



Balcatta Update

17 September 2021

From the Principal

Welcome to the latest Balcatta Update. Last week we celebrated Act-Belong-Commit Week across the whole school with all students having the opportunity to contribute and participate by:

Act: Do something. Keeping physically, mentally, socially and spiritually active.

Belong: Do something with someone. Connect with others, join a group or explore your local community.

Commit: Do something meaningful. Challenge yourself, volunteer to teach someone.

Balcatta SHS is one of 70 Act-Belong-Commit schools providing mental health and well-being programs. Students participated in a range of activities and events during the week. For more information, refer to the Student Services News over the page.

On Thursday 9 September, the school acknowledged 'R U Ok?' Day with staff and students encouraged to wear yellow. At the start of the day, volunteers from Victory Life cooked pancakes for everyone to enjoy.

It was really pleasing to see Year 6 students from two of our local intake primary schools, Osborne and Tuart Hill, participate in a Strength and Fitness class which was taught by our Year 9 and Year 10 students. The primary school students were challenged with a range of activities.

Food Bank

Last month, we hosted a Food Drive. A great response from our community resulted in significant donations of food which was recently delivered to the Food Bank depot. Thank you to all parents and staff who donated.

Year 7 and Year 8 Athletics Carnival

On Tuesday 7 September, the weather turned out to be warm and sunny. It was great to see students (and some staff) in their House colours. Congratulations to all students who participated and gained points for their House. The final House points were: Aurora 1295, Artemis 1139, Poseidon 1094 and Zeus 1086. Congratulations to the Champion Boys and Champion Girls:

Year 7 – William Frencham, Leah Allen

Year 8 – Jaime Macapagal, Ashleigh Sharman

Year 9 – Matheus Barone Major, Minaida Peters

Year 10 – Levi Susac, Sonam Leksell

Year 11 – Sangay Dorji and Adzi Zein, Marina Minic

Year 12 – Tyson Smitham, Jessica Santich

Gifted and Talented Visual Art News

It has been very busy in The Arts Department with a number of events, including:

Year 5 and Year 6 Primary School Art Competition

The theme was 'Native Australian Flora and Fauna'. The event was well-attended by parents, teachers and primary school students. Judging was conducted by one of our Gifted and Talented Visual Art tutors, Ms Jodie Davidson, with students from each year group being awarded either a Certificate of Excellence or Certificate of Merit. Once again, we were

privileged to have our Gifted and Talented Visual Art patron, Professor Ted Snell present the Patron of the Arts award to Year 6 student, Dechen Wangmo Tshering from Osborne Primary School. I presented the Principal's Award to Year 6 student, Ryan Binu from Balcatta Primary School and the People's Choice Award was presented to Year 6 student, Victoria Lockyer from Takari Primary School.

Young Originals Exhibition

On Tuesday 7 September, the Young Originals Exhibition held an online event with selected artworks published on the [Young Originals](#) website. The event was open to aspiring young artists from Years 7 to 12 in WA public schools. The exhibition promotes excellence in the visual arts across a range of mediums, including computer generated works, graphic design, photography, printmaking, time-based video art, sculpture and textiles. Congratulations to the following students:

Year 7 Gifted and Talent Visual Art students – Pinnacles Balcatta (collaborative grid system)

Sierra Tylor-Gregorio, Year 8 – Golden Floral

Armani Kingi, Year 8 – Self-portrait

Sonam Tshokey, Year 9 – Self-portrait

These artworks are currently on display in the Administration foyer.

Music

Congratulations to our Music students, Siddharth Das, Eddy Russell and Gegan Gomes from Year 8, who performed recently at the WA Public Schools Contemporary Music Ensemble Festival at Canning Vale College. The festival was open to all public school ensembles, the aim was to give bands an opportunity to perform to an audience using professional sound production, an opportunity to hear others perform, and to provide each band with constructive feedback.

Our Year 8 band was one of the youngest groups to perform. They achieved an 'excellent' grade from the adjudicators playing *Cowboys from Hell* (Pantera), *Paradise City* (Guns n' Roses) and an original song. Mr Rees reported the boys played with class, maturity and passion.

