

Balcatta Bulletin

2021 Semester 2 Reflections



Page 4 Year 12 Presentation Event

Page 6 - 9 Curriculum News

Page 10 - 11 Student Services News

Page 12 Technology News

Page 13 - 17 The Arts News

Page 18 - 19 Health & Physical Education News

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From The Principal

This has been an incredibly busy year considering the disruptions we faced as a school community. This included operating the school while the refurbishment of our heritage buildings was undertaken and the completion of the external courts, swimming pool and landscaping of outside areas. Another disruption that continued to impact us all, was the management of COVID-19 restrictions.

Our building program is complete and we are now one whole site, with well-deserved 'state-of-the-art' facilities for our students and staff to enjoy. The new learning spaces provide staff with greater flexibility to promote both individual and co-operative group learning opportunities.

On 22 September, the Association Learning Environment held a site visit at Balcatta SHS. This event attracted significant interest from a range of professionals who were very interested in seeing the learning spaces in our new building. The architects from Hassell led the group which included Balcatta Senior High School staff and Year 9 students, Eva Veljanoski, Lidia Vojnovic and Tilly Woodard. The students were great school ambassadors and spoke confidently about their experiences in the new learning spaces.

New Initiatives

This year we launched a number of new initiatives including:

• Year 7 Parent Owned Device (POD) Program

Analysis and feedback indicate an overall reasonable uptake of devices purchased. The application and integration of ICT is still developing across the various learning areas. Students have engaged with a variety of ICT programs and delivery of curriculum through OneNote and Connect. Staff will continue to explore ICT strategies to enhance the curriculum and develop students' ICT capabilities.

• Year 7 and Year 8 STEAM

This was a new program which embedded 21st Century Skills (6 Cs – Communication, Collaboration, Creativity, Critical Thinking, Character and Citizenship). One of the project highlights our Year 7 students worked on was the water-powered rocket workshop in partnership with the University of WA Aerospace Project.

• House System

This has been an ongoing initiative which has involved the whole school in relaunching our house system. The decision was made to return to the original house names: Poseidon, Zeus, Artemis and Aurora. Students were invited to enter a competition to design a house logo. The point allocation process includes the acknowledgement of academic, behaviour, community and cultural involvement, and of course, sporting endeavour.

I am looking forward to the official launch of our house banners, which will be displayed in the gym and other areas around the school.

Education Support

This is the first year of our Education Support Program. Staff and students have access to a number of refurbished classrooms, the Independent Living Area (named in honour of Mrs Bev Dainton), therapy and training spaces. The students have been immersed in a range of educational experiences including work experience and a community access program.

Year 12 Class of 2021

Significant events for Year 12 students were the farewell to the Class of 2021 on Friday 24 September and the Presentation Event on Tuesday 19 October at the Octagon Theatre. This is the first group of students to complete their final year in the new building. As a school community, we have ensured the Year 12 students are well-positioned when they leave Balcatta SHS. I had the privilege of talking with them regarding their plans for next year and beyond. It has been very interesting to hear their plans. Some have employment lined up, while others have applied for TAFE and university. It was pleasing to see some students had identified back-up plans.

The Year 12 student leaders, Nathan Hamilton and Phuntsho (Jen) Choden, have represented the students and school by always demonstrating our school values of Respect-Unite-Excel. We wish the Year 12 Class of 2021 a very successful future.

School Opportunities and Events

During the year, our students have been able to participate in a range of activities that either extended academic achievement, enriched curriculum, represented the school in sporting events, and health and well-being activities. Many of these events have been shared on our social media platforms and in this issue of the Balcatta Bulletin.

Every student displays our school values of Respect-Unite-Excel when:

- they represent the school at athletics and sporting events
- they showcase their learning through either dance or music programs
- they participate in events such as Health Expo, Science Fair, writing workshops, work experience, excursions and incursions, etc
- student ambassadors assist with primary school transition activities
- they participate in a range of tests and competitions for academic performance
- they actively promote Act-Belong-Commit and support mental health and well-being, which is clearly evident through the whole school Act-Belong-Commit activities.

There have been many highlights for our students and I wish to thank the staff who generate and make these opportunities a reality.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge and sincerely thank the members of our School Board and P&C Association. These members are hard-working volunteers who give up their time to support and promote the school. Two of our community members, Mrs Margaret Banks and Professor Ted Snell AM, have stepped down from the School Board due to other commitments. On behalf of the whole school community, we sincerely thank them for their support over the last few years.

I wish staff and students a successful end to this semester with a restful, relaxing holiday break and look forward to 2022.

Helen Maitland
Principal

Our People

Opening of the 'Bev Dainton Independent Living Area'

On Monday 20 September, we held a very special event with the unveiling of the "Bev Dainton Independent Living Area" in B Block. Bev Dainton was a valued member of our Education Support team for 19 years before passing away in May 2020 after a long illness. Bev's family attended and were very appreciative her contribution to our school was recognised. Sebastian Foran, a Year 12 student, was tasked with the unveiling, which he was proud to do. The room is utilised by the Education Support students to develop independent life skills.



