



# Calder Chronicle

NUMBER 11

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, 30<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2026**

## CALENDAR

Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> May

**WEDNESDAY, 6<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> May

**Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> May**

Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> May

Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> May

Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May

Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> May

Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> May

Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> May

**Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> June**

Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> June

ANZAC Day Excursion – school leaders

Footsteps Whole School Continues

**P&F MOTHER'S DAY STALL & RAFFLE DRAWN**

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

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

**Year 7 Placement Applications due at our Office**

GRIP Leadership – Senior Unit SRC / leaders – please consent / pay on Compass

Footsteps Whole School Continues

Division Cross Country – selected students only – please consent / pay on Compass

Walk Safely to School Day

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

Footsteps Whole School Continues

Middle Unit Gym Program commences – please consent / pay on Compass

**Pupil Free Day (Combined PPD)**

King's Birthday Public Holiday

## School Organisation

Dear Parents, Carers and Greater Community,

Week 2 has seen delightful weather providing the perfect conditions to play and socialise outside. The autumn colours in the grounds are also an added bonus with some of our students loving a play in the raked up leaves. The week, whilst settled, will move to a busy one next week with a few added extras to keep things engaging 😊

### ANZAC DAY

A big thank you to Bonnie, Ryan, Mila and Oli for their representation of Big Hill at the Kangaroo Flat 9:00am service. Bonnie and Ryan laid a wreath on our behalf and the four students marched in uniform to the service also. It was wonderful having the addition of some of our other students also in uniform – several who also marched. It was lovely seeing many of our students at the service also, so I thank all families who were able to attend with their child, including if this was at another service. A special mention also to Jade who sang at the Dawn and 9:00am service in the heart of Bendigo too!

### ANZAC DAY EXCURSION – SCHOOLS SERVICE

Next Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> May our School and Vice Captains will join me to travel to the STATE ANZAC SCHOOL SERVICE at the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne. This is a great honour and as part of the day, our Vice Captains, Oli and Mila, will lay a wreath on our behalf. Families of our captains are reminded to have their child at Lockwood Primary School (Wiegards Road, Lockwood) at 8:30am for an 8:50am departure by bus. We will travel to and from with other school groups and staff, thanks to the kindness of LEGACY VICTORIA (no cost to students). The bus will return to Lockwood Primary School at 2:50pm where captains will need to be collected. Students attending need to dress for the elements, bring a bag also with lunch, snacks and a drink. All information is on COMPASS. Whilst families may want to drive down to watch, can I advise that the seated areas are for ticket holders only (ie: school captains and a staff member) so viewing the service would need to be behind the seated school areas 😊

### STAFFING

This week we have had Education Support officer Jenny Brown return on Wednesday whilst Amy Mountjoy continued her teaching round at Lockwood. We will see her next week. Tammy has been away this week also due to carer's leave and we will hopefully see her tomorrow. Nick Reid commenced Long Service Leave today and will return on Tuesday – Emma Tuckwell is filling in whilst Nick is absent. Next week Dean White will commence sick leave on Tuesday and will be absent for a few weeks due to surgery. His class will be taken by Emma Tuckwell each day to maintain consistency, as Emma already teaches the class Monday – Wednesday.

### FOOTSTEPS

Our Footsteps dance program continued on Tuesday with the students starting to get more familiar with their dance routine and associated choreography. Footsteps will visit each week on a Tuesday, working with each Unit to learn, rehearse and perform dance numbers, enriching the mandated dance curriculum that forms part of the ARTS and PHYSICAL EDUCATION curriculum. On the final day of Term 2 our students will showcase their performance to the community with a special performance on Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> June.

