



Calder Chronicle

NUMBER 30

Phone (03) 5447 7022

Email: big.hill.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Website: www.bighillps.vic.edu.au

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BigHillPrimarySchool/>

THURSDAY, 15TH OCTOBER 2026

Monday, 19th October
Tuesday, 20th October
Thursday, 22nd October
Friday, 23rd October
Monday, 26th October

Tuesday, 27th October
WEDNESDAY, 28th OCTOBER
Thursday, 29th October
Friday, 30th October

MONDAY, 2nd NOVEMBER
Tuesday, 3rd November
Wednesday, 11th November
Friday, 13th November
MONDAY, 23rd NOVEMBER

Scholastic Book Club Orders due at the Office or via LOOP online
School Council Meeting

Middle Unit Discovery Centre Excursion

Division Cricket – selected Year 5/6 students only

Foundation & Junior Unit Swimming commences

P&F Melbourne Cup Drink Pre Orders close on Compass (not 30th, apologies)

Foundation & Junior Unit Swimming continues

BENDIGO CUP DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Foundation & Junior Unit Swimming continues

DAY FOR DANIEL – meet at Phillis St at 8:30am to walk to school

Foundation & Junior Unit Swimming concludes

CURRICULUM DAY – PUPIL FREE DAY

Melbourne Cup Sports Day at Flora Hill Athletics Track

Year 5/6 Camp departs

Year 5/6 Camp returns

PUPIL FREE DAY – REPORT WRITING

School Organisation

Dear Parents, Carers and Greater Community,

As we moved into Week 2, the children have quickly shown that they are back and well and truly in routine... working effectively across the school.

STAFFING

We've had Jenny away this week on some Long Service Leave. As a result, Jerri has worked to support in the classes Jenny usually works in across the 5 days. Roberta worked an extra day this week whilst Ainsley was on Long Service Leave Monday, giving their class consistency of their normal teachers and daily routines. Jayden also had some time out Monday... and again today... with Ebony working both days to provide a familiar face. Monday was also busy with Nicole absent... and we were lucky enough to gain the services of experienced teacher, Jo Cordy, to work closely with Catherine to ensure the Foundation students also had a great start to the week. I was at the Academy of Teaching and Learning yesterday delivering another session of the INSPIRE program for emerging leaders and am now on Long Service Leave for today and tomorrow... spending time in Perth to attend a wedding. I'll be back next week, but in the meantime, Ainsley is onsite and can support you if you have any concerns or needs.

SHELTER IN PLACE UPGRADES

Still no contact yet about when these works, outlined on COMPASS recently, will commence... however I imagine it will be soon as we approach warmer weather and increasing threat of bushfires etc.

BUS PARKING AND THE CALDER HIGHWAY, 5 MINUTE ZONE ETC

Thanks to the many families who made small adjustments and parked elsewhere, rather than in the bus zone on the Calder Highway. We did have Highway Patrol do a visit, with two motorbikes checking both the Calder and the top carpark areas. Please remember not to park in the bus zones, along the Calder etc, and to keep your stops in our drop off / pick up zone in the top carpark to 5 minutes. Highway patrol have advised they will be doing regular checks, so please ensure you continue to park safely and legally... so you can avoid a fine or infringement and to keep our children safe.

SMOKING / VAPING ON OR NEAR SCHOOL GROUNDS

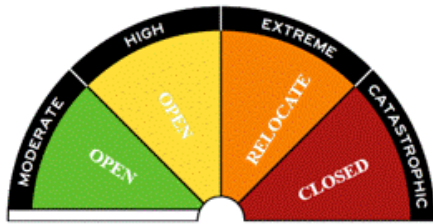
Families are reminded that there is absolutely no smoking or vaping on school grounds. Our grounds also include the rear of the Multipurpose Room and the top loop car park. In addition to this, smoking and vaping should be at least 4 metres away from any entrance to the school. If everyone who smokes / vapes can remember this and follow the rules, it will prevent staff from having to have an embarrassing conversation with you. Thanks for your cooperation.

CLASS STRUCTURE FOR NEXT YEAR / CLASS PLACEMENTS

Thanks to all families who took the time to put in class requests for next year. These have now closed and we are collating responses to consider when we start making classes. This week we decided our class structure for next year... and can confirm that in 2027 we will have two FOUNDATION CLASSES and a FOUNDATION / YEAR 1 class (FOUNDATION UNIT), two Year 1/2's (JUNIOR UNIT), two Year 3/4's (MIDDLE UNIT), and one Year 4/5 and two Year 5/6's (SENIOR UNIT).

