Calder Chronicle

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THURSDAY, 5TH NOVEMBER 2026

Monday, 9th November	**BHPS Art Show every night after school, Multipurpose Building**
Tuesday, 10th November	Foundation Transition Evening – 5:00pm to 6:00pm
Wednesday, 11th November	5/6 Camp departs at **8:00am SHARP, be at school by 7:45am**
Friday, 13th November	Year 5/6 Camp returns approx. 4:00pm
Tuesday, 17th November	Foundation Transition – 9:30am to 10:30am
MONDAY, 23rd NOVEMBER	**PUPIL FREE DAY – REPORT WRITING**
Tuesday, 24th November	Foundation Transition – 10:00am to 11:45am
Monday 30th November	**Middle & Senior Unit Swimming commences–$22.50** (event yet to be put on Compass)
Monday, 7th December	Year 6 Graduation – more information to follow
Tuesday, 8th December	STATEWIDE TRANSITION DAY – all Year Levels
	Foundation Transition – 10:00am to 11:45am
Monday, 14th December	Junior & Senior Unit Break Ups - more information to follow
Wednesday, 16th December	Christmas Carols / Picnic Night - more information to follow
	Middle Unit Break Up - more information to follow
FRIDAY, 18th DECEMBER	**LAST DAY FOR 2026 – 1:30PM FINISH**

School Organisation

Dear Parents, Carers and Greater Community,
Welcome to Week 5! This week has again been busy, with a very productive Curriculum Day occurring on Monday where staff worked on our VISION and VALUES… and continued to refine our SCHOOL WIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR SYSTEMS (SWPBS).

Tuesday was another massive day with our FUN ATHLETICS DAY running without a glitch… and the kids loved it! A huge thank you to Dean and Brett for their organisation, other key staff for their behind the scenes work and support on the day… and to our P&F for an amazing BBQ. Such a great team effort and the crowd (whilst dispersed) was a great turn out… as the BBQ sold out and had to replenish!

Wednesday was busy also with Pauline, Brett and I out all day at training whilst Jayden and Amy took our Crusoe-bound Year 6's for their BIG DAY OUT during the morning – from all reports, this went well.

Today we have had Dean off at training and Nicole off visiting Kinders to check-in on our new 2027 FOUNDATION students. She will work tomorrow visiting the remaining Kinders.

Tomorrow Dean is in charge to round out the week as I am in Melbourne for the last of this year's VICTORIAN TEACHING AND LEARNING ACADEMY INSPIRE facilitator workshops. As you can see…it's been a busy week and the remaining weeks are no different, so stay up to date with what's on over the remaining 6 weeks.

STAFFING

Ainsley has continued her Long Service Leave this week… enjoying the warmth of northern, coastal NSW with her family. It sounds like she is having a lovely time! A big thank you to Roberta who has worked the full week to ensure their class is covered by the same teacher 😊.

CURRICULUM DAY WARNING

Our final Curriculum Day of the year (#4) is set to occur in a few weeks' time on Monday, 23rd November. Teachers and Education Support will use this day as a set report writing day, in preparation for the release of reports before the end of the year. Families will need to make alternative arrangements or book into our onsite OHSC program by contacting TheirCare directly.

KINDER / FOUNDATION 2027 TRANSITION VISITS

Next Tuesday, 10th November will be the first of our Kinder / 2027 FOUNDATION visits. Families and kinder students can attend Big Hill PS from 5:00pm – 6:00pm, where they can enjoy a treasure hunt of the school… taking students and families to key locations to explore places like the library, the Multipurpose building, the Art room, playgrounds, classrooms etc. The purpose of this first formal visit is to enable our new students to explore their new school and show their loved ones key places. By exploring together, this is a supportive and positive start for our students. The 2nd visit is scheduled for Tuesday, 17th November from 9:30am – 10:30am and during this time our visitors will be in classrooms and parents have the chance to meet with me for a Q&A session.

