



Calder Chronicle

NUMBER 24

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THURSDAY, 20TH AUGUST 2026

CALENDAR

Friday, 21st August

Last Day of BOOK FAIR

Payment due for Foundation Gym

P&F Walker's Doughnut Drive COLLECTION DAY in the Multi

Payment due for Year 3/4 Camp

Monday, 24th August

Book Week Parade 9:00am

Wednesday, 26th August

Junior Unit Gym continues

Thursday, 27th August

Senior Unit Gym continues

Monday, 31st August

Foundation Gym commences

Wednesday, 2nd September

Junior Unit Gym continues

Indigenous Literacy Day

Thursday, 3rd September

Senior Unit Gym continues

Year 3/4 Camp departs from Bendigo Train Station

Friday, 4th September

Foundation Gym continues

Year 3/4 Camp returns to Bendigo Train Station

Monday, 7th September

Senior Unit Gym concludes

Thursday, 10th September

Junior Unit Gym concludes

Monday, 14th September

Foundation Gym continues

Wednesday, 16th September

RACV Safety Squad Incursion - Foundation & Junior Unit

Thursday, 17th September

LAST DAY TO ORDER PIZZA

FRIDAY, 18TH SEPTEMBER

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 6 has been very busy with wet days and timetables and of course, our School Review on Monday and Tuesday.

STAFFING

A bit of illness this week saw Ainsley out for a couple of days, I was absent yesterday and Emma too. Just like the children we are constantly dodging the winter colds and flu.

GYM PROGRAMS UNDERWAY

The Junior and Senior Unit PALMERS GYM program started on Monday (Junior) and Wednesday (Senior) – with our students really enjoying Palmers Gym. These programs will continue for the next 3 weeks.

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.

This week we have new soups – Chicken & Corn and Pumpkin, along with bags of carrots and INSTANT OATS 😊.



BOOK FAIR TONIGHT AND TOMORROW

Our Book Fair started Tuesday with tonight and tomorrow night being your last opportunities to visit and snap up a bargain, with proceeds going to the school (percentage of costs to spend on books). If you are keen the fair is open from 3:30pm – 4:00pm in the room adjacent to Wendy's in the Multipurpose Room. A big thank you to Wendy for organising and to other staff for supporting with supervision.

SCHOOL REVIEW

Our two-day school review went really well, with our two challenge partners, SEIL and Reviewer joining Candy, our School Council President, Ainsley and I as we worked through a series of classroom observations and then spoke to student, staff and parent forum groups. If you attended the parent forum, thank you very much for your time and views, we very much appreciate it. Thanks also to our staff for stepping up and putting themselves in the limelight or holding fort whilst Ainsley and I were involved. We now wait for the endorsement of our new goals and targets that will be shared with the community in the coming weeks.

LOCKOUT DRILL

Due to rain and staff illness we had to postpone this drill yesterday. We hope to run through our drill in the coming week, and we will advise the day once known.

PARENT CARER OPINION SURVEY

Each family has the opportunity to participate in the Parent Opinion Survey. Details of the survey, how to access and the PIN have been shared with the community on Compass as a post. Please try and take 15 minutes of your time to complete this survey and ensure each family only does it once. Thank you.

BOOK WEEK DRESS UP PARADE

We have our Book Week Dress Up Parade on Monday. 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 just after 9:00am. All are welcome 😊. Please don't stress too much about costumes ...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. If wet, we may have to postpone or run the event in classrooms or the Multipurpose Room in two sittings (F-2) and (Yr 3-6). Keep your eye on COMPASS.

VICTORIAN PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

Next week I will travel to Geelong from Wednesday afternoon to Friday afternoon to participate in the annual VPA conference. This provides a great opportunity to mix with Principals from across the State and hear from the leading experts from around the world on the topic of teaching, learning and educational leadership. Due to my absence, please reach out to the Office or Ainsley.

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 Maeve and Will with their mandarin and apple.



BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to Ryan, Olivia, Eh Say & Jade.

As it stands, we now have just over 4 weeks left of the term and it's going to be very busy as we run down to the school holidays. As always, keep your child/ren rested and endeavour to have them at school every day. It's so important for consistency as learning is sequenced and missing parts makes comprehension so much harder.

