



Calder Chronicle

NUMBER 25

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THURSDAY, 20TH AUGUST 2020

CALENDAR

Monday, 31st August ~~Curriculum Day cancelled~~

Friday, 18th September ~~Last Day for Term 3~~

School Organisation

Dear Parents / Guardians,

By now it seems the majority of families are settling into Remote and Flexible Learning. We have about 90% of our students working remotely all the time, 5% working a mix of remote and on site when absolutely necessary and 5% on site each day. It's great that so many of you are able to keep your children home safe and as a result, your family. Remote learning is hard work, but honestly, the ratios at home are better... 1 adult to every 1/2/3 children. At school, it's 1 supervisor to about 10 students... and supervisors aren't necessarily teachers. The work done at home and on site is the same – we follow the learning set by teachers.

REMOTE LEARNING

Reports of our remote learning continue to be very positive. Our Senior Students are more than capable to follow set work, as they use Showbie at school all the time... so don't let them fool you. Our three blogs for Middle, Junior and First Steps are very logical too... tasks are laid out, with supporting videos at times offering children and families the chance to rewatch if something is not understood. We have a variety of Webex meetings occurring too, which enable students to see one another, but also give teachers the chance when in smaller groups to either do small group teaching, or 1:1 intervention. It's stressful the first few times getting set up, however, once you know what to do, it's pretty straightforward. Just give yourself permission to have a go... and if it doesn't work the first couple of times... that's ok... persevere and you'll get there. Our staff are also only too happy to help.

The following platforms are being used across the school – please check in each day to find out what your child should be doing:

<https://bhpst3.edublogs.org> - For children in Pauline, Jen & Nicole/Sharyn's classes – Prep and Year 1

<https://juniorunitbhps.edublogs.org> - For children in Rhys or Catherine's classes – Year 1 and 2

<https://34bighill.edublogs.org> - For children in Dean, Wendy and Renae/Sandra's classes – Year 3 and 4

For children in Prep – Year 6 to access their Chinese lesson each week, the website we are going to use for Chinese remote learning this term is: <https://padlet.com/learnchinesebendigo/remote>. It is recommended that students use Chrome to access the site.

Our Senior Unit Students are working through Showbie – instructions for children and families from Lauren/Roberta, Brett, Ainsley and Kate's classes have been shared. If you have access issues, please contact your child's teacher via email.

ON SITE SUPERVISION & OSHC

On site supervision is a last resort. It should only be used when a family have exhausted all avenues to provide care of their children utilising family, friends, changing work hours, rostered days off etc. The direction by law is clear – if your child can learn from home, they MUST learn from home. Please respect this and use our on site supervision only when you have to – if you are at home, by law, your child should be with you. Each week we will review cases of on site attendance in light of guidance as it changes. To organise your child to work on site, please contact Matthew Pearce by phone to discuss – this must occur prior to your **first** use of the service. Parents using the service will be provided with the correct documentation to use. Care must be booked for the upcoming week by close of business, Thursdays. **No late applications after 4:00pm will be accepted in line with guidelines.** As staff are generally not on site, attendance numbers must be known to enable the school to hire in supervisors on Friday for the week ahead. Thanks for your cooperation. OSHC is also running for those using on site supervision – but is only available to existing OSHC clients. You must pay a registration fee to use OSHC and currently, families have to pay for child care services.

UNWELL?

If your child is unwell, you are unwell etc, please act accordingly and get tested. Please do not come on site until you have clearance – and your child is cleared as well. We need to keep our service running. This means we all need to be vigilant. Each day, adults and children on site are temperature tested in the morning and the afternoon. If a child registers a temperature spike, you will be contacted directly and must, according to the legal document signed, arrange to pick your child up as soon as possible. On site supervision is made as safe as possible, but considering the number of local cases, you can understand why we want children picked up straight away. Where outbreaks occur in our local community, many exposures occur... so to keep our children on site and staff on site safe... stay home if you are sick and be available to come on site if your child falls ill whilst being supervised on site.

VISITS TO THE SCHOOL

If you have to come on site, please follow social distancing rules to keep our staff safe. Visits should only be to the Office – which may be locked. Ring ahead to avoid disappointment – or knock and the door and if a staff member is available they will let you in. Please do not try to find another entrance, call 5447 7022 and someone will come to help you. If collecting work, please organise with your child's teacher suitable times to pick up. When dropping children off for on site attendance, please do so at the top carpark and encourage them to walk to the multipurpose alone. If collecting, please call the Office to arrange for them to meet you at the top car park, or walk to the undercover area and signal to a supervisor... who can organise your children to head home. General school grounds are out-of-bounds for all adults who are not staff, unless prior arrangement has been made. We need to keep our grounds safe for those limited staff and children on site.