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 endeavour to advise via Compass and send a letter home. We will then confirm the day before any actual relocation on Compass. 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**

DIVISION CRICKET

Next Friday, 23rd October, a select number of Year 5/6 students will travel to CATHERINE MCAULEY COLLEGE in Junortoun to compete in the Division Cricket tournament. Brett, Jayden and Roberta will attend with the group and will be busy umpiring and coaching on the day. Kate and Emma will remain at school and cover those Year 5/6 students not involved, whilst Ainsley will work with her class. Brett will also be absent the day before, on Thursday, 22nd October, as he is working for the local sporting events group to set up for the Division Cricket.

MIDDLE UNIT EXCURSION TO DISCOVERY CENTRE, BENDIGO

Our Middle Unit students have their major excursion coming up on Thursday, 22nd October. They will enjoy a day out at the Discovery Centre experiencing the CURIOSITY: Building Breakthroughs in LEGO Bricks! Exhibit, the Planetarium, vertical slide and access to all the interactive displays. Please attend to consent and payment on Compass ASAP. This is a user pays excursion, so if you have not paid prior to the event, your child will remain at school and work with another class.

SCHOOL COUNCIL NEXT WEEK

Our October meeting of School Council is scheduled for next Tuesday, 20th October. Finance will commence for members of that subcommittee at 6:30pm and the main meeting will start at 7:00pm. This meeting will be held in the library but will also be accessible via Webex. Details shared via email with the Principals Report.

ZOOPEER DOOPER FUNDRAISING – EACH DAY AFTER SCHOOL

Zooper Dooper sales are underway, with children able to buy one after the school day. Please note that we release Ravenswood and Kangaroo Flat bus travellers whilst the music is playing to have time to get Zooper Doopers first before heading to the bus. They are \$2 each and we will be selling a maximum of 1 per student unless in the presence of a sibling and buying for other members of the family. Monies raised will go towards school projects to support our students 😊.

BIG HILL PS “FUN” ATHLETICS DAY (MELBOURNE CUP) - repeat

This year we have taken on feedback about our Melbourne Cup Picnic Races Day and made further changes. We have changed the day significantly, removing the hats, fashions, and art show... and moving the day offsite where there is ample shade and more sophisticated sports facilities at the FLORA HILL ATHLETICS TRACK. As part of the change, we introduced the EASTER BONNET PARADE at the end of Term 1 to ensure our hat tradition was kept, covered fashion / dress ups with our BOOK CHARACTER DRESS UP DAY during Term 3 and numerous themed OUT OF UNIFORM days and we have a scheduled ART SHOW running this term each night afterschool so families can come along and see our amazing student art in person.

So how does the athletics day look? We will bus students from the school to the track... split up children into age groups for boys and girls, involve these age groups in a full morning of rotations where they move from activity to activity and finish with the traditional long-distance races. During the rotations we will have students doing a mix of athletics / activities including traditional picnic races like egg and spoon, sack race etc. This change came from feedback that students sat for long periods waiting for their turn and became restless... so with this change, all children will be kept busy for the morning doing multiple activities. The focus of these activities / events will be on participation and fun – therefore there will be no ribbons or awards presented for winners.

A lunch break will occur, and the P&F will run a BBQ (more information to follow). A coffee van has also been organised to attend on the day so families can enjoy buying a hot drink. In the afternoon we will run through long distance races and present the traditional medals for the winners – this is our competitive part of the day and only those wanting to compete will participate. We encourage all to have a go, but understand running is not for everyone!

The day will end at 2:40pm with buses returning students to school to ensure bus connections, OSHC programs and normal pick-ups. Families are encouraged to come along, enjoy the day, and buy lunch or bring a picnic. As the Curriculum Day is the day before, some families may be away for Melbourne Cup also... having an extended Long Weekend. This is okay of course, just ensure you let the school know why you are away. More information to come... but for now, I just wanted to give you a glimpse of what the day will look like 😊.

SHIRE HOLIDAY AND TWO PUPIL FREE DAYS THIS TERM - repeat

To help families prepare don't forget that the BENDIGO CUP SHIRE HOLIDAY is fast approaching – Wednesday, 28th October. This is a shared holiday so there is no school / work for students and staff on that day. Due to this there is also no OSHC. Two curriculum days also fall this term on Monday, 2nd November and Monday, 23rd November. These are pupil free days and therefore no school, however OSHC will be available to book into for those that need it on these two dates at <https://theircare.com.au/>.

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 soups, dahls and now QUICK OATS 😊

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.

Karsyn and Olivia were enjoying their mandarin & pear this week 😊

BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to Connie M, Willow S, Jake F, Harmony N & Xavier S.

