



Grow with Respect

# The Davallian

2nd December 2024

No. 18

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### Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Last week our amazing Kindy students took command of the stage and hosted our school assembly. They have been learning about the weather and its seasonal changes. They also introduced the community and school to the six Noongar seasons of Birak, Bunuru, Djeran, Makaru, Djilba and Kamarang. It never ceases to amaze me just how confident and competent our youngest Davallians are when presenting in front of an audience of more than 500 students, teachers and community members. Congratulations to our Kindy staff and our fabulous Kindy students on a fantastic assembly. Can you spot the big kids in the back?



### Family Fun Night – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November

Well done to everyone involved in creating this year's Family Fun Night. The night was very well supported by our community, who came together for an evening of games, music, and fun with other families. Although there was some fundraising to be had, that certainly wasn't the focus of the evening. Thank you to the staff who 'volunteered' to be this year's Dunk Tank victims. You were all good sports.



### Interschool Tennis Champions – Again and again and again!

Well done to Joel Warner, who along with his Davallian Allstars, were successful in winning the Instyle Tennis Tournament. Davallia achieved a three-peat, having won the tournament now for three consecutive years. Go Davallia!



### Student Achievement Reports

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

### 2025 Class Lists

As per our usual process, the 2025 class lists will be made available to parents from 2.30pm Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> 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 in which their child(ren) are included, however, **parents do not have permission to post lists on any social media.** Your respect of this decision is greatly appreciated.

### Pink Day for Breast Cancer – 21<sup>st</sup> November

Thank you to the school community for your generous support of this very worthy cause. Our day raised more than \$2200 for breast cancer research. A super effort.



Davallia Primary School  
6 Juniper Way  
Duncraig WA 6023

T. 9246 8750  
E. [davallia.ps@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:davallia.ps@education.wa.edu.au)

[www.davalliaps.wa.edu.au](http://www.davalliaps.wa.edu.au)

SMS student absences to  
0408 924 839

## *Principal's Message (Continued)*

### **Carine Senior High School Orientation Day – 25<sup>th</sup> November**

Last Monday, Year 6 students who will be attending Carine Senior High School in 2025 attended an Orientation Day. They returned to school excited from the experience and are greatly looking forward to being a Year 7 as part of a cohort of 473 students. From all reports, they represented our school extremely well, with CSHS staff acknowledging their outstanding conduct. Well done.

### **Salvation Army Christmas Appeal**

The annual Salvation Army Christmas Appeal concluded today. Our school community has gone above and beyond to support this year's appeal. Your generosity and care will ensure many families in need will not go without this Christmas. A huge thank you to you all.

Have a great final 8 school days!

**John O'Neill**  
**Principal**



### **Key Dates:**

5 <sup>th</sup> December	Student Council Assembly
10 <sup>th</sup> December	Presentation Assembly and Year 6 Graduation
11 <sup>th</sup> December	Reports issued via email
12 <sup>th</sup> December	School concludes (students)
13 <sup>th</sup> 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 16 October 2024.



## Associate Principal's Message

### Membership Benefits

Are you one of the overwhelming majority of Davallia stakeholders who have never attended a P&C meeting?

Why? Davallia has quite simply the best P&C I have ever seen during my forty-year career.

Your P&C represents **you** and is made up of people like **you** and your friends. Our P&C give families an opportunity to contribute to and share in the community spirit at Davallia. They offer every parent and community member an easy way to find out more about what is going on at the school and a chance get more involved. For our P&C to continue to thrive, new families must get involved. New faces bring new ideas, new perspectives and fresh energy. How much or how little you choose to get involved is up to you, but attending the meetings twice a term is a great way to start finding out what your P&C is up to.

Don't leave it too long. The P&C needs your input right now. Your contribution will have a lasting impact. There is evidence of this all over the school. Things we now take for granted were originally funded by a P&C of the past. The interactive screens in classrooms, air conditioning, the nature playground, the PA equipment employed in the undercover area along with countless technology and educational tools have been provided by the P&Cs for generations of children.

This year, our P&C has generated in excess of sixty thousand dollars for items on the school's Wishlist and they've had a pretty good time doing it. The money they have raised has provided speech screening for our newest Davallians, iPads, laptops, guitars, keyboards, construction club resources and reading materials. On top of this, our P&C have offered families a second-hand uniform option with their uniform shop, discos for the children, coordinated class representatives, lunches twice a week, and offered cakes and coffee at sport events and assemblies. The list goes on.

The next P&C Meeting, the last for 2024, is in the school library at 7:30 pm on Tuesday December the 3<sup>rd</sup>. How about coming along and making your own mind up? It is a friendly, largely informal, and regularly light-hearted evening where you can learn a lot about what is going on in and around Davallia. Why not drop in and find out about some of the things planned for the rest of this year and for 2025 at Davallia or join us virtually by using the link sent out beforehand by our secretary. If you feel inclined, you may even want to get involved in one of the many roles our P&C play that benefit every family attending our school. If you just want to sit back and listen, that's okay too. Oh, and bring a friend, the more the merrier. Membership and voting rights for your P&C costs the princely sum of \$1 and you can pay that online.

