
From the Principal

I am delighted to have been appointed to the Principalship for Semester One whilst Ms Lesley Street is on leave. Ms Street continues to keep a close eye on the school as she has taken on a role of Upper School Principal in Hangzhou in China for International Students. She will have some interesting feedback for us when she returns.

In 2016 I have asked the staff and students to put Learning, Leadership and Our Values in the forefront of our thinking. The core of our school is Respect, Unite and Excel. I have asked staff and students to foreground excellence in 2016. Balcatta is built on a terrific foundation of inclusivity. We want all students to feel that they belong and be respected for who they are. Now more than ever is the time to also strive for excellence. The expectations have changed as I said on the first day of school to our students: we need to demand excellence.

If you are determined to learn no one can stop you

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. Our job as teachers is to help you be the best you 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

News

Year 12 Results

One of the key features of Balcatta Senior High School is that all students can pursue their goals no matter how high. We are very proud of our top students. Pariya Ghanbari who scored 96.8 has chosen Science at UWA. Nihanth Devarapalli who scored 96.5 has gained entry to Medicine. Pariya and our 2015 Head Girl Alisa Jakupovic both achieved Certificates of Excellence. There were many other successes. Balcatta may be a small school but our programs allow students to achieve their best.

Our results in 2015 followed the excellent trend of recent years. Our Achievement Rate was 99%. Our attainment rate was 96%: 82 students out of 85 achieved Attainment which allows them to enter University or a Training College. This continues to be above the state rate of 88.1. This is a fantastic achievement. Our VET results were even better. We were ranked 28 out of all high schools as 98% of our VET students achieved a Certificate II or higher.

Staff

Mrs Kath Criddle is the Associate Principal in semester one responsible for Year 10 - 12 and Mrs Maitland continues to look after Year 7 - 9. Mrs Keep is the Program Coordinator of VET and Mr Witcombe is in charge of Technology & Enterprise.

We also have had a fantastic group of new staff start at Balcatta Senior High School this year. They have won their positions in competitive selection processes. We welcome: Michael Kimbar, Sarah Malone and Charlotte Westrip in Art; Liam Robinson and Mitch McCreery in Health and Phys Ed; Amy Blitvich, Luke Dragicevich and Philip Stuart in Humanities; Liam Petchell in Maths/Science and Emma Powney, Kirsty Johnson and Joanne Ward in Technology & Enterprise.

Smooth Start, OLN & NAPLAN

The start of the school year has been very smooth with all classes moving ahead at full steam. Term 1 has some very important events for students as they sit OLN and NAPLAN tests. I ask all parents to support our students, to encourage them to be at school on the test days and to do their very best. Students are well prepared at Balcatta Senior High School to meet the challenges of the testing.

Students should approach them with confidence knowing that they will have further opportunities to meet the Literacy and Numeracy standards.

OLNA Preparation

The OLN has three components – reading, writing and numeracy. Some students prequalify for the literacy and numeracy requirement through their performance in the Year 9 NAPLAN test. Students will have up to six opportunities before the end of Year 12 to demonstrate the standard.

To prepare students for the sorts of questions they can expect and familiarise them with the online assessment software, the School Curriculum and Standards Authority provide access to practice and example tests on a secure website: <http://assess.scsa.wa.edu.au> Enter the username **olna** and password **prac14** For more information, answers to frequently asked questions and a brief video, go to the Authority website at www.scsa.wa.edu.au and select OLN from the right hand side.

Prefects

I am very pleased with the quality of student leadership at Balcatta Senior High School and had the pleasure of announcing the Head Prefects as Niamh Carey and Tash Shetty at our recent whole school assembly. They are supported by their fellow prefects Andrey Sabile, Muhammad Mohammed Firdaus and Cain Wilson. A key focus of our school plan is to give bigger roles to student leaders and these will set a fine example.

Connect, Reporting and Parent Nights

At Balcatta we value communication. Parents are encouraged to make contact for feedback or progress reports at any time with teachers or for an overview contact the Year Coordinators. We start the process of Interim Reports very soon and there is a full parent evening at the end of the term. Please see the important dates below. Parents are also able to use Connect to see their child's progress and be aware of the work they are doing. Parents who use this find it a very valuable resource. Forms and information have recently been sent out. If you missed out please contact the school.

Website

You may have noted that our website has been very limited recently. We are in the process of renewing our site and I expect it to be launched very soon. Further details will be available when we launch the new site.

Important dates

8 March	Y9 & 10 Pool Party 5.30 pm
8 – 14 March	OLNA Testing Week
10 – 12 May	NAPLAN Testing
9 March	Y7 Swim Carnival (Periods 3 -5)
14 March	Y9 Swim Carnival (Periods 3 – 5)
18 March	Y8 Swim Carnival (Periods 3 – 5)
17 March	Y11 & 12 Interim Reports mailed
23 March	Y9 & 10 Interim Reports mailed
24 March	Y7 & 8 Interim Reports mailed
6 April	Parent Evening 4.30 – 7.30 pm
23 March	School Council 6 pm
23 March	P&C AGM 7.30 pm