## **MOTHER'S DAY STALL**

Each year our PARENTS AND FRIENDS (P&F) run a wonderful MOTHER'S DAY STALL for our students to purchase inexpensive gifts for loved ones, including mothers, aunts, grandmothers, sisters, carers, special persons etc. Not every child has a mother in their life, so we encourage showing love to an important female in their life is appropriate. The stall will operate next Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> May in the Multipurpose. Members of the P&F will man stalls as grades take their turn to visit and purchase. Please send your child with a 'green' bag and some money on Wednesday to purchase something. Gifts range from \$1 to no more than \$10. Donations of prizes for our raffle have been gratefully received (thanks if you donated) – and it's not too late if you want to gift something for the raffle. Please endeavour to sell your tickets and return to the office by the 6<sup>th</sup>. We will draw it after the stall. Our P&F are always looking for helpers and new members. If you have a volunteers WORKING WITH CHILDREN'S CHECK/CARD and can help man a stall on the day, please let our Office know so we can pass your contact details on.

## **KINDER – FOUNDATION ENROLMENTS 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, 31<sup>st</sup> July.** If you are enrolling a 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](http://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, 20<sup>th</sup> and Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.

## **HEAVE HO, OFF WE GO**

Each year we try to bring various arts performances to our students as part of a set incursion. Next week on Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> May we will have **HEAVE HO, OFF WE GO** visit to perform for our students. Payment for this incursion and consent is on COMPASS, so please attend to this as soon as possible. We try hard to bring engaging and rich experiences to our students, which ultimately is much cheaper for our families as there is no travel involved. These performances are usually appreciated and helpful for busy families who may not have the time off work to go to theatres, cinemas etc. If you are experiencing hardship, but you don't want your child to miss out due to finance, please reach out to me to discuss how we can support.

## **DAY FOR DOLLY**

**Next Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> May is DO IT FOR DOLLY DAY. We are allowing children to come to school OUT OF UNIFORM and dressed in blue – a gold coin donation is requested for DO IT FOR DOLLY FOUNDATION. Some families may like to donate more to this ANTI-BULLYING / CYBERSAFETY CAUSE by scanning the QR CODE sent out on COMPASS, further in the newsletter, or on posters around the school. Please don't go to trouble buying blue clothes though if that is too costly...ideas to participate include spraying hair blue, painting your face blue, blue makeup, blue wig, blue shoes / cap / scarf etc. Be creative, but don't break the budget. Looking forward to seeing our students in blue on Friday of next week. Please note this will be our only fundraiser for charity this term with no further gold coin donations requested in Term 2 due to the cost of living.**

## **ASSEMBLY REMINDER FOR TERM 2**

Don't forget that in Term 2 our assemblies will occur Friday afternoons at 2.55pm. Therefore, our next assembly is 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 day and the weekend also.

## **WEDNESDAY, 13<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

Families are given notice of the next STOP WORK ACTION by the AUSTRALIAN EDUCATION UNION (AEU) for the morning of Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> May. Classes affected will be announced as soon as I am advised by the Union and will require families to make other arrangements for the morning of Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> May, unless like last time, you contact me to discuss your need to send your child/ren to school around your essential service job (ie: police, ambulance, nurse, doctor etc). More information will be shared as we get closer to the date and I know more, but for now just trying to be helpful by warning that we will have disruption for a half day (9:00am – 12:30pm) on Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> May for those classes where their teachers decide to take protected industrial action.

## **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 Chaz & Lyla with their pear & apple 😊.

## **BIRTHDAYS**

Happy birthday to Dante D, Charlotte S & Bryan T.

Wet weather is forecast for the weekend and a cooler start to the week, so please prepare your child's uniform to reflect the changes in temperature. Have a great Friday and a super weekend.



