



Grow with Respect

The Davallian

15th November 2024

No. 17

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Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Our highly accomplished Pre-Primary students hosted this week's assembly, which was all about Summer and the Summer holidays. They spoke confidently about all the reasons they love Summer and the wonderful things they get to enjoy. They even danced to one of their favourite Summer songs and told us all about what they will be doing over the upcoming holidays. With only 28 days before the start of the school holidays (that's 19 school days), everyone is getting a little excited. Well done to all the Pre-Primary students and staff on a light and bright, sunny assembly.

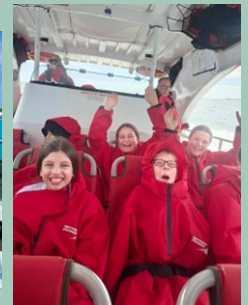


Year 6 Rottnest Island Camp

We survived and they did too! Last week, our Year 6's enjoyed a fantastic 4 days at Rottnest Island. Although quite a number of our Year 6's looked a bit 'green' on our journey over to the island, they recovered quickly and were into the swing of camp life very quickly! Not only were they involved in a heap of bike riding and swimming, they were thoroughly engaged in learning about the history, myths and legends of Rottnest Island. All staff are so very proud of our students, as they received commendations for their positive behaviour, beautiful manners and high level of engagement from everyone they interacted with. One of the highlights was the Adventure boat's circumnavigation of the island. This was like a rollercoaster on water, and the boat was filled with lots of screams, chanting the skippers name (getting her to go faster) and just a little bit of AC/DC! Well done Year 6's, you led by example!



I would also like to express my sincere appreciation of Sam Callow, Ryan Ekert, Merrinda Kuenen, Elise Webster, Grace Barratt, Louse Ferry and Sunny Kendrick. They all worked tirelessly in the lead up to camp and also whilst at camp. Your above and beyond efforts made this year's camp a well-oiled machine which created lasting memories for our students. Thank you.



Student Achievement Reports

Semester 2 Student Achievement Reports will be issued via email on Wednesday 11th December 2025. Parents are requested to access the link within 28 days of issue, and download a copy of your child(ren)'s report.

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SMS student absences to
0408 924 839

Principal's Message (Continued)

2025 Class Lists

As usual, the 2025 class lists will be made available to parents from 2.30pm Thursday 12th December. These lists will be displayed in the wet area windows. For safety reasons, they will be removed at 3.30pm. Parents are permitted to take a digital image of the list their child(ren) are included in, however, no list is permitted to be posted on any social media. Your respect of this decision is greatly appreciated.

Family Fun Night – Friday 22nd November

We are rapidly approaching one of the best evenings on the school calendar, with the Family Fun Night being held in a week's time. There will be heaps to enjoy, including a silent disco, silent auction, bouncy castle, food trucks, chocolate throw, sausage sizzle and the dunk tank. Even I will be saving up my gold coins to dunk Mr Warner! We also have live music with musician Ari Davis performing on the night. Save the date and plan to come along!

Pink Day for Breast Cancer – 21st November

Please refer to the information contained further in the newsletter. Please endeavour to support our efforts to raise funds for this very worthy cause and one which is far too close to the hearts of many.



Carine Senior High School Orientation Day – 25th November

Year 6 students who will be attending Carine Senior High School in 2025 will have an Orientation Day on Monday 25th November 2024. It is expected Year 6 students not attending the Orientation Day will attend school as per usual.

Fledgling Season

At the moment, we are finding lots of fledglings on the ground around school. Some have been taken to the local vet who advises us, in most cases, the young birds should remain/returned to where they were. It might sound cruel to leave them in possible danger of attack from other birds, however, as the vet has said, 'that's the circle of life'.

John O'Neill

Principal



Key Dates:

22 nd November	Family Fun Night
25 th November	Carine Senior High School Orientation Day (Year 6)
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 announced 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

Talk Soon

Discussions about puberty, growth and development and sex have been an important part of Health education in Primary Schools for as long as I have been teaching. As I'm sure you'd understand, the conversations begin to get a little more detailed and awkward in Year 5 and 6.

