

# The Bell Topper

California Gully Primary School 123

Volume 44 No. 4

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Facebook: California Gully Primary School

Thursday February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026

## 2026 DAHLIA AND ARTS FESTIVAL - PARADE PARTICIPATION (SATURDAY MARCH 21<sup>st</sup>, STARTING AT 11.00 a.m.)

The Eaglehawk Dahlia and Arts Festival is fast approaching, and we are excited to be entering the Gala Parade once again. The theme this year is 'Harvest' and we are asking students to dress up as farmers, gardener, or produce (fruit, vegetable, honey etc.).

It is important to note that we will be **walking** the parade.

The 'Expression of Interest' form will be sent out tomorrow; we ask that you return it to school by Wednesday March 11<sup>th</sup>. We will provide further information around arrival times and meeting points over coming weeks.



In partnership with the City of Greater Bendigo we will continue using 'Tag On' to support healthier and happier journeys to our school.

Tag On is a sign-in system that registers how and when students arrive at school every day. Each day your child will be able to use their tag to 'tag on' and select how they travelled to school via a touch screen kiosk. **They will earn house points every time they tag on, and an extra point towards their personal active travel tally if they walk, ride, scoot or catch public transport.**

Through collecting points, students are motivated to travel in healthier, happier ways by participating in friendly house and class competitions.



We understand that some families cannot walk, ride or scoot to school regularly. The Tag On program allows all students the opportunity to participate by rewarding everyone that tags on with a house point. Remember 'Part Way is OK' – to create a safer environment for children directly outside the school gates, try to park in the surrounding streets and walk, ride or scoot the rest of the way.

## 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup>–13<sup>th</sup>)

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](http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au) or the NAP website at [www.nap.edu.au](http://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>	
<b><u>a) Notice of election and call for nominations (3 Parent Vacancies)</u></b>	<b><u>Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup> 2026</u></b>
<b><u>b) Closing date for nominations</u></b>	<b><u>Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2026</u></b>
<b><u>c) Date by which ballot papers will be prepared and distributed (if required)</u></b>	<b><u>Thursday March 5<sup>th</sup> 2026</u></b>
<b><u>d) Close of ballot</u></b>	<b><u>Tuesday March 10<sup>th</sup> 2026</u></b>
<b><u>e) March School Council Meeting (First council meeting to elect office bearers)</u></b>	<b><u>Monday March 16<sup>th</sup> 2026</u></b>

### *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**



**RESILIENCE PROJECT.**

## We're working with The Resilience Project

We're proud to be implementing TRP's evidence-based whole school wellbeing program. Students will engage in weekly lessons to understand and strengthen their practice of **Gratitude**, **Empathy**, **Mindfulness** and **Emotional Literacy**.

<b>Gratitude</b>  Gratitude involves recognising and expressing appreciation for the people, places and things in our lives. Practising gratitude allows us to pay attention to what we have, increasing feelings of happiness and leading to a more positive outlook on life.	<b>Empathy</b>  Empathy involves understanding others' feelings and perspectives and is practised through kindness, compassion and curiosity. Developing empathy fosters deeper connections, increases our likelihood of acting kindly, and helps us experience positive emotions.
<b>Mindfulness</b>  The practice of mindfulness is about an awareness of life as we are living it. It allows us to be responsive to our experiences rather than being reactive, and to live with greater balance, presence and connection.	<b>Emotional Literacy</b>  Emotional Literacy involves learning to identify and label our emotions, as well as developing emotional regulation skills. When we can accurately name our feelings and emotions, it reduces the impact of uncomfortable emotions and enhances the effect of positive ones.