I hope to see you there soon.

**Mark Leaning**  
**Associate Principal**



# The Way We Were

*Reflections on Fifty Years of Davallia.*



## WALNA to NAPLAN

When I arrived at Davallia Primary School in 2005 my Year Five class completed the Western Australian Literacy and Numeracy Assessment (WALNA). In B Block the year sevens were doing their final one for primary school and in year three, the children were having their first go at it. According to the then Education and Training Minister, Hon. Liljanna Ravlich, the results were impressive.

In December 2005 the minister said, **"In the writing exam, almost 11 per cent more Year Seven students passed the benchmark this year than in 2004. That is a fantastic result and a credit to the hard work of the students and their teachers.**

**In Year Three, almost three per cent more students passed the spelling benchmark and one per cent more the numeracy benchmark. While most of the other results remained consistent, what was impressive was the improvement since testing began, in all the official results.**

**Since 1998, the percentage of Year Three students to pass the reading benchmark has increased by 16 per cent. The number to pass the writing benchmark has risen by more than eight per cent.**

**Since 1999, the percentage of Year Five students to pass the reading benchmark has grown by almost seven per cent and almost four per cent more students now pass the writing benchmark.**

**All these great results fly in the face of anyone who says our education standards are falling.**

**All the results have been achieved under the outcomes framework which was introduced seven years ago and they are proof that it is simply a better way to educate students."**

**YEAR 5 READING**

Read *Why elephants and emus cannot fly* on page 2 of the magazine and answer questions 1 to 6.

**1** The branch fell on the man's head because

- the man was careless.
- the elephants landed in the tree.
- the elephants tried to climb the tree.
- the man took away the elephants' wings.

**2** The man used his powers of thought to

- punish the elephants.
- reward the elephants.
- frighten the elephants.
- surprise the elephants.

Shade one bubble.

WALNA is long gone, replaced by NAPLAN in 2008 and so is the controversial outcomes framework of the late nineties and early 2000s. What probably can't be ignored is that in WALNA, the federal government of the day saw the potential for a national literacy and numeracy measuring tool. Those that remember WALNA will remember how similar NAPLAN was when it was rolled out in May 2008. Colour coded by year level, test papers were distributed to students in Years 3, 5 and 7. Children wrote their answers and written pieces in pencil then the test papers were bundled up to be sent off a marking, a process that usually

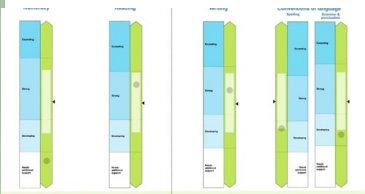
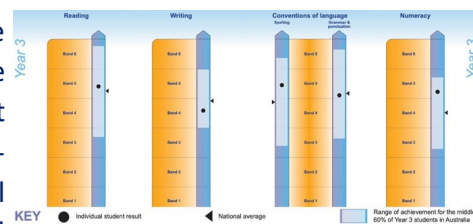
took a few months. And the term 'benchmark' was replaced by 'National minimum standards'. The only significant change in this process for the first ten years was the introduction of persuasive text. This meant teachers had to prepare children for the possibility of needing to write a narrative or persuasive piece.

Ten years later, in 2018, after trialling it in test schools across Australia for a couple of years, around 200, 000 students sat an online version of NAPLAN. To prepare for this, schools were required to upgrade their infrastructure. It was incumbent on schools to provide a robust, high-speed network, trained staff and devices such as notebooks or iPads with headphones, new enough to meet NAPLAN specifications. At Davallia we chose to beef up our wireless network in the library and set up notebooks supplemented with desktop PCs to optimise connectivity. We also invested heavily in trying to improve typing skills for a few years. The uptake of the software by families and students waned and the benefits minimal so eventually we cancelled the subscription.

In 2020 NAPLAN was abandoned due to Covid. When it returned in 2021, WA was in the midst of a Covid outbreak and the testing process took nearly a month to complete as so many students were either unwell or in isolation.

## *The Way We Were Continued*

In 2023 NAPLAN moved to the first school term, in March. Along with the change of the date for administering the tests came a change in the scales against which students were measured. The 10 achievement bands that had been in place since 2008 were replaced with four proficiency standards (Exceeding, Strong, Developing and Needs Additional Support). This of course meant any assessments done between 2008 and 2022 could not be compared to the newer data collected.



NAPLAN will take place again in March next year for the 17<sup>th</sup> year. Our Year Threes and Year Fives will complete most of the assessment on iPads. In Writing the Year Threes complete the task with pencil and paper as they've always done. The Year Fives will word process their writing on a laptop or PC with a keyboard.