'The Bev Dainton Independent Living Area' plaque



Year 12 student, Sebastian Foran unveiled the plaque

WA School Chess League Finals

On Monday 16 August 2021, five students, with their teacher, Mr Miles Attey, were invited to participate in the WA School Chess League finals held at Perth Modern School.

Representing Balcatta SHS were:

Lucas Agostino (Year 10)

Jerome Pazhooparambil (Year 10)

Ethan Morariu (Year 10)

Flynn Meyers (Year 10)

Ahmed Wario (Year 9)

The winner of the tournament will be invited to represent Western Australia at the Australian Schools Teams finals which will be played online in early December.



Student representatives in the Chess League finals

2021 Creative Writing Competition

Congratulations to Alina Chaudhry of Year 8 whose story for the 2021 Creative Writing Competition, 'Afterlife' has been shortlisted. Alina's entry was one of the top five in Year 8. Due to the current COVID-19 restrictions, the award ceremony took place online on Thursday 25 November. The prize winners were announced together with comments from this year's judging panel and an interview with the Year 12 judge, award-winning author, Cath Moore.



Year 8 student, Alina Chaudhry

Year 12 Presentation Event

On Tuesday 19 October we acknowledged the Year 12 Class of 2021 on their successful completion of 12 years of schooling. This is a significant milestone for them. We celebrated their success and achievements at the Octagon Theatre, University of WA. Year 10 student, Callum Case-McGlade performed an original piece of music on the acoustic guitar.

Special Award winners were:

General Dux – Glenn Leano

ATAR Dux – Elise Beirne

Learning Support Certificate of Commendation

– Sebastian Foran

ADF Future Innovators Award – Tyson Smitham

ADF Long Tan Leadership and Teamwork Award – Vyom Patel

Stan Perron Award – Katerina Rufov

Ampol Best All Rounder Award – Tahlia Wells-Vasile

Sportsperson of the Year Award – Nathan Hamilton

Senior School Special Commendation Award – Lois Watbwami

NMERO Commitment to Excellence Award – Elise Beirne

Congratulations to our Year 12 students. This is a very unique and talented group. We wish them the best for the future and look forward to hearing about the next part of their learning journey.



Mrs Helen Maitland presenting the ATAR Dux Award to Elise Beirne and the General Dux Award to Glenn Leano



Tyson Smitham, ADF Future Innovators Award presented by Mr Daniel Drummond



Vyom Patel, ADF Long Tan Leadership and Teamwork award presented by Mr Philip Saraceni



Tahlia Wells-Vasile, Ampol Best All Rounder Award presented by Dr Peter Reynolds



Sebastian Foran, Learning Support Certificate of Commendation presented by Ms Cathie Bonner



Elise Beirne, NMERO Commitment to Excellence Award presented by Mr Michael Yates



Lois Watbwami, Senior School Special Commendation Award presented by Mr David Michael



Katerina Rufov, Stan Perron Award presented by Ms Dawn Brodie



Nathan Hamilton, Sportsperson of the Year Award presented by Mr Kevin Fraser

Balcatta Academic Challenge

The purpose of the Balcatta Academic Challenge is to promote Balcatta SHS as a school of choice for talented students. The challenge provided primary school students with the opportunity to experience academic extension and enrichment activities across a variety of learning areas. The challenge is designed to encourage local intake primary schools to select and enter their high achieving students to compete on behalf of their school to win the prestigious perpetual trophy, to be displayed at their school, for one year.

On Thursday 25 November, Balcatta SHS held the fourth annual Balcatta Academic Challenge with two teams of Year 5 students from our local intake primary schools competing for the perpetual trophy.

Fifty Year 5 students participated in the Academic Challenge and will also receive an invitation to apply for the 2023 intake of the Academic Extension program. Students competed in five challenges that spanned across all Learning Areas.

Challenge 1 - English Mystery Writing

Challenge 2 - Science Rock Classification

Challenge 3 - Dance

Challenge 4 - Maths

Plus a variety of mystery challenges over the course of the day for bonus points

For each challenge, students earned 'points' – West Balcatta 1 team earned the most points at the end of the day (winning by 1.5 points) and were presented with a perpetual trophy for the Balcatta Academic Challenge. Followed closely behind by Osborne PS and Tuart Hill PS who finished equal second. Throughout the day students and teams were acknowledged for demonstrating excellent team work, critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

The following Year 7 students assisted on the day and were amazing role models:

Adela Maldonado Reveggino, Kaavya Maniktala, Heer Bhavsar, Hosna Sayed, Amin Yazdanmehr and Yashvi Patel.



Winners of the Academic Challenge - West Balcatta PS



Dance challenge



Takari PS students attempting the Maths challenge

Year 6 Orientation Day

On Tuesday 30 November, we hosted 180 Year 6 students who have enrolled at Balcatta SHS in 2022. Students engaged in a range of activities designed to familiarise them with the school, meet their new peer group, meet with key staff and take part in dance, Physical Education, textiles, Science, Humanities, English and Maths. Students also had the opportunity to see our students in action with dance and musical performances.