YEAR 5/6 CAMP TO HALLS GAP

Our Year 5/6 Camp to Halls Gap is **NEXT WEEK**, with buses departing school at 8:00am on Wednesday, 11th November and returning at approximately 4:00pm on Friday, 13th November. Information about the camp has been shared on Compass, including what to pack etc. The Senior Unit have also provided an update in today's newsletter. With departure on Wednesday at 8:00am, families are reminded to drop off well before this at 7:30am giving students time to drop medication off to class teachers and load bags on buses. The bus will depart at 8:00am and sorry… it can't wait if you are running late. We have bookings and itineraries to adhere to. Kate, Brett and Jayden have organised a great camp for our students and it's looking like being a fantastic time. Joining the Senior Unit teachers on this camp will be Roberta, Clare and myself. In the leadup to camp, please keep your child well-rested in preparation.

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

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

Just in case you missed this last week, here's the staffing allocation and our structure for next year:

FOUNDATION UNIT	**FC** - Catherine, **FNA** - Nicole 0.8 / Amanda 0.2
	F / 1 – **FJ** - Jen
JUNIOR UNIT	**JAR** - Ainsley 0.6 / Roberta 0.4 **JK** - Kate
MIDDLE UNIT	**MP** - Pauline **MED** - Emma 0.8 / Dean 0.2
SENIOR 4/5	**SWL** - Wendy 0.8 / Leisha 0.2
SENIOR 5/6	**SJ** - Jayden **SB** - Brett

As you can see… we welcome back Jen, and also Leisha from 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 also. That's it for now 😊.

ZOOPER DOOPER FUNDRAISING EACH NIGHT

Don't forget Zooper Doopers are for sale most nights from 3:15pm at the 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 ART SHOW – NEXT WEEK!

Don't forget to come along and have a look at our wonderful Art Show from Monday, 9th November until Friday, 13th November in our Multipurpose. Alice has been very busy organising art and setting things up for the exhibition and it's going to be great! 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. Alice has been doing some amazing work with our students and as a result, your child/ren have produced some beautiful work that is displayed in glory. Remember… it would mean a lot to your loved one/s to come along and have a look – it makes them feel super special… so hopefully we see you after school one night next week 😊

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 more soups and dahl, and the very popular HONEY and Lactose Free Milk 😊

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 Jax and Lyla with their apple & pear 😊

BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to Karsyn C, Mav H, Ava C, Lily C, Sienna B, Callum V & Freddie M.

As Week 6 looms, we'll cross the halfway mark of the final term. In the final 6 weeks there will be lots of events, celebrations and hard work to round out the year. With this in mind, keep your child/ren well rested with early nights and quiet weekends when you can. It's still important to be at school every day so they don't miss out on assessments and the fun that comes with the end of the year 😊.

Until next week…

Matt Pearce, Principal

FOUNDATION NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For displaying a positive attitude during our Fun Athletics Day:

FC ***Chaz***
FN ***Felix***

Catherine, Nicole & Nick

JUNIOR UNIT NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For displaying a positive attitude during our Fun Athletics Day:

JAR ***Ned***
JJ ***Lyvia***

Ainsley, Roberta & Lauren

MIDDLE UNIT NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For great participation in our Fun Athletics Day:

MED ***Harvey***
MP ***Emma***
MWA ***Ryan***

Emma, Dean, Pauline, Wendy & Amanda

SENIOR UNIT NEWS

2027 YEAR 6 SHIRTS – TIME IS RUNNING OUT!

Attention current Year 5 parents!

If your child is heading into Year 6 next year and you haven't ordered their Year 6 Shirt yet, the clock is ticking!

We don't want anyone missing out on this special Year 6 tradition, so if ordering that shirt is still sitting on your ever growing to do list, now is the time to tick it off!

Please use the link provided to place your order and make payment as soon as possible.

