

The Bell Topper

California Gully Primary School 123

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Thursday February 5th, 2026

With our first full week nearly complete, a *huge* congratulations to all of our wonderful students, families, and staff for the amazing way everyone has settled in and hit the ground running — setting the stage for another fantastic year at CGPS!

CALIFORNIA GULLY PRIMARY SCHOOL BREAKFAST CLUB RETURNS IN 2026 - TUESDAY FEBRUARY 9th

We are pleased to welcome back Breakfast Club at CGPS on Tuesday mornings in 2026. Breakfast will be served from **8:15am**, with last orders at **8:45am**, ensuring students are settled and ready to begin learning in the classroom at 9:00am.

WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

Every Friday afternoon, our whole school comes together for assembly in the Community Centre, starting at **3:00pm**. We'll share helpful reminders, celebrate successes, and enjoy awards together. **Everyone is welcome**, and we'd love you to join us!

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

A friendly reminder to all families to be vigilant and take care during drop-off and pick-up each day. Please slow down to ensure the safety of all, be mindful of those using the crossing on Staley Street, and families that walking, riding or scooting within the community.

CALIFORNIA GULLY PRIMARY SCHOOL FOODSHARE

As a community we are extremely fortunate to have an ongoing relationship with Bendigo Foodshare. Every week our school receives a delivery of everyday pantry items for all families to access. The delivery usually consists of bread, fruit and vegetables, while there is often other goodies to enjoy.

CGPS Foodshare - every Thursday.

Where - In the CGPS 'Shed' at the end of the basketball court.

Time - from 3pm.

Please be respectful of the amount you take, it is important to remember it is for our whole community to access. All welcome!

We are grateful for the ongoing support to our community.

BUSHFIRE PREPARATIONS

With the predicted hot and dry summer now evident, comes the increased chance of bushfire. CGPS is working towards ensuring that in both planning within the Emergency Management Plan and our facilities are best prepared to respond safely and quickly in the event of fire within our community. Due to the proximity to bushland our school and OSHC service is listed on the Department of Education and Training's Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR). This means that our school will **close** on a day forecasted to be a **Catastrophic fire danger rating** in **North Western fire district**. To support understanding for all families, detailed information has been included within this newsletter and will be repeated over the coming weeks.

Respect * Personal Best * Care

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



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.

Schools and children's services listed on the Department of Education and Training's Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR) and those at some lower risk of bushfire or grassfire on the Category 4 list will be closed when a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast in their Bureau of Meteorology district.

Schools and early childhood services listed on the Department of Education and Training's Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR) and those at lower risk of bushfire or grassfire on the Category 4 list take pre-emptive actions on elevated fire danger days to minimise the risk of being caught in a fire in these conditions. The category of risk (per the BARR or Category 4 list) determines the actions that the school or early childhood service will need to take on days of elevated fire danger.

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**.

Fire danger ratings are forecast by the Bureau of Meteorology up to four days in advance. Should a Catastrophic day be forecast, we will notify you of the potential closure by email or hard copy letter and CGPS Facebook Page. 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.

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.

Families are encouraged to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan on Catastrophic fire danger rating days. **On such days, children should never be left at home alone or in the care of older children.**

For those of us living in a bushfire prone area, the Country Fire Authority (CFA) advises that when Catastrophic days are forecast, the safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Catastrophic day.

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As part of preparing our school for potential hazards such as fire, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan for 2023-24.

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 due to elevated fire danger or a Catastrophic fire forecast. Further information can be found on the [CFA's website](#).

Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers. Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters, checking our website

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.

Twitter (<https://twitter.com/vicemergency>)

ABC local radio, Sky News and other emergency broadcasters

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 4th 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.

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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.

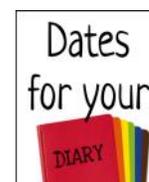
If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category.

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 9th** - Book Club Issue One Orders Due
- **Tuesday, February 10th** - School Council Meeting
- **Wednesday, February 11th** - Foundation Students Rest Day
- **Monday, February 16th** - School Council Nominations Open
- **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



Gratitude
Empathy
Mindfulness &
Emotional Literacy

RESILIENCE
PROJECT

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



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.

WHEN ARE BOOK CLUB ORDERS DUE?

