

Darkan Primary School NEWSLETTER

From the Principal

Kaya,

As we move into the second half of the term, it is wonderful to reflect on the positive energy and engagement across our school. The coming weeks promise to be a very busy and rewarding time, with students continuing to demonstrate their knowledge, skills, and understanding across all areas of the curriculum. Our teachers are working diligently to assess student progress and prepare reports for families. These will be shared via email on Tuesday 30 June, and we encourage families to take the time to celebrate and discuss your child's achievements.

We are very pleased to see the success of our extended Breakfast Club. Thanks to the dedication of Mrs Little, we are now able to offer breakfast four mornings a week, Monday at 8.10 am (with Chaplain Tianie), Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 8:30am. This initiative provides a welcoming start to the day and supports student wellbeing and readiness for learning.

There has also been great enthusiasm building around our upcoming sporting events. Mrs Clarke has been busy preparing for the carnivals ahead, and it has been fantastic to see students taking initiative running laps and training during recess and lunch in preparation for cross-country. This commitment and determination are wonderful to witness!

In the Arts, excitement is building as Mrs Allington works with students in preparation for the One Big Voice event in August. We are incredibly fortunate to have the support of our Artist in Residence, Kate Hindle, who is working alongside Mrs Allington to coach our students in singing and performance. The growth in confidence and enthusiasm has already been evident.

This term, we have also welcomed Kirsty Putland and Fay Groom to our school as they complete their university practical placements. They have brought energy, enthusiasm, and a passion for teaching to our classrooms, and we are delighted to have them as part of our school community. We wish them every success as they continue their studies.

From the Principal cont.

Our Year 5/6 students recently returned from their camp at Woodman Point, Fremantle, with tired but very happy faces. It was an incredible opportunity for students to build independence, resilience, and lasting friendships. I would like to sincerely acknowledge the staff who made this experience possible—Miss Emily Hardy, Mrs Mel Horley, Mrs Jess Allington, and Miss Kirsty Putland. Camps require significant commitment, with staff stepping away from their own families and responsibilities to ensure our students have these invaluable experiences. This is not something we take for granted, and we are deeply appreciative of their dedication and care.

We also extend our sincere thanks to our P&C, who continue to work tirelessly to support our school through fundraising and community initiatives. Their contributions enable us to provide enriched learning opportunities in areas such as the Arts, technology, and sport. These opportunities make a real difference for our students. Last week, our staff were pleased to host a morning tea to recognise P&C members on National P&C Appreciation Day, and it was lovely to see students expressing their gratitude through cards and artwork.

As we head into the cooler months, we wish all our families good health and wellbeing. I would like to take a moment to remind our families that if your child is unwell, please keep them at home. When students are not feeling their best, they often become upset and find it difficult to cope with the usual demands of the school day. Your support in this helps to keep everyone in our school community safe and well.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support and partnership, it plays a vital role in making our school such a connected and caring community.

Boorda!

Hazel Herd
Principal

Upcoming Events

Wed 27th May

Thur 28th May

Mon 1st June

Fri 5th June

Fri 12th June

Fri 19th June

Tues 30th June

Thur 2nd July

Fri 3rd July

School Board Meeting

Room 2 Assembly – 9am

WA Day Public Holiday – No School

Faction Cross Country @ Golf Course – 1pm

Interschool Cross Country, Allanson, Yrs 3–6

Regional Cross Country, Bunbury, Yrs 3–6

Semester 1 Reports Emailed home

Music Assembly – 9am

Last Day of Term 2

Room 3 Camp Photo's



Kindy / Pre Primary with Ms Wynne

We are delighted to share the article below which was published across WA on the front of the West Australian Primary Principal's Association to showcase the outstanding teaching and learning in a regional small school. Submissions are made from schools across the state, so it is wonderful to see our school from the Wheatbelt being selected for inclusion.

Special kudos to the amazing Ms Wynne and the work she does every day with our youngest learners. Enjoy!

Where Learning Begins: Early Childhood Thriving at Darkan PS

From the Field | April 1, 2026

In the early morning light, the cubby house fills with laughter before the bell has even rung. Little hands are already busy mixing mud "cakes", building towers, and caring for babies in the home corner. A doctor is on call, a chef is cooking, and somewhere, someone is retelling a story in their own imaginative way.

At Darkan, learning begins in play and grows into something much more. Friendships are forming, confidence is building, and curiosity is leading the way. From the sandpit to story time, every moment is shaping a love of learning that feels as natural as it does joyful.



