



Calder Chronicle

NUMBER 10

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WEDNESDAY, 23RD APRIL 2026

CALENDAR

Friday, 24th April

Saturday, 25th April

Tuesday, 28th April

Tuesday, 5th May

Thursday, 7th May

Tuesday, 19th May

Friday, 8th May

Thursday, 14th May

Monday, 25th May

Assembly 2:55pm (replaces Monday morning assemblies)

ANZAC Day (NO public holiday on Monday)

Footsteps Whole School Continues

ANZAC Day Excursion – school leaders

Footsteps Whole School Continues

Heave Ho, Off We Go Incursion – please consent / pay on Compass

Footsteps Whole School Continues

Year 7 Placement Applications due at our Office

GRIP Leadership – Senior Unit SRC / leaders

Junior Unit Kyabram Fauna Park Excursion – please consent / pay on Compass

School Organisation

Dear Parents, Carers and Greater Community,

Welcome to Term 2. 10 weeks of learning in total, with lots of exciting activities and learning planned for our students. With the weather starting warm and ending cold, please adjust as the temperature starts to drop.

NO HATS AND WINTER UNIFORM

Term 2 being cooler and safer outdoors with lower UV exposure, we do not have to have a hat worn in the yard. Children can come to school in Term 2 and 3 without a hat. Store broad-brimmed school hats away now until Term 4. However, if your child still wants to wear a hat, they can. We also have school beanies for cold mornings and days. These are \$25 and are available from our Office. With cold weather ahead I remind parents of our school uniform: plain black tracksuit pants (unbranded), school yellow or black polo, school black zip up fleece OR plain black zip up/jumper. We don't have hoodies at school or brands on tracksuits or jumpers. As we have no set school winter jacket, we do ask families to try and have winter jackets that are black or gold. These may of course be branded. Our uniform is supplied by Lowes Kangaroo Flat, located at Lansell Square. Additionally, families can purchase cheap plain black tracksuit pants, black/gold polos, black zip ups or jumpers etc from cheaper department stores like Kmart if the budget is stretched. As always, we have good second-hand uniform (\$2 at our Office), and I also have a collection of brand-new fleecy zip-ups that are embroidered for any family in need that would like to reach out to me – I will supply them free of charge. My advice with footwear is to wear sneakers each day as children are always running and moving during play periods each day.

ANZAC DAY SATURDAY

ANZAC Day is this Saturday, with the nation stopping to pay respects to those who served our country during times of war, whether abroad or on our home grounds. The Kangaroo Flat RSL are running a service at 9:00am on Saturday at the SOLDIER'S MEMORIAL / CENOTAPH (just opposite McDonalds). Our School Captains will meet me and march with veterans etc from Church Street to the cenotaph, where we will pay our respects on behalf of our school. Bonnie and Ryan will lay a wreath on behalf of our school. I invite all members of our community to come along if you would like, or to attend another service such as the 6:00am Dawn Service or either of the two services offered in the heart of Bendigo (or one closest to where you live). If your child is attending, please encourage them to wear uniform to represent our school. It's worth noting too that several of our students will already be participating in the service by representing local clubs, such as Scouts / Guides 😊. The service runs from 9:00am – 10:00am. **Please note that there is no Public Holiday in Victoria** this year as the date falls on a Saturday. Due to this there will be school as normal on Monday.

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, Jaci and Molly all working different days this week. Amy will continue her absence next week and Jenny will return next Wednesday.

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

Please remember your child should be at school each day unless really unwell. When they are absent, please contact the school in the morning to advise – that way we won't do follow up emails or calls to query why your child is away. This can be done via Compass or by calling the school. School starts each day at 9:00am – so please adjust morning routines to ensure your children are at school just before 9:00am, ready to launch into their literacy lessons. Arrival after 9:00am is disruptive to your child's learning and also disrupts the learning of children already in the classroom when children are walking in late and setting up after the bell has gone.

FOOTSTEPS

Our Footsteps dance program began on Tuesday with the students loving their first introduction to this dance-based incursion. Footsteps will visit each week on Tuesday, working with each Unit to learn, rehearse and perform dance numbers. On the final day of Term 2 our students will showcase their performance to the community with a special performance on Friday, 26th June. Payment for this incursion is due – please visit COMPASS or call the Office if you haven't paid. A big thank you to our MENTAL HEALTH IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS LEADER, Dean White, for organising this program for our students. We have chosen Footsteps this year instead of LIFE SKILLS just to ensure our children have some variety.

