

Balcatta Bulletin

2021 Semester 1 Reflections



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From The Principal

The start of 2021 has brought much excitement, welcoming one of the largest Year 7 cohorts to our school community.

Before the commencement of Term 1, I received notification the Premier, Hon Mark McGowan MLA and the Minister for Education, Hon Sue Ellery MLC would be visiting the school on 2 February to officially open our new building. As Perth was in lockdown due to COVID-19, this did not occur. The school did not open until the second week of Term 1. The building program was still underway with refurbishment to the heritage buildings in the Library, A, B and S Blocks. This meant that we had limited availability to these rooms. Staff and students overcame the obstacles and challenges of limited rooming and Term 1 began relatively smoothly.

Mr McGowan, Ms Ellery and Mr David Michael MLA visited the school on Tuesday 16 February. They were met by our Year 12 student representatives, Nathan Hamilton and Phuntsho Choden. The students escorted our guests to the new Technology Block where they met the Year 12 Building and Construction students.

This year we launched a number of new initiatives including Parent Owned Device (POD) Program with Year 7 students and a STEAM course for Year 7 and Year 8 students. Underpinning such initiatives is our focus on 21st Century Skills and the embedding of the 6Cs (Communication, Collaboration, Creativity, Critical thinking, Character and Citizenship). These skills are both life and work ready which will 'better' prepare our students for school and beyond.

The Education Support Program was also launched with new enrolments increasing by an additional 10 students plus 15 returning students. A number of rooms in B Block have been refurbished to support the needs of these students and their learning progress.

Academic Update

With the upheaval of COVID-19 and the wearing of face masks at the start of the year, students have continued to be engaged in their studies. Our regular Balcatta Update newsletters to parents include information from various learning areas with regards to curriculum delivery and student projects.

Year 7 and Year 9 students sat their NAPLAN testing. Years 10 to 12 students completed the next round of OLNA testing and the data from these tests is analysed and resourcing allocated to support students if they have not yet met the required standards in literacy and numeracy.

This semester our Year 11 and Year 12 ATAR students have completed their first semester examinations or Externally Set Tasks and have received their results. It is important that students reflect on their performance and develop a plan for improvement.

Student Opportunities

With the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions, there is a return to normality with opportunities for students to demonstrate their skills and abilities and to participate in extra-curricular activities. Students have been able to participate in sporting events such as Lightning Carnivals, camps and curriculum excursions.

As an Act-Belong-Commit school, we actively promote and support mental health and well-being. Some of our initiatives are embedded in classroom practice as well as some new initiatives such as the after school Chess Club. Congratulations to our very talented Year 7 student, Adela Maldonado Revegino who entered our Mindful May competition by producing a poster which was submitted to the Act-Belong-Commit Campaign. Balcatta SHS were acknowledged as the overall winner for the Secondary Schools category.

Our students from the dance and music programs showcased their talents at the annual Dance Alliance event, Nexus 2021. Their performances were very professional. A highlight of the night was the inclusion of the choir students with the Year 7 dance performance of 'A Thousand Years'. The Year 8 dance and music students recently performed at some of our local intake primary schools receiving glowing feedback.

I thank staff members for their professionalism and hard work during the semester and all you have achieved to assist the students.

Helen Maitland
Principal



Mrs Maitland with out Year 12 Student Representatives, Phuntsho Choden and Nathan Hamilton



The Premier Mr McGowan, Minister Ms Ellery and local MP Mr Michael with Year 12 B&C students

Our People

Executive Team



Helen Maitland
Principal



Cathie Bonner
Associate Principal
Education Support
and Year 7



Daniel Drummond
Associate Principal
Years 8, 9



Tessa Curtis
Associate Principal
Years 10, 11, 12



Associate Principal
Mary Griffiths



Sharon Beccarelli
Manager, Corporate
Services

Student Services Team



Tegan Walker
Manager
Student Services



Mark Entwistle
Years 7/8
Coordinator



Luke Dragicevich
Years 9/10
Coordinator



David Curtis
Years 11/12
Coordinator



Alicia Wills
Psychologist



Merrilee Wong
Chaplain

New Staff Members



Michael Corlett
IT Technician



Suzi Fox
(Teacher (Eng/HaSS))