Darkan ECE students have settled into the 2026 school year extremely well! They have been busy learning classroom routines and our school values while having lots of fun. Students love exploring our natural and constructed outdoor environment, especially the sandpit, mud kitchen, play areas, and their beautiful cubbyhouse.

They have been interacting positively to form relationships and friendships while building on their self regulation in our indoor exploration stations and dramatic play areas. Students are developing their oral language through rich, intentional play based and role play spaces. They have loved the Doctor and Nurses Station, and a home corner complete with food, a coffee machine, oven, dining table and even a washing machine because "these babies seem to make so much washing!" (Miss J – Kindy)

Students are responding positively to the integrated learning sessions that are based on story books and are getting very clever at answering comprehension questions. Their phonological awareness is increasing dramatically as is their story retells. We began our Talk 4 Writing and students have innovated their own version of 'Where is the Green Sheep'.

Along with all of our prescribed learning, our ECE students love making and playing with playdough, building, exploring, painting, cutting and gluing, singing, dancing, sharing their experiences, reading stories, counting, identifying shapes, waterplay, swinging, climbing, riding, sliding, jumping, throwing, catching and everything else our curious 3, 4 or 5 year olds need to continue to build a love of learning.





ROOM 1 NEWS



Celebrating Chinese New Year!

The children in Room 1 have been doing an amazing job exploring rich literature while building important early literacy skills in our InitialLit Storybook lessons. InitialLit is an evidence-based program that helps children develop phonics, vocabulary, comprehension, oral language and writing skills through engaging stories and hands-on learning experiences. These lessons are important because they support children to become confident readers, writers and communicators.

OUR STORY



Over the past two weeks, we have read the story Fang Fang's Chinese New Year by Sally Rippin. This story is about a young Chinese-Australian girl who nervously invites her non-Chinese friend to celebrate the holiday, only to discover that her friend is genuinely excited to learn about her family's traditions, food and culture.

Together, we explored the new vocabulary words groan, sprinkle and ferocious. We also reflected on our own culture by writing about where our family is from and the special traditions or celebrations we enjoy at home.

NEW VOCABULARY



groan – to make a long, low sound that shows pain, tiredness or unhappiness



sprinkle – to scatter small amounts of something over an area



ferocious – very fierce and extremely aggressive

WRITING ABOUT OUR CULTURE



We also reflected on our own culture by writing about where our family is from and the special traditions or celebrations we enjoy at home.

OUR CHINESE NEW YEAR LANTERN COLLAGES

We have also been working towards finishing a Chinese New Year lantern collage using ripped paper. This activity strengthened fine motor finger muscles, which are important for developing handwriting and pencil control skills.



Grace



Katalina



Bodhi



Matthew



Edie



Koda



Alby

Does your family have a special cultural tradition?
We would love to hear about it! ♥



Years 3 & 4 with Mrs Western

The Year 3 and 4 students have been continuing with their Procedure Writing tasks which included following a recipe to make delicious biscuits as a gift for their Mums for Mothers' Day. These were accompanied by a humorous procedure they wrote about their Mums entitled "How to Make My Awesome Mum".

We have been busy trying to learn our basic multiplication facts as they will come in very handy as we tackle more complex problems in Mathematics.

We have been learning about the roles and responsibilities of local governments in HASS and we wrote letters to the Shire President to show our appreciation for the services provided by the Shire of West Arthur.

We had a great time on Walk to School Day and some of us were lucky enough to turn on the siren in the police car!

We look forward to entertaining you on Thursday as we present the item at the whole school assembly.

Thank you,
Kate Western.



Years 5 & 6 with Ms Hardy & Mrs Allington

Room 3 Year 5/6 students enjoyed a wonderful week away on camp to Woodman Point, Coogee with Mrs Horley, Miss Putland, Mrs Allington and Miss Hardy.

We took part in numerous activities at the camp school, out around Coogee, and used public transport to Perth City to visit the Old Central Fire Station, which we highly recommend everyone visits! We also spent a few hours at the WA Museum (Boola Bardip), where we learnt an abundance of information about everything!

The students have created some News Reports of their trips and There are some images attached for families to enjoy.



Years 5 & 6 with Ms Hardy & Mrs Allington cont.



