



# Calder Chronicle

NUMBER 31

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**THURSDAY, 22<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER 2026**

Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October  
Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> October

Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> October  
**WEDNESDAY, 28<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER**

Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> October

**Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> October**

**MONDAY, 2<sup>nd</sup> NOVEMBER**

Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November

Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> November

Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> November

Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> November

**MONDAY, 23<sup>rd</sup> NOVEMBER**

**Division Cricket – selected Year 5/6 students only**

**Foundation & Junior Unit Swimming commences**

P&F Melbourne Cup Drink Pre Orders close on Compass (not 30<sup>th</sup>, 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

**WORLD TEACHERS' DAY**

**CURRICULUM DAY – PUPIL FREE DAY**

Melbourne Cup Sports Day at Lar Birpa (previously Flora Hill Athletics Track)

BHPS Art Show commences – every night after school, Multipurpose Building

Year 5/6 Camp departs

Year 5/6 Camp returns

**PUPIL FREE DAY – REPORT WRITING**

## School Organisation

Dear Parents, Carers and Greater Community,

Week 3 has been a very productive week. Whilst still busy, not as busy as some of the weeks coming up... which has enabled staff to keep children in regular routines throughout most of the week. Today (Middle Unit) and tomorrow (some Senior Unit students) will be impacted by the excursions planned for each.

### STAFFING

This week has been relatively settled staffing wise with the only absences of teachers relating to PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT or offsite meetings. We have had a couple of Education Support away however, with Stacey away all week and Amy on Monday/Tuesday.

### FOUNDATION AND JUNIOR UNIT SWIMMING – NEXT WEEK!

Our Foundation and Junior Unit classes will be participating in their Swimming Program next week, attending Gurri Wanyarra on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday for a swimming lesson with an instructor. Junior Unit will be at the pool between 11:00am and 12:45pm and Foundation from 11:30am – 1:30pm. Please note that there is no program on the Wednesday as this is the Bendigo Cup Day Public Holiday. Payment and consent must be completed before participation on Compass. If your child does not have consent and payment completed for commencement of the program on Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> October, they will not participate until payment is made. As this is a water safety activity, we must have consent and payment. It might be a good idea to pack a swimming bag for your child with their towel, goggles, change of underwear etc (all named) over the weekend and practise with your child the process of getting in and out of bathers, especially if they are in Foundation 😊. A bit of practise helps reduce the anxiety.

### HAY FEVER SEASON

Does your child suffer from hay fever? It's the season and we are noticing a rise in hay fever at school amongst students. How can you help? Find a suitable antihistamine from a chemist (speak to a pharmacist if unsure) and give your child a dose before school each day, particularly the warmer dry days we are starting to experience. Most medications will last the day if given just before school 😊.

### SHELTER IN PLACE UPGRADES

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

### CLASS STRUCTURE FOR NEXT YEAR - repeat

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), a 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 advise via COMPASS. We will then confirm the day before any actual relocation. 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 TOMORROW**

Tomorrow, Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October, a select number of Year 5/6's 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's not involved, whilst Ainsley will work with her class.

## **MIDDLE UNIT EXCURSION TO DISCOVERY CENTRE, BENDIGO**

Our Middle Unit students have enjoyed their major excursion today whilst visiting the DISCOVERY CENTRE, BENDIGO. They had time in the Planetarium, an opportunity to try out the vertical slide and plenty of time to explore and enjoy all the interactive displays including the CURIOSITY: Building Breakthroughs in LEGO Bricks! exhibit. A big thank you to the Middle Unit Team for organising this great day out.

## **ZOOPEER DOOPER FUNDRAISING EACH NIGHT**

Don't forget Zooper Doopers are for sale most nights from 3:15pm from 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.

## **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, 28<sup>th</sup> 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> November and Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> 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/>.

## **BIG HILL PS "FUN" ATHLETICS DAY (MELBOURNE CUP DAY)**

Don't forget about our Athletics Day at the Lar Birpa Athletics Complex (previously known as the Flora Hill Athletics Track) on Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November. We will have rotating sports / games in the morning, a P&F BBQ (you can order drinks now on Compass and purchase food items on the day) and afternoon long distance races for each age group. Children will be bused to and from the event free of charge. Families are welcome to attend and enjoy the day, buy lunch OR bring a picnic. Please BYO chair, hat and sun protection. As we are offsite, we won't have chairs available for visitors. It's going to be an amazing day – let's hope the weather is perfect!

