

## From the Principal

On Saturday 25 March the school publicly celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, which provided a great opportunity for the school to showcase the 50 years of tradition and delivery of excellent education. There was significant turn out from students, staff, families and community members, with 465 registrations recorded (and more who did not get the chance to register). Some of the highlights of the event:

- Year 8 student “Aliyah Nieass” - Acknowledgement to Country.
- Head Boy Gary Downsborough and Head Girl Stephanie McTaggart (1971), reflecting on their time at the school.
- Anna Kristancic (Principal 2003-2016), reinforcing the tradition of community spirit.
- Video Presentation from Barend Becker, student from 1969-1973, who sent through a video clip from Antarctica.
- Year 12 Head Prefects: Domonique Barone and Matthew Milner, were the MC’s for this event and shared their time at the school whilst reinforcing our school values.
- Year 9 Dance performance.
- Resident artists from the Gifted and Talented Visual Arts program.
- Hospitality students provided the catering.
- Displays: memorabilia from the decades, as well as focus on Visual Arts, Dance and Sport achievement.
- Group photo, at the front of the school

It was a very successful event, and I would personally like to thank the P&C for their financial contribution and work on the day, members of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary committee, staff and students (especially the Year 12 Prefects) who assisted on the day. The school will be planning other events and activities throughout the year.

I had the pleasure of attending the opening of the “62 Faces” Exhibition, at YMCA Headquarters in Leederville. The exhibition showcased the Gifted and Talented Visual Arts students’ work, completed under the direction of tutor Mark Tweedie. The students completed a self-portrait in one hour (the Year 7’s only had 30 minutes). The quality of work was outstanding and very creative.

The recent Interim Report evening provided the opportunity for parents/carers to meet with teachers and discuss their child’s progress to date. It was a very busy evening, with a substantial number of parents attending and over 450 interviews being conducted by staff.

It has been a very busy term and I have had the pleasure to visit a number of classes including:

- Year 9 HaSS where I have listened to a number of oral presentations on their chosen political party. The students researched their chosen political party and investigated the policies, history and campaigns and produced a power point to use during their presentation. I found the talks very informative and engaging;
- Year 10 English: who are studying a Digital Protest unit.
- Year 11 ATAR English: Persuasive writing activity, students were presenting their chosen topic to their peers.

Year 7 students have made a great start to high school. They have taken part in a variety of events, including swimming lessons and drama incursions.

Helen Maitland  
Principal

## Events around the School

### In-term Swimming

The in-term swimming program is a school-based program offered to all Year 7 students. The program provides quality swimming lessons to ensure students develop vital swimming and water safety skills. The Year 7 students recently completed in-term swimming and were issued with certificates at a recent Year 7 assembly. Feedback from the external instructors was very positive about our students and their willingness to learn.

### Bully Busters

Bully Busters was presented by ‘Class Act Theatre’ (WA’s largest Theatre in Education Company). Year 7 students saw the production “Bully Busters”. The play explored all facets of bullying including sexual harassment, peer pressure, rumours, racism, judging others, tolerance, family problems, resilience and much more. This activity supported the Aussie Optimism Program and reinforced our school values of Respect, Unite and Excel.

### Right Track

This program is a community education initiative which focuses on encouraging at risk young people to become responsible for their own safety and to make positive choices around public transport.

The presentation by rail safety ambassador, Jonathan Beninca focused on the consequences of unsafe choices and anti-social behaviour on or around public transport. He shared a profound personal experience to reiterate his message with Year 8 students.

## Balcatta Update

### Academic Support

YourTutor offers personalised study help to students at Balcatta Senior High School.

#### How does YourTutor work?

If a student needs homework help, essay feedback or revision support they can connect online in just a few clicks with an expert who can take them through the problem step by step via typed chat or provide quick detailed feedback on a written document, to help improve their writing. Every student is different so every one-to-one session will be different as well. Students can get assistance in all core subjects. English, Mathematics and Sciences are specifically covered from Year 3 through to Year 12.

