



Balcatta Update

31 March 2021

From the Principal

As we head towards the end of Term 1, I have reflected back on an unusual and challenging start to the year. Originally, it was going to be a nine-week term which does not equate to "less to do", but the same number of tasks in a shorter time period. In the first week of school, we had 'lockdown' and had planned an official opening of the school by the Premier with the school still being a construction zone. When staff and students commenced in Week 2, they were required to wear masks and student learning was well underway.

As Term 1 draws to a close, I wish to acknowledge the activities undertaken with the restriction of COVID-19 being lifted. We hosted the Year 7 Academic Extension Program parent event and Years 7/8 eSafety parent presentation. Students were able to participate in excursions including the Year 12 Psychology ATAR students to the Perth Zoo, Year 10 Canning River Eco Education Excursion, and the Year 11 students to the RAC bstreetsmart excursion. A number of students also participated in curriculum-based activities at the following camps; Gifted and Talented Visual Art camp to Rottnest, Year 12 Outdoor Education camp to Rottnest and the Year 11 Outdoor Education camp to Lancelin.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff for their planning and supervision of these events.

Staff have been busy completing Interim Reports which will provide parent/guardians with a guide as to how their child has progressed to date this term and feedback on their Attitude, Behaviour and Effort in each of their courses. Parent Interviews with teachers will be held on Thursday 22 April from 3.30pm to 6.00pm. More details regarding the location of the interviews will be sent to parents in Week 1 next term. Parents are able to make bookings (10 minute timeslots) on SOBS commencing Wednesday 31 March 2021.

Parents can make their bookings via the following link:
<https://sobs.com.au/pt3/parent.php?schoolid=536>

Bookings for parents will close on Tuesday 20 April at 4.00pm. If you are experiencing difficulty in making bookings, please phone 9345 8200 and ask for assistance.

I sincerely thank staff for their continued hard work during this challenging term. I wish students and staff a relaxing and restful holiday break and encourage everyone to stay safe. Looking forward to the start of next term.

Helen Maitland
Principal

Learning Area News

Year 7 Gifted & Talented Visual Art – students have been working on a series of inquiry drawings of local Western Australian flora and fauna. Experimenting with a variety of media, including ink, water colour, charcoal and graphite, they have generated a rich collection of drawings to reference in their design development of a lino carving, which is their next project. Simultaneous to this practical work, they are also working on an artist investigation task, focusing on local Western Australian artists who showcase flora and fauna in their own work. Such artists include Ross Potter, Lori Pensini and Amok Island. Keep up with all our updates on our Instagram account (#BalcattaArts).

Year 7 Arts – Mr Giles' art students have been working on drawing skills, creating self-portraits using contour line drawing techniques. Using these drawings and photographs, students will create a Cubist-inspired art piece. They are now using their PODs and school resources to conduct a research investigation on Pablo Picasso.

Year 7 Health – Aussie Optimism program is a social life skills program with interactive activities including small group discussions, analysing feelings, assertive communication and decision-making skills. At this stage, ICT lessons are mostly interpersonal. Teachers have put information on Connect, and are collecting resources in teams.

Years 7 and 8 Physical Education – each Phys Ed year group is held at the same time. This allows students to be streamlined into ability groups where they rotate through a variety of sports. They will shortly be selecting a sport and be put in a team for the lighting carnivals. They will then spend a few lessons practising the sports.

Year 7 HaSS – students are currently studying Economics and Business in Humanities and Social Sciences and are conducting their first research assignment on entrepreneurs. They are discovering the skills and characteristics needed to become a successful entrepreneur which includes choosing an entrepreneur, investigating how they began their business, how they overcame adversities, thought creatively and demonstrated initiative. While this research assignment develops a student's knowledge on economics and business, it also develops some core HaSS skills for creating a range of research questions, using technology for the inquiry process, assessing the usefulness of sources and developing academic referencing.

Year 8 Health – the Health Triangle activity analyses whole health indicating any health issues and examines school health. Stress – a number of lessons taken from Aussie Optimism, optimistic thinking, whereby students study coping

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methods and ways to make negative situations positive.

Year 8 Science – Mr Warasi's students have completed heart dissections during Week 8. The students enjoyed working with scalpels and sheep's hearts, learning through a 'hands-on' approach.

Lightning Carnivals

The Year 7 to Year 10 Lightning Carnivals have been scheduled in Term 2 on the following dates:

Year 7 – Wednesday 26 May

Year 8 – Thursday 6 May

Year 9 – Thursday 10 June

Year 10 – Tuesday 22 June

It is expected that all students will participate, either as a team member or as an official to assist with timekeeping, etc. Students have received excursion consent forms which will need to be signed and returned for next term with a payment of \$12 to cover venue and transport costs.

Student Services

Our regular Student Services location is part of the building renovations at the moment and our team looks forward to completion and to have our Student Services space functional for our students. Desley Metcalfe is our School Officer, located in Student Services and is your child's first point of contact if they need to access Student Services staff at school.

If parents have any queries related to their child, please contact the relevant Year Coordinator as your first point of contact.

Positive Acknowledgements

Our Year Coordinators are busy getting nominations for our first Student of the Month presentations.

Student Leadership

We are looking for students in each year group to be part of our 'working parties'. These are for social events, Act-Belong-Commit events, assemblies and carnivals. All students are welcome to nominate to be part of the team throughout the year. Students should keep an eye out for nomination opportunities coming up.

Attendance

Gold, Silver and Bronze certificates are presented after each term for students over 90% attendance.

Key points for parents

Attendance – The Education Department refers to 'Regular' attendance as 90% and above. The school is expected to maintain communication and keep parents/guardians informed and our first round of attendance letters will be sent out shortly to advise if your child's attendance is under 90%.

We understand there are circumstances when your child will not be at school. The school is expected to follow up absences that are not explained. As part of the parent/guardian's responsibility, you can help by contacting the school to provide a reason for the absence or send your child with a note on their return. A medical certificate should be supplied if your child misses an assessment.

Important dates

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| 1 April | Last day of school for Term 1 |
| 2 April | Good Friday (Public Holiday) |
| 20 April | Term 2 commences for students |
| 19 April | School Development Day (no students) |
| 20 April | Students commence Term 2 |
| 22 April | Years 7 to 12 Interim Reporting Event 3.30pm to 6.00pm |
| 26 April | ANZAC Day Public Holiday |