ORDERS ARE DUE ON...
Monday
February 9th 2026

SCHOLASTIC
Book Club
We Reward Regular Readers—Every Issue.

ISSUE 1 2025

Includes Pizza Satisfy!

NEW! Escaping Peril
Perk must choose between loyalty to Clay or a new life. 224 pp. AGES 10+ \$19.99

NEW! Too Cool for School
Pizza and Taco want to be super-cool like the new kid! 72 pp. AGES 6+ \$7

HALF PRICE

SCHOLASTIC Book Club

Respect * Personal Best * Care

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



KICK START READING FOR 2026

A brand-new school year means brand-new stories waiting to be discovered! Get back into that school rhythm with Scholastic Books and make Term 1 the start of your school's best reading year yet!

Set some reading goals, and see how many adventures you can fit into the first term...

Start Strong: Explore a series that makes readers excited to get to the next book

Build The Brain: Dive into nonfiction books that spark curiosity and deepen knowledge

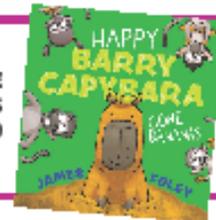
Genre Games: Explore a variety of different genres to open up new worlds

Finish Big: Celebrate milestones! How many books can your school can read this term?

AGES 3+

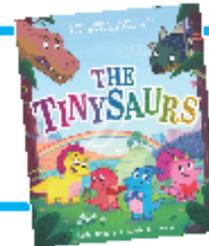
Happy Barry Capybara is the most chilled-out animal on the savannah. But when his friend the cheeky squirrel monkey, Harry, and his cousins are fighting over the last banana, Barry is left to decide who will get it. Which monkey will win the favour of Barry? Or will Barry have a new lesson to teach them about what it means to share?

GONE BANANAS
ITEM 010



AGES 6+

The tinysaurs are the smallest dinosaurs in the land: living in tunnels, foraging for food and hiding out of the way of big stomping feet and swooshing tails. Until one day, they discover a hidden entrance to ... The Enchanted Valley! Could this magical new world of sparkling lakes, ancient forests and mysterious creatures become their new home?



THE TINYSAURS
ITEM 016

AGES 8+

Ella is now in Year 6 and she is ready to take on the top year of primary school. And to make things even more exciting, it's time to vote for the school captain. But, yet again, her rival, Peach Parker is standing in her way. Will Peach use nasty tricks to win the votes? Or can Ella find a better way to win the top job? An all-new graphic novel adventure with everyone's favourite friend, Ella.

SCHOOL RIVALS
ITEM 006



AGES 10+

Piper is the daughter of two famous Hollywood actors and is sick of being followed by the paparazzi everywhere they go. So when she gets the opportunity to spend six months attending a regular high school, she grabs it with both hands.



*From the new Tween Romance Series Two Hearts.
Romantic fiction for young hearts.
Romance without the spice.*



ALL YOUR WISHES
ITEM 018

 SCHOLASTIC

REMIND STUDENTS WHEN TO
HAVE THEIR ORDERS PLACED BY:

Monday February 9th
2026

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SCHOLASTIC
Book Club LOOP
for Parents

Healthy reading habits are forged through Book Club.
Parents can order books easily through the
Scholastic **LOOP** platform.

- 1** Log in, or create a new account at [scholastic.com.au/ LOOP](https://scholastic.com.au/LOOP)
- 2** New parents can follow the Wizard to set up a child's profile
- 3** Click the ORDER tab, and select the child's school and Issue of Book Club
- 4** Select your child's name
- 5** Enter the product item number from the Book Club catalogue
- 6** Apply promotional codes that children may have earned from previous issues
- 7** Make a payment via credit card
- 8** Feel great about the Scholastic Rewards that have been earned for the school



ORDER TODAY
scholastic.com.au/LOOP



SCHOLASTIC

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





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



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

Issue 1 Closing Soon!

DON'T MISS THE FREE BOOK OFFER!

SCHOLASTIC Book Club

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



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 Weeroona Oval

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

AFL PLAY

Bendigo Community
Health Services

smalltalk
Learning goes better when you're all in it together



**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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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.

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.

SAVE THE DATE



Friday 15 May 2026
National Walk Safely to School Day



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