



Grow with Respect

The Davallian

12th September 2025

No. 14

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Dear Parents and Community Members,



Thursday 11 September was R U OK? Day but we know that whether it's a friend, family member, partner, or colleague, the people around us go through life's ups and downs every day. That's why we want everyone to feel confident to check in with the people they care about and Ask R U OK? Any Day.

Research has found that those who are regularly asked, 'Are you OK?' report increased feelings of wellbeing, and we've learned that a third of Australians say they've been asking others more often over the past year. That means many of us are already showing up for others in meaningful ways, but when it comes to conversations about how we're really going, some people are less confident than others.

So, who have you checked in on this week? It's not hard to do. Have a go!

Father's Day - Sunday

A shout out to all the Dads of Davallia, hoping you all had a wonderful Father's Day. From talking to the students, dads were spoilt in many ways with breakfast in bed, going out for lunch, and receiving lots of different gifts. We hope you all had a great day.

A6 Assembly

They are soft, furry, have a pointed snout, a long tail with a white tip on the end, and very large, pointed ears! No, that's not the awesome kids from A6, It's a Bilby!

This week's assembly was a learning opportunity for all about the Bilby. A6 shared their collective knowledge and presented a recount of the book 'A Home for Bilby', written by Australian Author, Joanne Crawford. Well done A6 and Mrs Fulford on a wonderful assembly.



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SMS student absences to
0408 924 839

Principal's Message (continued)

Author IncurSION - Sean E Avery

It was a pleasure for Davallia PS to host author and Davallian dad, Sean E Avery. Sean is best known for his funny, heartwarming graphic novels and picture books for kids like **Ducky the Spy** and **Frank's Red Hat** that won the 2023 CBCA Shadow Judges and WAYRBA Picture Book of the Year awards. He certainly had our students in the palm of his hand as he talked about being an author, character creation and how creativity manifests itself in different ways for different people. Thanks Sean, the students had a fabulous time.



Attending School During School Hours – Parent Visitor Pass

Parents are reminded you are not permitted to enter the school grounds without first signing in at the front office. There you will receive a visitors pass. Even if you are simply dropping off a lunch box and will only be a moment, any parent who has the need to enter the school grounds during the course of the school day must sign in at the front office and gain a visitors pass. As a school, and particularly in case of an emergency, it is our responsibility to know who is on the school site at any given moment. Your understanding of this requirement is appreciated.

Lapathon / Colour Run – 26th October 2025

Certainly, the most colourful day of the year is the Colour Run. Staff are all set to have a colourful and wet end to the term. Don't forget, our Colour Run raises funds to improve playgrounds at our school, so \$5 from 5 people is our minimum goal for each student. We encourage students, with parental support, to endeavour to source the funds from people other than their parents. Uncles, Aunties, neighbours, friends should all be a consideration before parents put their hands in their pockets.



One Big Voice Spectacular

Our school Choir rocked their way through another very successful One Big Voice Spectacular performance at RAC Arena. Our Choir combined with students from 165 schools form the nation's largest massed choir of 8000 voices. They did a great job and had a heap of fun. Thanks to Miss Agnello who coordinated our school Choir performances, and Miss Barratt, Ashleigh Shapland and Ms Blowers who attended to support the Choir. The Choir were very excited boarding the Go Party Bus which delivered them to the RAC Arena. Again, a huge thank you to James Vlahos from West Coast Bus Charters who always supports our school and to Candi for organising the bus.



Principal's Message (continued)

2026 Kindergarten Enrolments – Positions Available.

Although the closing enrolment date has passed, there are still a couple of places available to be filled. If you are an existing parent and have forgotten to enrol, please contact Candi urgently. If you have friends or family who may wish to attend our school, please encourage them to make contact with Candi in the office as soon as possible, as places will fill very quickly.



Key Dates Coming Up

- 18th September – Interschool Athletics Throws and Jumps
- 19th September – Interschool Athletics Carnival
- 25th September – Arts Assembly
- 26th September – Lapathon/Colour Run / Term 3 concludes
- 13th October – Term 4 commences

Have a great fortnight!

