



Grow with Respect

The Davallian

11th September 2026

No. 13

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Dear Parents and Community Members,

Yesterday, the very talented Year Three crew from C3, Mrs Livingstone and Mrs Chinnery's class, presented a memorable assembly recognising RUOK Day. This versatile group of children delivered such an entertaining show employing drama and song to get their beautiful message across. The crochet circle skit was magnificent. There certainly were some future stars of the stage on display yesterday.

Well done C3.



Don't forget in Week 10 we have the Arts Assembly with students from across the school performing in either drama or music. It will be a fabulous opportunity to see and hear how much our instrumental music students have progressed this year, to see our senior drama students perform, hear an encore recital from Miss Agnello's choir and to see the abundance of visual art produced by all our students in a slide show presented throughout the assembly. We hope to see a big turn out from our community on Thursday September 24th.

Year 5 Mission to Mars

Last week, our Year 5 students launched into an unforgettable learning adventure during their **Mission to Mars** excursion.

From the moment they arrived, the students embraced every challenge with enthusiasm, curiosity and teamwork. Working between **Mission Control** and teams of astronauts on the **Mars surface**, they quickly discovered that a successful mission relies on clear communication, careful problem-solving and collaboration. Whether relaying important information, overcoming unexpected challenges, navigating, solving technical issues with rovers or supporting their teammates through space emergencies, our Year 5 students rose to every occasion.

Throughout the day, students conducted scientific experiments, made detailed observations and analysed evidence as they investigated the fascinating question: **"Could humans one day live on Mars?"** Their thoughtful discussions and findings demonstrated impressive scientific thinking and a genuine curiosity about the future of space exploration.

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Absences— Please login and submit via Compass

Principal's Message (continued)

What made us most proud, however, was the way our students represented Davallia. They displayed impeccable manners, showed kindness and respect to staff and presenters, and approached every activity with a positive attitude and a willingness to learn. They were outstanding ambassadors for our school.

The Mission to Mars experience was not only a chance to develop important skills in communication, critical thinking and scientific inquiry, but also an opportunity for students to experience the excitement of learning beyond the classroom. We are incredibly proud of the way they embraced the day and demonstrated the values that make Davallia such a special place.



Well done, Year 5. The future of space exploration looks to be in very capable hands!



Father's Day Celebrations in ECE

Our Early Childhood students were thrilled to welcome dads, grandads and other special loved ones to school for a joyful Father's Day celebration.

The classrooms and outdoor spaces were filled with laughter as families spent time together playing soccer, enjoying ten-pin bowling, building and creating, practising shaving, applying temporary tattoos, and using our *Make-Do* STEAM equipment to design some fantastic wearable dinosaur feet.

It was lovely to see many adults naturally gravitate towards the activities they knew best, with some of our engineering-minded visitors right at home in the construction corner, building alongside their children. Most importantly, the morning created special opportunities for children to share, play and learn with the important people in their lives.

The smiles, excitement and pride on our students' faces were a wonderful reminder of the power of these shared experiences. Thank you to all the fathers, grandfathers, mums and special guests who joined us and helped make the morning such a memorable celebration.



Principal's Message (continued)



CDSSA Interschool Athletics Carnival

At yesterday's assembly, Mr Leaning asked our Interschool Athletics Carnival competitors to stand up so the audience could see just how many children are involved. It felt like 30% of the school stood up.

These impressive children have proven themselves to be the best in a vast range of events and have been selected to represent Davallia across two days of district level competition.

Next Thursday a squad of distance runners, jumpers and throwers will go to North Beach to take on the best from the other seven schools in the Carine District. On Friday a much bigger group of students will compete in team games and sprint events.

Congratulations to Mr Warner and all the staff for investing so much time into preparing our students for the carnival. 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.

Go well Davallia.

OWL (Zero Waste Lunch) Term 3 2026

The Eco Warriors would like to congratulate all the classes for participating again this term in OWL day. We had amazing results, with most classes having more than 90% of students bringing Zero Waste Lunches.

This term we had FOUR classes with 100% Zero Waste Lunches!

The winning classrooms were PP2, B1, B2 and C6.

These classes received the amazing 'Golden Owl' to display in their rooms and earned an extra break time. Congratulations to everyone on their effort.

It just shows, with a little extra effort and thought, we can all pack a zero-waste lunch.