## **WORLD TEACHERS' DAY**

Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> 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 to. 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 on the day, so it's going to be a nice end to the week for staff.

## **DAY FOR DANIEL**

Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> 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 & Jayden will be on their bikes 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.

## **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, 9<sup>th</sup> November until Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> 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 artist skills. More information to come 😊.

## 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 Ned and Poppy with their banana & apple 😊

## BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to Franklin B, Oli M, Eden M, Logan J and Phoebe I.

As we move towards Week 4 we are well-and-truly in the routine of school days again, with children settled and working extremely well. This week has been quieter, but from now on things start to get busier as we ramp up to the end of year celebrations, reports and holidays. It's a case of buckle our seatbelts!

Have a lovely Friday and an even better weekend. Until next week...

*Matt Pearce, Principal*

## FOUNDATION NEWS

### STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For being a **kind and caring** friend who includes others:

FC **Annie T**  
FN **Maeve B**

**Catherine, Nicole & Nick**

## JUNIOR UNIT NEWS

### STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For displaying the School Value of 'Respect' by being an **active listener** in the classroom:

JAR **Axel P**  
JJ **Maisie C**

**Ainsley, Roberta & Lauren**

## MIDDLE UNIT NEWS

### STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For coming to school with a positive mindset:

MED **Poppet B**  
MP **Zelda L**  
MWA **Paige A**

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

## SENIOR UNIT NEWS

### STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

For showing appreciation through a positive mindset and encouraging others:

SB **Harmony N**  
SJ **Sienna B**  
SK **Kajarah L**

**Brett, Jayden & Kate**

## THE RESILIENCE PROJECT

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

## Mindfulness

|             |           |
|-------------|-----------|
| Foundation  | Evie H    |
| Junior Unit | Mannie C  |
| Middle Unit | Sophie H  |
| Senior Unit | Aria P    |
| Specialist  | Freddie M |

## BIG REWARD WINNERS

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

+ Oliver B  
+ Parker S  
+ Rahm S  
+ Charlotte S  
+ Lucy M  
+ Levi D

## STUDENT SPORTING NEWS

**Congratulations to Charlotte Q**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> place in gymnastics!!**

## THEIR CARE (OSHC) NEWS



<https://theircare.com.au/>

## SOCIAL MEDIA & CYBER SAFETY

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

*WHO'S REALLY CHOOSING WHAT YOUR KID SEES?*

We like to think we are in charge of what we watch online. We scroll a bit here, watch a funny clip there, maybe stop for a recipe, a car racing highlight or a bloke rebuilding a ute in his shed. It all feels pretty harmless and random. But behind the scenes, algorithms are quietly watching what we pause on, what we like, what we replay, what we search and what we skip. Then they serve up more of the same.

Watch one Bathurst 1000 clip and suddenly your feed thinks you are the number one ticket holder. Pause on one video about protein shakes and before long every second post looks like someone is trying to turn you into a gym influencer.

Watch one strange conspiracy video and your feed might pack the esky and take you three towns down the rabbit hole before you even realise what is happening.

An algorithm is simply a set of instructions used by apps and platforms to decide what content to show you. It learns from what you do. If you stop and watch something, it notices. If you comment, it notices. If you search for something, it notices. If you watch the same video three times because you cannot believe old mate actually tried to tow that caravan with that car, it definitely notices.

The more you interact with certain types of content, the more likely you are to see similar things. That is not always a bad thing. Sometimes it means more recipes you actually like, more funny duck videos or more clips from your favourite sport.

The problem is that kids and teens are still working out what they think about the world. Their feeds can influence what they see as normal, funny, attractive, successful or true. If they keep being shown the same type of content, it can start to feel like everyone thinks that way, everyone looks like that, everyone is doing that or everyone believes that.

But sometimes it is not everyone! Sometimes it is just the algorithm doing what it does best. Serving up more of whatever kept them watching. That is where the rabbit hole effect can sneak in! A child might start with something fairly harmless like fitness videos, gaming clips, makeup tutorials, relationship advice or footy. Over time, the content can become more dramatic, more extreme or more negative because that is the stuff that often keeps people watching.

The algorithm is not sitting there thinking, "This is probably not great for a child." It is trying to work out one thing. What will make this person keep scrolling?

And let's face it, outrage, drama and absolute nonsense can be very hard to look away from. It is a bit like driving past a paddock and slowing down because there is a cow standing somewhere a cow definitely should not be. You know you should keep moving, but you still have a look!