### **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.**

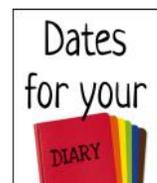
**Student access codes and order details will be provided to you when images are ready to view and purchase online.**

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



## **Dates for the Diary**

- |   |   |                                       |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| • <b>Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>.</b> | - | Foundation Students Rest Day          |
| • <b>Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup></b>      | - | Foundation Students Rest Day          |
| • <b>Monday March 9<sup>th</sup></b>          | - | Labour Day Public Holiday             |
| • <b>Wednesday March 11<sup>th</sup></b>      | - | NAPLAN Testing Years 3 and 5          |
| • <b>Thursday March 12<sup>th</sup></b>       | - | NAPLAN Testing Years 3 and 5          |
| • <b>Friday March 13<sup>th</sup></b>         | - | NAPLAN Testing Years 3 and 5          |
| • <b>Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup></b>        | - | School Council Annual General Meeting |
| • <b>Tuesday March 17<sup>th</sup></b>        | - | School Photo Day                      |
| • <b>Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup></b>     | - | Hot Cross Bun Order Forms Due Back    |
| • <b>Thursday April 2<sup>nd</sup></b>        | - | Last Day of Term One                  |
| • <b>Monday April 20<sup>th</sup></b>         | - | First Day of Term Two                 |



**Respect \* Personal Best \* Care**

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





Congratulations to the following students  
on being named  
**Student of The Week**



for their positive attitude to school and  
social values.

**Friday February 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Foundation A (Hinton):**

Adalyn M. - For showing great listening behaviours and always being ready to learn.

Clayton S. - For completing all learning tasks with a positive mindset.

**Foundation B (Tonkin):**

Edith C. - For always putting her hand up and contributing to class discussions.

Ebony D. - For trying her best with all learning tasks.

**Grade 1/2 A (Carroll-Dillon):**

Jaxen B. - For a positive start to Grade 1.

Luke M.-S. - For being an eager learner in all curriculum areas.

**Grade 1/C (Leed):**

Logan B. - For having a great start to year and showing confidence in giving all learning tasks a go.

Charlie C. - For always putting his hand up to offer help to any of his peers that need assistance with their work.

**Grade 1/2 B (Ennor):**

Isaiah C. - For being an enthusiastic learner.

Eleanor S. - For being a caring, kind and helpful class member.

**Grade 3/4 A (McKerrow):**

Tyler H. - For a great job helping other students.

Skylah S. - For trying out for Junior School Council.

Jenika S. - For trying out for Junior School Council.

**Grade 3/4 B (Ryan):**

Nate B. - For being a kind and caring member of our school.

Mirabella N. - For having a fantastic start to the year.

Chase R. - For working hard on his fireman narrative.

**Grade 5/6 A (Price):**

Flynn H. - For his confident Junior School Council speech.

Willow L. - For her creative story ideas using characters.

**Grade 5/6 B (Reilly-Leel):**

Calvin F. - For a positive and confident start to the year.

Casey O. - For showing confidence in herself to try new things.

**Respect \* Personal Best \* Care**





**centavic**  
C L O T H I N G

**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 last week, Tuesday February 10<sup>th</sup>, that Centavic Clothing will be closing after nearly 50 years supplying uniforms in Bendigo. Their last day of trade will be Friday March 27<sup>th</sup>. They will however be accepting orders up to Friday February 27<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**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 28<sup>th</sup> 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.*



**DOGS CONNECT**  
RESTORING BALANCE

**Gratitude  
Empathy  
Mindfulness &  
Emotional Literacy**



**Respect \* Personal Best \* Care**

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# Hot Cross Bun Drive

This year we are offering members of our school community the chance to order Hot Cross Buns supplied to us by the Eaglehawk Hot Bake.

There are two varieties available Traditional and Chocolate. The Traditional Hot Cross Buns come in a six pack for \$8.00 each and the Chocolate Hot Cross Buns come in a 4 pack for \$7.00 each.

Please have your orders and money returned to school by **Wednesday March 25<sup>th</sup>**. Delivery will be Wednesday April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Order forms will be sent home with the youngest child in the family at California Gully Primary School.



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



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



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Aa Bb Cc Dd  
2 3 4 5 6 7 8

日本語

**Every Day Counts.**

Attending school every day means experiencing what counts - the learning, friendships, fun and opportunities that can shape their future.

