JAR: Rahm S	JJ: Lincoln M	
ME/D: Ava M	MP: Zelda L	MW/A: Claudia K
SB: Poppy S	SJ: Macy F	SK: Rami A

SPECIALIST AWARD




CHINESE	FC: Olivia H	FN: Ada M	
MUSIC	JAR: Charlotte S	JJ: Evie A	
ART	ME/D: Bailey F	MP: Callum V	MW/A: Lily C
STEM	SB: Jade L	SJ: Luka H	SK: Luken T

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.