



Grow with Respect

# The Davallian

13th March 2026

No. 3

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Dear Parents and Community Members,

### 2026 Student Council

To say our Student Council has had a busy start to their year is an understatement. From the first week of school, they have been leading by example, having presented at their first mini assembly in Week 1. They say, "the best student leaders inspire through their actions, not just their words." This is so true of our new Student Council. They are already leading by example, leading with integrity, compassion and care. What more could we ask for?



In Week 3, the Student Council, along with Mrs Kuenen and Mrs Kendrick, attended the GRIP Leadership Conference at the Perth Convention Centre.

They joined approximately 2000 other student leaders to learn about:

- What should leaders do at their school?
- Integrity – The way I can lead every day
- New ideas for our school

So, who exactly is the Student Council? They are 10 elected students with 2 students also elected as Head Girl and Head Boy. The 2026 Student Council members are Maddie E, Harry H, Hattie H, Ewan J, Siena M, Miles M, Billy R and Eliana S, along with Head Girl Kate H and Head Boy Nehan S.

We look forward to their positive leadership throughout 2026.



### C5 Assembly

Yesterday's assembly was hosted by the very competent Year 4's from C5. Their assembly theme of 'Beach Safety' perfectly aligned with our Boardies Day. They reminded us of some very important things, including to:

- ⇒ Slip, Slop, Slap, Seek and Slide
- ⇒ Always swim between the red and yellow flags
- ⇒ Swim across a rip or float on your back, raising one hand until help arrives



Well done to the team of lifesavers from C5 and the chief lifeguard Mr Lee, on a great assembly.



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SMS student absences to  
0408 924 839

## Principal's Message (Continued)

### HELPERS NEEDED - School Vegie Garden – Volunteers Needed Urgently

Our kids are chomping at the bit to get into the garden, but we need your help! Wanted! Volunteers to help in the school vegetable garden.

We would love some expert knowledge, or just an extra pair of hands, to help grow some delicious vegetables. Ideally on a Friday lunchtime to support students to access the garden.

Any expressions of interest please email [katy.chapman@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:katy.chapman@education.wa.edu.au)



### That's a wrap! Year 4 – 6 In-term Swimming – Sorrento Beach

This week saw the conclusion of Beach Swimming Lessons for 2026. Our Year 4 – 6 students have been absolutely outstanding in their perseverance and enthusiasm during the 9 day series. They have not only been learning to swim, but they have also learnt many valuable lessons and gained invaluable knowledge around surf safety. Special mention to our staff who attended each day and in particular to those who assisted students in the water. A huge thank you to Sorrento SLSC for patrolling the beach during the course of our lessons.



### Show Us Your Boardies – And You Did!

Well done Davallia for coming out in huge numbers to support Boardies Day in 2026. So far we have raised \$612.50 which will be donated to Sorrento SLSC for their Nippers program. This is a small token of our appreciation as acknowledgement of the clubs' support during beach swimming lessons. You are all legends!



### Ocean Discovery Education – Kindy Incursion

This week, the Kindy classes had an exciting, hands on incursion from Ocean Discovery Education. The "Ocean Hero Program" introduced our youngest Davallians to the many features and superpowers of some unique marine animals. They learnt ways to conserve and protect the ocean. They had lots of time to explore and touch an ocean display which included live sea creatures, shells, coral, a turtle shell, whale bones and even some real shark jaws! Boy those shark teeth were super sharp! The Kindy kids loved this learning opportunity as it complemented the Ocean Theme they've been enjoying this term.



### An icy pole at the end of a hard day!

What an awesome end to Boardies Day with the P & C selling icy poles after school. It was so nice to see lots of parents remaining at school, enjoying the sunshine and an ice cold icy pole. Well done to the P & C on a great initiative!

The kids, big and small, loved it!

The P&C raised \$366.65. Special thanks to C5 parents for assisting with the sales.

Have a great fortnight.

