



Grow with Respect

The Davallian

7th November 2025

No. 17

In this issue

- Principal's Message
- Associate Principal's Message
- Chaplains Corner
- School Notices
- Community Notices

Dear Parents and Community Members,

How good was yesterday's Brainiac Bootcamp assembly? Miss O'Neil's Year 2's from A4 were simply amazing, sharing their knowledge about the brain and how learning and making mistakes all help our brains to grow. They also reminded us about how important it is to have a positive growth mindset and how the word 'yet' is so important! Well done A4 and Miss O'Neill on a fabulous assembly.



Our next assembly will be presented by our awesome Pre-Primaries on the 20th of November. Pre-Primary assemblies are always such a lot of fun, and we can hardly wait to see them perform before they graduate into the 'big' school next year.

Stargazing

Last Thursday evening, our Year 5's returned to school to enjoy a night of Star Gazing with Hayden and Daniel from the Gravity Discovery Centre. They brought with them 3 telescopes, which allowed our students to see some amazing things. One of the highlights of the night was the viewing the colours of the planet Saturn, with students being able to clearly see the rings around the planet as well. As always, the moon was on display and the students loved seeing all the moon's surface craters. The night was a great success. A huge thank you to our Year 5 staff for organising an awesome evening.



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SMS student absences to
0408 924 839

Principal's Message (continued)

Year 6 Rottnest Camp

Well it's here! Probably the most enjoyable week of the school year for me. It's a week where I get to be the 'dad' for our Year 6 cohort! What have they got themselves into! Next week, 74 Year 6 students and 8 staff will travel to Rottnest Island for the annual Year 6 camp. With a mix of nervousness and excitement (and that's not just the staff!), we leave Hillarys Boat Harbor at 7.30am to start the adventure. During our time at camp, we will be learning about the history of the island, observe and learn about the flora and fauna on the island, and even hear about some myths and mysteries of years gone by! We will circumnavigate the island by boat, which is like a rollercoaster on water! We may also have a bit of fun along the way riding, swimming and beach combing! Year 6's, if you think hoops, snakes and drop bears are something to be worried about, I'd be watching out for a few of the staff as well!



These days, not many primary schools provide their students with a 4-day camping experience, as this only occurs due to the willingness of staff to attend and put their own personal lives on hold. So, a massive thank you to Mrs Kuenen, Miss Barratt, Miss Webster, Ms Ferry, Mr Ekert, Mr Callow and Mr Leaning for being willing to give the Year 6's an experience they will never forget.

School Development Days -aka 'Davallia' Long Weekend

Our next School Development Days are today and Monday 10th November creating for some, a 4 day weekend. Students do not attend school on these days. Staff will be participating in Professional Learning throughout the two days, discussing curriculum matters and engaging in forward planning.

2026 Class Placement Requests

This week parents will have received an email regarding class placements in 2026. Please ensure you are aware of the criteria stated in the email which determines class placements in any given year. Requests to have or not to have specific teachers will not be considered, nor will requests to have students placed with their friends. The friendship process happens later in the year when students are asked to nominate 5 friends they may wish to be considered to be placed with. The school will guarantee at least 1 of these friends will be placed in the class with the student. This does not form part of the Class Placement Request process. Class Placement Requests must be received via email before 3.10pm Friday 14th November 2025. In fairness to all, late requests will not be considered.

Family Fun Night – 28th November 2025

Mark this date in your calendar and plan to attend. Lots of fun to be had, music, games, food trucks, bouncy castle, silent auction, dunk tank and much, much more. Come along and make this community event a night to remember.

Have a great fortnight

John O'Neill
Principal

Key Dates Coming Up

7th & 10th November – School Development Days
11th – 14th November Year Six Rottnest Camp
17th November Year One Beach Clean Up
20th November Pre-Primary Assembly
25th November 5/6 Band excursion
28th November Family Fun Night
4th December Kindy Assembly
9th December P&C AGM (wine & cheese and raffle draw)



Associate Principal's Message

A Camping We Will Go

It's hard to believe it's been over fifteen years since Mr O'Neill first promised an excited bunch of graduating students an overseas adventure to cap off their Primary School days. True to his word, our principal has kept that promise alive and once again this year, the tradition continues.

Since those early days, Rottnest has become our much-loved camp destination, and it's easy to see why. It offers the perfect blend of learning, challenge, and pure Western Australian beauty. The island's environmental and historical education program is top-notch, and with the support of the local guides, our teachers deliver an experience that's rich, varied, and unforgettable.

