



# Calder Chronicle

NUMBER 17

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**THURSDAY, 11<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2026**

## CALENDAR

Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> June

Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> June

**THURSDAY, 18<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**

**Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> June**

Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> June

Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> June

Footsteps Whole School Continues

Division Soccer – Selected Year 5/6 students only

**YEAR 2 SLEEPOVER** – please consent on Compass

Cluster Athletics – Selected Year 4 – 6 students only

**Parent / Teacher / Student Conference Day – BOOK ON COMPASS NOW:  
NOT A NORMAL SCHOOL DAY**

*– students only at school for booked conference time*

Pizza Day Orders Due 9:00am

**LAST DAY OF TERM –**

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

**PIZZA DAY** – no normal food items available, iced treats are

**EARLY DISMISSAL 2:30PM**

**Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> July**

**First day Term 3**

## School Organisation

Dear Parents, Carers and Greater Community,

Week 8 has been fast paced with Monday's Public Holiday shortening the week and making the days action packed as a result! We are down to the wire now with just two weeks ahead of us before the June/July school holidays. Whilst children are getting tired and ready for the break, it's important to continue to try and keep them well-rested and send them to school each day, unless they are unwell of course 😊.

### STAFFING

This week we have had Ainsley Stanley away unwell for a couple of days, returning today 😊. Kate Dole was away today with Tracy Pengelly stepping in to support. Tracy will return on Monday also to cover Kate as she steps out of the room for an appointment. Tomorrow Nick Reid has some Long Service Leave and is replaced by Anna Deacon. Roberta Mathers is happily enjoying some Long Service Leave until the end of term, spending the next few weeks in Canada. During Roberta's time away her Thursday/Fridays in JAR will be covered by Emma Tuckwell.

### GROUNDS IMPROVEMENTS

The school has been very busy with our asphalt line-marking now complete. All of our games courts are remarked with a few new editions, making this very exciting for the students. In addition to this we also have repairs underway for our retaining wall and steps leading onto the Tiger Turf, with new concrete steps installed, rotten sleepers replaced and the footings of the retaining wall levelled out with a more suitable surface for children to transition from the stairs to the tiger turf.

In the coming months we are also repainting a half-court basketball area near our Little Kids Playground with installation of a basketball backboard, retaining wall and netting to create another play space for our children. This will give us 4 different backboard areas – with one to be set aside for F to Year 2 ensuring they always have a space to play basketball / netball without competing with the older students.

### STAFFING APPOINTMENTS

Recently we advertised a teaching position and three Education Support positions at the school for the next 6 months. After running a process, we can announce that Molly Heard-Van Emmerik, Jaci Rutter and Ebony Sloane will be joining our team for the next 6 months, supporting children across the school in their Education Support roles. Each will work between 2-3 days a week. Welcome ladies!

Jen Nicholls is taking a well-earned rest in Semester 2 to enjoy some travel overseas. Due to this, we have advertised a replacement for Jen's class for the rest of the year. I'm pleased to announce that experienced teacher, Lauren Ray was successful. Congratulations Lauren and welcome to the Big Hill PS team!

### MIDDLE UNIT GYM

Today was the final session for our Middle Unit students, completing their gym program for another year. Back to normal Thursdays next week.

### **FOUNDATION ENROLMENTS FOR 2027**

Make sure to submit your application (out of zone) **by Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> 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 Big Hill PS.

It is important to submit your enrolment application to us on time to ensure your child is included in all transition activities offered for enrolled students.

Please contact our Office on 5447 7022 to book a school tour or request an application or enrolment form (in zone or current families).

### **FOOTSTEPS DANCE PERFORMANCE**

We are fast approaching the end of term and the performance by students to the community of their FOOTSTEPS routines. Don't miss out on our community dance performance where each class will perform to those visiting. This will be on Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> June at 9:30am. Pencil it into your calendar to ensure you don't miss out!

### **END OF TERM AWARDS**

On the final day of term, Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> June, we will again be presenting STUDENT AWARDS at our 9:00am assembly. Awards in each classroom will be presented in the following categories: ENGLISH AWARD, MATHEMATICS AWARD, SPECIALIST AWARD and OUTSTANDING DEMONSTRATION OF SCHOOL VALUES. Winners will be announced in the last newsletter of term on Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> June.

### **FREE 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 or the Office know discreetly and we'll be happy to help.

### **DIVISION SOCCER & CLUSTER ATHLETICS**

Selected Year 5/6 students chosen to participate in the Division Soccer tournament coming up on Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> June & Cluster Athletics Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> June. Brett is organising participation, so if your child is chosen, please complete consent / make payment on Compass before the date to ensure your child is able to attend. The cost of these events is mainly the student entry fee and transportation costs and must be paid by the individual attending, as this is not a class activity, but an elective.

