



Calder Chronicle

NUMBER 19

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, 25TH JUNE 2026

CALENDAR

Friday, 26th June

LAST DAY OF TERM – OUT OF UNIFORM DAY (FREE – sports colours)
Student Awards Assembly 9:00am / Footsteps Performance 9:30am
Electric Wonderland Colouring Competition winners announced
PIZZA DAY – no normal food items available, iced treats are
EARLY DISMISSAL 2:30PM

Monday, 13th July

Wednesday, 22nd July

FRIDAY, 24TH JULY

Wednesday, 29th July

Wednesday, 12th August

FRIDAY, 14TH AUGUST

Monday, 17th August

Wednesday, 19th August

Friday, 21st August

Thursday, 27th August

Thursday, 3rd September

First day Term 3

Selected Year 5/6 Girls & Boys Football – more info shortly

\$100 DEPOSIT DUE FOR SENIOR UNIT CAMP

Selected Year 5/6 Netball – more info shortly

Payment due for JU Gym

CURRICULUM DAY

Payment due for SU Gym

Junior Unit Gym commences

Senior Unit Gym commences

Payment due for Foundation Gym

Foundation Gym commences

Year 3/4 Camp – more info to follow

School Organisation

Dear Parents, Carers and Greater Community,

Welcome to the final week of Term 2. I say it every term, but it's hard to believe the term is almost over! Time just flies past with the business of school and life in general.

STAFFING

Staffing this week has continued to be settled, thankfully. Roberta remains on LSL for the rest of the term and is replaced by Emma today and tomorrow.

Tomorrow, we say bon voyage to Jen Nicholls for the rest of the year! Jen is travelling overseas and will return to Big Hill PS at the commencement of 2027. We wish Jen and her husband a wonderful and safe time overseas and look forward to her return. During Jen's absence we have Lauren Ray working in her class. Lauren is a very experienced teacher and many of you got to meet her at Monday's interviews 😊.

Chris Powers, our wonderful Chaplain, finishes up tomorrow. We will be farewelling him with a gift and morning tea. Feel free to reach out to Chris tomorrow if you want to wish him well also. Currently we are recruiting a new Chaplain with interviews set in the holidays. Hopefully we will have an announcement early next term.

Finally at the start of next term, I will be on Long Service Leave for the first two and a half weeks, returning on Wednesday, 29th July. During my absence Ainsley will be Acting Principal and will be able to support you with any concerns during this time. As Ainsley steps out of the classroom from Monday to Wednesday we have her class covered with our existing teaching staff, with Amanda covering the first week (Monday – Wednesday) and then Roberta working Week 2 and 3 full time in the classroom.

OUT OF UNIFORM TOMORROW

Students can come out of uniform tomorrow wearing their favourite sports colours. This can be any sport or code. If your child doesn't want to do sports colours, they are welcome to come in ordinary out of uniform options. There is no cost to families - we only hold one OUT OF UNIFORM a term that requires a gold coin donation. Please ensure that your child wears warm clothing and suitable clothes and footwear to participate in FOOTSTEPS however 😊.

END OF TERM AWARDS

Tomorrow we will 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 are announced in today's newsletter – congratulations to those students acknowledged 😊. Winners of the Electric Wonderland will be announced at the assembly. At the completion of term awards, we will take a short break and set up for FOOTSTEPS.

FOOTSTEPS COMMUNITY DANCE PERFORMANCE – TOMORROW

Tomorrow our students will perform their FOOTSTEPS DANCE ROUTINE to the community. We hope to set up at 9:45am and commence shortly after. If you would love to come and watch, please BRING A CHAIR and set up ready to enjoy the show from 9:45am. The weather is looking fine, but dress for the outdoors... a warm coat and scarf might be in order. We will also have a free cup of tea or coffee for visiting adults to enjoy... this will be available in our library. The performance is set to be a great showcase of skill, perseverance and resilience. It's not easy to get up and move in front of an audience, so please encourage your child/ren to have a go and congratulate them after for demonstrating one of our school values: RESILIENCE! A big thank you to Dean White for organising this amazing incursion for our students this term 😊.

CONFERENCES

Thank you to the great majority of families who attended Monday's Parent / Teacher / Student interviews. These sessions are an important opportunity for families to get detailed updates about the progress of their child/ren. Please remember, at any time if you are worried about your child, please reach out to your child's teacher to set up a conversation. The team are always happy to meet in person or take a phone call 😊.

COST OF LIVING HAMPERS

Need some additional food items to help at home? No questions asked. We have hampers of mixed groceries on the table in the Office foyer. The only favour we ask is that these are collected by adults and not children. This might be handy leading into the holidays so please do not hesitate to collect one.