Benjamin Fuller
Teacher (Eng/
Drama)



Matthew Johnston
Teacher (Maths)



Ainslie Sellers
Education Assistant



Nicole Temov
Teacher (Eng/HaSS)



Jynette Tidy
School Officer
(Education Support)



Carissa Thomas
Teacher (Education
Support)



Justin Watson
Teacher (Maths)



Daniel Wheeler
Teacher (HaSS)

Student Achievements

Nadyashani Igusti

In May, Nadya competed in the Australian Gymnastics Championships 2021 held in the Gold Coast. It was an honour for Nadya to represent Western Australia for the third time in the AGC. It was a fantastic opportunity for her to experience these games and make new friendships. Nadya didn't bring home any medals this year but it will be a major motivation for her to work harder next year. She was also competing at the Rhythmic Gymnastics Junior International Level this year. Well done, Nadya!



Leah Allen

Year 7 student, Leah Allen, has made the State School Girls 12 and Under AFL team which was to be played in South Australia. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, all interstate sporting competitions have been cancelled for 2021. State representation is an honour and often represents a significant stepping stone in the ultimate achievement of senior and national selection. Leah has been a member of the Stirling Junior Football Club for nearly three years. One day, we hope to see her playing for the WC Eagles or Freo Dockers!



Alivia King

Year 9 student, Alivia King has made the State U15 Netball squad. She was selected from over 200 girls to a shortlist 25. She will attend training sessions at the Gold Netball Centre in Jolimont, before the final team is selected. In 2019, Alivia made the State 12s Netball squad. She will also be eligible to trial again next year for the State U15 squad. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, all interstate sporting competitions have been cancelled for 2021. Good luck for the future!



Evangeline Armstrong

Evangeline graduated from Balcatta SHS in 2020. While she was a student at Balcatta SHS, she was involved in many of our Arts courses, including Specialist Dance, Art and Certificate II in Photography. Evangeline also participated in musical performances both on and off stage.

Since finishing her secondary schooling, Evangeline has been approached by the English Teachers Association of WA to use her ATAR English exam in the latest 'Good Answers' publication. She is currently enrolled in the Diploma of Music Performance at Leederville TAFE, and is putting her acting talents to good use auditioning for agents. Evangeline is working towards auditioning for the acting course at the WA Academy of Performing Arts later this year. Well done, Evangeline, we wish you every success in the future.



"The teachers at Balcatta were very supportive and encouraging. Even when I didn't believe I could do something, they believed I could!"

Olivia Taylor

Year 9 student, Olivia Taylor is a member of Scarborough Beach Swimming Club and is also a Junior State swimmer. Olivia set herself an amazing goal to raise money for youth mental health by swimming 70kms for @lapsforlife. aus. So far, she has raised nearly \$600. Well done, Olivia. Please continue to be an amazing role model by helping others in our community.



Madison Rabnott in B Block

Special Events

School Ball at The Rendezvous Hotel

The 2021 School Ball was held at the The Rendezvous Hotel, Scarborough. The night was themed 'Enchanted Forest' and it was a spectacular event! Lavishly decorated tables, delicious food and a rockin' DJ, Mr Sharp, our resident HPE teacher. The students looked splendid in their ball gowns and suits.

It was a fantastic night enjoyed by all. Thanks go to the Year 12 Ball Committee and staff involved in the organisation of such an event. Special thanks to Mr David Curtis, the Year 11/12 Coordinator.

