



Grow with Respect

# The Davallian

27th March 2026

No.4

## In this issue

- Principals Message
- Associate Principal's Message-Mr Leaning
- Associate Principal's Message- Mrs Kendrick
- Chaplains Corner
- School Notices
- Community Notices

### Dear Parents and Community Members,

It's been a very busy Term 1 at Davallia Primary School. Our students have continued to live our School Values and make our school a great place to learn and have fun. My staff also work really hard to make the school environment engaging, safe and happy. I also thank the school community for your steadfast support of our school. Your efforts are greatly appreciated, and we look forward to working with you again in Term 2. Wish you all a fabulous fortnight with your children.

### A1 Easter Assembly

It was all about Easter yesterday at the A1 Assembly. Our Year 1's from A1 told us about their family Easter traditions like treasure hunts or Easter egg hunts, boiling eggs and colouring them red and visiting their grand parents where they get clues about where to find their easter eggs. Our Year 1's spoke beautifully and performed an awesome dance called The Easter Bop. Well done A1 and Mrs McIntyre on a fabulous assembly.



### Harmony Day



**HARMONY WEEK**  
EVERYONE BELONGS • HARMONY.GOV.AU



Last Friday, our school was awash with colours of orange as we recognised Harmony Day. Harmony Day is a celebration that recognises our diversity and brings together Australians from all different backgrounds. It's about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. All classes conducted Harmony Day themed activities in recognition of this important day.



Davallia Primary School  
6 Juniper Way  
Duncraig WA 6023

T. 9246 8750  
E. [davallia.ps@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:davallia.ps@education.wa.edu.au)

[www.davalliaps.wa.edu.au](http://www.davalliaps.wa.edu.au)

Absences- Please submit via  
Compass

## Principal's Message (Continued)

### Ride to School Day

Last Friday, the deadly treadlies were dusted off and out on display as the school held a Ride to School Day. It was terrific to see over 220 students riding to school and/or decorating their bike helmets. Slow bike races were conducted as well as a bike helmet decorating competition. As usual, our P & C were out in force supporting the event. Well done Mr Warner for organising a great day.



### New Cross Walk Attendant

Introducing our new Cross Walk attendant Mike Lee. It was wonderful to hear of the appointment of Mike to our crosswalk. He came in this week to introduce himself and is a local Duncraig resident who is very enthusiastic about his new role. So, if you are a user of our cross walk, please take the time to introduce yourself and your children to Mike, and make him feel very valued with a warm Davallian welcome.



### Surf Rescue Certificate – Requalification

So, how many primary schools have six qualified lifeguards on their staff? Not many I would suggest but we do! Congratulations to Mr Leaning, Mrs Kendrick, Mr Callow, Mr Ekert, Mr Warner and Ms Ferry who this week, ventured into the depths of shark infested, Irukandji plagued waters of the Indian Ocean, to requalify as lifeguards earning their Community Surf Rescue Certificate. Staff qualify/requalify to enable Year 6 students who attend the Rottnest Island Camp, to enjoy water-based activities. Without staff being willing to gain this qualification, students would not be permitted to enter the water at Rottnest. Congratulations and thank you to you all! I think Mr Ekert may well have been a little too prepared and didn't read the memo properly!



## Principal's Message (Continued)

### In Front of 47,000 People and a West Coast Win!

Some very lucky Year 2 Davallians, representing the Carine JFC, were fortunate to play football at Perth Stadium in front of 47,000 people as part of the NAB AFL Halftime Super Kick Activation program. Not only did they run on to and play on the ground at half time, they were also lucky enough to receive a tour of the ground and even went into the change rooms. They were very excited indeed! Bringing Davallian good luck, they also witnessed West Coast Eagles win their first game of the 2026 AFL season. What a day!



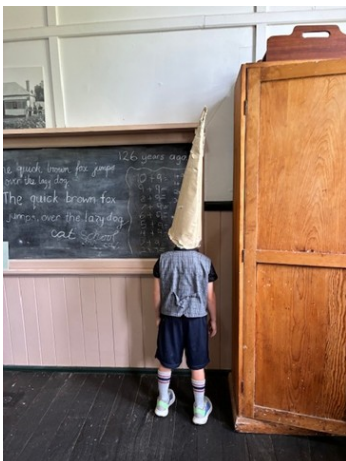
### Visit by Netball Royalty

Tuesday morning was a very big morning indeed for some very lucky Davallian Netballers. Our Year 3's received a huge surprise by a visit from Perth Fever superstar and netball legend Sunday Aryang. The girls were all very excited meeting one of their idols!



