



Calder Chronicle

NUMBER 1

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THURSDAY, 30TH JANUARY 2020

CALENDAR

Friday, 31st January
Wednesday, 5th February
Friday, 14th February

Prep students commence school for 2020
First Canteen day for 2020 – menus available from the Office or website (no change from 2019)
P&F Prep Parents Morning Tea-more information to follow

School Organisation

Dear Parents / Guardians,

Welcome to 2020 at Big Hill PS! If it's your first time reading the newsletter, welcome to our Learning Community. If you are a past avid reader, great to be working with you again! The Calder Chronicle, our Big Hill PS newsletter, is your one stop source of information relating to the school and is published every Thursday. By reading it each week...you will never be behind the times. I seriously can't stress enough how important it is to read the newsletter, as there is always something relevant to your child in every edition...as well as reminders about camps, excursions, special days, fundraising, family support etc. With the Summer break over...I do hope your time was enjoyable, and even more so if you were spending some quality time with your child/ren. It's certainly been a very challenging break with extreme weather, bushfires across the country, flooding and emerging outbreaks of illness overseas. In all cases, I hope you and your family have managed to avoid any issues. Holidays, generally, are a special time where you break routine, children rest up and time is spent doing things that sometimes go out the window when the usual busy routine begins. As we launch into 2020...know this...you play a crucial role in supporting the growth of your child academically. Please never forget that by working closely with the school (especially your child's classroom teacher), you are doing the best you can for your loved one/s. Ensure they complete homework, read, practise mathematics, use their Reading Eggs / Mathletics / Math Seeds subscriptions regularly also to ensure that what is learnt at school is reinforced at home...oh and don't worry if your child says they DON'T WANT TO DO IT...remember who is boss at home and ensure they do what is required...because you ultimately know what is best. Here's looking to an amazing year for you, your family and especially...your child/children!

ATTENDANCE

Goal: 2 days or less absence in Term 1! We have attendance awards each term for students who achieve our goal. Those that get 100% also get special recognition at an end of Term assembly. Please note, beginning of the year Prep Wednesdays off are not counted as absences. When students are absent from school (because it can't be helped) parents are reminded of the arrangement to please ring the school between 8:30am and 9:00am to advise that your child will be absent (5447 7022), text a message to (0438 738 788) or send an absence message via our Flexibuzz App as early as possible on the day. If parents know in advance of a child's absence from school on a particular day/s, then a note prior to the absence will suffice. Just like last year, regulations from the Department of Education and Training (DET) mean that we have to contact you on the day of your child's absence, if we haven't been contacted first. To avoid phone calls from staff, please get into the habit of either texting or calling, explaining why your child is away. We have to code all absences for DET, so we do require an explanation. If you do get a call, please don't be annoyed with the staff calling, as we're purely doing what has been laid in law through DET and ultimately, we are trying to get every child to school as much as possible. It doesn't matter how good school programs are...if your child misses too much school, it doesn't matter how good a job we are doing. A good way of thinking is 10 days absence for the year is 2 weeks of school (almost a quarter of a term). That's about the average for the State of Victoria – so aim for 10 or much less for the year. Track your child's absences and work hard to get them to school every day, unless they are sick of course. All children go through periods of not wanting to attend school throughout the 7 years of Primary, it's like adults not feeling like going to work on some days, but just like adults, children need to learn that it is something they need to do to grow into educated and well-balanced adults into the future. This is something I think all parents want for their child/ren – so persevere even in the toughest of times. If ever you need help, we're a phone call away...or drop in!

READING

Goal: 225 days of reading for the year! If your child reads each school night throughout the year, they will achieve this goal easily. Start by recording nightly reading in your child's reading log or diary (depending on age level) so that a total can be collated at the end of the year. It's important for all parents to keep a check on the recording of the nights read on a weekly basis, so make a point of checking diaries and signing them regularly. For younger students, recording in the reading log is usually done by the parent each night anyway. On achieving 225+ nights at the end of the year, children who achieve the goal will receive a special certificate and prize. Can I remind all families that nightly reading is important for all children, including those in Years 5 and 6. If they don't keep reading and practising – they will not keep maturing as a reader.

