



Grow with Respect

# The Davallian

11th April 2025

No. 5

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Dear Parents and Community Members,

Congratulations to Mr Rhine and the awesome Year 4's from C6 who hosted this week's assembly. Their theme was all about our School Value of Perseverance, what it means and strategies you can use to help people persevere including:

- Positive thinking and self-talk.
- Not giving up when facing challenges
- Setting goals to help overcome challenges
- Believing in yourself
- Embracing change and being adaptable, and
- Surrounding yourself with a supportive network of people.

Well done on a great assembly!



## In-Term Swimming Lessons

### Weeks 9 & 10 – PP1, PP2, A2, A3, A4, A5, A6, C1, C2, and C3

Another two weeks of in-term swimming instruction has occurred, with our students being absolutely fantastic. Their willingness to fully participate, their positive approach towards lessons and their outstanding manners, made it a pleasure to attend.

Not only did our students receive commendations from their swimming instructors, I received many positive remarks from members of the general public. Well done Davallia! I am a very proud Principal indeed.



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6 Juniper Way  
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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)

### Easter Hat Parade

Well done to our Kindy to Year 2 students, who looked fantastic in their Easter Hats. There were lots of smiles and laughter and it was great to see heaps of parents and grandparents in attendance. Thanks to the staff for their support of this activity.



### Premier's Reading Challenge 2025

Escape into a work of exciting stories, develop a love of reading and log your activity to for a chance to win weekly prizes.

Registration open 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025 with the challenge running from 7<sup>th</sup> April to 27<sup>th</sup> June. For more information please visit [www.premiersreadingchallenge.wa.edu.au](http://www.premiersreadingchallenge.wa.edu.au)



#### Fun Fact

Do you know which staff member represented WA in Soccer?  
Find the answer later in the newsletter.

### Premier Announces Second Round of Student Assistance Payments

Parents will be able to start accessing student assistance payments, worth \$250 for secondary students and \$150 for kindergarten and primary students, from April 29 through the Service WA app.



## Principal's Message (continued)

### Our P & C Needs Your Support

Many things would just not happen around Davallia PS without the support of our P & C. This includes things like discos, Family Fun Night, lunch orders, BBQ's and ice-cream days, just to name a few. Unfortunately, a number of our active P & C members will be completing their time at Davallia PS this year, as their children graduate and enter high school. Our P & C would like to have some succession planning in place, so new people to P & C roles have an opportunity to work side by side with the existing P & C member. This way, people are able to share their knowledge, provide advice and guidance and that new members are not overwhelmed trying to work out what, why and how things happen.

Currently, there are two roles the P & C are still looking to fill:

**Petty cash officer** - collecting cash from cake stalls and fundraisers, tallying, and redistributing to the uniform shop, creating floats for future events or banking. In this role you will liaise directly with the treasurer and assistant treasurer.

**Cake stall coordinator** – providing the assembly class rep with relevant information on running the stall, checking utensils and stock of serviettes etc (once per each term) and liaising with the class rep coordinator. Coordinating the annual faction carnival cake stall with the fundraising committee.

There is no need to attend meetings in either of these roles, but you would be most welcome!

Both of these roles should take no more than 1hr every fortnight.

If you would like to discuss further please reach out to: Vice President [davalliapspc.vicepresident@gmail.com](mailto:davalliapspc.vicepresident@gmail.com) or President [davalliapspc.president@gmail.com](mailto:davalliapspc.president@gmail.com)

### Budding NBA Stars

Yesterday afternoon, at Warwick Stadium, I was privileged to watch our Year 5 and Year 6 boys basketball teams be successful in winning their respective grand finals. Both teams played with passion, skill and respect for their opposition. It was great to see the Year 5 and Year 6 staff in attendance, as well as admin, to cheer them on. Well done boys!!



## Principal's Message (continued)

To say that there is always lots happening at Davallia PS is an understatement. What a term we have had! It certainly has been a term jam packed full of quality teaching and learning, incursions, excursions, activities, swimming lessons and a heap of fun as well.

Our students have been amazing with their positive attitude towards school, their responsible approach to their learning and the demonstration of our school values on a daily basis. My staff have given 150% to their roles and I am greatly appreciative of the efforts they go to for the students in their care. As usual, the school community have been steadfast in their support for our school, with our P & C leading the way in their fundraising ventures.

So, to everyone, I wish you a relaxing fortnight and I am looking forward to seeing you all again next term.

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

**Fun Fact Answer** – Mr O'Neill played soccer for WA as a junior.

### **School Operational Times**

School times are as follows:

Monday to Friday

<b>8.40 am</b>	<b>Classrooms Open</b>	<b>Students arrive at school, attend class and ready for the day</b>
8.55 am	Period 1	Siren sounds for the start of the day
9.40 am	Period 2	
10.25 am	Period 3	
<b>11.10 am</b>	<b>Recess</b>	<b>Siren Sounds (20 min recess time)</b>
11.30 am	Period 4	Siren sounds and children return to class
11.50 am	Period 5	
<b>1.00 pm</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>Siren Sounds (40 min lunch time)</b>
1.40 pm	Period 6	Siren Sounds and children return to class
2.25 pm	Period 7	
<b>3.10 pm</b>	<b>School Concludes</b>	

**NB: Each Wednesday the school closes at 2.45pm**

### **Term 2 Commences – Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

Just a reminder there is **no School Development Day** at the start of next term.

