



# Issue 1 2016

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# Balcatta Bulletin





# Welcome

If you are not willing to learn no one can help you. If you are determined to learn no one can stop you. You have to make a choice.

The core of our school values is Respect, Unite and Excel. I have asked the staff and students to put learning, leadership and our values as our key focus and to foreground excellence in 2016. At Balcatta Senior High School we place each student at the centre of everything we do. We are committed to making a difference to every child at Balcatta Senior High School. We are a caring and inclusive community. We value each student and offer a school of opportunity where students are supported intellectually, emotionally, physically and socially.

## Student Leadership

It has been an exciting first term. We welcomed our new student leaders. Student leadership is highly valued at Balcatta. We have come to expect a high level of engagement in the role and students have set high expectations as leaders in the school. Our Head Prefects in Niamh Carey and Tash Shetty have been supported by Andrey Sabile, Muhammad Mohammed Firdaus and Cain Wilson. They continue a fine tradition of student leadership at Balcatta Senior High School.

## Welcome Events

We welcomed parents and students at our Pool Party Events. The Year 7 & 8 students and parents turned up in numbers despite a surprising cool change. It was terrific to welcome new and returning parents. The Year 9 & 10 and Year 11 & 12 events were more student focused. As one parent remarked: it was wonderful to see our pool being used as a way to bring our community together.

## Testing

Term 1 is very much an important one for teachers and students to have some baseline tests. OLNA and NAPLAN tests are treated in a balanced way at Balcatta. We don't teach to the test but we prepare all students to meet the literacy and numeracy demands in the 21st century. It is significant to note that our 2015 results released at the My School Website showed how well our students are achieving. We are achieving better than like schools in Year 9. Indeed an examination of the data shows we are competitive with some schools with significantly better socio economic indexes. Parents who wish to see more detailed information are welcome to ask me for a fact sheet on our results.

## Year 7

The staff at Balcatta have all remarked on the quality of our Year 7 students' attitude. I must agree in reviewing classes that they have been well mannered, attentive and very cohesive. The Year 7 Camp held at Dwellingup was a wonderful opportunity for students to build on those key relationships. I commend the great work being done by all our student services team led by Tegan Walker, Kevin Castensen, Sonia Hatzis and Joanne Keep.

## Looking forward

The life of a school is a busy place and it is easy for our students to forget the critical questions: What are my goals? How do I know when I get there? What will I do when things get hard? I have asked students at every opportunity to look hard and ask the hard question: Is it good enough? What more can I do? Who can help me? I am not talking only about study and tests. We know that the most successful schools work on developing the whole child. Now more than ever is the time to strive for excellence in all areas. I said on the first day of school to our students; the expectations have lifted we need to demand excellence.

I have reminded our students: If you are not willing to learn no one can help you. If you are determined to learn no one can stop you. You have to make a choice. Do you want to make the most of what is possible? A key lesson of high school is about making those right choices. At Balcatta we want to build a partnership with our students, our parents and our community to help every student get where they want to be. Our job as teachers is to help your students be the best they can be; our school motto is Building the Future. As a school community we want to work with our students and our parents: to build that future with you.

Stephen Pestana  
Principal



# Upper School News

## Student Leadership is a focus at our school

Congratulations to our 2016 Year 12 Prefects, Cain Wilson, Muhammed Mohammed Firdaus, Niamh Carey, Andrey Sabile and Tash Shetty.

At the start of 2016 a rigorous interview process took place to nominate two Head Prefects to represent Balcatta Senior High School. The calibre of the five Year 12 students was extremely high and this made the decision process extremely difficult. After two days of intense deliberation, Mr Pestana, Mrs Criddle and Mrs Keep chose Niamh Carey and Tash Shetty as the 2016 Head Prefects.

The students play an instrumental role in organizing the School Ball, Pool Party, River Cruise and other social occasions held throughout the year and are also the voice of our student body.

Throughout the year the Prefects represent the school on many important occasions. They join our Principal and local MLA Mr Chris Hatton at Parliament House. They conduct the school's ANZAC Day ceremony and deliver the valedictory address at the Year 12 Presentation Ceremony.



**Andrey Sabile, Cain Wilson, Muhammed Mohammed Firdaus, Niamh Carey, Tash Shetty, Ms Maitland, Mr Pestana & Ms Criddle**

## Year 11 Student Councillors

Congratulations to the Year 11 Student Councillors, Matt Milner, Shannon Muggerridge, Tyler Fleming and Phoebe-Lee Schmiedte.

## What's coming up?

The Year 12's social highlight will be the Ball. The Senior School Ball will be held at Frasers Kings Park on Friday 3rd June 2016, immediately after the semester one exams. This year's theme is an "Enchanted Garden".