And then, of course, there's the landscape itself breathtaking, yes, but not without its tests. The students soon discover that "Rotto" hills can make legs and bottoms ache in places they didn't know existed! Still, every climb and every ride along the sparkling coastline is rewarded with a dip in the turquoise waters.

This year's camp crew includes the Year Six teachers Mrs Barratt, Mr Callow, Mr Ekert, and Mrs Kuenen, joined by Mrs Ferry, Miss Webster, Mr O'Neill, and yours truly. Together, we've packed the four days with as much adventure as possible. Alongside biking and swimming, our Year Sixes will be geocaching, visiting historic sites to uncover the island's fascinating past, and speeding around the island by boat. And, of course, no camp would be complete without a little reality check tidying, cleaning, and learning that mops and brooms don't work themselves. It's amazing how many eleven-year-olds discover, often for the first time, that tables don't wipe themselves either!

For many students, this will be their very first time spending several nights away from home and that, in itself, is a huge step. Like swimming lessons, camp offers those small but important challenges that build independence, confidence, and resilience. It's the kind of learning we simply can't replicate in the classroom.

As for the staff well, let's just say it's not all sunsets and serenity. We absolutely love camp, but it's demanding work. By Friday, we'll be running on caffeine and borrowed smiles, worn out but happy. Meanwhile, our families back home will be holding the fort without us. When my own children were little, my absence on camp week wasn't easy on them or my wife but the value for our students has always made it worthwhile.

So, off to camp we go! Wish us luck, and we'll see you next week.

But a word of advice: when we get back, don't ask *too many* questions. After all... what happens on camp, stays on camp.

Mark Leaning
Associate Principal

Chaplain's Corner

Term 4 at Davallia is always very exciting because there is so much to tick off our calendar and because we begin to see the end of year approaching.

As the end of year draws nearer, some students may be feeling excited, while others may be feeling a little nervous, for what is ahead of them next year.

Feeling nervous about this is normal. It means it's something new and at times unknown. When something is familiar, we are naturally comfortable with it, but at times when we face the unknown, we may feel a bit uncomfortable.

Studies show that when we are outside of our comfort zone, – it is often where we grow.

If you notice that your child/children are experiencing nervous feelings about the end of the year and about what is ahead:

- ⇒ Encourage them to focus on persevering. Persevering through a situation, even when it feels uncomfortable, builds resilience.
- ⇒ Encourage them to focus on the excitement of something new coming up. Focusing on the feeling of excitement may mean they focus less on the nervous feeling.
- ⇒ Encourage them to remain positive. Discuss the positive aspects of a new year and the adventures it may bring.

As a result, when next year comes, students will grow stronger academically and physically and will likely become more resilient and confident.

Our Year 6 students are a great example of students that have stepped outside of their comfort zones this year and have grown significantly. Recently, the Year 6 students held their final assembly item, and they highlighted how they are all looking forward to their future and all the possibilities ahead.

As a school community, let's follow their example of courage, stepping outside our comfort zone and encouraging our younger Davallian children to do the same.

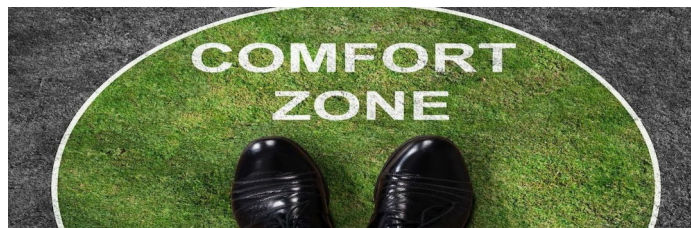
I hope all the Year 6 students have a wonderful and memorable time at Camp next week!

Mrs Carolina

Davallia Primary School Chaplain

At school on: Monday & Thursday

carolina.lopez@education.wa.edu.au



“Whatever makes you uncomfortable is your biggest opportunity for growth! Bryant McGill

School Notices



Dear Parents & Carers

Campion is the school resource supplier for Davallia Primary School (WA).

Please order online by 21-Nov-25 to get first choice of school needs and best available handling costs.

Please head to: order.campion.com.au

School resource code: X2RR

Family help:

The Campion Parent Hub includes How to Order video & How to Order PDFs in 11 languages: campion.com.au/parents/how-to-order/

FAQs: campion.com.au/support-help/support/

Email help@campion.com.au

Tel 1300 433 982

Community Notices

Care For Kids @ Davallia Primary School

Care for Kids OSHC run a great program on site at Davallia Primary School. Qualified carers, great activities, afternoon tea, ECRU accredited. To book, please call 9246 9551 or email the centre duncraigoshc@careforkidswa.net.au