School commences Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April, Week 1, Term 2.

**Thank You**

## Associate Principal's Message

### The Beast

Two weeks ago, my mother passed away after an eight-month battle with MND, the 'Beast'. So named, by 2025 Australian of the Year Neale Daniher, who was diagnosed with this dreadful disease in 2013. His battle with the beast has been protracted and awful with Australia watching on. Mum's battle was short and devastating to my little family and unfolded in her home, in hospital and eventually in aged care. There was nothing anyone could do to stop it, but as each symptom progressed, the level of support required became greater.

During Covid, I spent a lot of time making sure my mother was okay. Recently widowed, she needed family to ensure her life still had quality, and Covid denied a lot of that. It was at this time that I first noticed a slight slur in her speech. At the same time, Mum was investigating breathing issues and some unsteadiness with a respiratory specialist. The specialist suggested we seek an appointment with a neurologist as he couldn't explain all of Mum's symptoms and, sometime later, we began the process of trying to work out what was going on.

By the time the neurologist had been engaged, Mum was complaining about lack of strength in her arms and shoulders. She was slurring more, and her muscles seemed to be wasting away. She weighed about sixty kilograms, but I was noticing her clothes were getting loose on her. People, including family, were struggling to understand everything she said, but Mum persisted with talking, repeating herself until you could make some sense of what she'd been trying to say. It was very frustrating for everyone.

In August last year the neurologist confirmed that my mother had Motor Neurone Disease. He delivered the confronting news that a person diagnosed with MND has an average life expectancy of twenty-two months from diagnosis. He couldn't promise Mum would have that long and told us there was no cure. So, we walked out of that appointment shattered and together we began down a path I would not wish anyone to have to traverse.

The nerves controlling Mum's tongue no longer worked, forming words was becoming harder and would eventually become impossible. What we hadn't considered was that the tongue also controls the direction of fluids and foods when swallowing, so soon we were in consultation with a speech pathologist and a dietitian. Mum's neck needed seeing to next. The muscles engaged to hold her head up were going to become weaker, so we went to appointments with orthotists. It was here that we were able to have a neck support constructed using 3D imaging and were given the use of a 'talking' iPad.

MNDWA came to our rescue almost immediately, providing assistive technologies like a hospital bed, an automated chair, a wheelchair and bathroom frames. They also helped us to have ramps and handrails fitted to Mum's home in the hope she'd be able to live there until the end. An ACAT assessment was hurried through, and within days home care was being negotiated.

Sadly, the beast hadn't revealed its true self completely at this point. Little did we know what was ahead. In the week before Christmas, Mum was determined as hypoxic. The muscles that operate the lungs were failing and CO<sub>2</sub> was accumulating. Mum was admitted to SCGH in the respiratory ward and from there, things gradually deteriorated.

By the time Mum was taken into palliative care, she could no longer live without extra oxygen. Mum had aspirated, as we knew one day she would, due to her lack of control over swallowing and she now had a lung infection. The CO<sub>2</sub> continued to accumulate in her lungs and at 35 kgs, a mere shadow of the woman she was, on March 26<sup>th</sup> my incredible mum went to sleep for the last time.

Thank you for all the kind words, hugs and understanding. It has been a traumatic few months, but at last my beautiful, brave and resilient mum has found peace. Thank you to the team at SCGH, OPH and MNDWA.

If you'd like to donate to MNDWA to further research and offer support to the many brave sufferers fighting this beast of a disease, please follow this link.

<https://www.mndawa.asn.au/donations>

From Our Wonderful P&C

**(Easter) Sustainability Tip of the Week**

You probably already know that Aluminium foil, that silver stuff covering most Easter eggs, is recyclable. But, did you know that 75% of all aluminium ever made is still in circulation? Aluminium can be recycled again and again, almost infinitely, making it incredibly sustainable.



Aluminium foil is recyclable in your yellow-top bin. To be recycled, it needs to be:

- clean (free from food); and
- scrunched into a ball about the size of a tennis ball or larger. This minimum size is to ensure it's captured by the recycling sorters at resource recovery facilities.

So, if you want to make your Easter more sustainable, gather up all your egg foil during the Easter period and mould it into a big silver ball before popping it into your recycling bin.

