

The Bell Topper

California Gully Primary School 123

Volume 43 No. 39

P.O. Box 88

California Gully 3556

Phone: 5446-8393

Fax: 5446-3115

Email: california.gully.ps@educationvic.gov.au

Website: www.californiagullyps.vic.edu.au

Facebook: California Gully Primary School

Thursday December 4th 2025

TRANSITION PROGRAM—STATEWIDE ORIENTATION DAY

After another successful visit today by our 2026 Foundation students, our next Foundation transition visit will take place on **Tuesday December 9th**. This is also the State-wide Orientation Day for students moving into Year 7 in government schools. Within CGPS, students will move into their classrooms for 2026 during the morning. Information for parents will also be sent home on this day, outlining the Grade structure, classroom placements and allocated teacher.



WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 10th - CALIFORNIA GULLY PRIMARY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2025

Our CGPS Christmas Concert 2025 is just around the corner, and we can't wait to celebrate the festive season with our school community.

This will be part of a day of celebration – classroom parties, disco, Christmas outfits and finishing off with a small concert. We will provide more information over the coming week. Join us for an afternoon of wonderful performances from 2.20-3.20pm.

GRADE SIX GRADUATION & CALIFORNIA GULLY PRIMARY SCHOOL CELEBRATION - THURSDAY DECEMBER 11th

On Thursday December 11th, our Grade 6 students will enjoy the day celebrating their graduation from primary school. The day will include activities in Bendigo, lunch and a ceremony being held at school in the afternoon, beginning at 3.30pm.

JAKOBE IS CHOPPING HIS MULLET AFTER 5 YEARS!

He is raising money for the RCH and donating his locks to a wig maker to support those going through cancer treatment.

We are proud of you Jakobe, what an awesome thing to do!

Any donations would be greatly appreciated either online using the below link or donating to the collection at CGPS anytime over the next week.. <https://gofund.me/ffdfd851f>

The big chop will occur at 3pm on Thursday December 11th.



TERM 4 CURRICULUM DAY

FRIDAY DECEMBER 12th

On **Friday December 12th**, staff will focus on a range of areas including 2026 planning and the CGPS Teaching models.

Please note that students will not attend school on this day.

Respect * Personal Best * Care

To report an absence through the school website you can use this link [Report an Absence](#)



STUDENT REPORTS

Student Reports will be sent home for all students next Thursday December 11th. Please take the time to read and celebrate all achievements with your kids. In the envelope provided, information regarding 'Start-Up' Interviews will also be provided. Please note that the School Interview portal will not open until Friday December 12th at 10am.

WATER SAFETY WEEK (DECEMBER 1st to 7th 2025)

We loved our swimming program 2 weeks ago, and the upcoming summer holiday makes it an ideal time to continue to build confident and safe kids around water. We have an awesome time at Peter Krenz during our time with them each year and they also offer the VICSWIM Summer Kids Program over the holidays. Use the QR Code or VICSWIM website to find out more information and register.



Andrew Frawley
CGPS Principal



How to support your child under 16 with the new social media age restrictions

From 10 December 2025, the *Online Safety Amendment (Social Media Minimum Age) Act 2024* will require social media platforms to:

- prevent children and young people under 16 from having a social media account
- deactivate or freeze existing accounts held by people under 16.

Delaying access to social media protects the health and wellbeing of young people and gives them extra time to build real world connections and digital literacy skills.

The responsibility will be on the social media platforms, not parents, carers, children or schools, to implement these new restrictions.

Most popular social media platforms will be age restricted. These include Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, X (formerly Twitter), Reddit and YouTube.

Messaging services and online games, as well as apps and platforms that support health and education, can still be used.

How to help under 16s prepare for the change

Parents and carers play an important role in supporting their children to be safe online.

To help get under 16s ready for the social media minimum age requirements, you can go to the [eSafety website](#) to learn more about the social media age restrictions and find [tips on how to talk about social media age restrictions with young people](#).

What the change means for our school

At our school, all age-restricted social media platforms are blocked for student use on the school network.

To keep up to date about the new social media age restrictions, visit the [eSafety website](#) and [subscribe](#) to their newsletter.

