



# Calder Chronicle

NUMBER 2

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## THURSDAY, 7<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2019

### CALENDAR

Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> February

Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> February

Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> February

Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> February

Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> February

**FRIDAY, 15<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY-WELCOME TO FIRST STEPS MORNING TEA** (any new families are also welcome)

**Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> February**

Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> February

Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> February

Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> February

Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February

Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> March

Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> March

Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> March

Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> March

Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March

Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> March

**Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> April**

Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> April

Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> April

**Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> April**

Senior Unit Swimming Program payment of \$32 due at the Office or via our Qkr payment app

Second Hand Uniform Shop – multipurpose room – all items \$2

Senior Unit Swimming Program commences

Senior Unit Swimming Program continues

Senior Unit Swimming Program continues

Senior Unit Swimming Program concludes

**9:00AM UNTIL 10:30AM IN THE MULTIPURPOSE ROOM** – see enclosed flyer

Second Hand Uniform Shop – multipurpose room – all items \$2

**Final instalment of \$70 due for Year 5/6 Camp**

First Steps Information Evening 5:30pm

Junior Unit Information Evening 5:30pm

Middle Unit Information Evening 5:30pm

Senior Unit Information Evening 5:30pm

Second Hand Uniform Shop – multipurpose room – all items \$2

Second Hand Uniform Shop – multipurpose room – all items \$2

Second Hand Uniform Shop – multipurpose room – all items \$2

Year 5/6 Camp departs

Year 5/6 Camp returns

Second Hand Uniform Shop – multipurpose room – all items \$2

Second Hand Uniform Shop – multipurpose room – all items \$2

Second Hand Uniform Shop – multipurpose room – all items \$2

**LAST DAY FOR TERM 1-early dismissal 2:15pm**

First Day for Term 2

Middle Unit Camp Departs – note going home shortly

Middle Unit Camp Returns

**ANZAC Day Public Holiday**

### School Organisation

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Our first full week of school for the majority of students has been generally settled, happy and productive! This newsletter is rather large...but contains a lot of important information for families at the commencement of the year.

#### SCHOOL CAPTAINS

Year 6 students are eligible to apply for our School Captain and Vice School Captain positions. If interested, students are asked to write a letter to myself and the Senior Unit Team, outlining why they would like to be School Captain, what they would hope to achieve in the role, why it would be good for them etc. We encourage any child with a desire to put in an application, as we never know who might take on the role until letters are in. It's a good lesson for children to "have-a-go" and accept the outcome, whether they are successful or not. To assist you to ensure your child is included, letters are due to school by tomorrow afternoon – Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> February.

#### STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL RATHER THAN STUDENT VOICE

For many years, Big Hill PS has called it's Student Leadership Group (comprising two students from each class Year 2-6) STUDENT VOICE. Due to the this term being adopted by the Department of Education and Training – and now featuring as one of our three Strategic Goals for the next four years...to avoid confusion, the group once referred to as STUDENT VOICE, will now be called STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL (SRC). The SRC will comprise two students from each class (Year 2-6) and will work with our School Wellbeing Officer (Chaplain), Megan Haddon three times a term. The group, when chosen, will organise fundraisers, talk about school improvement and on occasion, assist around the school on special occasions etc. The process for being selected is underway. If your child is keen, they must fill in the SRC (STUDENT VOICE) application sheet (available at the Office) and return it to the Office by tomorrow afternoon. Alternatively, students can also write a letter to Megan if preferred, outlining why they would like to be part of the SRC for 2019.

#### CHINESE NEW YEAR

On behalf of the Bendigo Senior Secondary College Confucius Classroom and all of our Chinese teachers across Greater Bendigo, they would like to send you a Chinese New Year Greeting: "Wishing you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year in the Year of Pig". The Chinese New Year started Tuesday and it goes for 15 days. You may have family, friends, work colleagues etc who are from a Chinese or Asian culture background and may be celebrating Chinese New Year with their families. The first couple of Chinese lessons done with our teacher WEN will be about Chinese New Year. If you would also like to try to acknowledge at home or with your friends, family and colleagues...you may want to try learning to say the above phrase listed below. Here is a useful mini lesson to help you <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cvlUxvtKUws>. There will also be a celebration event held in Bendigo if you or your family are interested: <https://www.bendigotourism.com/whats-on/whats-on-this-month/event/2361-chinese-new-year>. If you would like to learn more about the Year of Pig, please refer to: <https://chinesenewyear.net>

Xin Nian Kuai Le (Happy New Year) 新年快乐

## **RAVENSWOOD BUS**

At Big Hill PS, we coordinate the Ravenswood bus service, which travels from Big Hill PS, down the Calder Highway to Fogarty's Gap Road (Maldon/Harcourt North exit) and returns to Bendigo on the inbound side of the Calder Highway, past the Ravenswood Petrol Station, Ravenswood Interchange (Calder Highway Alternate Route/Mildura Marong exit) etc and back over Big Hill. This service has strict times that it must adhere to as part of the association with Public Transport Victoria (PTV). Due to this, Brendan (our bus driver) will arrive at the agreed pick up points on time and cannot wait if you are running late. If you are not at the bus stop on time, Brendan has been instructed to leave and continue the service. In the event that a family misses the bus, alternative travel arrangements will need to be made to school on these occasions, which most likely means that families will need to drive students to school. Thanks for your understanding.

