

In this issue

- Principal's Message
- Associate Principal's Message
- 50th Anniversary
- P&C News
- School Notices
- Community Notices

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

This week's assembly was hosted by the sustainability gurus from A2. They presented a very interesting assembly focussing on recycling and how we do it at Davallioa PS. They also reminded us of 3 important key words in Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. Well done A2, Mrs Chapman and Mrs Murnane on a really important assembly.

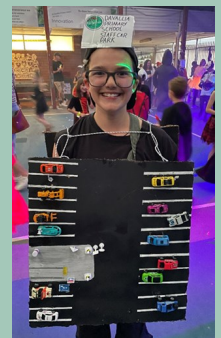


Class Placements

Class placement requests closed on 23rd October 2024. 43 requests were received with quite a number being declined due to being outside the process criteria. Although the criteria was clearly stated and clarified in the newsletter, most of the declined requests related to wanting students to be placed with their friends and without a diagnosed need. All class placement requests have been responded to. Should you have made a request and have not received a notification of the outcome, please forward the original email to me at your convenience.

Halloween Disco

The two Halloween discos were a spectacular success. The children turned out in great numbers and put on a magnificent display in their creepy and creative costumes. Mr Leaning was particularly frightened when Imogen, from Year 6, dressed up as the scariest place on the planet, THE STAFF CARPARK! He had trouble sleeping after the scare she gave him. There was plenty of dancing and singing in both discos with the DJ doing a fantastic job engaging children of all ages. Congratulations to the P&C, the disco organisers and volunteers on a great job and also to our amazing Student Council who volunteered to help out at both discos.



World Teachers' Day

Friday the 25th of October was World Teachers' Day, and it was wonderful to read some of the posts on our P&C Facebook page acknowledging our teaching staff.

'We feel incredibly fortunate to have a team of phenomenal teachers who bring a special kind of magic to the classroom every day. These educators consistently go above and beyond for our children, nurturing not only their academic abilities but also their personal growth and wellbeing. It's clear how much passion and dedication they pour into everything they do, ensuring that every student feels supported, seen, and valued.'



We do have an incredible staff of teachers at Davallia, and it is fabulous that our community has taken the time to recognise their efforts with such lovely words.

Principal's Message (Continued)

IMSS Beginner Strings Workshop CSHS

Last Thursday Miss Agnello accompanied a hand full of students from Years 3 to 5 who were invited to participate in a strings workshop at Carine Senior High School. The students really enjoyed the experience of making beautiful music with students from across the Carine catchment and some secondary students who have continued with their string instrument lessons into High School. Here at Davallia we have thirty-five students learning a string instrument. Under the tutelage of Ms Helen Milner and Mr Kevin Gillam.

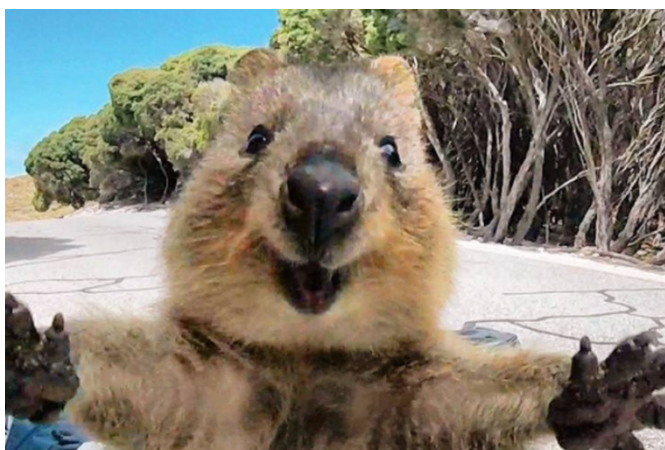


P & C Meeting

Our P & C work tirelessly for our school and your children. This year, the P & C have funded in excess of \$57,000 of resources for our school. They have fully funded the 2024 wishlist and this is such a great effort. It is a huge team effort, as this success only occurs from the support given by our school community, to P & C initiatives and fundraising ventures. A big thank you to you all.