Award winners were:

Duchess of the Ball - Mrs Sonia Sanchez

Duke of the Ball - Mr David Curtis

Belle of the Ball - Hope Baird

Beau of the Ball - Nathan Hamilton

Best Dressed - Mercy Zico and Doyo Doyo

Best Dancer - Sebastian Foran

Cutest Couple - Zara Isikli and Jonathon Samardali



Best Dancer - Sebastian Foran



Cutest Couple - Zara Isikli and Jonathon Samardali



Table decorations by Centrepieces HQ



Duke and Duchess of the Ball - Mr Curtis and Mrs Sanchez



Parinnitha Rajini Kanth and Babita Nagra



Staff members at the Ball



Best Dressed - Doyo Doyo and Mercy Zico



Belle and Beau of the Ball - Hope Baird and Nathan Hamilton



Anureet Kaur, Jessica Santich, Tahlia Wells-Vasile, Vanessa Notis and Sydney Fox

Around the School

Mindful May Competition

Mindful May is a great way to share the Act-Belong-Commit message of keeping active mentally, physically, socially, spiritually and culturally. Mindful May encourages students and staff to learn new skills to slow down and practice mindfulness. Mindfulness is the idea of learning how to be fully present and engaged in the moment with openness, curiosity and without judgement.

Balcatta SHS registered for the Mindful May competition and offered our students the opportunity to produce a poster with the theme "Act with mindfulness for good mental health". Congratulations to our winner, Adela Maldonado Reveggino of Year 7. Adela received a certificate, \$25 gift voucher and Act-Belong-Commit products.

Adela's poster was submitted to the Act-Belong-Commit Campaign where she won the overall Secondary Category. The school will receive a newly branded Act-Belong-Commit pledge wall.



Adela Maldonado Reveggino
with Mrs Maitland

Chess Club

A few weeks ago, teacher Mr Miles Attey commenced a chess club for interested students which runs after school on Thursdays. Two Year 10 students from our chess club competed in the Schools Chess League at Corpus Christi College on Sunday 30 May. This was the first time our school participated in this competition. The Balcatta SHS team came second overall, thanks to the efforts of Lucas Agostino and Jerome Pazhooparambil. Individually, Lucas finished in 3rd place and Jerome finished in 4th place. Well done!



Jerome Pazhooparambil



Lucas Agostino



2021 Australian Geography Competition

In Term 1, the Year 9 HaSS Academic Extension students, in line with their Geography course, were entered into the 2021 Australian Geography Competition. 727 schools entered this competition with over 73,000 students participating. The competition addressed trends from the International Geography Assessment Study. The cognitive processes for this competition focused on Knowledge (K), Applying (A) and Reasoning (R).

Travis Di Giovanni received a High Distinction, placing him in the top 12% of the year group, Jude Broomfield achieved a Distinction placing him in the top 23% of the year group and Asha Hunter, Zac Leishman and Sonam Tshokey achieved Credits, placing them in the top 30% of the year group.



Alivia King, Zac Leishman, Ahmed Wario, Asha Hunter, Travis Di Giovanni, Jude Broomfield

Year 7 English

The Year 7 students worked on a paper bag presentation project this term. Their task was to review a novel they had read during the year and select five items representing elements of this novel. The students had a lot of fun decorating their bags and watching their peers present to the class.



Saturday Art Classes

What are they doing in Saturday Art classes?

Mark Tweedie – Portrait Painting

Throughout the term students explored fundamental portraiture techniques, with an equal emphasis on understanding tone and communicating emotions. Students are introduced to a variety of acrylic-based techniques exploring the broad spectrum of paint application from subtle tonal washes to heavy impasto painting. The final weeks of term will see the students create their own self-portrait acrylic on canvas artwork.

Jodie Davidson – Year 7 Ceramics

Year 7 students are being given the opportunity to further understand their capacity for resilience through working towards an unknown outcome in clay sculpture. Each week a new technique of carving, making pinch pots, coiling and joining is introduced with the challenge of incorporating it into an individual character creation and is slowly growing from the feet up. Ceramic skills are being learnt alongside the building of the students' ability to problem-solve and think critically with some very creative results.

