Calder Chronicle

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THURSDAY, 12TH NOVEMBER 2026

Friday, 13th November	Year 5/6 Camp returns approx. 4:00pm
Tuesday, 17th November	Foundation Transition – 9:30am to 10:30am in classroom whilst Q&A session with parent/s
MONDAY, 23rd NOVEMBER	**PUPIL FREE DAY – REPORT WRITING**
Tuesday, 24th November	Foundation Transition – 10:00am to 11:45am
Friday, 27th November	**Payment / Consent due for Middle & Senior Unit swimming - $22.50**
Monday 30th November	**Middle & Senior Unit Swimming commences**
Monday, 7th December	**Year 6 Graduation – more information to follow**
Tuesday, 8th December	STATEWIDE TRANSITION – all Year Levels Current Year 6 students will be at their 2027 Gov Secondary School Foundation Transition – 10:00am to 11:45am
Monday, 14th December	Senior Unit Break Up - more information to follow
Wednesday, 16th December	**Christmas Carols / Picnic Night - more information to follow**
	Junior & 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,

CURRICULUM DAY WARNING – repeat

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

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. The 3rd visit is on Tuesday, 24th November with parents to drop off students at 10:00am and collect at 11:45am and the final visit is on the Statewide Transition Day – Tuesday, 8th December, same process as 3rd visit - 10:00am drop off and 11:45am collect. Students find out which class they will be in for 2027, along with receiving Compass login and start dates for next year.

YEAR 5/6 CAMP TO HALLS GAP

Most of our Year 5/6 students along with Kate, Brett, Jayden, Roberta, Clare and I are on camp now. We will return approximately 4:00pm tomorrow, Friday, 13th November. We will keep families updated on Compass.

CLASS STRUCTURE AND STAFFING FOR NEXT YEAR - repeat

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
	FJ - Jen (F/1)
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 - repeat

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 – TODAY &TOMORROW!

Don't forget to come along and have a look at our wonderful Art Show in our Multipurpose. Doors will be open from 3:15pm – 3:45pm with parents and families welcome to come along and have a look at the wonderful art on display. It has been great to see so many families attend already 😊.

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 oats, muesli and GLUTEN FREE cereals 😊

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 Piper with their banana & mandarin 😊

REMEMBRANCE DAY

All classes honoured the day with a minute's silence to remember those who have served our country. Classes participated in Remembrance activities and Lauren's students created these two wreaths which are on display in the Office today and tomorrow.



BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to Heath & Wade G, Brax B, Haize W, Tyler G, Jazmine T & Mila M.

Matt Pearce, Principal

FOUNDATION NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

*For using **class time efficiently** and completing their work to the best of their ability:*

FC ***Olivia***
FN ***Freya***

Catherine, Nicole & Nick

JUNIOR UNIT NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For demonstrating great teamwork and collaboration skills:

JAR ***Cohen***
JJ ***Carter***

Ainsley, Roberta & Lauren

MIDDLE UNIT NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK
For listening & following instructions in the classroom:

MED ***Logan***
MP ***Elisabeth***
MWA ***Mia***

Emma, Dean, Pauline, Wendy & Amanda

SENIOR UNIT NEWS

CAMP
We are having a wonderful time at Camp 😊. Matt has been posting photos on Compass, so have a look and see if there's one of your child! The buses should be back tomorrow around 4pm, but we will advise on Compass if this changes.

Brett, Jayden & Kate

THE RESILIENCE PROJECT

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

Mindfulness

Foundation	*Karsyn - FC
Junior Unit	*Layla - JJ
Middle Unit	*Paige – MWA
Senior Unit	on camp
Specialist	*Oliver - JAR

BIG REWARD WINNERS

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

- *Eli - JJ*
- *Parker - JAR*
- *Charlotte Q - JAR*
- *Mannie - JAR*
- *Rylan - JAR*
- *Chloe - JAR*
- *Poppy - JAR*

SOCIAL MEDIA & CYBER SAFETY

Navigating the Digital World: Your GPS for the Online Adventure

Have We Gone a Bit Screen Crazy?

Schools and families are both looking for a better balance. For a while there, it felt like more technology automatically meant better learning.
More devices.
More apps.
More screen time.
More clicking, tapping and logging in.
If a child could do it on a screen, apparently that meant we should. But now, schools are starting to ask a pretty fair question. Just because kids can use a screen for everything, does that mean they should? And if we are honest, that same question probably applies at home too. Across schools, there is growing conversation about how often students really need to be on devices, when technology genuinely adds value and when a good old pencil, a book or a face-to-face chat might actually do the job better.

That does not mean schools are suddenly going off grid and tossing all the devices in the bin. Technology still has an important place. Kids need digital skills. They need to know how to research, create, communicate and work safely online. That is just part of growing up in our Digital World. But I think what many of us are realising, both at school and at home, is that balance matters. Because screens have quietly become part of almost everything. A student might use a device at school for research, writing or class tasks, then head home and swap straight into YouTube, gaming, messaging, scrolling or television. Before long, a big chunk of the day has happened through a screen. And look, this is not about blaming schools or blaming parents. It is just the reality of modern life.