## **ATTENDANCE** *(Repeat from last week's newsletter)*

**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) or text a message to (0438 738 788) 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** *(Repeat from last week's newsletter)*

**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. If you are continuing at Big Hill PS this year, you will notice that our goal has increased from 200 nights...as so many children achieved this easily. 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. If your child is playing electronic games a lot (eg. On the Playstation) and they don't read because they are gaming, then get them to take a 20 minute break and read instead. Better still, no gaming until reading and homework is done.

## **PREPS**

Our new Preps have settled into their rooms really well and are enjoying working with Nicole and Pauline. They coped well with their first consecutive days (Monday and Tuesday of this week) and enjoyed a day off yesterday. All remaining Wednesdays in February are also student-free days for Prep students only. On these days, remaining Prep Entry Assessments will take place, as organised by Nicole/Pauline with the parent/family concerned.

## **PARKING** *(Repeat from last week's newsletter)*

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.

## **BUSHFIRE and CODE RED DAYS**

Fire danger ratings and warnings are used in Victoria to provide clear direction on the safest options for preserving life. Schools and children's services listed on the DET Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR) will be closed when a Code Red fire danger rating day is determined in their Bureau of Meteorology district. **Our school has been identified as being one of those at high bushfire risk and is listed on the BARR.**



Where possible, we will provide parents with up to four days notice of a potential Code Red day closure by letter, the Big Hill PS website, Big Hill PS and P&F Facebook pages and on the Flexibuzz app. A Code Red day will be determined by the Emergency Management Commissioner no later than 1:00pm the day before the potential closure. Once we are advised of the confirmation of the Code Red day we will provide you with advice before the end of the school day.

**Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, regardless of improvements in the weather forecast.**

This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child. It is also important to note that: No staff will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Code Red day. Out-of-school-hours care will also be cancelled on these days. School camps will be cancelled if a Code Red fire danger rating day is determined for the Bureau of Meteorology district in which the camp is located.

As a bus coordinating school all bus routes will be cancelled, ie. Ravenswood bus run. Depending on which Bureau of Meteorology district is impacted other bus route (not coordinated by Big Hill PS) cancellations may affect our school eg. Kangaroo Flat bus.

On these Code Red days families are encouraged to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan – **on such days children should never be left at home or in the care of older children.** For those of us living in a bushfire prone area, the CFA advise that when Code Red days are forecast, the safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Code Red day. As part of preparing our school for potential hazards such as fire, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan, reprioritised any maintenance works that may assist in preparing for the threat of fire and cleared our facility's grounds and gutters.

**What can parents do?** Make sure your family's bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements in the event that our school is closed. Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers. Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters, by checking our website [www.bighillps.vic.edu.au](http://www.bighillps.vic.edu.au) or Facebook pages and by talking to your child's teacher or any other member of the teaching staff about our emergency management plan. Most importantly at this time of year, if you're planning a holiday or short stay in the bush or in a coastal area, you should check warnings in advance of travel and remain vigilant during your stay. If your child is old enough, talk to them about bushfires and your family's bushfire survival plan.

You can access more information about children's services closures on the Department of Education and Training website – see <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/pages/closures.aspx> For up-to-date information on this year's fire season see: <https://emergency.vic.gov.au> Facebook ([facebook.com/cfavic](https://www.facebook.com/cfavic)) Twitter ([twitter.com/CFA\\_Updates](https://twitter.com/CFA_Updates)) ABC local radio, Sky News and other emergency broadcasters and the VicEmergency Hotline (1800 226 226).

### **NEWSLETTER** *(Repeat from last week's 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, on our Flexibuzz app and on our website. To have your name added to this list, please leave your email address at the Office. 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). Can I please stress that **READING THE NEWSLETTER EACH WEEK IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT** as it includes messages from the Department of Education and Training (DET) for all parents as well as pertinent information relating to your child and the school. Thanks in advance for committing to reading our newsletter each week.