Vanessa Liebenberg – Mixed Media

The students are working on wood, using inks, acrylic, pyrography and screen printing. They are creating drawings which will be translated into a silk screen with the Riso machine which we will screen print these images onto their work. They are learning about using layers with different mediums in order to create an interesting effect and to think about their composition and the focal points in their work. This way of working can often be challenging. Students are required to draw with the pyrography pen before any other layers can be added. Planning is important.

Lyam Overington – Animation

In this class, we are creating a short, animated sequence. We will cover how to use animation software and a drawing tablet, combining both traditional and digital animation techniques. The result will be a 10-20 second digital animation which can then be exported and uploaded to social media.

Kate Haug – Acrylic Painting 'Still Life with Food'

In our painting class this term, we are taking inspiration from the still life paintings of Wayne Thiebaud. Thiebaud's still life paintings often depict foods from the counters of delicatessens or milk bars from the mid-20th century, with cakes, candy, sausages, cheese, milkshakes, etc. These are painted with thick paint and bright shadows, with a strong focus on colour and shape. In our class we are practising painting food items, learning how to use the palette knife and impasto or thick paint and observing colours within white objects. For our final project, we will be working from a Thiebaud-esque still life, with cake and sweets, and making paintings inspired by Thiebaud's techniques.

Behzad Alipour – Year 7 Foundations Drawing

Drawing skills play a fundamental role in establishing successful visual art in any medium. This course is designed to strengthen the student's ability to draw with accuracy. The students completed activities inspired by the French academic tradition, best demonstrated by Charles Bargue. They study the methods of visual comparison, simplification of forms, analysing proportions, values (darkness/lightness), and shadow shapes. It is essential to balance the traditional methods with contemporary approaches. The students perform various exercises designed to uplift their confidence and encourage them to loosen up, avoid overthinking and 'just draw'.

Michelle Murning - Wearable Art

The students in the wearable art class have immersed themselves under the sea. It is not necessary for the theme to overtake the students' costumes. However, they will need to display some sense of under the sea theme throughout their final designs. The group is a very strong selection of students from Years 8 to 11. Students have been working for a term within the studio context and have managed to create head pieces which are worthy of entering the Mandurah Wearable Art competition. They are now working on their garment as well as shoes that will work in with the outfit for the final fashion show. We have been successful in entering eight of last year's wearable arts students and their costumes into the Mandurah Wearable Art competition. We are looking forward to some positive results in this competition.



Ceramics by Year 7 students



Creating animation sequences



Wearable Art creation

NEW BUILD PROJECT





Technologies News

New Kitchens for Home Economics

In Term 2, we gained access to our wonderful, spacious new commercial kitchen, which is being used by Years 10 to 12 students to create some exceptionally photogenic dishes. We have seen the first groups of Years 7 and 8 students completing the food part of their 'Food and Fibre' course. They have shown off their newly acquired cooking skills in their 'packed lunch task' which was enjoyed with peers during a class picnic at the end of class.



Maniha Tahir, Year 10, baking cupcakes in the new commercial kitchen



Kendra Hunter and Namgay Kitscho enjoying their packed lunch

Treasure Box Project

The Year 9 Design and Technology Woodcraft students are crafting unique "Treasure Boxes". Students have researched and designed images and are using a state-of-the-art laser engraving machine to print their personal designs onto their boxes. Hardware such as hinges, latches and locks are used to ensure their small "treasures" are safely contained.



Stephanie Litchfield and Rebecca Gibbons with their treasure boxes

Robots

The Year 7 Design and Technology students have been creating robots made from raw pine. They have been given a base plan to create the robot. Modifications are limited only by their imagination. An example of this is a robot based on "Da Baby" created by Matthew Santich.



