

## From the Principal

This term, Associate Principals Stephen Pestana and Helen Maitland, School Board Chair Helen Notis and I have been involved in a number of Independent Public School (IPS) training workshops over the last few weeks. The workshops, held over four days, covered topics such as Workforce Management, New Authorities - New Relationships, Building Effective School Boards, Accountability and Quality Assurance. These workshops were designed to ensure the school was fully prepared to take on the extra flexibilities afforded to us by our Independent Public School status.

We are already benefitting from the status as this year all our new staff appointments have been selected under IPS conditions. This has allowed us to choose the most qualified and appropriate staff for our context. So far we have employed new Science, Mathematics, English, Humanities and Social Science and Physical Education teachers and filled the newly created position of Literacy Support teacher.

Year 10 and 11 students have been sitting their examinations and, although Year 11's have finished formal schooling for the year, a number are returning to school to complete course requirements. Parents are reminded that the last day for students in Years 7 to 10 is Thursday 15 December. Students are still engaged in important learning activities and are required to be at school each day. The Year 12's have finished their ATAR examinations and we all wish them success when their results are released in January.

It has been a busy term for transition activities for the incoming Year 7 students. In late October, students from our local intake schools and a number from out of area attended a fun orientation afternoon. This activity gave them the opportunity to meet students from other schools and meet some of their new teachers. On Wednesday 23 November, the school and the P&C hosted a special Parent Information night for the parents of next year's Year 7 students. The evening was well attended and parents had the opportunity to ask questions and meet members of the P&C executive in a social setting.

We are currently hosting the Year 5 students from Tuart Hill Primary School who are undertaking a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) program with our teachers.

As a school staff, we regularly reflect on how we can improve the courses and programs, the facilities, our pastoral care and the whole education that we provide for our students. Recently, two parents of Year 12 students took the time to write to me to express their gratitude and thanks for all that the school had done for their children. One mother wrote, "Thank you all for helping him grow and mature into the beautiful young man that is my son today." The staff really appreciated these comments.

As teachers, we are always so pleased to see our students graduate from high school and take their place in the world. We know a positive partnership between parents and teachers is the best way to help secure a child's future. We are looking forward to the Presentation evening on Tuesday 29 November at the Victory Life Centre in Osborne Park when we will see the latest group of students celebrate the end of their compulsory schooling.

Lesley Street  
Principal

## Contributions and Charges 2016

Thank you to all the parents/guardians that have paid their child's Charges and Voluntary Contributions account.

We would like to remind those who have not yet paid that payment can be made at the office weekdays between 8.15am and 3.30pm using cash, cheque, credit card, EFTPOS. Payment by Mastercard or Visa can be made over the telephone. Alternatively, you may wish to pay direct to the school's bank account.

Details are as follows:

**Name:** Balcatta Senior High School  
**BSB:** 066 140  
**Account Number:** 00900104  
**Reference:** Students Surname, First Name

Should you have any queries regarding your account or if you would like to discuss time payment options, please contact the school on 9345 8200.

Balcatta Senior High School relies heavily on parent/guardian payments for these course/subject fees which enables our classes to be maintained and updated as required by the curriculum. Please be reminded charges remain compulsory.

### Information Update required

It is important that the school has up to date and accurate contact information for parents and caregivers. Not only do we need to contact parents in an emergency but we also email out important information relating to the educational progress of students. Please take the time to call the school office on 9345 8200 to update mobile numbers and email addresses.

### Attendance and why it is important

Parents are reminded that attendance at school is compulsory and also very important. Over the years, the school has achieved an attendance rate which is better than the state average. This year, Balcatta's attendance rate is 90.6% while the state rate is 87.7%. It is important that students do not miss school on a regular basis and then only if they are too ill to attend.

Even if a student attends school 90% of the time, they are still missing:

- 1 day per fortnight
- 1 week per term
- 4 weeks per year
- 1 school year by the end of Year 9
- 1 semester between Year 8 and 12

If a student only attends school 80% of the time, the situation is even more serious as they will miss:

- 1 day per week
- 2 weeks per term
- 8 weeks per year
- 1 year by the end of Year 4
- 3 years by the end of Year 12

It is clear from these statistics that any absence, short or long, can impact negatively, especially when assessments are being conducted and there is likely to be a subsequent detrimental effect on grades and comments.

We do understand that illnesses occur and there is sometimes the need to keep children home if they are too unwell to attend school. Staying away for special occasions and taking holidays during school terms are not acceptable reasons to miss school.

Your co-operation and support in ensuring your children attend school is sought as their education is of the utmost importance, not only to you but also to the school.

### Canteen

Once again, the Canteen was under the direction of Jenny Young and supported by her staff and volunteers. This year has been very busy serving up the delicious and nourishing foods for our students and staff. Jenny always welcomes new volunteers, suggestions and positive feedback. If you can spare an hour or two of your time to assist, please see Jenny, she'll even offer you a "cuppa".

## From the P&C

### Uniform Shop Restructure

The Balcatta Senior High School P&C Association have outsourced the management of the uniform shop to Tudor Uniforms. Tudor is Perth's premier supplier of school uniforms and they have been servicing Perth schools since 1992. Tudor will take over effective Thursday 1 December 2016.

The decision to outsource our Uniform Shop was made following extensive discussion and consultation over several months with the P&C Committee and Tudor Uniforms. Some of the benefits to the P&C and to parents by outsourcing management of the Uniform Shop to Tudor Uniforms, include:

- Removes the burden of finding volunteers to run the uniform shop.
- P&C will receive a sales-based commission on items sold which will support student resources.
- The uniform shop will open each Wednesday from 8am to 10am and 24/7 online sales ordering will be available through the Tudor website.
- Various payment methods will be available including EFTPOS, credit card or cash at the uniform shop.
- P&C can use funds otherwise tied up in uniform stock for other educational needs.

The P&C Association is very confident that the uniform shop will be managed effectively and professionally with the interests of our students and school community at the forefront.

The first trading day will be Wednesday 7 December 2016. The uniform shop will also open during the school holidays on Tuesday 24 January from 8.00am to 12 noon, Tuesday 31 January from 1.00pm to 4.30pm and Wednesday 1 February (first day of school for students) from 8.00am to 12 noon.

## Important dates

1 Dec	Year 11 Reports to be posted
6 Dec	Year 11 Presentation Assembly
6 Dec	Year 11 Clearance
8 Dec	Years 8 to 10 Reports to be posted
9 Dec	Year 7 Reports to be posted
12 Dec	End of Year Reward Excursion
13 Dec	Years 7 to 10 Awards Assembly
15 Dec	Last day for Years 7 to 10 Students
16 Dec	Last day for Teachers and Staff