# Calder Chronicle

NUMBER 32



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## THURSDAY, 29TH OCTOBER 2026

| | |
|---|---|
| **Friday, 30th October** | **DAY FOR DANIEL** – meet at Phillis St at 8:30am to walk to school<br>Please wear red and bring a gold coin donation<br>Foundation & Junior Unit Swimming concludes<br>**WORLD TEACHERS' DAY** |
| **MONDAY, 2nd NOVEMBER** | **CURRICULUM DAY – PUPIL FREE DAY** |
| Tuesday, 3rd November | Melbourne Cup Family Fun Sports Day at Lar Birpa |
| Monday, 9th November | BHPS Art Show commences – every night after school, Multipurpose Building |
| Wednesday, 11th November | Year 5/6 Camp departs |
| Friday, 13th November | Year 5/6 Camp returns |
| **MONDAY, 23rd NOVEMBER** | **PUPIL FREE DAY – REPORT WRITING** |

## School Organisation

Dear Parents, Carers and Greater Community,
Week 4 has gone relatively quickly with Wednesday's Bendigo Cup Public Holiday providing a break mid-week. The week has been very busy particularly due to the swimming program for our Foundation and Junior Units running each day and concluding tomorrow. With so much on the horizon before the end of the year, here's a rundown of essential information to be across:

### STAFFING

On Monday Ainsley was absent and we welcomed Aime back onsite to support JAR on their first day of swimming. Jerritt, casual Education Support, has worked each day to support the swimming program – thanks Jerritt! On Tuesday, Emma was absent and we welcomed Ebony to cover MED. Today, Ebony has worked again to cover Jayden's absence from his class and Emma has worked an extra day to release Dean to lead the school whilst I am at the LODDON CAMPASPE AREA FORUM with local Principals, our Area Director and Regional Director. Ainsley commenced Long Service Leave today and will be absent next week also – enjoying some time north in the warm weather with her family. Tomorrow Roberta and Amanda are absent with Emma working once again to cover Roberta's class and Wendy working the extra day to cover her class.

### CURRICULUM DAY – NEXT MONDAY!

Families are reminded that there is no school on Monday, 2nd November as we take the third of our Curriculum Days for the year to work on SCHOOL WIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT (SWPBS). Families will need to make alternative arrangements or book into our onsite OHSC program by contacting TheirCare directly.

### BIG HILL PS "FUN" ATHLETICS DAY (MELBOURNE CUP) – TUESDAY!

Don't forget about our Athletics Day at Lar Birpa next Tuesday, 3rd November. We will have rotating sports/games in the morning, a P&F BBQ (purchase on the day-prices inside), coffee van, and in the afternoon long distance races for each age group. Children will be bused to and from the event free of charge. Consent is covered by your local excursions form lodged at the start of the year 😊. Families are welcome to attend and enjoy the day, buy lunch OR bring a picnic. Please ensure your child is in full school uniform and have appropriate footwear on for exercising. A broad-brimmed hat, drink bottle and sunscreen is also recommended as well as a jacket if the forecast is cool. If you are not attending and bringing/buying lunch for your child/ren, please send them with a packed lunch and snacks for the whole day. If you attend and want to take your child home from the event, that's fine, just make sure you check-in with your child's teacher first to sign them out. It's going to be an amazing day – let's hope the weather is perfect!

### FOUNDATION AND JUNIOR UNIT SWIMMING – MIDDLE AND SENIOR UNIT SWIMMING

Swimming for our Foundation and Juniors winds up tomorrow, with the final visit planned to Gurri Wanyarra. Don't forget bathers, towel, and change of clothing one last time 😊. Swimming for the Middle Unit and Seniors is coming up in the last few weeks of school at the Bendigo East Pool – so keep an eye out for payment and consent on Compass.

### WORLD TEACHERS DAY TOMORROW

Tomorrow, Friday, 30th October, is WORLD TEACHERS DAY. We will be taking the time to acknowledge and celebrate our teachers on this day… and you can too if you would like. Feel free to contact your child's teacher with a lovely message or other small token of appreciation if you feel it's appropriate. Don't forget our specialist teachers also 😊. Our P&F will also be recognising our teachers and our Education Support staff too tomorrow, so it's going to be a nice end to the week for all staff.

**DAY FOR DANIEL**

Tomorrow, Friday, 30th October, is also DAY FOR DANIEL. We will participate in the day by holding an active travel to school, meeting at Phillis Street at 8:30am and then riding, scooting, or walking. Brett will be on his bike to set our travellers on their way and other staff will be on the path to ensure safe travels. Please wear RED in support of DAY FOR DANIEL and send your child/ren to school with a gold coin donation so we can contribute to the Daniel Morcombe Foundation. As part of the day, staff will also deliver AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST SAFETY LESSON during class time.

