The Bell Topper

California Gully Primary School 123

Volume 44 No. 37

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 November 12th, 2026

SWIMMING PROGRAM

Our 'Water Safety Program' has been in full swing this week. It makes for a busy, yet very enjoyable week. It is great to see everyone doing their best, participating and enthusiasm and enjoyment. Thank you to all families for your support each day. Our final day of swimming will be tomorrow. Due to the Swimming Program, we will not hold an assembly tomorrow.



WATER BOTTLES

As the warmer weather becomes more consistent, we ask that children have a drink bottle to use in the classroom. It is important to keep hydrated by drinking water and equally is important not to have interruptions during learning time, needing to go to the bubble taps. Please only fill with water!

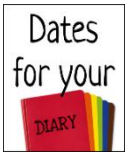
CALIFORNIA GULLY PRIMARY SCHOOL – TRANSITION PROGRAM (2026)

We are very excited to welcome our 2026 Foundation students and families for their 2nd transition visit in preparation for next year and will include an information session for parents/carers This visit will occur on: Orientation Session 2: **Thursday November 19th, 9.15 -10.45am.**

STUDENT UNIFORM

On Thursday November 19th, Equal Threads will be at school for parents/carers to look at the student uniform options and they have a chance to get their children to try on the uniform, so they know what size they need to order. Equal Threads will be set up in the Conference Room opposite the office, on Thursday morning for all parent/carers to have an opportunity to see what is available from their on-line store.

TERM FOUR – CURRICULUM DAYS



Please make a note in the diary that **Friday November 20th** is a Curriculum Day for all staff to support Assessment and Reporting.

On **Friday December 11th**, staff will focus on a range of areas including 2027 planning, the CGPS Teaching model. Please note that students will not attend school on either day.

Andrew Frawley
CGPS Principal





To report an absence through the school website you can use this link Report an Absence

Dates for the Diary

- **Monday November 9th to Friday November 13th -** Water Safety Program
- **Friday November 13th** - Book Club Issue Eight Orders Due
- **Tuesday November 17th** - GTAC Excursion – Grades Five and Six
- **Wednesday November 18th** - Echuca Excursion – Foundation to Grade Two Students
- **Thursday November 19th** - Foundation 2027 Transition Day Two 9.15 a.m. to 10.45 a.m.
- **Thursday November 19th** - Equal Threads Uniform Visit for Uniform Sizing
- **Friday November 20th** - Student Free Day – Assessment and Report Writing
- **Thursday November 26th** - Werribee Open Range Zoo Excursion - Grades Three and Four
- **Tuesday December 8th** - Statewide Orientation Day
- **Friday December 11th** - Student Free Day – 2027 Planning Day
- **Friday December 18th** - Final Day of 2026 School Year

SCHOOL ARRIVAL TIMES AND EARLY COLLECTION

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. *Before School Care is available if dropping off children before 8.40 a.m. Enrolment details are found later in the newsletter.*

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

Early Collection: If your child needs to be collected early from school, please do not go to the classroom to collect your child. All children must be collected from the office. If you would like to collect your child early from school, please let the office and your child's classroom teacher know at least 30 minutes prior to collection, but preferably before the start of the school day.

To support Child Safe and OHS procedures, we ask that everyone respects this request.

Thank you for your care and understanding.



Gratitude
Empathy
Mindfulness &
Emotional Literacy

California Gully Primary School – School Uniform

Our school uniform supplier, State Schools Relief (SSR), has rebranded its online store to Equal Threads which will continue to provide quality, affordable uniforms while supporting students across Victoria.

Our school uniform range, ordering process and service all remain the same. Families can continue to easily find and purchase items using the familiar 'Shop by School' option on the new website.

Every purchase made through Equal Threads helps support students experiencing disadvantage with the essentials they need to feel confident, included, and ready to learn.

Visit the new website at

https://www.equalthreads.org.au/collections/california-gully-ps

Our preferred uniform supplier, State Schools Relief Online Store has now rebranded to Equal Threads. While they may look a little bit different, they are still the same social enterprise, returning all funds to State Schools Relief to support students experiencing disadvantage.

Equal Threads will be attending our Prep Transition Day on November 19th, providing families with two options to purchase uniforms.

1. **Order on the day: Sizing sets**

Equal Threads will have uniform sizing sets available on the day, to assist families before they place their own online orders. Postage fees will apply.

2. **Available for purchase on the day**

A limited selection of uniform items will be available to purchase on the day including short sleeve polo shirts, hats, Harper dresses, and navy shorts.

As a social enterprise, Equal Threads returns all funds to State Schools Relief to support students experiencing disadvantage.





Congratulations to the following students on being named

Student of The Week

for their positive attitude to school and social values.

Friday November 6th

Foundation A (Hinton):

Miriam E. - For her expressive reading.
Adalyn M. - For excellent reading fluency and re-reading.