FACE MASKS / COVERINGS

All adults attending on site, whether staff, parent or other have to wear a face mask / covering under new Victorian law. Please ensure you have a mask on when out of your car, on site etc. Children do not have to wear masks in Primary Schools, even those who are 12. If your child is on site, they are more than welcome to wear one if they feel safer.

WELLBEING SUPPORTS

We have shared our supports online with you, however, should you ever need assistance, feel free to contact the office and Sharyn, Megan or I will be in a position to make contact with you. I know pride can sometimes get in the way of asking for help, however, I want to assure anyone that if you come directly to me I am very understanding, confidential, supportive and non-judgemental. Please make contact if you are struggling... I might be able to give you a simple solution to what might be a big problem. At the very least, I can be someone to talk to. As mentioned, both Sharyn and Megan are also only too happy to help where we can.

STAFF CONTACTS

In addition to the wellbeing supports outlined above, we have also clearly shared contact details for each staff member, their days of work and contact hours on our website, through Flexibuzz and on Facebook. Please remember, like you, our staff have set hours of service and are not contactable 24 hours a day. Please be patient and understanding if there is a delay in a response, especially when contact is made out-of-hours or on weekends. I know our staff are very dedicated and happy to help – so please, always approach them with respect and consideration – even if you are feeling really under pressure. Tough times for all – we're all in this together etc.

SOCIAL INTERACTION

We are having some social interaction for children via Webex during the day. When children are online using Webex etc, please ensure you are supervising them so that chat, text etc. is appropriate. It's important for children to spend time seeing others – so why not set up Facetime calls / Webex / Zoom / Messenger calls between families so there is that connection? It really makes a difference!

WORK SMART

We set about 2 & 1/2 hours a day per child. If you get into a routine, you will find it easy to follow the set tasks and finish up by 1:00pm. As mentioned last week, endeavour to get the Literacy and Numeracy work done as the first focus area... then if you can, try to do the specialist subjects. Honestly, subjects like VISUAL ARTS and MUSIC are really good wellbeing subjects where children will feel more relaxed and happy – please try to do these subjects when you can. Sometimes you might do the literacy, have a break, then do the numeracy, then have a longer break... and in the afternoon, pick a specialist subject. If you have more than 1 child at home, stagger work times... have children alternating between doing their work and resting. Run the specialist classes at the same time so you can have your children doing similar things. It's ok to get creative with how you get the work done. Some even do short stints on weekends – a great idea considering we can't go anywhere. Maybe your family could have an art afternoon each Saturday, using Sandra's lesson as the guide? Keep up the good work Mums, Dads and Carers... if you are working at it, we are so grateful for all you are doing.

ATTENDANCE

We mark the roll each day... however, if a teacher feels a child is not engaging in their work, they may have to mark the roll as an absence. To ensure your child is marked present each day, ensure you are responding to teacher emails, answering phone calls, attending scheduled Webex meetings OR return completed work to teachers when requested. The First Steps, Junior Unit and Middle Unit are using Class Dojo now to communicate – making things easier... whereas the Senior Unit have the children working on Showbie and submitting work there. All Units are using Webex this time around too, so if your child attends a meeting... this is a sign of attendance. Should your child be unwell, please email your child's teacher, myself (Matthew.Pearce@education.vic.gov.au) or Janet Dean (Janet.Dean@education.vic.gov.au) so the roll can be marked accordingly. When your child is unwell, there is no expectation that they would be working remotely... we just need to mark the roll to reflect this.

KINDER – PREP ENROLMENT

If you have not enrolled your child for Prep, 2021... please contact the Office / Janet Dean as soon as possible. For parents wanting to organise a tour, we are unable to provide school tours currently due to COVID-19 restrictions. When a time arrives when this can be done safely, we will advise on our website.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

At this point in time, School Council documentation won't be sent out until perhaps next month. I am not holding an August meeting as scheduled, due to the reduction in meeting requirements from 8 to 6. So we aren't meeting excessively in uncertain times, please note that School Council will meet once this term in September.

