



Grow with Respect

The Davallian

31st August 2026

No. 12

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Dear Parents and Community Members,

Last Thursday, the awesome C1 Year 3 students, from Mrs Hill and Mrs Strofeld's class, presented a wonderful assembly all about our Faction Carnival. The children entertained us with clever faction themed chants, motivational speeches and a great dance routine. Mr Leaning was the victim of a severe, but good-humoured roast too as he filled in for Mr O'Neill. Well done C1.



Open Night

What a wonderful evening we had last Thursday, when we opened our school to the community. It was fabulous to see so many families touring the classrooms, taking in the displays and staying for our musical performances. Our P & C had an amazing Sausage Sizzle happening, which was very well received. We even had a few families from others schools visit! It is always great to see former Davallia students attend, and to hear of their successes since leaving Davallia PS. This year we were thrilled to see some High School students still remembering the Jump Jam moves and joining in energetically in the undercover area.

Our **String Ensemble, Senior Choir and Jump Jam Leaders** also performed beautifully, along with our talented instrumentalists who performed in the Music Room beforehand — Brass (Trumpet, Trombone and Baritone) with **Mr Christman**, Year 4 Violin and Viola with **Mrs Milner**, Classical Guitar with **Ms Rossi**, and Cello with **Mr K Gillam**. What a fantastic showcase of our young performers and musicians!

A very special **thank you to all our Instrumental Teachers** for coming along on the night and supporting our students. Your encouragement and enthusiasm are greatly appreciated!

Well done also to our Head Girl Kate H and Head Boy Nehan S, who hosted the performance aspect of Open Night, as well as being active members of the Jump Jam Team.



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Absences— Please login and submit via Compass



Principal's Message (continued)

Faction Athletics Carnival

Well done to the mighty Marri Faction who are the 2027 Faction Athletics Champions! Although overall it was a very close carnival this year, Marri was the dominant force taking the lead in the latter stages of the carnival.

Friday's carnival was absolutely awesome, as usual. Davallia PS does the best Faction Carnival I have ever seen in my 37 years in education, thanks to the level of activity and engagement created by constant movement between tabloids and team games.

There were winners and there were close finishes, but the thing that stands out is how beautifully our students support each other with great sportsmanship. The Year 6's in particular set a high standard that the younger students can follow, where fierce competition is complimented with excellent camaraderie and generous congratulations to the victors. I'm sure the Year 6 cohort, our school leaders, will long remember their final Faction Carnival at Davallia PS.

Thanks to the school community for coming out in strong numbers and to the P & C for organising lunches, hair spray and zinc station, coffee van, food truck and icy poles on the day.

Huge thank you to Mr Warner who organised a very successful carnival and even organised a bright, sunny day as well! Thanks also to all staff who pitched in and helped with set up and pack up on the day.

It was also great to see our parents and former Davallians getting into the spirit of the carnival and participating. The parents may have won the tug-o-war against the Year 6's, but the former Davallians were victorious over both parents and staff in the baton relay challenge! Thanks for being good sports!

We now move on to the CDSSA Interschool Athletics Carnival, and we wish our competitors all the very best. We are sure they will make us proud as they strive for their own personal best against the best athletes in the Carine Schools District.



Principal's Message (continued)

One Big Voice 2026

We are so very, very proud of all our singers who represented Davallia PS beautifully — on the bus (thanks Candi and Mr O'Neill, for organising the Party Bus!), during rehearsal, throughout the Concert and even during our exit waves! Our *One Big Voice* Evening experience was amazingly awesome!

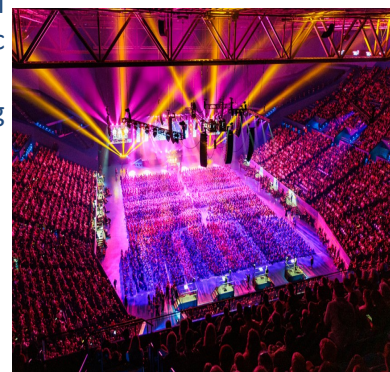
Well done to you all! You certainly demonstrated the values of respect, responsibility, perseverance and innovation throughout your preparation and on the night. A special congratulations to Nuala B on her wonderfully expressive and confident performance as Compere.

Our sincere thanks also go to Miss Agnello who is always a strong advocate for the music program, to Mrs Barrett and Ms. Blowers for assisting the choir, and to all families for your ongoing support. The choir couldn't make the magical music without you!