Respect * Personal Best * Care

To report an absence through the school website you can use this link [Report an Absence](#)



Dates for the Diary

- **Tuesday December 9th** - Statewide Transition Day
 - **Tuesday December 9th** - School Council Meeting
 - **Wednesday December 10th** - Christmas Concert
 - **Thursday December 11th** - Grade Six Graduation
 - **Friday December 12th** - Curriculum Day—No Students Required at School
 - **Friday December 12th** - School Interview Portal Opens at 10.00 a.m.
 - **Friday December 12th** - 2026 Booklist Portal Orders Close
 - **Friday December 19th** - Last Day of 2025 School—Dismissal 1.15 p.m.
- 2026**
- **Monday, January 19th** - School Office is Open for Parent Contribution Payments and Lodging of C.S.E.F. Applications
 - **Tuesday, January 20th** - School Office is Open for Parent Contribution Payments and Lodging of C.S.E.F. Applications
 - **Wednesday, January 21st** - School Office is Open for Parent Contribution Payments and Lodging of C.S.E.F. Applications
 - **Tuesday, January 27th** - Staff Resume for 2026
 - **Wednesday, January 28th** - Start-Up Interviews
 - **Thursday, January 29th** - All Students (Foundation to Year Six) Resume for 2026

2026 Student Booklists

The Student Booklists for 2026 were sent home on Friday November 7th, the online ordering system opened on Monday November 10th. If your child did not bring home their booklist information please speak to their classroom teacher. Orders are required to be placed on-line with [Education Plus](#) by

Friday December 12th 2025

Below are the codes for each year level for 2026

Foundation	CGP02026T
Year One	CGP12026V
Year Two	CGP22026R
Year Three	CGP32026G
Year Four	CGP42026Q
Year Five	CGP52026K
Year Six	CGP62026A

Respect * Personal Best * Care





Congratulations to the following students on being named
Student of The Week
for their positive attitude to school and social values.

Friday November 28th

Foundation A (Hinton):

- Koah J. - For writing a fabulous dream story.
- Braxtyn R. - For fabulous independent writing about his dream.

Foundation B (Tonkin):

- Percy E. - For working hard to ensure he uses correct punctuation and spelling in his writing.
- Blair M. - For adding more detail to his writing to make it more interesting.

Grade 1 (Leed-Martiniello):

- Kaia C.-M. - For her improvements in writing independently, keep it up!
- Ryan H. - For his great improvement in work ethic across all learning areas, keep it up!

Grade 1/2 A (Carroll-Dillon):

- Kristian G. - For working well to solve addition and subtraction money problems! Well Done!
- Shayla J. - For working well to solve addition and subtraction money problems! Well Done!
- Aria T. - For working well on writing a persuasive text. Well Done!

Grade 1/2 B (Ennor):

- Caitlin B. - For using great expression in oral reading.
- Eli B. - For contributing great arguments in our persuasive writing topic.

Grade 3/4 A (McKerrow):

- Ellahnie L. - For excellent playing of the fractions game.
- Letaiah M. - For excellent playing of the fractions game.

Grade 5/6 A (Price):

- Erika K. - For working hard in fractions.

Grade 5/6 B (Windridge-Lee):

- Jack B. - For working hard on estimating fractions.
- Anneliese C. - For working well on fractions in Maths.
- John C. - For working hard in reading time.

LOST PROPERTY

We have a large number of jumpers in lost property at the moment, unfortunately many items are un-named so makes it very difficult to return to owners. The Lost Property Basket is located outside the community centre to provide an opportunity for children, parents and carers to collect any missing uniform. We also remind families to please name all lunch boxes, drink bottles and clothing worn to school.



SCHOOL ARRIVAL TIMES

Morning Drop-off: We remind all families that children should not be onsite prior to the 8.40 a.m. bell. At this point staff are on duty and actively supervising. Please respect this request for the safety of all students, staff and families.

Late Arrival: If your child is late in arriving at school (any time after 9 a.m.) they must sign in at the office prior to going to the classroom. Thank you for your care and understanding.

Respect * Personal Best * Care



Grade 6 Orientation Day

Tuesday 9th December
9:00AM – 3:10PM

8:50AM Students will meet in the Gym.

What to Bring?