### **PLANNING WEEK – NEXT WEEK**

Next Tuesday to Friday our teachers will be participating in Term 3 planning. To enable this to occur, normal specialist timetables will be rearranged to provide each classroom teacher with a day to plan for next term.

Some classes may still get most of their specialist classes where others will have a CASUAL RELIEF TEACHER working in their room for the day. To help your child prepare for next week, the Senior Unit will plan on Tuesday (15<sup>th</sup>), Foundation and Middle Unit on Wednesday (16<sup>th</sup>) and Junior Unit on Thursday (17<sup>th</sup>).

### **STUDENT SEMESTER 1 REPORTS**

Student Semester 1 reports will be released to families on COMPASS next Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> June. This will occur late in the afternoon. Please note that there may be a rush to download reports once released, so if you are finding download slow, wait an hour or so and try again.

If your child is in JAR, JJ, SK, SB or SJ please remember that there will be no personal comment due to the AEU STRIKES earlier in the term. As a result of the action across the state, many students in Victoria will have no personal comments because of the action. To get the finer detail please book in for an interview to get a complete picture of your child's progress.

### **MONDAY, 22<sup>nd</sup> JUNE – PARENT / TEACHER / STUDENT CONFERENCES**

Parents/Carers are reminded to book in for these ASAP as booking times are filling fast. No classes will be running on this day; therefore, students are only at school for your booked appointment time. This enables staff to meet with you. Bookings are open now on COMPASS and you can choose to meet in person or via Webex or phone.

If a time doesn't suit, rather than not meet, please contact your child's teacher/s to make an alternative time. These conferences are important opportunities to unpack written reports and will provide greater detail, especially if your child had no written comments due to the industrial AEU Strikes (JAR, JJ, SK, SJ and SB).

### **CHANGES TO BENDIGO SCHOOL BUS SERVICES**

We've been advised by the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) that changes are being made to school special bus services for the start of Term 3. The changes are designed to improve services by increasing capacity and efficiency to meet growing demand.

More information, including timetables and maps, will be available before the end of Term 2.

## **MCKERN FRESH FRUIT**

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

Here are Lyla and Jax with their mandarin and banana.

## **BIRTHDAYS**

Happy birthday to Chloe V, Huddy H, Austin V, Addison M & Oaklynn V.

With cold weather upon us, keep your child dressed in warm clothing each day to ensure they don't succumb to the variety of germs doing the rounds this term. We have had quite a lot of illness of late, so please keep your child well-rested and warm... with doses of Vitamin C also in order.

Two weeks to go, so keep up the good work and let's finish off Term 2 on a high 😊.

Until next week...



*Matt Pearce, Principal*

## **FOUNDATION NEWS**

### **STUDENTS OF THE WEEK**

*For actively participating in our Milo Monkey Celebrations:*

**FC** Theo H  
**FN** Xavier S

*Catherine, Nicole & Nick*

## **JUNIOR UNIT NEWS**

### **STUDENTS OF THE WEEK**

*For demonstrating the School Value of 'Respect' during specialist lessons:*

**JAR** Lucy M  
**JJ** Huddy H

*Ainsley, Roberta & Jen*

## **MIDDLE UNIT NEWS**

### **STUDENTS OF THE WEEK**

*For showing responsibility towards their learning:*

**MED** Mason E  
**MP** Heath G  
**MWA** Mia M

*Emma, Dean, Pauline, Wendy & Amanda*

## **SENIOR UNIT NEWS**

### **STUDENTS OF THE WEEK**

*For taking pride in neat and completed work:*

**SB** Harry R  
**SJ** Ava S  
**SK** Hunter C

*Brett, Jayden & Kate*

## **THE RESILIENCE PROJECT**

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

## **Gratefulness**

Foundation  
Junior Unit  
Middle Unit  
Senior Unit  
Specialist

Frankie C  
Harry B  
Parker H  
Axel N  
Zaylan D

## **SOCIAL MEDIA & CYBER SAFETY**

### **Navigating the Digital World: Your GPS for the Online Adventure**

#### **Short Videos, Big Impact, What Fast Content Is Doing to Our Kids**

If you've ever heard "just one more video!" on repeat, usually right when it's time to leave, eat dinner or go to bed, you're definitely not alone. Welcome to the world of short form videos, the digital equivalent of "just one more Tim Tam", except the packet never runs out.