PREPS

We have 39 new Preps beginning tomorrow – so Jen, Pauline and Nicole better get a good sleep tonight in preparation! I'm sure our new students are very excited (and nervous) about their big start to schooling, but will soon settle into routines and will love school like so many of our students do! I'm looking forward to getting to know our new students (and families)...as I'm sure are the rest of our staff. Just a reminder to families that our Prep students do not attend school on Wednesdays during February. During the Wednesdays away from school, entry to school assessments will continue with each child. Wednesdays off also ensure our Preps, like the rest across the State, get used to attending school for full days with no more than 2 consecutive days at a time. They do tire quickly, so a regular rest day really helps them prepare for full time schooling in March. Even with only one day of schooling tomorrow for our Preps, be prepared for tired little people coming home from their first "official" full day.

PARKING

The illegal parking of vehicles adjacent to our school poses a safety concern to children, pedestrians and other road users. Parents are reminded that it is essential to comply with parking restrictions when dropping off and collecting children from school. Motorists must not stop in no stopping areas, even briefly, with or without the motor running. They must not stop next to a continuous yellow edge line, on resident's nature strips, too close to school crossings, park over driveways or double park. A number of schools have short term time restricted areas, such as 2 minute pick up/drop off. These parking areas are in place to allow for ease of access close to schools and these restrictions must be adhered to – at Big Hill PS, our drop off zone is adjacent to the administration building (behind the rotunda). Please ensure you do not leave your car unattended in this area also, as our Ravenswood bus needs to have access in the morning and afternoon and must be able to park. Drivers should also be aware that they cannot perform a U-turn over an unbroken or continuous dividing line. With regard to children's crossings, the law requires that a driver approaching a children's crossing must drive at a speed at which the driver can, if necessary stop safely before the crossing. Please slow down and take extra care when driving in school zones. City of Greater Bendigo Parking Officers and Bendigo Police do conduct random patrols throughout the school year at various locations to ensure that motorists are adhering to the Road Rules – so please do the right thing for the sake of our children.

NEWSLETTER

Newsletters are sent home with the oldest child in the family. Parents are asked to ensure that they receive a newsletter each Thursday as it is the main form of communication between school and parents. A limited number of spare copies will be available from the Office and an electronic version is available via our email distribution list. To have your name added to this list, please leave your email address at the Office. It is also sent out through our Flexibuzz App and uploaded to our website. Note: for privacy reasons, the newsletter does not include surnames of students. In split family situations, please advise the Office of the need for an additional copy and organise the method of delivery (email preferred).

SCHOOL TIMES

A reminder that school times are:

8:45am	Bag Bell – students allowed into classrooms
9:00am	Lessons commence – first learning block
10:00am	Brain food eaten in class
11:15am – 11:25am	Students eat lunch sized snack/s inside
11:25am – 12:00pm	Morning play break
12:00pm – 1:45pm	Middle learning block
1:45pm – 2:15pm	Afternoon play break. Canteen orders delivered and lunch sized snack eaten undercover (outdoors) during the first 10 minutes of the break. Canteen open Wednesdays and Fridays.
2:15pm – 3:15pm	Final learning block
3:15pm	Dismissal

Children will remain inside to eat from 11:15am to 11:25am and we're suggesting that this is a good time to eat a larger meal, such as a sandwich. The second break runs from 1:45pm – 2:15pm and is outside. This is a better time to eat smaller snacks, unless your child has a canteen order, which will be eaten at this time in a designated area. A great idea is to pack two good sized snack packs (including a sandwich for the first) for each break. Brain food will still be eaten at 10:00am whilst the children are working in their classes. This snack must be either fresh fruit or vegetables – no tinned or packaged fruit during Brain Food time please.

SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS

A teacher is on yard duty from 8:45am. In the afternoon, a teacher is on duty until 3:30pm, monitoring the footpath from the rotunda to the McInnes Street gate and surrounds. We also have two teachers supervising those students who use the Ravenswood and Kangaroo Flat buses. At 3:30pm all children remaining (including those who may be playing on the playground) will gather on the seats in the Office at which time the Office staff will contact you. If these times do not suit, Outside School Hours Care is available before and after school. As parents, your duty of care is active until 8:45am each morning and after 3:30pm each day. Due to this, please ensure students aren't at school before 8:45am and are picked up in a timely manner at the end of the day. Thanks for your cooperation.

PUNCTUALITY

Punctuality is very important. Please assist your child by having them at school on time. Children who arrive late often find it difficult to settle for the day and are disadvantaged in catching up to their classmates and subsequently miss major parts of the reading lesson block – a very important part of the day. Habits formed from a young age are hard to break later in life...so please set up positive habits for future success.

2020 CURRICULUM DAYS

Just a reminder of our Curriculum days for this year:

- Term 1 - Tuesday, 28th January (Resilience Project, Anaphylaxis/asthma update),
Wednesday, 29th January (School Organisation)
- Term 2 - Tuesday, 2nd June
- Term 3 - Friday, 7th August

MOBILE PHONE BAN IN STATE SCHOOLS FOR 2020 AND BEYOND

Like ALL schools in Victoria, this year, Big Hill PS will ban mobile phones at school. Students will not be permitted to have a mobile phone on site, unless they are switched off and handed into the Office on entry to the school. Phones must not be turned on until leaving the school grounds. The ban also includes devices such as Apple Watches etc. The only exemptions are for children with a medical condition, where a mobile phone is included as part of the monitoring of conditions such as diabetes. When handing in mobile phones/devices at the start of the day, Kerry/Janet will now follow new procedures and will lock devices/phones away in the safe securely. They can only be collected on departure and again, only turned on when off the school grounds. The ban is part of the new regulations set by the MINISTER FOR EDUCATION and THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING. We suggest, unless your child really needs a phone on them for travel to and from school, to keep mobile phones and devices at home on school days. Please talk to your child about these new rules for 2020 and ensure they are compliant, as non-compliance will result in consequences outlined in our Behavior Management Flow Chart. Again, this is in line with DET expectations. Thanks for your cooperation.

VICTORIAN SCHOOL TERM DATES FOR 2020

- Term 1: Tuesday, 28th January (Teachers start) to Friday, 27th March
- Term 2: Tuesday, 14th April (Tuesday) to Friday, 26th June
- Term 3: Monday, 13th July to Friday, 18th September
- Term 4: Monday, 5th October to Friday, 18th December

ARRIVING LATE / LEAVING EARLY

If for some reason your child arrives late or needs to leave the school prior to the end of the school day, we ask that you come via the Office and complete the sign in/out book. These requirements are necessary to comply with Department regulations, minimise legal liabilities, assist with emergency management and to provide adequate duty of care. You will need to identify yourself when collecting children.

PERSONAL GOODS BROUGHT TO SCHOOL AT OWNER'S RISK

Personal property is often brought to school by students, staff and visitors. This can include mobile phones, calculators, toys, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises. The Department of Education and Training (DET) does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it will generally not pay for any loss or damage to such property. Therefore, bringing any unnecessary or particularly valuable items to school is discouraged.

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

As a school we do as much as we can to protect and care for injured students including first aid, notifying parents and emergency contacts if students are injured or hurt, and if necessary, an ambulance is called. Parents and guardians are generally responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs. Most medical costs will be refunded by Medicare. If you are a member of an ambulance or health insurance fund, you may also be able to claim transport or other expenses from that fund. The Department of Education and Training (DET) does not hold accident insurance for school students. Reasonably low cost accident insurance policies are available from the commercial insurance sector and these can be obtained by parents for their children.