#### How do I sign my child up?

Your family gets free access to this great support thanks to Balcatta Senior High School and Edith Cowan University's commitment to education.

To claim your free access, all students received a 2017 Activation Code from school and must first activate their account at this website: [www.yourtutor.com.au/start](http://www.yourtutor.com.au/start)

### School Homework

Years 7 to 12 English – Tuesday mornings  
Years 7 to 12 Mathematics – Tuesdays 3.00pm to 4.00pm

## From the P&C

The Balcatta Senior High School Parents & Citizens (P&C) Association extends a warm welcome to all our students, parents, teachers and staff to Balcatta Senior High School for 2017.

On Wednesday 22 March, the P&C held the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and the following people were voted on the Committee:

President - Jenny Ambler  
Vice President - Georgie Dragicevich  
Treasurer - Helen Notis  
Secretary - Vacant (but in caretaker role)

**The position of Secretary remains vacant.** In this role, you will be required to provide support and assistance to our President, become familiar with P&C operations, rules and meeting procedures. If you are methodical, impartial, and persistent and want to be aware of the legal and constitutional requirements of the P&C, then you are perfect for this role. If you wish to nominate for Secretary, please leave your name and details at the Canteen with Jenny on 9345 8229 or via our email [pandcbalcatashs@gmail.com](mailto:pandcbalcatashs@gmail.com) before our next meeting on 17 May 2017.

We extend a sincere thank you and welcome to our existing and new members who attended the AGM and supported the P&C. We express our gratitude to Rachael Johnston and Jenny Young for their valued contribution and input as part of the Executive Committee during 2016.

The Balcatta Senior High School P&C is an integral part of the Balcatta Community. It provides a forum where parents and carers can develop an understanding on the operations of our school, discuss issues pertaining to our school and support our children in their educational journey. It comprises a dynamic and vibrant group of dedicated and committed parents and volunteers, seeking the best outcomes for our children. The determination,

enthusiasm and hard work of the P&C Committee ensures our fundraising, social and Community events are successful.

We look forward to a successful and exciting year and extend an invitation to all parents and carers to attend the next P&C meeting on Wednesday 17 May 2017.

#### Thank You

To all the Committee members and volunteers who helped prior to, and on the day of, the State Election Sausage Sizzle. With your efforts, we raised over **\$400** which went to the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations. Well done everyone!

#### Upcoming Events - What's on in May?

A Fundraising Sausage Sizzle is being coordinated at Balcatta Bunnings on Sunday 7 May between 7.00am to 5.00pm. Helpers are needed! A roster will be available from Tuesday 4 April at the Canteen and we look forward to your support.

#### Scheduled P&C Meetings for 2017

Commencing 7.30pm and held in the Staffroom:

- 17 May 2017
- 9 August 2017
- 1 November 2017

#### 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

Thank you to our Principal Helen Maitland, the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee, the staff and students of Balcatta Senior High School, our P&C Executive Committee and Committee Members, our Canteen Manager and the many who volunteered and contributed towards the success of the celebration on Saturday 25 March. It would seem that a good time was had by all following all the positive feedback and vibrant atmosphere on the day.

Finally, on behalf of the P&C and the Balcatta Senior High School community, we would like to extend a sincere thank you to the **Thompson Family** for their generous donation towards a school banner promoting the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The banner will be used throughout the year in recognition of Balcatta Senior High School **"Celebrating 50 Years of tradition and delivering excellent education"**.

On behalf of Jenny Ambler  
P&C President

## Important dates

7 Apr	Last day of Term 1 for students
24 Apr	School Development Day (no students)
25 Apr	ANZAC Day Public Holiday
26 Apr	First day of Term 2 for students
28 Apr	ANZAC Service
3 May	Year 11 and 12 River Cruise 7-10pm
4 May	Year 7 Lightning Carnival
9-12 May	NAPLAN
15-19 May	Quarantine Week
22-26 May	Year 11 and 12 Exams
25-26 May	Year 10 Exams