Year 8 STEAM

Year 8 STEAM classes have been working in teams to develop an automatic paper plane launcher. The challenge was won by Tenzin Lekden, Mohamdali Mortada, Tashi Dendup and David Petrovski. These happy students from Mrs Jones' class won the challenge with the launcher they are proudly displaying. There have been many creative designs that have incorporated simple machines. Students have been putting their creative thinking skills to use by designing, making and testing an automatic paper plane launcher. Students had already tested the best style of paper plane to determine which design would then fly the furthest. They were then adapted to suit the needs of the paper plane launcher. The launchers had to include at least two simple machines eg lever, wheel and axle, wedge, inclined plane, screw or pulley.



Winners of the paper plane auto-launcher challenge

Building and Construction Projects

The Year 11 Building and Construction students have been involved in a major project to design, plan and construct a timber-framed dog house. In the new construction workshop, students completed their design brief, drafted plans for their dog houses and are currently building floor and wall frames for these houses.

The Year 12 Building and Construction students have completed designs and drafted plans for the raised garden boxes and bench seating structure outside the Home Economics kitchen. They completed a final proposal and presented it to Admin for approval allowing construction to begin.



Abdurahman and Karim constructing the garden boxes

Students digging the footings for the garden boxes and bench seating

Shashiko Textiles

Year 10 Textile students have been working with Shashiko stitching to create some wonderful designs. Shashiko is a traditional Japanese stitching style that was originally developed to mend garments such as kimonos. It is based on the simple running stitch which is often used in repetition to strengthen damaged fabric. It is now recognised as an art form and this simple but beautiful style can be used to decorate or embellish fabric. Students created their own piece of Shashiko stitching. These were then used to make a textile item such as a pillow, ornament, bag or as a patch on their sewing bag.



Some samples of Shashiko stitching

Science News

Science Fair

Each year our Year 7 and Year 8 students conduct an investigation of their choice to display at the Science Fair. Questions such as 'Does the brand of chewing gum affect the size of bubbles blown?', 'Is organic strawberry juice good for seed sprouting?', 'Does temperature affect the strength of a magnet?', 'Do all skin products have a neutral pH?' and 'Which brand of alfoil is best for a solar oven?' are answered by following the scientific investigation process. Second-hand data is used to make a hypothesis, methods are devised based on students' knowledge of the available scientific equipment and the students' own first-hand data is then analysed to find an answer to their question.

This task provides students with the opportunity to develop their creativity, critical thinking and communication skills. Working like a scientist means coming up with a way to investigate a problem using a fair test, and then using the results to determine whether their investigation is valid and where this new knowledge fits in the scientific world. Speaking about their project at the fair builds confidence when communicating with people.

This year, our event will be back in the newly-refurbished school Library with an audience of primary school students and teachers. Parents, grandparents and carers of Year 7 and Year 8 students are invited to come along and support the students at this event. Prizes will be awarded for outstanding projects and will be presented by judges who themselves are professional scientists working at the UWA, Telethon Kids Research Institute and CSIRO. An exciting way to end the first semester of 2021!

The Science Fair will be held on:

Year 7: Wednesday 21 July, Periods 1 – 2

Year 8: Thursday 22 July, Periods 1 – 2



Students preparing for their Science Fair presentations

Health & Physical

Primary School Winter Carnival

A number of our Years 10 to 12 students proudly represented Balcatta SHS at a Winter Carnival held by our local intake primary schools. The students volunteered to umpire a variety of sports such as volleyball, soccer and netball whilst earning the praises of the local primary school teachers. Thank you to Jack Nixon, Jordan Dordieski, Andre Alvarez, Nathan Hamilton, Marina Minic, Gabby Velez, Tahlia Wells-Vasile and Vanessa Notis.