The Education State

VICTORIA  
State Government



## 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/5UmDeRuSmd>

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](mailto:secretary@epsomfc.com.au) or [juniors@epsomfc.com.au](mailto:juniors@epsomfc.com.au) for more information  
[www.epsomfc.com.au](http://www.epsomfc.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

# 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 | [strikeretball@gmail.com](mailto:strikeretball@gmail.com)

Find us on Facebook  
@strikersnetball

## SAVE THE DATE



**Friday 15 May 2026**  
National Walk Safely to School Day

## School Photo Information

Are you ready for 2026 school photos?

California Gully Primary School  
Tuesday 17th March 2026

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

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Telephone: (03) 5243 4390  
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## COME & TRY CLASSES

Calisthenics combines **dancing, movement, flexibility, strength and performance** all in one exciting class! Build confidence, make new friends and have fun while learning skills that last a lifetime.

All classes held at: Strathdale Community Centre, Crook St, Strathdale

**Tinies (3–7 years)** – Wednesdays 4:15–5:30 pm  
**Sub Juniors (8–10 years)** – Mondays 4:15–6:30 pm  
**Juniors (11–13 years)** – Thursdays 4:15–6:30 pm  
**Intermediates (14–17 years)** – Mondays 6:30–8:30 pm  
**Seniors (17+ years)** – Tuesdays 6:30–9:30 pm  
**Masters (26+ years)** – Wednesdays 6:30–9:30 pm

**NEW MEMBERS WELCOME**  
**Two FREE Come & Try Classes!**

For enquiries: [admin@bendigocalisthenics.com](mailto:admin@bendigocalisthenics.com)  
 Find us on Facebook: **Bendigo Calisthenics Club Inc**



**Build your life-changing savings skills.**  
 And get up to \$500 for education costs.

1300 610 355  
[saverplus.org.au](http://saverplus.org.au)




**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](http://MOTHERSDAYCLASSIC.COM.AU)**



**BUNJIL BASKETBALL CLUB**

**JOIN BUNJIL BASKETBALL CLUB**  
 2026 SEASON STARTING SOON

**BOYS & GIRLS | AGES 8-17**

- Primary & Secondary Students Welcome
- All Skill Levels – Beginners to Experienced Players

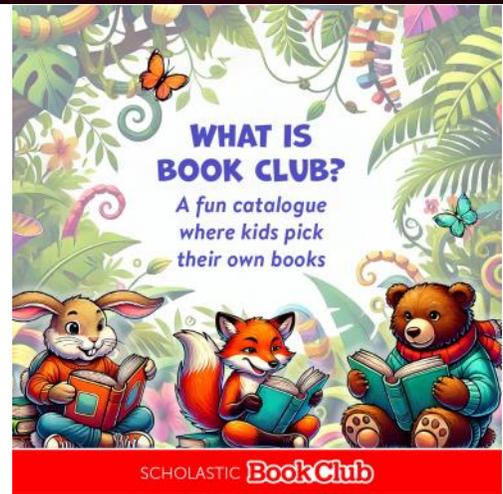
**WHY PLAY BUNJIL?**

- Inclusive & supportive club community
- Skill development & team pathways
- Build confidence, teamwork & fitness

**U10 | U12 | U14 | U16 | U18 | Men & Women**

**REGISTER NOW**

✉ **Maddie Clarke** | [maddyclarke@live.com.au](mailto:maddyclarke@live.com.au)  
**PLAY PROUD. PLAY STRONG. PLAY BUNJIL.**



