



Calder Chronicle

NUMBER 13

Phone (03) 5447 7022

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

Website: www.bighillps.vic.edu.au

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

THURSDAY, 14TH MAY 2026

CALENDAR

MONDAY, 18TH MAY

Tuesday, 19th May

Wednesday, 20th May

Friday, 22nd May

Monday, 25th May

Tuesday, 26th May

Thursday, 28th May

Monday, 1st June

Thursday, 4th June

Monday, 8th June

Thursday, 11th June

THURSDAY, 18TH JUNE

Monday, 22nd June

Friday, 26th June

EDUCATION WEEK COMMENCES – see inside for full details

Footsteps Whole School Continues

School Council Meeting

2027 Foundation Tour 10:00am

2027 Foundation Information Evening 5:30pm – 6:30pm

Walk Safely to School Day

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

2027 Foundation Tour 10:00am

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

Footsteps Whole School Continues

COMPASS PARENT / TEACHER / STUDENT CONFERENCES OPEN

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

Pupil Free Day (Combined PPD)

Middle Unit Gym Program

King's Birthday Public Holiday

Middle Unit Gym Program

YEAR 2 SLEEPOVER – please consent / pay on Compass

Parent / Teacher / Student Conference Day – more info to follow

LAST DAY OF TERM –

Student Award Assembly / Footsteps Performance – more info to follow

EARLY DISMISSAL 2:30PM

School Organisation

Dear Parents, Carers and Greater Community,

Week 4 has been settled and productive with lovely weather ensuring outside times were a highlight for the students. Breakfast clubs have been pleasant also in the morning with dry seats and the sun-shining – both adding to ideal conditions for children to arrive at school and enjoy a snack with their friends. A reminder that Breakfast Club runs each day for all students – those who haven't eaten and those that want a second helping. No judgement 😊.

EDUCATION SUPPORT APPRECIATION DAY

Saturday is National EDUCATION SUPPORT APPRECIATION DAY... so we are celebrating this tomorrow. If you see any of our valuable Education Support staff (integration aids, tutors, Office staff, Business Manager, Canteen Manager) around the school tomorrow, feel free to thank them for their important work. I've asked teachers and classes to try and do something special for our ES team tomorrow, so hopefully Tammy, Janet, Stacey, Amy, Erin, Clare, Jenny, Jaci and Molly have a wonderful day tomorrow feeling appreciated!

GRIP LEADERSHIP EXCURSION

Today our 4 School / Vice Captains and 6 Senior Unit SRC representatives went to the annual GRIP LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE with Brett Strange. This event at the BENDIGO RED ENERGY ARENA / BASKETBALL STADIUM and provides our young leaders with a revered and popular student leadership showcase. GRIP is hugely popular with students around the country – spending the year travelling around Australia to train student leaders in all states. Our young and bright leaders will then be trained and feeling even more equipped to navigate their leadership journey this year and beyond 😊.

EDUCATION WEEK – “SHOWCASE YOUR SCHOOL”

Next week is EDUCATION WEEK across our State, with schools encouraged to SHOWCASE THEIR SCHOOL as part of the overall theme. We will launch Education Week on Monday, 18th with a PERFORMANCE for the community at 10:00am. This performance is an opportunity to showcase some of our students and their performance skills to the community (see further in this newsletter for details). Traditionally we invite Grandparents / special visitors to come onsite and enjoy the performance from 10:00am – 10:30am – this obviously also includes available mums, dads and carers. Please feel free to invite grandparents therefore this year! We don't have a lot of spare seating, so please remember to bring a chair! At 10:30am our visitors can then visit classrooms to see their loved one/s in action in their rooms. At 11:00am visitors will be able to purchase morning tea or a cake from the stall and/or soup & toasties to enjoy with their family in the grounds from 11:00am – 11:30am. If you are unavailable to attend, children who don't have family onsite will still enjoy their morning tea with other classmates in our usual eating areas. At 11:30am we will wrap up the day. Other great activities will occur throughout the week too... these are outlined below 😊.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS CAKE STALL – MONDAY

Our P&F have asked for families to bake cakes, slices, biscuits etc, to sell at the CAKE STALL on Monday for Education Week. If you can help, please do so. Information has been shared on COMPASS on how to contribute... but if you aren't sure, give our Office a call. We rely on the generosity of the community to ensure our events run effectively... so every little bit helps 😊.

STAFFING

This week illness has struck with some staff away for a day or two due to colds and the start of the winter virus circuit. Dean White has also been away this week recovering from surgery... hopefully we see him in the next week or so. Thanks to Emma Tuckwell for working Thursday and Fridays while Dean is away to ensure the class have a consistent teacher for the whole week.

As outlined last week Jayden is away on LSL Thursday – Friday of this week and also on Monday with Tracy Pengelly covering Jayden's class during this time.