*Matt Pearce, Principal*

## FOUNDATION NEWS

### STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

*For displaying our School Values when participating in Footsteps:*

FC **Chaz G**  
FN **Will W**

*Catherine, Nicole & Nick*

## JUNIOR UNIT NEWS

### STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

*For being a role model during our Footsteps Dance practice:*

JAR **Zaylan D**  
JJ **Maisie C**

*Ainsley, Roberta & Jen*

## MIDDLE UNIT NEWS

### STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

*For great participation in our Footsteps dance program:*

MED **Winston**  
MP **Sienna D**  
MWA **Billy A**

*Emma, Dean, Pauline, Wendy & Amanda*

## SENIOR UNIT NEWS

### STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

*For showing kindness and respect to classmates every day:*

SB **Harry E**  
SJ **Alexis W**  
SK **Hannah G**

*Brett, Jayden & Kate*

## THE RESILIENCE PROJECT

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

# Gratitude

Foundation	Austin V
Junior Unit	Levi D
Middle Unit	Elias S
Senior Unit	Avery F
Specialist	Abel W

## PARENTS & FRIENDS NEWS

The Mother's Day Stall will be held NEXT WEDNESDAY, 6<sup>th</sup> May, so please remember to send in your 'green' bags and a small amount of money for students to choose a gift for their special mum / friend.

Raffle tickets have been sent home, but there are spare available from the Office. Please return all tickets – both sold and unsold to the Office by 9am on Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> May and it will be drawn after the stall.

Thank you to those families who have already donated, much appreciated 😊.

If you can donate items such as chocolate, gift vouchers, wine glasses, tissue paper, mugs, beauty items, please leave at the Office.

*Thank you so much 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/](http://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: [emma.tuckwell@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:emma.tuckwell@education.vic.gov.au) or Ainsley Stanley or [ainsley.stanley@education.vic.gov.au](mailto: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

#### Can You Trust What You See Online?

Just when we thought we were getting a handle on dodgy emails, "you've won a prize" pop-ups, and those classic scam texts claiming to be your bank (because apparently, we're all millionaires now!), the digital world has gone and levelled up again. This time, it is not just suspicious links or strange messages, it is voices, videos and images that can look and sound scarily real.

Welcome to the world of AI scams, where seeing is no longer believing.

Around the globe, including here in Australia as well as places like the United States and the United Kingdom, there has been a sharp rise in scams where technology is used to mimic real people. We are talking about phone calls that sound like a child asking for help, voice messages that sound like a parent in trouble, or videos that look like they belong on the evening news, except they never actually happened.

This technology is known as Deepfake, and while it can be used for harmless fun (and probably far too many internet memes, or ChatGPT cartoon images), it is increasingly being used by scammers trying their luck. And unfortunately, these scams are getting better at sounding more convincing than a magpie at 5:00am in Spring.

Here in Australia, organisations such as the eSafety Commissioner and Scamwatch are warning that these scams are becoming more common and more sophisticated. So, while it might feel like something happening "overseas somewhere between Hollywood and Hogwarts", it is very much part of our own digital backyard.

The key message for our school community is simple but powerful:

"Just because it looks real, doesn't mean it is real."

As technology keeps racing ahead faster than a tradie on a Friday arvo break, one of the best protections we have is slowing things down. Scammers rely on urgency, messages that say, "act now", "don't tell anyone", or "this is your last chance". Real life doesn't usually work like that... and neither do banks, schools, or government departments, no matter how convincing the message sounds.

A good habit for families is to pause before reacting to anything unexpected online or over the phone. If something feels off, take a breath, put the kettle on, and check it through a known and trusted contact method. No one trustworthy will mind you double checking, in fact, they'll probably thank you for it.

Some families are also setting up a simple "safe word" or phrase. It might feel a bit like spy movie stuff, but in a world where voices can be cloned, it is a surprisingly practical idea, a bit like digital sunscreen for scam season.

As we continue navigating an increasingly digital world, it is a timely reminder that staying safe online is not just about the tech itself, it is about awareness, communication, and trusting that little gut feeling when something just doesn't sit right.

Because in a world where a computer can convincingly imitate voices, faces and messages, a healthy dose of scepticism is still one of the best things you can pack in your digital backpack.

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

Kate

## GO BLUE TO END BULLYING

On Do It For Dolly Day, Friday May 8<sup>th</sup>, Australians across the country are coming together to Go Blue to End Bullying, raise awareness, and support young people impacted by bullying. We will hold a Wear Blue day to raise awareness and also to raise some funds for this Charity.