### **SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS** *(Repeat from last week's newsletter)*

A teacher is on yard duty from 8:45am. In the afternoon, two teachers are on duty until 3:30pm, one teacher at the McInnes Street gate and one teacher at the Rotunda. 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 foyer where they will be supervised until 3:45pm. 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 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.

## **SCHOOL TIMES** *(Repeat from last week's newsletter)*

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
2:15pm – 3:15 pm	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.

## **2019 CURRICULUM DAYS** *(Repeat from last week's newsletter)*

Just a reminder of our Curriculum days for this year:

Term 1	Tuesday, 29 <sup>th</sup> January (George Booker Staff Mathematics Training), Wednesday, 30 <sup>th</sup> January (School Organisation)
Term 2	Friday, 7 <sup>th</sup> June
Term 3	Friday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> August

## **ARRIVING LATE / LEAVING EARLY** *(Repeat from last week's newsletter)*

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** *(Repeat from last week's newsletter)*

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 Early Childhood Development 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** *(Repeat from last week's newsletter)*

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 Early Childhood Development 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.

## **HOT WEATHER**

We've had some warm weather to contend with during the first week and a half of school, which in turn unsettles children. With the warm weather set to continue, we must ensure children come to school with their broad-brimmed hat and an adequately-sized drink bottle full of water. It's so important to keep children hydrated and safe from sun damage and as a Sunsmart school, we will enforce 'No Hat No Play' as part of our policy. When the weather becomes too extreme and UV levels rise to unsafe levels, we will also enact an Extreme Weather Timetable and have children stay inside. Fortunately, we have not had to do this to date.

## **PARENTS AND FRIENDS (P&F)**

Our P&F met today for their February meeting, discussing many things on the radar including a mix of fundraisers, community events and fun activities for the community. The group do a wonderful job raising additional funds for the school and they are always looking for new members. If you can help them, even in the smallest way, why not get in touch via email: [bhpspf@gmail.com](mailto:bhpspf@gmail.com), I know they would love to hear from you. Alternatively, why not become a member and attend the Annual General Meeting? Details of meetings and events are always outlined in the P&F section of the newsletter. P&F also have a great Facebook page...if you are a Facebook user...why not search up and join [Big Hill PS Parents and Friends](#) AND [Big Hill Primary School](#) whilst you are there!

## **SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS – Information for parents from the Department of Education and Training (DET)**

What is a school council and what does it do? All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the broad directions of a school in accordance with their constituting Order and the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006*. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council? For most primary school councils, there are three possible categories of membership: 1. A mandated elected Parent member category – more than one-third of the total members must be from this category. DET employees can be Parent members at their child's school as long as they are not engaged in work at the school. 2. A mandated elected DET employee member category – members of this category may make up no more than one-third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members. 3. An optional Community member category – members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members. Generally, the term of Office for all members is two years. The term of Office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is parent membership so important? Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help inform and shape the direction of the school. Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

Do I need special experience to be on school council? Each member brings their own valuable life skills and knowledge to the role. However, councillors may need to develop skills and acquire knowledge in areas that are unfamiliar to them. What you do need is an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

**Code of conduct for school councillors** - School councils in Victoria are public entities as defined by the *Public Administration Act 2004*. School councillors must abide by the *Code of Conduct – Employees* issued by the Victorian Public Sector Commission. The Code of Conduct is based on the Victorian public sector values and requires councillors to: **act with honesty and integrity** (be truthful, open and clear about their motives and declare any real, potential or perceived conflict of interest and duty), **act in good faith** in the best interests of the school (work cooperatively with other councillors and the school community, be reasonable, and make all decisions with the best interests of students foremost in their minds), **act fairly and impartially** (consider all relevant facts of an issue before making a decision, seek to have a balanced view, never give special treatment to a person or group and never act from self interest), **use information appropriately** (respect confidentiality and use information for the purpose for which it was made available), **exercise due care, diligence and skill** (accept responsibility for decisions and do what is best for the school), **use the position appropriately** (not use the position as a councillor to gain an advantage), **act in a financially responsible manner** (observe all the above principles when making financial decisions), **comply with relevant legislation and policies** (know what legislation and policies are relevant for which decisions and obey the law) AND **demonstrate leadership and stewardship** (set a good example, encourage a culture of accountability, manage risks effectively, exercise care and responsibility to keep the school strong and sustainable). Indemnity for school council members: School councillors are indemnified against any liability in respect of any loss or damage suffered by the council or any other person in respect of anything necessarily or reasonably done, or omitted to be done by the councillor in good faith in: the exercise of a power or the performance of a function of a councillor, or the reasonable belief that the act or omission was in the exercise of a power or the performance of a function of a council. In other words, school councillors are not legally liable for any loss or damage suffered by council or others as a result of reasonable actions taken in good faith.