PIZZA DAY

Tomorrow is our Pizza Day for Term 2. Orders have now closed, so if you have missed ordering, please organise another lunch option for your child, as our canteen is closed for normal food items to enable us to do pizzas.

LAST DAY OF TERM – EARLY DISMISSAL & BUSES

Tomorrow we will dismiss 45 minutes earlier in line with other schools at 2:30pm, so please organise to pick your child up at this earlier time or book them into TheirCare who run our OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE PROGRAM. The Ravenswood bus will run at this earlier time – with families asked to organise bus pickups 1 hour earlier as a result. The Kangaroo Flat bus will also run at this earlier time with families again asked to adjust pickups from bus stops.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS, TERM 3 AND SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

School resumes for Term 3 on Monday, 13th July. TheirCare have unfortunately had to merge their WINTER HOLIDAY PROGRAM with Strathfieldsaye Primary School again. If you had booked into the Big Hill PS service, you will need to now rebook into the holiday program being operated at Strathfieldsaye Primary School. Bookings don't just transfer across. Our School Council are very disappointed with the short notice around this change and have passed on our community's frustrations to the management of TheirCare. This is of course not the fault of our wonderful onsite TheirCare STAFF...Maddy, Clare, Tammy etc – they all do a wonderful job!

HOLIDAY SECURITY

We have some wonderful new security cameras which can film the onsite antics over the holidays. Regardless, we still encourage you to ring the Police (000) if you notice any suspicious behaviour onsite over the break. We appreciate the extra "eyes".

MOBILE PHONE NUMBERS NO LONGER AVAILABLE

The phone numbers used by Janet – 0416 071 247 and Matt – 0438 738 788 are no longer valid for school purposes. Please email them directly: janet.dean@education.vic.gov.au or matthew.pearce@education.vic.gov.au or the school email big.hill.ps@education.vic.gov.au or call the school on 5447 7022. If it is related to an absence, please submit it on Compass. Thank you.

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 Noah and Maeve with their apple and orange.

BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to Bentley G, Levi S, Brady M, Harry R, Jacob S, Lucy M, Linken A, Parker S, Linc M, Oliver T, Rhemmi C, Kelahni K, Mila C, Harper W, Charlotte Q, Elijah Q & Archer M.



With one day to go, it won't be long until your child/ren get to have a well-earned rest and break from routine. I do hope there are chances for families to be together and to stop, rest and renew... ready for Term 3. At 10 weeks long and full of exciting activities, it's going to be another big term... so resting your child in preparation is a great idea... and it sets them up for success.

Stay safe and well over the next few weeks. I'll see you in Term 3 😊.

Matt Pearce, Principal

BIG REWARD WINNERS

Congratulations to the following students who have received 15 big rewards, well done 😊:

🎉 *Mannie C*
🎉 *Lucy M*
🎉 *Ned D*
🎉 *Oli T*
🎉 *Logan E*
🎉 *Hunter G*
🎉 *Abigail v*
🎉 *Charlotte Q*

SENIOR UNIT NEWS

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS (TERM 3)

Students will participate in two Personal Development sessions delivered by Bendigo Health on Monday, 20th and Monday, 27th July (Weeks 2 and 3).

These sessions support the Victorian Curriculum Health strand, focusing on managing changes associated with puberty, understanding and managing emotions, and exploring reliable health information.

The aim is to provide students with age-appropriate knowledge and practical strategies to support their wellbeing during this stage of development.

We value our ongoing partnership with Bendigo Health and the expertise they bring to our school.



PO Box 1121,
Bendigo Central
Victoria 3552
Reg. No. A0024004N
ACR: 136 467 725
ABN: 76 026 154 968

Dear Parents & Carers,

Our class is about to begin an important unit about growth and personal development. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the content that will be covered, which will enable students to achieve the outcomes outlined in the Health and Physical Education Victorian Curriculum, and the Victorian Resilience, Rights & Respectful Relationships Curriculum.

Health Promotion Officers from Bendigo Community Health Services will be coming to deliver puberty education in Term 3, Week 5 & 6.

There will be two sessions for each class, each involving interactive activities and meaningful information for students who are going through these changes.

Puberty topics that will be covered include

- Learning what is puberty
- Reproductive labelling
- Defining sex, gender and sexuality
- Understanding the physical, emotional and social changes and transitions through puberty
- Examining a range of strategies to help manage changes associated with puberty
- Menstruation, introduction to conception and pregnancy
- Managing intense emotions
- Body image
- Consent
- Online safety & unwanted images
- Pornography
- Seeking help

It is hoped that your child will want to discuss the topic of adolescent development with you at home.

