

The Bell Topper

California Gully Primary School 123

Volume 43 No. 31

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Thursday October 9th 2025

TERM FOUR— WELCOME

We would like to welcome all students and families back after the holiday break. We are looking forward to a fun filled term with lots of learning, activities, and celebration as we (incredibly) move towards the end of 2025!

BIKETOBER (OCTOBER 6th—OCTOBER 31st)

Biketober is a fun, friendly competition to get more students, parents and staff travelling actively to school, by walking, bus, biking, or scooting. Each CGPS class will complete a weekly tally and compete to see which can get the most students travelling actively school over the month. We will provide further information.



ACTIVE TRAVEL INITIATIVE

Over the past 12 months, we have been fortunate to have Kellie and Jo supporting our Active Travel Initiative in partnership with the City of Greater Bendigo (CoGB). Their involvement has helped promote safe, healthy, and active ways for our students and families to travel to and from school.

Some of the fantastic activities, events, and resources they have supported include:

- The purchase of scooters, ramps, a bike repair station and balance bikes.
- Rampfest sessions with Harrison (Whole School)
- Bike Maintenance activities (Grade 5/6's)
- New signage, including updates around the Rose Street Playground
- Active travel maps and Road safety sessions
- Biketober – this month!
- Active Travel Ambassadors (ATA). Supporting the development of leadership skills of Immy, Pippa M, Zac and Ethan. Our ambassadors have been amazing in promoting and organising special activities to build on 'Walk Safety to School' and Ride2School Day.

We sincerely thank Kellie and Jo for their ongoing support and commitment to promoting active, sustainable travel within our school community. We would love any Grade 3-6 Parents to complete the survey found in this week's newsletter.

SUNSMART - HATS

In Term 4 the 'No Hat No Play' policy will be always followed. Hats can be purchased from Centavic Clothing, or a Navy-Blue Bucket/wide brim is fine.



SNAKE AND REPTILE SAFETY

Although the weather is unpredictable at present, we have had glimpses of the warmer weather and this often means local wildlife becomes more active. We have a range of reptiles either living or passing by our school grounds on a regular basis and it is essential the safety of all students and animals is our focus. At present classrooms are discussing the important steps if we come across wildlife and the most appropriate way to respond. We regularly have 'Sand Monitors' (Sand Goanna, Gould's Monitor), snakes, blue tongue and stumpy tails. We ask children to always be vigilant, and encourage you to have conversations at home, particularly if your family ride, walk or skate to school.

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ASTHMA & ALLERGIES

If children need medication for Hay Fever and/or allergies through the school day please bring it to the school office, clearly named with pharmacy label attached. Make sure that the medication is in date. Inform the school office if your child has been medicated before school on any particular day. If your child is asthmatic please provide an up-to-date asthma plan, medication available at school and, if appropriate, a spacer.



WATER BOTTLES

As the weather warms up 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!

BUSHFIRE PREPERATIONS

It is predicted that it will be a long, hot and dry summer, and with this the increased chance of bushfire. CGPS are 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 as **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 continue over the coming weeks.

CALIFORNIA GULLY PRIMARY SCHOOL - FOUNDATION TRANSITION PROGRAM (2026)

We are very excited to welcome our 2026 Foundation students and families for their first transition visit in preparation for next year. This visit will occur on:

Orientation Session 1: **Tuesday 21st October, 9.15 -10.45am**

Andrew Frawley
CGPS Principal

Dates for the Diary

- **Wednesday October 15th -** Book Club Issue Seven Orders Due
- **Tuesday October 21st -** Transition Session One—Foundation 2026
- **Thursday October 23rd -** Mango Orders Due Back
- **Wednesday October 29th -** Bendigo Cup Day Public Holiday
- **Monday November 10th to Friday November 14th -** Swimming Program
- **Thursday November 20th -** Grades Five & Six BioLAB Excursion
- **Thursday November 20th -** Transition Session Two—Foundation 2026
- **Tuesday December 9th -** Statewide Transition Day
- **Friday December 19th -** Last Day of 2025 School Year

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



**Do you have a child
in grades 3-6?
Tell us how they get
to school now.**

**Take the Kids Active
Travel End Survey**



Now that the Kids Active Travel Program has ended, tell us again how your grades 3-6 child gets to school and what you think about your child walking or riding.