I wonder how NAPLAN will evolve in the next 10 years. Or will it disappear into history like so many educational innovations and trends over the fifty years since Davallia first opened?

**Mark Leaning**  
**Associate Principal**

## *P&C News*

### **FFN Success!!**

Thank you to everyone who attended the Family Fun Night last Friday! It was an amazing evening, with a great atmosphere, perfect weather and very happy and tired kids. A huge thank you to the wonderful organising committee of Elysia Bin Samat, Samantha Vallerine, Linda Waiblinger and Rita Pinheiro. Without their months of planning and organising the event wouldn't have gone ahead. In addition to the organising committee, we want to thank each of the volunteers. A number of you covered extra hours on the stands or jumped in at the last minute to cover roles and help out at the very popular chocolate throw! Your helpfulness, consideration and willingness to lend a hand are what make Davallia such an amazing school for our young people.

The P&C are tallying the coin buckets and will have a final balance of what was raised on the night announced before the end of year. If you were one of the winners of the auction items can you ensure you login and make final payment this week? Thank you.

Next week is the 2024 P&C AGM. This meeting is open to everyone and we welcome you to come down and have your say on the 2025 committee. By attending the meeting you will not be allocated a role, we promise! However, if you were thinking of joining the P&C the following roles have not received nominations. A copy of the agenda is attached and the link to attend online is: <https://tinyurl.com/pcagmdec2024>

Just a heads up, my daughters are heading into year 6 next year. We need a Vice President to come on board and shadow the President role OR take on President, and I will nominate for VP for 2025 . Happy to chat if you are interested.

### **P&C Team**

<b>Role</b>	<b>2025 / Vacant</b>
Vice President (or President)	TBA
Communications and Social Media Adviser	TBA
Petty Cash Coordinator	TBA
Grounds Committee Coordinator	TBA
Sustainability Coordinator	TBA
Fundraising Associates x 10	TBA
Cake Stall Coordinator	TBA
Affiliates Coordinator (includes Entertainment Book)	TBA
Grants Coordinator	TBA

## School Notices

### Coles Healthy Kicks 2024 Newsletter Blurb

On Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November, the Term Two AFL interschool team had the opportunity to attend the Coles Healthy Kicks clinic at Fremantle Oval. The program aimed to educate students about healthy and active lifestyles. The team participated in activities focusing on the following topics: healthy eating, mindfulness, team work, and the importance of physical activity in everyday life.

To make things even more exciting, students were able to meet and converse with none other than the 2024 Brownlow Medallist, Patrick Cripps! As we were one of the few schools present for the afternoon session, our kids were able to spend a considerable amount of time asking Patrick questions about his life and values.

As always, Davallian students were outstanding, representing their school with pride! A big thank you to Mr Ekert for his support during the clinic.

**Mr Warner**  
**Phys Ed Specialist**



### Basketball Champ

Jamie Lehmann competed in the 2024 Basketball WA State Championships on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of November with the Warwick Senators. Jamie competed under 11 Boys Division 2 where his team went undefeated and made the semi-finals, only to lose by 1. Jamie finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the Division for scoring out of 147 boys. Well done Jamie!



### Davallia Junior Chess Club

The very popular Davallia Junior Chess Club will be back in 2025. The sessions will be run on Friday mornings for an hour commencing, at 7.40am and will be held, once again, in the school Library.

Please find attached more information and how to register.

### Bricks 4 Kidz

Also Bricks 4 Kidz will be returning for after school classes in 2025. Every Monday starting 10th February to 7th April 2025 (except 3 Mar 2025). Attached is an e-flyer, and parents can enrol at the following page: <https://www.bricks4kidz.com.au/perth-karrinyup/davallia-primary-school/>

## 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](mailto:duncraigoshc@careforkidswa.net.au) Please see attached copy the program for Summer Vacation Care. A link to the Program on the website is ... [Duncraig OSHC Summer Vacation Care Program](#)



### Joondalup Christmas Markets

Meet up for a sparkling Christmas and go down to Central Walk in the Joondalup City Centre to enjoy the Christmas Markets. Enjoy live entertainment, free kids' activities, a visit from Father Christmas, over 40 market stalls, and an array of local restaurants. For further details, please see the attached information.

### Learn to Sail

Tackers is an Australian Sailing program for 7 – 12 year olds, to teach kids the basics of sailing in a safe and fun environment. Teens program is aimed at ages 12+. Children do not require any previous sailing experience or Hillarys Yacht Club membership to participate. All equipment is provided (including life jackets) until they move up into the Optimist Green Fleet to begin club racing. All courses are delivered by Australian Sailing qualified instructors. Tackers and Teens Courses (Junior Sailing) are being held over the December/January School holidays and please see where to register attached.

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Please see attached copy the program for Summer Vacation Care. A link to the Program on the website is ... [Duncraig OSHC Summer Vacation Care Program](#)

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