YOUR FAMILY'S WELLBEING

It's tricky trying to manage everything and feel responsible for keeping your loved ones safe, whilst paying the bills etc. There are a few things that help... such as going on a family walk or bike ride / scoot each day – fresh air does wonders! Another great idea is to set up a family games night... connecting with each other over a game is a great way to ease the stress. Each week... I'll share tips with you on ways to keep yourselves happy and healthy at home during a pandemic.

FIVE THINGS TO DO AT HOME WHEN SCHOOL WORK GETS TOO MUCH

Each week, I'll share with you 5 different ideas to try at home... particularly when your child is pooped from online schooling. It's important to do the set work given by teachers, but when you need to change it up... here's some ideas to try. 1. Limit TV and talk, tell them stories of when you were young – often you have no chance to share the histories of your family. Where did members come from? Where did they live? What did they do for a job? Find locations on a map etc. 2. Go outside in the sunshine and garden together – if you know about types of plants, structure of plants, insects etc, share your wisdom! 3. Play games in the backyard when the sun is out – mix it up... play games you played as a child... talk about the differences from today. 4. Play board games on the lounge room floor should the weather get chilly – practise turn taking, being a good loser, encouraging others etc. 4. Cook together – read recipes, talk about how recipes are written, cook delicious things and enjoy them together. Rate the outcome – what was the food like? What could be done to improve the dish? What was the math in cooking?

BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to Charlotte C, Oscar W, Cameron K, John C & Lacey B.

As we head into week 7, it's hard to believe that we only have 4 weeks of term left. Here's hoping, with everyone doing the right thing, we get back to lighter restrictions so families can enjoy the warmer weather when it arrives, or even get away somewhere nice in Victoria for a break.

Have a great Friday and an even better weekend!

Matt Pearce, Principal

FIRST STEPS NEWS

INCURSION CREDIT

Unfortunately due to COVID-19 our Chris Humphrey Wildlife Incursion can no longer go ahead. If you have already paid for this incursion your school account will be credited the amount for the incursion and this money can be used towards our swimming program in Term 4 or any future incursions or expenses.

REMOTE LEARNING

A reminder that our weekly planners can be found on our blog: <https://bhpst3.edublogs.org/>.

WEBEX

At 9:40am each day all First Steps classes will be holding their Webex class meeting. During this time we mark the attendance roll, explain the daily timetable and do Show and Tell. If your child can not attend one of the Webex meetings throughout the week, but will still be participating in the remote learning tasks for the day, it is important that you notify your child's classroom teacher via Dojo or email. If there is no contact made throughout the day, your child will be marked as absent.

Please remember that we are here to help you and your child and are available between 8:45am and 4:00pm each day and can be contacted via Dojo (preferred platform) or email.

DOJO

Dojo is a platform that we are using to communicate with parents and a place where student work will be submitted. Most parents have accepted the invite to Dojo and are now using the program successfully and with ease. If you haven't joined Dojo, please look out for an invite from Dojo in your emails. If you cannot locate this invite, please email your child's teacher and they will send another invite out to you.

Emails:

P/1 Pauline (FSP) – Monday to Friday
Pauline.Mulcair@education.vic.gov.au

P/1 Jen (FSJ) – Monday to Friday:
Jennifer.Nicholls2@education.vic.gov.au

P/1 Nicole (FSN) – Monday to Thursday:
Nicole.Argall@education.vic.gov.au

P/1 Sharyn (FSN) – Friday
Sharyn.Burnett@education.vic.gov.au

STARS OF THE WEEK

For being ready to learn during Remote Learning:

FSJ *Lyla E*
FSP *Isabella G*
FSN *Heath B*

Jen, Pauline, Nicole & Sharyn

JUNIOR UNIT NEWS

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Week 5:

For having a great start to remote learning, completing all of her work and taking part in our class lessons on Webex:

JC Kirra W
JR Skylah D

Week 6:

For actively taking part and joining in during reading groups and Webex lessons:

JC Rydder G
JR Oscar G

Catherine & Rhys

MIDDLE UNIT NEWS

REMOTE LEARNING

During Remote Learning this term, the Middle Unit is now using a variety of platforms to communicate with students and families. Just a reminder that the weekly Learning Schedule including activities and video clips is available on the 3/4 Blog. It can be accessed at: 34bighill.edublogs.org.

The weekly program is also sent to parents and families every Thursday afternoon via Class Dojo and email. Class Dojo is also used to upload daily student work samples and for messaging between home and school.