Lightning Carnivals

Our Year 7 and Year 8 students experienced their first lightning carnivals, after missing out last year due to COVID-19. The lifting of restrictions allowed outdoor sports to go ahead, whereas some of the indoor sports competitors faced challenges such as playing basketball wearing masks. Competing schools included Perth Modern, Shenton College, Churchlands SHS, Greenwood SHS, Balga SHS, Bob Hawke College and Warwick SHS.

The emphasis of the carnivals is to socialise and have fun. Students select a sport from a variety of activities such as netball, soccer, basketball, Australian Rules football, hockey and volleyball. They practise in their teams during Phys Ed lessons for a few weeks where they can use interpersonal and self-management skills to select players for positions and plan strategies. These skills are extended to carnival day where they not only have to continue their team play but organise what they may need for the day such as water, sunscreen, healthy food and clothing for the variety of weather conditions if playing outside. The students represented the school with pride, good sportsmanship and excellent behaviour. Despite the emphasis on enjoyment, some performances to note were:

Year 7 Boys Basketball Division 1 winners
Year 8 Boys Basketball Division 3 winners
Year 8 Girls Soccer – undefeated, winning every game.



Year 8 Girls Soccer team

A variety of sports were also played in the Year 9 Lightning Carnival. The weather provided challenging conditions varying from rain and wind to sunshine. The highlight of the Year 9 carnival was the soccer team consisting of six players winning all their games in Division 3 against the opposition teams who had 11 students in each of their teams.



Year 9 Boys Soccer team

Senior Basketball

Balcatta recently entered a team for the annual Northern Suburbs Senior Boys Basketball tournament held at Warwick Stadium. Tryouts were held in the school gym and a team was soon put together. The students trained every Tuesday in the lead up to the big day.

First up in the tournament, Balcatta played against Balga SHS and began the day in a positive fashion taking an early lead and holding it for the whole game before Balga scored the last 7 points of the game which ended in a thrilling draw. Ahmed Aljobouri and Josh Oughton were the stand out players in Game 1, building on their Year 11 performances with quality passing, setting multiple screens and hitting important shots on the offensive end. Balcatta then went down in a competitive performance to top seeds Carine SHS before another gritty performance losing to Kingsway College in a close game. Jhon Mark Dela Cerna led the team and almost caused a massive upset.

Dylan Sayers was the MVP for Balcatta SHS throughout the day and he went to another level against Ashdale SC. In Game 3 he could not miss against Ashdale, hitting 4 out of 6 goals from long range to lead Balcatta to victory in commanding fashion. Mohamed Abdel-Kadir Ali and Glenn Leano also provided important back up from the bench when needed.

Fars Rezene was on fire in the semi-final, putting himself to work by getting inside the paint and working well with Chhime Gyetshen and Tenzin Penjore to get us over the line by two points in a thrilling win against rivals Dianella Secondary College.

We were now in the final against Girrawheen SHS. Balcatta sat down before the game and formed a strategy to shut down Girrawheen's best player who led their scoring throughout the day. The boys worked superbly as a team in the final and implemented the strategy perfectly nullifying Girrawheen's ability to score consistently. We finished the day with a huge win. It was a great feeling seeing the team finish in such a positive way and the boys should be very proud of how they represented the school and themselves on such a big occasion.



Senior Basketball team



Year 7 AFL team

Education News

Year 11 Outdoor Education Camp

Late in Term 1 students from the Year 11 Outdoor Education classes enjoyed three days of sun and surf on their annual expedition to Lancelin and Sandy Cape. The students arrived at school early on a Tuesday morning keen and eager to put into place all their planning and preparation leading up to the big trip. The students soon worked together and had their bags, tents and eskys packed into the trailer and we headed off full of excitement.

Our first stop was Lancelin Caravan Park where the students dropped off their gear and had a quick snack before heading off to Back Beach to surf the messy waves. Some big sets rolled through and long rides were made all the way to the beach. Students then headed back to the campground to set up camp for the night and eat their lunches. It wasn't long before we jumped back on the bus, grabbed some sand boards from the local store and headed out to Lancelin's famous sand dunes to burn off some energy. Some massive runs were completed and students soon tired themselves out climbing up and down the sand dunes in the windy conditions.