Remember, *'Kindness is spreading sunshine into people's lives regardless of the weather'*



## Principal's Message (Continued)

### School Operational Times

School times are as follows:

Monday to Friday

<b>8.40 am</b>	<b>Classrooms Open</b>	<b>Students arrive at school, attend class and ready for the day</b>
8.55 am	Period 1	Siren sounds for the start of the day
9.40 am	Period 2	
10.25 am	Period 3	
<b>11.10 am</b>	<b>Recess</b>	<b>Siren Sounds (20 min recess time)</b>
11.30 am	Period 4	Siren sounds and children return to class
11.50 am	Period 5	
<b>1.00 pm</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>Siren Sounds (40 min lunch time)</b>
1.40 pm	Period 6	Siren Sounds and children return to class
2.25 pm	Period 7	
<b>3.10 pm</b>	<b>School Concludes</b>	

**NB: Each Wednesday the school closes at 2.45pm**

**John O'Neill**

**Principal**

## Help Needed – We have no Traffic Warden

### Traffic Wardens Needed– Are you interested? Do you know someone who may be interested?

Currently the Traffic Warden State Management Unit of the WA Police Force are experiencing a significant shortage in traffic wardens and are unable to fill vacant positions, including here on Davallia Road.

A number of years ago, I would man the crosswalk in the absence of a Traffic Warden, however, I was informed it was illegal for me to do so as only a trained Traffic Warden or a Police Officer is legally permitted to stop traffic.

### What is the eligibility criteria to become a Traffic Warden?

Having spoken to the Traffic Warden State Management Unit this morning, they have informed me the initial criteria for a Traffic Warden is:

- to have access to email
- a full driving licence with access to a vehicle and
- be able to work the full 10 shifts per week. The shifts will be an hour in the morning and an hour in the afternoon.

Initially they would be a relief warden covering at various crossings within a 10km radius of their home.

### How do I apply and what is the process?

If you or anyone you know is interested in becoming a Traffic Warden, you/they can contact the Traffic Warden State Management Unit of the WA Police Force on 6274 8735 to obtain an application pack. Once the application is submitted it will be passed to the Personal Security Vetting Unit of the WA Police Force and if they support the application, the applicant will then be sent a medical assessment form to take to their doctor. Once this has been passed, the applicant will then be invited to attend a training day in Midland.

I thought I'd send this information out with the hope a member of our school community maybe interested in the role. It could be a parent, grandparent, neighbour or friend. Just 10 hours per week!

If you or someone you know maybe interested, please contact the Traffic Warden State Management Unit of the WA Police Force on 6274 8735 to obtain an application pack.



## Associate Principal's Message—Mr Leaning

*In my final year I have decided to share my reflections of my twenty-one-year experience at Davallia. This time, given we are embarking on another round of NAPLAN, I thought it appropriate to look back at how things have changed since 2005.*

### WALNA to NAPLAN

When I first arrived at Davallia Primary School 21 years ago in 2005, my Year Five class was preparing for the Western Australian Literacy and Numeracy Assessment (WALNA). In B Block, the Year Sevens were completing their final primary school assessment, while our Year Threes were having their first experience of it.

At the time, the results across Western Australia were being celebrated. The then Education and Training Minister, Hon. Ljiljanna Ravlich, reported *'encouraging improvements'*. In 2005, almost 11 per cent more Year Seven students met the writing benchmark compared with the previous year. Among Year Three students, there were also gains in spelling and numeracy. Even more impressive was the longer-term progress. Since testing began in the late 1990s, the percentage of students meeting reading and writing benchmarks had steadily increased across multiple year levels.

These results were often used as evidence that student achievement in literacy and numeracy was improving, despite ongoing debates about education standards.

WALNA itself did not last. In 2008 it was replaced by the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN), introducing a national approach to measuring these key skills. For those who remember WALNA, the early years of NAPLAN felt very familiar. Primary students in Years 3, 5 and 7 completed colour-coded test booklets, writing their responses in pencil before the papers were bundled up and sent away for marking. Schools would then wait several months for results to return.

Over time, small changes were introduced. One was the addition of persuasive writing, meaning students might be asked to write either a narrative or a persuasive text. Otherwise, the process remained largely the same for about a decade.

A significant shift came in 2018 when online NAPLAN was introduced. Schools across Australia needed to upgrade their infrastructure to support the change. Reliable wireless networks, suitable devices and staff training became essential. At Davallia we strengthened our wireless network, particularly in the library and set up banks of notebooks and desktop computers to ensure stable connections. For a few years we also invested in programs aimed at improving typing skills so students could work more confidently online.

Like many things, NAPLAN was disrupted by the COVID pandemic. The assessment was cancelled in 2020. When it returned in 2021, testing schedules were extended in many places as students and staff navigated illness and isolation requirements.