This term we have introduced daily class meetings and individual student conference calls using Webex. Please access the link to your child's teacher on the 3/4 Blog.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's learning please contact us via Dojo or email.

Rena.Westley@education.vic.gov.au

Dean.White@education.vic.gov.au

Wendy.Hicks@education.vic.gov.au

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

For great work during Remote Learning:

MW Cohen S
MR Remy W
MD Evie S

SENIOR UNIT NEWS

YEAR 7 PLACEMENT OFFERS

These were distributed via email yesterday. Please contact Janet in the Office if you haven't received yours.

Information packs from Crusoe College will be posted out by Janet today. If you don't receive it by the end of next week, you will need to contact Crusoe directly.

No packs have been received from BSE as yet.

Ainsley, Brett, Kate, Lauren & Roberta

ART NEWS

FIRST STEPS



Abigail H



Avery F



Patrick R

JUNIOR UNIT



Henry P



Isabelle O



Kohen S



Sierra S



Willow W



Xavier P

MIDDLE UNIT



Phoebe C



Noah P



Cordy M

SENIOR UNIT



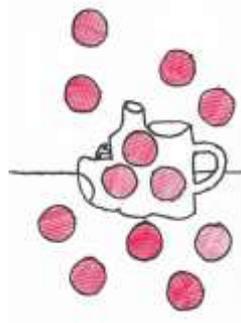
Sebastian S



Matilda B



Mackenzie N



Jordan M



Jaxson S



Anas M



Ella R



Cooper S



Chelsea W



Allira L



Marley T

Just a taste of some of our brilliant art work for this week.

Sandra Willis
Visual Arts

COMMUNITY NEWS

As most of you would be aware, we have a family at Big Hill PS going through an enormous medical situation at the moment.

They have a fundraiser set up and would appreciate any donation you could spare. Thank you.

Please visit:

<https://www.mycase.com.au/page/230474/ride-for-ella-fight-against-leukemia/1>

Below is a link for an online parenting course including practical strategies to support parents during COVID-19.

<https://www.triplep-parenting.net.au/vic-ukn/triple-p/>



2019–20 BALANCING HAS STARTED

Child Care Subsidy (CCS) balancing for the 2019–20 financial year started on 10 August 2020.

Families need to confirm their income for Services Australia to balance their CCS.

Find out more at:

<https://www.education.gov.au/child-care-subsidy-balancing>

If you require assistance please visit:

<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/topics/balancing-your-family-assistance-payments/29376>

 kidshelpline
@School

Managing all your
different emotions
can be hard...



Use the link below for more information and to register for your free session:

https://kidshelpline.com.au/schools/sessions/managing-emotions?mobilelid=0&mobiledraw=0&utm_source=KHL2013P1&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=kids+helpline+%7C+misc+%7C+primary+school+%7C+free+support+for+you+r+students+to+help+with+managing+emotions+%7C+&utm_content=image%20link%20%7C%20managing%20all%20your%20different%20emotions%20img2-1%20%7C%20schools-kids-helpline-school%20%7C%20KHL2013



Saver Plus is a matched savings and financial education program, offered by community organisations in every state and territory.

Saver Plus assists individuals and families on lower incomes to build assets and improve financial capability. It has supported thousands of lower-income earners to develop a lasting savings habit.

Saver Plus offers:

- up to \$500 in matched savings for education costs
- fun, free and informal financial education workshops
- assistance and support from a Saver Plus coordinator to establish a savings goal and develop a savings habit.

Participants make regular deposits towards a savings goal over a 10-month period and attend workshops to build their financial management skills.

When participants reach their savings goal, ANZ matches the amount (up to \$500) towards education costs including uniforms, text books, laptops, sports equipment, music tuition, TAFE or apprenticeship fees and much more.

Who can join?

Participants must meet all of these criteria:

- be at least 18 years old
- have a child at school or starting next year OR be attending vocational education
- have some regular income from your work (you or your partner)*
- have a Centrelink, Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card
- have not received matched funds from Saver Plus before (you or your partner)
- be in receipt of an eligible Commonwealth social security benefit, allowance or payment (contact your local Coordinator for more information).

Please note you must also be in receipt of an eligible Commonwealth social security benefit, allowance or payment. Many types of income and Centrelink payments are eligible, your local coordinator can confirm this with you when they call to discuss joining the program.

Complete the online form using the link below to see if you are eligible to join the Saver Plus program:

<https://www.bsl.org.au/services/saving-and-managing-money/saver-plus/saver-plus-enquiry-form/>