

## From the Principal

We were all delighted when it was recently announced that Balcatta Senior High School has been granted Independent Public School (IPS) status. Being awarded this status gives the school the opportunity to have greater independence and flexibilities in school affairs whilst still retaining the advantages of being part of a school system.

The advantages relate to recruitment, budgeting, procurement and curriculum development. We are already benefitting from the status as we are selecting teaching staff for 2017 whose skills and attributes match our school mission and values.

I will be undertaking training with regard to workforce management, accountabilities and quality assurance along with School Council chair, Helen Notis and Associate Principal, Stephen Pestana. Over the coming months, the School Council will transition into a fully-fledged School Board.

Last Wednesday, a large number of visitors attended the annual Art Exhibition held in the Ron Murphy Gallery. The exhibition was officially opened by Professor Ted Snell AM, who is a member of the School Council. Special thanks to the Rotary Club of Balcatta who sponsored Excellence Awards for the top Year 10 and Year 12 students. Awards were given out to students who participated in the Saturday morning Art classes.

Our Year 12 students have finished formal classes for the year. Many students are taking advantage of the study break to come to school to work one-on-one with their teachers to revise specific areas of their courses. It was pleasing to see so many parents attend the final assembly on Tuesday 18 October. Best wishes to our Year 12 ATAR students who begin their examinations which run from Wednesday 1 November to Tuesday 21 November.

This year, a record number of Year 12s have applied to attend university. The university of choice for our students this year was the University

of Western Australia. Medicine and Engineering were the two most popular courses selected. Two students have even applied to go interstate and attend the University of Melbourne. Some students have already secured apprenticeships while others are applying to attend TAFE or other training providers. We wish every Year 12 success in their future endeavours and hope that they will keep in touch so we can celebrate their achievements.

Lesley Street  
Principal

## NEWS

### Year 12 Presentation Ceremony

The ceremony will be held at the Victory Life Centre in Osborne Park on Tuesday 29 November at 6.00pm. Details about the ceremony have already been sent home with students at the end of last term. Further copies are available through Student Services.

Prior to the ceremony, students are to attend Clearance Day on Monday 28 November from 11.00am to 1.00pm. During this time, students are to return all school materials including books and other resources. Students will then travel to the venue to take part in a full rehearsal from 1.00 to 3.00pm.

Following the ceremony on Tuesday evening, staff and students will attend a celebratory student/staff dinner at Beirut Restaurant in Tuart Hill.

### 2016 NAPLAN Results

The Year 9 achievement in Reading, Writing, Spelling, and Numeracy were slightly above 'like' schools which is pleasing. Grammar and Punctuation results were the same as 'like' schools.

Year 7 results were on a par with 'like' schools in Spelling, Writing, and Grammar and Punctuation but below 'like' schools in Reading and Numeracy.

A number of strategies have been put in place to improve on the areas of concern including targeted Literacy and Numeracy Support classes.

## Balcatta Update

### Semester 2 Reports

Parents are informed that Semester 2 Reports will be posted home on the following dates:

- Year 11 - Thursday 1 December
- Years 8 to 10 - Thursday 8 December
- Year 7 - Friday 9 December.

### 100% Attendance Reward

Congratulations to the students who achieved 100% attendance during Term 3. They enjoyed a sausage sizzle on the final day of Term 3. Special thanks to our Student Councillors who, with the help of Balcatta staff, cooked, served and cleaned up at our BBQ lunch. As a school, we aim to have all students achieve over 90% attendance rate.

Congratulations to our Term 3 raffle winners who won a \$20 Westfield Gift card:

- Year 7: Kaida Law, Kirra Tangney  
Year 8: Jade Gendry, Diandra Sastraatmadja  
Year 9: Hashim Jasem, Tyler Rollinson  
Year 10: Garem Aquino, Hindisar Hassano  
Year 11: Atilla Durmus, Georgia Pope  
Year 12: Nicholas Aleksic, Zoe Hale

We look forward to rewarding as many students as possible in Term 4. If you are having difficulties getting your child to school or need support with their engagement, please contact our Attendance and Engagement Coordinator, Mr Liam Robinson on 9345 8200.

### Year 11 Examinations

Year 11 exams will be held from Monday 14 November to Friday 18 November. It is important for students to arrive promptly to the examination room and come with the required equipment. No formal classes will run during this week for Year 11 students however, some students may be required to complete outstanding work. Students are required to wear school uniform and do not need to sign in as attendance will be taken before each examination.

Year 11 students are required to return to school on Tuesday 6 December to attend the Presentation Assembly. Parents are also invited to attend the assembly which will run from 9.00 to 10.00am. Following the assembly, students will be required to complete their clearance.

### School Council

All parents and guardians are invited to the annual Public Meeting of the School Council to be held on Wednesday 2 November 2016 at 6.00pm in the Staff Room at Balcatta Senior High School.

The annual Public Meeting of the School Council provides parents with the opportunity to hear first-hand about the work the Council has been doing during this year.

A new governance program will be available during 2017 to help prepare members of our School Council for the transition to becoming a School Board. The training which will cover topics including Effective Board Management and Governance will be run by the Institute for Professional Learning. The training modules will be available face-to-face and online.

This year the council has conducted a major review of school governance and succession planning for council membership. In addition, it has reviewed its Terms of Reference and also introduced a Code of Conduct for council members. The Code of Conduct covers such areas as confidentiality, conflicts of interest, media management and legislative and industrial compliance. Copies of the Code of Conduct are available on the website and from the school office.



Various seminars will run during October/November at a cost of \$220 per person:

- Domestic Violence Workshops, Fri 28 Oct / 4&11 Nov
- Introduction to Couples Counselling, Thu 3 Nov and Fri 4 Nov
- Accidental Counsellor, Tues 8 Nov
- Emotional Intelligence, Wed 9 Nov

Ring 6164 0200 to enrol or for more information, go to [www.relationshipswa.org.au](http://www.relationshipswa.org.au)

## Important dates

28 Oct	Year 6 Orientation Activity
2 Nov	Year 8 Immunisations
2 Nov	6.00pm School Council Annual Public Meeting
2 Nov	7.30pm P&C Meeting
7 – 11 Nov	Quarantine Week for Exams
14 – 18 Nov	Year 10 and 11 Exams
18 Nov	Last day for Year 11 students
24 Nov	Year 6 Orientation Day
30 Nov – 2 Dec	Year 9/10 Outdoor Recreation Camp