

# The Bell Topper

## California Gully Primary School 123

Volume 44 No. 1

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Thursday January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026

### 2026 WELCOME!

A very warm welcome to all new and existing families to the CGPS community for the 2026 school year. It was fantastic to see our Foundation students attend for the first time today, very excited and ready to go, while our Grade 1-6 students have been very settled, both in classrooms and the playground, ensuring all students are feeling connected and engaged to start the year.

**We look forward to another amazing year at CGPS!**

### 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.

### HOT WEATHER

With the prediction of very warm weather to continue over coming weeks we are reminding all families to please ensure your child has a drink bottle (water only) and hat with them at school for use each day. We have policies in place around extreme weather and it is important to note that it is likely that some of our breaks will be indoors for this reason.

### 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.

**Andrew Frawley**  
**CGPS Principal**

**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.



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.

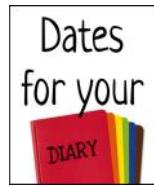
If your child is old enough, talk to them about bushfires and your family's Bushfire Survival Plan.

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

ABC local radio, Sky News and other emergency broadcasters

## **Dates for the Diary**

- **Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup>** - Foundation Students 12.30 p.m. Finish
- **Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup>** - Foundation Students 12.30 p.m. Finish
- **Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup>** - Foundation Students Rest Day
- **Monday, February 9<sup>th</sup>** - Book Club Issue One Orders Due
- **Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>** - Foundation Students Rest Day
- **Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>** - Foundation Students Rest Day
- **Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>** - Foundation Students Rest Day
- **Monday March 9<sup>th</sup>** - Labour Day Public Holiday



## **WELLBEING AND SUPPORT**

Welcome back to all existing and new parents to California Gully Primary School for 2026. My name is Kerryn 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.

*Kerryn 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 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.*

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

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



# Book Club

ISSUE 1

## 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 read this term?

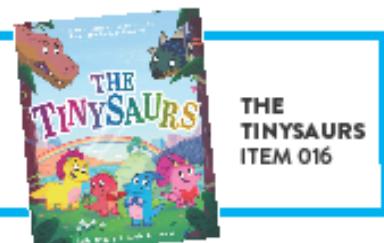
### AGES 3+

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?



### 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?



### 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.



### 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.



REMIND STUDENTS WHEN TO  
HAVE THEIR ORDERS PLACED BY:

Monday February 9<sup>th</sup>  
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](http://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](http://scholastic.com.au/LOOP)



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

lif mckern steel foundation  
[f](#) [in](#) [@](#)  
@mckernsteelfoundation

Made possible thanks to our Foundation Partners



**GET UP TO 3 FREE BOOKS**

See **LOOP** for the full list!

**Issue 1 is Now Open!**

Conditions apply. Redeemable once per issue, only on LOOP orders.

**SCHOLASTIC BookClub**

**Health Care Card**

Signature of cardholder

This card is NOT transferable. Services Australia, Government of Australia, as agent of the Department of Social Services

**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](http://saverplus.org.au)

**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>


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)

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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.

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.



**FRIDAY 15 MAY 2026**  
[WALK.COM.AU](http://WALK.COM.AU)



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