Balcatta Update

14 March 2022

From the Principal

I have had the pleasure of being the Relieving Principal this week while Mrs Maitland takes a well-earned week of Long Service Leave. As usual, any stay at Balcatta SHS has been enjoyable, rewarding and educational. The best part of the day can be spent looking out from the Principal's office as it overlooks the basketball and tennis courts. The courts are full before and after school, at recess and lunch times. It is wonderful to see students enjoying exercising and having fun without even realising that this is what they are doing.

Quite a lot of my time this week has been taken up monitoring the ever-changing landscape that is our daily life in these times of COVID-19. Thank you to our school community for doing your best to keep up with COVID-19-centred regulations as they apply to high schools. As of today, the three outstanding rules for students are:

- If there is a positive COVID case in the family, students are required to isolate for 7 days. If there are no symptoms and a negative test after 7 days, the student can stop isolating and return to school.
- If the student is a 'close contact' of a positive case **at school,** they will be required to take a RAT. If the test is negative and the student displays no symptoms, they can return to school but still need to isolate for 7 days from the community.
- If a student tests positive to a RAT, they are required to isolate for 7 days. If after 7 days, the RAT is negative, they may return to school.

It was very pleasing to see the return of our Swimming Carnivals. So far we have been fortunate with the weather. The Year 8 students held their carnival in the newly refurbished pool on Tuesday 8 March and Years 10-12 swimming carnival was held on Friday 11 March. Congratulations to the students who participated and the Physical Education staff for their organisation and running of the event. The results are:

Year 8 Female Champions

Place	Name	House/Points
1	Chiara D'Alessandro	Aurora – 29
2	Daniella Santich	Artemis – 21
3	Jazz Willis	Artemis – 12

Year 8 Male Champions

Place	Name	House/Points
1	Noah Uepa	Zeus – 22
2	Lincon Trinh	Artemis – 16
3	Sam Hatch	Artemis – 10

House Points

1. Aurora 269
2. Zeus 244
3. Artemis 217
4. Poseidon 177

Year 10 Female Champions

Place	Name	House/Points
1	Minaida Peters	Poseidon – 19
=2	Kate Wimbridge	Aurora – 14
=2	Lakeisha Arifianto	Artemis – 8

Year 10 Male Champions

Place	Name	House/Points
1	Austin Machin	Aurora – 15
=2	Tyler Ugle	Artemis –9
=2	Jaeger Peters	Artemis – 9
=2	Tyson Fisher	Artemis – 9

Upper School Champions
Year 11 Champion Boy – Carlos Salas – Poseidon
Year 12 Champion Girl – Lexie Hull – Poseidon
Runner Up – Kinga Lham – Poseidon
Year 12 Champion Boy – Joaquin Ramirez – Aurora
Runner Up – Adzi Zein – Poseidon

House Points

1. Aurora 291
2. Zeus 263
3. Artemis 221
4. Poseidon 214

Well done to the champion students, great results.

Mary Griffiths
Principal (Relieving)

Visitors to the School

All visitors to the school **must** report to the Admin Office. If they have an appointment with a teacher, the teacher will be contacted to come and collect them. **Parents visiting the school are not to go direct to classrooms.**

Student Services

Attendance Process

All students are expected to attend every school day and to be on time. Students who arrive late to school may miss information at the start of the lesson. Arrivals after 8.50am are classified as a morning absence and require students to bring a note from their parent/guardian explaining their absence.

Leaving School Early

No student is permitted to leave the school grounds without permission from their parent/guardian. Parents requiring permission for their child to leave the school grounds **must** provide the student with a note and contact Student Services either via SMS on 0409 686 684 or via email at balcatta.shs@education.wa.edu.au. Students must sign out at Student Services allowing them to leave the school grounds.

National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence (NDA)

Friday 18 March 2022 is the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence (NDA). Australia's key bullying prevention initiative celebrates 12 years of action, connecting schools and communities to find workable solutions to prevent bullying.

The theme for 2022 is *Kindness Culture*. By building *Kindness Culture* together, we can promote inclusion, respect and community belonging for all students in schools across Australia.

Harmony Day

On Wednesday 23 March, students will be celebrating Harmony Day. Students are encouraged to wear something orange or dress up representing their culture to show their support for cultural diversity and an inclusive Australia.

Harmony Week is a time to celebrate Australian multiculturalism and the successful integration of migrants into our community. Australia is one of the most successful multicultural countries in the world and we should celebrate this and work to maintain it.

Harmony Week is about inclusiveness, respect and belonging for all Australians, regardless of cultural or linguistic background, united by a set of core Australian values. Orange is the colour chosen to represent Harmony Week. Traditionally, orange signifies social communication and meaningful conversations. It also relates to the freedom of ideas and encouragement of mutual respect.

Learning Area News

Drama

Drama has become very physical this week with students beginning to learn how to twirl poi (weighted socks) and LED light rods/staffs. Drama students in Years 7, 8 and 9 have all been experimenting with these new 'toys' and students are already able to perform tricks and techniques that look very impressive. These skills will become part of their Clown and Circus performances next term and there are some sore arms and muscles this week as twirling for an hour can be hard work. Twirling LED light rods/staff in the darkened Performing Arts Theatre is a really exciting activity and makes us all feel like we are professionals in a Cirque.

Year 9 AEP Science

As part of the Year 9 Chemical Sciences curriculum this term, students are learning about elements in the Periodic Table and looking into their properties and characteristics. One of the elements that we focused on was hydrogen. To investigate the properties of hydrogen the Year 9 Science students from Mrs Dewi's Academic Extension class did a practical demonstration where balloons were filled up with hydrogen gas and due to it being a light gas, the balloons floated. Hydrogen is a very flammable gas which reacts with oxygen in air when lit and burns with a popping sound as it produces water as a product.

Important dates

15-25 March	Year 7 In-term Swimming Lessons start
18 March	National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence
23 March	Harmony Day
15-25 March	Year 7 In-term Swimming Lessons
25 March	Year 12 School Ball
31 March	Years 7 to 12 Interim Reporting Event (format to be confirmed)
6 April	Year 8 Immunisations – Round 2 (carried over from last year's Year 7 students)
8 April	Last Day of Term 1 for students