**WHAT IS BOOK CLUB?**  
 A fun catalogue where kids pick their own books

SCHOLASTIC **BookClub**



**EAGLEHAWK JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB**

**REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN!**

**SEASON 2026**

U9 Mixed      U10 Mixed  
 U12 Boys      U12 Girls  
 U15 Girls

**[ejfc.com.au](http://ejfc.com.au)**

Multi-player family discounts available



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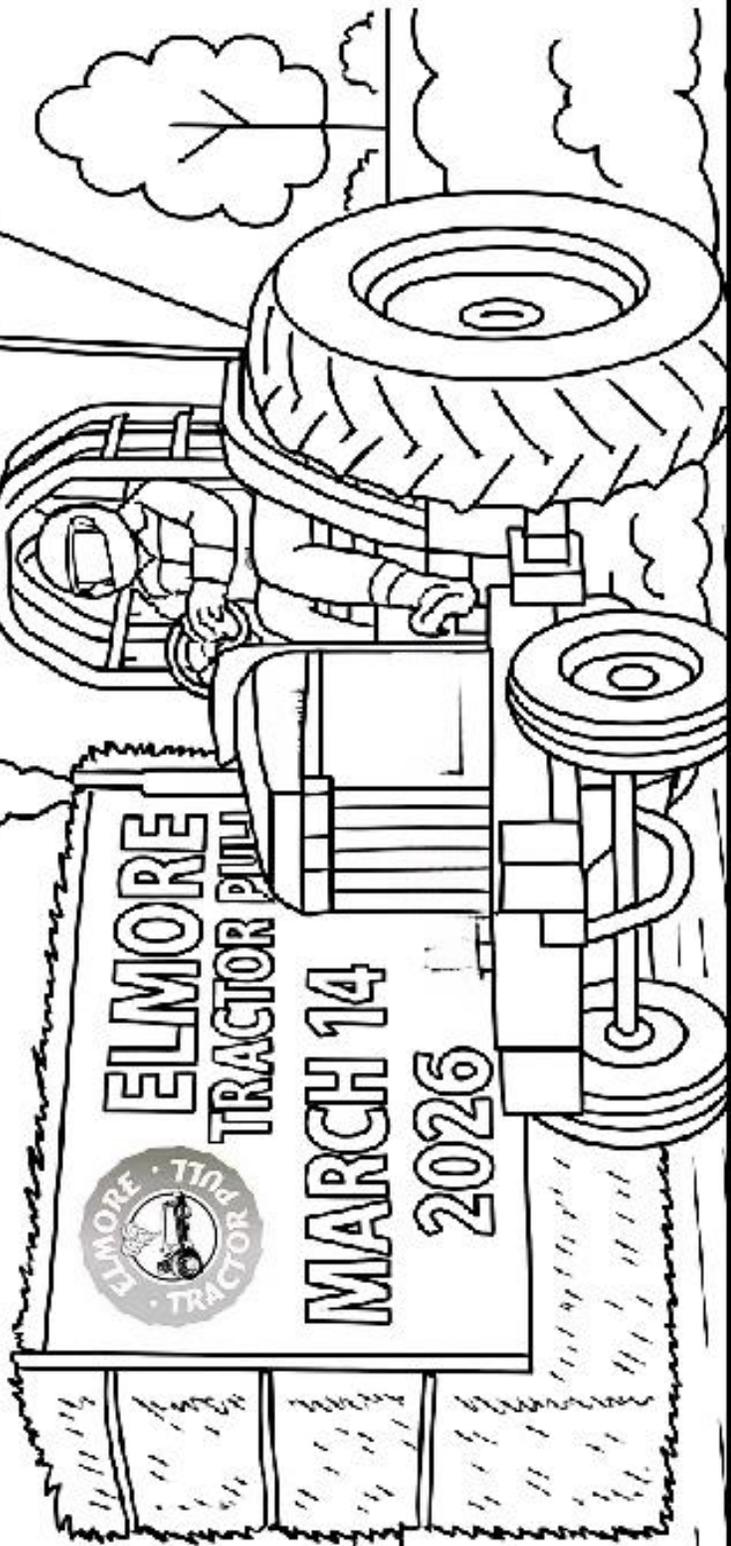
To report an absence through the school website you can use this link [Report an Absence](#)



# 2026 Elmore Tractor Pull



**McKEES**  
EST. 1925  
Garage and Engineering Pty Ltd



Please post to:  
Elmore Events Centre  
PO BOX 27, Elmore Vic  
3558

Or Scan to:  
[info@elmorefielddays.com.au](mailto:info@elmorefielddays.com.au)

Entries Close 8<sup>th</sup>  
March

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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