**2026 FIRE DANGER PERIOD HAS COMMENCED – WHAT TO DO ON AN EXTREME FIRE DAY AT BIG HILL PS**

By now the community understands we must relocate on an EXTREME FIRE DANGER DAY to Kangaroo Flat Primary School. When the long-range forecast predicts that there MIGHT BE an Extreme Day coming up, we will advise via Compass. We will then confirm the day before if we need to relocate. Announcements of Extreme Days are always confirmed around 4:00pm the day before, at which time we will then send out communications to families via Compass. Due to this, it will be extremely important to stay up to date with Compass each afternoon moving forward… including on Sunday afternoons.




MODERATE: Big Hill Primary School will **OPERATE** as usual

HIGH: Big Hill Primary School will **OPERATE** and Monitor Conditions

EXTREME: Big Hill Primary School to **RELOCATE** to Kangaroo Flat Primary School

CATASTROPHIC: Big Hill Primary School will **CLOSE**

**CLASS STRUCTURE AND STAFFING FOR NEXT YEAR**

In recent weeks I announced our class structure for next year. This week I can share with you the placement of staff: FOUNDATION (Catherine), FOUNDATION (Nicole 0.8 / Amanda 0.2), FOUNDATION / YEAR 1 (Jen), JUNIOR 1/2 (Ainsley 0.6 / Roberta 0.4), JUNIOR 1/2 (Kate), MIDDLE 3/4 (Pauline), MIDDLE 3/4 (Emma 0.8 / Dean 0.2), SENIOR 4/5 (Wendy 0.8/Leisha 0.2), SENIOR 5/6 (Jayden) and SENIOR 5/6 (Brett). As you can see… we welcome back Jen and also Leisha Morrison from Long Service or Family Leave. It will be wonderful to have both back. Specialist programs remain as they are next year, similar to this year… with the only change being Nick picking up Science / STEM for the Senior Unit. We anticipate having the same Education Support team working with us again next year. That's it for now 😊.

**YEAR 5/6 CAMP FAST APPROACHING**

Our Year 5/6's will soon be heading off to Halls Gap as part of their annual camp. Set to occur from Wednesday, 11th to Friday, 13th November, the scene is set for an amazing time! Full payment and consent must be made before TOMORROW, Friday, 30th October to ensure participation – details on Compass. Brett, Jayden, Kate, Roberta, Clare and I are attending. Further information about the camp will be shared with the families of participants prior to commencement. Stay tuned!

**ZOOPER DOOPER FUNDRAISING EACH NIGHT**

Don't forget Zooper Doopers are for sale most nights from 3:15pm off the library balcony / breakfast club area. Zooper Doopers are $2 each and we sell one per student. Bus travellers may come early (arranged by teachers) to buy before boarding the bus. All funds raised go towards future improvements to playgrounds for our students.

**BIG HILL PS ART SHOW**

Last year, Alice launched our first Art Show on the Melbourne Cup Family Fun Day. This year, Alice will hold the Art Show from Monday, 9th November until Friday, 13th November in our Multipurpose Building. Doors will be open each afternoon from 3:15pm – 3:45pm with parents and families welcome to come along and have a look at the wonderful art on display. This is free of charge and a wonderful opportunity to showcase the arts and your child's artistic skills.

**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.



**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 Abi and Mannie with their apple & orange 😊

**BIRTHDAYS**
Happy birthday to Macy F, Everly F, Ezra B, Jameson H, Theo H, Abel W, Lewis T & Mia M.

It's hard to believe that we are fast approaching Week 5 and the middle of the term. The weeks now become increasingly busy with transitions, assessment, special events, camps and more. With that in mind, it will be especially important to keep your child well rested 😊

I do hope you have a great Friday tomorrow and a wonderful weekend to follow. Until next week,

*Matt Pearce, Principal*

## FOUNDATION NEWS

**STUDENTS OF THE WEEK**
*For displaying our **School Values** when participating in our swimming program:*

**FC** ***Jameson H***
**FN** ***Wil W***

***Catherine, Nicole & Nick***

## JUNIOR UNIT NEWS

**STUDENTS OF THE WEEK**
*For displaying our **School Values** when participating in our swimming program:*

**JAR** ***Lucy M***
**JJ** ***Izzy P***

***Ainsley, Roberta & Lauren***

## MIDDLE UNIT NEWS

**STUDENTS OF THE WEEK**
*For consistently bringing their diary to school every day:*

**MED** ***Ava M***
**MP** ***Mitchell G***
**MWA** ***Otis E***

***Emma, Dean, Pauline, Wendy & Amanda***

## SENIOR UNIT NEWS

**STUDENTS OF THE WEEK**
*For showing Mindfulness by making thoughtful choices and being aware of how their actions affect others:*