John O'Neill
Principal

School Operational Times

School times are as follows:

Monday to Friday

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

NB: Each Wednesday the school closes at 2.45pm



Associate Principal's Message

Built in Redundancy

My wife and I were lucky enough to have three children and what a journey it has been. From the joy of a new baby to constantly learning on the fly while sleep deprived, it never really felt like we knew what we were doing. Treading uncertain through the early childhood years, we were constantly surprised with how quickly they'd learn and grow, rapidly turning into little people with minds of their own. We watched on, worrying and uncertain as they each navigated friendships, and relationship challenges. We felt sick as they suffered disappointment, made mistakes or experienced pain. We were always there to pick up the pieces, but we were careful to keep our distance. We tried not to interfere, project our own fears and doubts or manipulate situations to protect or shelter our kids from the pitfalls of interacting with other children or taking the risk of trying something new.

These days my three kids are adults, grown-ups, pursuing their careers, establishing their own lives. And although we still worry and hurt when they hurt, and are always there when we are needed, my wife and I do our best to never interfere in or dictate how they should live their lives. So far, I think we've done okay. There were plenty of times when it would have been easier to step in and assume control. Instead, we decided to let our children have the experiences of the harder moments. We kept our own discomfort and alarm at bay. Most likely because we did step back, they now display resilience and confidence when facing difficulty. We now watch on proudly as they take their own tentative but independent steps not too dissimilar to those we made ourselves as young adults.

A long time ago a colleague of mine pointed out that ***it is our job as parents to make sure we do everything we can to make ourselves redundant***. Try to do such a good job, that we are no longer needed. It made perfect sense. What sort of a parent would I be if I didn't allow my own children to grow emotionally and build confidence and resilience enough to be able to get by without me? I can't cripple them by making myself irreplaceable or burden them with my doubts and fears. I won't be there for every challenge they will face. I can't commit to eliminating all the bumps and hurdles that lie ahead so they may have a smooth and trouble-free journey into adulthood. That's just not how adulting works.

Reflecting on my experience as a young parent and even before that, as a child in the care of my own parents, I know my kids and I had some tough times and challenging experiences. I remember the anxiousness I felt, how the fear made my heart race, how the embarrassment burned my face and how the heartache of disappointment, failure and loss took my breath away. Having survived it, we know we can endure it, that we can push through, and that we will come out the other side. Yes, there may be scars and probably some bad memories, but we know we can make it through the storm and that there are clearer days ahead. Not having experienced disappointment, failure, embarrassment or hurt may have left my children and I ill equipped for adulthood, for one day being a parent or carer and for the many unavoidable and unpredictable complications and challenges life continues to throw our way for the rest of our lives, even after our parents are gone.

Mark Leaning

Associate Principal



Associate Principal's Message

Dementia Awareness Month – A Personal Perspective

This month holds special significance for me, as it is **Dementia Awareness Month** and **World Alzheimer's Month**. For those who may not know, my husband is living with **Young Onset Alzheimer's Disease**. He first began showing signs back in 2018, but it took four long and often frustrating years before we finally received a diagnosis in 2022. Leaving the Neurologist's office that day, our lives were suddenly turned upside down. Our plans of travelling the world, visiting his favourite music cities, watching Man Utd play at Old Trafford, or one day retiring and growing old together became dreams that would remain just that, dreams. He was 56 at the time of diagnosis, which is far younger than most people imagine when they hear the word "dementia."

From the outside, many people in the community can assume my husband looks "healthy". That's because until people reach the last stages of Alzheimer's it is a hidden disease. It goes far beyond simply "forgetting things", the reality is so much more confronting. Yes, memory loss is part of it, but Alzheimer's slowly takes away the ability to plan, to complete everyday routines, to care for yourself, and eventually even the ability to move, eat, or swallow. Alzheimer's is terminal. It is not a natural part of ageing.

Living alongside this illness has been heartbreaking. I watch my husband and best friend of 26 years lose pieces of himself, little by little. There's nothing I can do other than to care for him and support him as every aspect of his life becomes unfamiliar and more difficult. All the while, as this horrible disease takes so much of him away, my understanding of him and my appreciation for compassion, patience, and kindness has grown. It's the little things that mean the world when you're facing challenges most cannot see.

I love my job, and I have loved this school since the day I started here in 2011! I love teaching, coaching, mentoring and I love coming to school and interacting with our funny, clever and thoughtful students every day. However, balancing my role as a full-time carer with my role as Associate Principal has only been possible because of the unwavering support of our **Davallia Admin team and staff, our students and community**. Your understanding, encouragement, and care have given me the strength to keep going when it feels impossible. I am deeply grateful, and I cannot put into words how much that means to me. I am reminded daily that this school is not just a place of learning, but a place of care, strength, and community.