Don't leave it until it's too late. We'd hate for your child to miss out on wearing their Graduation Shirt alongside their classmates in 2027.

https://readysetorder.com.au and use the school key: **1170**

YEAR 5/6 CAMP REMINDER

Not long now! The countdown is officially on! Our Year 5/6 Camp is fast approaching, and the excitement is building! Packing lists were sent out via Compass yesterday, so please take some time to check these and make sure your child has everything they need for our adventure.

Wednesday, 11th November, Departure Day
Students must report to their teachers in their classrooms by **7:45 am at the latest.**

Our buses will be **departing promptly at 8:00 am.**

Unfortunately, we are unable to wait for latecomers, so please ensure your child arrives on time, ready to go.

A few important reminders:

- NO mobile phones or electronic devices.
- NO lollies or sweets.
- Broad brimmed hats only. Baseball caps are not permitted under our school's SunSmart Policy.
- Packed lunch and snack for Wednesday. Students will need to bring their own food for the first day.
- Drink bottle. Please ensure your child has a refillable drink bottle. No cans or bottles of soft drink, please.
- Medications. **All medications must be clearly labelled with your child's name, kept in their original packaging** and placed in a labelled zip lock bag. These must be handed directly to your child's classroom teacher on Wednesday morning. ***Please do not pack medications in your child's luggage.***

FOR STUDENTS NOT ATTENDING CAMP

Students who are not attending camp are expected to attend school as normal for all three days, Wednesday, 11th to Friday, 13th November.
Appropriate learning activities and work will be provided for these students during this time.
If your child will not be attending school during these three days, please put an Attendance note on Compass or notify the Office. A booklet of work can be collected from Kate for students to complete while they are away from school.

We are looking forward to a fantastic few days filled with adventure, new experiences, plenty of laughs and hopefully some sleep!

Thank you for helping us ensure a smooth departure. We can't wait to get on the road!

The Senior Unit Team

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For showing Gratitude by recognising the good things in each day and showing appreciation for others:

SB ***Jade***
SJ ***Mannix***
SK ***Abigail***

Brett, Jayden & Kate

THE RESILIENCE PROJECT

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

Empathy

Foundation	Charlie - FN
Junior Unit	Abigail - JAR
Middle Unit	Rhemmi – MP
Senior Unit	Arlow - SB
Specialist	Edward - SK

SOCIAL MEDIA & CYBER SAFETY

Navigating the Digital World: Your GPS for the Online Adventure

Free Apps Aren't Always Free,
Sometimes Our Kids Are Paying With Their Privacy

We all love a freebie. A free coffee after we've had our card stamped 5 times, a bargain at Bunnings or a good old two for one special. But when it comes to the digital world, that little word FREE might not be quite the bargain we think it is.

Your child discovers the latest whiz bang game, apparently the greatest invention since sliced bread. It's free, it's colourful and according to them, absolutely EVERYONE at school has it. Before you've even finished your morning cuppa, they've clicked agree to everything, handed over half their personal information and are happily playing away.

Sounds harmless enough, doesn't it?

Well, not necessarily.

Many free apps and games make their money through advertising, purchases within the app or collecting information about the people using them. Some collect details such as your child's age, location, device information, interests and online activity. That information can be used to personalise advertisements, track behaviour or build a picture of what someone likes and does online.

And here's the worrying bit. Our kids often have absolutely no idea they're handing this information over.

Think about it. Would you let a complete stranger wander into your house, ask your child a heap of personal questions, follow them around and take notes about everything they do? Probably not. You'd be showing them the front door quick smart, possibly with a few choice words thrown in for good measure.

Yet some apps can collect surprisingly detailed information about their users, often tucked away behind privacy policies longer than your average TEMU receipt. And let's face it, how many of us have actually read one of those things from start to finish? We'd probably have more luck understanding the instructions for assembling flat pack furniture from IKEA.

The good news is that Australia is taking steps to improve children's online privacy. A new Children's Online Privacy Code is being developed and must be finalised by 10 December 2026. This will introduce additional privacy requirements for certain online services used by children, including apps, games and websites. The aim is to make organisations take greater responsibility for how they collect, use and protect children's personal information. And it's about time.