**SB** ***Patrick R***
**SJ** ***Otis M***
**SK** ***Anna S***

***Brett, Jayden & Kate***

## THE RESILIENCE PROJECT

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

# Gratitude

| | |
|---|---|
| Foundation | Ronin – FC |
| Junior Unit | Iris - JJ |
| Middle Unit | Harvey - MED |
| Senior Unit | Conor - SJ |
| Specialist | Nixon - JJ |

# SOCIAL MEDIA & CYBER SAFETY

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

*When the Scam Sounds Like Someone You Know*

Once upon a time, spotting an online scam was a bit easier. Dodgy spelling, strange email addresses, badly written messages and the occasional overseas prince wanting to share his fortune were usually enough to get the alarm bells ringing.

AI has changed the game. Scammers can now use Artificial Intelligence to create very convincing emails, text messages, photos, videos and even cloned voices. That means the person calling you could sound remarkably like your child, partner, parent or friend. The message could sound exactly like something they would say. It might even include information about your family that makes the whole thing seem completely believable. Imagine your phone rings and it sounds like your teenager. "Mum, I've lost my phone. I'm stuck. Can you transfer some money?" A few years ago, the voice alone might have been enough to convince us. Now, unfortunately, hearing is no longer necessarily believing. Australia's cyber security advice is warning people about deepfake scams, AI generated messages and voice cloning. Scammers can use AI to copy voices, create convincing videos and write professional messages that no longer contain all those obvious spelling mistakes we once relied on to spot something dodgy.

The other problem is how much information we happily leave lying around online.

Birthdays, holidays, pets, workplaces, schools, sporting clubs, children's names, family members and photos can all become little pieces of a puzzle. A scammer does not necessarily need to know everything about you. Sometimes they just need enough information to make their story sound believable.

AI can then help turn those little pieces of information into something that sounds very convincing. For schools and families there is another growing concern, photos. The eSafety Commissioner has warned that AI tools have made it much easier to take an ordinary photograph and turn it into something completely different. Student and staff photos have already been used to create fake videos, face swaps, memes and fabricated stories online. Between January and March this year, eSafety received more than 100 reports about anonymous accounts targeting schools and school staff, with most using images taken from school websites or social media accounts.

That does not mean we all need to disappear from the internet, toss the phones in the bin and head bush. It does mean our cyber safety habits need to catch up. The big lesson for our kids, teens and adults is simple. Just because something looks real, sounds real or appears to come from someone you know does not automatically mean it is real. If "Mum" suddenly messages asking you to buy $500 worth of gift cards, perhaps ring Mum first.

If your teenager apparently calls from an unknown number needing money urgently, hang up and call their normal number. If the bank sends a message telling you that you must click a link immediately or lose access to your account, do not use the link. Open the official banking app or contact the bank yourself. And if your best mate suddenly messages asking for your password, verification code or banking details, maybe give them a ring before handing over the keys to the kingdom.

Parent Tip
A great family rule is:
Stop. Check. Contact.
Stop before reacting to an urgent message or phone call.
Check whether the story makes sense.
Contact the person or organisation yourself using a phone number or account you already know. Families might even consider having a simple family safe word or question that can be used if someone ever receives an unusual emergency call asking for money.

And perhaps the most important conversation we can have with our kids is this:
You do not have to believe something just because you saw it, heard it or someone sent it to you.

In the age of AI, a healthy dose of "Hang on a minute" might just be one of the best cyber security tools we have.

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

*Kate Dole*

# STUDENT NEWS

**Congratulations to Charlotte S**
**for her FIVE awards at Summersalt** 😊

**Congratulations to Lucy M –**
**She won TWO First Prizes, a Third Prize AND Most Successful Exhibitor at the Bendigo Show – well done** 😊

## P&F MELBOURNE CUP BBQ

Thank you to everyone who pre-ordered their drinks for Melbourne Cup Day 😊. If you missed out, there will be a limited number of extra drinks (including bottled water) available on the day.

We will also be holding a BBQ. Items for sale on the day are:

| | |
|---|---|
| Burger with coleslaw, onion and sauce | $6.00 |
| Sausage with onion | $3.50 |
| Sausage WITHOUT onion | $3.00 |

We hope to see you there 😊

## THEIR CARE (OSHC) NEWS




https://theircare.com.au/

## DAY FOR DANIEL




We're once again taking part in Day for Daniel 2026.