Miss Duong - English activity



Mr Butson - Maths activity

Science activity by Alivia King and Yassmin Ahmed of Year 9

Curriculum News

Meeting the needs of the homeless

Year 12 Children, Family and the Community students have been investigating the needs of families and individuals when faced with circumstances beyond their control. As a class, they focused on the needs of homeless people and the specific needs of this vulnerable group. Students made a variety of items such as scarves, warm hats, gloves and heat packs, as well as purchasing some basic personal items such as toothpaste, toothbrushes and sanitiser. Congratulations to our compassionate and generous students who helped to make the world a bit brighter for the homeless members of our community.



Year 12 students with some of their supplies for the homeless



A variety of the items for the homeless

Year 7 and Year 8 Science Fair Projects



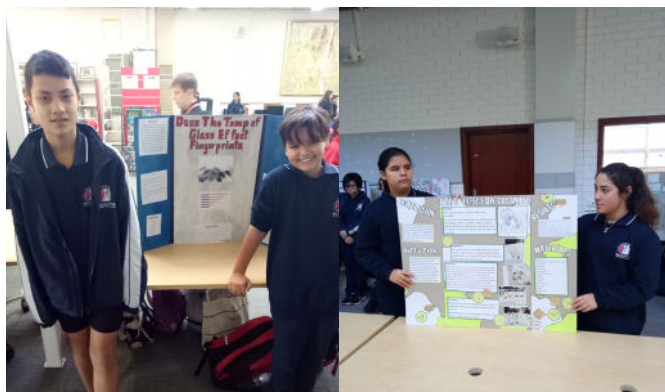
Judges for the Year 7 and Year 8 Science Fair

Year 10 Child Care

Students have been learning about the needs of newborn babies and experienced the caring for a virtual baby of their own. On Tuesday 20 July the students were very excited to have their adopted baby to take home. Reality soon set in when the babies awoke and required their needs attended to. What did the baby want? This was part of the challenge of working the baby out and determining if the cry was for a feed, nappy change, burp or a cuddle. Sometimes, the baby would cry at inopportune times such as during class, or when the students were in the shower or trying to participate in sporting activities. Just like a real baby! By the time students returned their babies on Thursday 22 July, many were very tired and had gained a small insight into the workload associated with having a baby.



Virtual babies



Year 7 - William Frencham and Brandon Gizzarelli (Does the temp of glass affect fingerprints?)



Year 7 - Adela Maldonado Reveggino and Chiara D'Alessandro (Acids effect on cucumbers)



Years 8 - Lily French and Samten Zangmo (What type of fluid will dissolve an eggshell?)

Year 8 - Siddharth Das and Samuel Omotunde (How different environments affect germ growth?)

Year 7 and Year 8 Science Fair

On Wednesday 21 July (Year 7 students) and on Thursday 22 July (Year 8 students), participated in the annual Science Fair where they showcased their scientific investigation skills with a range of very interesting and unusual experiments. We were privileged to have four judges, Dr Debbie Palmer (Telethon Kids Institute), Dr Jonathan Richetti (CSIRO), Dr Alan Aitken (University of WA) and Dr Matthew Nelson (CSIRO) from the science industry, who gave up their time to judge the students' work. The judges spoke very highly of the students' work and told the students that it was a very difficult task in deciding the winning projects.

Congratulations to the following winners:

Year 7

1st Place – Jake Oliver and Francesco Russell (Rail Gun)

2nd Place – Gracie Lalley and Zoey Duong (Chia Seed)

3rd Place – Epiphany Kondo-Morcom and Belinda Rowland (Chewing Gum Concentration)

Year 8

1st Place – Jasmin Caccetta, Nadya Igusti, Xuka Le (Which mask is the best?)

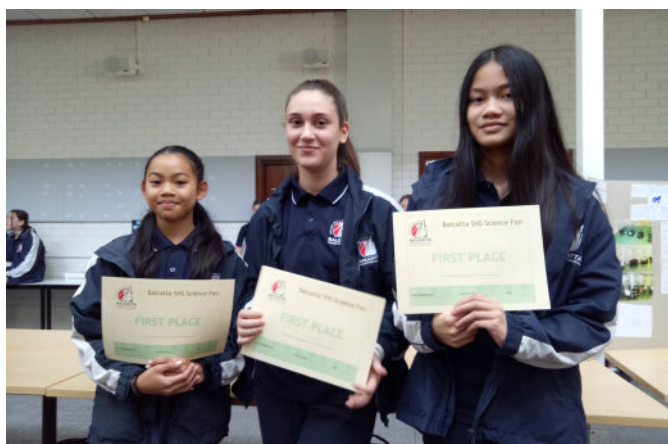
2nd Place – Chloe Allen, AJ Caballes, Tandin Zam (Which gender is the most intelligent?)

3rd Place – Danielle Fryer (How does cooling rate affect crystal size?)