If you have any questions on content, don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

CANTEEN NEWS

VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME 😊

Helpers are wanted between 9:00am – 10:00am or 12:45pm – 1:45pm on Fridays only, once or twice per term.

If you would like to help, please leave your details at the Office and I will contact you.

A current Working with Children Check is all that is required and can be applied online for free.

We appreciate all offers of help as this enables the continuation of the canteen and assists with economical pricing on our extensive menu.

Thank you,

Tammy Fear
Canteen Manager

CHINESE NEWS

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES ANNOUNCED

Congratulations to our newly elected Chinese Class Representatives: Jade L, Vincenzo P, Abigail H and Mason P!

Following a student vote across our Senior Unit, these students have been selected to represent Chinese language learning within our school community. We commend them on their enthusiasm, leadership, and willingness to take on this important role.

As Chinese Class Representatives, they will help promote the learning of Chinese throughout the school, encourage student participation in language and cultural activities, and serve as positive ambassadors for our Chinese program.

We look forward to seeing the valuable contributions our CCRs will make in supporting and celebrating language learning at our school. Congratulations once again on your achievement!

Yuzi Xie
Language Specialist Chinese

SOCIAL MEDIA & CYBER SAFETY

Navigating the Digital World: Your GPS for the Online Adventure

What Parents Need to Know About Kids & Social Media

You may have seen in the media recently a bit of chatter about a new study on kids and social media, and what it might mean for their mental health. It's been doing the rounds, usually sandwiched between cost-of-living updates and the weather.

The Aussie research followed around 1,200 Melbourne kids over 10 years, from primary school right through to their late teens. It found that kids who spend more than two hours a day on social media might be a bit more likely to experience low mood, anxiety, and dips in overall wellbeing.

The key takeaway, there is a link there, but it's small, not exactly a five-alarm fire or a reason to chuck every device in the top drawer just yet.

The biggest impact showed up in kids aged 12 to 13, especially girls. This is that in between stage where kids are just starting to properly get into social media, while also dealing with big emotional and social changes. Friendships can get a bit wobbly, fitting in suddenly matters more than ever, and feeling left out can sting a bit more than it used to.

On top of that, their brains are still learning how to manage emotions, reactions, and self-confidence. So, when you throw in likes, comments, and the highlight reel of everyone else's life, it can sometimes dial things up.

There's also been plenty of talk lately about social media bans for kids under 16. Sounds good in theory, right? But if you've ever watched a kid figure out a new app faster than you can find your reading glasses, you'll know they're pretty resourceful. They adapt, they find workarounds, and they tend to move just as quickly as the rules do. Which means, like it or not, the chats at home still matter more than ever!

Because, and this is important,
the experts say this isn't the full story.

The study relied on kids estimating their own screen time, which, let's be honest, is a bit like asking them how long they spent cleaning their room. It also didn't look at what they were actually doing online. Watching funny videos of ducks, cats and dogs, keeping up with mates, following hobbies, learning new things, or going down the "just one more scroll" rabbit hole are all very different experiences, and they don't affect kids the same way.

For a lot of kids, social media is where they connect, have a laugh, and feel part of the group. For others, especially if they're already having a tough time, it can sometimes make things feel a bit heavier. So, it's not as simple as saying social media is bad!

What really matters is:

- how long kids are on it,
- what they're actually doing,
- who they're interacting with,
- and how it's making them feel, during and after.

The bottom line for parents

Social media isn't the enemy, but it's not a free for all either. A bit of balance, some gentle guidance, and regular check ins can go a long way. Even a quick chat in the car, at dinner, or at school pick-up while you're parked or stuck in slow-moving traffic waiting for congestion to clear, can make a difference.

Staying curious instead of jumping straight to "hop off that thing" helps keep the conversation open. When kids feel safe to talk, they're more likely to speak up if something's not sitting right.

Setting a few simple boundaries, encouraging time offline, and modelling healthy habits ourselves all helps, even if we don't always nail it.

Final Thought

Rules and bans might set the tone, but they won't do the whole job for us. Our kids are growing up in a fast-moving digital world, and while they're quick on the tech, they still need us in their corner. Keep the chats going, trust your gut, and remember, sometimes the best reset is a bit of fresh air and a kick of the footy.