KINDER ENROLMENT FOR 2027

Apply now to enrol your child in Foundation for 2027. All Victorian government primary schools follow a statewide timeline for enrolling in Foundation for the 2027 school year. If you have a child starting primary school in 2027, **it's time to enrol.** Make sure to submit your enrolment or application **by Friday, 31st July.** If you are enrolling the sibling of a student at our school for Foundation in 2027, and both children will be attending our school at the same time, your child is prioritised for a place at our school. It is important to submit your enrolment or application to us on time as it will ensure your child is included in all transition activities if offered enrolment at our school. This also allows us to plan our classrooms, staffing and transition activities, and ensures your child has the best start to school. For more information, please read about how to enrol your child in Foundation at vic.gov.au/enrolling-foundation-prep. If you would like to enrol your child in Foundation in 2027, we have tours planned for Education Week on Wednesday, 20th and Friday, 22nd May. If these days / times don't suit, please contact our Office on 5447 7022 to book a school tour or request an application or enrolment form.

YEAR 7 PLACEMENT APPLICATIONS

These have been emailed directly to parents. If you can't print it, please contact the Office for a paper copy. These are to be returned to our Office by **Friday, 8th May.** Please note that split families will have applications emailed to both sets of parents.

ASSEMBLY REMINDER FOR TERM 2

Don't forget that in Term 2 our assemblies will occur Friday afternoons at 2:55pm. Our first assembly for this term is therefore tomorrow! We are trialling this new time to see if it makes Monday mornings more productive, less hectic and smoother for students. We are also hoping this might be a better time for more parents/family to attend as it is close to the end of the day and weekends also.

MCKERNS FRESH FRUIT

We would like to thank the McKern Foundation and sponsors for supplying the fruit, the students love receiving this delivery each week.

Here are Olivia & Jax with their banana & mandarin 🍌.



BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to Evie H.

It's been a busy start to Term 2 with students settling quickly into routines and working well! The 10 weeks ahead will see teaching sequences completed, assessments and tests occurring before end of Semester 1 reports are written and shared... followed by the chance for Parent / Carer / Student / Teacher Interviews. Lots of work ahead, so please ensure your child/ren are at school each day so they have the best chance to show what they are truly capable of 😊.

Until next week...

Matt Pearce, Principal

FOUNDATION NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For a **great start** to Term 2:

FC **Noah P**
FN **Abel W**

Catherine, Nicole & Nick

JUNIOR UNIT NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For a **great start** to Term 2:

JAR **Ollie B**
JJ **Bryan T**

Ainsley, Roberta & Jen

MIDDLE UNIT NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For a **great start** to Term 2:

MED Harper A
MP Elisabeth A
MWA Eh Say O

Emma, Dean, Pauline, Wendy & Amanda

SENIOR UNIT NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For consistently giving their best effort in all learning tasks:

SB Chad M
SJ Conor F
SK Edward M

Brett, Jayden & Kate

THE RESILIENCE PROJECT

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

Empathy

Foundation	Piper C
Junior Unit	Nixon L
Middle Unit	Malachi B
Senior Unit	Macy F

SOCIAL MEDIA & CYBER SAFETY

Navigating the Digital World: Your GPS for the Online Adventure

Roblox Might've Slipped the Net... But Not for Long

While most of us were busy polishing off leftover chocolate, debating holiday plans, and wincing every time we pulled up at the browser: diesel, mate... settle down, there's been a bit happening behind the scenes.

Because while some of us have been quietly side-eyeing platforms like "Roblox" and wondering just how safe they really are for our kids, it turns out the Aussie government has been thinking the same thing. And now, they're starting to act on it!

News over the break points to a stronger push from the Australian Government to tighten online safety laws, especially around platforms popular with young users. So even if Roblox itself seemed to slip under the radar at first glance, the bigger picture tells a different story. The concerns haven't gone unnoticed; they've just taken a little while to catch up with how fast the digital world moves.