### Year 2 Buckingham House Excursion

Our Year 2's certainly looked the part as they travelled to Buckingham House for an excursion. They were very excited at last week's assembly, when the Student Council announced that the Year 2's were going on an excursion to Buckingham Palace! Not quite a palace but still a heritage listed dwelling. The Year 2's learnt exactly what school was like back in the 'olden times'. Strange furniture, tough teachers, the dreaded cane and the dunces hat made school back then very interesting. Did you know that Buckingham House was built between 1880 and 1890 by pastoralist John Buckingham and this four room limestone and iron cottage has been home to prominent Wanneroo families including the Ashby, Tapping, Tognos and Neville families? Following careful restoration, Buckingham House opened as a heritage homestead in 1985.



## Principal's Message (Continued)

### Year 5 Fremantle Prison Excursion

Did you hear our Year 5's went to prison? With eyes wide open and with great care, our Year 5's entered Fremantle Prison to learn all about the only world heritage listed building in WA. They witnessed firsthand what it would have been like to be incarcerated as a convict or prisoner. They heard wild stories about MoonDyne Joe and his many escapes, the Postcard Bandit Brendon Abbott being the only person still incarcerated who once was a prisoner at Fremantle Prison. They also learnt about a daring escape via a catapult! Congratulations Year 5's, you represented Davallia PS very well.



### Winter Sport – Year 6

Our Year 6 students have been trying out for the upcoming Interschool Winter Sports season where we compete against 7 other schools in the sports of Soccer, Volleyball, AFL and Netball. As this is a Year 6 program, all Year 6's have positions in teams and, should there be a shortfall, a select few Year 5's join teams to fill any vacancies. Following the home and away season which occurs throughout Term 2, a Winter Sports Lightning Carnival will be held. We wish our senior students the best of luck.

### HELPERS ARE STILL 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)

### Arrival at School

We are currently noticing an increasing number of students arriving far too early at school. Although very pleased to see students are eager to get to school, all students are expected to attend school from 8.40am. The school does provide supervision from 8.30am in the undercover area for those students whose parents need to drop their children off at school a little earlier. However, students are not permitted to be on the school site before 8.30am unsupervised. Our school is fortunate to have before and after school care on site. Care for Kids can provide care for students whose parents need to this type of support due to work schedules.



Term 2 commences on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April. There is no School Development Day in Term 2.

Have a great break.



#### 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

Remember, *'Kindness is the glue that holds humanity together'*

## 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, I've taken a look back at the days when Year Seven was still a part of Primary School and how their transition to High School was implemented.*

### End of an Era – Year 7

Back in 2005 when I applied for the deputy principal role at Davallia, I was a Year 7 teacher at Hillarys Primary. I'd been a Year 7 teacher for most of my career. My very first, at 24, being a class of 36 students back in 1987 at Blackmore Primary in Girrawheen. I remember it as both challenging and incredibly rewarding. I had no children of my own at that point, so it was easier to commit to the huge amount of time required when a Year 7 teacher.

Being a Year 7 teacher was always something of a specialist role and in my experience, very few staff wanted to take it on. It came with expectations that stretched well beyond the everyday classroom. Camps, student leadership, interschool sport, graduation, high school transition, academic extension, and even navigating sensitive Health topics were all part of the job. It was demanding, but also deeply fulfilling.

So, up until 2014, there used to be a Year 7 in all WA public primary schools. When I first arrived at Davallia, there was a Year 7 cohort here too. I really enjoyed working with our Year Sevens at Davallia. We recognised that they contributed significantly to the tone of the school, and we worked hard to get that right. Those Year Sevens are immortalised on our honour boards and in past photo albums.

From 2015 there was no longer a Year 7 in primary schools. The decision to move Year 7 to High School, bringing WA into line with all Australian states and territories except South Australia and most private schools in the state, was announced in 2011. Over \$340 million was approved to fund the transition. The DoE estimated that moving Year 7 would require an additional 1000 secondary teachers and result in 500 fewer primary positions. Primary teachers were retrained to make sure there were enough staff in High Schools to cater for the extra year group.