Pencil Case, Workbook,
Water Bottle, Hat.

What to Wear?

Current Primary School
PE Uniform.

Free BBQ Lunch
Other snacks will be
required for second break.



Ages 5-13

Holiday Camps on sale now!

CODECAMP

**MINECRAFT • ROBLOX • Coding
Robotics • Animation • Craft & more**

Book now at codecamp.com.au/flyer

SAVE \$25 Use coupon code
FLYER25 at checkout

Supported by
W GROUP

BIG SUMMER READ

JOIN. BORROW. READ. WIN!

December 1 - January 31

**Gratitude
Empathy
Mindfulness &
Emotional Literacy**



Respect * Personal Best * Care

To report an absence through the school website you can use this link [Report an Absence](#)



fresh fruit friday



Celebrating 10 years

Delivering 1,000kg of free fruit to Bendigo school children every week

mckern steel foundation



@mckernsteelfoundation

Made possible thanks to our Foundation Partners



Bendigo Community Health Services

smalltalk



Supported playgroup

California Gully Primary School

A free, fun playground for parents/carers and children to learn together

Fridays 9.30-11.30am
Staley Street, California Gully

Morning tea provided
Enrolments essential

Contact facilitator
Tiffany Holschier
0498 642 909
tiffanyholschier@bchs.com.au

Our smalltalk playgroups run for two hours a week during school terms. Each session focuses on a different parenting strategy to promote children's learning and development.

bchs.com.au

Do you have a health care card?
You could be eligible for Saver Plus.

For every dollar you save, you'll get a dollar from ANZ to spend on educational costs, up to \$500.

To join, you need to meet all of these requirements:

- ✓ Be 18 years or older
- ✓ Have a current Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card
- ✓ Have a child in school, starting school next year, or be studying yourself
- ✓ Get a regular income (can be you or your partner)
- ✓ Agree to join in free online financial education workshops

saverplus

1300 610 355 saverplus.org.au



COME AND TRY

JUNIOR BADMINTON

WHERE: 140 VICTORIA STREET, EAGLEHAWK

AGES: 7-18

FIRST TWO NIGHTS ARE FREE

SESSION TIMES
WEDNESDAYS
SESSION 1: 7-10YRS 6:10PM TO 7:00PM
SESSION 2: 11-14YRS 7:10PM TO 8:00PM
SESSION 3: 15-18YRS 8:10PM TO 9:00PM
SCHOOL TERMS ONLY FRIDAYS
JUNIOR COMPETITION 6:45-8:30PM
SCHOOL TERMS ONLY

TEXT 0478 435 301 TO ENQUIRE TODAY

Respect * Personal Best * Care

To report an absence through the school website you can use this link [Report an Absence](#)





**2/1 Whip Court, Long Gully
California Gully Primary School**

	Garment	Kids Sizing	Adults Sizing
	Teal/Ink Navy/White Short Sleeve Polo	\$30.00	\$32.00
	Teal/Ink Navy/White Long Sleeve Polo	\$33.00	\$35.00
	Ink Navy Rugby Top	\$37.50	\$39.50
	Ink Navy 1/2 Zip Polar Fleece Jumper	\$39.50	\$42.00
	Navy Hooded Windcheater	\$38.00	\$40.00
	Ink Navy Double Knee Hemmed Track Pants	\$28.00	\$30.00
	Navy Bucket Hat	\$15.00	
	Navy Broadbrim Hat	\$15.00	

Our School Uniform supplier, Centavic Clothing, are pleased to offer an online uniform shop for California Gully Primary School through their website:

<https://www.centavicclothing.com.au/>

Parents can place an order for uniforms, with the option of paying online, over the phone or on the day of collection.

We advise that any students needing to try on uniform items book an appointment as due to the size of the storefront Centavic Clothing will be prioritising those with appointments when needed. This booking system can also be found on the Centavic Clothing website.

Stage School Australia

**BOOK YOUR
AUDITION FOR
2026 TODAY!**

Singing, Dancing & Acting Classes
For ages 4 - 18.

