



Calder Chronicle

NUMBER 23

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THURSDAY, 13TH AUGUST 2026

CALENDAR

Thursday, 13th August

FRIDAY, 14TH AUGUST

MONDAY, 17TH AUGUST

Tuesday, 18th August

Wednesday, 19th August

Friday, 21st August

Monday, 24th August

Wednesday, 26th August

Thursday, 27th August

Monday, 31st August

Wednesday, 2nd September

Thursday, 3rd September

Friday, 4th September

Monday, 7th September

Thursday, 10th September

Monday, 14th September

Wednesday, 16th September

Thursday, 17th September

FRIDAY, 18TH SEPTEMBER

P&F Walker's Doughnut Drive:

Forms / payment due on Compass/Office BY 3:30PM TODAY!

CURRICULUM DAY

Payment due for SU Gym

~~BOOK FAIR commences~~

School Review commences

Parent / Carer Forum about School Review – 2:45pm to 3:15pm – ALL WELCOME

Junior Unit Gym commences

BOOK FAIR COMMENCES – after school in Multi-classroom next to Wendy's

Senior Unit Gym commences

Payment due for Foundation Gym

P&F Walker's Doughnut Drive COLLECTION DAY

Payment due for Year 3/4 Camp

Book Week Parade 9:00am

Junior Unit Gym continues

Senior Unit Gym continues

Foundation Gym commences

Junior Unit Gym continues

Indigenous Literacy Day

Senior Unit Gym continues

Year 3/4 Camp departs

Foundation Gym continues

Year 3/4 Camp returns

Senior Unit Gym concludes

Junior Unit Gym concludes

Foundation Gym continues

RACV Safety Squad Incursion - Foundation & Junior Unit

LAST DAY TO ORDER PIZZA

Foundation Gym concludes

Pizza Day – no normal food items available but ICED TREATS WILL BE

LAST DAY FOR TERM 3 – EARLY DISMISSAL 2:30PM

School Organisation

Dear Parents, Carers and Greater Community,

Week 5 has been very busy for students and staff with full days of learning in place and continued focus on explicit and sequenced teaching of literacy and mathematics. Tomorrow also marks the halfway point of Term 3, reminding us that there are only 5 weeks left of the term before the Spring break. It's nice to think that warm weather might not be too far away – especially as we have had some really cold days of late and a lot of drizzly, showery weather.

CURRICULUM DAY TOMORROW! NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

Just a reminder to families that tomorrow, Friday, 14th August, our staff will take part in the third of our curriculum days planned for this year. Due to this there will be no school for students and other care arrangements will need to be made. TheirCare also offers an onsite program for families who might need to book into the service due to no school.

STAFFING

This week we have had Amy away and due to this her MACQLIT program has been paused. This will resume next week when Amy returns. Stacey has also been away this week and won't return for another two weeks as she explores New Zealand with her family. Janet also begins Long Service Leave tomorrow, returning next Thursday after a nice break by the seaside.

GYM PROGRAMS STARTING SOON

The Junior and Senior Units will soon have their PALMERS GYM program starting each Monday (Junior) and Wednesday (Senior) – commencing on the 17th/19th, and the Foundation Gym starting on the 27th at Summersalt (formerly Jets Gym). Consent and payment are via COMPASS, so please attend to this before the first visit. A reminder that the gym program is an excursion and it is user pays... the school does not get any funding to cover the costs.

FREE HAMPERS OR INDIVIDUAL ITEMS

ON the foyer table we have all the items pictured available for FREE to any family who would like them 😊. Stock is renewed every Thursday, so please come and help yourself – we all can use some help sometimes and we get the items for free, so please come and have a look! If you can't make it in, please let us know and we can send home items with your child if you prefer.



BOOK FAIR NEXT TUESDAY TO FRIDAY

We have our annual Scholastic Book Fair beginning next Tuesday, 18th August. Wendy Hicks has been busy getting ready for this exciting event...and we can advise that the fair will operate Tuesday to Friday from 3:30pm to 4:00pm each day. The location of the Book Fair this year will be at the rear of Wendy's class in our MULTIPURPOSE BUILDING (the big blue one). If unsure, please just check in at the office for directions. Items for sale start from as little as \$2 – so there is no need for huge expense. Sales from the fair ensure our school gets a decent percentage of sales to use with Scholastic to add additional books to our library... so this is a great library fundraiser for the school 😊 We hope to see you there next week after school.