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

Kate Dole

COMMUNITY NEWS

KANGAROO FLAT SCHOOL HOLIDAY FOOTBALL CLINIC

ALL JUNIOR FOOTBALL PLAYERS WELCOME

THURSDAY 9TH JULY 2026
DOWER PARK OVAL, KANGAROO FLAT
9AM – 11:30AM – FOR BOYS & GIRLS AGED 5-12
12PM – 2:30PM – FOR BOYS & GIRLS AGES 13-16

\$10 per child or \$20 per family

The program is designed specifically for kids who want to improve their AFL football skills before the season ends. Kids will be exposed to drills they can practice in their own time to improve individual development. The day is open to all skill levels and players, this program combines fun with youth development.

Hosted by **Jeremy Rodi** - KFFNC's Current Development coach & Bendigo Pioneers Assistant Coach

KANGAROO FLAT JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB | #WEAREKANGAROOFLAT

SALE STARTS THU 25TH JUNE

LOWES

WINTER SCHOOLWEAR SALE

30% OFF*

INSTORE & ONLINE

*T&C's apply. Selected styles. Not in conjunction with any other offer. No Rainchecks.

BENDIGO REGIONAL TENNIS CENTRE Wellness Day

FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY

SUNDAY 5 JULY 2026 | **10:00 AM – 2:00 PM**

Bendigo Regional Tennis Centre
FREE ENTRY — Gold Coin Donation Welcome

MOVE. BREATHE. CONNECT. PLAY.

Join us for a free morning of fun, fitness and community spirit during the school holidays. Whether you're 5 or 85, there's something for everyone.

 HOT SHOTS TENNIS Kids aged 5-12 All equipment provided	 QI GONG Gentle movement for all ages & abilities	 YOGA Stretching, breathing & mindfulness	 FUN GAMES Rally challenges & prizes to be won!	 COMMUNITY CONNECTION Meet, connect & celebrate together
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SUPPORTING BUSHFIRE RECOVERY
 All gold coin donations collected on the day will be directed to families and communities affected by the 2026 bushfires.
Every dollar makes a difference — thank you for your generosity.



FREE ENTRY!
 Gold coin donation welcome



OPEN TO EVERYONE — BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY!
 ♥ School Kids 5-12 ♥ Families ♥ Seniors ♥ Community

WHAT TO BRING
 Comfortable clothing, water bottle, sunscreen & a smile.
 Tennis equipment provided for HOT SHOTS.
 Yoga mats available or BYO.

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST OR FIND OUT MORE
 ☎ (03) 5442 5744
 ✉ admin@bendigotennis.com.au
 📍 Bendigo Regional Tennis Centre

Proudly hosted by Classic Tennis, Zen Performance and Bendigo Regional Tennis Centre — serving our community on and off the court.

Stronger Together, Healthier Together










STUDENTS OF THE TERM AWARDS – TERM 2

ENGLISH

FC:	Noah P	FN:	Freya C	
JAR:	Mannie C	JJ:	Maisie C	
MED:	Malachi B	MP:	Harvey B	MWA: Lily C
SB:	Avery F	SJ:	Sienna B	SK: Dante D

MATHEMATICS

FC:	Karsyn C	FN:	Xavier S	
JAR:	Rylan E	JJ:	Layla B	
MED:	Archer B	MP:	Mitchell G	MWA: Franklin B
SB:	Ryan W	SJ:	Mannix A	SK: Phoenix B

SCHOOL VALUES

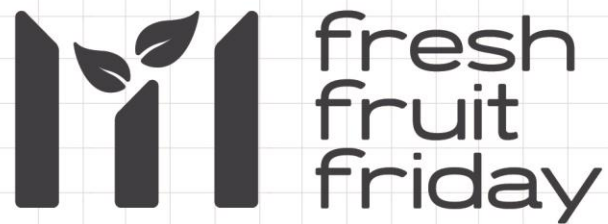
FC:	Raven O	FN:	Felix C	
JAR:	Charlotte S	JJ:	Huxley T	
MED:	Mason E	MP:	Rhemmi C	MWA: Otis E
SB:	Mila M	SJ:	Abby M	SK: Hannah G

SPECIALISTS

Foundation: ART Junior Unit: CHINESE Middle Unit: MUSIC Senior Unit: STEM

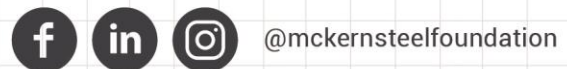
FC:	Evander R	FN:	Noah A	
JAR:	Poppy H	JJ:	Everly F	
MED:	Peyton B	MP:	Levi S	MWA: Kelahni
SB:	Claudia v	SJ:	Celeste N	SK: Rami A

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



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 🥰