(Fact source: Australia Aluminium Council)

**Mothers Day Fundraiser**

The P&C fundraising team have launched their first Mother's Day Online Fundraiser! Check out the amazing gifts available to purchase. 25% from each order will be donated to Davallia. <https://www.fungiftco.com.au/davallia-primary-school-fundraiser>

A promotional banner for a Mothers Day Fundraiser. The banner features a pink background with a white border. At the top left is the 'Fun Gift Co' logo. The main title 'Mothers Day FUNDRAISER' is written in a large, pink, cursive font. Below the title, there are several images of gift items, each with a price tag. The items include: a stemless glass for \$11.95, an insulated lunch tote for \$10.95, a salad mate for \$6.50, a deluxe mug for \$8.50, an insulated mug for \$14.95, a luxe candle for \$9.95, a sealife beach bag for \$14.95, a daisy pet pen for \$3.95, a luxe satin pillowcase for \$9.95, a gel eye mask for \$5.95, cozy slippers for \$13.95, and a glitter heart frame for \$10.95. At the bottom of the banner, there is a pink bar with the text 'MORE GIFT CHOICES AVAILABLE ONLINE' in white, bold, uppercase letters.

Davallia Primary will be a polling venue for the Federal Election on Saturday 3 May 2025. The fundraising team will be coordinating a BBQ and cake stall again. Please email [davalliapspc.fundraisers@gmail.com](mailto:davalliapspc.fundraisers@gmail.com) if you provide baked goods or assist on the day.

Save the date - the Sustainability committee will be running a busy bee on Saturday 24 May, between 1-4pm. Come down to the school to assist with painting and protecting the outdoor play and kindy cubby areas. This is a great opportunity to meet other parents and have fun outdoors. Come for an hour or stay all afternoon, the whole family is welcome, afternoon tea provided.

Thank you again to all our volunteers for their time and efforts over the last term with the Community Picnic, State Election BBQ & Cake Stall, Ride to School Day and Hot Cross Bun morning tea, your efforts have enabled the P&C to make amazing progress on the 2025 Wishlist!

## Busy Bee



# BUSY BEE SAVE THE DATE



**Sat 24th May**

**1:00 – 4:00pm**



Our school playground and grounds need your help!  
We need volunteers for:

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### TREE PLANTING

### PAINTING TO PROTECT OUR NATURE PLAYGROUNDS & KINDY CUBBY

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*Have fun outdoors and connect with other school families for an hour or the whole afternoon!*

Questions or RSVP to Suzy  
(Grounds & Sustainability P&C  
Committee member)

*Afternoon  
tea  
provided*



**Suzy 0435 535 739**



## 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)





# Autumn Vacation Care Program at Duncraig OSHC

Daily Care from as low as \$9.80\*

	Monday 14 April <b>NINJA ACADEMY OSBORNE PARK</b> <i>Excursion</i>	Tuesday 15 April <b>LEGO MASTERS</b> <i>In day</i>	Wednesday 16 April <b>FIRE DEPARTMENT VISIT</b> <i>Incursion</i>	Thursday 17 April <b>EASTER CRAFTS</b> <i>In day</i>	Friday 18 April <b>GOOD FRIDAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY</b>
WEEK ONE	<p>Join us for an exciting excursion to Ninja Academy! Conquer obstacle courses, improve ninja skills and have a blast in a fun, safe environment.</p> <p><i>Departure: 9:30am Return: 11:30am Cost: \$30.00**</i></p> 	<p>Build, create and explore at our LEGO in day! Enjoy building amazing structures, solving challenges and letting your imagination run wild!</p> 	<p>Learn about fire safety, meet real life fire-fighters and explore the equipment used in the fire trucks.</p>  <p><i>Start: 10:30am Finish: 1:30pm</i></p>	<p>Hop into creativity this Easter! Make some beautiful Easter suncatchers, design colourful eggs, create clay crafts and more.</p> 	
WEEK TWO	<p>Monday 21 April <b>EASTER MONDAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY</b></p> 	<p>Join us for a Constable Care Safety School excursion. Learn virtual road safety skills through interactive activities – empowering you to stay safe on the roads.</p> <p><i>Departure: 9:30am Return: 12:30pm Cost: \$30.00**</i></p> 	<p>Bring your scooters, bikes or skateboards and cruise around showing off your skills. Don't forget to bring your safety gear. We will also be making some yummy pizzas to enjoy together.</p> 	<p>Celebrate ANZAC Day with us! Share family stories, make poppy bookmarks, bake ANZAC biscuits, write letters and create a flower wreath to remember our fallen heroes.</p> 	<p>Friday 25 April <b>ANZAC DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY</b></p> 

\*The government subsidy covers up to 90% of your fees, including incursions and excursions!

 We are open: 7.00am to 6.00pm

 0432 871 577 / 9246 9551

 [duncraigoshc@careforkidswa.net.au](mailto:duncraigoshc@careforkidswa.net.au)

Follow for our website



**A FEW REMINDERS**

- ✓ Please bring SunSmart clothing, hat and enclosed shoes.
- ✓ Please bring a packed healthy lunch and water bottle. (We are an Allergy Aware Service)
- ✓ Two-weeks notice is required for cancellations, however we can provide swap days if available.