

Darkan Primary School NEWSLETTER



From the Principal

A Wonderful Start to the Year at Our School

Kaya,

As Term One draws to a close, we take great pride in reflecting on a positive and productive start to the year for our students, staff, families and wider community. It has been a term filled with learning, connection and achievement, and we thank everyone for their ongoing support of our school.

One of the standout highlights of the term was our students' and staff involvement in Sheepfest. This event provided a wonderful opportunity for students to proudly share their learning with the community and demonstrate the skills and knowledge they have been developing in the classroom. We sincerely thank staff and families for the time, effort and organisation involved in showcasing student work so professionally. Events like Sheepfest strengthen the partnership between our school and community, and we are extremely proud our students.

Another major success this term was the annual Swimming Carnival. Blessed with great weather, strong student participation and enthusiastic support from families, the carnival was a fantastic day for all involved. We extend our sincere thanks to the P&C for their excellent support and assistance on the day. A special acknowledgment is given to Mrs Bec Clarke, who once again coordinated a wonderful carnival. This year, Mrs Clarke generously gave her time and expertise to ensure the event ran smoothly, even while she remains on leave. Her dedication to our students and school community is greatly appreciated.

From the Principal cont.

This term has also seen positive developments in school governance. We warmly welcome three new parent representatives to the School Board and thank them for stepping forward to contribute to our school's future direction. Our first School Board meeting was held this term, during which I shared the timeline and framework that will guide consultation with families and staff as we work together to develop our new Business Plan. This is an exciting time for the school, and we value community voice as a central part of this process. Further details will be shared early next term, including opportunities for families to attend both afternoon and evening consultation sessions to share their thoughts and ideas with school staff.

In supporting student learning and wellbeing, families have also been advised that dedicated one-to-one meetings with teaching staff will be held on **Monday 4 May**. Please note that the school will be closed to students on this day. Families will receive their individual appointment times shortly, with meetings available either by telephone or in person at school. Careful consideration has been given to accommodating families with multiple children, location needs, and working commitments. While appointment times cannot be changed due to the impact on other families, we hope that with advance notice, families are able to make arrangements to attend.

Academic assessment has also been a focus this term, with NAPLAN testing concluding successfully in Week 7. Students participated in national assessments in writing, reading, conventions of language and numeracy, in line with Australia's national testing program. We would like to thank Miss Emily Hardy for her excellent efforts as NAPLAN Coordinator, ensuring the testing process ran smoothly and efficiently for students and staff alike.

Finally, we acknowledge and thank Miss Chelsea Butterworth, who finishes with us at the end of Term One after teaching Science and Physical Education. Miss Butterworth has made a valuable contribution to our school, and we wish her all the very best as she heads to the Pilbara for a new teaching adventure.

Thank you to our students, staff, families and community for a wonderful start to the year. I look forward to an exciting and productive Term Two ahead.

Boorda!

Hazel Herd
Principal

Upcoming Events

Mon 30th March
Thur 2nd April

Contributions & Charges – **PRIZE DRAW**
School Assembly, 9am
Crazy Hair Day
Last Day of Term 1

Mon 20th April
Tues 21st April
Mon 27th April
Mon 4th May

School Development Day – **NO STUDENTS**
First Day Term 2 for Students
ANZAC Day Public Holiday
Parent / Teacher Meetings

DARKAN
PRIMARY SCHOOL
PERSEVERE

WIN A PRIZE!

FREE ENTRY INTO THE PRIZE DRAW WHEN YOU PAY \$60 VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS AND CHARGES

A CHANCE TO WIN A \$100 VOUCHER FOR THE DARKAN HOTEL COMMUNITY PROJECT

Entry based on a payment being received by Friday 27 March -
Draw Date: Monday 30 March at 9am

Kindy / Pre Primary with Ms Wynne

It has been so busy in ECE since our last newsletter!

Pre-primary students enjoyed attending swimming lessons during weeks 4 and 5, and although they got quite tired, their attitude towards learning remained very positive. They attended the swimming faction carnival last week to compete in the junior team events and cheered on their faction loudly.