At school, teachers are trying to work out when devices support learning and when they simply become a distraction in a shiny case. At home, parents are trying to work out how to manage screen time without every afternoon turning into a debate worthy of a courtroom drama. Both are aiming for the same thing really. We want kids to know how to use technology well, without it taking over. That is why this conversation matters. Not because screens are terrible. Not because we all need to go back to the dark ages and send messages by carrier pigeon. But because kids need more than screens in their day. They need chances to think, create, move, chat, read, imagine and yes, sometimes even be bored.

Boredom is not the enemy. In fact, boredom is often where the good stuff begins. It is where kids build cubbies, kick a ball, draw nonsense, make up games, annoy their siblings and occasionally rediscover that other people in the house exist. They also need to learn that technology works best as a tool, not as the main event. And that is probably the sweet spot.

Purpose.
At school, that might mean using a device for a specific learning task, then shutting it and moving on. At home, it might mean enjoying a favourite show, playing a game or chatting with friends, while still leaving room for sleep, family, outside time and a few moments where nobody is staring at a glowing rectangle.

Because not all screen time is equal.
A child creating a project, researching something interesting or making a digital story is very different from disappearing into an endless scroll and somehow ending up watching a goat in pyjamas skateboard through a kitchen. Funny? Probably! A productive use of forty-five minutes? Debatable!

The other thing worth remembering is that kids notice the adults too. If schools are rethinking when screens are needed and when they are not, that is a useful reminder for families as well. We do not have to be perfect, but it does make us stop and think about the habits we are modelling.

Are screens helping us, or are they just filling every quiet moment? There is no magic number that works for every child or every family. But there is real value in asking whether screen use is balanced, purposeful and leaving room for all the other important bits of life. Maybe that is where schools and families can work together best. Not in a "screens are bad" sort of way. More in a "let's help kids use them wisely" sort of way.

Parent Tips
A few simple questions can help families find a better balance at home.

What is this screen time for? Learning, creating and connecting looks very different from endless scrolling.

Is there room for other things too? Sleep, movement, reading, chatting and downtime still matter.

Are there natural screen free moments in our day? Mealtimes, before bed and family time are a great place to start.

Are we modelling balance ourselves? A slightly uncomfortable question, but a fair one.

Can we talk about screen habits without making it a battle? A calm chat usually goes further than a dramatic declaration.

The bottom line!
If schools are starting to think more carefully about when screens help and when they hinder, it might be a good nudge for home life too. Not to ditch technology. Not to panic. Just to aim for a bit more balance. Because in the end, what most of us want is pretty simple. We want kids who can use technology confidently and safely, while still having plenty of time to learn, play, think and just be kids.

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

Kate Dole

PROTECTING AGAINST MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASES

Warm and wet weather can result in greater numbers of mosquitoes and an increased risk of illness from mosquito bites. While the overall risk in Victoria is currently low, some mosquitoes may be carrying diseases that make people sick.

The best protection against mosquito-borne illness is to avoid mosquito bites.

Families can protect against mosquito bites by:

- making mosquito protection part of getting ready to go outside, just like sunscreen and a hat,
- covering up as much as possible with long, loose-fitting, light-coloured clothing,
- applying insect repellent that contains picaridin or DEET on exposed skin when outdoors,
- limiting outdoor activities at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are often most active,
- cleaning up and removing containers and items around the home that may hold water where mosquitoes may breed.

Families with any health concerns should see their doctor or phone Nurse-on-Call: 1300 606 024 (available 24 hours).

Free Japanese encephalitis vaccines

Japanese encephalitis virus is spread to humans through bites from infected mosquitoes. It can cause a rare but potentially serious infection of the brain. A free vaccine is available to eligible Victorians at higher risk of the virus. For more information, including vaccine eligibility, refer to the Department of Health's Japanese encephalitis webpage.

Find out more

For more information on protecting against mosquito-borne diseases, families can refer to the following Better Health Channel pages:

- Mosquitoes can carry diseases,
- Protect yourself from mosquito-borne disease, including a handy checklist to help reduce mosquito breeding sites at home and resources translated into other languages,
- Japanese encephalitis virus.

THEIR CARE (OSHC) NEWS



https://theircare.com.au/

COMMUNITY NEWS



Bendigo South East COLLEGE

STARTING YEAR 7 IN 2027?

We warmly invite all students starting BSE Year 7 in 2027 and their families to our **2027 Year 7 Information Evening.**

- **Wednesday 18 November 2026**
- **BSE Stadium – 6.00pm start**
- **BBQ from 5.30pm**

Come along, enjoy a BBQ and discover what life at BSE has to offer!

It's a great opportunity to meet our staff, explore the exciting opportunities available to students and find out everything you need to know about making the move from primary to secondary school.

We'll cover Year 7 camps, booklists, uniforms, orientation day, student wellbeing, college expectations and the many programs and activities available to our students.

Interested in Music?

Our Music Program is a fantastic opportunity for students to develop their musical interests and talents. Scan the QR code below to register your interest and find out more about joining the program in 2027.

No bookings or registrations are required to attend the evening – just bring the family!

We look forward to meeting our future Year 7 students and their families!

Bendigo South East College – Strive for Excellence

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 ☺