Foundation B (Tonkin):

Alexander H. - For modeling addition strategies.
Haizley H. - For fantastic independent writing.

Grade 1/2 B (Ennor):

Aria D. - For great out loud reading.
Aarlo T. - For being a keen contributor in discussion time.

Grade 1/C (Leed):

William C. - For participating well in Mindfulness activities.
Eleanor F. - For being a kind, caring and helpful class member.

Grade 3/4 A (McKerrow):

Zoe B. - For thoughtful answers to difficult questions.

Skylah S. - For excellent work in math lessons.

Grade 3/4 B (Ryan):

Nate B. - For his excellent work practicing mindfulness with Kath.

Amity H. - For her excellent persuasive arguments in writing.

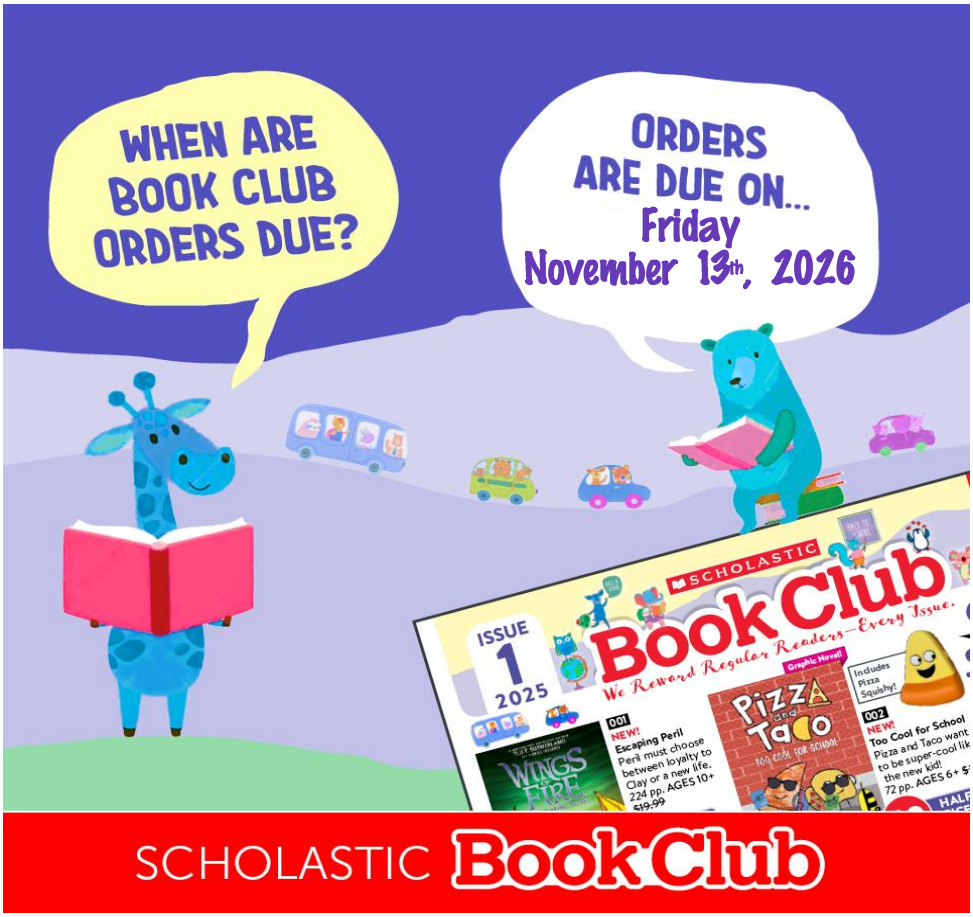
Grade 5/6 A (Price):

Melia M. - For her confident reading and challenging herself.













We are SunSmart
- a note for families

Too much of the sun's ultraviolet (UV) radiation can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer.

UV damage accumulated during childhood and adolescence is associated with an increased risk of skin cancer later in life. Skin cancer is the most common cancer in Australia. It is also one of the most preventable cancers.

You can't see or feel the sun's UV. Whatever the weather, if the UV levels are three or more, it's important to *Slip, Slop, Slap, Seek and Slide*!

Sun protection times



Don't just wait for hot and sunny days to use sun protection. Check the sun protection times each day so your family can be protected when they need to be.

Daily local sun protection times and weather details are available from the SunSmart widget on our school website, in the weather section of the newspaper, on the SunSmart website at sunsmart.com.au and as a free SunSmart app. Sun protection times can also be found at the Bureau of Meteorology website and live UV levels are available from ARPANSA.

SunSmart membership

Our school is a registered member of Cancer Council Victoria's SunSmart Schools Program. We aim to protect students and staff from too much UV.