Our ECE students continue to develop their oral language through rich, intentional play-based and role-play spaces. They have loved the opening of the Darkan Nurses Station, and thankfully all "sicknesses, injuries and ailments" have been promptly "mended" by our junior medical staff! Having 'real life' bandages, slings, torches, masks, oxygen monitors, and stethoscopes have enhanced the popularity of this area.

In Talk 4 Writing, students innovated their own version of 'Where is the Green Sheep'. With a focus on rhyming words, they adapted the Mem Fox classic into their very own text. Each student painted a different coloured sheep which linked to the text. We hope you saw our work which was proudly displayed at Sheepfest.

Until next time,
Miss Wynne



Years 1 & 2 with Ms Hanich

Good day Darkan, and welcome to Room 1's newsletter report. We have been very busy over the past few weeks! With swimming lessons, Sheepfest, and carnivals, it has certainly been an exciting time in Room 1.

In English, we have started InitialLit and Talk for Writing. We are learning about recounts, and our current text is A Fun Day in the Jungle. See if your child in Room 1 can perform it for you at home!

In Maths, we are learning about place value and addition. We have also started our Maths Challenge, and we are off to a great start. I am excited to see how much everyone improves across the year.

In HASS, we have been learning about time, including the seasons, days of the week, and months of the year. In Health, we are continuing our work with the Resilience Project, building skills to support our wellbeing.

And in between all of this learning, we created a display for Sheepfest. We coloured our sheep using warm colours and designed backgrounds using cool colours, while experimenting with line, colour, and value.

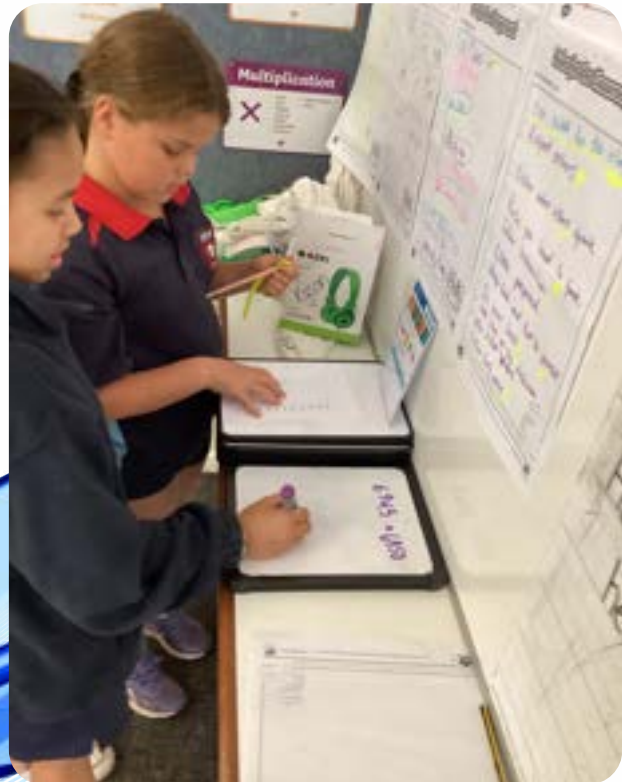
Thank you for listening to our report! We hope you enjoyed hearing about what we've been up to in Room 1



Years 3 & 4 with Ms Metcalfe

Room 2 has had a wonderfully busy start to the term, with students putting their maths skills to excellent use as they solved mysteries, cracked codes to escape locked buildings, through teamwork and problem-solving. It has been fantastic to see how hard everyone is working and how confidently they are applying what they have learned.

As we head toward the Easter break, the excitement is building and our class is looking forward to the activities and learning still to come. Well done to all our Room 2 students for their effort, persistence, and enthusiasm this term!



Years 5 & 6 with Ms Hardy & Mrs Allington

The Year 5 students and Year 3 have smashed out their NAPLAN assessments for 2026, woohoo!

Both Year 5 and 6 students completed some fantastic research on the Sheep Industry for the Sheepfest. We have attached it for you all to enjoy! Thank you to all the staff, parents and Allington children that helped us set the students work up on Saturday, it looked awesome!

Hi, my name is Campbell, I live on a farm near Quindanning. I am in year 6 at Darkan primary school.

Sheep are very important for our town Darkan. Sheep arrived in Australia in 1788 on the first fleet.