We will also conduct our annual Day for Daniel Walk to School, meeting at Phillis St at 8:30am.

When we wear red and donate on Friday, 30th October, we're standing with the Daniel Morcombe Foundation to take practical action for child safety. Together, we're helping create safer spaces for children, online and offline.

Child safety is everyone's responsibility, and we're proud to show our support this Day for Daniel.

If you'd like to show your support, you can donate here:
https://danielmorcombe.com.au/day-for-daniel/#D4DREG

## COMMUNITY NEWS

BENDIGO Calisthenics






riac
Rights Information
and Advocacy Centre

# RIAC's Tips for Carers/Parents of neurodiverse and/or Autistic children

## Reducing the stress of Halloween for neurodiverse and/or autistic children

Halloween can be overwhelming for neurodiverse and/or autistic children. They may be anxious about what will happen on the day or experience sensory overload with the costumes, lights, noises and scary decorations.

Try these tips to help your child -

- Talk with your child about what Halloween is: explain that there might be door knockers, scary noises, lights changing and people dressed up
- Costumes can be itchy, feel tight, or sit differently – consider sensory needs when picking out/deciding on a costume
- Consider buying a larger size costume so there's an option to wear normal clothes underneath
- Bring a comfort – sensory toys, noise cancelling headphones, fidgets are all great additions you can add to a costume
- There are no expectations – there is no right or wrong way to spend the day, do what is best for you and your family

Come along to our Carer Support groups to learn more tips and enjoy a cuppa and a chat with other parents who have faced similar struggles.

| Bendigo Walking Group | Long Gully Parent and Carer Support Group |
|---|---|
| When: 9:30am – 11am<br>Every Thursday during school term<br><br>Where: Peppergreen Farm carpark<br>40 Thunder Street, North Bendigo | When: 9:30am – 11am<br>3rd Tuesday each month<br><br>Where: Long Gully Neighbourhood Centre<br>52 Derwent Drive, Long Gully |

For more information: EMAIL: carers@riac.org.au
PHONE: Carolyn – 0488 605 363

## FREE EVENT – SEE BOOKING INFO BELOW

**Immune Deficiencies Foundation Australia proudly presents...**

# 2026 World Festival of Magic

***Featuring world-class artists, performing astonishing illusions, interactive magic and comedy.***

Suitable for all ages and accessible to people with diverse abilities and backgrounds, those who require a more flexible and inclusive environment, and to those facing hardship and without the opportunity to access live theatre.

Enjoy a relaxed theatre experience with a casual attitude toward audience noise and movement, where everyone is welcome and free to be themselves without restriction or judgement.

**Featuring moving and flashing lights, and upbeat, sometimes dramatic music.*

**Scan the QR Code to visit the shows website and watch highlights from previous shows...**



**ALL TICKETS ARE COMPLIMENTARY**

**Including parent, sibling and carer tickets. Thanks to the support and sponsorship from local businesses.**

| RED ENERGY ARENA BENDIGO STADIUM<br>91 Inglis Street, West Bendigo, VIC | |
|---|---|
| **SHOW DATE** | **SHOWTIME** |
| **TUESDAY, 24TH NOVEMBER 2026** | **6.00 PM** |

***WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE. **ONE-HOUR SHOWS. NO INTERVAL.***

## For all ticket enquiries and bookings, please email

## meredithnewman@showintent.com.au

## or call/text 0404-367-782

**Information Required When Booking:**

1. **The total number of tickets required (one ticket per person)**
2. **The organisation or school that referred you (if applicable).**

**Ticket orders from schools, organisations and staff, as well as direct orders from families and carers, are all welcome.**

## *THANK YOU TO MCKERN STEEL FOUNDATION AND SPONSORS*

# fresh fruit friday



**Running for over a decade, the program now delivers 1,500kg of free fruit to Bendigo school children every week.**

mckern steel™ foundation

@mckernsteelfoundation

**Made possible thanks to McKern Foundation and our supporting partners:**

BlueScope · JL King & Co. · Bendigo Community Health Services · Furphy · Impact-A Fasteners & Construction Supplies · Adroit Insurance & Risk · Dobeli Electrical Services 0408 441 305 · McKean McGregor · Agnico Eagle Fosterville · McCaig air conditioning · Kieser Physio | Rehab | Strength · Bendigo Telco · DLO Plumbing · Healthy Loddon Campaspe · nab · Bendigo Primary Care Centre · *Your business here*

**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* ☺