How can you become involved? The most obvious way is to vote in the school council elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant. In view of this, you might consider: standing for election as a member of the school council OR encouraging another person to stand for election.

What do you need to do to stand for election? The principal will issue a Notice of Election and Call for Nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year (*It's included in today's newsletter as part of School Council Elections information*). All school council elections must be completed by the end of March unless the usual time line has been varied by the Minister. If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent member category (*forms available from the Office*).

DET employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not engaged in work, are eligible to nominate for Parent membership of the school council at that school. Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the Notice of Election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt via post, email or by hand following the receipt of your completed nomination.

If there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

**Remember:** Consider standing for election to school council this year. Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do.

Be sure to vote in the elections – if we have more nominations than positions. Contact the Principal (Matt Pearce) for further information.

## AN ELECTION IS TO BE CONDUCTED FOR MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COUNCIL OF BIG HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Nomination forms may be obtained from the school Office and must be lodged by 3:15pm on Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> of March, 2019. If a ballot is required (depending on the number of nominations), this will close at 3:15pm on Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school. The terms of Office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows:

Membership Category	Terms of Office	Currently Held by	Number of Positions
Department of Education and Training	March 2019 – March 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pauline Mulcair</li> <li>• Kate Dole</li> </ul> <i>(Both will need to renominate if they wish to continue)</i>	2
Parent	March 2019 – March 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kate Lamprell</li> <li>• Shane Chapman</li> <li>• Vacancy (formerly Michele Hulls)</li> </ul> <i>(Kate and Shane will need to renominate if they wish to continue)</i>	3

Please feel free to contact me for further information. Nomination forms are available from the Office or can be organised to be sent home for signing.

### **ELECTION TIMELINE**

<b>Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Call for nominations (forms available from the Office)
<b>Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> March</b>	Closing date for nominations (forms must be returned to the Office by 3:15pm on this date). Nominations assessed and the need for a ballot decided. If ballot is not required, new School Council announced and meet soon after this date. OR Ballot set up (if required)
<b>Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Close of Ballot (if required)
<b>Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Counting of Ballot (if required) Declaration of Ballot New School Council announced and will meet shortly after this date

### **PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS**

This year, we will again run our beginning of the year meetings as a group. The format, like the last few years, will see parents and their child/ren attending a session, where all staff in the Unit introduce themselves, outline important curriculum information (literacy, numeracy etc), discuss expectations (such as homework, behaviour, use of ICT etc) and organise follow-up interviews (where required) or telephone/email communication alternatives. This short session (30 minutes) will conclude and then students will escort parents to their classrooms where they will share their learning to date, as well as allowing students to share different elements of their classrooms with their families. While this is occurring, classroom teachers will be available to meet and greet and answer any questions. As stated, for parents who feel they need a more private form of exchanging information after this meeting, an additional catch up can be organised at this time, or alternatively phone or email contact can be established. I do encourage all families to attend, particularly to allow your child to show you where they learn, what they have been doing in class and to ensure you and your child's teacher have met and have communication set up for the year. To be fair to working families, our sessions begin at 5:30pm and will be for approximately 45-60 minutes. Dates and times for particular units are listed below.

<b>FIRST STEPS UNIT – PREP/1</b> Pauline Mulcair and Nicole Peach/Sharyn Burnett Monday, 18 <sup>th</sup> February, 5:30pm Venue to be determined onsite at Big Hill PS	<b>MIDDLE UNIT – YEAR 3/4</b> Renae Westley, Dean White and Wendy Hicks Wednesday, 20 <sup>th</sup> February, 5:30pm Venue to be determined onsite at Big Hill PS
<b>JUNIOR UNIT – YEAR 1/2</b> Wendy Hicks, Catherine Kelley and Jennifer Nicholls Tuesday, 19 <sup>th</sup> February, 5:30pm Venue to be determined onsite at Big Hill PS	<b>SENIOR UNIT – YEAR 4/5/6</b> Susie Marsh (Brett Strange), Ainsley Stanley, Lauren Adcock/Roberta Mathers and Kate Dole Thursday, 21 <sup>st</sup> February, 5:30pm Venue to be determined onsite at Big Hill PS

More information about these important nights for families will be shared next week, but for now, you can save the date to ensure attendance is possible.

## **CAMPS, SPORT AND EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)**

### **DO YOU HAVE A CONCESSION CARD? WOULD YOU LIKE \$125 TO PAY FOR SCHOOL COSTS? MAKE SURE YOU READ THIS SECTION!**

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student misses out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their achievements. CSEF will be provided to eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities. If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child. The annual CSEF amount per student is: \$125 for primary school students and \$225 for secondary school students. Contact the school Office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from the CSEF website. Parents/carers are reminded that all CSEF applications are due as soon as possible to enable funds to be used for excursions and camps. We can't apply for this on your behalf – so please make sure you put in an application if eligible.