From YouTube Shorts to quick fire clips that feel a lot like TikTok, this style of content has become a huge part of our kids' online lives. One swipe, and they're onto the next video. Easy, entertaining, and very hard to walk away from. Short funny films of ducks, cats and dogs, and of course current dance trends, are my downfall. I can just as easily lose time in the "just one more" reel.

For primary school aged kids, it's basically digital catnip. Bright colours, quick jokes, endless variety, it's designed to grab their attention and keep it. And while it can feel like harmless fun after school or while you're getting dinner on the table, there's a bit more going on under the surface.

One of the biggest concerns is attention. When kids get used to content that changes every few seconds, slower activities can start to feel like hard work. Reading a book, finishing homework, or even sitting through a full movie can suddenly feel “boring”, even if it never used to be.

Then there’s the instant reward factor. Short videos deliver quick hits of entertainment with almost no effort. Over time, kids can start expecting everything to feel that easy and exciting. When something takes time or patience, like learning times tables or tying shoelaces, frustration can kick in faster than a magpie in swooping season.

Sleep can also take a hit. These platforms are designed to keep you watching, there’s always another video, another laugh, another “just one more.” Before you know it, bedtime has well and truly passed, and everyone’s a bit cactus the next day.

Now, it’s not all doom and gloom. There’s some great, creative and even educational content out there. Kids can learn new skills, discover interests and share laughs with their mates. Like most things in the digital world, it’s all about balance, not banning.

### So, what can parents do?

Start by being aware. You don’t need to hover over every video but having a general idea of what your child is watching, and how often, makes a big difference.

Set some clear boundaries. This could be no screens before school, no scrolling in bedrooms at night, or limits on how long they can watch. Think of it like setting boundaries around lollies, a little is fine, but not an all-day buffet.

Mix it up. Encourage plenty of offline time too, sport, backyard play, reading, drawing, even just being bored, yes, boredom is actually good for kids, even if they strongly disagree.

Have conversations about how these platforms work. Let your child know that the videos are designed to keep them watching, it’s not an accident. Helping them understand this gives them a bit more control.

And finally, be mindful of your own habits. We’ve all had a cheeky scroll that turned into a full episode of “where did that last half hour go?” Kids notice. Showing them it’s okay to switch off is powerful.

In a world of endless scrolling, helping our kids slow down, focus and find balance is more important than ever.

We’re not aiming for perfect, just a healthy mix that keeps their brains, and sanity, in good shape.

Because at the end of the day, real life still beats a screen, even if it doesn’t come with a swipe button.

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

Kate

## COMMUNITY NEWS

Want a warmer home and lower energy bills this winter?

# Home Energy Empowerment Program 2026

May - July



Free events to help make your home more comfortable and cut energy bills.



Suitable for renters and homeowners

**Tuesday May 19**

## Seal the Gaps: Easy Draught Proofing for a Warmer Home

Learn and practise how to draught proof your home.

Presented by Arky Elston from Sapien.

- 🕒 5.30pm to 7pm
- 📍 Sailors Gully Hall, 1A Growler Street, Eaglehawk
- 📱 Scan the QR code below to register, as places are limited

**Tuesday June 2**

## Thinking About an EV? What You Need to Know in 2026

Hear what's happening in the EV market.

Presented by Bryce Gatton from EV Choice.

- 🕒 12.30pm to 1.30pm
- 📍 Online
- 📱 Scan the QR code below to register

**Tuesday June 16**

## Keep the Heat In: Low Cost DIY Window Upgrades for Your Home

Presented by Lucinda Flynn from Going Green Solutions.

- 🕒 5.30pm to 7pm
- 📍 Bendigo Neighbourhood Hub, 155 Crook Street, Strathdale
- 📱 Scan the QR code below to register, as places are limited

**Tuesday June 30**

## Insulation 101: Where to Start and What Really Makes a Difference

Presented by EcoHome.

- 🕒 5.30pm to 7pm
- 📍 Long Gully Pavillion, 21 Cunneen Street, Long Gully
- 📱 Scan the QR code below to register, as places are limited

**Wednesday July 15**

## Powering Your Home: Solar and Battery Options Explained

Presented by Leah O'Shea from Midland Solar.

- 🕒 1pm to 2pm
- 📍 Online
- 📱 Scan the QR code below to register



For more information on upcoming events go to [go.bendigo.vic.gov.au/savingenergy](https://go.bendigo.vic.gov.au/savingenergy) or sign up to our Environment Matters e-newsletter.



## 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/>

Bookings for the Winter Holiday Program 'White as Snow' are NOW OPEN. Flyers are available in the Office Foyer or see the recent Compass post that was sent out with the full flyer. Please contact TheirCare to book or if you have any questions.

