



Balcatta Update

September 2017

From the Principal

Lesley Street, our Principal, is currently undertaking the role of Principal at Mount Lawley Senior High School. I will be taking the role of Principal for the rest of the year and Mr Kevin Fraser will be taking on my role as Associate Principal. We welcome him to the school and look forward to working closely with him.

As the end of Term 3 is fast approaching, it is important to remember that the Year 12 students will be sitting their ATAR mock examinations in the second week of the September/October school holidays. This set of exams will provide the last opportunity for students to receive feedback on their examination performance from their teachers before the WACE examinations. We hope that students are well prepared for these important exams, have a good revision program in place and can take advantage of the break from school to study and prepare for the forthcoming November exams.

NAPLAN results from Years 7 and 9 were recently released and we are pleased with the results. Our students in Year 7 showed improvement in all aspects of literacy and numeracy. They were above 'like' schools in Writing, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation and Numeracy. Our results were a little lower than 'like' schools in Year 7 Reading. Reading is an important part of students' progress and we will continue to focus on this at school. We encourage all students to read as much as possible outside of school, and also take advantage of the excellent resources in our school library. Our Year 9 students also showed an improvement in all aspects of Literacy and Numeracy and were above 'like' schools. There are still a number of students whose results were a concern. These students will be offered additional support to help them to improve their results.

I am now calling for nominations from interested parents who would like to be elected to the Balcatta Senior High School Board. The School Board, which consists of parents, community members and school staff, has a very important role in the life of the school. It engages in activities that enhance the education provided by the school, and provides a range of expertise to help the school achieve the best outcomes for all students. The Board meets twice a term and training is provided for members

throughout the year. If you wish to nominate, please collect a nomination form from the school, complete the details and place your nomination form in a sealed envelope in the ballot box located at the front office of the school by Friday 22 September. If you have any queries, please telephone the school on 9345 8200.

Recently, a number of our students in Years 9 and 10 have been involved as the school's ambassadors in the Cyber Savvy Project conducted by the Telethon Kids Institute in conjunction with Healthway, Departments of Education and Health. The project aimed to help students make more positive choices about their on-line behaviour and in particular the risks and negative consequences of image sharing. As there are serious mental, social and emotional well-being and legal concerns associated with sharing images via mobile phones and the internet, it is very important that all students understand the consequences and potential harm from image sharing.

Helen Maitland
Principal

News

Leavers Jackets for 2018

Congratulations to Amber Fleming of Year 11, the winner of the design for the 2018 school leaver jackets. First round orders for the leavers jacket will close on 15 September 2017. It is preferable for students to order in the first round as jackets will be delivered at the end of November. A second round will be offered early in Term 1, 2018. The cost of the leavers jacket is \$90. Extra order forms are available on the Student Services pin up board.

Primary School Art Competition

The Primary School Art Exhibition Awards took place at the school's art gallery on Wednesday 13 September from 3.30pm to 4.30pm. Excellence and Commendation Awards were presented to Years 5 and 6 students from each of our five feeder primary schools. Invited guests and parents who attended

the event were impressed with the quality of the art work presented. Light refreshments were also served by our catering students. Thanks to our judge, Jodie Davidson, all staff, students and parents who helped make this event a wonderful success.

World of Maths

As part of Numeracy week, on Thursday 7 September and Friday 8 September, the World of Maths Roadshow visited the school to show our Years 7 to 9 students hands-on maths activities.

World of Maths helps develop the skills that are necessary to work in small groups as an effective way of learning mathematics. It allows the students to interact, which boosts their confidence and promotes positive attitudes towards mathematics.

This involved two types of activities – problem solving and guided discovery, whereby the students discovered and identified mathematical concepts and ideas. The activities also allowed students to think about the ways in which mathematics can be used and applied outside the classroom.

The students had an opportunity to acquire a variety of different skills and strategies needed for problem solving, and experienced mathematics related to practical and real-life situations through a number of fun, entertaining and educational activities.

Free Dental Treatment at Westminster Dental Therapy Centre

Your child is eligible for FREE dental treatment until the end of Year 11. For more information, contact Westminster Dental Therapy Centre on 9345 3331.

P&C News

People often ask about the role of the P&C and I am always pleased to let them know about the important part we play in the life of our school. At Balcatta Senior High School, the P&C manages the school canteen. Due to the outstanding efforts and dedication of a small group of individuals, we are fortunate that the canteen operates for five days a week. Under the supervision of Jenny Young and with the support of her staff Adriana, Katrina and her small contingent of volunteers, the canteen has been thriving this term. In addition to looking after our own students, Jenny and her team have taken on the task of providing lunches to students at Takari Primary School one day a fortnight. Jenny is always looking for new volunteers to assist in the canteen so if you have a few hours available, even once a month, then please contact her.

We try to keep our prices down and any profits made are used to purchase extra resources to benefit the students. This year we have been able to allocate \$10,000 which will be used to provide additional resources in the Science, Photography, Technologies and Art Departments.

Our meetings are open to all and we welcome new members. We meet twice a term and our next meeting

will be held on Wednesday 1 November at 7.30pm in the staff room. We hope you can come along and support your school.

On behalf of Jenny Ambler
P&C President

Youth Mental Health First Aid FREE for Parents of teenagers

YMHFA is an internationally recognised program which teaches adults how to assist adolescents who are developing a mental health problem or are in a mental health crisis.

Course participants learn about adolescent development, the signs and symptoms of common and disabling mental health problems in young people, where and how to get help when a young person is developing a mental illness, what sort of help has been shown by research to be effective, and how to provide first aid in a crisis situation.

Details of the two day program are as follows:

Dates: Saturdays 23 and 30 September 2017
Time: 9.00am to 4.00pm for both days
Location: headspace
2/145 Main Street, Osborne Park

Bookings essential:

Register on-line at www.ngala.com.au/pw or;
email NorthWestMetro.PCWA@ngala.com.au or;
telephone 9368 9368.

Family and Friends Information Evening

Want to find out more about supports available at headspace?

Dates: Tuesday 3 October 2017
Time: 6.30pm to 8.00pm
Where: headspace
2/145 Main Street, Osborne Park

Register by telephone 9208 9555 or;
email: info@headspaceospk.com.au

Important Dates

13 Sept	Primary School Art Exhibition
14 Sept	R U OK? Day
19 Sept	Year 12 Outdoor Ed Expedition Day
20 Sept	Year 8 AFL Cultural Competition
22 Sep	Last day of Term 3
2-6 Oct	Year 12 Exams
9 Oct	School Development Day (no students)
10 Oct	Students commence Term 4
17 Oct	Last day for Year 12s
18 Oct	Year 8 Immunisations
19 Oct	Interschool Athletics Carnival