Have a great Friday and an even better weekend,

Matt Pearce, Principal

FOUNDATION NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For being Responsible by quickly and quietly lining up when the bell rings:

FC *Lyla M*
FN *Marcus K*

Catherine, Nicole & Nick

JUNIOR UNIT NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For displaying the School Values and being persistent at Gym:

JAR *Hudson K*
JJ *Abigail H*

Ainsley, Roberta & Lauren

MIDDLE UNIT NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For working well in Specialist classes:

MED *Conor J*
MP *Elias S*
MWA *Maverick H*

Emma, Dean, Pauline, Wendy & Amanda

SENIOR UNIT NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

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

SB *Zoe B*
SJ *Lucas Q*
SK *Archie M*

Brett, Jayden & Kate

THE RESILIENCE PROJECT

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

Mindfulness

Foundation	Freya C
Junior Unit	Maisie C
Middle Unit	Imahni V
Senior Unit	Mila M
Specialist	Emma P

BIG REWARD WINNERS

Congratulations to the following students who have received 15 Big Rewards, well done 😊:

- 🌟 *Rhemmi C*
- 🌟 *Tyler G*
- 🌟 *Clementine W*
- 🌟 *Emma P*
- 🌟 *Levi S*
- 🌟 *Sienna D*
- 🌟 *Wade G*

SOCIAL MEDIA & CYBER SAFETY

Navigating the Digital World: Your GPS for the Online Adventure

Digital Beware: Would Your Child Tell an AI Something They Wouldn't Tell You?

We have spent years telling our kids to be careful about who they talk to online. Don't chat to strangers. Don't share personal information. Don't send photos to people you don't know. If someone makes you uncomfortable, tell a trusted adult. All pretty sensible advice.

But there is a new kid on the digital block, and it doesn't quite fit into the old "stranger danger" box. Because what if the "someone" your child is talking to isn't actually someone at all?

Meet the AI companion

Most of us are now familiar with AI. Your child might use it to help with homework, explain something they don't understand, come up with ideas or even settle an argument about who was right in a very serious debate about Minecraft.

But AI is moving beyond homework and schoolwork. There are now AI chatbots and "AI companions" designed to chat with people, remember conversations, offer advice and respond in ways that feel personal. Some are marketed as friends, sources of emotional support or someone to talk to when you're bored or lonely.

And that's where things get a little more complicated. Recent Australian research from eSafety found that 79% of children aged 10 to 17 had used an AI assistant or AI companion. Eight per cent had used an AI companion specifically.

Of those who had used AI, more than half said they had used it for what eSafety describes as "companion type" purposes, including getting advice, talking about feelings or seeking advice about their wellbeing. So, this isn't some futuristic problem that might turn up in 2035. It's already here!

But it isn't a real friend

And this is probably the most important conversation we can have with our kids.

AI can sound incredibly human.

It can remember things.

It can respond instantly.

It can be funny.

It can be encouraging.

It can appear to understand how you feel.

But it doesn't actually have feelings. It isn't your child's friend. It doesn't care about them in the way a real person does. It is a computer program generating a response based on the information it has been given. And that distinction can be surprisingly difficult for children to understand, particularly when the conversation feels natural and personal.

eSafety warns that AI companions can create a sense of emotional attachment because they are specifically designed to mimic human relationships and encourage ongoing interaction.

"But Mum, it understands me!"

Possibly. That's the clever bit. AI is very good at giving us responses that feel like someone is listening. Your child has had a rubbish day at school. They type:

"Everyone was annoying today."

The AI doesn't roll its eyes, tell them to get over it or announce that they've already heard this story three times. It responds. It listens. It asks questions. It may even give advice. And for a young person who is lonely, upset, embarrassed or simply doesn't want to talk to an adult, that can be incredibly appealing.

The problem is that an AI doesn't have the judgement of a trusted adult. It can get things wrong. It can give inappropriate advice. It doesn't necessarily know the whole story. And, despite sounding very confident, it doesn't automatically know what is best for your child.

So what should parents do?

Probably not panic. And definitely don't start shouting, "RIGHT! HAND OVER THE PHONE!" while frantically deleting every app in sight. The better approach is to get curious. Ask your child what AI they use and what they use it for.

You could ask:

"What do you use AI for?"

"Have you ever used it when you were upset?"

"Have you ever asked it for advice?"

"What sort of things do you talk about?"

"Does it ever tell you something that doesn't sound right?"

And perhaps the most important one:

"Would you ever tell an AI something you wouldn't tell a real person?"

That question could open a much bigger conversation.

A few good digital boundaries

It is worth reminding children that just because an AI asks a question doesn't mean they have to answer it. Personal information is still personal information. That means no full names, addresses, phone numbers, passwords, school details, private photographs or information they wouldn't normally share with a stranger.