COMPLETE A SHORT ONLINE SURVEY

1. Scan the QR code
2. Read the instructions
3. Answer the questions
4. Submit



The survey will close in a week.

You can also access the survey at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CaliforniaGullyParentEnd>

ABOUT THE SURVEY

Our school has been participating in the Kids Active Travel Program, so that we can assist more students in Grades 3-6 to walk or ride to school safely. Now that the program has ended, we want to find out what's changed about how your child gets to school and your views on active travel to school.

The survey is being run by the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions, which funds the Kids Active Travel Program. Any information you provide will be confidential. More information is available by scanning the QR code.





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 an 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 2024-25.

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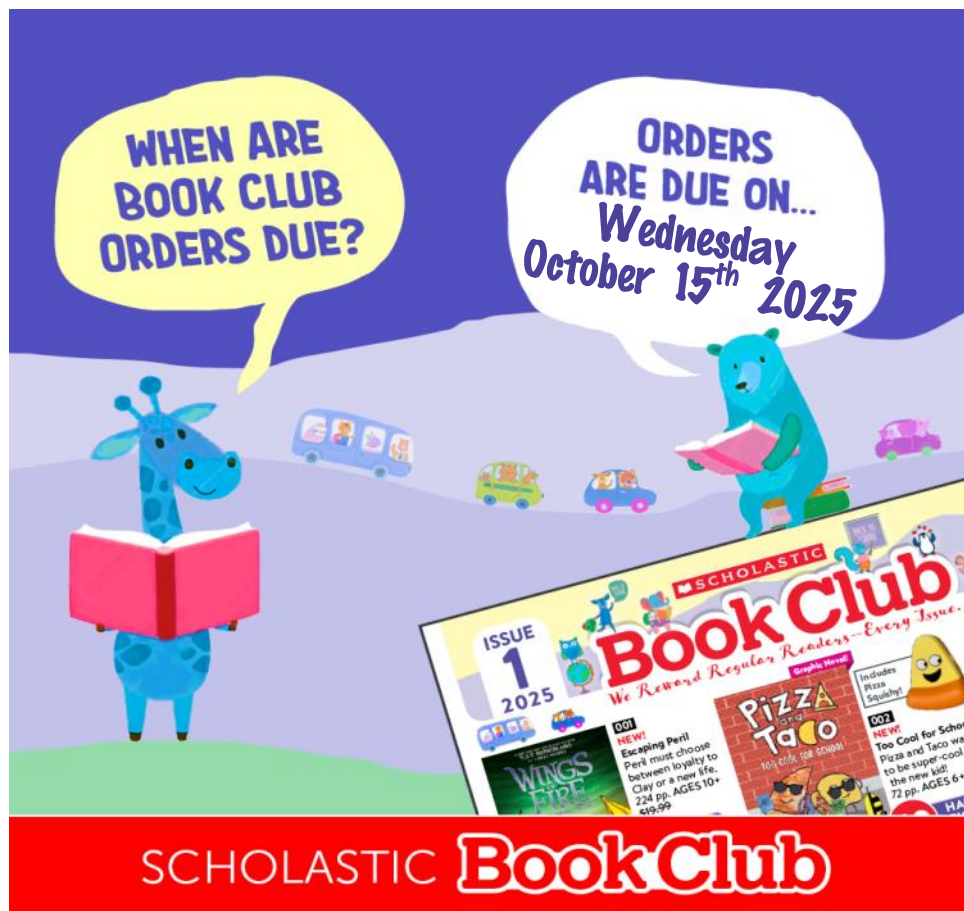
SCHOOL ARRIVAL TIMES

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.

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

LOST PROPERTY

We have a large number of jumpers in lost property at the moment, unfortunately many items are un-named so makes it very difficult to return to owners. The Lost Property Basket is located outside the community centre to provide an opportunity for children, parents and carers to collect any missing uniform. We also remind families to please name all lunch boxes, drink bottles and clothing worn to school.