Because let's be honest, kids today aren't just hanging out at the local park or kicking the footy in the street. They're logging into massive online worlds, building, chatting, creating, and interacting with people we don't know, and sometimes, people we really wouldn't want them talking to.

These spaces can be creative, social, and genuinely positive, but they can also open the door to things kids aren't quite ready to navigate on their own, inappropriate content, scams, strangers with the wrong intentions, and that grey area where kids don't always realise something isn't quite right. Bit different from our biggest worry being whether someone pinched your Twisties at lunch. And that's where the shift is happening.

The government's move is all about putting more responsibility back on the platforms themselves. Stronger rules, clearer expectations, better protections, and making sure these digital spaces aren't just running on a "she'll be right" attitude when it comes to kids' safety. Because for a long time, it's felt like the online world has been a bit of a free for all, less backyard cricket, more Wild West with Wi Fi, where the rules are fuzzy and the responsibility has been easy to dodge.

So, seeing action, even if it's a bit delayed, matters. But here's the kicker, while it's reassuring to know the government is stepping in, it doesn't mean we can all put our feet up and call it a day. We're still in it!

Parents, carers, teachers, we're the ones helping kids make sense of it all. The ones answering the questions, spotting the red flags, and sometimes learning right alongside them. It's not just about blocking apps or setting limits tighter than the weekly fuel budget right now. It's about having the chats, the real ones, the slightly awkward ones, the ones that don't get solved in a single conversation.

Helping kids understand why something might not be safe. Teaching them to trust their gut, to pause before they click, to question what they see, and to know when to speak up without worrying they'll get in trouble. Because no matter how many rules get rolled out, there'll always be another platform, another trend, another "everyone's on it" app popping up quicker than a servo price hike before a long weekend.

So, while Roblox might've seemed to slip the net for a moment... It's clear now, it didn't go unnoticed. And with the government starting to step in, and more conversations happening at home and in classrooms, we're heading in the right direction. Slowly, sure. But in the right direction all the same!

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

Kate

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>

COMMUNITY NEWS

MONDAY, 4TH MAY – ALL LOCATIONS

	6.00pm - 7.30pm Location: College Gymnasium 5447 7722 crusoecollege.vic.edu.au	
	6.00pm - 7.30pm Location: Global Learning Centre 5443 2133 weeroona.vic.edu.au	
	6.00pm - 7.30pm Location: Grieve Building 5446 8099 eaglehawksc.vic.edu.au	
	6.00pm - 7.30pm Location: BSE Gymnasium 5443 4522 bse.vic.edu.au	

 Department of Education



Navigating Puberty Info Evening

For parents & caregivers
Wednesday, May 13
7 - 8pm, Online
[Click here to register](#)



The BCHS Health Promotion Team are excited to host an online education evening, open to all parents and carers Greater Bendigo. Our aim is to provide information and resources that will help you have ongoing chats with your child around puberty.

Topics covered are:

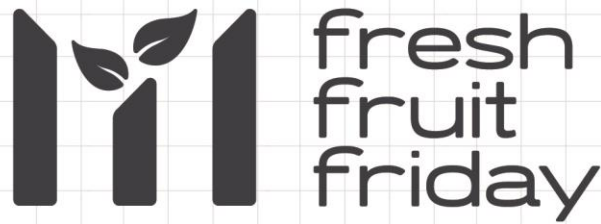
- LGBTIQ+ information
- Changes in puberty (physical, emotional & social)
- Conception & pregnancy
- Consent
- Online safety & pornography

When: Wednesday 13th May, 2026

Where: Online, via Microsoft Teams

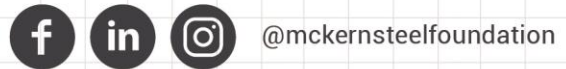
For registrations and more information, follow the link:
<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/navigating-puberty-for-parents-caregivers-tickets-1987106851083?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=listing&utm-source=cp&aff=ebdsshcopyurl>

OUR WEEKLY FREE FRESH FRUIT IS MADE POSSIBLE BY:



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.

THANK YOU TO MCKERN STEEL FOUNDATION AND SPONSORS

WE ARE SO GRATEFUL TO BE A PART OF THIS WONDERFUL PROGRAM 🍎