



Calder Chronicle

NUMBER 15

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THURSDAY, 28TH MAY 2026

CALENDAR

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

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

LAST DAY OF TERM –

Student Award Assembly 9:00am / Footsteps Performance 9:30am

EARLY DISMISSAL 2:30PM

School Organisation

Dear Parents, Carers and Greater Community,

As we commence the second half of the term the children and staff are busy with learning sequences, assessments, and testing in preparation for reporting and interviews to parents in the final week of term. This week has been very busy with the usual learning in place and many different events happening throughout the week. The winter cold, flu and even Covid is doing the rounds, impacting some students and staff. If your child has significant symptoms in the coming weeks, it's worth testing to ensure it isn't one of the flus or COVID – and then keeping them home as a result to recover and prevent the spread. We understand absences when they are explained with a positive test result and appreciate not spreading germs.

PUPIL FREE DAY NEXT WEEK – MONDAY 1ST JUNE

Families are reminded that NEXT 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 your child/ren. The final pupil free day this term is on Monday 22nd June when we do Parent/Carer/Teacher Interviews – an important date to be aware of before the end of term 😊

STAFFING

This week Emma Tuckwell has been unwell, and we have had Anna Deacon working in the 3/4 class. Dean White returned to Big Hill after surgery on Tuesday. Next week Wendy Hicks has some LONG SERVICE LEAVE (LSL) and will be replaced for the week by Amanda Bateman and Friday the 5th of June will see Brett Strange on LSL also for three days, returning on Thursday the 11th of June. Tracy Pengelly and Lauren Ray will cover the 5/6 class during this time. Next week Pauline Mulcair will also be absent and is covered by Anna Deacon from Tuesday to Thursday and Lauren Ray on Friday. Finally on the 4th of June Roberta Mathers will commence LSL and not return until Term 3. During Roberta's absence her STEM program will be delivered by a CRT and her Thursday and Fridays in JUNIOR AINSLEY ROBERTA (JAR) covered by Emma Tuckwell.

ASHPALT UPGRADE

Yesterday we had the beginnings of our asphalt area upgrades, with the old games and lines on the asphalt removed and filled, ready for new marking to occur. Our SRC have surveyed the classes, and this was one of their highest voted improvement areas, so seeing this come to light will be amazing. Fundraising from the P&F and community will help ensure this work is done and paid for 😊

JUNIOR UNIT EXCURSION

The Junior Unit had an amazing excursion on Monday to the Kyabram Fauna Park. The weather was fine and the behaviour of students excellent! This made for a terrific day of learning. A big thank you to Ainsley, Jen, Roberta, Chris and Tammy for their organisation and participation – ensuring our children had a wonderful day of learning about animals at a local Zoos Victoria site.

MIDDLE UNIT GYM

Children in MWA, MP and MED enjoyed their first Gym Session at Jets Gym today. The next scheduled visit will be next Thursday the 4th of June and the final session on the 11th of June. If you have not yet paid, please attend to this via COMPASS or by contacting the Office. As this is an excursion, we require those participating to pay for the activity as it is not a school funded program 😊

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.

FOOTSTEPS DANCE

FOOTSTEPS DANCE continued this week and will continue doing so each Tuesday, involving students from FOUNDATION – Yr 6. Performances are taking shape and will be shared with you, our community, on Friday June 26th (the last day of Term) following the student award assembly, we anticipate this to begin at 9:30am.

COST OF LIVING HAMPERS

Need some additional food items to help at home? No questions asked. We have boxed or bagged hampers of mixed groceries on the table in the foyer. The only favour we ask is that these are collected by adults and not children. If you need one each week, also no questions asked. Visit or let me know discreetly and I'll be happy to help.

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK AND SORRY DAY

This week is significant as we recognised **Sorry Day** on Tuesday 26th May and are currently acknowledging **NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK** from Wednesday 27th May – Wednesday 3rd June, finishing on **Mabo Day**. We will continue to acknowledge key events tomorrow and next 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

Today and tomorrow, I am 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. As I'm away today and tomorrow, Ainsley Stanley, Learning Specialist, will be onsite to support with any issues or queries during my absence. I'll return on Monday the 1st of June if you have anything that you specifically want to talk to me about. I will also be routinely checking emails Matthew.Pearce@education.vic.gov.au should you need to reach out in the meantime. I'll do my best to get back to you at my first opportunity.

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.

BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to Annie T, Hudson K, Levi D and Koby C.

