



Calder Chronicle

NUMBER 14

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THURSDAY, 21ST MAY 2026

CALENDAR

Friday, 22nd May

Monday, 25th May

Tuesday, 26th May

Wednesday 27th May

Thursday, 28th May

Monday, 1st June

Tuesday, 2nd June

Thursday, 4th June

Monday, 8th June

Tuesday, 9th June

Thursday, 11th June

Tuesday, 16th June

THURSDAY, 18TH JUNE

Monday, 22nd June

Friday, 26th June

Walk Safely to School Day – meet at Phillis Street 8:30am

Division Cross Country – selected students only

2027 Foundation School Tour at 10:00am

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

Footsteps Whole School Continues

Phoenix FM Interview – School Captains/Vice Captains

COMPASS PARENT / TEACHER / STUDENT CONFERENCES OPEN

National Reconciliation Week commences

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

Pupil Free Day (Combined PPD)

Footsteps Whole School Continues

Middle Unit Gym Program

King's Birthday Public Holiday

Footsteps Whole School Continues

Middle Unit Gym Program

Footsteps Whole School Continues

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 5 has been a big one as we celebrated EDUCATION WEEK with the theme "Showcase your school". We certainly think we did that this week with lots of events and activities occurring to make the week a showcase. This included our massive launch on Monday with a musical performance (thanks Nick and the students), amazing food stalls (thanks P&F and community) and an opportunity for Grandparents to visit classrooms. We also had FOOTSTEPS continue F-6 on Tuesday, School Council Tuesday night, a massive Kinder/Foundation tour on Wednesday morning, an engaging KINDER PREP INFORMATION EVENING last night and we are poised to finish off in style tomorrow with a Walk Safely to School Day, DIVISION CROSS COUNTRY and another Kinder/Prep Tour.

STAFFING

We have had a lot of staff and students unwell this week. Due to this we have had many CASUAL RELIEF TEACHERS (CRTs) working in the school to cover bases...and we were able to avoid splitting classes, which was a plus. Dean has continued to be away recovering from surgery with Emma working in the 3/4 class today and tomorrow. Pauline has been unwell this week and her class has been covered by our specialist team and CRT Xiaolan (Cee-Ellen). Jen is also unwell and her class have had a couple of different CRTs on Monday, today and tomorrow. Ainsley has also fallen victim to the germs going around and has been away since Tuesday, hopefully returning tomorrow for important wellbeing meetings scheduled. Kate was also unwell Wednesday and tomorrow Amanda is absent and is replaced by Wendy, ensuring the class is covered by one of their shared teachers. Fingers and toes next week will be more settled, but it does seem to be "one of those times" health-wise!

KINDER/PREP ENROLMENT FOR 2027

Apply now to enrol your child in Foundation (Prep) for 2027. All Victorian government primary schools follow a statewide timeline for enrolling in Foundation (Prep) 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 application **by Friday 31 July 2026.** 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 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 (Prep) in 2027, please contact our Office on 5447 7022 to book a school tour or request an application or enrolment form.

KINDER TOUR

Tomorrow, as part of Education Week, I will be running another tour of the school for FOUNDATION 2027 families. This session will run at 10am, Friday 22nd May. If interested, please meet in the Office just before 10am.

FOOTSTEPS DANCE

Our students continued their rehearsals for FOOTSTEPS DANCE this week and will continue doing so each Tuesday, involving students from FOUNDATION – Year 6. Performances are taking shape and will be shared with you, our community, on Friday the 26th of June (the last day of Term).

NATIONAL WALK SAFELY TO SCHOOL DAY

Tomorrow, 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. Jayden Sheean will be there on his bike to set students on their way at 8.30am and I'll be greeting students as they pass me on the path. Hopefully, each participant will get a NATIONAL WALK SAFELY TO SCHOOL DAY temporary tattoo to mark the occasion. OSHC will also try to have students onsite walking around the Tiger Turf so they can also participate and get a tattoo too! What a great way to finish off EDUCATION WEEK!

DIVISION CROSS COUNTRY – TOMORROW

The final Education Week activity will be the Division Cross Country tomorrow, Friday the 22nd of May at the Bendigo Racecourse. Selected students from Year 2-6 have been notified and if given permission (and payment made on COMPASS) will compete against the best runners from Bendigo and surrounds. We will have students heading 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. Please attend to permissions and payments immediately on COMPASS if you have overlooked this and good luck to all of 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 any children 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 8.40 and 8.55am. Also, if your child doesn't have a snack or brain food, we 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 up for you. No worries at all. We're here to help...and the groceries we share are offered to us free of charge through the REAL SUPPORT, RIGHT NOW initiative of the DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