IF YOU RECEIVED CSEF FUNDING IN 2018 AT BIG HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL, YOU DO NOT NEED TO REAPPLY. IF YOU ARE UNSURE, PLEASE CHECK AT THE OFFICE.

## **STUDENT OF THE WEEK**

Every week a student from each class is chosen as STUDENT OF THE WEEK, based on different criteria chosen by the teacher. Sometimes it might be for displaying one of our School Values. At other times it might be for demonstrating a special quality that has been the focus of work within the class for the previous week, or for displaying desirable work practices and attitudes during class. As part of our Thursday newsletter, STUDENTS OF THE WEEK will be announced. On Monday, a special certificate is handed to winners by their classroom teachers. Parents and family are more than welcome to attend Monday morning assemblies at 9:00am to see their child get presented. If you follow us on Facebook (Big Hill Primary School Facebook Page) you may just see photos of the occasion online too!

## **TEAM CHINA – OVERSEAS LEARNING EXPERIENCE**

Four students will travel to China, accompanied by myself, in late May/early June this year. May I remind those travelling to make the agreed payment of \$800 in February and ensure passports etc are ready and brought into the school to be photocopied. I need passports ASAP!

## **TEAM CHINA – FUNDRAISING**

Zooper Dooper icy-poles will commenced sales this week, at 3:15pm each day in the canteen (multipurpose building). Children and families can buy an icypole straight after school for \$1. All proceeds to go towards our Team China Overseas Learning Experience. Sales of icypoles is dependent on one of our parents being present to open up and supervise sales however, so apologies if there are nights when this occurs. Don't forget that our BIG HILL PS wrist bands are for sale at the Office for \$2 each. There's black with gold writing or fluoro yellow with black writing. The bands have been very popular and we don't have a lot of stock, so if you want one...be quick.! The kids love them and have proved popular to wear to school each day. I'm guessing they will also be very popular with our new Preps and students – so don't miss out!

## **2019 BOOKLISTS – SCHOOL PORTION**

If you have not paid for your booklists yet OR Part C (ie iPad/Essential Items etc), then please contact the Office to pay in full, or discuss setting up a payment plan. Access to resources will be restricted possibly if an agreement is not made with the Office. Thanks for attending to this matter.

## **STAFFING UPDATE**

Susie Marsh will continue in Brett Strange's Year 5/6 classroom in the coming weeks, whilst Brett recovers from illness. Jono Guy will also ensure the PE program is delivered to the majority of classes each Thursday until Brett returns.

## **BIRTHDAYS**

Happy Birthday to Harley W, Mischa W, Matthew E & Chase B.

With Week 2, almost behind us, we can now settle down into the routine and watch the children blossom.

Enjoy your Friday and weekend too!

*Matt Pearce, Principal*

## FIRST STEPS NEWS

### WELCOME BACK

Welcome to all returning and new families to the First Steps Unit for 2019.

We are looking forward to an exciting year filled with wonderful learning experiences.



### SPECIALIST

Students have really enjoyed attending specialist programs this week.

Just a reminder that children need to bring in an Art Smock to protect their uniform during Art sessions and a Library Bag to protect the library books.

Thank you to the parents who have already sent in these items. Please remember to clearly label these items. Thank you.

Specialist Timetable	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
<b>FSN</b>	Library	Art Music	Chinese Music	PE
<b>FSP</b>	Library	Art Music	Chinese Music	PE

### HOME READERS

Students have started taking home readers this week. Each day students will borrow a new reader from the classroom to read at home with an adult. It is important to fill in the yellow Home Reading Journal each night by writing the date, book title, a positive comment and the number of days. Remember our goal is for students to read for 200 days in the year! This is a communication diary between parents, students and teachers. Inside this diary you will find useful information to make reading at home valuable and certificates to celebrate your child's reading milestones together. Both the Reading Journal and the reader needs to be returned to school each day in the black reader bag.

### BRAIN FOOD

This week students have been learning about and revising the importance of Brain Food and how it helps us to maintain energy and concentration levels. We have seen lots of delicious fruit and vegetables in our classes so far. We would like to remind parents the Brain Food is only a quick snack during class time therefore it would be great if parents could cut up the fruit and vegetables at home to make it easier for your child to eat. Thank you for your cooperation.