CORONAVIRUS ADVICE FOR PARENTS, FAMILIES AND THE COMMUNITY

An outbreak of novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) was detected in Wuhan, China in late December 2019. Cases have been reported predominantly in the city of Wuhan, in the Hubei province of China, as well as some other Chinese cities and countries, including two confirmed cases in Victoria, Australia.

What is this virus? Coronaviruses can make humans and animals sick. Some coronaviruses can cause illness similar to the common cold and others can cause more serious diseases, including Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS).

The virus seen in Hubei Province, China is called 'novel' because it is new. It has not been detected before this outbreak. Most people infected live in, or travelled to, Hubei Province, China. There have been cases of 2019-nCoV reported in other Chinese provinces and other countries. It is likely that the virus originally came from an animal, and there is now evidence that it can spread from person-to-person. What are the symptoms? Symptoms can include fever, cough, sore throat, or shortness of breath. Symptoms can take up to 14 days to develop. What if my child is well, and returning to school after being in Hubei province, China or other countries with cases in the last 14 days? **All students and staff members who have travelled to Hubei Province, China, are advised to stay at home and avoid public settings, including attendance at schools and early learning centres, until 14 days after last being in Hubei province, China.** Children and staff who are well and have travelled to **other provinces in China, or any other areas where there have been reported cases, are NOT recommended to be excluded from schools and child care services unless the following applies:**

- The person is a confirmed case of novel coronavirus,
- The person is a close contact with a confirmed case of novel coronavirus in the past 14 days.

What if my child feels sick now or within 14 days of being in Hubei Province, China or another part of China?

- If your child has a cough, sore throat or shortness of breath, they must be excluded from school and be reviewed by a doctor.
- Seek medical attention but first place a mask on the student if you have one and call the doctor or hospital before you attend. Tell them your child has been in Hubei province, China, or the location of travel within China.
- When you get to the hospital or doctor's clinic, tell them where your child has travelled in China and whether this included Hubei Province. Ensure a mask is placed on your child before or as soon as you arrive at the medical facility.

If your child has severe symptoms, such as shortness of breath:

- Call 000 and request an ambulance, and
- Inform the paramedics where your child has been in China.

How can I help prevent the spread of 2019-nCoV?

Practising good hand and sneeze/cough hygiene is the best defence. The most important actions are:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water,
- Cough and sneeze into your elbow.

Where can I get more information?

For Victorian updates to the current incident, go to: <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/novelcoronavirus>

For national updates: <https://www.health.gov.au/news/latest-information-about-novel-coronavirus>

For international updates: <https://www.who.int/westernpacific/emergencies/novel-coronavirus>

WHO resources <https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus>

TEAM CHINA – OVERSEAS LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Four students will travel to China, accompanied by myself, in late May this year. May I remind those travelling to make agreed payments in the coming months (February and March payments to be made in line with the schedule sent home) and ensure passports etc are ready and brought into the school to be photocopied. By the time the trip occurs, the threat of Coronavirus will hopefully be a thing of the past. DET, The Bendigo Team China Principals and our school will continually monitor the situation and make informed decisions from there. No need to worry.

TEAM CHINA – FUNDRAISING

Zooper Dooper icy-poles commenced sales today, at 3:15pm. Hopefully each day in the canteen (art building), Zooper Doopers will be on sale... wait for the announcement to confirm sales are occurring. Children and families can buy Zooper Doopers straight after school for \$1. All proceeds to go towards our Team China Overseas Learning Experience.