Year 6 Rottnest Island Camp

When students return to school on Tuesday, the entire Year 6 cohort will be already arriving on Rottnest Island for the annual Year 6 Camp. Accompanying the students this year are Mrs Barratt, Mr Callow, Mr Eckert, Ms Ferry, Mrs Kendrick, Mrs Kuenen, Mr Leaning, Mr O'Neill, and Miss Webster. The students are in for a very enjoyable but challenging few days, as the main form of transport on the island is the bicycle or feet! We can't tell you too much about what is in store, but be prepared for some exciting stories upon their return. Thanks to all the staff who have worked so hard to put together this incredible experience for our graduating class, and for giving up their home comforts for three nights looking after the children. To all the parents of our Year Six students, enjoy the break! The Year 6's are a little nervous at the thought of me being their 'Camp Dad' for 4 days! Trust me. They have nothing to worry about! Bwah ha ha ha.



John O'Neill
Principal



Principal's Message (Continued)

Key Dates:

1 st November	School Development Day
4 th November	School Development Day
5 th November	Year 6 Rottnest Island Camp (5 th - 8 th Nov)
14 th November	Pre-Primary Assembly
22 nd November	Family Fun Night
28 th November	Kindy Assembly
5 th December	Student Council Assembly
10 th December	Presentation Assembly and Year 6 Graduation
11 th December	Reports issued via email
12 th December	School concludes (students)
13 th December	School Development Day (Staff)

VacSwim free this summer

You may have seen the Minister for Education announce cost of living measures to improve access to vital water safety skills for families across our state.

VacSwim will be offered free to families for the December and January programs. In addition, where venue entry fees apply these will be free for each child participating in VacSwim. This will remove financial barriers for many families. To ensure as many children as possible can access swimming lessons, there will be an initial enrolment of one program per child, with additional programs offered where available. VacSwim summer enrolments are now open and close on 16th October 2024.



Associate Principal's Message

Grow With It

In our final months with this fantastic cohort of Year Sixes, I have been reflecting on the years I spent teaching graduating students. For me the 'leavers' were the most rewarding level to teach. It was often challenging professionally, demanding of me personally, but always ever so fulfilling. I've lost count of how many camps I've been on, how many teams I've coached, how many student leaders I've managed, how many graduations I've organised and how many young people I've transitioned to High School, only to bump into their grown selves years later. They were such great experiences and provided lasting memories that fill me with satisfaction.

I am still lucky enough in my role to have quite a bit to do with our school leavers and I'm so pleased to be able to have this opportunity.

These student leaders have played such an integral role in setting the tone of our school. Their attitudes, behaviours and values impact on so many of their fellow students, all looking up at them admiringly. If a school doesn't get their student leadership right, the whole place is poorer for it. We work hard to ensure all students are given a leadership opportunity. I am proud of the way the Davallia culture supports the child who leads. We recognize the developing maturity and celebrate the complexity of it.

With growing up comes more opportunity to be responsible, more independence and with it, trust. At the same time, growing up makes young people more acutely aware of how you look and what they'd like to look like. I know from seeing my own children grow up, they were never completely happy with their appearance despite being beautiful in my eyes. They were vulnerable to criticism and 'likes' manipulated on social media, both terrible ways of measuring yourself. They can get caught up trying to pursue unrealistic ideals when they really are not ready.

We 'grown ups' must remind our children that bad times pass, but so do good times. Encourage them to enjoy the moment they are in and to get full value out of being an adolescent. The next ten years will pass quickly enough, so urge them to fill them with memories of the things they did. Discourage them from wishing it away; thinking being older is going to be so much more. Being grown up will come soon enough, so advise them to revel in what it means to be a tween or teen in the twenty twenties. Urge them to engage in the right now and experience the joy that being a kid is, seizing every opportunity that comes their way.

The Sixes are on camp next week on Rottnest. The memories they are busy creating will last a lifetime. Let's hope they savour this and all the opportunities that 'leavership' brings. They have been a great group of students whose contribution to Davallia has been significant. We hope they enjoy their final weeks of Primary School being leaders and celebrating their achievements. We know they will make us proud when they leave us for secondary school, wherever they may go. They will always be Davallians.

Mark Leaning
Associate Principal

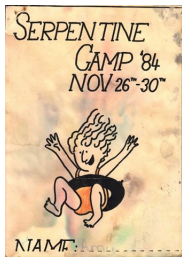
The Way We Were

Reflections on Fifty Years of Davallia.



