

The Bell Topper

California Gully Primary School 123

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Thursday February 12th, 2026

CALIFORNIA GULLY PRIMARY SCHOOL WEEK 3

Another fantastic week at CGPS. It is wonderful to see all students settling into their new classrooms and for some, a new school.



DOGS CONNECT (MILLI & NALA)

Over the coming week we will begin to have the Dogs Connect Program actively occurring with Milli and Nala returning to our school community after their holiday break. Like us, it can take a little time for both dogs to get back in their routine, and we encourage you to think about the below expectations to ensure calm and safe spaces.

Things to remember when Milli and Nala are onsite, in the classroom, playground or office:

- Give them space
- Do not call their names although feel free to speak with the adult handling/leading either dog.
- Avoid eye contact
- Be calm

CALIFORNIA GULLY PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENT LEADERS

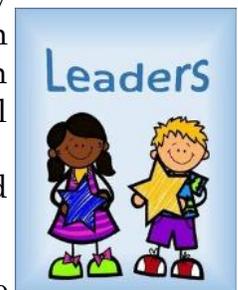
Congratulations to all students who nominated for CGPS JSC and House Captain positions in 2026. Putting your hand up to lead takes courage, confidence and a genuine desire to make our school a better place — and that is something to be very proud of.

Well done to those who were successful. We look forward to seeing you represent your peers, share ideas and lead by example.

To those who were not selected this time, you should still feel incredibly proud. Leadership is not defined by a badge or title — it is shown through your actions, choices and the way you support others every day. You can still be a leader in your classroom, on the playground and in our school community.

Every student has the potential to lead, and we value the voice and contribution of you all.

We will be presenting badges at 9am on Tuesday February 17th in the Community Centre, all welcome.



SCHOOL COUNCIL - PARENT MEMBERS

We are seeking parents to consider becoming a CGPS Council Member with several positions vacant at present. Further information is available in the newsletter although if you would like to have a chat, please speak with Andrew. Nominations will open on Monday February 16th and forms can be collected from the office.

Respect * Personal Best * Care

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



NAPLAN 2026 (MARCH 11th–13th)

NAPLAN (the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy) takes place each year for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. These assessments look at how students are progressing in Writing, Reading, Language skills (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy.

NAPLAN results give families and schools helpful information about each child's learning. They help teachers plan next steps in teaching and learning, and support conversations between parents/carers and schools about student progress.

Exemptions

Exemptions may be granted to students with significant disabilities and to students who have been learning English for less than one year. If your child is eligible for support due to disability or an exemption, you should discuss this with your classroom teacher. Parental consent is required before any support due to disability or exemption is provided.

While we strongly encourage all students to complete the NAPLAN tests, students may be withdrawn from NAPLAN by their parents or carers. This is a matter for consideration by parents and carers in consultation with teachers. If, after consultation, you decide to withdraw your child, you must sign a Student Withdrawal Form prior to the test and have it approved by the school.

For more information about NAPLAN Online, please visit the VCAA website at www.vcaa.vic.edu.au or the NAP website at www.nap.edu.au.

California Gully Primary School Preparedness And Actions For The Bushfire Season



Fire danger ratings indicate how dangerous a fire would be if one started in those conditions and provide clear directions on the safest options for preserving life. They can be a trigger for action in community and for school and household level fire plans.

Our school has been identified as being one of these schools at high bushfire or grassfire risk and is listed on the Bushfire at Risk Register (BARR) category 3 school.

Our school will **close** on a day forecasted as **Catastrophic fire danger rating** in **North Western fire district**.

The department will advise our school of the potential for a **Catastrophic fire danger rating** as information becomes available, however the pre-emptive closure will be **confirmed by 1pm the day prior to Catastrophic fire danger day**.

If closure of the school due to a forecast Catastrophic day will be confirmed on the day prior and we will provide you with advice before the end of the school day by email or hard copy letter and CGPS Facebook Page.

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 Catastrophic day.

Out-of-school-hours care will also be cancelled on these days.

School camps will be cancelled if a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast for the Bureau of Meteorology district in which the camp is located, or if the travel involves passing through areas that have Catastrophic fire danger.