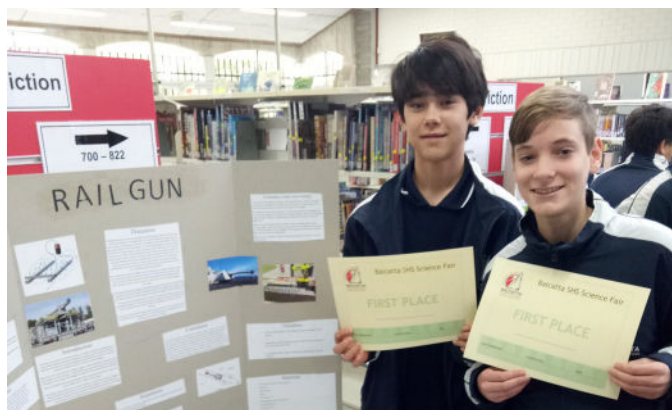
The Science Fair was visited by parents of Year 7 and Year 8 students. Year 5 and Year 6 students from Osborne, Tuart Hill and West Balcatta Primary Schools also attended.



Year 7 3rd Place – Epiphany Kondo-Morcom and Belinda Rowland (Chewing Gum Concentration)



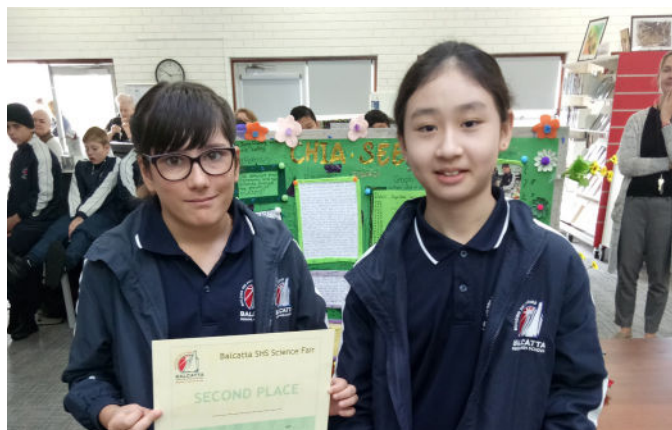
Year 8 1st Place – Jasmin Caccetta, Nadya Igusti, Xuka Le (Which mask is the best?)



Year 7 1st Place – Jake Oliver and Francesco Russell (Rail Gun)



Year 8 2nd Place – Chloe Allen, AJ Caballes, Tandin Zam (Which gender is the most intelligent?)



Year 7 2nd Place – Gracie Lalley and Zoey Duong (Chia Seed)



Year 8 3rd Place – Danielle Fryer (How does cooling rate affect crystal size?)

Curriculum News Continued

Write a Book in a Day

Write a Book in a Day was an initiative for The Kids' Cancer Project. A group of Years 7 to 9 Academic Excellence students participated in this activity during and after school on Monday 30 August for twelve hours to write and illustrate a book from start to finish. To make it even more fun, unique parameters and random words provided on the morning of the activity were included in the story. All completed stories will be included in the Online Library on the Write a Book in a Day website, and will be shared with hospitals around Australia for families and children undergoing treatment. The money raised will go towards much needed childhood cancer research through The Kids' Cancer Project.



ANZAC Competition – Year 9 History

In the Year 9 Academic Extension class, the students submitted a presentation for a History competition, explaining “What does commemoration look like in your community?”. Students were placed in groups to address the topic. They made their presentation to the rest of the class members who then had the difficult choice of choosing the best three. The students voted on which of the three selections would be entered into the competition, however, it was so difficult for staff and students to make a choice that a compilation of the three was submitted as the final product.



Finalists (L-R from back) – Kaiser Htat, Kaden Freeman, Lakeisha Arifanto, Ahmed Wario, Tilly Woodard, Lidia Vojnovic, Eva Veljanoski, Holly Menna and Grace Palden



2021 Children's Book Week poster designed by Shaun Tan

Year 7 Children's Book Week Excursion

On Monday 23 August, a group of 50 Year 7 students attended a Children's Book Week workshop at Karrinyup Library called 'Old Worlds, New Worlds, Other Worlds'. The workshop was conducted by award-winning young adult author, Deb Fitzpatrick, an engaging and interesting speaker who loves using stories from real-life. The students were given a presentation on how Deb plans and writes her novels, specifically how she came up with the idea for 'The Amazing Spencer Gray'. She detailed her research process and gave tips on how to use inspiration to create storylines and characters for her novels. The students were captivated and enjoyed learning about creative writing from a published writer. The 2021 Children's Book Week poster was designed by former Balcatta SHS Gifted and Talented Visual Art student and Academy Award winner, Shaun Tan.



Deb Fitzpatrick captivating our students at Book Week

Year 7 STEAM

On Wednesday 25 August, Year 7 STEAM students attended a water-powered rocket workshop in the Library. The students banded together to build their own water bottle rockets under the guidance of Alex Frost, University of WA Aerospace Project Manager, Mr Matthew Witcombe and other team members. The UWA student volunteers provided our students with an overview of rocket engineering plus a design brief for the water powered rockets.