Another major change occurred in 2023 when NAPLAN moved from May to March. At the same time, the reporting scale changed. The ten achievement bands used since 2008 were replaced by four proficiency levels: **Exceeding, Strong, Developing** and **Needs Additional Support**. While this provided a clearer picture of how students were progressing, it also meant results from earlier years could no longer be directly compared with the new system. In 2025, for the first time, we were able to investigate progress as the Year Fives became the first cohort to complete NAPLAN twice with the new proficiency scales and adjusted start dates.

Another round of NAPLAN began again this week. Our Year Three and Year Five students are completing most of the assessments online using iPads. For the writing task, Year Three students will continue to write with pencil and paper, while Year Five students will type their responses using a keyboard.

It is interesting to reflect on how these assessments have evolved over the years. From WALNA booklets to online testing, the tools may change, but the purpose remains the same: helping schools understand how well students are developing essential literacy and numeracy skills.

It also raises an interesting question, what might NAPLAN look like in another ten years? Or will it, like many educational initiatives I've seen come and go in my 42-year career, eventually become just a memory of past practice?

## Associate Principal's Message — Mrs Kendrick

Our Year 6 Student Councillors recently had an exciting opportunity to step into the world of leadership alongside thousands of other young leaders from across Western Australia.

Mrs Kuenen and I had the pleasure of accompanying our Year 6 Student Councillors to the GRIP Leadership Conference at the Perth Convention Centre. Joining around 2,000 student leaders from across the Perth metropolitan and regional areas, it was certainly a big and exciting day for our students.

GRIP stands for Generosity, Responsibility, Integrity and People, and the day was packed with high-energy games, challenges and activities, all designed to help students grow as leaders. Between the fun and laughter, our councillors explored what it means to build positive relationships, show integrity, take responsibility and lead others to create positive change. They also discovered that good ideas require planning, preparation and realistic goals, although some were a little disappointed to learn that requesting soda in the water fountains might not be an achievable proposal!

With such a fantastic group of councillors, we were confident they would represent our school well, and they certainly did. Our students stepped confidently outside their comfort zones, working with students from other schools to complete a range of cooperative challenges. The day got off to a brilliant start when the first student to complete a challenge and be invited on stage was our very own **Sienna Misztal**.

Throughout the day, the entire Student Council showed exactly why their peers chose them as leaders. They tackled every challenge with enthusiasm and positivity, representing our school with outstanding respect and manners. We received many compliments from staff at other schools about their attitude and behaviour. They also brought plenty of energy to the final session of the day, showing off some impressive dance moves!

To top it all off, the day concluded with our Head Boy, **Nehan Somaweera**, being selected to ask his question to the panel, a fantastic moment for him and for our school.

Throughout the conference, several key leadership messages stood out:

- Leading by example can be challenging and requires courage and confidence.
- Leadership means listening to others and working as part of a team.
- Great leaders encourage others to be their best by setting the right example.
- True leaders show **integrity** — doing what is right, even when it's not easy.

The 2026 Student Council have impressed us from the very beginning of the year, and we look forward to seeing them continue to develop their leadership skills and make a positive difference in our school community.

Mrs Kendrick  
Associate Principal

*How to show **INTEGRITY**:*  
*Always tell the truth.*  
*Aim for high standards.*  
*Allow for mistakes.*  
*Act according to your values.*  
*Actions should match your words*



## School Notices

### Zero (0) Waste Lunch (O.W.L)

Good afternoon Parents and Caregivers,

At Davallia Primary, our aim is to limit the amount of rubbish and waste we have in our school community. On **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March (Week 7)** we will hold our first Zero Waste Lunch Day for 2026. The goal is to see how many people can bring a lunchbox filled with NO WASTE! This means, packing your Crunch and Sip, recess and lunch with no plastic clingwrap or bags that will end up in landfill.



A great alternative to these includes:

- Using reusable wraps, such as Beeswax Wraps, instead of plastic clingwrap.
- Packing your Crunch and Sip, recess and lunch in reusable lunch boxes.
- Purchasing products that are not individually wrapped.
- Using a reusable water bottle.

The classroom with the most students who have ZERO WASTE will earn extra recess or lunch time and have the honour of having the OWL trophy displayed in their classroom until the next Zero Waste Lunch Day.

If we work together, we can continue to reduce our waste!

Thank you for your support!

## 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](mailto:duncraigoshc@careforkidswa.net.au)