SCHOOL REVIEW MONDAY AND TUESDAY

Our School Review is occurring on Monday, 17th and Tuesday, 18th August. These will be normal school days for our students, however some students may be selected to take part in a student focus group session where the review panel ask them questions about Big Hill, their classroom, learning and overall social interactions whilst onsite. Staff like Ainsley and myself and our School Council President Candy will be heavily involved on Monday and Tuesday from 8:30am – 4:30pm. Should you need to speak to one of us, please know we will return your call when the pace of the days settles. If urgent, we have Dean working in the Administration area to support students and parents. As Ainsley is released to participate as our Learning Specialist on Monday and Tuesday, we are fortunate to have Roberta working the extra days to ensure JAR is covered with one of their usual teachers. As part of the review, we welcome our independent reviewer Anne Smart, Challenge Partners: Anne Rochford (Principal of Quarry Hill PS) and Kerry Hammond (DET SWPBS Coach) and our SENIOR EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT LEADER (SEIL) Stephen Brain. By the close of business Tuesday, we will have a clear idea of our future direction for the next 4 years.

YOUR INVITATION TO THE PARENT / CARER FORUM ON MONDAY

As part of our School Review, outlined above, we need the voice of the parent community. Due to this, we are running a PARENT / CARER FORUM on Monday, 17th August from 2:45pm – 3:15pm and invite you to come along and share your views, via prompt questions from our reviewer etc, during this time. Please sign in at the Office on your way to the Library. We have ensured the timing is in line with end of day to encourage more parent / carers to come along and share their views. Please note that school staff, including myself, will not be present, enabling families to share freely their thoughts. Please mark this one in your calendar and we hope to see you there.

LOCKOUT DRILL

As part of our Emergency Management Plan, we regularly review and rehearse our evacuation procedures. Due to this we will be having a LOCK-OUT DRILL next Wednesday, 19th August (midday) to ensure staff and students know what to do if required to evacuate. As part of the evacuation, we will leave classrooms and evacuate to our Assembly Point 2 – the undercover area. This drill will occur whilst the Senior Unit are at gym and the timing is deliberate as we want to see how the process runs with a group being offsite, which is quite often the case on some days. Due to this, it's worth testing out the scenario of classes / students being offsite. Please prepare your child by reassuring them that there will be a drill on Wednesday and this is just practice ensuring we can all act calmly if we ever need to use a LOCKOUT / EVACUATION in the event of a real emergency.

ACADEMY OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

Next Thursday I will once again be offsite working at the Academy to deliver the INSPIRE PROGRAM to emerging leaders from a vast variety of schools around Bendigo and beyond. As I will be offsite for the day, please contact the Office or Ainsley directly if you have any concerns or queries.

BOOK WEEK DRESS UP PARADE

We have our Book Week Dress Up and parade coming very soon. Your child/ren are invited to dress up as their favourite book character on Monday, 24th August. We will have a parade for the community, outdoors in the undercover area at 9:00am. All welcome. Please don't stress too much about outfits... your child can come as everyday characters from favourite books with little effort. Face paint is another quick way to get a costume in order. As we are celebrating Book Week, we will be celebrating all children who make an effort and won't be shortlisting students for certificates etc. The focus is on participation and celebrating great books.

H5 BIRD FLU

Cases of H5 bird flu have been confirmed in birds across Australia, including in south-west Victoria. Our school has steps to follow if sick or dead birds are found at or near our school.

If you see a sick or dead bird at or near the school, please let us know. If you find a sick or dead bird in the community, the advice from the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry is to:

1. Avoid contact and keep your distance,
2. Record date, time, location and take photos,
3. Report it using an [online form](#) or through the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline: 1800 675 888.

For current information about reporting, refer to DEECA's [H5 bird flu page](#).

For more information, you can check out these [bird flu resources from the Australian Government](#).

We are also following precautions to help protect birds kept onsite at our school from bird flu. We are:

- keeping feed and water away from wild birds,
- keeping birds away from dams, ponds and wild bird areas,
- using netting, roofing or fencing where practical,
- wearing clean boots and clothes when entering poultry areas.

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 Cohen and Parker with their apple and mandarin.



BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to Maci & Abby V.

As we approach the halfway mark of term, the realisation that we have 5 weeks to go hits home! It's also a reminder that Spring is not very far off, daylight hours are starting to stretch out, and the weather may also eventually warm, providing greater opportunities to play outside and enjoy the sun. What a great way to shake off the winter blues! With a sunny weekend forecast ahead, here's hoping it's a sign of what's to come. I do hope you make the most of your weekend in the sun with your child/ren.

Have a great Friday and an even better weekend,

Matt Pearce, Principal

FOUNDATION NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For enthusiastically taking part in our 100 Days Of School Celebrations:

FC **Noah P**
FN **Evie H**

Catherine, Nicole & Nick

JUNIOR UNIT NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For displaying the School Value of Responsibility when using the Earth Ed equipment:

JAR **Logan EH**
JJ **Eli Q**

Ainsley, Roberta & Lauren

MIDDLE UNIT NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For showing pride in the presentation of their work:

MED **Bentley G**
MP **Memphis J**
MWA **Teddy R**

Emma, Dean, Pauline, Wendy & Amanda

SENIOR UNIT NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For including others and making sure everyone feels welcome and valued:

SB **Claudia V**
SJ **Koby C**
SK **Heath B**

Brett, Jayden & Kate

THE RESILIENCE PROJECT

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

Empathy

Foundation
Junior Unit
Middle Unit
Senior Unit
Specialist

Olivia H
Ollie Q
Archer M
Ava C
Maverick H

BIG REWARD WINNERS

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

Levi D
Chloe V

BOOK FAIR FROM TUES 18TH

This year the Book Fair will be held from Tuesday, 18th August to Friday, 21st August.