The rockets were made from water bottles, partly filled with water and pressurised with air. Students formed groups, then devised what they considered to be the best design based on the briefing explanation of rocket design. At the end of the session, each rocket was launched from a launching platform in the grassed area of S Block. It was great to see the pride and comradeship the students exhibited in competing against other groups to build and launch their rocket. A few rockets landed on the roof of S Block. Much fun was had by all, and hopefully some future STEAM ambitions sparked in the minds of our future young engineers.



Water-powered rocket ready to be launched

Physics Day at Adventure World

On Thursday 23 September, over 1200 Year 10 to 12 Physics students across WA high schools descended upon Adventure World to attend the annual Physics Day organised by STAWA (Science Teachers' Association of Western Australia). It was an action-packed educational day filled with fun. Physics students at Balcatta SHS experienced and witnessed first-hand phenomena involving physics, technology, engineering design and mathematics in a "real world" STEM laboratory that can be found at Adventure World with its large-scale apparatus. This fully-funded activity helped students get exposure to University STEM and engineering programs and courses as well as providing a networking opportunity with other like-minded physics students from across the state. Students were given real world physics problems relating to various rides at Adventure World and had fun solving them. Feedback from students indicated an increased interest in taking on a career or further study in the fields of Engineering, STEM and Physics.



Students at Adventure World

Year 7 Geography

The Year 7 HaSS students studied Geography, with an emphasis of 'Water in the World' and compared the availability of water in Australia to another country. After a few weeks of investigation, students were asked to present their information on an annotated visual display. The students presented their displays in digital format and poster format. It is always an amazing revelation to see the various ways students engage and present their work after investigating a topic.



Annotated Visual Display on our water in the world component by Year 7 student Jimmi Ilomanoski



'Ready, Set, FIRE!'

Student Services News

Foodbank

As part of Act-Belong-Commit Week, we hosted a school food drive, calling on all parents/guardians, students and staff to help us tackle the growing issue of hunger in Western Australia by asking for food donations (non-perishable items only). Some examples included food cans (fruit, vegetables, soups, tuna, etc) and long-life items (UHT milk). Thank you to the community for your contributions which were delivered to Foodbank on Monday 6 September.



Mrs Maitland with Year 8 students, Maggie Morhall and Chloe Allen with some of the donated items

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

Balcatta SHS is one of 70 Act-Belong-Commit (ABC) schools providing mental health and well-being programs. Focusing on positive mental health, we celebrated Act-Belong-Commit week from Monday 6 September to Friday 10 September across the whole school with students having the opportunity to contribute and participate by:

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

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

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

The Act-Belong-Commit Week was 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. A number of activities was organised 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 songwriting group, Ms Holmes opening the beauty room for nail art and Ms Anderson making ceramic mobiles. Several activities included learning about new skills. Ms 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 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. 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.

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.



Mrs Curtis giving a crochet lesson to interested students

Staff vs students Volleyball game



Students pondering their next move in a giant chess game

Battleships strategies



Giant Jenga game in play

Students playing Connect 4

R U OK? Day

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.



Staff and students dancing the 'Macarena'



Student Services team



Students trying their hand at crochet



Flash Mob performance by Years 11/12 dancers

Wear it Purple Day

This year we had a number of students take on the leadership role of organising Wear It Purple Day on Friday 27 August. 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'. Pronoun badges, stickers, information about the LGBTI+ flags and general conversation in a safe space were promoted. Thank you to our organising committee for their efforts in coordinating this event. We hope to continue to build awareness and inclusivity for our LGBTI+ youth.



Lilia and Elora Atkins-Webb Shayleigh McKenna with Miss Walker



Staff were victorious in the Staff vs Students Basketball game



Act-Belong-Commit message board

Technologies News

Try-A-Trade Project

On Monday 16 August to Wednesday 18 August, under the guidance of Wayne from Skill Hire, our Try-A-Trade students from Year 9 and Year 10 constructed a new life-size chess board and two limestone block/timber bench seats. The chess board was constructed with paving blocks and reinforced with concrete. The students took great pleasure in measuring the area and laying the pavers. They were a credit to the school and themselves and their trainer was very pleased and impressed. This was a hands-on project for the students who thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Chess pieces have been ordered and the giant chess board will soon be ready to use. The chess board is situated in A Block outside The Arts rooms.



A proud moment for Years 9/10 students on the completion of the giant chess board

Try-A-Trade Furniture

The Food, Fibre and Timber Industries Training Council, North Metropolitan TAFE, Cabinet Makers Association and WA Furniture Makers Association, have joined forces to establish a new Furnishings Trade Taster in Western Australia and Balcatta Senior High School students were the first to be offered the program. Partially funded by the Construction Training Fund, the Try-A-Trade Furnishing Taster Program, was delivered to 13 of our Year 9 students over four days, from Monday 25 October to Thursday 28 October at the school and TAFE Balga campus.

The Furnishings Trade Taster saw our students working at North Metro TAFE making an upholstery-topped footstool. The project exposed the participants to the wood trades, including cabinet making, furniture finishing, furniture making, wood machining and upholstery. Proud students with a quality product made for a very happy group of possible pre-apprentices and apprentices.