First sheep in Australia

The British brought sheep because they were going to use them for a food source, but then they realised that using the wool was even more useful. The settlers needed warmth for Australia's harsh weather.

Merinos

In 1796 John Macarthur bought his first Merino sheep from a flock of Spanish merino sheep from South Africa. The merino was the start of the wool industry in Australia. Merino wool is soft and breathable which is perfect for Australia's harsh environment.

Darkan and the sheep industry

The town of Darkan was founded in 1907. Before this, farmers were given land leases to graze sheep and grow crops. William John Gibbs was the first settler in Darkan. The Gibbs family is still in Darkan today and still farming the land. The railway line from Collie to Narrogin was completed in 1906. Which is why Darkan was established.

My family and the sheep industry

Our family lease our land to our neighbours. They use our land for extra feed for their sheep it helps us to our fuel load down on our farm because the sheep eat our grass. My cousin Wendy is a journalist for the sheep industry and works at elders reporting the news.

Conclusion

I hope you enjoyed reading my informative text. Have a good sheepfest!

Hi I'm Teariki like plane 747, p51, b52 then my Lego plane 8 planes my dad did sheep a cut my dad also runs a shearing team and its called Lesh go shearing and my dad has been Darkan since I was 7. My koro does shearing.

Hi my name is Banjo and I live on a farm on Darkan – Williams Road and I'm a student at Darkan Primary School. I'm going to tell you how sheep arrived in Australia. Did you know that sheep were brought on the First Fleece oops I mean Fleet in 1788 and they arrived to provide reliable food source. Now I'm going to tell you the history of Darkan and the sheep industry. Well, it was officially gazetted in 1906 -1907 following the construction of the Collie -Narrogin railway. Do you know the three different types of sheep in the Darkan/west Athur shire, the answers are Merino, Merino based Prime Lanbs and Composite/Shedding types.

Do any of your family have a connection with the sheep industry, yes because my pop is a sheep farmer! he farms for meat and wool.

Hello, my name is Annabel. I come from the Darkan community. I am here to talk to you about the about the Darkan sheep industry. One reason I am doing this is because my father has been connected to sheep industry since a little boy. helping his father on his farm and now sill connected through his career. sheep were brought to Australia in 1788 by Captain Henry Waterhouse and his companion Lieutenant William Kent. Sheep arrived in Australia by the first fleece oops I mean fleet the sheep in Darkan reign and the West Ather shire are: Merino, white Suffolk, cross breed lambs and range view stud .Now we can see the changes from when the 19th century pastoral settlement into a modern central of high quality merino breeding and agriculture environment .

I have spoken to my father about his work.

How are you connected to the sheep industry:

“Though my work as a farm hand “

Why are you still connected to the sheep industry:

“Because I enjoy collaborating with sheep.”

How long have you been collaborating with sheep:

“30 years”

What do you do in the sheep industry:

- Look after sheep.
- Make lambs at the right weight to sell.
- Sell excellent quality sheep to the local market.

**GOLD COIN DONATION TO
TELETHON**



FUNKY FUN DAY

**THURSDAY THE 2ND OF APRIL
WEEK 9**

**CRAZY
HAIR**

**CRAZY
OUTFIT**

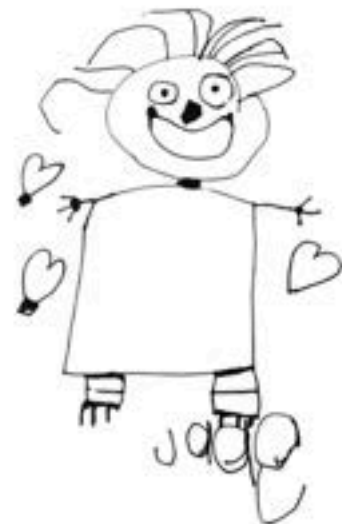


The Arts with Mrs Allington

Our ECE students have been exploring portraits, using mirrors to look closely at their features and noticing how faces can be made using simple shapes. They have drawn self-portraits and then created their own family portraits after sharing a photo and talking about their family – such heartwarming work!



ECE's
Self Portraits
11th March 2026



The Arts with Mrs Allington cont.