It will be open from 3:30pm – 4:00pm in the classroom next to Wendy's at the Multipurpose Building. There will be a wide range of books and stationery items available to purchase.

What a great opportunity to buy that favourite book you've had your eye on, encourage the joy of reading, and support the school at the same time!

See you at the Book Fair!!

PARENTS & FRIENDS NEWS

It's almost that time of the year again:

FATHERS DAY!

Our stall / raffle will be held / drawn on Wednesday, 2nd September and we are asking for donations. Below are a few suggestions:

- * Fishing gear
- * Chocolates
- * Mugs
- * Clear bags
- * Cellophane
- * Camping
- * Books
- * Car cleaning
- * Scarves
- * Gloves
- * Biscuits etc

Thank you so much for your support,

Parents & Friends

THEIR CARE (OSHC) NEWS



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

COMMUNITY NEWS

DAFFODIL SERVICE



We have a student art display, so please come along and see their beautiful works. 😊

Neurodivergence, PDA and the Classroom

RIAC is pleased to support a free family event for families with children who find school attendance challenging and/or who have been diagnosed with autism and pathological demand avoidance (PDA).

Guest speaker: Sarah Middleton, an ADHD social worker, will present practical strategies for navigating and advocating within the education system.

Following the short presentation, families are invited to enjoy light refreshments and spend time connecting with one another.

Children are welcome to attend and meet other young people who may also be experiencing challenges with school attendance. Craft activities and other engaging options will be available for children who would prefer not to sit through the presentation.

Places are limited to help ensure a comfortable and relaxed experience for everyone, so we encourage families to book early.

Family Event
Neurodivergence/PDA and the classroom

Presentation delivered by Sarah Middleton, followed by a morning tea and a chance to chat with and meet other families.

Register your attendance here:

Sarah Middleton
Sarah is an AuDHD social worker, PDA educator and practitioner, and the founder of Brilliant Little Gems.

For more information contact Carolyn: 0448 405 363 carolyn@riac.org.au www.brilliantlittlegems.com.au

Saturday 29th August 10am-12pm
Rotary Gateway Park Function Centre
High Street, Kangaroo Flat

Brought to you by Rights Information and Advocacy Centre with funding from the Victorian State Government

riac

Bookings: Use the QR code above or

<https://events.humanitix.com/neurodivergence-pda-and-the-classroom>

GRADE 6 TRANSITION EVENTS

We are busy getting ready to welcome our new year 7 students in 2027!

BIG DAY OUT 2026

WED 1TH OF NOV MORNING SESSION:
MAIDEN GULLY PS
BIG HILL PS
KANGAROO FLAT PS

WED 1TH OF NOV AFTERNOON SESSION:
LOCKWOOD PS
LOCKWOODS STH PS
MARONG PS
GOLDEN SQUARE PS
SPECIMEN HILL PS
ALL OTHER SCHOOLS

STUDENTS WILL TRAVEL BY BUS.

PLEASE WEAR YOUR PRIMARY SCHOOL UNIFORM!

STATEWIDE TRANSITION DAY

WHEN: 8TH OF DECEMBER
TIME: 9 - 3.10PM
WHERE: MEET IN THE JBO AT CRUSOE COLLEGE

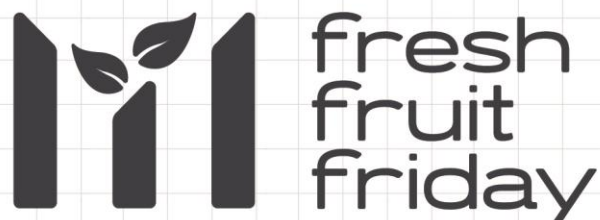
MEET NEW FRIENDS AND TEACHERS FROM YOUR 2027 CLASS. ALSO EXPERIENCE SOME OF YOUR FUTURE CLASSES!

OUR CANTEEN WILL BE OPEN.

PLEASE WEAR YOUR PRIMARY SCHOOL UNIFORM!

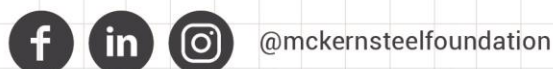
FUTURE FAMILIES INFORMATION EVENING
WHEN: WED 18TH OF NOV
TIME: 6PM

THANK YOU TO MCKERN STEEL FOUNDATION AND SPONSORS



Running for over a decade,
the program now delivers
1,500kg 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 🍏