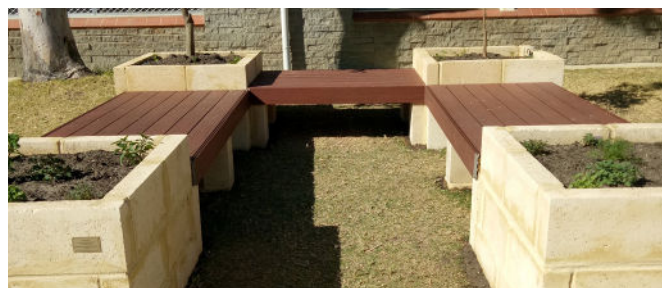
Within the Try-A-Trade program, our students also attained their White Card and spent a day meeting with employers, sharing their stories and advice, undertaking goal setting and pathway planning activities. Students were given the opportunity to participate in Workplace Learning in Year 10 at the completion of the program. Successful feedback indicated students' desire to continue to work on their employability skills, improve their grades and explore workplace experiences.

Garden Box Project

The Year 12 Building and Construction students have watched with interest over the last couple of years, the development and construction of the new facilities at Balcatta SHS, and were proud to be the first to occupy and use the completed BCN workspaces. They took particular interest in the open areas behind the workshop between T Block and A Block, which they decided would be the best location for their final Year 12 project. After initial consultation with BSHS Administration, designs were created, plans drafted, proposals accepted and construction began in Term 2 for their 'Garden Box Project'. The project design of four raised garden boxes linked together by three bench seats creating a U-shaped meeting space for students and staff, added to the aesthetics of the newly landscaped area. Construction began with pouring concrete footings to support the limestone block walls that formed the boxes and seat supports. Once the walls were laid, students made and installed timber frames which were clad with eco decking boards to form the bench seats. Finally, the boxes were filled with soil and citrus trees and various herbs planted. Completion of the project was a great achievement for the students, and a fantastic addition to the school. They should be very proud of what they have accomplished.



Cutting the tape on the finished project



The finished garden beds and seating



Year 9 students standing with their finished furniture project

The Arts News

St George's Art Exhibition

The Western Australian St George's Art Exhibition has become a premier annual event in art, attracting schools from all sectors of education. Participation in this exhibition provided an outstanding opportunity for schools to present work by students in Years 10, 11 and 12. The art was displayed in the unique setting of St George's Cathedral. Congratulations to Kurt Baylon, Year 11 and Nathan Hamilton, Year 12 whose artwork was entered in the exhibition.

Kurt Baylon: *Oil on Canvas*

This painting depicts the artist and his friend in a moment of discord. I am the artist and my friend is attempting to coerce me into her belief system. My painting is inspired by Kehinde Wiley's use of appropriation in portraiture. I appropriated the pose my friend and I are striking from Francisco de Goya's 'Self-portrait with Dr Arrieta' (1820) because it inspired me to represent the tension between reconciling religious values with one's sexuality.

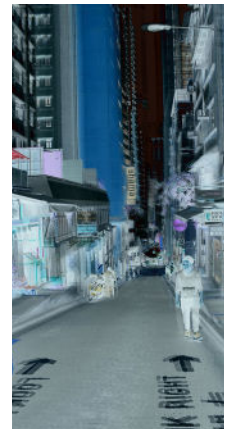


META 2021 Exhibition

The META 2021 art and design exhibition showcased innovative and exciting creative works completed by Year 11 and Year 12 students enrolled in Visual Art, Design or Media courses. META complements North Metropolitan TAFE's prestigious Art, Design and Photography programs and acknowledges the excellence and originality of budding artists, designers and photographers in senior secondary schools across WA. The exhibition was open at North Metropolitan TAFE Gallery Central from Monday 2 August to Friday 20 August. Two of our Gifted and Talented Visual Art ATAR students, Hana Abbott of Year 11 and Nathan Hamilton of Year 12 had their artwork exhibited at the event. Congratulations to Hana Abbott, who won the highly commended award at META.

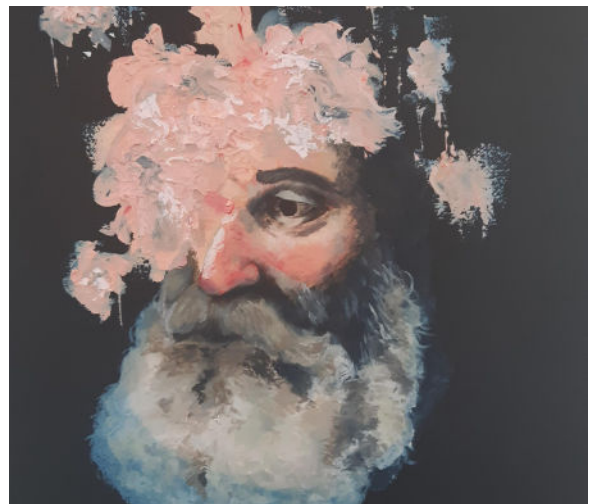
Hana Abbott: *Untitled Photographic Prints on Paper*

This series depicts the different stories of each family shown within each apartment building in Perth, taken with my Nikon. I feel every window has a different soul and spirit of ancestors overlooking their family. To me, the idea of family history is very important. Learning about past generations keeps memories alive and allows every generation to have an idea of where they come from.