*So, what do we teach our kids?*

We teach them that their feed is not the WHOLE world. If everyone on their screen suddenly seems to believe the same thing, stop and ask why. Search for another point of view. Use the "not interested" button. Unfollow accounts that constantly make you angry, anxious or miserable. Deliberately look for different topics and talk to real people. Most importantly, remind them that watching something does not automatically mean they agree with it.

*The algorithm does not know the difference.*

A really useful question for kids to start asking is not just, "Do I like this?" It is, "Why am I being shown this?" That one little question can completely change the way they use social media.

Our kids do not need to fear algorithms. They just need to understand them. Once they realise someone else is helping decide what appears on their screen, it becomes much easier to take some of that control back.

After all, if your feed suddenly thinks you need twenty-seven videos about rubber ducks, Collingwood or how to build a cat cage, maybe it is time to remind it who is actually in charge.

#### A LITTLE ADVICE FOR PARENTS

Talk to your kids about what appears in their feed, not just how long they spend on their device. Ask them what they are watching, why they think it keeps appearing and how it makes them feel.

If their feed suddenly becomes full of the same type of content, help them mix it up. Use "not interested", unfollow accounts that are not helpful, search for different topics and remind them that the algorithm is learning from every pause, like and replay.

Most importantly, keep the conversation open. Kids are far more likely to tell us about something strange, worrying or confusing online if they know we are interested rather than ready to confiscate the phone or device.

And perhaps try it yourself. Have a look at your own feed and ask, "Why am I being shown this?" You might be surprised how well your algorithm thinks it knows you!



*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, 30<sup>th</sup> 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

# NORTH BENDIGO FNC 2027 JUNIOR NETBALL TRIALS

Looking to play Netball for a fun,  
friendly, family orientated club  
affiliated in the HDFNL?



**WE WOULD LOVE TO  
HEAR FROM YOU!**

We are seeking players for our  
13/Under, 15/Under & 17/Under  
2027 junior teams.



For more  
information  
regarding  
trials, dates &  
contact details,  
please scan the  
QR code below &  
register by  
15th Nov 2026



# BLAST OFF

WITH  
BENDIGO  
EAST  
BASEBALL...  
THIS  
SUMMER

**GET  
INVOLVED**

**FREE EVENTS 2026/2027:**

**CHILDREN'S WEEK**  
WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 28, 6-8PM  
BASEBALL ACTIVITIES, PRIZES, BBQ  
AGES 6-12

**SUMMER IN THE PARKS**  
WEDNESDAYS DECEMBER 2 + 9, 6-8PM  
WEDNESDAYS FEBRUARY 17 + 24, 6-8PM  
BBQ AND COME AND TRY BASEBALL  
ALL AGES WELCOME

**AUSTRALIA DAY AT LAKE WEEROONA**  
INFO, SIGN-UPS, DEMOS + MORE

**FIND US!**

ALL EVENTS AT\*:  
BENDIGO EAST  
BASEBALL CLUB  
QUARRY HILL REC RESERVE  
HAMLET STREET, QUARRY HILL  
\*EXCEPT FOR AUSTRALIA DAY  
AT LAKE WEEROONA

**SIGN UP...**  
AND FOR OTHER  
ENQUIRIES:  
[BENDIGOEASTBASEBALL.COM](http://BENDIGOEASTBASEBALL.COM)



## 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 -

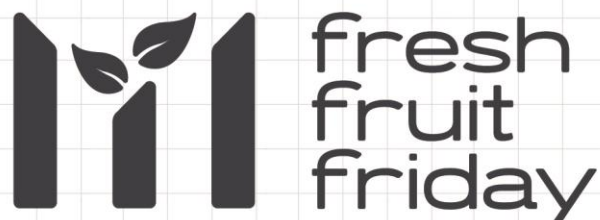
- Talk with your child about what Halloween is: explain that there might be door knockers, scary noises, lights changing and people dressed up
- Costumes can be itchy, feel tight, or sit differently – consider sensory needs when picking out/deciding on a costume
- Consider buying a larger size costume 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>3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday each month<br><br>Where: Long Gully Neighbourhood Centre<br>52 Derwent Drive, Long Gully |

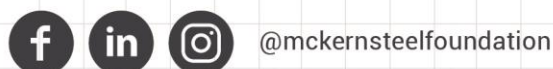
For more information: EMAIL: [carers@riac.org.au](mailto:carers@riac.org.au)  
PHONE: Carolyn – 0488 605 363

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 🍏