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SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS INFORMATION FOR PARENTS 2026

<u>2024 SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTION PROCESS AND TIMETABLE</u>	
<u>a) Notice of election and call for nominations (3 Parent Vacancies)</u>	<u>Monday, February 16th 2026</u>
<u>b) Closing date for nominations</u>	<u>Monday, March 2nd 2026</u>
<u>c) Date by which ballot papers will be prepared and distributed (if required)</u>	<u>Thursday March 5th 2026</u>
<u>d) Close of ballot</u>	<u>Tuesday March 10th 2026</u>
<u>e) March School Council Meeting (First council meeting to elect office bearers)</u>	<u>Tuesday March 17th 2026</u>

What is a school council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided guidelines. 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?

There are three possible categories of membership:

A mandated elected Parent category. More than one third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DET) employees can be Parent members at their child's school as long as they are not employed at the school.

A mandated elected DET employee 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.

An optional Community member category. Its members are appointed by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members.

The term of office for all members is two years. Half the members must retire 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 shape the direction of the school. Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

How can you become involved?

The most obvious way is to vote in the 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 seriously consider

- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.



Do I need special experience to be on school council?

No. 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.

What do you need to do to stand for election?

The principal will issue a notice and call for nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March.

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 category.

Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the notice of election.

Andrew Frawley
CGPS Principal



Dates for the Diary

- **Monday, February 16th** - School Council Nominations Open
- **Monday, February 16th** - School Council Meeting (rescheduled)
- **Wednesday, February 18th** - Foundation Students Rest Day
- **Wednesday, February 25th** - Foundation Students Rest Day
- **Wednesday, March 4th** - Foundation Students Rest Day
- **Monday March 9th** - Labour Day Public Holiday
- **Tuesday March 17th** - School Photo Day
- **Tuesday, March 17th** - School Council Annual General Meeting
- **Thursday April 2nd** - Last Day of Term One
- **Monday April 20th** - First Day of Term Two



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WELLBEING AND SUPPORT

Welcome back to all existing and new parents to California Gully Primary School for 2026. My name is Kerry Phillips I am the Primary Well Being officer. I will be at school all day on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. I will be moving around the school in the first couple of weeks getting to know the students.

My overall role is to support students, families and the teachers within the school environment and the community. I hope to use my experience and knowledge to help make the school an even happier and safer place to be.

I am available to catch up with students, parents and families on a broad range of matters including friendships, separation, grief and loss. I can be contacted on the school number, 5446 8393. If I am not available leave a message, I'll get back to you.

If you require assistance with school uniform requirements please contact me on the days I am here or leave a message at the school office and Nicole will pass the message on.

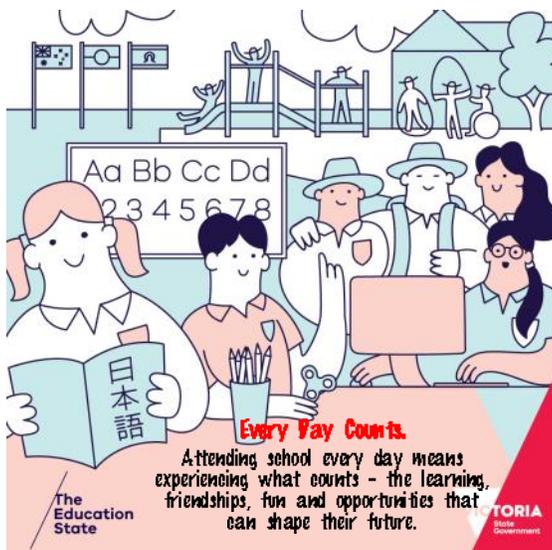
Kerry Phillips

CSEF (Camps, Sports & Excursion Fund)

Applications are open for families who are Health Care Card holders to apply for this funding - forms are available from the school office if you haven't already completed one (please note only one application needs to be completed, all children in your family can be on the same form). When completing your application please bring along your current Health Care Card, this is needed for the application to be accepted. Your health Care Card needed to be valid on January 28th 2026 for you to be eligible.

If you are a Health Care Card holder please do not miss out on this funding.

