



Grow with Respect

The Davallian

25th September 2026

No. 14

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Dear Parents and Community Members,

Arts Assembly

It was so wonderful to see Davallia's Arts programme on full display yesterday morning during the annual Arts Assembly.

We were able to hear our IMSS students performing brass, classical guitar and clarinet items. They did a fabulous job in front of the huge audience. What an awesome experience for them. The Davallia school choir and band performed 'Create It!' with a whole school joining in the sing along. Between musical items, a group of talented Year Six Drama students entertained us with a series of very funny skits. Comments afterwards reflected how impressed we all were with their confidence and delivery. Very entertaining.

The Jump Jam Team got us all up on our feet with 'Funky Town' and I could see a lot of stunned parents watching on as the whole school erupted in synchronised singing and dancing.

Bookending the assembly, a vast variety of Visual Art examples produced by all year groups provided a stunning backdrop for this great presentation.

A very popular, final part of yesterday's show was Mrs Kendrick's reworking of the Davallia School Song. It was a huge hit with the children and staff alike. I think we might be hearing it more often.



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Absences— Please login and submit via Compass

Principal's Message (continued)

CDSSA Interschool Athletics Carnival

Last week, Davallia competed in the Carine Districts Interschool Athletics Carnival over two days at Joondalup Stadium. On Thursday, our students competed in jumps, throws and distance events and on Friday they returned for the sprint events and team games. A particular mention must go to Hannah H, our Year 5 Davallia Champion Girl, who won the 400m, breaking a sixteen-year-old record by 4 seconds, the 200m, breaking a thirty-four-year-old record by close to a second and in the Year Five Long Jump, breaking the 2020 record by 25cm. Hannah also beat the Year 6 girls Long Jump record in the process.

At the conclusion to the carnival on Friday, Davallia scored a third place overall, a big improvement on last year's result. Davallian students Hannah H (Yr5) and Miles M (Yr6) were awarded champion medals for their age groups. Emily H (Yr6) and Freddie B (Yr3) were awarded runner-up champion medals. What an amazing effort from these individuals and from the entire Davallia team.

Congratulations to Mr Warner who had the onerous task of coordinating the event this year on behalf of Davallia. He did a fantastic job. Thanks also to all the staff who helped prepare the students for interschool competition and to those that attended and assisted with coordinating the carnival and supporting our competitors. A special thanks to Saf, our gardener who did an amazing job assisting Mr Warner in preparing both carnivals.



Wellbeing Week

This week, Davallia has participated in Wellbeing Week.

Some of the highlights included 'Boogie Bounce', 'Armed 4 Life' and Spirit Day 'Zones of Regulation' dress up. Boogie Bounce was a great hit in the old undercover area and really got the heartbeat racing.

We also had 'Smiling Minds' at lunchtime and some brave staff even endured a tough Pilates class run by our very own Miss Khandan.

Yesterday provided a kaleidoscope of colour as everyone got into the spirit of the week with our 'Zones of Regulation' dress up for a gold coin. We raised \$562. All money raised will be donated to the Black Dog Institute, supporting better mental health. Our Wellbeing Committee did a fabulous job coordinating a fun filled educational timetable where there was something for everyone.



Our Friendly Magpies

With Magpie swooping season upon us, it is a good time to remind those that enter our school grounds to not threaten or harm our resident magpies.

Our Davallia magpies have formed a good relationship with our students and families. They are nice to us because we are nice to them. As you probably know, magpies can recognise faces and will know which people belong to a property, and they'll know their pets too. Because they have a lifespan of 25yrs many of these magpies have seen many generations of children come and go over the years. There's a chance that some of our local magpies were here when Mr Leaning first joined our staff.

Although Davallia's magpies are not tame or domesticated, they are very comfortable amongst the children. They have a grand time cleaning up after recess and lunch and have never swooped our students. Let's hope we can keep it that way. When magpies do swoop it is because they feel threatened and it is usually a small percentage of the birds in our community. Attacks will begin as the eggs hatch, increase in frequency and severity as the chicks grow, and tail off as the chicks leave the nest. September can be the most intense month of the six to eight weeks magpies are likely to be swooping, so be aware.

Be kind and respectful towards the Davallia magpies and we can look forward to a happy and quiet nesting season and maybe meet some new magpies later in the year.

Principal's Message (continued)

The Gardening Club

Coordinated by Mrs Chapman and the Sustainability Committee, the Davallia Gardening Club is 'growing' week by week with lots of nature loving students helping with weeding, planting and even harvesting of produce. It is wonderful to see our students enjoying the sunshine and donning their gloves to help. Well done to everyone involved.



Flagmantle

Is it possible after thirteen years of disappointment following their last grand final appearance in 2013, that Fremantle are ready to deliver a premiership? As you know, I'm no Dockers supporter but I do know how hard it was for my team, the other WA mob, to win their flags from over here in the west. To all those long-suffering Fremantle supporters in our school community, I wish you all the best.



Lapathon/Colour Run

What an amazing afternoon was had by all in our annual Lapathon/Colour Run. Almost everyone was soaked and covered in colour as they attempted to navigate the course raising money for our school. This event is always a huge hit, bringing another great term of activity to a close. We will be able to share how much we raised in the next newsletter. Well done, Davallia.



School Holidays

Have a wonderful two-week break.