On this journey, I have learnt so much about dementia and the brain. I have also learnt about the physical, psychological and emotional affects it has, not only those with the condition, but also their carers, family and friends. Did you know there are an estimated 433 300 Australians living with dementia? But dementia does not just affect the elderly. In Australia, around **28,000 people are living with Young Onset Dementia**. People in their 30s, 40s, and 50s can be diagnosed with younger-onset

Alzheimer's disease, and every one of them, and their families, are walking a very difficult path of not only dealing with the disease but doing so at a time in their lives when they may have young children, mortgages, careers and responsibilities.

It is very common for people living with dementia to feel social isolation and loneliness as friends and family often drop away, not knowing how to interact with them once they have a diagnosis. I have witnessed this firsthand and hope that by sharing our story it will encourage someone to reach out to someone they know who may be impacted by dementia.

During Dementia Awareness Month, I hope we can all take a moment to remember that invisible struggles exist all around us. By choosing to be kind and showing patience and compassion, we can make a real difference in someone's day. Choosing kindness is always the right choice.

If you would like to learn more or find ways to support people living with dementia, I encourage you to visit

Dementia Australia at www.dementia.org.au.

Sunny Kendrick

Associate Principal

Chaplains Corner

Chaplain's Corner

Davallian students have been very dedicated this term. This eventful term has given them the opportunity to demonstrate some amazing strengths and qualities to those around them. Important qualities such as commitment and perseverance.

Davallian students participated enthusiastically in events offered, they were present in the moment and demonstrated great commitment from beginning to end.

They also showed perseverance despite difficulties. Commitment and perseverance are not only great qualities to possess, but they are also signs of emotional strength and resilience.

This term Davallian students made a "Bullying - No Way" pledge banner, making an important stand against bullying and showing commitment and perseverance. It was great to see so many students signing this and making such a positive stand in our school.

Davallia, enjoy the last stretch of term. Remember that rest, after an eventful and active term, is needed for all. Rest improves our overall well-being.

I hope you all take the opportunity to rest and have a memorable holiday!

Mrs Carolina
Davallia School Chaplain
At school on: Monday & Thursday
carolina.lopez@education.wa.edu.au



"Motivation is what gets you started. Commitment is what keeps you going". Jim Rohn.

School Notices

Fathers Day In Kindy!

Our Kindy's were able to spoil their dad on a special fathers day morning last week. Here are some happy snaps of K3 students with their dads!



School Notices

A MESSAGE FROM OUR P&C

The next P&C Meeting is Tuesday 16 September at 7:30pm. If you have been wondering what the P&C is all about, come join us in the school library or connect online, we keep meetings to an hour.

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 470 419 248 129 6

Passcode: 5G25yA3M

I will be leaving the P&C at the end of 2025, as my girls graduate Davallia for high school, and the P&C will be looking for a new President, along with other vacant roles to create a 2026 Committee. If you have been considering a role on the P&C Executive, a general Committee role, or just want to know more about your school and how you can help, visit [Davallia PS P&C | Davallia Parents & Citizens Association Inc.](#) or ask one of the existing committee for further information.

The 2026 committee will be voted in at the AGM Tuesday 9 December.

The P&C is made up of parents and community members with Davallia's interests in mind. We meet twice a term on the 4th and 9th Tuesday of each term at 7:30pm and everyone is welcome, but you need to be a paid member to vote, membership costs \$1 per year: [P&C Membership | Davallia Parents & Citizens Association Inc.](#)

The P&C's main objectives are to create a sense of community, assist with school led initiatives and fundraise for items the school would like that are outside of their budget.

During the meetings we hear directly from administration on current updates and issues and then we discuss upcoming events, fundraising ideas, the budget and how we can contribute both financially and by providing parent support.

The P&C manages a number of school initiatives, including:

- o Second hand uniform shop
- o Canteen distribution
- o Book club and Book fairs
- o Cake stalls
- o End of term lunches
- o Discos - the next one is Halloween themed, Thursday 23 October
- o Family Fun Night, lock in Friday, 28 November.
- o Grounds busy bee events and the Sustainability Committee.

As well as managing the schools Facebook and class WhatsApp pages.

We assist at events when required, in particular the Faction Carnival, Open Night and Lapathon.