## Student Councillors

Congratulations to the following students who were elected to be the voice of the student body in 2016. They have a challenging and busy year ahead of them as they run year assemblies, and organise a myriad of fundraising and social events.

Year 8 – Lily Johnston and Janet Pazhooparambil



Year 9 - Sakshi Gupta and Joshua Barron  
Year 10 – Ana-Miekke Rychlak and Isaac Milner  
Year 11 – Shannon Muggerridge, Matt Milner, Tyler Fleming and Phoebe-Lee Schmiedte  
Year 12 –Thash Shetty, Cain Wilson, Muhammed Mohammad Firdaus, Andrey Sabile, Niamh Carey.



**Shannon Muggerridge, Tyler Fleming, Phoebe Lee Schmiedte, Matt Milner**

# Teacher Sidelined

In the first Year 11 Human Biology Topic – Cells, students learnt about the structure and function of cells, the various mechanisms that facilitated the supply of materials and factors affecting the exchange of materials across the cell membrane including surface area to volume ratio, concentration gradients, and the physical and chemical nature of the materials being exchanged.

At the conclusion of this topic students worked collaboratively in small groups to design mini lessons to present to their peers to reinforce the learning that had occurred.

The guidelines included preparing a 10-minute presentation to the whole class that focused on particular content areas.

All groups worked collaboratively in coming up with wonderful learning activities for their peers. They integrated technology through the use of electronic presentations making use of the classroom digital projector system and their BYOD devices. Video segments showing animations of cellular concepts prepared by experts in the field of cellular biology were featured along with commentary presented by the students.

One group gave a spectacular hands-on practical demonstration of diffusion utilizing different coloured lollies sitting in petri dishes of water. After a short time, the lollies dissolved and the spread of the colouring from the lollies throughout the water in the petri dish made an astounding visual representation of the vital concept of diffusion.

During this activity their teacher sat on the sidelines feeling a little superfluous in the face of the peer tutoring that was taking place.



Students Teaching Students

# Humanities

## New Staff

We welcome Ms Blitvich, Mr Dragicevich, Mr Stuart and Ms Westrip to the Humanities Department this year. We are very pleased to include them in our team and wish them well as they settle into Balcatta Senior High School.

## Debating Club

This year Balcatta Senior High School has entered the Western Australian Debating League's school competition. We have entered two teams, one in the Senior Division and one in the Junior Division. There are approximately sixty high schools across the state in this competition. We are in the division that competes at Perth College. Our first round was against Trinity College on March 23. Both teams won.

The Junior Team is presenting the affirmative for the topic;

**“That the Government should be able to access all encrypted data in communications technology”**

The Senior Team is presenting the negative for:

**“That developed nations should pay developing nations to not extract fossil fuel resources.”**

It is very exciting to see our students representing our school in a different forum. It's great to have students who want to be involved in extra-curricular activities.

## OLNA and NAPLAN

Both The OLNA and NAPLAN tests are important dates on the calendar for students. Whilst the first round of OLNA has just finished, NAPLAN for years 7 and 8 students is early term 2. English classes will be dedicated to practising skills in reading, writing, spelling and grammar. Students should focus on making the most of the preparation time leading up to NAPLAN.

## Student Makes A Difference World's Greatest Shave

Chloe Schmiedte, one of our Year 9 students, wanted to make a difference. She decided to support “The World's Greatest Shave” in September last year.

“I had many friends and family support and sponsor me. I held a guess the number of lollies competition at school and raised an extra \$50. By the end of 2015 I had raised \$1000. I shaved my hair off in the last days of January, which resulted in an influx of donations, and I reached my goal of \$1600 within a week. I intend to support World's Greatest Shave again, as I like to help people and do what I can to make a difference. I would like to encourage other people to get out there and help, even if it is small; you can make someone's day.” Thanks to Chloe for sharing.



Chloe Bree Schmiedte



# You Can Sit With Me

Maybe someday you may be that new person or someone who needs a friend. Know there is always someone there for you.

You Can Sit With Me™ is an anti-bullying initiative and kindness campaign to help strengthen our school community and stamp out bullying. The campaign was founded in 2015 by Sophie Whitehouse who has over 25 years teaching experience in the UK, Asia and Australia.

Forty students from all year groups have nominated to be ambassadors for the campaign at Balcatta.

## Why Would Someone Want To Sit With Me?

Often there are new students to school and they don't have anyone to sit with or maybe they are having a few troubles. By wearing the highly visible YOU CAN SIT WITH ME wristband they will know who the people are who welcome people in to sit with them no questions asked.

By offering a hand of friendship in a time of need students will change that child's life by allowing them to feel welcome as a friend.

By wearing the YOU CAN SIT WITH ME wristband we are also saying to the people in our school community that we welcome any child of any age, race, religion or culture to sit with us.