As these topics are covered at school, parents often find they are getting some tricky questions at home. I encourage you to take the opportunity to have conversations of your own and make sure your child feels comfortable to ask you about such topics. The longer these lines of communication stay open the more confident you will be that your child is getting factual and appropriate information. It is too easy today for kids to find information elsewhere that is neither accurate nor appropriate. When asking the question of a group of Year Six boys recently, "Where do you find out more about the changes that are happening to you and about sex?" some boys suggested the internet. Don't let this be true in your family.

In the 21st century the way our children are exposed to imagery, questionable role models and sexuality in general is so very different to what you, their parents would have experienced growing up. Filtering out the misleading and harmful material our kids could potentially consume is challenging. Inappropriate content delivered through television, in music, in advertising and on the internet is just too vast to completely restrict. This is where education and open conversations play a role.

Having those awkward talks and arming our children with the tools to view content critically is so important. Monitoring and sometimes restricting your child's access is very important too, but for those odd times when you can't be there, it comes down to how well you have prepared your child. If they know to raise the alarm when something they see or hear is not appropriate, you will have a chance to protect and educate them straight away. Make sure your children know if they do encounter inappropriate images or content, that they feel comfortable coming to you and they will not be in trouble.

For older children, start talking now. The Department of Health provides some excellent resources available online:

https://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/articles/s_t/talk-soon-talk-often

https://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/N_R/Puberty

https://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/N_R/Relationships-sex-and-other-stuff

There is also some excellent content on the Australian Government's eSafety website that may help you to start a conversation with your own children.

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/skills-advice/hard-to-have-conversations>

And remember, listen, don't judge. Ask questions and get help if you need it.

Mark Leaning
Associate Principal



The Way We Were

Reflections on Fifty Years of Davallia.



Building On the Past

When Davallia Primary School opened in 1974 only two buildings had been completed. There was an administration building and one cluster of six classrooms ready to occupy. The administration building had a front office tucked away from the car park, two offices, staff toilets, a storeroom and staffroom. The first cluster built (A Block), accommodated 180 students from Year 1 to 5 in six classrooms, two wet areas and a central withdrawal room. There was no air conditioning and probably no fans. Each classroom was fitted with a gas heater, which many teachers will recall from their battles with the pilot light. The floors were covered in low pile carpet squares, there were pin up boards on a few of the walls, concertina dividers between rooms and a centre mounted chalkboard. These buildings were designed to be built quickly and to meet a demand. I doubt the planners expected these schools to be still standing and occupied in fifty years' time. There were dozens of identical schools erected all over the expanding outer suburbs of Perth, as the state government tried to keep up with demand.



By 1979 the rest of the cluster buildings were completed and occupied with 740 students from years 1-7. A lot of the original bush land had been cleared to make way for buildings, bitumen courts and an oval. Somewhere in this period the library and a covered assembly area was constructed. In this staff photo from 1979 you can make out the windows of the library in the background.

The covered assembly area has been used for decades as the main presentation area of the school. Into the 1990s there was no stage area and for even longer, there was no back of stage area. In a graduation photo from 1985 you can see the presentation is done at ground level and the children in the audience are sitting on the ground. The covered assembly area was very open on all sides back then and the PA was rudimentary. By the time I arrived in 2005, the stage was enclosed and had curtains on either side to add to the impact.



Shortly after Principal Mr O'Neill arrived at Davallia in 2007, a P&C funded upgrade of the under-cover area multimedia equipment was carried out. The Davallia P&C has been an incredible support for the school over the past fifty years. They'd funded air conditioning in classrooms when many other local schools went without, playground equipment, interactive screens, laptops and iPads. In 2019 the under-cover area data projector we use today was added to our audio system. The massive screen gave us incredible range, so even people standing on the grass outside could see details displayed on it. In 2022, during COVID restrictions, an acoustic upgrade was done in the under-cover area. By 2023 the old under cover area had been completely revamped. An area that was never meant to be used in the way it had been for more than forty years, was finally fit for purpose.



At some time during the 1990s a resource room was added to the back of the library. You can see in this 1992 photo there is no resource room. It is now situated where those children were once standing in the sunshine. When I arrived at Davallia it was full to brim with teacher resources that hadn't been sorted for a long time. In 2008, Principal Mr O'Neill approved the conversion of the resource room into a virtual learning suite (VLS) and in a matter of weeks it was transformed into a 32 PC computer facility with projector and printer, ideal for whole class computer-based instruction. It is still a very popular room with staff and students today particularly as the computer hardware has evolved.