Nathan Hamilton: *Solace Oil on Canvas*

This artwork is essentially about aging and the transience of life. I chose this character in particular at the turning point where he is resigned to his fate, forgotten by many, but looking into the distance. There is a sense of reminiscing but resignation. I painted this work with a simplified back-ground to emphasise the character's face. The textural component of the paint symbolises the eventual disintegration we all face.



The Arts News continued

Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery

Our partnership with Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery has been an invaluable experience for our Gifted and Talented Visual Art students. In July this year, our Year 10 Gifted and Talented Visual Art students had the opportunity to visit and engage with works from 'Feeling Abstract?' at the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery with work from the collection. Students spent the day at the gallery. They were asked to identify with either an artist, or a theme explored in the exhibition, and to develop an artwork in response to their visit. Students found their inspiration in artists such as Sydney Ball, George Haynes, Margot Lewers, Erica McGilchrist, Tony Tuckson, and Jenny Watson. The students responded enthusiastically at the opportunity to participate in the exhibition and developed strikingly varied responses in a range of media depending on the work selected and their own personal style. For our students, some of this led to their work exploring figurative elements, and for others looking at abstraction gave them permission to discover the joy of experimenting with these stylistic forms in ways they have not done previously.

Congratulations to the following students whose work was exhibited:

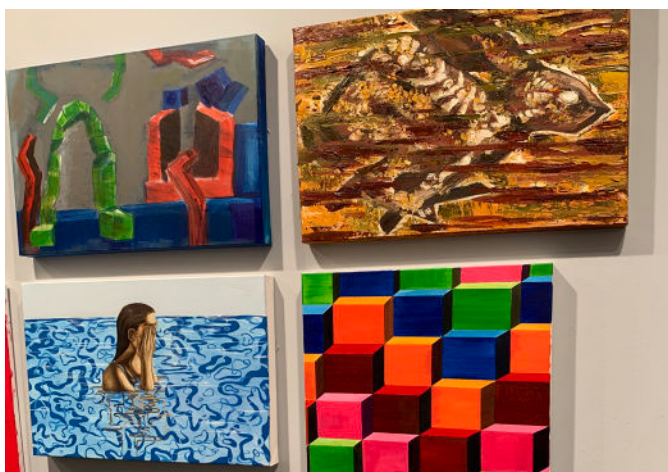
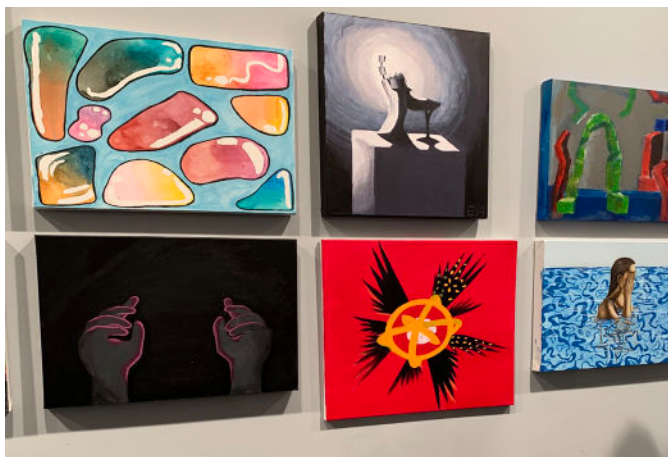
Asher Beard, Harrison King, Karla Macri, Jordan de Beer, Kai Dunbar, Mariam Yaseri, Daniel Antal, Eli Barr, Shayleigh McKenna, Gerald Giron, Jessica Betti, Riscia Vinta, Jeryn Huntley, Rose Watkins and Andrew Woods.

Year 5 and Year 6 Primary School Art Competition

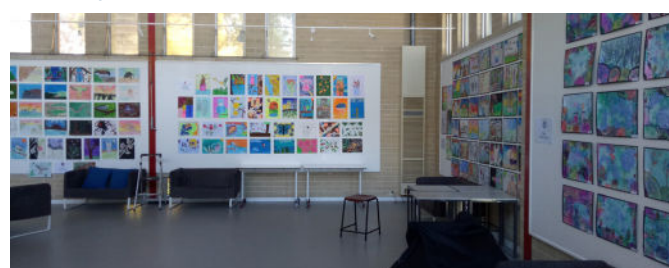
On Tuesday 7 September 2021, we hosted the Year 5 and Year 6 Primary School Art Competition with an exhibition of artworks from the primary schools in our local intake area. The theme was 'Native Australian Flora and Fauna'. The event was well-attended by parents, teachers and primary school staff and students. Judging was conducted by one of our Gifted and Talented Visual Art tutors, Ms Jodie Davidson, with a student selected 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 from Osborne Primary School. Helen Maitland presented the Principal's Award to Year 6 student, Ryan from Balcatta Primary School and the People's Choice Award was presented to Year 6 student, Victoria from Takari Primary School.