CAMP, CREATIVITY, CHOAS.

year 5/6 are on camp they're gone
they're gone they actually gone
Woodman point does not know what
to expect . The zip line the zip line zip
line all we could talk about until we
dropped! It was so high, it did not look
high at all, until you get up to the top
it felt higher than the vertical
challenge but it actually wasn't. 1
week, 5 days, 11th to the 15th May,
week 4 they were gone?



By Pia Hulse

Thump Harlow falls
off the bed Harlow
says the next
morning I was awake
the whole time it was
a joke

“what do two
apple’s make ? a
pear”

“Six seven ,six seven”
called Reece. The mirror
challenge where we had
to try and beat the
primary school record.
Guess what? We beat it!
First try! We had to
climb over each other
without falling into the
‘lava’, it was so fun. On
Thursday we walked to
the closest woolies and
go lollies and ice cream
it was delicious

CRAZY CAMP

5-6's woodman point camp

As soon as we arrived we were ready to explore the great features of Woodman Point. luckily all of the yr 5-6's went cause we had a blast. Our first activity was on the first day and we were all phyched! it was team building and there were so many fun games, we even beat a record of the mirror game where you basically have to switch places.

We went for a FUN, EDUCATIONAL and AMAZING time, and that is what we did



Now let's talk food, because it was amazing! The first we had lasagne and it was truly heaven. then we had butter chicken and everyone thought it was beautiful, we had so much more and all I know is it was delicious!!!! The breakfast and lunch were also really good.

All everyone could think about was the zipline, some were nervous, some were scared and truly terrified but lots were excited and cheerful. Then "WEEEEEEEEEEEEEE!" Everyone said when they went down the flying fox, sadly some people were too scared to go and didn't do it. all of the activities were amazing and everyone was extremely grateful for everything

By Laila Whitaker

CRAZY CHAOS AT CAMP

11 /5/26

Eleanor Smith

DARKAN YEAR 5/6 STUDENTS
WENT TO CAMP AT
WOODMAN POINT. OFF THE
COST OF PERTH.ON 4
WEEK OF TERM 2, WE ALL
COULDN'T WAIT, THEN IT
CAME!

THE BUS RIDE WENT ON
FOREVER!
WONDERING WHY THEY
WENT? BECAUSE EVEN THEY
NEED A BREAK!

DAY OF THE FLYING FOX

It came just after lunch ,six
brave people went up , the
first person went down !

TEAM BUILDING

When the year 5/6 had Reece for team building one of the jokes were why are Pokémon so bad at playing hide and seek? because they pic-a-chu. the last one was " what do to apples make a pear!"



Camp-2026-chaos-fun

21 May 2026 By Alexis Gray

CAMP CHAOS



CRAZY KIDS AT WOODMAN POINT

Fifteen little country kids aged 10-11 started walking off the bus and then the train and finally arrived in the big city of Perth at approximately 9-10 am in the morning. They had to walk all around the place and at one point they all wanted Yo-chi but unfortunately they couldn't because we didnt have any time, sadly. The first exciting place we went was the fire station. On the train ride back to Fremantle there was a loud POP! "uhh...whopps hehe" Laila nervously commented. Later on in the week while we were watching a movie, everyone was talking and Ella angrily shouted "SHUSH!"

“ ROOM 3 NEWS

On the 11th of May the year 5/6s sped off onto the road, heading to Woodman Point Recreation Camp. We did lots of activities like the ziiiipppppppllllliiiiinnnnneeee which was very high and long. We all camped at Woodman Point for 5 days with a comfy sleep and tiring days, and we went for fun!

WHERE ALL THE CHAOS BEGAN AT CAMP



Technology with Mrs Allington

ECE

Our ECE students have been learning about how food and other products get from the shop to us. We explored this through a Coles Click & Collect experience and enjoyed the special treat that Mrs Allington collected for us!

We have also been learning about the difference between a want and a need. Students have been busy investigating different materials by touching, feeling and spraying them with water to test their properties.

Next, students will design and create their own sandwich packaging using selected materials before testing how effective their designs are in a fun drop test!

ROOM 1

Room 1 students have been exploring equipment and techniques used to keep food safe and hygienic for healthy eating. They created lunch box coolers and recorded how long it took for ice to melt.

Students also explored ways to safely preserve, store and transport food. As part of their investigations, they tested different methods to stop a cut apple from turning brown.