Some years earlier, a decision was made to change the starting age date for children. A shift of six months from January 1st to June 30th leading to approximately half the normal intake of students. This decision was tied to the plan to move Year 7 to High School and meant that by 2009 half the children leaving primary school each year would have already turned 13 and were more physical and socially mature. Consequently, in 2002 the 'half cohort' was created. That half cohort provided quite a few challenges in schools but at Davallia it was in 2009 and Year 7 where the biggest impact was noted. There were only twenty of them, and just two of them were girls. One of these girls is now a parent of a child at Davallia.

Tackling the issue innovatively, we created a Year 6/7 structure taking the opportunity to upskill the Year 6s in leadership alongside the Year Sevens. Those 'sevens' provided great mentorship to the younger students, and we were so impressed with how well the model worked that we kept it in place for the next five years, while the 'sevens' remained with us. I remember taking the 2009 half cohort 'sevens' to Rottnest Island for their camp and unable to justify an entire dormitory for the two girls, we gave them a room of their own. In subsequent years, expanding on the potential of the 6/7 model, we started taking both six and seven cohorts to camp. We'd visit Busselton one year and Rottnest the next.

When putting the interschool teams together in 2009, we had so few students to fill all the sports. Can you imagine how difficult it was to put three netball teams together with only two Year 7 girls? For football I not only had to call upon Year 5s but also a few very talented Year 4s. Those Year 4 boys looked pretty tiny running around on the football field, but no one could catch them. Interestingly, two of those boys went on to win a colt's premiership with Subiaco. One was drafted into the AFL by St. Kilda.

In a particularly unusual year, 2014, our final year as a K-7 school, not only did we have Year 7 leavers, but we also were saying goodbye to the first cohort of Year 6s who were heading off to Year 7 in High School. That year we had two graduation ceremonies, two dux and two citizenship awards. That is an interesting line of the Honour Board. In 2015 the Year 6s were our school leaders. We were a little nervous about their ability to fill the void left by the departed 'sevens' but we needn't have worried. They were ready, having spent a year sharing a class with the Year 7s, they knew exactly what was expected of them.

As you can tell today, our Year 6 leavers are good strong and reliable leaders. They set that tone that Mr O'Neill and his staff worked so hard to establish and in the years between our Year 7s departing, we have become very used to Year 6 being the top of the school.

As I outlined at the beginning of this article, being a Year 7 teacher or these days a Year 6 teacher, is a very specialised job. The added demands mean it is often challenging but it can be oh so rewarding. If you get a chance, make sure to say thanks to those select few who are prepared to take on this role. I for one, know exactly how hard it can be.



## Associate Principal's Message—Mrs Kendrick

### Learning occurs in the discomfort between not knowing and knowing.

The more we can accept that things may feel difficult, and still persevere through them, the more resilient and stronger we become. This is the foundation for success in all areas of life. Too often, however, we associate resilience and endurance only with physical activity or sport. We encourage our children to push through a tough Cross Country run or to keep going after losing the ball in a match. I still remember the familiar slogan from my own primary school PE teacher, *“No pain, no gain.”*

This term, we have celebrated our students' perseverance during Beach Swimming lessons and throughout NAPLAN. During NAPLAN, I noticed something increasingly common each year, many students find it difficult to sit quietly and wait once they have finished a test. It raises an important question, are children losing the ability to simply be bored?

I often wonder how beneficial it would be if we all thought of the brain as a muscle, one that needs to be kept healthy, exercised, and trained. A muscle that must learn to endure challenge, engage in problem-solving, regulate emotions, practise mindfulness, and, dare I say, even tolerate boredom. How often do we ask our children to be bored? How often do we encourage them to stretch their thinking, to train their minds, and to grow stronger through effort?

Consider learning a musical instrument. It requires patience, perseverance, and at times, repetition that can feel tedious. Yet it is precisely this ability to persist, to sit without constant entertainment, without distraction or instant gratification, that builds discipline and resilience. Increasingly, this capacity is being eroded by the constant presence of handheld devices occupying every spare moment. While we are well aware of concerns such as 'tech neck' and 'gaming addiction', we must also consider the more subtle, long-term impacts. For some children, being asked to use their imagination or create their own games can feel unfamiliar.