### STARS OF THE WEEK

**FSN & FSP:** To all students for a great start to Term 1!

*Nicole & Pauline*

## JUNIOR UNIT NEWS

### WELCOME BACK

The Junior Unit staff would like to welcome all students and families back to school for what promises to be a wonderful year. We hope that you all enjoyed a nice, relaxing break. The children have returned to school happy, energetic and ready to learn. We are looking forward to an exciting year ahead.

### DRINK BOTTLES AND HATS

As we have returned to school with high temperatures, it is important to send your child to school with a named water bottle and hat in order to keep them hydrated and sun smart during the day.

### HOME READING

As we begin our year, we would like to remind you of the importance of home reading. Our goal this year is to achieve 225 nights of home reading by the end of the year. We wish all of our children the best in achieving this goal and thank you for your support in this endeavour.

### SPECIALIST CLASSES

Our specialist classes this term include Music, Library, Art and Chinese. Please see the timetable below and ensure that children bring along their Library bags on their allocated day and that their Art Smocks are returned to school as soon as possible.

JJ	Music - Monday, Art - Tuesday, Library, Chinese & PE - Wednesday
JC	Music & Art - Tuesday, Library, Chinese & PE - Wednesday
JR	Library - Tuesday, Music, Chinese & PE - Wednesday, Art - Thursday

## STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

*For demonstrating the School Value of 'Responsibility' by actively participating in classroom learning:*

**JC Kohen S**

**JJ Harley N**

**JR Skylah D**

**Catherine, Jen & Rhys**

## **MIDDLE UNIT NEWS**

### MOTTO

**LEARN, FRIENDS, FUN.**

**I CAN LEARN, I CAN UNDERSTAND, I CAN EXPLAIN**

### TERM 1

Welcome back to all our students and families for Term 1 2019! All students returned refreshed, excited and ready to learn. We have had a busy start to the year. We have been meeting each day to work on our whole unit 'Values Program', which has so far been a huge success. We have so far worked on our Unit Motto, 'Learn, Friends, Fun' along with our School Values of Respect, Responsibility and Safety. This term coming up is a busy one as usual and we look forward to some exciting learning opportunities that have been planned.

Some of the things coming up this term or early in Term 2 will be some sports clinics, our Life Skills Program will be running this term also. Very early in Term 2 we have our biannual camp to Sovereign Hill in Ballarat (23<sup>rd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> April) and a note with more detailed information will be provided soon.

This week the Middle Unit have been working on an alternate program to learn about our motto; Learn, Friends, Fun. The 4 Protocols for speaking and Listening and our Values; Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe. We have enjoyed a range of fun, challenging and team building activities including the spaghetti and marshmallow challenge. Here are the winning teams and their towers! Next week we will be doing our Literacy and Numeracy programs.



### HOMEWORK

In the Middle Unit we have very clear expectations for student and their homework. Students have all received their Term 1 homework books and diaries and have weekly homework tasks to complete. Learning spelling words, basic number and multiplication facts as well as recording reading in their diaries are an important part of weekly learning tasks for each student. ALL students are expected to read a 'Just Right' text for at least 20-30 minutes each night and record their reading in their diary.

## INFORMATION NIGHT

As per previous years, Big Hill PS will be conducting an information night for all Middle Unit parents on Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> February at 5:30pm. The Middle Unit would like to encourage as many families as possible to attend this meeting as it is an extremely important opportunity for us to provide information to parents about our classroom programs. If parents have any concerns prior to this evening you are more than welcome to contact one of the Middle Unit staff to discuss. We are looking forward to working with all our families in 2019.

### STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

*For showing the School Value of 'Respect':*

**MR Chelsea H**

**MW Logan B**

**MD Jai N**

**Renae, Wendy & Dean**

## **SENIOR UNIT NEWS**

### WELCOME BACK

Welcome back to all families and students! We are very excited to be getting back into the swing of everything and it has been wonderful to see so many enthusiastic faces back in our classrooms!

### STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Any Year 6 students who are wanting to apply for one of our four school leadership positions are welcome to hand in their applications to Matt by Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> February (tomorrow).

### YEAR 6 GRADUATION SHIRTS

Year 6 Graduation shirts are in the process of getting organised. Please keep an eye out for the upcoming note in the coming weeks.

### HOMEWORK

Spelling, Maths and Reading homework will start from Monday next week. Students are to practice 10 spelling words using the matrix provided, read every night and record in their diaries and are to complete mathematics questions from their diary, use Mathletics or complete Maths practice on concepts covered in class.

### SWIMMING

Next week our swimming program will commence next Monday. All forms and payments are due Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> February (tomorrow).

**PLEASE NOTE THAT LUNCH ORDERS WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE NEXT WEDNESDAY FOR THE SENIOR UNIT**

### SENIOR UNIT CAMP

Senior Unit camp is fast approaching with it being just over a month away! The final note and medical forms were sent home this week and need to be returned ASAP, along with **final payment** which is required by **Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> February**.