Students in Rooms 1, 2 and 3 have been exploring value. Value refers to the lightness and darkness of a colour. By experimenting with different tints, students have learnt how artists use value to show how light falls on objects, helping to create depth and form in their work. Students used a posterised image of themselves, simplified into five shades. They then carefully painted their portraits matching each section to the correct value. This process helped students clearly see the different tones within their face and understand how artists build realistic images step by step.

It has been wonderful to see students' focus, patience and pride as their portraits came to life – a calm, mindful process that showcased the amazing artists in our room.



Science with Miss Butterworth

This term in Science, students across the school have been learning about Earth and Space. Pre-Primary to Year 2 students have continued exploring the weather, investigating how rain forms in clouds and learning that when clouds become too heavy, the rain falls to the ground. Year 3 and 4 students have been learning about day and night and how the Moon reflects light from the Sun. They completed a hands-on activity using mirrors to demonstrate how sunlight reflects off the Moon. Year 5 and 6 students have been diving into the Solar System and learning about the different planets. They completed a fun playdough activity where they compared the sizes of the planets to see just how big some of them are compared to Earth.



Physical Education with Miss Butterworth

This term in Sport, students have been developing their skills in a range of activities. We were lucky to have a cricket incursion with WACA cricket coach Emma Wilson, who taught the students new skills and helped them improve their batting, bowling, and fielding. During swimming lessons, students also enjoyed a relaxing yoga session to help rest their tired bodies and practise mindfulness. We are currently learning volleyball, where students are working on their serving, passing, and teamwork skills while building confidence and coordination.



Faction Swimming Carnival

Well done to all students who competed at the Faction Swimming Carnival last Friday.

Congratulations to Wheatbelt coming away with the faction shield for 2026.

Results

Junior Girl Champion	Tianie Gray
Junior Girl Runner up	Edie Hulse
Junior Boy Champion	Quinn Withnell
Junior Boy Runner up	Max Hulse
Intermediate Girl Champion	Vivienne Allington
Intermediate Girl Runner up	Madylyn South
Intermediate Boy Champion	Hunter McClure
Intermediate Runner up	Charlie Marsh
Senior Girl Champion	Millah Clarke
Senior Girl Runner up	Harlow Gray
Senior Boy Champion	Banjo Withnell
Senior Boy Runner up	Campbell Gallegos

Winning Faction

Wheatbelt



From Chaplin Tianie

This term has been full of meaningful connection and support across our school community. Breakfast Club has continued each Monday morning, providing a fun and filling start to the week for students, staff, and parents. As many of you may have seen shared through our school's social media.

A significant focus has been on pastoral care—supporting students, families, carers, and staff through a range of personal and wellbeing challenges.

This has included walking alongside families during difficult times, offering encouragement, practical support, and a listening ear when it's needed.

It has also been encouraging to begin forming a chaplaincy support group, with the aim of strengthening how we care for both our school and the wider community moving forward.

All support is provided with care and confidentiality, ensuring the dignity and privacy of individuals and families is always respected.

Tianie Calais

Chaplain



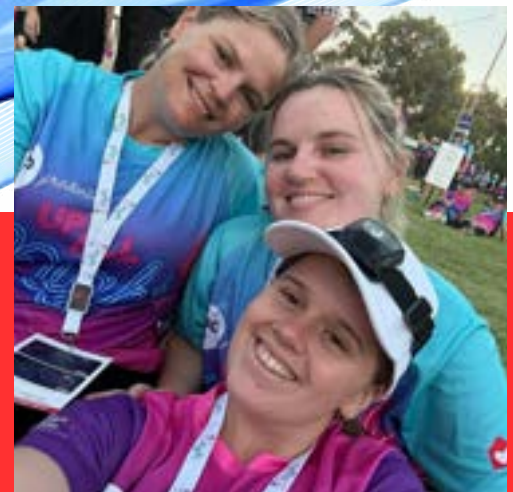
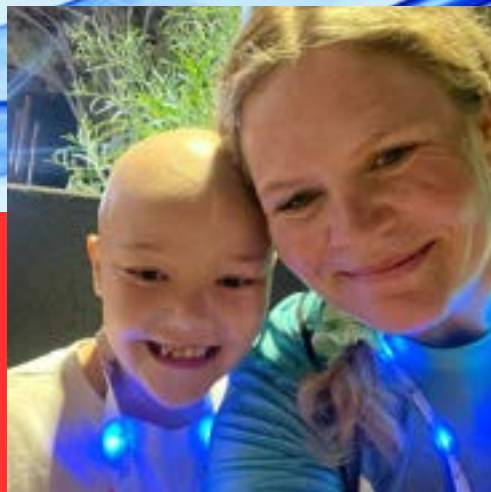
Staff News