Heading into Week 7 we commence the official winter months, so I remind you to send children to school in warm clothing each day. With illness on the rounds, lots of rest and sleep help children to recover, so keeping this in mind for the rest of the term will be helpful. I do hope your Friday is a positive one and the weekend ahead brings a chance to rest and recharge.

Until next week

Matt Pearce, Principal

FOUNDATION NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For displaying persistence by sounding out unfamiliar words when writing:

FC *Ada M*
FN *Evie H*

Catherine, Nicole & Nick

JUNIOR UNIT NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For displaying our school values on our excursion to the Kyabram Fauna Park:

JAR *Rahm S*
JJ *Izzy P*

Ainsley, Roberta & Jen

MIDDLE UNIT NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For working well in Mathematics:

MED *Jake F*
MP *Ruby S*
MWA *Franklin B*

Emma, Dean, Pauline, Wendy & Amanda

SENIOR UNIT NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Working cooperatively during group activities:

SB *Mila M*
SJ *Makenzie B*
SK *Phoenix B*

Brett, Jayden & Kate

THE RESILIENCE PROJECT

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

Empathy

Foundation	Evander R
Junior Unit	Oliver T
Middle Unit	Sophie H
Senior Unit	Kajarah T
Specialist	Charlotte Q

SOCIAL MEDIA & CYBER SAFETY

Navigating the Digital World: Your GPS for the Online Adventure

The Rise of AI in the Classroom, What It Means for Our Kids

Artificial Intelligence, or AI, is no longer something from the future, it is already part of everyday life for our students. From tools that help write stories to apps that solve maths problems in seconds, AI is changing the way young people learn, think and engage with school.

For many students and adults, AI can be a powerful support. It can help break down tricky concepts, provide instant feedback and give learners the confidence to have a go. Students who may struggle to start writing can use AI to generate ideas, while others can explore topics in greater depth with personalised explanations.

I must admit, I am particularly fond of using AI myself, especially when it comes to creating images, particularly cartoon versions of my travel adventures outside of school. It has become a bit of a creative outlet and, at times, a great way to unwind. That said, it is not always smooth sailing. I have found myself more than once arguing with the robot when it just does not quite get what I am asking for. A good example is trying to create a cartoon of my Ute, getting the steering wheel on the correct side and placing the UHF aerial where it should be proved surprisingly frustrating. It is a good reminder that while AI is clever, it is not perfect and still needs a human touch!



However, this rapid rise also brings new challenges for schools and families. One of the biggest concerns is over reliance. When students turn to AI for quick answers, they may miss out on the important thinking and problem solving that builds real understanding.

Learning is not just about getting the right answer, it's about the process of figuring things out. There are also questions around academic integrity. With AI able to generate full pieces of writing, it can be difficult to know what a student truly understands. This means we need to rethink how we assess learning and place more value on discussion, creativity and demonstrating thinking.

Another key issue is digital literacy. Students need to learn how to use AI safely and responsibly. This includes understanding that AI can make mistakes, show bias and does not always provide reliable information. Teaching students to question, check and think critically is more important than ever.

Social and emotional impacts are also worth considering. If students rely too heavily on digital tools, they may miss opportunities to collaborate, communicate and build relationships with others. Balance remains essential.

So what does this mean for us as educators and families?

It means guiding students, not restricting them. AI is here to stay, and when used well, it can enhance learning in exciting ways. Our role is to

help students become thoughtful, ethical and capable users of technology.

We can support this by encouraging curiosity, asking questions like,

- How did you get that answer?
- Can you explain your thinking?
- What do you think about this information?

We can also model healthy digital habits, showing that technology is a tool, not a replacement for effort, creativity or human connection.

The digital world is evolving quickly, and our students are growing up in a time of incredible opportunity. By working together, we can ensure they are not just consumers of technology, but confident and capable learners ready for the future.

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

Kate Dole

COMMUNITY NEWS



STARTS THU 28TH - SAT 30TH MAY

3 DAYS ONLY

20% OFF

SCHOOLWEAR



*T&C's apply. Not in conjunction with any other offer. Excludes mark downs & gift cards. No rainchecks! Discount applies to original prices, not markdown prices.

IN STORE & ONLINE
MENSWEAR 20-50% OFF

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 JUNORTOWN
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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THEIR CARE (OSHC) NEWS

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- Social, enjoyable & fun experiences for children
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Bookings for the Winter Holiday Program 'White as Snow' are NOW OPEN. Flyers are available in the Office Foyer or see the Compass post that was sent out earlier this week with the full flyer. Please contact Theirare to book or if you have any questions.