And if they are using AI to talk about something serious, particularly something involving their safety, health, relationships or wellbeing, AI should not be the only place they turn! That's where the humans come in. The adults who know them. The people who can actually see when something isn't right. The people who can give a hug, make a cup of Milo, sit beside them on the couch or say, "Come on, let's work this out together." AI can't do that.

The bottom line

We're not going to stop our kids using AI. Nor should we necessarily want to. AI can be an incredibly useful tool for learning, creating, exploring ideas and solving problems. But just as we've taught our children to think carefully about who they trust online, we now need to teach them to think carefully about what they trust online. Because an AI can sound like it understands. It can sound like it cares. It can sound like it knows exactly what it's talking about. And sometimes it will be completely wrong.

So perhaps the new digital safety question isn't simply:

"Who are you talking to online?"

It is:

"Who, or what, are you trusting online?"

And that's a conversation worth having over a cuppa before your child has an AI chatbot doing all the talking. Parent Tip

This week, ask your child to show you how they use AI. Don't turn it into an interrogation. Sit beside them. Have a look. Ask questions. You might be surprised by what you learn. And remember, the goal isn't to keep our kids away from technology.

It's to make sure they are clever enough, confident enough and critical enough to know when technology is helping them and when it's time to put the phone down and talk to an actual human.



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

Kate Dole

PARENTS & FRIENDS NEWS

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 supplies, scarves, gloves, biscuits etc.

Thank you so much for your support,

Parents & Friends

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



4-7 YEAR OLDS*

Your introduction into Australian football centred around game-based activities kids love.



7-12 YEAR OLDS

Designed for any child to give it a go, with a focus on skill development and learning how to play the game.

*Kids can join NAB AFL Auskick if they are turning 5 in the calendar year (before 30th June in WA).

BENDIGO ALL GIRLS AUSKICK AND SUPERKICK CENTRE

WEEROONA OVAL, BENDIGO

STARTING AUGUST 25TH

TUESDAYS 4:15PM - 5:15PM

Register to go in the draw to win a Richmond AFLW Guernsey!

AUSKICK



SUPERKICK



Looking towards 2027 Term 1

PROPS THEATRE

@propstheatre @ f

Stage One for 5 - 8 years
Stage Two for 9 - 12 years

LOCATION

82A Mitchell Street Studio
www.propstheatre.com.au
Enrolments OPEN

SCAN ME



KELLY SPORTS BENDIGO JUNIOR SUMMER FUTSAL 2026/2027 COMPETITION

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Prepare to ignite your passion for Futsal in the Bendigo Summer Futsal Competition. Mercy Junortoun Sporting Precinct will come alive with fast-paced, action-packed matches, showcasing the talents of our athletes on the court!

Come along, soak up the atmosphere, and cheer on your champions from the stands!

- WEEKLY MATCHES
- REGISTER INDIVIDUALLY
- REGISTER AS A TEAM

SUMMER SEASON DETAILS

DAYS: Wednesday/Thursday (Juniors) **TIME:** 4pm - onwards
PLAYER REGISTRATION: \$315

DATES: October 7th - Dec 15th & Feb 3rd - Mar 12th (Wednesday)
October 8th - Dec 16th & Feb 4th - Mar 11th (Thursdays)

AGE GROUPS: 6/8/10/12/14/16

VENUES: 1 St Vincents Rd, Junortoun (Mercy Junortoun Sporting Precinct)

INDIVIDUALS REGISTER BY: 4TH SEPTEMBER
TEAMS REGISTER BY: 11TH SEPTEMBER

SIGN UP & RECEIVE A 30% OFF NEW BALANCE DISCOUNT CODE!

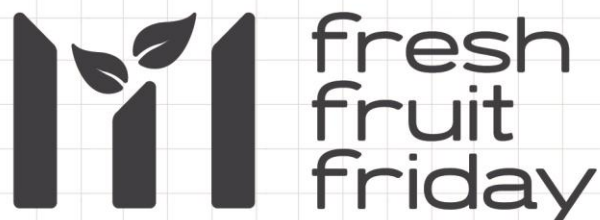
REGISTER NOW AT...
KELLYSPORTS.COM.AU

0432 181 676
ayden@kellysports.com.au

1 St Vincents Rd, Junortoun, 3551
www.kellysports.com.au/bendigo

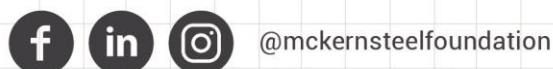


THANK YOU TO MCKERN STEEL FOUNDATION AND SPONSORS



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 🍏