But while these changes are welcome, they don't mean parents can simply hand over a device and assume everything is safe. Not every free app is dodgy, and not every request for information is unnecessary. Some games genuinely need certain details to function. A drawing app, however, probably doesn't need to know your child's exact location, and a simple puzzle game shouldn't automatically need access to every contact in the phone. Unless, of course, that puzzle involves tracking down Auntie Mavis and finding out where she's hidden the Christmas presents.

The trick is understanding what we're agreeing to. Our kids are growing up in a world where clicking "Accept All" is almost second nature. They want to get straight into the game, not read pages of conditions written in language that would make a lawyer reach for a cuppa. And to be fair, plenty of adults are guilty of doing exactly the same thing. We're often so keen to get on with whatever we're doing that we'd probably agree to hand over the family dog if it meant getting past the terms and conditions.

The problem is that our personal information has value. Once shared, it can be difficult to control where it goes, how long it's kept or who might eventually have access to it. That's why teaching children about digital privacy is becoming just as important as teaching them not to share their address with strangers. We don't need to ban every app, confiscate every device or return to the days when the most exciting technology in the house was the television remote.

Although, let's be honest, finding that remote buried down the couch was sometimes an adventure in itself. We just need to become a little more curious about what happens behind the screen.

Parent Tips

Before your child downloads their next fantastic free app, take a minute to check a few things.

Check the permissions. Does the app really need access to the camera, microphone, contacts or location? If it doesn't need them, turn them off.

Read before agreeing. You don't need to tackle every page of legal jargon, but check what information the app collects and whether it shares that information with other companies.

Look at the privacy settings. Many apps allow you to limit personalised advertising, location tracking and information sharing.

Keep personal details private. Encourage children to avoid sharing their full name, school, address, birthday or other identifying information unless genuinely necessary.

Have a good old digital spring clean. If your child's device has more forgotten games than you've got mystery containers without lids in the kitchen cupboard, it's probably time to give a few the flick. Don't forget to check whether any unused accounts need deleting too.

Talk to your kids. Explain that just because an app is free doesn't mean the company behind it isn't making money.

So next time your child announces they've found another fantastic *FREE* app, remember, not everything that's free comes without a price tag. Sometimes the company isn't after your dollars, it's after your data. And unlike that dodgy purchase from the online sales, you can't always send your personal information back for a refund! A little curiosity, a few privacy checks and a healthy dose of "Hang on, why does that game need to know that?" can go a long way towards keeping our kids safer in the digital world.

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

Kate Dole

THEIR CARE (OSHC) NEWS



https://theircare.com.au/

COMMUNITY NEWS

BENDIGO Calisthenics











BIG HILL PS FUN ATHLETICS DAY WINNERS

Tuesday's BIG HILL FUN ATHLETICS DAY was a huge success!

A big thank you to all who worked on the day, including staff, organisers Dean and Brett and our fantastic P&F who sold out and restocked the BBQ to keep everyone fed. Whist the crowd was dispersed – headcounts and sales showed a big crowd – so thanks to everyone that came!

Due to the success of the day and the outstanding facilities, we have booked Lar Birpa again for next Melbourne Cup.

Here's the list of the place-getters for our long distance races. Well done to these students and to all who had a go…and did their best during the morning and the afternoon.

YEAR LEVEL	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD
Foundation	Jameson H Evie O	Theo H Prue M	Willy T Frankie C
Year 1	Oliver B Parker S	Cohen B Charlotte S	Jack B Charlotte Q
Year 2	Eh Say O Poppy H	Ollie Q Connie M	Bobby S Phoebe I
Year 3	Ryan B Harper W	Henry M Mila C	Mason E Mia M
Year 4	Blake M Bailey F	Jake F Matilda W	Bentley G Emma P
Year 5	Sonny H Anna S	Harry E Ava C	Jax N Alexis W
Year 6	Rydah L Bonnie S	Heath B Sienna B	Archie M Avery F

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 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 ☺