**25+ Locations
across Melbourne!**

stageschool.com.au

Respect * Personal Best * Care

To report an absence through the school website you can use this link [Report an Absence](#)





Victoria

Summer School Holiday Program

For Young Carers A Young Carer is a young person aged 4 to 25 who provides or intends to provide care, support or assistance for a family member affected by disability, chronic or mental illness, substance use, or frail age.

FREE

Our School Holiday Programs are designed for Young Carers to enjoy a day of social respite, meet fellow Young Carers and participate in a range of exciting activities. Young Carers must be registered for support with Little Dreamers to attend our Holiday Programs.



Metro West - Brimbank Tuesday 13 January 9:30am - 3:30pm Ages 6 - 16	Movies, Bowling and Laser Tag Ready to strike up some fun? These school holidays, hit the lanes, look in your laser tag team, and kick back with the coolest flicks on the big screen - it's the ultimate triple play of excitement! Whether you're chasing strikes, dodging lasers, or diving into cinematic adventures, we've got everything you need for a really good time. Lunch and snacks are supplied. Transport is provided to the activity only. Please bring a filled water bottle and wear clothes that you feel comfortable moving in. Bookings are essential.	Special thanks to 
Online Wednesday 14 January 10:00am - 12:00pm Ages 6 - 12 1:00pm - 3:00pm Ages 13 - 17	Feathers, Fur and Scales Jump online and get ready to snap up some knowledge as you meet some scaly, slinky, and sensational animal stars. From turtles with attitude to snakes that steal the show, you'll experience and reconnect with nature through these wildly interactive online sessions. Please note: Young Carers living in Regional Victoria will be given preference. This program is held online over Zoom. You will need access to a computer or laptop and the internet. Bookings are essential.	Special thanks to 
Regional - Ballarat Thursday 15 January 9:30am - 2:30pm Ages 6 - 16	Gold Rush Exploration Grab your hats and gold pans - we're heading back to the 1850s for a gold-plated adventure you won't forget! Join us for Gold Rush, where you'll step into a bustling goldfields town full of excitement, exploration, and a little old-timey chaos. Lunch and snacks are supplied. Transport NOT provided. Please bring a filled water bottle and wear weather-appropriate clothes that you feel comfortable in. Bookings are essential.	Special thanks to 

For more information and any access requirements, please email vic@littledreamers.org.au or give us a call on 1800 717 515.



Victoria

Young Carer School Holiday Program

Regional - Bendigo Tuesday 20 January 9:30am - 2:30pm Ages 6 - 16	Roller Skating and Laser Tag Skate your way into a wheely fun day and then tag along for an epic showdown! We're kicking things off with roller skating - glide, groove, and maybe even roll into some new tricks. Then dive into a high-energy game of laser tag, where stealth, speed, and sharp aim will make you the MVP (Most Valuable Phaser). Please note: This program is for Young Carers who live in the Loddon Mallee region. Lunch and snacks are supplied. Transport NOT provided. Please bring a filled water bottle and wear clothes that you feel comfortable moving in. Bookings are essential.	Special thanks to 
Metro City - Docklands Wednesday 21 January 9:30am - 3:30pm Ages 16 - 25	Ice Skating and Interactive Games Get ready for a day full of cool moves and sneaky grooves! Join us for an action-packed program that kicks off with ice skating fun - glide, spin, and race your friends at the rink! After that, gear up for a real-life version of Among Us, where you'll complete tasks, uncover impostors, and test your detective skills in a thrilling, interactive game. Please note: This program is for Young Carers aged 16 - 25 years. Lunch and snacks supplied. Transport NOT provided. Please bring a water bottle and wear clothes that you feel comfortable moving in. Bookings are essential.	Special thanks to 



Some of our Summer VIC School Holiday Programs are funded by the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH). Under this funding model, Young Carers are eligible for up to 20 hours of DFFH funded respite support with Little Dreamers each year.

Register today for upcoming VIC School Holiday Programs: bit.ly/VICSHPsummer25_26

For more information and any access requirements, please email vic@littledreamers.org.au or give us a call on 1800 717 515.



ESCAPE THE VAPE

The City of Greater Bendigo is working with partners on **Escape the Vape**, a project aimed at preventing and reducing the uptake of vaping among young people.