Application Forms are available from the school office or return the copy that was in the Parent Contribution Booklets in November 2025.



EAGLEHAWK JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN!

SEASON 2026

- U9 Mixed
- U10 Mixed
- U12 Boys
- U12 Girls
- U15 Girls

ejfc.com.au

Multi-player family discounts available



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



Friday February 6th

Foundation A (Hinton):

- Heather M. - For her positive start to Foundation. We are very proud of you.
- Jordan R. - For his positive start to Foundation and trying hard with all learning tasks.

Foundation B (Tonkin):

- Shayla P. - For always being ready to learn and showing good listening behaviours.
- Ruby T. - For trying hard with all learning tasks and being ready to learn.

Grade 1/2 B (Ennor):

- Percy E. - For having a fantastic start to his grade 1 year.
- Allirah K. - For being a caring and kind class member.
- Aarlo T. - For being an enthusiastic learner.

Grade 1/C (Leed):

- Koah K. - For a wonderful start to the year having great attitude and working hard.
- Tyrrone T. - For being a fabulous class member and having a positive attitude.

Grade 5/6 A (Price):

- Lilliana M. - For her positive, confident start to grade 5.
- Melia M. - For being friendly and polite to everyone.

Grade 5/6 B (Reilly-Leed):

- John C. - For settling into Grade Six in such a positive way
- Malik J. - For settling into Grade Six in such a positive way



Respect * Personal Best * Care





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
every year has a great start



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

FOOTY FUN JUST FOR GIRLS

nab AFL Auskick

GOOD CLEAN FUN

PLAY.AFL/AUSKICK

BENDIGO ALL GIRLS TERM 1 AUSKICK

Thursdays 4:00pm starting 19th February at Ewing Park Oval

Girls aged 5-12 years old
\$55 per person (includes a football!)

AFL PLAY



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



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JOIN US!

STRIKERS NETBALL CLUB

Would you like to play netball?

Looking for a competitive but fun
and supportive club?

Come play with us in 2026!
new or experienced
players welcome

Grade 3 and above

please contact us on
0475 915 450 | strikernetball@gmail.com

Find us on Facebook
[@strikersnetball](https://www.facebook.com/strikersnetball)



Eaglehawk Hockey Club
BACK to HOCKEY
New and 'seasoned' faces welcome!
Enquires to: eaglehawkkhc@gmail.com
Thursday 12th FEB, 2026
Ashley Street, Ironbark - Hockey Central Vic
Every Thursday:
Juniors 5.30-6.30pm We have equipment anyone can borrow!
Seniors 6:00pm - Run/Jog Club
On pitch skills - 6.30-7.30pm
Teams include:
Under 8s, 10s, 12s, 14s, 17s, Masters,
Seniors Women's & Mens
Eaglehawk Hockey Club
[eaglehawkkhc@gmail.com](https://www.facebook.com/eaglehawkkhc)

Mother's Day Classic
Kids Go FREE*
UNTIL 1 MARCH, 2026
WALK OR RUN FOR BREAST AND OVARIAN CANCER RESEARCH
MOTHER'S DAY - SUNDAY 10 MAY, 2026
REGISTER ONLINE: [MOTHERSDAYCLASSIC.COM.AU](https://www.mothersdayclassic.com.au)

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centavic
CLOTHING

**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.

Sadly we have been advised this week, Tuesday February 10th, that Centavic Clothing will be closing after nearly 50 years supplying uniforms in Bendigo. Their last day of trade will be Friday March 27th. They will however be accepting orders up to Friday February 27th. We strongly encourage families to order as soon as possible.

We are currently looking for a new supplier and will let members of our school community know when this has been finalised.

School Photo Information

Are you ready for 2026 school photos?

California Gully Primary School

Tuesday 17th March 2026

There's no need to do anything before photo day.

Further details will be provided when portrait and group images are ready.



Student access codes and order details will be provided to you when images are ready to view and purchase online.

SAVE THE DATE



Friday 15 May 2026

National Walk Safely to School Day

Arthur Reed Photos Pty. Ltd.
A.B.N 48 528 494 590
Telephone: (03) 5243 4390
Enquiries: customerservice@arphotos.com.au



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