Camps

Next week our Year Six students will head off to Rottnest Island for the annual camp. Davallia has been offering Year Seven and now Year Six camps since well before I joined the staff, nearly twenty years ago. In that first year, 2005, the year seven students went to Busselton for five days and toured the Southwest in a coach, experiencing much of the variety the region had to offer and bunking down at the Baptist Camp. The cave crawl, bush tucker and canoeing trip up the Margaret River was my favourite part of the camp when I went along. No doubt some of our ex-students will have other highlights. No matter where your end of primary school camp was held, I'm sure all will remember the challenge, the adventure and the reward a camp posed when sleeping away from home and family for maybe the first time.



One past student contributed this 1984 camp book from her Serpentine camp. Looking through the itinerary, camps haven't change all that much in thirty years. Lots of the same routines and activities we use today featured in the Serpentine camp booklet.

Spending most of my career as an upper primary teacher and an administrator, I've lost count of how many camps I've attended. Camps are a lot of work and such a significant undertaking; number of schools no longer offer them. Many other schools have reduced them down to one or two nights and often the destination is very close to home. Throughout my career I have left my wife and children at home to spend close to a week supervising Year Six and Seven camps. They are exhausting to run and require staff to be 'on' at all times, even after lights out. Any staff who volunteer to attend camps deserve recognition and thanks for their commitment. Being a senior primary teacher, organising and attending a camp always seemed to come with the territory.

Regardless of the cohort or the staff around me, Rottnest is my all-time favourite camp destination. We've been going consistently to Rottnest since 2009 and the feedback has always been so very positive. Back in 2009 we took the half year cohort to Rottnest and only had two girls in Year 7. The camp was so good, we decided to keep going and for a while we took Year Sixes and Year Sevens. During that period, up until 2014, we did a Busselton Camp and a Rottnest camp a year about so the students experienced both. I can remember on one camp where we had in excess of 90 students on camp, the line of bike riders had arrived at the destination before the tail enders had set off, so long was the line of bikes.

Camps offer children an experience they will never have with their family or at school. For many it is the first time they have slept in a bed other than their own. Having to get along with all kinds of personalities in dorms for nearly a week is challenging and rewarding. Lots of children thrive in the environment and we can see quickly who has been given the opportunity to pitch at home with duties like sweeping, wiping tables and making a bed. The memories they create will last a lifetime. So many ex students recall the camp as their favourite memory of primary school. I wonder if you remember yours?

In our 50th year once again we are all looking forward to the 2024 camp. This cohort of Year Sixes are off to Rottnest and they are going to have a blast. They will all come back exhausted and with great stories to share. Yes the camp will challenge them and they will learn a great deal about themselves. If your child is lucky enough to be amongst this year's Sixes, make sure to ask them when they return, 'What new things have learnt how to do for yourself and for others? And what did it feel like to accomplish such things?'

Mark Leaning
Associate Principal



P&C News

Wishlist Funded!

Thank you to everyone who attended this weeks P&C committee meeting. At the meeting we confirmed the 2024 wishlist has been fully funded. Our current bank balance of \$26,000, topped up recently by a great \$4,200 raised from the Halloween disco, will be allocated in term 1 at the funding meeting. This is an amazing position to be in as it allows the P&C to focus on the final events for 2024 and concentrate on building up the committee after a few people have resigned after providing years of amazing service to the committee.

We wish everyone who has been part of the P&C all the best and hopefully we will see some new faces join at the AGM meeting Tuesday 3rd December 2024. If you want to hear more about any of the roles please contact the P&C President davalliapspc.president@gmail.com or the Davallia Primary School Principal John.Oneill@education.wa.edu.au

The next event for the P&C is the Family Fun Night, Friday 22nd November, and we invite all children and their families to attend the school oval and enjoy a relaxed evening of free entertainment, multiple food options and some fun and games for the kids. The P&C will be providing the silent-disco and jumping castle for free but gold coins will be needed for the chocolate throw and to have a turn at dunking the teachers!

