

Balcatta Update

August 2015

From the Principal - Lesley Street

School Policy Regarding Electronic Cigarettes

Names of these devices can include *e-cigarette, shisha-stick, shisha-pen and hookah pen*. Essentially they are a smoking device used for inhaling tobacco, nicotine and flavour-based products. They produce a vapour which is inhaled/exhaled. There are multiple versions of these but little regulation laws or health research on effects. In Western Australia it is illegal to sell electronic cigarettes.

Electronic cigarettes (or any other similar device) are not permitted to be sold, purchased, used or possessed at school.

Students found in possession of these or seen inhaling/blowing out vapour will be directly referred to the Student Services Manager and will be in serious breach of school discipline.

The school has a zero tolerance approach to all smoking related offences. Such offences may result in suspension from school and will increase in severity if the student continues to offend.

Year 12 Students – TISC and STP Applications for 2016

Applications to Edith Cowan, Curtin, Murdoch and University of Western Australia for undergraduate courses in 2016 open on Monday 10 August and close on Wednesday 30 September 2015.

Students are being assisted with these online applications via Tertiary Institutions Service Centre (TISC) during their Mentor period and have been provided with relevant information in class as well as on Connect. Applications for Notre Dame University are made directly

to the university and assistance is also offered if required. Students applying for courses at State Training Providers will also be assisted at school once the online application system opens. Please refer to Connect for regular updates and detailed information and contact Mrs Criddle for assistance.

Year 10 Subject Selection Interviews for Year 11 in 2016

Students and parents are invited to make an appointment for subject selection using School Online Booking System at <http://sobs.com.au> between Wednesday 19 August and Wednesday 26 August 2015. Interview times are available throughout the day into early evening. Individualised information will be forwarded to parents to assist with this procedure and updates are available online through Connect.

Uniform Reminder

Although it is winter and the mornings can be cold please ensure that students adhere to the school's uniform policy. Over the last few weeks Student Services have supplied loan items to a large group of students to ensure they comply with the school dress requirements. These items of clothing need to be returned to the Student Services Office as soon as possible.

The uniform shop is open each Wednesday morning from 8.00 am to 9.00 am for purchases. The shop is located in the canteen area.

AVCAT Scholarships 2016

The Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust (AVCAT) is a national independent charity helping the children and grandchildren of ex-service men and women to attend university.

The Trust has made available a number of university scholarships open to students in Year 12 for study in 2016. For information,

parents should contact the Trust on 02-9213 7999 or www.avcat.org.au.

Adolescent Well-Being

Curtin University is conducting a research study into self-injury in young people. The study aims to understand why some adolescents engage in this behaviour and the effect it has on families. If you would like to take part in this online questionnaire please contact Associate Professor Penelope Hasking at Penelope.Hasking@curtin.edu.au.

Energy Drinks

The school is committed to complying with the Department's requirement that schools ensure a healthy environment for students and promote wise choices in regard to food and drink consumed. Recently a number of students has been seen consuming high energy drinks such as Red Bull and V. Parents are asked to support the school by not providing their children with these drinks to bring to school. Research tells that such drinks can contain very high amounts of caffeine, sugar and other ingredients which can have detrimental effects on young people.

Macedonian Community Language School

The Macedonian Society of WA is keen to offer after school classes in the Macedonian language. The classes will be held at Balcatta House in Albert Street, Balcatta. The society is keen for prospective students to complete an expression of interest so they can establish the best time to run the classes. If you are interested you can pick up an information sheet at the main school office or email them at languages@macedoniawa.com or visit the website at www.macedonia.wa.com.

Cyberbullying

Important changes have been made to the Enhancing Online Safety for Children Act 2015. This Act allows children suffering from serious cyberbullying to contact the newly formed Office of the Children's eSafety Commissioner to have content that is illegal or offensive removed once the four step process to lodge a complaint has been followed.

The website listed below gives advice to children and parents on how to deal with social media posts that are seriously threatening, intimidating, harassing or humiliating. The website is very user friendly and offers tips on how to deal with cyberbullying. For further information please contact www.esafety.gov.au. Students also have access to Kids Helpline by phoning 1800 551 800.

From the P & C

The P&C will be holding a Sausage Sizzle on Saturday 29 August at Bunnings Balcatta from 7.00 am to 5.00 pm. If you would like to assist, please contact Helen Notis via email on pandcballcattashs@gmail.com.

Please support the school by collecting the **Woolworths "Earn and Learn"** stickers. They can be placed in the collection boxes at the Warwick, Innaloo or Stirling Central Woolworths stores or drop them into the canteen.

The P&C is very keen for parents to become involved in the committee. The committee's sole purpose is to assist the school to provide the best education possible for every student. This year the P&C has allocated \$15,000 to the school to be spent on projects that will benefit students. At the next meeting on Wednesday 19 August the P&C will look at the submissions and allocate the funding to the most worthy projects.

Helen Notis, P&C President

Important Dates

29 August – Bunnings Sausage Sizzle

31 August to 3 September– OLNA Testing

4 September – Athletics Carnival

29 September to 5 October – Year 12 exams