9:00 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
<b>29 JUN</b> <b>Spellbound Kingdom</b> Join us as we explore a world of dragons, fairies, and fantasy through exciting activities. Take part in the Charming Dragon Drawing group game, get creative with enchanted crown crafts, and design your very own nature wand using magical resources from nature. To finish the day, enjoy a sweet treat with enchanted apple pops. From as low as \$8.59* Full Fee \$26.50**	<b>30 JUN</b> <b>To Infinity and Bounce</b> JUMP into fun times as we head to our favorite indoor trampoline arena! 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 \$11.79** Full Fee \$37.00**	<b>1 JUL</b> <b>Junior Spies</b> 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 DIT detective fingerprints and put your skills to the test in an exciting detective group game! From as low as \$8.98* Full Fee \$26.77**	<b>2 JUL</b> <b>Car-Chow!</b> Get ready for an action-packed day all about cars, speed, and creativity! Kick things off with the traffic lights group game, get crafty and design your own Popcorn Stick Cars and inventive 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 \$8.59* Full Fee \$26.50**	<b>3 JUL</b> <b>Wheels of Wonder</b> Experience double the fun today with a roller skating 600 Super Tag double header at The Zone Fun Park! The fun will not stop there - back at service, get creative and design your very own custom mascot headband, and a frosted star shaped winter decoration. From as low as \$12.99* Full Fee \$38.68**
<b>6 JUL</b> <b>Heroes v Villains</b> Get ready for an action-packed day of fun and super-sized challenges! Create your very own superhero mask and design a pretend villain. Bring your characters to life with the 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 \$8.59* Full Fee \$26.50**	<b>7 JUL</b> <b>Mad Hatters Lab</b> Step into a curious world where things are not always as they seem. This, uh, and experienced as you create your own peculiar potions inspired by popular Harry Potter series and mysterious adventures. We will then make our very own Mad Hatter. Inspired by tea, and play a fun game of tea tag and musical tag scotch. From as low as \$8.24* Full Fee \$24.40**	<b>8 JUL</b> <b>Pass the Popcorn</b> 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 join 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 \$11.79** Full Fee \$37.00**	<b>9 JUL</b> <b>Talking T-Rex</b> Lets make our own Talking T-Rex! Stuff your own dice friend, record a special message and tuck it inside - will it roar, let a joke, or share a secret? It is your choice, your dice, and endless fun in one cuddly package! Then enjoy DIT drinks, clay craft, dinosaur tag craft, and a fuzzy dice wags STEE! experiment! From as low as \$8.98* Full Fee \$26.77**	<b>10 JUL</b> <b>Animal Sidekick Safari</b> Get ready for a wild adventure today you will create your very own Safari Binoculars to spot creatures up-close, then get making in a rilly game of crop walk tag. Release your creativity with a playful silky dog craft, and finish the day with the classic favourite game doggy doozy, where is your bone! From as low as \$8.59* Full Fee \$26.50**

**FOOTY FUN JUST FOR GIRLS**

# SCHOOL HOLIDAYS SORTED

**PLAY.AFL/HOLIDAYPROGRAMS**

## BENDIGO ALL GIRLS AFL SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

**WEDNESDAY 1ST JULY | 9AM-3PM**  
**WEEROONA OVAL, BENDIGO**  
**GIRLS AGED 4-12**  
**\$35 PER PERSON - FOOTY TO KEEP!**

# PIZZA DAY!

FRIDAY 26<sup>th</sup> JUNE

AT THE SCHOOL CANTEEN

Order Now!

Don't Miss Out!

**\$6.00 PIZZA & DRINK COMBO**

YOUR CHOICE OF SLICE:

1



MEAT LOVERS

2



HAWAIIAN

3



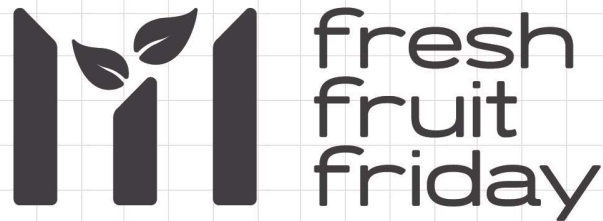
VEGETARIAN

\*GLUTEN FREE HAWAIIAN AVAILABLE (ADDITIONAL COST)\*






Orders to be placed on Compass by 9:00am, WEDNESDAY, 24<sup>TH</sup> JUNE  
Additional slices \$2.00 each

THANK YOU TO MCKERN STEEL FOUNDATION AND SPONSORS



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.

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