The P&C also fundraises annually to help pay for wishlist items for the school, that directly benefit our children. Major items that have been contributed the last few years include iPads, readers and sensory play equipment, OTC speech and language screening for each Kindy student, musical instruments, interactive whiteboards, projectors, outdoor play equipment, neurominded workshops, and a recycling hub. This years targeted fundraising of \$54, 247.09 has been met and all 2025 wishlist items covered. If you have a 2026 wishlist item you would like to suggest, submit it here [Budget Wish List | Davallia Parents & Citizens Association Inc.](#) all items will be considered and voted on at the budget meeting in week 4, February 2026.

As the end of the term fast approaches and we get ready for a busy term 4, I wanted to say a huge thanks to the P&C committee of 2025 and every single person (and their children!) who have given up their time to assist the P&C already this year. The P&C is purely volunteer run and Davallia wouldn't be the amazing primary school it is without your support. Many hands make light work, so please keep an eye out for ways you can assist when you see the notes from your class reps or sign up as a P&C class rep next year!

Thank you

Neroli
P&C President



School Notices

Making Friends

By Professor Matt Sanders

For many children, starting school is an exciting time – new classes, new faces and hopefully, new friends to be made.

Having good friends is important to a child's self-esteem but, unfortunately, children do not always know how to look after friends. You can lend a hand by helping your child develop good social skills. Talk to your child about being a good friend and encourage your child to practice skills such as:

- Looking at and listening when someone is speaking to them, such as a friend telling them a story
- Taking turns in games and activities
- Asking what others might like to do rather than assuming that other children will always want to follow
- Thinking about other people's feelings. "I wonder how Tom is feeling now. How do you think you would feel if that happened to you?"
- Helping others
- Being friendly and welcoming to a new child in class.

To help your child make friends, and so your child can practice being a good "host", you may like to invite another child to your home for a play. Be prepared to contact the parents to organise this if your child is too shy to ask.

Professor Matt Sanders is founder of the Triple P – Positive Parenting Program®. For more information go to www.triplep-parenting.net

School Notices

Wiedemann-Steiner Syndrome Awareness Day (15 September)

Most people have never heard of Wiedemann-Steiner Syndrome (WSS) — a rare genetic condition affecting fewer than 1,000 people worldwide. Caused by a mutation in the MLL (KMT2A) gene on chromosome 11, WSS can influence growth, learning, health, and appearance in ways that are sometimes visible, but often hidden.

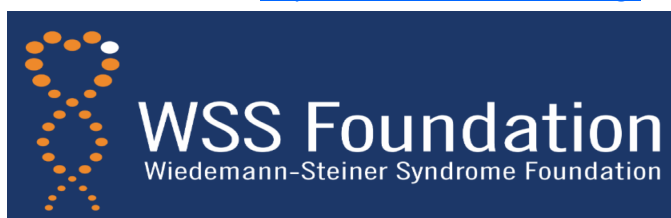
This awareness day matters to our school because one of our Year 4 students, Jackson, lives with WSS. Many of you know Jackson or his family; others may simply recognise him around the school grounds. This day is a chance for us all to learn more about what it means to live with a rare condition and to celebrate him as part of our community.

What does inclusion look like in practice? For children like Jackson, it might mean understanding that everyone learns differently, being patient when someone needs extra time, or remembering that we all have invisible challenges. It's about seeing the child first — their personality, talents, and contributions — before their condition.

In the lead up to WSS Awareness Day on 15 September, we invite our community to join the WSS Support Squad — not by signing up for anything, but simply by taking small steps: learning more about WSS (the WSS Foundation is a wonderful place to start) and talking with your children about how we can be kind and inclusive. Every act of awareness helps ensure that rare conditions don't mean isolation.

Awareness days like this remind us that inclusion isn't abstract — it's something we create together through small daily choices in classrooms, playgrounds, and conversations at home. By understanding more about the diverse experiences of our students, we strengthen our community and continue building a culture of kindness where every child feels they belong.

WSS Foundation: <http://www.wssfoundation.org/>



WANTED

Newspapers and medium to large cereal boxes for the Art room

Visual Arts need to top up their newspaper and cereal box supply. If you can contribute a newspaper or medium to large cereal box (flattened please), please have your child bring them to their art lesson. Alternatively they can be placed in the cardboard tray under the guillotine at the wet area entrance to the Art room.

Many thanks!

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