Maybe someday you may be that new person or someone who needs a friend, look out for a YOU CAN SIT WITH ME wristband and know there is always someone there for you.

If you wear a YOU CAN SIT WITH ME wristband you should be proud too! You are helping change children's lives and strengthening the Balcatta community.



You Can Sit With Me

## Respect Unite Excel Canteen Boards

Our school values of Respect Unite Excel will sit proudly in the Canteen area after a much needed upgrade of the canteen boards was completed by three very talented students. In 2015 Pariz Azarfarin won a design competition to refresh the Canteen boards. Under the creative guidance of Mr Schmiedte and with the help of Year 11 students Shannon Muggeridge and Kelsey McArdle the boards are now complete and we are very proud of their work.

Thank you to Mr Schmiedte, Pariz, Shannon and Kelsey for the hard work you have put in the past 12 months.



Kelsey McArdle, Sharron Muggeridge, Paniz Azarfarin



You Can Sit With Me Wristbands



**Joanne Ward Technology & Enterprise**



**Helen Maitland Associate Principal**



**Stephen Pestana Principal**

# New Staff & Ad



**Deb Stevens Teacher Relief Coordinator**



**Philip Stuart English**



**Liam Robinson Engagement Coordinator & Physical Education**



**Mitch McCreery Health and Physical Education**



**Sarah Malone Art**



**Luke Dragicevich Humanities**





**Kath Criddle Associate Principal**



**Charlotte Westrip Drama/English**



**Liam Petchell Maths/Science**



**Emma Powney Home Economics**



**Michael Kimbar Gifted & Talented  
Art Coordinator**



**Amy Blitvich English/Humanities**

# Administration

# Leadership Conference

Young councillors from different schools discuss ways to motivate other students.

On Thursday 10th March, some of our student councillors attended a Leadership Conference. The students had the opportunity to mix with students from other schools and discuss various subjects. The two subjects of concern for our students were the workshops on "How to Say Bye Bye to Bullying" and "How to Motivate Others".

As educators we are aware how important it is to motivate students in their learning. It was great to see young councillors from different schools discuss ways to motivate other students to help their school community. School communities need to be dynamic and supportive in order to provide students with opportunities for growth.

Our leaders Andrey, Tyler, Phoebe, Ana, Matt, Isaac, Sakshi, Josh, Lily and Janet are an inspirational group of students, who will take what they learned at the Leadership Conference and apply it at Balcatta with a deep understanding of what works best in their school community.



**Matt Milner & Ann Rychlak**

## Year 7 Swimming Carnival

Balcatta Senior High School Swimming carnivals got underway with the Year 7 Carnival on Wednesday 9th March. All students who took part on the day have to be complimented on their efforts and willingness to have a go.

The 10 students not swimming did an excellent job time keeping and recording results. All other students were constantly lining up for traditional races and teaming up for a variety of novelty events.

There were a number of very brave and resilient students who were determined to earn points for their house despite their lack of swimming stamina and prowess. They were allowed to enter the pool at the halfway mark and swim to the finish. These swimmers in Fire were given lots of support and encouragement by Ms Blitvich. Champion Boy was Caleb Petchell. Runner Up was Seth Petchell. Champion Girl was Liliana Stjepanovic. Runner Up was Kirra Tangney.

# Pool Parties

On Tuesday 8th March, we hosted our annual Year 9 and 10 Pool Party. The weather was glorious and students, parents and teachers enjoyed the evening. Students cooled off in the pool, splashing and having a good time with their peers until the pizza arrived. They happily dug into the pizza, some returning for second and third helpings.

Parents welcomed the idea and commented on the wonderful use of the school's facilities to get everyone together. Representatives from the P & C were present to support the school function.

Just before dark we wrapped it up and Mr Pestana thanked all for attending. Functions like this always prove to be a great success, and this year did not disappoint.



**Fun at the Pool Party**



**Everyone is keen on the pizza**



**Seth Petchell, Caleb Petchell, Liliana Stjepanovic, Kirra Tangney**



# High Tea



**Year 10 High Tea**

On Wednesday 16th March, one of the Year 10 Café Foods classes used their newfound knowledge and food production skills to present a wonderful High Tea. They were incredibly dedicated in the first half of the term, researching recipes, creating menus and invitations for their guests and trialling and evaluating the perfect treats to serve on the day. The students were definitely nervous to be serving their delicious products, however, were also very proud to have a chance to show off their many talents. The feedback they obtained from their guests was exceptional and we are incredibly proud of each and every one of them for their outstanding efforts. We hope that we can have many more successful functions in the near future.

