



Balcatta Update

August 2016

From the Principal

I am pleased to have returned to Balcatta after my six months in China. I was granted Leave Without Pay for Semester 1 and had the opportunity to work as the upper school Principal of an elite, fee-paying private school in China. It was a very interesting experience and I was able to see, at first hand, another educational system.

Parents paid approximately AUD\$40,000 dollars a year in fees for each child to attend the school. I am really pleased to report that our system provides a world class education and many opportunities for our students without such a high price tag.

One difference I did notice was that all students seemed to set high expectations for themselves and were prepared to work hard to achieve their goals. Whilst we have a large group of students who have made up their minds about their future career and are committed to doing their best to achieve their goals we have a significant group who lack direction and seem to think success comes without hard work. As a school, we are keen to identify and put in place programs and strategies to support these students.

I want to thank Mr Pestana who did a wonderful job as principal in my absence. I know it was a very busy time in the lead up to our IPS application and he, along with Mrs Notis, Chair of the School Council and other council members did a great deal of work in preparation. We presented to the IPS selection panel on Monday 1 August and we will hear later in the term, if we have been successful.

On Thursday 28 and Friday 29 July, our Specialist Dance students, under the direction of Ms Martin, presented their performances of "Abstract". The performances were an opportunity for students to showcase their talents, not only as dancers, but for the year 12 students as choreographers. I attended on Friday night and really enjoyed the performance as did the enthusiastic audience of family and friends. I would like to thank Ms Martin and the Dance students for a wonderful evening.

Our Gifted and Talented Visual Arts students have excelled themselves with 9 students having their works chosen for the Young Originals Exhibition. This is the premier art exhibition for school students. This year over 180 entries were received from schools across the state and only 70 entries were selected to be exhibited. Congratulations to the students listed below and to Michael Kimbar on this fantastic achievement.

Year 8

Cameron Croucher, Meg Bradsell

Year 9

Tamara Barron, Harvey Ma

Year 10

Scarlett Coley

Year 11

Bianca Kihara, Ari Gillespie

Year 12

Kody Mason, Josh Figliomeni

The exhibition will be held from 11 to 24 August at Edith Cowan University Mt Lawley Campus, Spectrum Project Space. This competition is only open to students attending public Secondary Schools.

A very successful Year 10 Parent and Student Information meeting was held on Wednesday, 29 July with over 100 students and parents in attendance. The evening provided parents with details regarding Upper School Pathways and subject selection for Year 11 and 12 students for 2017. Mrs Criddle, Program Coordinator discussed the academic and vocational courses as well as the new WACE requirements. The rigours of senior schooling were also outlined as well as the need for a three-way partnership between teachers, students and parents. The presenters stressed the need to make realistic subject choices for Upper School in order to maximise their chances of success. Any parent who would like to discuss the most suitable and appropriate courses for their child is asked to contact Mrs Kath Criddle or Mr Stephen Pestana on 9345 8200.

Lesley Street
Principal

Student Contact

Parents, who need to contact their child for any reason during school hours, will need to ring the main school office on 9345 8200. They will be put through to Student Services office where a clerical officer will be able to assist you. Please refrain from texting/calling your child during class times as it causes disruption to the learning program. Students are only permitted to use their mobile phones if it is part of a planned teacher authorised learning activity. School policy states that 'Mobile phones and other devices must be kept in their bag/backpack and turned off during all lessons'.

Attendance Reward Activities

Reward Activities are a part of the Balcatta Senior High School calendar (e.g. river cruises and excursions). However, to earn an invitation, students are expected to follow particular criteria that include:

1. Attendance - Attending school 90% of the time, unless medical certificates can justify absences. Students who regularly truant will also not be invited.
2. Behaviour – students who have been suspended or have on-going behaviour referrals.
3. Uniform – on-going uniform infractions.

Whilst we take individual circumstances into consideration, we encourage parents and guardians to communicate financial constraints and medical issues to Year Co-ordinators and we will endeavour to support your child in achieving these criteria. It is important to maintain high expectations of students and we ask your support in ensuring these standards are maintained.

Congratulations to the 90 students who achieved 100% attendance during Term 2 and enjoyed a sausage sizzle on the final day. Special thanks to our Student Councillors, with the help of Balcatta staff, who cooked, served and cleaned up our BBQ lunch. As a school, we aim to have all students attending 90% or more. Our school attendance rate for Semester 1 was 90.9%, slightly lower than 2015. Over 300 students achieved 90% attendance and were eligible for the \$20 Westfield Gift card raffle.

Congratulations to our Term 2 raffle winners:

Year 7: Elena Momirski and Keanu Rhoades
Year 8: Afrah Barole and Melissa Josevski
Year 9: Joel Gizzarelli and Ilija Spiroski
Year 10: Nicoletta Antic and Nathaniel Mesfin
Year 11: Kathy Nguyen and Georgia Pope
Year 12: Norvania Chinasamy and Nicole Torres

We look forward to rewarding as many students as possible in Term 3. If you are having difficulties getting your child to school or need support with their engagement, please contact our Attendance and Engagement Coordinator, Mr Robinson on 0423 806 654.

Debating Success

Our Year 10 team won their debate against Perth Modern School on Wednesday 11 May. The topic was "*That politicians should be paid the median wage*". Balcatta presented the affirmative response with Ana Rychlak, Macy Brown and Robyn Bennett as the speakers. Lily Routledge, Nathaniel Mesfin and Alicia Gregg were active team members in the preparation leading up to the debate. Well done to all team members and staff involved. Thanks to the parents for their great support.

P&C Association

Next Meeting

The P&C invites and welcomes all parents, carers and members of the community to attend our next meeting on Wednesday 10 August to be held in the staff room commencing at 7.30pm following on from the Council Meeting. Please show your support for your P&C.

Important dates

9 Aug	Year 9/10 River Cruise
10 Aug	School Photos
10 Aug	6.00pm School Council meeting
10 Aug	7.30pm P&C Meeting
11 Aug	Year 7/8 Assembly
12 Aug	Year 9/10 Skills West Expo
16 Aug	Primary School Art Exhibition
18 Aug	Year 9/10 Assembly
23 Aug	Year 11/12 Assembly
24 Aug	Year 12 River Cruise
29 Aug	OLNA commences
29 Aug	Maths Week
1 Sep	Whole School Athletics Carnival