ROOM 2

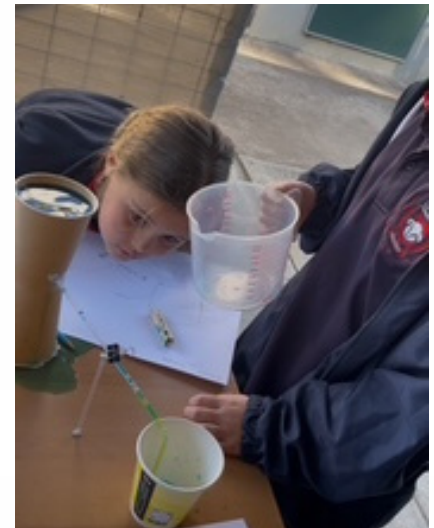
Room 2 students explored how irrigation systems are used to support the growth of food and fibre crops. Following the Design and Production process, they planned and constructed their own model water irrigation systems, investigating how water can be transported efficiently to plants.

They have also been learning about a variety of food preparation techniques used in everyday cooking. Students are excited to head into the kitchen next week, where they will use food technologies and equipment to help make food preparation easier, safer and more efficient.

ROOM 3

Room 3 students have been putting their research skills to good use. They have been investigating a range of managed environments, from oyster beds to dairy farms, and identifying the products each environment supplies. They explored how natural resources are managed to produce food and fibre products used in everyday life. Students have also sequenced the process of transforming 'on-farm' products into items ready for consumers, learning about the 'paddock to plate' supply chain and the many steps involved in preparing products for sale.

Technology with Mrs Allington cont.



CROSS COUNTRY



**FRIDAY
5TH JUNE**



1:30PM



**DARKAN
GOLF COURSE**



**SEEKING PARENT HELPERS
AROUND COURSE**

PLEASE COMMENT BELOW IF YOU CAN HELP





Department of
Education

Shaping the future

Kindergarten enrolments are now open for 2027

If your child will be **4 years old**
by **30 June 2027**, enrol them
in Kindergarten now.

Visit your local public school or
community kindergarten to apply.
Apply to enrol before 24 July 2026.
Find out more:
education.wa.edu.au/enrol





Department of
Energy and Economic
Diversification



PoweringWA


WA Government Energy Transition

Community Information Session


The way we power our lives is changing, and your community is at the heart of this transition.

To keep up with growing electricity demand and ensure we have reliable, affordable and sustainable electricity for years to come, we must transition our energy system. This includes the development of new renewable energy generation projects like wind and solar farms, backed by batteries and gas and connected by an upgraded transmission network.

PoweringWA is hosting a WA Government Energy Transition Community Information Session in the Shire of West Arthur, alongside other State Government agencies, to help the community navigate this change.

 **Date & Time:** Thursday, 4 June, 2:30 PM – 7:30 PM
Friday 5 June, 8 AM – 1 PM

 **Location:** West Arthur Community Resource Centre
Hawthorn Room
27 Burrowes Street, Darkan

 **Attending:**

- Dept. of Energy and Economic Diversification (PoweringWA)
- Dept. of Planning, Lands and Heritage
- Dept. of Water and Environmental Regulation
- Dept. of Training and Workforce Development
- Wheatbelt Regional Development Commission
- Western Power

This will be a drop-in event, come by anytime during the opening hours to:

- Learn about the energy transition and access resources
- Chat with Government representatives
- Ask questions and share feedback



Find out more about WA's energy transition

Scan the QR code or go to Stateofenergy.wa.gov.au/poweringwa

PoweringWA is here to help the community navigate WA's energy transition.

Need support? Contact us at:
PoweringWAsupport@deed.wa.gov.au



Wheatbelt Families and Children Early Childhood Expo



Saturday 13th June
10am-2pm
Wongan Hills Civic Centre

Come and connect and be inspired by professionals, groups and resources that are available to all families and children in the Wheatbelt region. The expo is targeted at anyone involved with young children, who is interested in learning about what is on offer to help children to learn, develop and thrive.

STALLS & ACTIVITIES

- | Free entry | free goodie bags | Smiling Starts Dental Information |
- | Wongan Playgroup & Toybox | Child Health Nurses in attendace | Flu Clinic |
- | Central Regional TAFE | REED WA | Kidsafe WA Car Seat Fitting |
- | Road Safety and Izzy the Lizard | Lumen | Wongan Gymnastics Club |
- | Cuddly Animal Farm | Face Painting & Glitter Tattoos | Mainly Music Session |

**FREE ENTRY W/ GOODIE BAGS. MORNING TEA
AVAILABLE & PRIZES TO BE WON!**