COVID-19

As we are aware, many eastern states primary and secondary schools have been working remotely for some time. The Western Australian school system has only experienced several short term lockdowns. At Balcatta SHS, we are aware that we have a responsibility to be prepared for any future COVID-related short or long term lockdowns. With this in mind, our teachers have prepared individual lessons to place on Connect. Students who do not have access to a computer will be able to receive paper copies of their lessons. While we hope school lockdowns will not eventuate in Western Australia, our teachers are prepared for any possible outcome.

Helen Maitland
Principal

Student Services News

Act-Belong-Commit Week (6-10 September)

Last week the school celebrated a very successful Act-Belong-Commit (ABC) Week led by our Student Services team.

The Act-Belong-Commit message is all about keeping mentally healthy by keeping active and engaging in activities which provide meaning and purpose.

We celebrated by organising a number of activities for our staff and students to **act, belong and commit** to being mentally healthy.

The main event of the week was the Staff vs Students (Year 12) matches in Volleyball, Basketball and Dodgeball. Staff took out the honours by winning all three matches. Many thanks to the staff and students for providing entertainment to a spectator-filled gymnasium, and to the Phys Ed staff for umpiring.

The A Block had a creative vibe going with Mr Dragicevich drumming, Mr Rees taking a song writing group, Ms Holmes opening the beauty room for nail art and Ms Anderson making ceramic mobiles.

Several activities were about learning a new skill – Mrs Curtis taught a number of students how to knit, which has continued on with our students keen to keep practising during recess and lunch in Student Services. Ms Thomas also used Kahoots quizzes to teach AUSLAN (or sign language).

The old canteen area had a very relaxed atmosphere with giant games being set up every break time for our students. Old school games such as table tennis, Battleships, Jenga, Connect 4 and chess were a highlight. Our Year 12 students encouraged passers-by to make a pledge on our ABC banner and the relaxed atmosphere continued with Sparkle Art being a conversation starter. The canteen area later turned into a dance fest with our Specialist Dance students surprising everyone with a Flash Mob, which later turned into an all-inclusive staff and student Macarena. Ms Balic, Ms Martin and Mr Rees had the atmosphere cranking throughout lunch.

Lastly, our Year 7 students participated in a guest presentation from Helping Minds about the impact of social media on our mental health and some ways to use it safely. Helping Minds also presented to a group of Year 11 students about lifelong resilience and to staff on ways to boost well-being.

We look forward to building Act-Belong-Commit Week into the calendar each year and engaging more staff and students into the Act-Belong-Commit message.

Wear it Purple Day

This year we had a number of students take on the leadership role of organising Wear It Purple Day. This year's theme focused on the important conversations we have in our daily life which centre around sexual orientation and gender identity. Staff and students were encouraged to 'wear purple'. Student Services hosted a number of students during break time. Pronoun badges, stickers, information about the LGBTI+ flags and general conversation in a safe space were promoted.

Thanks to our organising committee for their efforts in coordinating this event. We hope to continue to build awareness and inclusivity for our LGBTI+ youth.

P&C News

At our last meeting, the members of our P&C unanimously agreed to \$20,000 of funding requests put forward by the school. These funds will be used to purchase new Cafeteria equipment for Home Economics, Library resources including new graphic novels, STEAM resources and incursions for Years 7 and 8, and resources for Student Services and Ed Support. We also provided funding to get the new House system up and running.

We would like to thank all the families who have paid their P&C Levy this year. Your contributions are what made it possible for the P&C to grant funding requests. Please know that the P&C always seeks to direct the monies, raised through donations and levies, into supporting educational programs and resources that will benefit the students of Balcatta Senior High School.

As always, please feel free to contact us either via email on pandcbalcattashs@gmail.com or message us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com.au/balcattashs>. Ideas and comments are always welcome.

Georgie Dragicevich-Knight
President

Important dates

20 Sep	Year 7 Excursion to Awesome Arts Festival in the Cultural Centre, Perth
23 Sep	Years 10-12 Excursion to Physics Day at Adventure World
24 Sep	Farewell to Year 12 students – breakfast and 9.00am assembly
24 Sep	Last day for students – Term 3
28 Sep – 4 Oct	Year 12 Exams
11 Oct	Students commence Term 4