The Way We Were Continued

After many failed attempts at securing government funding to upgrade the 1974 administration building, in 2010 a new administration building reached completion, along with a new Early Childhood Education block which was part of a Federal BER project. Previous school leadership teams had been lobbying the government for such an upgrade for decades without success. By 2011 we had moved in. In the process of constructing the new administration building, significant upgrades were carried out in the older admin building. Staff amenities were greatly improved, and integration of technology infrastructure was more considered, integrating communication room and compactus, replacing the old storeroom.

In the mid 2000's the Department of Education set about readying schools for networking and faster internet. Because Davallia was built in the 70s there were not enough power points, and the electrical system just wasn't built to handle the introduction of so many switches and computers. Fibre cabling had to be installed throughout the school in the old roof spaces and tunnels had to be excavated to link the buildings on the site with the outside networks. Over the next fifteen years, wireless access points were added, and the existing infrastructure was migrated to the NBN. These days everything in the school is networked back to the DOE including our phones.

In 2023 the beautiful new undercover area was completed. Built to modern specifications it was delivered with a kitchen and music room included and provides a new welcoming façade to our school along Juniper Way. The school has chosen to upgrade the sound system and installed a stage, lighting, and air conditioning to make it perfect for school assemblies and performances. This new addition to the school is constantly in use now and earlier in the year provided the perfect venue for our 50th anniversary display.

When ex-students stroll through Davallia Primary School in 2024, the changes are everywhere. Gone are the concertina dividers, most of the orange laminate, the beige desks, and those brown carpet squares. Classrooms are brightly colourful places with flexible furnishings, kitchens in wet areas and technology ever present. In the grounds you'll notice the nature playgrounds, new sport and gardener's shed. Not so obvious are the new roof and ceilings, security fencing, reticulation, access ramps and resurfaced courts. As the years have passed, Davallia has transformed into a modern educational facility built on the bones of that original 1974 structure. Who knows how it will change over the next twenty-five to fifty years.

Mark Leaning
Associate Principal

P&C News

We Need You!

The P&C are seeking helpers to volunteer 30 minutes of their time at the upcoming Family Fun Night, on Friday 22nd November. If you can give some time for one of these tasks, please advise via email to the Fundraising Team davalliapspc.fundraisers@gmail.com or P&C President davalliapspc.president@gmail.com or comment on the volunteer post on Facebook.

4:30pm-5.00pm - 4 volunteers needed for set-up. Meet in the undercover area.

5.00pm-8.00pm - 1 volunteer per 30 min slot for each of the following activities, 18 volunteers in total.

- Silent Disco (hand out headsets and collect after use)
- Bouncy castle (supervise children and ensure operator rules are followed)
- Dunk tank (collect gold coins)

5.00pm-8.00pm - 1 volunteer per 30 minute slot to supervise the year 6 helpers at the following stations, 12 volunteer in total:

- Chocolate throw
- Lolly table

8.00pm- 8:30pm - 4 volunteers needed for pack down at the end of the evening.

Meet in the undercover area. On behalf of the P&C, thank you in advance for your help.

Scholastic Book Club

Your child today has received Issue brochure from Scholastic. Please note cash orders for this issue will close at 3:30pm next Thursday 21st November and online/app orders at 11:59pm the same day.

P&C Team



Chaplain's Corner

Chaplain's Corner

Generosity is the quality of being kind and giving and this is one of many strong qualities of Davallians. I am constantly amazed and privileged to see how generous Davallia Primary School is. Each term, Davallia staff role model and promote causes that make a significant positive difference in the lives of others through generosity. It is also wonderful to see the Davallian community always working together.

I believe generosity is an act from the heart. You can show generosity towards others under any circumstance. Generosity is a simple act, however, we can see during each term at Davallia that simple acts go a long way and make a significant impact.

It is also important to acknowledge that while generosity impacts others in a positive way, modelling it also teaches students and children to embrace this amazing quality.

Thank you - "Gracias", to all Davallia staff, students and families, for all you do and for your generosity that reaches many communities and hearts.