Principal's Message (continued)

Year 2 Fire Station Excursion

The Year 2s had a fantastic time visiting the Old Central Fire Station last week. The students learnt so much information about safety procedures regarding house fires, bushfires and other situations like cyclones and floods. They were thrilled to hear from Firefighter Andy who told them all about the callouts a firefighter might get and talked about his fire truck and showed them the special firefighting clothes he wears. They asked interesting questions and loved being able to climb up inside the fire truck and put on the uniforms. When they got back to school they were delighted to receive a wonderful email from the Fire Station stating: *All of our volunteers involved in the visit were extremely impressed with the students' behaviour, enthusiasm, and engagement throughout the day. The students were respectful, attentive, and eager to learn, making them a pleasure to host. The staff and parent volunteers should also be commended for their support and organisation, which contributed to such a successful visit.*



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 been sharing my reflections of my twenty-one-year experience at Davallia. This week I've taken a moment to share my observations about the impact that screens, particularly smart phones have made during that time.

Present in the Moment

Have you noticed how many people these days appear distracted by their mobile phones at what seem to be the most inappropriate moments? I certainly have, and I wonder whether it is becoming the norm rather than the exception. Following a driver recently in pouring rain, weaving into the emergency lane, I wasn't surprised to see he was driving while looking at his phone. His face brightly illuminated in the overcast evening gloom.

I have seen it so often from my motorbike, and it never fails to amaze me that someone responsible for controlling a ton of metal travelling along a highway can be so distracted by a device in their hand or mounted on the dash before them. Whatever the message, notification or video is, surely it can wait.

I've seen couples sharing a meal but not each other's company. Sitting opposite each other, they are physically together but mentally somewhere else, completely absorbed in their phones. I've dodged people walking down the street with their eyes down, moving forward almost on autopilot and seemingly oblivious to what is happening around them. I've sat on trains where almost everyone is staring at a screen as the real-world rushes past the window.

In 2026, our screens have become even more demanding of our attention. We have notifications, messages, social media, streaming, short videos, games, news, podcasts and now AI assistants ready to respond whenever we reach for our device. There always seems to be something waiting for us.

I sometimes wonder whether the world in which we are actually present can still compete.

Our phones are incredibly useful. They are a camera, a map, a watch, a game console, a calculator, a diary, a calendar, a newspaper, a music player, a weather forecaster, a ticket office, a bank and a doorway into almost unlimited information. In 2026, they can even give us access to artificial intelligence that can answer questions, write, translate, create images and help us solve problems.

The irony is that the device designed to connect us to the world can sometimes disconnect us from the people sitting right beside us.

I find it amusing that these days we sometimes seem to have not really been somewhere unless we've **shared** it. We take the photograph, post it, check who has **liked** it and perhaps spend more time looking at the screen than enjoying the experience itself. But why isn't it enough that **you** liked the experience?

Imagine how many special moments are missed when our eyes are down, searching for something happening somewhere else. The funny comment made by someone sitting beside us. The spectacular sunset. The child doing something for the first time. The conversation that might have become a really good conversation if we had simply looked up.

Of course, I am not suggesting that we throw our phones away. I use mine constantly and would be lost without it. Technology has made so many things easier and opened up opportunities that would have been unimaginable when I started teaching. But perhaps that is precisely the problem.

Because our phones can do so much, we have become accustomed to having them with us all the time. We take them to the bathroom, the dinner table, to bed, on holidays, into meetings and sometimes even into conversations. We have become so comfortable filling every quiet moment with a screen that perhaps we are forgetting the value of simply doing nothing.

For children, this is an even bigger challenge. They are growing up in a world where being entertained is almost instantaneous. Waiting, being bored and simply observing what is happening around them can seem strangely uncomfortable. As adults, we are the ones who need to model something different. If our children constantly see us checking our phones, answering messages and reaching for a screen whenever there is a quiet moment, it is hardly surprising when they do the same. I believe it takes effort to seize the moment.

Sometimes the best thing we can do is put the device down.

Leave it in another room. Put it away at the dinner table. Turn off the notifications. Go for a walk without it. Sit with someone and actually talk. Watch the sunset without photographing it. Let yourself be bored for a while.



Associate Principal's Message— Continued

Be present. The moment you're looking for might already be happening.

Take a few minutes to watch Gary Turk's video '**Look Up**' and enjoy what was ten years ago, a thought-provoking poem. You can even watch it on your phone. Just make sure you don't watch it at the expense of enjoying real life.

Should you choose to watch '**Look Up 2 – Ten Years Later**', Gary Turk's second video revisiting screen addiction, be warned, it is quite disturbing and **absolutely not suitable** for children.

Mark Leaning
Associate Principal

Associate Principal's Message— Sunny Kendrick

Collective Responsibility

Recently, I came across a situation late at night where someone was in obvious need on the side of the road. I didn't need to put myself at personal risk to help. All I had to do was make a phone call to 131 444, and the police and ambulance were able to respond.

What struck me most was how many people had driven past without stopping.

Afterwards, a friend and I discussed the behavioural phenomenon known as diffusion of responsibility. It describes the tendency for people to assume that someone else will step in and deal with a problem, leaving them feeling less responsible to act themselves. It's sobering to think that this behaviour is common enough to have a name.