2020 BOOKLISTS

The great majority of booklists have been ordered, paid for and delivered to the school. This has allowed staff and students to get off to a good start. All items are stored and cared for by teachers and used by students throughout the year on an ongoing, needs basis. JI Products once again did our booklists and I assure you...any issues with booklists will be promptly rectified should you need to call them. If you haven't paid for your booklist and organised for it to be delivered to school, you will need to contact JI direct on 5444 2242 to organise collection promptly. The school does not supply individual's with their personal needs – the expectation from DET is that the parent will supply the essential items a child needs. This includes payment of the additional school essential items including photocopying, iPad lease, Reading Egg/Math Seed subscriptions on the iPad etc. We appreciate each family paying these costs to ensure we can cover purchases and to ensure the school is not running into a deficit – again...we are not funded for individual items, photocopying, leases and subscriptions.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our first School Council meeting for 2020 will be on Tuesday, 18th February. Finance will meet at 6:30pm, before our February meeting at 7:00pm. Elections for School Council 2020 will commence shortly...with information included in next week's newsletter. Keep an eye out!

QKR (PAYMENT APP) & FLEXIBUZZ (COMMUNICATION APP)

The school uses 2 apps to help families with payments and communication. The Qkr (pronounced quicker) is our payment app. You can order canteen lunches, pay for excursions/incursions, and pay your OSHC accounts using this app. Flexibuzz is used to send out newsletter and information, and parents can submit absences via this app. Just visit your App Store and download, and then follow the prompts to set up your child/ren.

CSEF

The Camps, Sports, Excursions Fund applications for 2020 are now available from the Office. If you received this in 2019, you don't have to reapply, it's only if you are a new family to Big Hill PS, or a new prep student commencing. If you hold a Health Care Card or Pension Card, pick up an application form, complete it and return it to the Office by Friday, 28th February.

PREP PARENTS MORNING TEA

Parents & Friends will be holding a prep parents morning tea on Friday, 14th February. Save the date and there will be more information to follow.

STAFFING UPDATE

We welcomed our new music teacher, Nickolas Reid, to Big Hill PS this week. Nick will take over the teaching of music from Phil Seaton, who retired at the end of 2019. Welcome aboard Nick! Roberta Mathers is currently on Long Service Leave for a few weeks and will be replaced by Leisha Morrison or another suitably qualified Casual Relief Teacher.

STAFFING

First Steps Unit –	Prep/Year 1 (Pauline Mulcair), Prep/Year 1 (Jen Nicholls) and Prep/Year 1 (Nicole Peach Mon – Thurs / Sharyn Burnett Fri)
Junior Unit –	Year 1/2 (Rhys Bull), Year 2 (Catherine Kelley)
Middle Unit –	Year 3/4 (Dean White), Year 3/4 (Wendy Hicks) and Year 3/4 (Renae Westley Mon – Thurs / Sandra Willis Fri)
Senior Unit –	Year 4/5 (Lauren Adcock Mon – Thurs / Roberta Mathers Fri), Year 5/6 (Kate Dole), Year 5/6 (Ainsley Stanley) and Year 5/6 (Brett Strange Mon – Wed and Friday / Roberta Mathers Thurs)
Specialists –	Deb Sammons (Reading Recovery and Reading Intervention Mon – Thursday am), Sandra Willis (Visual Art Tues – Thurs), Huiwen Bai (Chinese Wed & Thurs), Brett Strange (Physical Education Thurs), Nick Reid (Music Tues – Wed) and Cheryl Holt (Reading intervention P/1/2 Mon – Thurs)
Education Support Officers –	Kerry Prentice (Business Manager), Janet Dean (Administration Manager), Jenny Brown (Integration Aid), Clare Grant (Integration Aid) and Pam Farnell (Integration Aid)

SMILE SQUAD IS ON THE WAY TO OUR SCHOOL!

All children deserve a healthy smile and the Smile Squad are coming to Big Hill Primary School on Monday, 16th March to help make sure this happens. Smile Squad is a \$321.9 million Victorian Government program that provides free dental care to all Victorian public primary and secondary school students. The friendly Smile Squad dental team will visit Big Hill Primary School to conduct a free annual dental health examination for every student and provide free follow up treatment as needed.