We returned to camp for a well-earned shower and students got to the task of making themselves their dinner with some gourmet camping feasts being consumed. Students finished off the day with a walk to the local jetty to see all the fish being caught by the locals. A milo and chocolate biscuit was served up back at camp before hitting their tents to rest and recharge the batteries for tomorrow's adventures.

It was an early start the next morning with surfing again on the agenda. Students were met with awesome conditions with the water at a perfect temperature and clean offshore waves rolling through. Students soon headed back to the camp grounds to pack up the camp. Onto the bus we went and drove to our next stop, Sandy Cape where we quickly set up camp and made lunch before spending the afternoon sand boarding and swimming in the shallows of the local beach. As night approached, the group gathered and set themselves the task of walking to the top of the cape to watch the sunset. We then prepared dinner for the night before hitting the tents for a well-earned sleep.

We felt so lucky waking up the next day to a perfect beach morning. Students swam and others slowly prepared breakfast and began packing up the tents and their belongings. We jumped in the bus and headed to Jurien Bay stopping at the local bakery where everyone enjoyed the local pies, chips, and delicacies. It was a two-hour drive back to school and a few tired heads were seen. With everyone helping, the buses were cleaned and the equipment was put away ready for the next expedition.



Year 11 Outdoor Ed students

Year 12 Outdoor Ed Camp

Adam Taseff and Kirsty Johnson had the pleasure of taking this class of Year 12s to Rottnest. They camped in tents and students were responsible for supplying and cooking all their own meals and generally surviving the quokkas, sun and surf for three days while putting to good use their Outdoor Education training and expedition planning. There was plenty of bike riding, mini-golf, surfing, fishing, night walks, paddle boarding, water biking and a lot of snorkelling. The students were well-behaved, learned new skills and challenged themselves to get the most out of every day. Sam was a little seasick but Jess and Vanessa were more than happy to pose next to him for a great photo opportunity.



Ready to head off for a bike ride



Standup paddleboarding



Students preparing their meals



Gifted and Talented Visual Art Camp

At the beginning of March, 67 Gifted and Talented Visual Art students from Years 8 to 12 embarked on the yearly Art camp to Rottnest Island. This group was our largest yet and students were beyond thrilled to go this year as they missed last year's camp due to COVID-19. On the first day, students settled into their accommodation at Governor's Circle after which they went for a nice long swim in the balmy sun before the rains bucketed down. Over the next three days, students were grouped into five different workshops and rotated between these. Students engaged with landscape and underwater photography, snorkelling at Rottnest's various bays, sculpture, land art and gouache painting. Embroidery was also investigated during the camp. Highlights from the workshops included the magnificent imagery snapped by the photography workshops, sculptures of weird and wonderful creatures, gouache studies of repetition and colour combinations and ephemeral creations in the land.

Students took leadership for meal preparation and rotated cooking and cleaning duties between the dorms. Of course, camp wasn't without its injuries; when slowly turning his bike around, Jeryn Huntley had a minor collision with Eli Barr and suffered a slashed 'pinky'. He was rushed to the nursing post where they sewed him up with exactly three stitches, with Alicia by his side the whole time. Since then, Jeryn has made a full recovery but visits us regularly to give updates on the progression of his 'pinky' scar. Eli is also doing well.

On the last day, students created a collaborative land art piece for which they lay on the oval in town in a large circular formation. This was inspired by a significant contemporary artist, Spencer Tunick, who after camp, reposted our photo on his Instagram story! More photos can be seen on our Instagram account #BalcattaArts.