As we move into the term, please remember with the arrival of hotter days children need a good drink bottle, they can refill with water, sunscreen in their lunchbox they can reapply during breaks, their broad-brimmed school hat... and cool clothing. We will be opening the library during both breaks when it's warm to provide additional avenues of shelter whilst also encouraging those playing in full sun to take regular breaks. Summer is not that far away!

I do hope you have a great Friday and a wonderful weekend with your child/ren.

Kind regards,

Matt Pearce, Principal

FOUNDATION NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For planning and drafting his story writing using good detail and imagination:

FC Theo H
FN Noah A

Catherine, Nicole & Nick

JUNIOR UNIT NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For displaying the School Value of 'Be Responsible' by quickly and quietly lining up when the bell rings:

JAR Abby V
JJ Layla B

Ainsley, Roberta & Lauren

MIDDLE UNIT NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For being kind and cooperative:

MED Malachi B
MP Rhemmi C
MWA Archer M

Emma, Dean, Pauline, Wendy & Amanda

SENIOR UNIT NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For showing appreciation through a positive mindset and encouraging others:

SB Harry R
SJ Ava C
SK Dante D

Brett, Jayden & Kate

THE RESILIENCE PROJECT

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

Empathy

Foundation	Austin V
Junior Unit	Elijah Q
Middle Unit	Sienna D
Senior Unit	Ella M
Specialist	Parker S

BIG REWARD WINNERS

Congratulations to the following student who has received 15 Big Rewards, well done 😊:

🌈 Harper A

STUDENT SPORTING NEWS

Congratulations to Poppy S
for placing 7th in the Regional Athletics!!

AUSKICK NEWS

Auskick IS coming to Big Hill PS this term, commencing **TOMORROW**, Friday, 16th October for 4 weeks. See below flyer to register. Thank you to those who have registered 😊.

ALL GIRLS GROUPS AVAILABLE

AFL PLAY

nab AFL Auskick

GOOD CLEAN FUN

PLAY.AFL/AUSKICK

BIG HILL PS AUSKICK CENTRE

School Oval

STARTING OCTOBER 16TH

FRIDAYS 3:30PM - 4:30PM

\$55 | FOOTY TO KEEP!

SCHOLASTIC NEWS

Please have orders to the Office or completed online via LOOP by NEXT Monday, 19th October.

Thanks 😊

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/>

SOCIAL MEDIA & CYBER SAFETY

Navigating the Digital World: Your GPS for the Online Adventure

DIGITAL WORLD: IS THAT INFLUENCER EVEN REAL?

We've spent years teaching kids not to believe everything they see online. Now we probably need to add another question to the list:

Is the person you're looking at even real?

Yep! Welcome to the latest plot twist in our ever-changing digital world. Recently, thousands of Aussies were following a young WA FIFO worker called Bindi Raye. She appeared to work on mine sites, loved footy, went camping and four-wheel-driving, visited familiar WA locations and posted the sort of everyday content you'd expect from a young Aussie working FIFO. Pretty normal, really. Except for one tiny detail. She wasn't real! Bindi Raye was an AI-generated person. Not just a slightly filtered photo. Not someone using a funny face app. The person herself didn't exist. Her images, videos and online identity had been created using artificial intelligence, yet she had built an audience of more than 80,000 followers.

That should make all of us stop scrolling for a second.

BUT I'D BE ABLE TO TELL... WOULDN'T I?

Maybe. Once upon a time, spotting AI was a bit easier. We told kids to look for six fingers, wonky hands, strange teeth, odd-looking eyes and background signs containing complete gobbledegook. Those clues still pop up, but AI is getting better. Much better! The dodgy fingers are disappearing. Faces look more natural. Voices sound convincing. Videos move more realistically. So instead of simply teaching kids to spot bad AI, we need to teach them to question convincing AI. That is a very different skill!

AI DOESN'T JUST CREATE A FACE

What makes accounts like this particularly clever is that they don't simply generate a good-looking person and hope for the best. They create a whole identity. FIFO worker. Footy supporter. Camping. Four-wheel-driving. Recognisable Aussie locations.

The sort of things that make someone scroll past and think: "Yep, she seems legit."

And that is exactly the point.

Those familiar details help build trust. Once we trust someone, we are more likely to follow them, message them, believe them, click their links, buy what they recommend or hand over information.

OUR KIDS NEED TO BECOME DIGITAL DETECTIVES

Instead of asking only:

"Does this photo look fake?"

We need our kids asking:

"What makes me believe this person is real?"

Have they existed online for a long time? Are there genuine interactions with other people?

Can their story be confirmed somewhere else? Do their photos and videos stay consistent? Are they suddenly pushing followers towards private messages, subscriptions, payments or links? Are they trying very hard to build trust very quickly? None of those things automatically mean an account is fake. But they are good reasons to slow down and have another look.