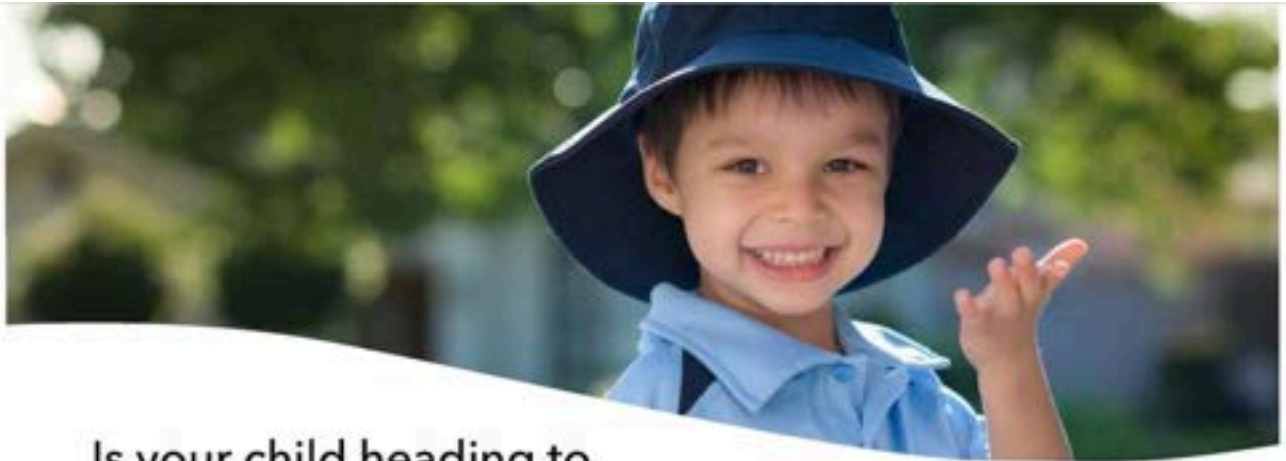
On Saturday the 21st of March, Mrs Wynne, Mrs Allington, Miss Hanich and Miss Hardy along with Sam Tooke, Georgia Harrington, Vanessa Cuthbert and Taleah Hulse walked 21km in the 'Up All Night' event to raise money for Ronald McDonald House Charity.

We were 'Team Zara' in memory of Zara Horley and we know we represented her memory well by raising \$7,558!

When we reached the Ronald McDonald House in Nedlands, we were fortunate enough to run into Maia and the rest of the Reichelt family which was a great surprise for everyone.

Mrs Young also walked the 21km whilst her husband walked 42km!





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The Smith Family

is delivering Saver Plus

To support families at

All WA Schools

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Saver Plus was developed by ANZ and the Brotherhood of St. Laurence and is delivered in partnership with The Smith Family and Berry Street. It is funded by ANZ and the Department of Social Services.

What is Saver Plus?

A free 10-month program that helps you save for your own or your children's education.

- Build lasting savings habits
- Be better prepared for unexpected expenses
- Stay in control
- Improve personal wellbeing

Who can join?

To be eligible for Saver Plus, you must meet all of the following criteria:

- Have a Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card
- Receive an eligible Commonwealth social security benefit, allowance or payment*
- Be studying yourself or have a child in school (can be starting school next year)
- Have regular income from work (you or your partner)
- Be 18+ years old

*Many income types and Centrelink payments may qualify. Not sure if you qualify? Just fill out the enquiry form and a Savings Coach will reach out to you.

To confidentially find out more, call Saver Plus or fill out the enquiry form in the link.

1300 610 355 saverplus.org.au