Examples of Land Art created by students



Students being creative at the beach

Years 11/12 Visual Art Project

Charcoal drawings by Visual Art ATAR students, Eloise Vlatko-Rulo, Year 11 and Nathan Hamilton, Year 12 were based on the idea of aging. The students used charcoal over the surface of A2 cartridge paper and then erased back all the highlighted areas to emphasise the tonal contrast of their subjects.



Art workshop with Simon Gilby and Gina Moore

Last month we were fortunate enough to have a visit from Simon Gilby and Gina Moore, the artists who created the two artworks, 'Pinnacles' and 'Cascade' for the Stage 2 development of Balcatta Senior High School. They gave a presentation to the Gifted and Talented Visual Art students about their work and the final stages of the installation.

The 'Pinnacles' artwork can be found outside the Administration building in Amelia Street and acts as an inspiring entry statement for the school, referencing both the successive processes of sedimentation that have created the pinnacles and the ongoing human occupation of the site over time.

Suspended in the three-storey void of the Performing Arts Theatre is 'Cascade', an artwork constructed from handcrafted stainless steel lace. The piece references the ebb and flow of the sea and is evocative of the waves of human migration and interconnected histories of the school.

Both artists were able to give a brief overview of their work and also outline the development of the ideas for the pieces and the process of construction, which was most enlightening. Students were able to view the sculptures up close as well as ask questions about the processes, techniques utilised and what it was like to work as a practising artist/designer.

Simon Gilby is currently working on a project for the City of Fremantle and Gina Moore is teaching Animation at RMIT as well as working on private projects.



Simon Gilby with Danny Antal and Asher Beard



Gina Moore with Andrew Woods and Rose Watkins

s News

“A Homage to Breakfast”

Year 10 Gifted and Talented Visual Art students were treated to a still life display of numerous breakfast treats including croissants, spreads, fruit toast, cereal and juice which they were given the opportunity to draw and photograph. Delicate charcoal drawings of the croissants were followed by watercolour still life works of orange juice and cereal displayed on patterned tablecloths with cutlery. The students were asked to look at the still life paintings of Dutch Still Life Masters as well as well-renowned American Pop Artist Wayne Thiebaud and Australian Modernist John Brack. They used this as a starting point to develop designs on a Breakfast Still Life theme.

While some students used acrylic, others enjoyed the experience of oil painting on easels, with a resulting range of different stylistic outcomes.



Jeryn Huntley and Riscia Vinta with their artwork

STEAM Train Tour

On Friday 18 June our Year 8 Dance students and Year 9 Music students visited three of our local intake primary schools to showcase the talents of our students. The students were wonderful ambassadors for our school and their performances were enjoyed by all.



'Mulan' performed by Year 8 Dance students



Guitar performance by Year 9 students, Lakeisha Arifianto and Hannah Sharma

'Nexus 2021' Dance Alliance

On Friday 11 June our Dance and Choir students performed in Nexus, an annual event presented by students from Shenton College, Cecil Andrews Senior High School and Balcatta Senior High School. The event was held at the Octagon Theatre, University of WA. The students involved in the performance have achieved high standards in movement education, and will be performing works choreographed specifically for the performance by themselves, their dedicated teachers and Perth dance professionals. The program represented in this performance aims to deliver excellence in both teaching and student learning. Students have the opportunity in these programs to focus on technique and performance, as well as dance history, kinesiology, theory dance, choreography and improvisation. The Nexus presentation offers the students experience in working in a professional theatre environment, and the chance to see peers from other schools in rehearsal and performance. As well as being talented performers, students in the dance program graduate with presentation skills, self-confidence, leadership skills, an ability to work in a team environment, a sense of rigour and discipline and the want to strive for excellence. All of these qualities learnt in the dance classroom are life skills which hold them in good stead for any choice of career.



Katerina Rufov, Year 12



Anastasia Skordas, Year 11



'A Thousand Years' performed by Year 7 Dance and the School Choir



'Mulan' performed by Year 8 students



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