JUNIOR UNIT KYABRAM FAUNA PARK EXCURSION – MONDAY

Families of children in *Junior Ainsley Roberta* and *Junior Jen* are reminded of the exciting excursion they have on Monday, with the classes catching a bus to the Kyabram Fauna Park, now owned and operated by Zoos Victoria! Ainsley, Jen, Roberta, Tammy, and Chris (Chaplain) will attend for a fun day out learning about Australian native wildlife. Please attend to payment and permissions on COMPASS to ensure your child does not miss out and remember to send them with a packed lunch, snacks, drink, and a warm coat for the day. Dress for the elements, so check the weather. A reminder that students are to meet in their classrooms at 8:15am on Monday 😊

PHOENIX FM VISIT

Next Tuesday 26th May the school/vice captains and I will be live to air on Phoenix FM. If you would like to listen in, tune into Phoenix from 9 – 10am on Tuesday. A reminder to the families of our school and vice captains to please complete the permission on COMPASS asap and to meet me in the top car park Tuesday at 8:10am. There is no cost for this excursion 😊

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK AND SORRY DAY

Next week is significant as we recognise **Sorry Day** on Tuesday 26th May and then acknowledge **NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK** from Wednesday 27th May – Wednesday the 3rd of June, finishing on **Mabo Day**. We will be acknowledging key events throughout the week and will use our connections with the Djarra people to participate in activities that are appropriate on DJANDUK (the land we live, learn and work).

STATE PRINCIPALS CONFERENCE

Next Thursday and Friday I will be in Melbourne along with all State School Principals (Primary, Specialist and Secondary) as we participate in the annual STATE PRINCIPALS CONFERENCE. During the two days we will work with some of the leading education experts in the country and the world to continue our leadership journey – ensuring that each leader is skilled to steer their communities into the future, keeping up with the latest and greatest approaches to implement within our schools. I will be away therefore next Thursday and Friday the 28th and 29th May. Ainsley Stanley, Learning Specialist, will be onsite to support with any issues or queries during my absence.

PUPIL FREE DAY WARNING – MONDAY JUNE 1ST

Families are reminded that Monday 1st June is a Pupil Free Day, with all teachers participating in the annual PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE DAY. Due to this there will be no school for students and families will need to make alternative arrangements for the care of their child/ren. I've put this in today's newsletter to give you time to prepare. These dates were also shared in the newsletter earlier in the year for your calendars, so hopefully you are already aware of the pupil free day. The final pupil free day this term is on Monday 26th June when we do Parent/Carer/Teacher Interviews – an important date to be aware of before the end of term 😊

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 Noah & Maeve with their banana & mandarin 😊.



BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to Blake M, Mason M, Otis J, Jack B, Axel & Jax N.

As we commence WEEK 6, we officially enter the second half of the term. Remaining weeks will be very busy indeed as we continue to teach, assess and then write reports for our students, before reporting to you on the 26th of June. I appreciate the effort families are making to keep children at school each day when they are well and acknowledge that currently this isn't easy for some with the onslaught of winter colds and flu upon us. Lots of vitamin C, water and rest is in order.

Have a lovely Friday and a super weekend...and if you were able to come onsite this week for any of our Education Week events, thank you for being here to celebrate 😊

Matt Pearce, Principal

FOUNDATION NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For enthusiastically participating in classroom discussions and activities:

FC Ronin D
FN Felix C

Catherine, Nicole & Nick

JUNIOR UNIT NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For happily participating in our Education Week celebrations:

JAR Addison A
JJ Carter B

Ainsley, Roberta & Jen

MIDDLE UNIT NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For displaying a positive attitude and enthusiasm towards learning:

MED Prezleigh P
MP Emma P
MWA Phoenix B

Emma, Dean, Pauline, Wendy & Amanda

SENIOR UNIT NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For making great progress in English:

SB Patrick R
SJ Mannix A
SK Luken T

Brett, Jayden & Kate

THE RESILIENCE PROJECT

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

Gratitude

Foundation	Xavier S
Junior Unit	Harlem D
Middle Unit	Piper C
Senior Unit	Bonnie S
Specialist	Abby M

CANTEEN NEWS

NEW ITEMS!!!!

We have the following new items now available:

- ✓ Sweet chilli sauce sachet
- ✓ Mayonnaise sachet
- ✓ Spinach & Ricotta Sausage Roll
- ✓ It's Coco-Not Dairy Dixie Cup
- ✓ Low Fat Vanilla Dixie Cup

Why not try something new tomorrow?

Tammy Fear Canteen Manager

PARENTS & FRIENDS NEWS

GRANDPARENT'S DAY

Thank you so much to all the grandparents / special friends who came and supported our cake stall and soup/toasties, we hope you enjoyed your goodies.

Thanks also to our P&F members and volunteers who helped set up and man the stalls 😊.

Finally, an extra BIG THANK YOU to those families who baked goods for the stall, your time and generosity is greatly appreciated.