## 2015 Art Student Recognized

Year 12 Perspectives is an annual taste of art by some of the best, brightest and most talented graduating high school artists in the State. An annual barometer of what our youth are thinking and feeling, it is also a rich celebration of the role the arts play in the development of individual identities.

We were fortunate last year to have Tess Williams' work "Forgotton Treasures" selected for Perspectives at the Art Gallery of WA. Her work explores the beauty and integrity of lost and forgotten household objects in our throw away society. She produced a work which incorporated printing, drawing, painting and photography.



**Tess Williams at Perspectives**

# Dance



**Visitors from Fuchun Secondary School in Singapore**

First term has seen a number of opportunities arise for our students.

Our senior students were fortunate enough to be able to see Co3 perform a return performance of their premiere season "re:Loaded" at the Heath Ledger Theatre. As part of their enrichment, our students also had performers from the company come to Balcatta Senior High School for the day and guide them through technique class and repertoire from the show. The students were able to quiz the dancers' first-hand about the performance, as well as their career pathways.

We were recommended as a leading Specialist Dance school to Fuchun Secondary School in Singapore, who recently visited Perth on an educational exchange visit with few of their Year 9 and 10 students.

Our Year 9 and 10 students joined them in a movement workshop, and had the opportunity to see each other perform, including a traditional Malay dance from a select few of the Fuchun Dance students.

It was a fantastic experience for all of us. Hopefully one day we can return the favour and travel to Singapore!!



**Our Singapore Dance Visitors in Action**

# Year 7 Orientation Camp

“Year 7 Camp was absolutely, amazingly, fantastically FUN! Friendships grew stronger, laughter filled the air and smiles shone brighter than all stars combined.” - Kaida Law Year 7.

On Monday, 21st March, Year 7 students boarded a bus to Dwellingup’s Nanga Bush Camp for a three-day camp. The purpose of the camp was to unite the new year group and welcome them to our school community by practicing teamwork, leadership skills and sharing new experiences together. Many memories and new friendships were forged over the course of the adventure, and the Year 7 cohort returned to our school stronger and more united than ever.

Upon arriving at the camp, located in the secluded bushland of our state’s South West, students discovered there was no mobile or internet reception at the campsite. The digital detox was definitely a shock to many though it helped everyone connect with nature, and each other, in a more meaningful way. Students spent the day playing team sports at a local oval and then participating in a low ropes course, made up of a series of obstacles designed to test students’ teamwork, cooperation and problem-solving skills. Day 1 ended with a movie night and most students falling quickly to sleep after a big day.

Day 2 began with an early wake-up call; Mr. Castensen’s ‘interesting’ taste in music. Students joined staff for a walk at dawn, where they spotted some local flora and fauna (including a ‘sleeping’ kangaroo and a giant mushroom on a log) before returning to camp for breakfast (with a visit from a particularly cheeky, toast loving kookaburra) and getting organised for a big day of activities. Throughout the day, the Year 7’s rotated through canoeing, rafting, bush walking and zip lining. Needless to say, that night students were fast asleep in minutes.

On Day 3, students woke to rain. This didn’t deter them from their dawn walk, although it quickly (and literally) put a damper on the rest of the day’s planned activities. Instead, students put their new knowledge of the school’s core values of Respect, Unite and Excel into action; by uniting in more team building games, respectfully sharing the communal space for an art workshop, a movie and excelling in their cleaning of the dorms, bathrooms, floors and kitchen.

This initiative could not have taken place without the efforts of Balcatta Senior High School staff. Notably, Ms Val Terry (Home Economics Assistant) – who ensured students were fed with wholesome and delicious homemade food, Mr Liam Robinson (Student Engagement Coordinator) – who kept all activities running like clockwork and all students entertained with his dance moves and sense of humour, and most importantly, Mr Kevin Castensen (Year 7 & 8 Coordinator) – who spearheaded the organisation of the camp and ensured everyone was having a good time. Honourable mentions to Mr Rod Blitvich (Head of Learning Area, Science), Mr Adam Taseff (Teacher, Phys Ed), Mr Philip Stuart (Teacher, Humanities), Mrs Helen Maitland (Associate Principal) and Ms Amy Blitvich (Teacher, Humanities) for their contributions.



Mr Robinson and crew



Smiles all around



Mr Castensen under the thumb again



More smiles on our morning walk





Sean Yazbek:  
 "It was the best camp I have ever been to and like nothing I have ever experienced. Before camp, I had never been in a canoe or on a flying fox."

Joshua Oughton:  
 "We went to camp to build new friendships and work on teamwork, all the while following the school's 3 values of Respect, Unite and Excel."

Jacqlin Parker:  
 "My camp experience was exhilarating and our activities were very interesting as we couldn't have done it without the help from the exceptional work of the staff."



**The Year 7s take time-out for a team photo**





Having Fun at Year 7 Camp