And there's more music to come! Our *One Big Voice* singers will be performing at our annual Arts

Assembly on Thursday, 24 September.

All are welcome — we would love to see you there.



Community Mural - Bottle Top Artwork

During Open Night, families were invited to contribute to our Carnaby's Cockatoo mural by placing plastic bottle tops onto the outline, prepared on the surface by Mrs Barratt. This is a work in progress and soon to be displayed around the school.



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

11.50 am 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— Mark Leaning

In this my final year, I have decided to share my reflections of my twenty-one-year experience at Davallia. This time, as the athletics competition hots up, I thought it was a good time to revisit an aspect of competition that remains a focus for staff and students here at Davallia.

Winning Isn't Everything

With our Faction Carnival this week and the Interschool Carnival approaching, there is plenty of excitement around Davallia. For weeks now, students have been preparing for their events and regularly training on the oval in the hope of being selected to represent Davallia against other schools.

These carnivals are wonderful occasions, but they also provide an important opportunity to teach our children something that can be difficult to learn, ***winning isn't everything***.

In life, sooner or later, we all learn that we cannot win all the time. If we're lucky, we have experiences early in life that teach us that not winning is okay too.

Just about every year I have reason to work with children at Davallia who find losing very difficult to deal with. There can be tears, frustration and anger when a game of sport ends with one team beating another. No trophies were awarded, no league table was impacted, and no great ceremony was staged, but for some children, losing can still feel like a very big deal.

Why does this happen?

Perhaps some children simply haven't had enough experience with losing. Maybe, in our desire to protect children from disappointment, we sometimes step in too quickly to make things better. We can become so focused on making sure children feel successful that we forget there is enormous value in learning how to deal with not being successful.

Competition is natural. Young children learn very early that winning feels good. There is nothing wrong with wanting to win or striving to do your best. In fact, competition can be a wonderful motivator. The challenge comes when winning becomes more important than how we behave.

Children don't automatically understand how their behaviour affects others. A child who desperately wants to be first, win every game or be the best, can become frustrated when things don't go their way. They may not understand why other children don't want to play with them if they become argumentative, boastful or unwilling to accept the rules. This is where we adults have an important role to play.

Learning how to win well and lose well takes practice. Children need opportunities to experience both. They need to discover that it is possible to be disappointed without falling apart, to congratulate someone who has beaten them and to come back the next day ready to have another go.

The ability to bounce back after disappointment becomes increasingly important as children get older. Life doesn't always deliver the result we want. We don't always get the outcome we were hoping for. Learning to cope with a relatively small disappointment on the sporting field can help prepare children for much bigger disappointments later in life. This is one of the reasons I believe our Faction and Interschool Carnivals are about much more than who wins the most events.

When students wear their Faction colours, they are representing something bigger than themselves. When they are selected to wear the Davallia shirt, they are representing their school. They are learning about teamwork, commitment, responsibility, respect for opponents and supporting others.

Associate Principal's Message— Continued

There will be students who stand on the podium and there will be students who don't. There will be races won by fractions of a second and others where simply crossing the finish line will be an achievement. There will be personal bests, disappointments, unexpected successes and probably a few sore muscles the next day. All of these experiences are valuable.

Winning is great. We should celebrate it. But so too should we celebrate the student who gives something a go despite knowing they may not win. The student who encourages a teammate. The student who shakes hands with an opponent. The student who is disappointed but accepts the result and gets on with it. These are the moments that build character.

We can all do our bit to support our children. We can model good sportsmanship, talk about how we respond when things don't go our way and help children understand that disappointment is a normal part of life. We don't need to rescue them from every uncomfortable feeling. Sometimes they need to experience the disappointment, work through it and discover that they are okay. After all, losing a race isn't the end of the world. Neither is not being first in line, not winning a game or discovering that someone else is better at something. In fact, these small moments of disappointment might just be preparing our children for some of life's bigger challenges.

So, as we head into our Faction and Interschool Carnivals, let's all encourage our students to give it their best, compete fairly, support each other and enjoy the experience.

Winning is certainly worth celebrating. But learning how to lose, learn, recover and have another go is something that will stay with them long after the results have been forgotten.

Winning isn't everything. How we respond when we don't win might be.