Alongside school-based education sessions delivered by Bendigo Community Health Services, we're developing a video resource to support parents, carers, and educators in helping young people navigate issues around vaping. Your input is valuable, and we are asking you to please take a moment to complete the survey to help shape the resources.

You can complete the survey via the City's Let's Talk community engagement website at www.letstalkgreaterbendigo.com.au/escape-vape-project-survey or via the QR code below.

SCAN TO COMPLETE THE SURVEY

THE SURVEY IS OPEN UNTIL
FRIDAY DECEMBER 19, 2025



For more information, please contact the City of Greater Bendigo's Senior Health Promotion Officer Shannon Lacy via email to s.lacy@bendigo.vic.gov.au




MARIST BRASS

PRESENT

Carols

AT

ST KILIAN'S

SUNDAY 7 PM | **14** | DECEMBER 2025

ST KILIAN'S CHURCH, 161 MCCRAE ST BENDIGO

ENTRY BY DONATION

Featuring
Marist Brass Band & Marist Brass Academy

With special guests
Sacred Heart Cathedral Choir
Marist College Choirs

Respect * Personal Best * Care

To report an absence through the school website you can use this link [Report an Absence](#)



BENDIGO Foodshare POP-UP Christmas PANTRY

Bendigo Foodshare, with the support of local service clubs and community organisations, is providing free food relief this festive season to people doing it tough.

Date	Times	Location
Monday 22 Dec 2025	Open at 1pm	St Paul's Cathedral Bendigo 8 Myers St, Bendigo (opposite Court)
Tuesday 23 Dec 2025	Open at 1pm	Gateway Park Function Centre 20 High St, Kangaroo Flat
Monday 29 Dec 2025	Open at 1pm	St Paul's Cathedral Bendigo 8 Myers St, Bendigo (opposite Court)
Tuesday 30 Dec 2025	Open at 1pm	California Gully Mechanics Institute Hall 81 Belmont Street, California Gully VIC 3086



With support from the following service clubs



BRING A SHOPPING BAG!

SO, POP-IN!

FREE

COMMUNITY FESTIVE MEAL EVENTS 2025

The City of Greater Bendigo is supporting festive community connections this December!

Through its Community Grants Program, the City has provided funding to local groups to host free community festive meal events, as well as food hampers and a pop-up food pantry to help households during the festive season.

These initiatives aim to strengthen community connections and promote inclusion—everyone is welcome to attend or access support.

What's happening:

- **Festive Meal Events** – Enjoy a free meal and connect with your community
- **Food Hampers** – Available for those who need extra support
- **Pop-Up Food Pantry** – Offering essential items to help ease festive season costs

Please make direct contact with the relevant group hosting the event or providing hampers/pantry services to confirm details and availability.



Sunday December 7, 5pm - 5pm
Sedgwick Community Christmas Event
• Sedgwick Public Hall
• 601 Sedgwick Road, Sedgwick
• secretary@sedgwickcommunity.org.au

Wednesday December 10, 12.30pm - 2pm
Gully Christmas Lunch
• Long Gully Neighbourhood Centre
• 52-64 Derwent Drive, Long Gully

Wednesday December 10, 10.30am - 1pm
Open Pantry Christmas Hamper Day
• East Loddon Foodshare
• East Loddon Community House
• Dingee Road, Dingee
• Phone 5436 1313

Thursday December 11, 6pm - 8pm
Café 316
• Bendigo Baptist Church
• Eaglehawk Campus
• 10A Parsonage Grove, Eaglehawk
• Phone 0447 816 630

Saturday December 13, 1pm - 3.30pm
Axeblade Festive Community Lunch
• Axeblade Community Garden
• 80 McIvor Highway, Axeblade
• Register by phone 0478 120 152

Monday December 15, 11am - 1pm
Creating Community Connections Christmas Lunch 2025
• Event with lunch served at 12pm
• Impact Recovery Ltd.
• Salvation Army Café
• 65-71 Mundy Street, Bendigo
• Phone 0438 553 772

Monday December 15 to 22, 8am - 9.30am
MAD COW Christmas Hampers for the Homeless Community
• St Pauls Church Hall
• 8 Myers Street, Bendigo
• Phone 0447 103 851