What do parents need to do?

We just need you to provide consent. Please read and sign the consent forms that will come home with your child shortly and return them to the Office. The Smile Squad team will then check your child's teeth and mouth and show them how to keep their teeth healthy and strong. They will also provide any preventive services you have consented for. If your child needs more treatment, the Smile Squad will contact you.

Who is Smile Squad?

The bright orange Smile Squad vans are staffed by experienced oral health therapists, dental therapists, dental assistants and dentists from Bendigo Health. They all have lots of experience treating children and a passion for improving their oral health – for life.

Learn more about the Smile Squad by visiting www.smilesquad.vic.gov.au or contact the team at smilesquad@dhsv.org.au.

CAPITAL WORKS PROJECT

Our project is in full swing in the main administration building. Please excuse the state of the foyer, Office etc as it is directly affected by building dust, renovations etc. We hope this work has settled down now, with the bulk of disturbance timed over the school holidays – however, our spick and span foyer and Office is not looking quite like it usually does...but makes for an interesting visit nonetheless. Not long now.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING PRIVACY INFORMATION

Our school collects, uses, discloses and stores student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the Schools' Privacy Policy: <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Pages/schoolsprivacypolicy.aspx>. Please take time to remind yourself of the school's collection statement, found on our website:

https://www.bighillp.sponsored2.com/uploaded_files/media/1580174001collection_statement_big_hill_primary_school.pdf.

For more information about privacy, see: <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Pages/Schools-Privacy-Policy-information-for-parents.aspx>.

This information also available in nine community languages.

BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to Rylan S, Connor B, Nikirra S, Lexi C, Remi CK, Mitchell T, Abby M, Olivia K, Matilda R, Bella J, Wil G, Blair W, Isabella B, Tellium M, Samantha C, Wilkie H, Tasman HL, Marley K, Hope G, Mia P, Ayla R, Lily J, Kohen S, Allira L, Shanay O & Jobe D.

With the week almost over, due to our mid-week start, here's hoping your Friday is positive and productive and your weekend enjoyable. Again... welcome / welcome back! Looking forward to working with you all during 2020,

Matt Pearce, Principal

APPROXIMATE COSTINGS FOR 2020

Please note that these are approximate costings only and may change due to unforeseen circumstances in the future.

	FIRST STEPS Preps/Year 1 (FSJ, FSN, FSP)		JUNIOR UNIT Year 1/2 (JC, JR)		MIDDLE UNIT Year 3/4 (MD, MR, MW)		SENIOR UNIT Year 4/5/6 (SA, SB, SK, SL)	
Term 1					Palmers Gym	\$35	Swimming	\$45
Total		\$0		\$0		\$35		\$45
Term 2	Major Excursion	\$45	Jets Gym	\$35	Major Excursion	\$45	Palmers Gym	\$35
	Music Incursion	\$5	Music Incursion	\$5	Music Incursion	\$5	Music Incursion	\$5
Total		\$50		\$40		\$50		\$40
Term 3	Jets Gym	\$35	Major Excursion	\$45	Camp	\$175	Camp	\$270
	Incursion	\$5	Incursion	\$5	Incursion	\$5	Incursion	\$5
Total		\$40		\$50		\$180		\$275
Term 4	Swimming	\$45	Swimming	\$45	Swimming	\$45	Graduation	\$20
			Year 2 Sleepover	\$45	Break Up	\$5	Year 6 Graduation Polo Shirts	\$30
							Break Up	\$27
Total		\$45		\$90		\$50		\$77

There may be small changes to this throughout the year, but you will be given as much notice as possible.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any difficulty in paying any of our programs.

This year there will again be the CSEF (Camps, Sports, Excursions Fund) payment available to eligible families.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE OFFICE. PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO THE OFFICE BY FRIDAY, 28TH FEBRUARY.