Mark Leaning
Associate Principal

Associate Principal's Message— Sunny Kendrick

Celebrating Book Week at Davallia

Book Week was another wonderful success this year. It was a week filled with celebration of stories, imagination and the joy of reading. Throughout the week, students and staff embraced a range of engaging activities, once again making our Book Week at Davallia extra special.

One of the week's highlights was our **Book Fair**, which saw many students eagerly browsing the shelves and discovering new books to enjoy at home. Thank you to our families for their support, and to the P&C volunteers that run our Book Fair. Every purchase helps the P&C continue to contribute to the many initiatives they fund throughout the school.

Among our Book Week itinerary, we also saw the inclusion of the '**Be A Buddy, Not a Bully**' incursion focused on wellbeing, friendship and how students can make positive choices.

Our much-loved **Character Dress-Up Day** once again brought favourite characters to life across the school. From classic storybook favourites to modern heroes, students and staff put enormous effort into their costumes and proudly showcased their creativity. It was wonderful to see so many children excitedly sharing the stories behind their chosen characters. One of our students, Zane, even gained international fame being shared on UK author, David O'Connell's social media pages.



Associate Principal's Message– Continued

Students attended author incursions with two outstanding Western Australian authors, **Cristy Burne** and **Caris Bailey**. Through interactive presentations, both authors shared their passion for storytelling, inspired students to develop their own creative ideas, and had our students aspiring to be future authors themselves.

A special highlight of the week was our whole-school **STOP, DROP & READ** events. At the sound of the announcements, students and staff paused what they were doing, grabbed a book and enjoyed some dedicated reading time. A fun way to reinforce the simple pleasure of getting lost in a great story.

Our **Book Buddy Reading** was a big hit, with older and younger students coming together to share books and read aloud to one another. These sessions not only promoted reading but also helped strengthen the positive mentoring relationships we encourage here.

The excitement of Book Week was evident throughout every classroom and playground conversation. Most importantly, the week was full of fun messages to help students discover the magic that books can bring.

Our appreciation also needs to go out to Mrs Baker and Mrs Errington, our Librarians, for their enormous efforts in transforming our Library into a **Symphony of Stories**. Also thank you to the staff who became our **Celebrity Lunchtime Storytellers**. This was a huge hit!

A big thank you to our staff, students, families and volunteers who helped make Book Week such a memorable success.



Sunny Kendrick
Associate Principal

P&C Notices

Davallia Dads & Dudes - Lawn Bowls Afternoon

Join us for Davallia Dads & Dudes – Lawn Bowls Afternoon!

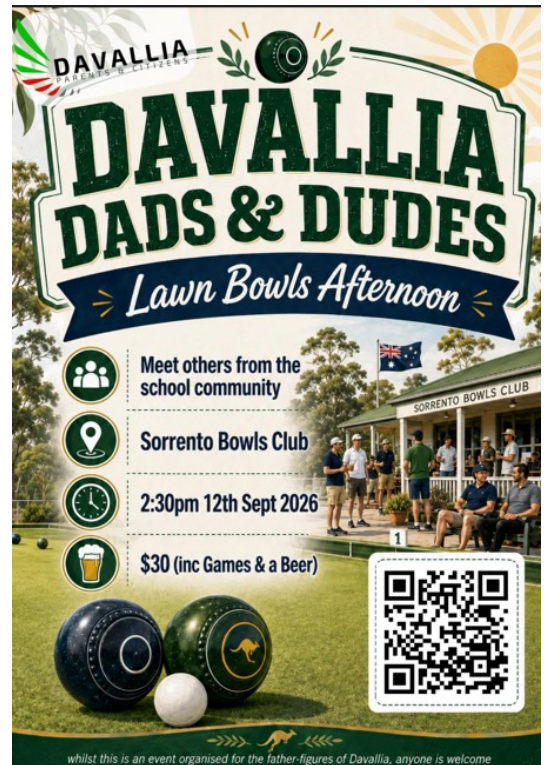
The Davallia P&C is bringing together the dads, father-figures and other members of our school community for a relaxed afternoon of lawn bowls, drinks and a chance to meet some new (and maybe some familiar) faces.

Lock in tickets **NOW**—Scan the QR Code ———>

- 📍 Sorrento Bowls Club
- 📅 Saturday, 12 September 2026
- 🕒 2:30pm
- 💰 \$30 – includes games & a beer

^ Sorrento Bowls Club volunteers will be on-hand to assist with bowling.

* Additional drinks can be purchased directly from the Club on the day.



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