"The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention". Oscar Wilde

Mrs Carolina

Davallia School Chaplain

At school on: Monday & Thursday

carolina.lopez@education.wa.edu.au



School Notices

Pink Heroes

Did you know that every day 58 people in Australia are diagnosed with breast cancer and 9 Australians die every day from this disease? All of us have been touched in some way or another by this disease, so Davallia Primary School has decided to raise funds for world-class breast cancer research to help National Breast Cancer Foundation (NBCF) towards their vision of Zero Deaths from breast cancer. Please support us to save lives and make a difference.

On Thursday, November 21st we invite students, staff and Davallia families to wear pink and to please donate to this worthy cause using this link.

<https://fundraise.nbcf.org.au/fundraisers/davalliaprimarieschool/davallia-primary-school--s-pink-day>

Every donation, big or small, will get us closer to reaching our goal. Together, we can make a difference! Attached is information on how to donate.



**National
Breast Cancer
Foundation**

School Notices

Kids as consumers - By Professor Matt Sanders

It could be anything from breakfast cereal at the supermarket to an expensive new video game. Chances are though, your child has a very clear idea of what he or she wants you to buy. It's hardly surprising when you consider children watching two hours of television a day will be bombarded with around 10,000 advertising messages every year. So, with children being groomed to consume from a very young age, some parents may feel powerless when the pestering starts. But there are ways to help children express their wants – which is natural and not necessarily negative – yet prepare them for the disappointment of not always getting everything they want.

First, you should help your child understand why you will or won't buy something. Rather than telling your son he can't have something, "because I say so", you could explain why the product isn't suitable. Is it offensive or too expensive? Perhaps the child can have the item when they reach a certain age. Explain once and don't let your child interrogate you. You can also help your children become better informed consumers by teaching them the value of money. Give them a set amount of pocket money to spend as they like. Even six year olds soon learn they can't buy anything once the piggy bank is empty.

And finally, remember you're a role model. Think about what you say and do in front of your kids. If you constantly discuss other people's worth or success in terms of how much they earn, how much they have or what they've bought, your child is going to accept those values as important.

Lying - By Professor Matt Sanders

Pres-schoolers sometimes mix up reality and fantasy, but we expect that by primary school, children will know the difference between the two. To discourage lying, parents need to explain to their child why lying is wrong and the consequences of lying. For example, you could briefly and calmly tell your child: "Tania, I feel disappointed when you lie. It makes it hard to believe anything you say. If you keep telling lies you will find that nobody will trust you."

Give your child opportunities to be honest and praise them for telling the truth. Your positive response will encourage them to repeat their honesty in future. Even when a child admits to telling a lie, praise them first for their honesty, before proceeding with the disciplinary consequences.

If your child is finding it hard not to tell lies, you might need to set up a written contract signed by you and your child. This contract should state what you expect your child to do and the rewards and consequences that will follow. If they have lied, the consequences for that behaviour are clearly listed in the contract. As your child learns to not lie, you will no longer need a written contract as you and your child will have established a more permanent contract of trust.

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

Salvation Army Christmas Appeal 2024

Once again our School Chaplain and the Student Council will be assisting classes in our annual Christmas Collection from the 25th of November to the 2nd of December. The Davallian community has been extremely generous in previous years. More information will be coming home soon so check your Connect messages about what sort of items we are seeking to collect and donate.

A special presentation will be made to the Salvation Army on behalf of our school community at the Student Councillor Assembly on the 5th of December. There will be a Christmas/Davallia Colours free dress day (no gold coin donation necessary) held on this day. Please involve your children and consider digging deep for those who need some help this Christmas Season.

We have a short window of opportunity to collect donations this year – please ensure all donations are at school by Monday 2nd December, but please don't send anything in until we start collecting on the 25th of November.



School Notices Continued

Stress Less

Duncraig Chiropractic will be holding another free seminar at Duncraig Chiro, 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.



School Photos

All photos are currently still available to purchase. Please note our school code is 8FW5VG, and ordering can be done online at kapture.com.au

Community Notices

Paddington in Peru

Team Saba are holding a fundraiser in partnership with Telethon Community Cinemas on December 19th for the Saba Rose Button Foundation. Please see attached for more details.

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