Reflect for a moment on the experiences that shaped your own resilience, those that taught you to be strong, brave, patient, and determined. Often, they are moments that involved discomfort, uncertainty, challenge, or even boredom. As parents, we naturally want our children to be happy and healthy. However, it is important to remember that true wellbeing also requires resilience. It is often in the space between not knowing and knowing, between struggle and mastery, that growth occurs. By supporting our children to persevere through these moments, we are helping them build the strength they need for life.

So, think about how you may respond differently next time your child says, *“I'm bored.”* because boredom may be where new neural pathways are formed and their brains may grow if given the opportunity. It won't be easy but as my primary school PE teacher said, *“No pain, no gain.”*

Sunny Kendrick  
Associate Principal

## Chaplain's Corner

### Chaplain's Corner

Each term at Davallia, students are offered a wide range of events and excursions to attend and activities to take part in. These opportunities make school life enjoyable and engaging, while also providing healthy challenges that support students' physical, mental and emotional growth. They give students something to look forward to and encourage them to set and achieve personal goals.

Research shows that these experiences strengthen relationships and contribute to overall wellbeing. This term, highlights have included beach swimming lessons and NAPLAN, among many others.

These opportunities are made possible through the dedication of our staff, who work hard behind the scenes to ensure everything runs smoothly. At Davallia, student wellbeing and growth remain a clear priority.

A healthy life requires a balance between active engagement and intentional rest. While this balance can be difficult to achieve, it is well worth pursuing, and an important habit to model for children. Time to rest and recharge allows students to return to school feeling energised, motivated and resilient.

Wishing all families a safe, relaxing and enjoyable school holiday break. We look forward to another engaging term ahead in Term 2.

Mrs Carolina  
Davallia School Chaplain

At school on: Monday & Thursday



"If you get tired learn to rest, not quit". Irish Proverb.

## School Notices

### WASO Visit

This week, Davallia was very lucky to host a performance by a quintet of WA Symphony Orchestra musicians, including Davallia's very own Andie Mendham! Students from K-6 attended and it was delightful to see the interest and joy on the faces of students of all ages. The students learned about the differences between the string instruments and how each instrument can be played to produce different sounds and moods. Students were also actively involved through movement and were excited to hear familiar tunes such as the 'Star Wars Theme', the 'Mario Kart Theme', 'How Far I'll Go' from the movie Moana and even the recent hit 'Golden' by the KPop Demon Hunters.



### ***Something exciting is underway... but we're not revealing everything just yet!***

What we *can* tell you is this: our students are working together to create a **mystery art mural** using recycled plastic lids — and we need your help to bring it to life!

In Western Australia, thousands of tonnes of plastic waste end up in landfill each year, and small items like bottle lids are often too small to be recycled through regular kerbside systems. That means they can easily end up polluting our environment and waterways.

#### **How can you help?**

Start collecting clean plastic lids (all different sizes) from:

- Drink bottles
- Milk bottles
- Medicine containers
- Laundry and cleaning products
- Pantry items (e.g. spreads, sauces)

Students can bring them straight to the Art room, or lids can be dropped at the office.

Unfortunately, we cannot make use of pop-top lids and tall lids, so please only send in short lids with flat tops.

Let's work as a community to reduce waste, get creative, and make a difference — one lid at a time!



## Community Notices

### Pro Football Training – Free After School Soccer Session

Pro Football Training are delighted to get the opportunity to offer our After School Soccer Program to the students at Davallia Primary School.

We have been running soccer development programs across Perth & WA since 2009 and currently engage over 1,600 children in our various programs.

The positive environment we create for all children allows them to be fully engaged, encouraged to express themselves and develop all aspects of their game both on and off the training ground.

We will be running a Free Session on Wednesday 22 April immediately after school, to register your child simply click on the link below.

[Davallia Primary School – Free Session – Wednesday 22 April](#)

**profootballtraining**  
**After School Soccer**  
**Free Soccer Session**  
**Wednesday 22 April**  
**2.45pm to 3.45pm**

Simply scan the QR Code to register your child.

Please contact Louis for further details  
[louis@profootballtraining.com.au](mailto:louis@profootballtraining.com.au) - 0466 806 432

#### 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)