Next Friday Amanda Bateman is away and Wendy Hicks will work the extra day to ensure consistency with their shared class.

KINDER – FOUNDATION ENROLMENTS FOR 2027

Apply now to enrol your child in Foundation for 2027. If you have a child starting primary school in 2027, **it's time to enrol.** Make sure to submit your application (out of zone) **by Friday, 31st 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 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.

KINDER INFORMATION SESSION AND TOURS

Next week, as part of Education Week, I will be running two tours of the school for FOUNDATION 2027 families. These sessions are running at 10:00am on Wednesday, 20th and Friday, 22nd May. If interested, please meet in the Office foyer just before 10:00am.

In addition to the tours Nicole, Catherine and I will be running a FOUNDATION 2027 INFORMATION EVENING for families on Wednesday night from 5:30pm. We encourage all families who have FOUNDATION students starting in 2027 to come along and learn about the school and what's planned for next year. Catherine, Nicole and I will be answering all your questions also. Please meet in the Office foyer just prior to 5:30pm.

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Our May School Council meeting is scheduled for next Tuesday, 19th May at 7:00pm in the library (or via Webex). Finance meets earlier at 6:30pm for those who elected to go on the subcommittee for finance. Reports and documents will be emailed home this week and will include details of how to access the meeting via Webex. Hoping to see all members there to celebrate EDUCATION WEEK.

ASSEMBLY REMINDER FOR TERM 2

Don't forget that in Term 2 our assemblies will occur Friday afternoons at 2:55pm. They have been running well, so we will continue until the end of term and make a decision for Term 3 and 4 at a later date, depending on how we find the use of time and how our children handle either time slot.

FOOTSTEPS DANCE

Our students continue their rehearsals for FOOTSTEPS DANCE on Tuesday next week. Performances are taking shape and will be shared with you, our community, on Friday, 26th June (the last day of Term). From what I've seen so far, it's going to be a lot of fun to watch 😊.

NATIONAL WALK SAFELY TO SCHOOL DAY

Next Friday, 22nd May is NATIONAL WALK SAFELY TO SCHOOL DAY. Our students and families are encouraged to meet and walk, ride or scoot safely to school from Phillis Street at 8:30am. We'll have a staff member there to set students on their way at 8:30am. What a great way to finish off EDUCATION WEEK!

DIVISION CROSS COUNTRY – FRIDAY, 22ND MAY

Selected students from Year 2-6 have been notified (please consent and make payment on COMPASS ASAP) and will compete against the best runners from Bendigo and surrounds. Students will be travelling by bus to the Racecourse for the morning and afternoon under the supervision of key staff.

As this is held outdoors, we remind families to ensure children are not only ready to run with the correct types of shoes and clothing to facilitate a comfortable long-distance run BUT also have a warm coat and pants to wear due to sitting in the elements. Good luck to all our long-distance runners 😊.

COST OF LIVING

The pinch is being felt by many of our families. Knowing this will helpfully remind you that you aren't alone if you are also feeling the pinch. To help, State Schools have some great free programs on offer to support families. SMILE SQUAD has recently visited to provide free dental to students, whilst we hope to have GLASSES FOR KIDS back to check eyesight and provide free glasses for children in Foundation – Year 3 needing them later in the year.

In addition to this FREE breakfast is on offer each day at school – your child is welcome to come and have something to eat between 8:40am and 8:55am. Also, if your child doesn't have a snack or brain food, we also have bags of popcorn and fresh fruit to share – all part of the breakfast club.

I wanted to also remind families that at any time if you need a food hamper, we have supplies through BREAKFAST CLUB / FOOD BANK to send home. Often these are on the table in the foyer... and can be collected at any time by an adult. If there are none present, please let Erin, Janet, Stacey or I know and we can make another pack up for you, no worries at all. We're here to help... and the groceries we have to share are offered to us free of charge through the READ SUPPORT, RIGHT NOW initiative of the DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

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 Evie & Willy with their pear & mandarin 😊.



BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to Conor F, Otis M, Aria P, Harvey & Winston.

Week 5 is going to be very busy with Education Week, so I look forward to hopefully seeing you in the school or at an event throughout the week. Have a lovely Friday and an even better weekend!

Matt Pearce, Principal

FOUNDATION NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

*For being a respectful classmate by **taking turns** during partner activities:*

FC *Raven O*
FN *Noah P*

Catherine, Nicole & Nick

JUNIOR UNIT NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For using their class time efficiently and completing their work tasks to the best of their ability:

JAR *Mannie C*
JJ *Jack B*

Ainsley, Roberta & Jen

MIDDLE UNIT NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For showing kindness towards their peers:

MED *Matilda W*
MP *Levi S*
MWA *Sophie H*

Emma, Dean, Pauline, Wendy & Amanda

SENIOR UNIT NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For demonstrating resilience when learning feels challenging:

SB *Wil G*
SJ *Patrick T*
SK *Rydah L*

Brett, Jayden & Kate

THE RESILIENCE PROJECT

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

Mindfulness

Foundation	Lyla M
Junior Unit	Parker S
Middle Unit	Tyler G
Senior Unit	Ava S
Specialist	Elisabeth A

PARENTS & FRIENDS NEWS

CAKE STALL FOR GRANDPARENT'S DAY

We have plates at the Office for any families wishing to bake something for us to sell on Monday, 18th May.