One of the things I am most proud of at Davallia is that our staff don't walk past problems assuming they are someone else's responsibility. We see an issue and do something about it.

At Davallia, we embrace collective responsibility. We see it in the everyday actions that often go unnoticed: putting away equipment that has been left out, helping a colleague when they are unwell, or simply stepping in when support is needed. Importantly, this value extends beyond our staff to our students and wider community. After all, Responsibility is one of our core School Values.

It might be reminding a friend about a school rule, picking up litter that isn't yours, keeping dogs off the school grounds, cleaning up after a pet on the oval, reporting a potential hazard or playground equipment fault, or encouraging younger students to stay away from arguably the scariest place on earth... the staff car park!

None of these actions are particularly difficult. In fact, many of them involve taking a few seconds to do something that somebody else could have done. That is exactly the point. Communities thrive when people don't wait for someone else to step in.

The actions may be small, but together they create the culture that makes Davallia such a special place. They show our students that being part of a community means looking beyond ourselves and taking responsibility for the spaces, people, and opportunities we share.

Thank you for everything you do to model this value each day. Whether you're supporting a student, parent, or staff member, picking up a piece of rubbish, or gently reminding someone of an expectation, you are contributing to something much bigger than the task itself.

Thank you for being part of the Davallia collective.

Chaplains Corner

Wellbeing Week

We will be having Wellbeing Week at Davallia in Week 10 of this term from September 21st to 25th. It is such a good way to end a busy term for us all. We value every student's wellbeing and believe this so important, we ought to celebrate it with a whole week of positivity and fun.

As Wellbeing is about focusing and taking care of your physical, emotional and mental health, there will be a number of activities happening during the week to support healthy minds, healthy bodies and positive relationships. There's boogie bounce – mini trampoline fitness, Armed for life – equipping students with information and skills such as managing emotions and even cyber safety information.

On the Thursday we will having a Dress up in Zones of Regulations colours (red, blue, green and yellow) for a gold coin donation. Students will have an opportunity to dress in these colours and be as creative as they want.

Our donation will be directed to the Black Dog Institute – a medical research institute in Australia dedicated to mental health for all ages.

This amazing week has been planned and organised by some wonderful and hardworking staff that belong to our school Wellbeing Committee. We are grateful for all they do in our school.

As a school community let's promote the significance of wellbeing in our school and homes and encourage the students to take care of themselves each and every day.

As I'm sure we all know, good wellbeing helps children grow into healthy and happy individuals.

Mrs Carolina
Davallia School Chaplain
At school on: Monday & Thursday



"Being healthy is a success many people forget to celebrate". Author unknown.

School Notices

String Ensemble Performance

Our String Ensemble will be performing in this years ABODA WA Junior Orchestra on Sunday 13th September at Churchlands Senior Highschool.

Tickets available at the door

Please come along and support our students



Community Notices

Gravity Discovery Centre & Observatory Busy Bee

We'd love to invite **past, present and future** visitors to **join us**.

12 + 13 SEPTEMBER 2026

Nestled within the Moore River Region's Yeal Nature Reserve, the **Gravity Discovery Centre & Observatory** stands as a cornerstone of our local region, serving as a hub for learning and community connection - inspiring wonder and celebrating our natural environment.

Opened in 2003, the Centre has likely been part of your, or your family's education journey, and continues to be a much loved destination for future West Australian students and community groups, hosting countless school excursions, group tours and international visitors. Our goals are simple: to **inspire wonder** and **ignite interest** across the sciences, and to promote the preservation of our **dark skies** and natural environment.

Regular use and the elements take their toll over time, so we're rolling up our sleeves and bringing the community together for a hands-on "Very Busy **Busy Bee**" focused on essential maintenance, restoration, and beautification across the facility grounds and interior.

Whether you are handy with a paintbrush, enjoy outdoor trail work, can offer resources, or simply want to lend a helping hand, we invite you to **join us**.
Every contribution makes an impact.

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

gravity
discovery centre
and observatory

volunteer

HELP KEEP OUR ICONIC
SPACE THRIVING

VERY BUSY BEE
12-13 SEPTEMBER

FREE LUNCH & DRINKS
+ EVENING ASTRO TOUR

WHAT YOU'LL BE DOING

- Painting & Polishing
- Display Repairs & Refit
- Trail Maintenance
- Waste Removal
- And More!

LOCATION
Gravity Discovery Centre & Observatory
1098 Military Road,
Yeal

WE'LL SUPPLY

- Gloves
- Sunscreen
- Insect Repellent

PLEASE BRING

- Hat
- Water Bottle

READY TO HELP?
Every hand makes a big difference.

SCAN TO REGISTER
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