Funds raised help Dolly's Dream provide vital programs and support services, including 24/7 guidance, school workshops, and resources that give families, schools, and communities the tools to prevent bullying and promote kindness.

**When:** On Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> May

**Where:** At our school and online via website below.

**How:** Access the website below to donate and bring along a gold coin on the day

**What:** Wear blue clothes, spray your hair blue, blue face paint the bluer the better!

<https://support.dollysdream.org.au/fundraisers/bighillprimaryschool/do-it-for-dolly-day>

Every contribution makes a difference. Click above to donate and show support for a kinder, safer future for all young people.

**#DoltForDollyDay #GoBlueToEndBullying #BeKind**



## COMMUNITY NEWS



### RIAC's Tips for Carers/Parents of neurodiverse and/or Autistic children

#### Tips for successful school camps and excursions

##### Planning as a family

##### Explore the Destination Together

- If possible, visit the camp or excursion site ahead of time. Take photos or short videos your child can look at later.
- Look up the destination online. Explore the website together and talk about the places they'll see.

##### Add It to Their Visual Schedule

- Include the camp or excursion on your child's visual calendar so they can anticipate when it's coming up.

##### Talk About the Journey

- Explain how they will travel there and what will be expected of them during the trip.
- Discuss where they will sit, and how they might feel if it's busy or noisy.

##### Discuss What to Expect at the Camp or Excursion

Talk through the details so your child knows what the day (or days) will look like:

- The activities planned
- Who will be in their group
- Where they will sleep (if overnight)
- Which teacher or adult will be in charge
- What they can do instead of joining in an activity

##### Talk About Coping Strategies

- Explore how they might feel before and during the excursion or camp.
- Discuss emotions they may experience - Make a plan together for managing these feelings.

##### Consider Family Involvement

- As a family, discuss whether someone is able to volunteer at the camp or stay nearby.

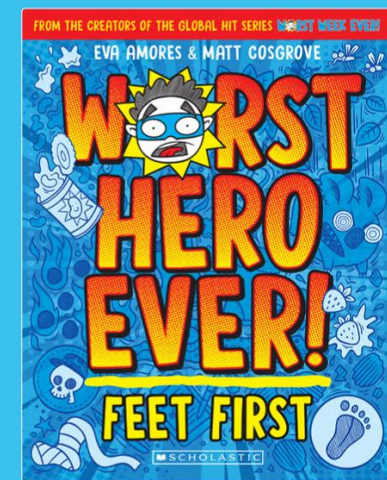
Come along to our **Carer Support groups** to learn more tips and enjoy a cuppa and a chat with other parents who have faced similar struggles.

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

For more information – EMAIL: [carers@riac.org.au](mailto:carers@riac.org.au)  
PHONE: Carolyn – 0488 605 363



# READ EVERY DAY! READ MORE IN MAY!



May is the month for readers. Bring your family together and join us in the Scholastic **NATIONAL FAMILY READING MONTH** Challenge.

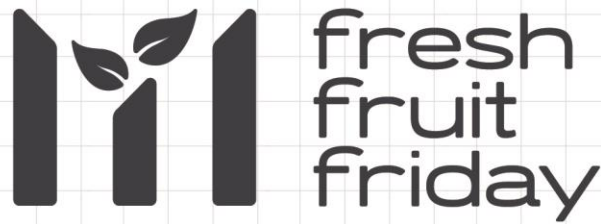
Register during the month of April to **WIN ONE OF 50 SIGNED COPIES** of *Worst Hero Ever! Feet First*.

Take the 31-Day Challenge:

[scholastic.com.au/nfrm](https://scholastic.com.au/nfrm)

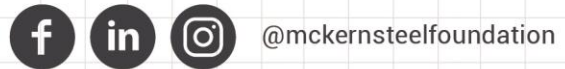


**OUR WEEKLY FREE FRESH FRUIT IS MADE POSSIBLE BY:**



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

**mckern steel™  
foundation**



**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 🍏**