Thank you so much for your support

SOCIAL MEDIA & CYBER SAFETY

Navigating the Digital World: Your GPS for the Online Adventure

Snap It, Share It, Regret It, Helping Kids Think Before They Post

From BeReal to Snapchat streaks and TikTok trends, our tweens and teens are growing up in a world where sharing is second nature. A quick photo, a funny video, a cheeky comment, it all feels harmless in the moment. But in the online world, things can stick around longer than a meat pie at the footy.

Why Think Before You Post Matters

What goes online can be:

Saved, even if it disappears

Shared, beyond your intended audience

Seen, by friends, teachers, future employers, and strangers

A joke today can quickly become tomorrow's regret.

What is Happening in Australia

There has been increasing focus from the Australian Government on age restrictions for social media, particularly for those under 16. These rules are designed to better protect young people from online risks. However, as many parents know, kids are clever. It is not uncommon for young people to sign up using a different age or access platforms through friends or shared devices.

This means rules alone are not enough, education, conversations, and guidance at home are still essential.

The Pressure to Share

For many kids, posting is social currency

- ❖ Keeping Snap streaks going
- ❖ Joining trends
- ❖ Chasing likes and views

That pressure can lead to oversharing or risky posts without thinking about the consequences.

A Simple Check, The School Assembly Test

Before posting, ask, "Would I be okay with this being shown on a big screen at our Friday Assembly?"

If the answer is no, it is probably not worth posting.

What Parents Can Do

- ✚ Keep conversations open, curiosity works better than criticism,
- ✚ Know the platforms, awareness matters more than expertise,
- ✚ Set clear expectations, agree on what is okay to post,
- ✚ Focus on decision making, not just rules,
- ✚ Model behaviour, young people notice what adults post.

For Our Students

Even if something feels private or temporary, it can still be shared. Be the same person online as you are in real life.

Final Thought

While new rules aim to protect young people, the most effective safeguard is good judgement.

As we move through the term and into the school holidays, when screen time often increases, it is a good time to reset expectations. School holidays can be a challenge with extra free time, so balance is important. Encourage a mix of online and offline activities, time with family, time outdoors, and time away from screens.

Pause, think, and choose wisely before posting. Once it is online, it is out there.

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

Kate

THEIR CARE (OSHC) NEWS

<https://theircare.com.au/>

COMMUNITY NEWS

1:00PM - 1:20PM	CHECK IN
1:30PM	CLINIC & ACTIVITIES COMMENCES
4:00PM	CLINIC FINISHES
4:00PM	SIGNATURES, PHOTOS & PACKS
4:30PM	PICK UP

BYO Drink Bottle and Snack

REGISTER NOW



Education Week

SHOWCASE YOUR SCHOOL

Monday 18th May

- 10:00am to 10:30am – Performance at the Steps of the Multipurpose Room
All units will be performing a song that they voted for and created their own dance moves over the last 4 weeks during Music:
 - Song 1 – Foundation - Cooper the Caterpillar
 - Song 2 – Junior Unit - Dance Monkey
 - Song 3 – Middle Unit - Enemy (by Imagine Dragons)
 - Song 4 – Senior Unit - Numb (by Linkin Park)
 - Song 5 – Drum Solo Performance by Ryan W
- 10:30am to 11:00am – classrooms open for Grandparents/special visitors to have a look at what our students are working on.
- 11:00am – P&F will be cooking up some yummy soup and toasties for you to purchase and enjoy with your child during the break. There will also be some delicious baked goods for sale at their Cake Stall (plates are available from the Office for those wishing to bake and donate).

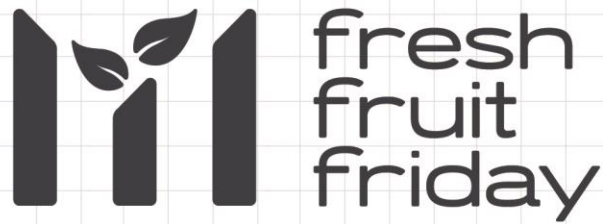
Wednesday 20th May

- 10:00am – 2027 Foundation School Tour
- 5:30pm – 2027 Foundation Information Night

Friday 22nd May




- National Walk Safely to School Day
- Division Cross Country - selected Year 2-6 students
- 10:00am – 2027 Foundation School Tour

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 🍎