8:00 am. Pick-up after 3:30 pm - please note this is an indicative time only, check with service coordinator to confirm pick-up times. Wear runners & socks.				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
29 JUN Spellbound Kingdom Join us as we explore a world of dragons, fairies, and fantasy through exciting activities. Take part in the thrilling Dragon Crossing group game, get creative with enchanted crown crests, and design your very own nature wizard using magical treasures from nature. To finish the day, enjoy a sweet treat with enchanted apple pops. From as low as \$6.58* Full Fee \$95.93**	30 JUN To Infinity and Bounce JUMP into fun times as we head to our favorite indoor trampoline world! Bounce to new heights of fun as we take on the Indoor Trampoline! Back at service, the fun continues with a snake chain craft activity, and a group game of clap catch. From as low as \$8.77* Full Fee \$107.70**	1 JUL Junior Spies Step into the life of a secret agent! Use the blue light secret pen to reveal hidden messages, see the world in reverse with your spy glasses and unlock the detective within! Then keep the mystery going as you collect DIY detective fingerprints and put your skills to the test in an exciting detective group game! From as low as \$8.18* Full Fee \$107.70**	2 JUL Gar-Chow! Get ready for an action-packed day of about cars, speed, and creativity! Kick things off with the traffic-light group game, get crafty and design your own Popcorn Stick Cars and invent as we build and race balloon powered cars. To finish the day, test your speed in the ultimate challenge, the parking bay dash! From as low as \$6.58* Full Fee \$95.93**	3 JUL Wheels of Wonder Experience double the fun today with a collecting and lower laser tag double header at The Zone Fun Park! The fun will not stop there - back at service, get creative and design your very own cartoon mouse headband, and a frosted star stained window decoration. From as low as \$12.89* Full Fee \$129.89**
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
6 JUL Heroes v Villains Get ready for an action-packed day of fun and super-sized challenges! Create your very own superhero mask and design a shield frisbee. Bring your character to life with Fun Pipe Cleaner Super Heroes, then test your skills in an exciting game of Hero vs Villain Tag! Will heroes save the day, or will the villains take over? From as low as \$6.58* Full Fee \$95.93**	7 JUL Mad Hatters Lab Step into a curious world where things are not always as they seem. Mix, stir, and experiment as you create your own peculiar potions inspired by topper-lurry tea parties and mysterious adventures. We will then make our very own Mad Hatter inspired top hat, and play a fun game of this tag and musical top-notch. From as low as \$8.24* Full Fee \$93.40**	8 JUL Pass the Popcorn Lets go to the movies and see Toy Story 5! The toys are back and this time, Buzz Lightyear, Woody, Jessie and the rest of the gang are challenged when they come face-to-face with Lightbulb. Back at service, we will make our own Fork Friend, and compete in a group challenge of Pin the Face on the Potato. From as low as \$8.77* Full Fee \$107.70**	9 JUL Talking T-Rex Lets make our own Talking T-Rex huggy! Stuff your own dino friend, record a special message and back it inside - will it roar, will it joke, or share a secret? It's your voice, your dino, and endless fun in one cuddly package! Then, enjoy DIY stinky dog craft, dinosaur hat craft, and a dino dino eggs STEAM experiment. From as low as \$8.18* Full Fee \$107.70**	10 JUL Animal Sidekick Safari Get ready for a wild adventure today you will create your very own Safari Binoculars to spot creatures up close, then get moving in a silly game of crab walk tag. Unleash your creativity with a playful stinky dog craft, and finish the day with the classic favourite game doggy doggy, where is your bowl? From as low as \$6.58* Full Fee \$95.93**

TheirCare
Where Kids love to be

The place to be these holidays!

White as Snow

WINTER 2026 HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Toy Story 5

Talking T-Rex

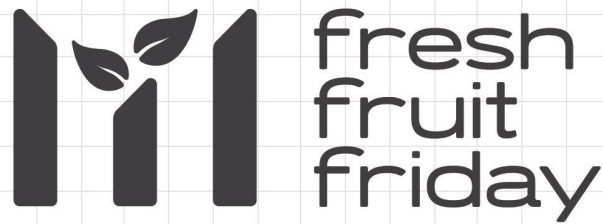
Animal Sidekick Safari

Fish are Friends!

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Save up to 90% with the Child Care Subsidy

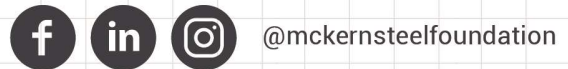
Scan to find your nearest holiday program location.

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 🍏