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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



Supported playgroup

California Gully Primary School

A free, fun playground for parents/carers and children to learn together

Fridays 9.50-11.30am
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

FREE FUNLOONG FUN DAY!

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT
Saturday October 18, 2025
11am to 2pm
Hargreaves Mall and Williamson Street

Join us to celebrate Children's Week with a range of **FREE** fun activities and live entertainment for children and families to enjoy! Scan the QR code for more information about this inclusive event.

This event is proudly sponsored by:

ISSUE 7 CLOSING SOON!

DON'T MISS THE **FREE Book offer!**

SCHOLASTIC BookClub

GET UP TO 3 Free Books

ISSUE 7 IS NOW OPEN

Books belong on every wishlist!

See LOOP for the full list!

SCHOLASTIC BookClub

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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 September 19th

Grade 3/4 A (McKerrow):

Tyer H. - As an excellent helper for Mrs. Mac.
Rueben T. - For excellent work with arrays.

Grade 5/6 A (Price):

Knox S. - For his great research skills and brochure work.
Hahlia S. - For being a helpful and friendly classmate.

Grade 5/6 B (Windridge-Lee):

Hezekiah B-S. - For working hard on his country project and book trailer.
Amber C. - For working hard on her country project.
Alyrah C. - For working hard on her country project.

BENDIGO AUSKICK AND SUPERKICK TERM 4 PROGRAM

EPSOM HUNTLY REC RESERVE - MONDAYS FOR 5 WEEKS
STARTING 20TH OF OCTOBER - \$55 INCLUDES A FOOTBALL

nab AFL Auskick
5-6 year olds

Come find your awesome at NAB AFL Auskick. An introductory program to Australian rules football, teaching skills through fun activities and mini games.

AFL Superkick
7-12 year olds

Level up your footy with skills and modified match play in weekly sessions. NAB AFL Superkick is tackle-free and great for Auskick grads and newbies alike.

VISIT PLAY.AFL

Creating cooperation and connection

WITH **Lael Stone**

Raising children is hard.
One of the greatest challenges in parenting is getting children to cooperate. How can we do this without using punishments, rewards or coercion?

This talk will explore other ways to help children to cooperate while keeping our connection strong. It explores the benefits of play and connection and gives practical ideas and strategies to use with your child.

- The impact of punishment and rewards
- The power of play for healing and connection
- Take home ideas to use with children
- Ways to stop yelling and start connecting
- Healthy boundaries

Lael Stone is an educator, TEDx speaker, author, mother, and parenting coach who has been working with families for over 20 years. Her work as a birth educator, post-natal trauma counsellor, and parenting educator has seen her work with thousands of families connecting about newborn all the way to the teen years.

The Details // Tuesday 28 Oct 2025
7:00 - 8:30pm
The Capital Theatre, Bendigo
Hosted by Loddon Mallee Regional Parenting
Tickets: \$10 (inc booking fee)

FOR MORE INFO WWW.GOTIX.COM.AU | TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE

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Communities for Children

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GIRLS & BOYS ALL AGES AND SKILLS

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juniorcoordinator@mgsccricket.club
Murr 04133 61 550

MAIDEN GULLY MARIST CRICKET CLUB

**Gratitude
Empathy
Mindfulness &
Emotional Literacy**



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Order forms were sent home with children
on Tuesday September 9th.



Fresh North Queensland Mangoes

Direct from the farm to you!

Support Our Mango Fundraiser

If you *love mangoes*, here's your chance to indulge in fresh juicy Kensington Pride mangoes and support our fundraising drive.

California Gully Primary School is selling trays of mangoes picked and packed during the premium harvest.

Cost per Tray is: **\$28.00** (14 to 23 Mangoes per tray dependent on size)

Place your order by: **Thursday October 23rd 2025**

For Further information contact:

Nicole Cooper

CALIFORNIA GULLY PRIMARY SCHOOL
No. 123

P.O. Box 88, Staley Street, California Gully, 3556
Phone: 03 5446 8393 Fax: 03 5446 3115



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