Sun protection and skin cancer prevention is a shared responsibility. Please help support our SunSmart membership and sun protection efforts by ensuring your child follows the SunSmart measures included in our policy at school and at home.

During the daily local sun protection times (usually from mid-August to the end of April), ***use these* 5 SunSmart steps – *even if it's cool and cloudy.***

1. *SLIP* on covering clothing



For free dress days, ensure your child wears clothing that covers as much skin as possible (e.g. elbow length tops with a higher neckline or collar and longer style shorts or skirts). Densely woven fabrics are best.

2. *SLOP* on SPF50+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen

Apply a generous amount of sunscreen at the start of the day and make sure children have sunscreen in their bag ready to reapply throughout the day. Sunscreen should be reapplied every two hours. Please ensure children get plenty of sunscreen application practice at home so they'll be all set when they are at school. Under supervision, ask children to put a dot of sunscreen on each cheek, nose and chin and rub it in (avoiding the eye area) and sunscreen squiggles or dots on the back of the neck, arms and legs to cover these areas.

3. *SLAP* on a hat that protects the face, neck and ears

Choose a wide-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket hat. Peak caps and visors do not offer enough UV protection so please leave them at home. Please help your child remember to bring and wear their approved ***school hat***. Please keep this at school so they will always be ready for outdoor activities, outdoor learning and play during school days. For the walk to and from school and weekends, please have an extra ***home hat*** to help keep children protected at home.

4. *SEEK* shade

Choose shady spots for learning and play whenever possible.

5. *SLIDE* on wrap-around AS1067 sunglasses

When appropriate and practical, help protect the eyes with sunglasses.

Need information in another language? *Call 13 14 50 and ask to be connected to Cancer Council Victoria in your language*

sunsmart.com.au

Cancer Council Victoria

VICTORIA State Government

To report an absence through the school website you can use this link Report an Absence





Do you have a horse-loving child?

Unmounted Group Children's Session

Sunday 15 November • 9:30 am – 11:30 am

These sessions run monthly • Places limited

Ideal for children who want to learn about horses in a small, friendly group environment.

This 2-hour educational session includes:

- Learning about horses and different riding disciplines
- Practising balance skills to improve stability in the saddle
- Visiting the horses (and sometimes a newborn foal!)
- Having fun and making new friends
- Building confidence and more

Children up to approximately 12 years

$80 per participant

• No riding in this group session • Private riding lessons available on a waitlist
• Bookings are essential

Message Emma on 0416 820 828 to book

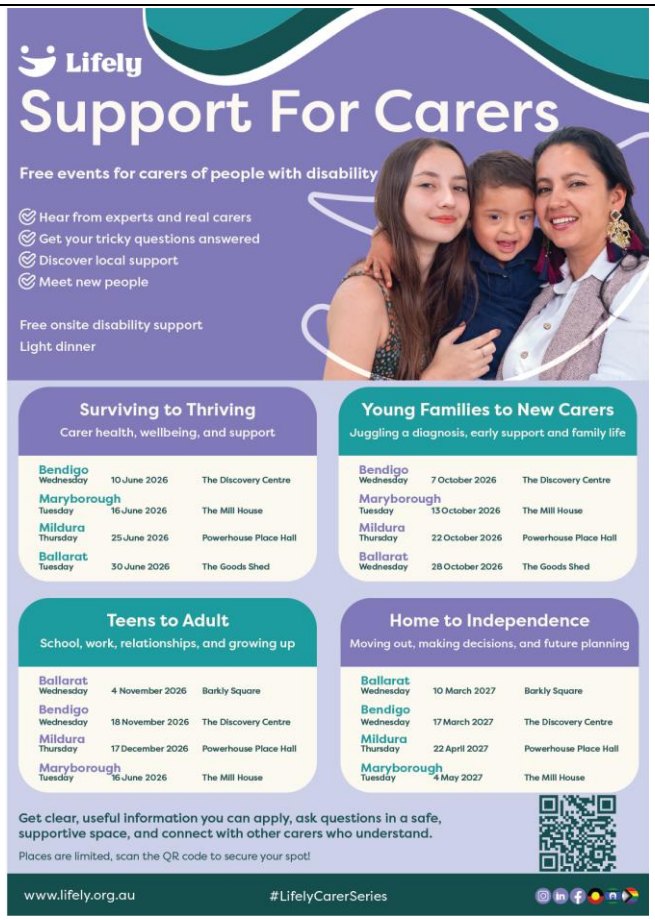
School holiday program coming soon — follow Senjhoo Park on Facebook for details

Located in Sebastian

Led by a Level 1 Trainer & Qualified Coach

Registered Business • Fully Insured • Working With Children Check • First Aid Certified