We are looking for two volunteers who would be prepared to attend camp and have a current Working with Children Check. If you are interested, could you please speak to Ainsley Stanley to get further details.

### NUT FREE ROOM

SL is a nut free room due to allergies. Thank you.

## **STUDENTS OF THE WEEK**

*For demonstrating a positive attitude:*

**SA**     *Reuben S*  
**SB**     *Rylee G*  
**SK**     *Madeleine H*  
**SL**     *Mischa W*

*Ainsley, Brett, Kate, Lauren & Roberta*

## **PARENTS & FRIENDS NEWS**

### **WELCOME TO 2019**

Welcome back to a new school year and a special welcome to our new families! P&F are set to bring children, families and staff lots of exciting activities again this year and we would love your help to do this. If you are interested in being involved with Parents and Friends and would like to know a bit more about what we do please feel free to come along to one of our meetings which will be advertised in the school newsletter and on our Facebook page. Our first meeting for the year was held this morning and we have lots planned already.

If you're unable to come along to meetings due to other commitments but would like to be a part of P&F, please feel free to contact us at [bhpspf@gmail.com](mailto:bhpspf@gmail.com) and we will contact you to discuss ways to be involved.

### **WELCOME TO FIRST STEPS MORNING TEA**

Our First Steps families (and any new families to the school) are invited to come along to a morning tea in the multipurpose room on Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> February from 9:00am until 10:30am. This is a great opportunity for our new families to meet other parents over a cuppa in a relaxed setting. P&F will supply morning tea free of charge.

To give us an indication of numbers attending, we would appreciate you leaving your name and the number attending on the RSVP lists which can be found in the First Step classrooms/Office. A reminder note to place on your fridge at home is also available in classrooms. Little ones are also very welcome. We hope you can come along.



## **CASH REWARDS**

### **COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING PROGRAM**

Our Cash Rewards program continues to run helping us to raise money for our school. This is a great initiative that helps both you and the school to earn cash rewards while you do your usual online shopping.

Signing up is really easy just head to our unique landing page and follow the prompts.

<https://www.cashrewards.com.au/community/schools/big-hill-primary-school>

Tell your family and friends to join through our landing page as well – the more members we have the more money we raise for the school!

### **P&F FACEBOOK PAGE**

Keep up to date with P&F activities by joining our Facebook community:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/bhpspf/>. Our page provides reminders and updates on P&F activities as well as connecting you with other families at our school.

*Thank you for your support of P&F activities*

## **SECOND HAND UNIFORM SHOP**

This will be open every Friday from 3:00pm – 3:30pm in the multipurpose room EXCEPT for the last Friday of each term. All items are \$2.

## **OSHC NEWS**

Just a reminder that if you were enrolled in our OSHC program in 2018, you need to re-enrol for 2019. Enrolment forms are available from the Office for 2019. Just a reminder that the registration fee needs to be paid, forms to be handed in to the Office, and 2018 accounts finalised before care commences.

*Janet Dean  
Admin, OSHC*

## **STUDENT ENROLMENT INFORMATION FORMS**

These were handed out last week and need to be carefully looked at, any corrections made and returned to the Office (even if all correct please) by TOMORROW, Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> February. Thank you.

## **COMPUTER ACCESS NOTES**

These were distributed last week to all Year levels. Please ensure you read through this document with your child/ren so that they understand, sign and return by TOMORROW, Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> February.

## **PRIVACY/ LOCAL EXCURSION NOTES**

These were distributed, to new families only, last week. Please read and sign both sides of the permission form and return to the Office by TOMORROW, Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> February.

## CANTEEN NEWS

### ITEM NO LONGER AVAILABLE

Unfortunately, due to suppliers, we are no longer able to offer the Spiral Bolognaise for purchase. We apologise for any inconvenience.

We are hoping to have a couple of old favourites back shortly – watch this space!

### HELP URGENTLY NEEDED IN 2019

The canteen is in desperate need of new volunteers. As parents return to work or their children move onto secondary school, we lose our precious volunteers.

Without volunteers, we cannot run a successful canteen.

Volunteers are only asked to give up an hour once or twice a term. There is no pressure and you can choose between a morning OR an afternoon.

Once started, our volunteers enjoy the time spent helping out, meeting other parents and interacting with the students.

Please consider helping our canteen.