For those who are heading off either into country WA, interstate or overseas, have a safe and memorable trip. To those, like me who will be staying local, enjoy the break, savour your family time and take the opportunity to appreciate some of the things this beautiful city has to offer.

See you all safe and well on Monday October 12th.

Mark Leaning and Sunny Kendrick
Associate Principals



Associate Principal's Message— Mark Leaning

What's Behind the Neon Door?

I was taken aback some years ago when the World Health Organisation recognised “gaming disorder” as a condition in its International Classification of Diseases. At the time, it caused me to reflect on my experiences with the darker side of online gaming as both a parent and a teacher. More than a decade later, the online world has changed dramatically, but many of the concerns remain. In fact, in 2026, the neon door to online interactions has become more accessible, more attractive, more accepted, and there are now so many more ways for children to walk through it.

In my day-to-day dealings with students at Davallia, I am very aware of how many of our students are gamers and how much online entertainment has become part of childhood. They talk excitedly about the games they play, mimic in-game dances, recreate scenes in the playground and regularly write about gaming characters and events in their narratives. For many children, gaming is simply another way to have fun, be creative and connect with friends.

The difficulty is knowing exactly what lies beyond that neon door of the screen.

Gaming in 2026 is no longer simply sitting in front of a console and playing a game. Children can be communicating with friends and strangers through voice and text chat, joining online communities, watching other people play, purchasing virtual items, competing against others and moving seamlessly between gaming, YouTube and social platforms. The boundaries between playing, watching and socialising have become increasingly blurred.

As a parent of a teenager in the days of the original Xbox, I had a very uncomfortable moment watching my daughter play a game online. The aggressive and inappropriate language directed towards her during the game was shocking and shook her up so much that she hastily left the game and threw the headset to the ground. It appeared that the other young people playing had abandoned all the niceties of human interaction behind the mask of their avatar. Their anonymity allowed them to say things they would almost certainly never have said face-to-face.

The technology may have changed, but that problem certainly hasn't disappeared.

What has changed is the age at which children are encountering these environments and the sheer number of opportunities they have to do so. A child can move from a game to a video, from a video to a live stream, from a live stream to a chat and then into another online community without an adult necessarily knowing where they have gone. Often, parents know the game their child is playing but may not know who their child is talking to, what they are watching or what they are being encouraged to do.

There are other concerns too. Online games and platforms are designed to keep us engaged. Rewards, notifications, challenges, streaks, levels and the fear of missing out can make it difficult for children to simply switch off. In-game purchases and virtual currencies are another layer that parents need to understand. What looks like a harmless game can sometimes involve spending real money or create pressure to keep up with friends.

And then there is the influence of algorithms.

Children are no longer simply choosing what they want to watch. Increasingly, the technology is choosing what it thinks they should watch next. One video can lead to another, and another, often taking children well beyond the content they originally intended to view. What begins as a few minutes of entertainment can quickly become a much longer period of screen time.

Perhaps my greatest concern, however, is not the games themselves but what can happen when the online world begins to replace the real one. Children need face-to-face conversations, friendships, physical activity, boredom, imagination and the opportunity to learn how to deal with disagreement and disappointment.



Associate Principal's Message— Continued

They need to experience the consequences of their actions and, importantly, to see the reactions of real people. Online interactions can sometimes make it much easier to forget that there is a real person on the other side of the screen with real feelings.

I have seen young people struggle to understand why something they have said or done online has upset someone in the real world. The distance created by a screen can make it easier to say things, behave in ways or make decisions that they would be much less likely to make when standing face-to-face with another person.

This isn't an argument for banning technology or gaming. That genie has well and truly left the bottle, and nor should we pretend that everything online is bad. There are enormous benefits. Games can develop problem-solving skills, creativity, teamwork and persistence. Online communities can provide friendship and connection, particularly for children who may find social interaction difficult in other settings. But just as we wouldn't send a young child into an unfamiliar part of the community without teaching them how to stay safe, we shouldn't assume that they automatically know how to navigate the online world.

For your child's sake, know what they are doing online. Play the games with them. Watch what they watch. Ask who they are talking to. Understand the platforms they use. Check the privacy and parental controls, and don't be afraid to set boundaries around when and where devices can be used. Most importantly, keep talking to them.

The online world isn't going away. In fact, it is becoming an increasingly important part of our children's lives. Our responsibility is not to keep them permanently behind a locked door, but to make sure they have the knowledge, resilience and judgement to safely walk through it.

The neon door is well and truly open. We the adults and guardians must make sure we know what is on the other side before we let our children enter.

For information on how to protect your child/ren online please refer to the following link

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/resources> You can access a free online safety book through this link.

Community Notices

Care for Kids OSHC

Davallia Primary School

Spring is here at
OSHC!

We've been making the most of the beautiful spring weather, with the children keeping busy outdoors, enjoying plenty of fresh air, games, creative play and time with their friends!

The excitement is also building because Vacation Care is just around the corner! We have an action-packed program coming up, filled with exciting themed days, awesome incursions and fun excursions for the children to enjoy. There's plenty to look forward to, and we can't wait to make lots of fun memories together over the school holidays!

For now, we're soaking up the sunshine and enjoying everything spring has to offer!

Contact us



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profootballtraining

After School Soccer

**Wednesdays
21 Oct to 9 Dec (8-Weeks)**

2.45pm to 3.45pm

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**Simply click on the QR Code to
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**Please contact Louis for further details
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