AND HERE'S THE REALLY IMPORTANT PART

AI influencers are not automatically bad. AI can be used to create characters, advertising, education, entertainment and some pretty amazing digital art.

The problem starts when people don't know they are looking at AI. If an account is designed to look like a genuine person, talks like a genuine person and builds relationships with followers like a genuine person, people deserve to know what they are dealing with. Especially kids and teenagers. Because our young people are growing up in a world where seeing something with their own eyes no longer automatically makes it true. And that is a pretty massive shift.

THE DIGITAL WORLD MESSAGE

We don't need our kids to become suspicious of absolutely everything online. We do need them to become curious. Ask questions. Check twice. Look beyond the photo. And remember that the smiling face on the screen might be a real person... or it might simply be some very clever computer code wearing a pair of virtual work boots. In today's digital world, "I saw it online" isn't proof anymore.

This image below is a bit of fun, but it also proves the point of the article. Anyone who knows me knows I know absolutely nothing about football and would be very unlikely to find me sitting in the stands at a Collingwood game, pie in hand, cheering along. Yet here I am... sort of! The image looks believable because AI can now place a real person into a completely made-up situation and make it look convincing at first glance.

That's exactly why our kids need to learn to stop, question and check what they see online.

If you know the person, the clues might be obvious. If you don't, would you believe it?



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

Kate Dole

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

Try Tinies in November

A FUN 4 WEEK INTRODUCTION PROGRAM FOR AGES 3 - 6

- WHEN**
Wednesdays from November 11 - December 2
- TIME**
4:15 - 5:00pm
- LOCATION**
Strathdale Community Centre
- AGES**
3 - 6 years
- COST**
\$10 per week + \$40 registration

Children will learn the basics of calisthenics through fun, age-appropriate activities that build confidence, coordination, flexibility and teamwork.

IF YOUR CHILD JOINS BENDIGO CALISTHENICS IN 2027, YOU WILL RECEIVE A \$20 CREDIT TOWARDS YOUR FEES!

ENQUIRIES admin@bendigocalisthenics.com

Want \$500 to help you with school costs?

saverplus

Saver Plus is a financial education program for families and individuals on a tight budget to develop life-long savings habits.



To join, participants must:



Have a current health care card OR pensioner concession card



Be studying yourself OR have a child in school



Have regular income from work, yourself OR your partner

For full eligibility requirements, speak to a Saver Plus Coordinator.



Here are some of the school costs the \$500 can be used for:



Laptops & tablets



Uniforms & shoes



Books & supplies



Sports fees & gear



Lessons & activities



Camps & excursions

For more information, please contact Saver Plus:



saverplus@bsl.org.au



saverplus.org.au



1300 610 355



@SaverPlusAU

Do you know which junior sports are available in Bendigo, when they are played and when to register?

Visit www.sportsfocus.com.au

Check out the Bendigo Junior Sports Calendar for all the information

SPORTS FOCUS
SAFE • WELCOMING • INCLUSIVE

Build Along With Brickman

Join Brickman for another round of brick building challenges!

Saturday, 24th October

Sessions at:
• 9:00am
• 10:30am
• 12:00pm

Discovery Centre Bendigo

\$35 - General Public
\$15 - Members

For ages 5+

Tickets available at: www.discovery.asn.au

أهلاً وسهلاً

ကုမ္ပဏိသီ

Welcome

欢迎

Wominjeka

FREE

FUNLOONG FUN DAY!

Child Safe
event

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT

Saturday October 17, 11am to 2pm
Hargreaves Mall and Williamson Street

Live Performances

The Zone activities

Connected Circus

Face painting

Animals

Inspired tennis

Cultural activities and performances

\$2.50 sausages and vegie burgers

...and much more!

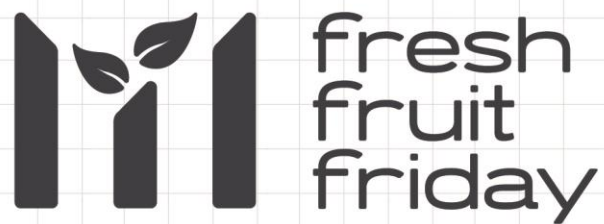
Join us to celebrate Children's Week
with a range of **FREE** fun activities
and live entertainment for children
and families to enjoy!

Smoke and vape free event

This event is proudly sponsored by:

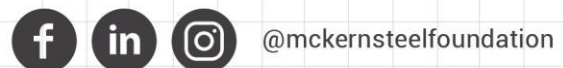


THANK YOU TO MCKERN STEEL FOUNDATION AND SPONSORS



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 🍏