## CANTEEN VOLUNTEER FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PH NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

TIME AVAILABLE  9:00am to 10:00am

12:30pm to 2:00pm

Thank you SO MUCH to those parents who have already put in forms – greatly appreciated ☺

*Tammy Fear,*  
Canteen Manager

## ENVIRONMENT CLUB NEWS

Icy poles 50c  
Ice creams \$1

Tuesdays and Thursdays 2nd break from  
1:50pm to 2:10pm @ the Canteen

Commencing next Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> February.

## COMMUNICATION AND PAYMENT APPS

Please see last week's newsletter for details about our communication (Flexibuzz) and payment (Qkr!) apps.

These are a great way of keeping up with the latest newsletter and paying for canteen orders and excursions, camps etc.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### SOUTH BENDIGO JNR FNC FAMILY DAY

Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> February

4:00pm – 6:00pm

Brennan Park Pool

All new and prospective Jnr players welcome

For further information, visit our website:

[www.southbendigofnc.com.au](http://www.southbendigofnc.com.au)



**BENDIGO HEALTH** **CAREER SERVICES**

### Walking & Wellbeing Group

**Are you a CARER?**  
(Caring for a school aged child with a disability, learning disability, mental illness or chronic illness)

Would you like to take some time out to care for YOURSELF?  
Be part of a social support group with others experiencing similar situations?  
If the answer is yes then join the Walking and Wellbeing Group  
There will be two sessions each week, you can choose which one to attend

Lake Neanger—Eaglehawk	Lake Weeroona
<b>Day:</b> Tuesday during school terms <b>Time:</b> meet between 8.45am-9am <b>Place:</b> Crn Butts Rd & Simpsons Rd Carpark side of lake	<b>Day:</b> Thursday during school terms <b>Time:</b> meet between 8.45am-9am <b>Place:</b> Rowing Club end of lake

Come along, have fun  
Meet new people  
Enjoy the outdoors  
For more information call Tash 1800 068 978  
or email [nharrick@bendigohhealth.org.au](mailto:nharrick@bendigohhealth.org.au)



### End of Summer Kangaroo Flat MARKET

MARKET STALLS CAR-BOOT SALES GIANT GARAGE SALE TRASH & TREASURE SAUSAGE SIZZLE DEVONSHIRE TEAS LIVE MUSIC

at Kangaroo Flat Uniting Church, High St. (opposite ALDI)  
on Saturday 23rd February from 8am - 1pm  
Enquiries & Site bookings: Max 54431809 / [blume\\_m@bigpond.com](mailto:blume_m@bigpond.com)



**What's on in 2019.....**

Please check out  
What's On across the Region in Term 1, 2019

Download the Term 1 'What's On  
across the Region' Newsletter  
here: <https://ccds.org.au/newsletters/>



0417900715  
0413613423  
eyecaremobile1@gmail.com  
Facebook-Wide Open Road Optometry  
WROOptometry.com.au  
P.O.BOX 539 Daylesford 3460  
ABN 35 140 031 885

Wide Open Road Optometry Eye testing is coming to Big Hill Primary School  
Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> to Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019

We look forward to visiting Big Hill Primary School. There is no charge for the eye test. (bulk billed to Medicare).

Just fill in the details below including your child's name, date of birth and Medicare Card number, and either return the form to your school Office or screen shot the form to 0413 613 423 and we may call for more details if required.

Call us if you have any queries. These questions are part of an accepted patient history and help us in eye testing.  
**Please answer all questions.**

Child/ren's name/s	Date/s of Birth	Medicare Card Number

**VERY IMPORTANT\*\*\*Fill in answers to all questions please\*\*\* (Circle YES or NO where appropriate)**

1. Is there any family history of eye disease like Glaucoma YES / NO or childhood Diabetes –  
**If yes please specify:** \_\_\_\_\_
2. Does this child(children) have any health issues **YES / NO** like Diabetes/heart disease/allergies/ADHD/ASD and **specify condition and** prescribed medications: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Is there any family history of Lazy eyes, eye turns or strong spectacles in childhood? YES / NO  
**If yes please specify:** \_\_\_\_\_
4. Do/Does your child/children wear spectacles? YES / NO
5. Is your child having any vision or reading discomfort/ issues/difficulties? YES / NO  
**If yes please specify:** \_\_\_\_\_
6. Did you have any specific concerns about your child/children's vision? YES / NO  
**If yes please specify:** \_\_\_\_\_
7. Has your child had an eye test with an Optometrist or eye specialist before YES / NO  
**If yes, WHEN was it?** \_\_\_\_\_
8. Was this child born at or before 28 weeks or pregnancy or born less than 1.5kg **YES / NO**
9. Have you noticed your child's eye turning regularly inwards or outwards (unintentionally)? **YES / NO**

<b>Parent's/Guardian's name:</b>	<b>Signature:</b>
<b>Mobile Number:</b>	<b>Date:</b>