Tuesday December 16, 11am - 1pm
Food & Care Christmas Hampers & Luncheon
• Eaglehawk Uniting Church
• Peg Leg Road, Eaglehawk
• Phone 0434 769 852

Friday December 19, 4pm - 8pm
Christmas BBQ and Food Hampers
• Nepalese in Bendigo
• Gardens for the Future
• 557 Napier Street, White Hills
• Phone 0452 657 525

Sunday December 21, 11am - 3pm
Community Festive Meals Program
• Y Service Club of Bendigo Inc.
• Strathdale Community Centre
• 155 Crook Street, Strathdale
• Phone 0489 800 483

Monday December 22 and 28, 1pm
Bendigo Foodshare Pop-Up Food Pantry
• St Pauls Cathedral, Bendigo
• Phone 5444 3409

Tuesday December 23, 1pm
Bendigo Foodshare Pop-Up Food Pantry
• Gateway Park Function Centre, Kangaroo Flat
• Phone 5444 3409

Thursday December 25, 11am - 2pm
Community Christmas Lunch
• The Salvation Army
• 65-71 Mundy Street, Bendigo
• Phone 5440 8410

Tuesday December 30, 1pm
Bendigo Foodshare Pop-Up Food Pantry
• California Gully Mechanics Institute, California Gully
• Phone 5444 3409



PLAY SOCCER WITH US IN 2026

Come & join Epsom Football Club! Anyone aged 4yrs+ can play! Whether you're new to soccer or a seasoned player, you'll find a safe, friendly and welcoming environment.

Our Expression of Interest form is now open

Complete our short form (link below or scan QR code) to get early access to all 2026 club info, from our Club Open Day, to registrations and training dates.

<https://forms.office.com/r/5UmDcRuSmd>



Ages 4 yrs & above

Non-competitive teams from Under 6 to Under 10

No experience necessary

Competitive teams from Under 12 to Under 16

Mixed & all-girls teams available

Youth (16-18yrs), Mens & Women's teams

Contact secretary@epsomfc.com.au or juniors@epsomfc.com.au for more information
www.epsomfc.com.au



ELF ACADEMY

• OFFICIAL TRAINING FACILITY FOR SANTAS LITTLE HELPERS •

IT'S SNOW JOKE!

ELF ACADEMY IS RETURNING TO BENDIGO MORE MAGICAL THAN EVER!

13-21 DECEMBER 2025

THEY'RE CHEEKY, CREATIVE & FULL OF JOY... BUT DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT REALLY TAKES TO BE ONE OF SANTA'S LITTLE HELPERS?

Through festive crafts, playful games, and elf-tastic challenges recruits will master the skills needed to join Santa's legendary crew, graduating with a Certificate IV in Elf Training!

13-21 December | Beehive Building | \$25 per person | \$100 per family
All activities included | Santa photography additional



BOOK NOW!

bendigoheritage.com.au
4444 2810 | [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/bendigoheritage) | [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/bendigoheritage) | [TikTok](https://www.tiktok.com/bendigoheritage)



Respect * Personal Best * Care

To report an absence through the school website you can use this link [Report an Absence](#)



THE ULTIMATE SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM



**BOOKINGS
NOW OPEN**

THERE'S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE AT ROCKETEERS

Take the stress out of the school holidays with Rocketeers. Featuring over 500 wonderfully unique experiences that will ensure your child's school break is extraordinary!

From The Pickleball Open featuring our yummy Peachy Dreams desserts, to DIY Tie Dye Bags and Cookie Jars (filled with cookie mix!), and creating beautiful collage art inspired by Jeannie Baker's book *Window* at Big Art Day – and everything in between!



DID YOU KNOW?

You don't have to attend the school where we operate to use our awesome holiday programs. Simply book into any of our convenient locations.



**Build
Friendships**



**Discover
Adventure**



**Create
Memories**



**Have lots
of fun!**

**BOOK INTO SCHOOL
HOLIDAY FUN NOW!**

**SAVE UP TO
\$135 PER
SESSION*!**



Child Care Subsidy
available for
eligible families.

*Saving is based on 90% max CCS on select Adventures (excursions). Check MyGov for your eligibility.

Respect * Personal Best * Care

To report an absence through the school website you can use this link [Report an Absence](#)