Safe • Educational • Fun


Lifely
Support For Carers
Free events for carers of people with disability
Hear from experts and real carers
Get your tricky questions answered
Discover local support
Meet new people
Free onsite disability support
Light dinner
Surviving to Thriving
Carer health, wellbeing, and support
Bendigo Wednesday 10 June 2026 The Discovery Centre
Maryborough Tuesday 16 June 2026 The Mill House
Mildura Thursday 25 June 2026 Powerhouse Place Hall
Ballarat Tuesday 30 June 2026 The Goods Shed
Young Families to New Carers
Juggling a diagnosis, early support and family life
Bendigo Wednesday 7 October 2026 The Discovery Centre
Maryborough Tuesday 13 October 2026 The Mill House
Mildura Thursday 22 October 2026 Powerhouse Place Hall
Ballarat Wednesday 28 October 2026 The Goods Shed
Teens to Adult
School, work, relationships, and growing up
Ballarat Wednesday 4 November 2026 Barkly Square
Bendigo Wednesday 18 November 2026 The Discovery Centre
Mildura Thursday 17 December 2026 Powerhouse Place Hall
Maryborough Tuesday 16 June 2026 The Mill House
Home to Independence
Moving out, making decisions, and future planning
Ballarat Wednesday 10 March 2027 Barkly Square
Bendigo Wednesday 17 March 2027 The Discovery Centre
Mildura Thursday 22 April 2027 Powerhouse Place Hall
Maryborough Tuesday 4 May 2027 The Mill House
Get clear, useful information you can apply, ask questions in a safe, supportive space, and connect with other carers who understand.
Places are limited, scan the QR code to secure your spot!
www.lifely.org.au
#LifelyCarerSeries


Are you supporting a family member or friend with disability, mental illness, age or health issues?
Even if it's just for a few hours every week, you could be a young carer.
This may look like....
Going with them to appointments or helping with medication
Cleaning the house or helping with other chores
Providing emotional support when someone feels sad
Taking care of younger siblings
Being a young carer might feel lonely. But you're not alone.
Carer Gateway has free support for young carers aged 25 and under.
Carer Gateway may support you with things like help at home, young carer social events, counselling or study help.
Scan to learn more
Free support, call now!
1800 422 737
carergateway.gov.au
Carer Gateway
Holstep Health
HEALTH


LEGO MANIA
BUILD & CREATE
"Friends" LEGO City Community Build
Join us at the Red Door Community Centre for an exciting LEGO building event!
Help us create an amazing community LEGO display that will be showcased in our shop window for all to enjoy.
SPORTZRULZ AUSTRALIA
ALL ABILITIES WELCOME
SAFE & SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT
MAKE NEW FRIENDS
GET CREATIVE
We can't wait to build something incredible with you!
Register your interest now for September school holidays with the QR code.
$7.50 per hour
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www.sportzrulz.com.au


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where Kids love to be!
California Gully Primary School
Bookings now open!
Cancellation Fee
Late Booking Fee
Late Pick-up Fee
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Save up to 90% with child care subsidy
To register visit theircare.com.au
Book Now
TheirCare support team is available between 6.30am - 9pm weekdays (Eastern Standard Time)
on 1300 072 410 or info@theircare.com.au

Anglicare Victoria



EARLY HELP FAMILY SERVICES

Early Help Family Services is here to support you and your family in your community and be available where you live, work, learn and play.

Early Help is available to parents/caregivers and families with children from birth to 18 years.

Early Help can provide;

- Individual support for families and caregivers
- Safe and confidential parenting groups
- Connection to peer support groups
- Support, information and referrals to help with parenting, child/adolescent behaviour, housing, family problems, mental health and disability

"GETTING THE RIGHT SUPPORT EARLY CAN MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE"

Want to know more? Please speak with your Early Help Family Worker or speak with a school staff member who can refer you to the Early Help Family worker.

Early Help Family Worker

Imogyn O'Neill

Contact
0417 189 640

Email
Imogyn.oneill@anglicarevic.org.au

Location
Bendigo

Anglicare Victoria, Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA) and Tweddle Child and Family Health Service deliver Early Help to families in the West Melbourne area.

VACCA

PARTNERSHIP LOGOS

PARTNERSHIP LOGOS

PARTNERSHIP LOGOS

BETTER TOMORROWS

anglicarevic.org.au


Do you know which junior sports are available in Bendigo, when they are played and when to register?
Visit
www.sportsfocus.com.au
Check out the
Bendigo Junior Sports Calendar
for all the information
SPORTS FOCUS
SAFE • WELCOMING • INCLUSIVE


TheirCare
Where Kids love to be!
Up to 90% of Child Care costs can be covered by Child Care Subsidy!
Enrolments Now Open!
Enrolments are now open for families to enrol.
Enrolments are completed online at www.theircare.com.au and usually takes approx. 15 to 20 minutes to complete.
See FAQs on our website
theircare.com.au/families