The P&C have received several generous contributions towards the end of year silent auction. If you or your business would like to contribute, please email the Fundraising Team at davalliapspc.fundraisers@gmail.com

P&C Team

Chaplain's Corner

Davallia takes pride in the school values it upholds. One of those values is innovation. Innovation is one of many key skills that students develop and learn at Davallia. Innovative thinking helps children express their creativity, encourages them to be unique, allows them to see new opportunities and helps them to develop problem solving and social skills.

Here are some ways to foster innovation in your child;

Develop curiosity – allow them to ask questions and explore new things.

Encourage taking risks – by taking healthy risks they learn tools to overcome challenges.

Make room for freedom of choice – let them choose and decide where appropriate.

Praise their efforts – praise them when they try something new.

At Davallia, students are valued and respected by all staff. They are also taught to respect each other's uniqueness. I wish all the Year 6 students all the best with their camp next week. Stay safe and have a wonderful time!

Mrs Carolina

Davallia School Chaplain

At school on: Monday & Thursday

carolina.lopez@education.wa.edu.au



“Innovation is the ability to see change as an opportunity – not a threat”. Steve Jobs

School Notices

Music News

Last Thursday our beginner Violin and Cello students took part in the 2024 IMSS Beginner Strings Workshop 2024 which was held at Carine SHS. The dynamic workshop was an opportunity for our budding instrumentalists to experience a variety of fun, educational and inspiring activities which served as an introduction to string ensemble playing. I was most fortunate to be able to attend and accompanying our starry string players in a short informal concert for their families, which was well received and lots of fun! Looking forward to continue making marvellous Music with you all next year when you join our String Ensemble!

Anna-Maria Agnello

Senator Success

Malia from Year 4 has been selected to play in the championship team for Warwick Senators at the state champs trials over the weekend of 13th, 14th and 15th December. Well done Malia and we wish you good luck!



Dealing with disappointment

By Professor Matt Sanders

Despite what certain sport shoe commercials might have you believe, life isn't always about winning. It is equally important for the development of healthy self-esteem that children learn how to deal with disappointment.

As a reaction to not getting what they want, such as being chosen for a team, children may sometimes put themselves down, saying things like: "I'm dumb", "you hate me" or "I'm just stupid". If this happens, try to avoid being too sympathetic. Instead encourage your child to try again after the set-back and to enjoy the activity or game even if they aren't the winner.

Rather than simply reassuring your child that everything will be okay, you can help your child develop their own sense of worth by letting them know that you understand their feelings of disappointment and that you are there to help them work out a reasonable way of dealing with that disappointment.

Remember too, when you're helping your child with an activity or with homework, concentrate on effort not results. Praising your child for trying and making an improvement will motivate them to continue trying at a difficult task.

Homework habits

By Professor Matt Sanders

Homework is an accepted part of every child's schooling. However, it doesn't have to become a family battle. The key is for parents and children to be prepared. Your child should have a set, regular time for homework that fits in around your schedule and your child's other commitments such as sport or music lessons.

Homework should come at a time after your child has had a chance to relax after arriving home and before they are allowed to play or watch television. Relaxing immediately after school is as important for children as it is for adults who want to wind down after coming home from work. Give your child an afternoon snack and use that time to find out what their homework tasks are, whether they need any special materials for projects, and when it needs to be ready.

While children don't have to have absolute quiet when working, they should have a homework area that has clear table space, is well lit, and is free from obvious distractions (like the television).

If your child wants your opinion on how good their homework is don't feel that you have to make sure the work is perfect before they hand it in. They may feel discouraged if you point out all the spelling and punctuation mistakes. Instead, say something positive about the work and, if you must make corrections, just choose one or two mistakes.

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

School Notices Continued

Stress Less

Duncraig Chiropractic will be holding another free seminar at Davallia on Monday 18th November. Dr Josh will talk about how to build resilience for life's storms. Attached is information and how to book your seat.

Community Notices

Positions Available

The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) has 100,000 temporary jobs available across Australia at the next election. Although the date for the election is yet to be announced, they need to ensure they have the temporary workforce to run the event. There are jobs available before, on and after election day in metro, regional and remote areas. All jobs are paid, no experience is required and training is provided.

Attached is more information and how to register to work at the federal election. For any further questions contact the AEC at electionjobs@aec.gov.au.

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