Thank you so much for your support

BIG REWARD WINNERS

Congratulations to the following students who have collected 15 big reward slips:

- 📖 Abigail HF
- 📖 Levi D
- 📖 Harry R
- 📖 Ollie Q
- 📖 Axel P
- 📖 Logan EH
- 📖 Cohen B
- 📖 Chloe V
- 📖 Charlotte s

SOCIAL MEDIA & CYBER SAFETY

Navigating the Digital World: Your GPS for the Online Adventure Screen Time vs Real Time, When Tech Takes Over

It is no secret screens are part of everyday life. From homework to group chats, gaming to a cheeky scroll before bed, our tweens and teens are more plugged in than ever. But there is a growing concern about what happens when screen time quietly turns into screen dependence. Here in Australia, families are noticing the shift too. Devices are not the villain, but when they start calling the shots, it can throw things well out of whack.

What Does Screen Addiction Look Like?

We are not talking about kids enjoying their devices, that is pretty standard these days. The warning signs creep in when screens start taking centre stage over everything else.

You might notice

- ❖ Constant checking of phones, even when nothing is buzzing
- ❖ Getting cranky or worked up when it is time to switch off
- ❖ Struggling to stay on task with schoolwork

- ❖ Late night scrolling or gaming marathons
- ❖ Pulling away from family time, mates, or favourite activities

If you are thinking yep, seen that, you are definitely not alone.

The Impact on Growing Minds

Tween and teen brains are still under construction, especially the bits that help with decision making, emotions, and self-control. Too much screen time can throw a spanner in the works.

Sleep takes a hit - Late night scrolling and blue light can mess with sleep. Cue tired kids, rough mornings, and a long day ahead at school.

Mental health matters - Endless scrolling and social media can feed anxiety, comparison, and that feeling of never quite measuring up.

Shorter attention spans - Fast, bite sized content can make it tricky to focus on slower tasks like reading, learning, or even holding a decent conversation.

Less get up and go - More time on screens usually means less time outside, moving, playing sport, or just being active.

What Can Families Do?

No one is suggesting you chuck the devices in the bin, that would go down like a lead balloon. It is more about setting up some healthy habits that actually work in real life.

A few ideas to keep things balanced:

- Set clear, realistic screen time limits, and stick to them
- Make some areas screen free, think bedrooms and the dinner table
- Encourage a mix of activities, sport, hobbies, fresh air
- Talk about what kids are doing online, not just how long they are on
- Wind things down before bed, devices off well before lights out

Keeping It Real

Let us be honest, screens are here to stay. They are part of how kids learn, connect, and relax. But like smashing a whole packet of Tim Tams in one go, too much can leave you feeling a bit off.

It is all about balance. Not perfection, not panic, just keeping things in check so screens do not take over the whole show. Because at the end of the day, the best stuff, the laughs, the chats, the memories, that all happens off screen.

Backpack takeaway

Pack balance, unplug often, and make space for real life moments, that is where the good stuff lives.

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

Kate

THEIR CARE (OSHC) NEWS



TheirCare
Where Kids love to be!

Big Hill Primary School

- Social, enjoyable & fun experiences for children
- Develop creativity, life skills & confidence through play
- Qualified, caring & engaged staff
- Exciting & thoughtfully developed programs
- Healthy & Yummy food provided each day

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

COMMUNITY NEWS

RICHMOND AFLW COME & PLAY



RICHMOND
EST 1885



An opportunity to join in a clinic with Richmond AFLW Players while they visit Bendigo as part of their Community Camp!

LOCATION:

MERCY JUNORTOUN
SPORTING PRECINCT

DATE & TIME:

MONDAY 1ST JUNE
4:15PM-5:15PM

WHO:

GIRLS AGED 5-12

REGISTER:




Kinship Connect





Winter Event

Kinship carers, you and the children in your care are invited to a relaxed, family-friendly movie day. Enjoy some time out, meet others and have fun together. You do not need to be connected with Anglicare Victoria to join us.




 **Date:** Monday 29/06/2026

 **Time:** 10am

 **Location:** Star Cinema

Town Hall, Peg Leg Road, Eaglehawk Vic 3556.

 **Refreshments:** Popcorn & drink provided

Cost: FREE

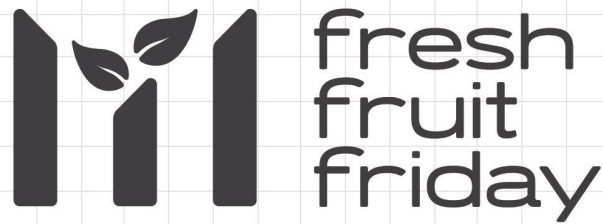
RSVP: Bianca.hogan@anglicarevic.org.au



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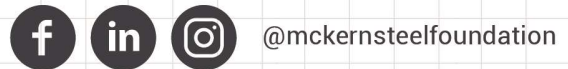


OUR WEEKLY FREE FRESH FRUIT IS MADE POSSIBLE BY:



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 🍏