Dechen, Year 6 of Osborne PS - Patron of the Arts Award
Ryan, Year 6 at Balcatta PS - Principal's Award



Victoria, Year 6 Takari PS - Peoples Choice Award
Artwork by Osborne PS



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:

Self-portrait by Sonam Tshokey, Year 9



BALTATA SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Year 8

1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 26

Screen print, acrylic, water colour, pyrography

I loaded my mixed-media piece on a still life drawing of dried flowers. The materials I used included acrylic, pyrography and screen printing paper. I displayed my final design, then used the laser machine to produce a stencil. This allowed me to print the designs several times, emphasizing repetition within the composition. An important focus was on using layers in different mediums in order to create an interesting, transparent, floating effect. The creation of focal points in the finished work was particularly important.



BAL CATTÀ SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Year 0

10

Acrylic and Aniline on canvas

In our project, we explored different portraiture techniques, with an equal emphasis on understanding form and communicating emotions. This self-portrait was influenced by artist Adrien Patout. Our class was introduced to a variety of acrylic-based techniques exploring paint application – from subtle tonal washes to heavy impasto painting.



Year 9

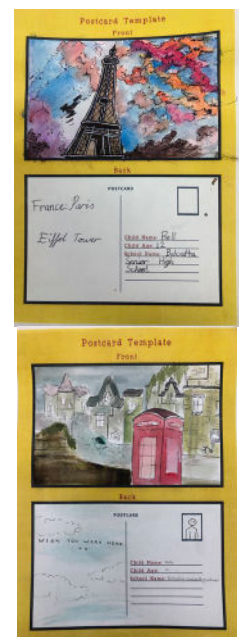
22

Charcoal on paper

My goal was to develop a self-portrait with charcoal, focusing on tone and following drawing traditions.

On Monday 20 September, the Year 7 Gifted and Talented Visual Art students visited the Perth Cultural Centre for the Awesome Arts Festival. The festival aims to inspire creativity and expression in young Western Australians through engagement with a broad range of contemporary art forms. Students saw a world-class theatre performance and participated in a workshop in the Arts area with a curriculum focus.

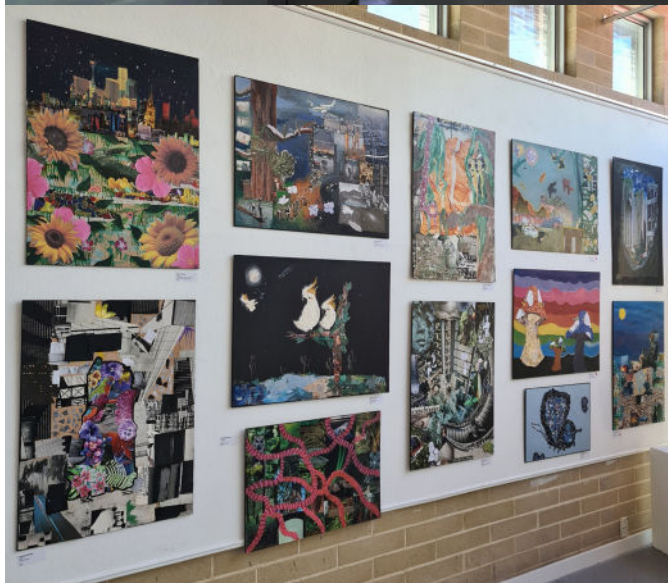
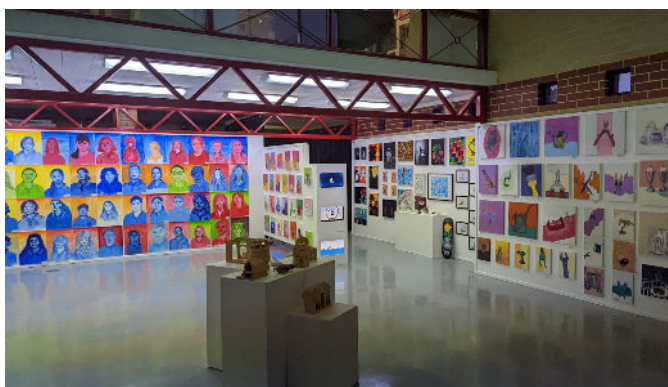
As part of the festival, the students were involved in designing virtual postcards of a destination where they would like to be right now! The postcards were displayed on the big screen in the Perth Cultural Centre during the week of the Awesome Arts Festival.



The Arts News Continued

Gifted & Talented Visual Art Exhibition

On Tuesday 2 November, we held the annual Gifted and Talented Visual Art Exhibition in the Ron Murphy Art Gallery. The exhibition was well-attended by families, staff and other community members, including David Michael MLA and Mayor Mark Irwin. Jodie Davidson, one of our art tutors opened the exhibition, with a very sincere and passionate speech about the Arts. The art work was amazing, with so many talented students showcasing their work. The Wearable Art fashion parade was a highlight. We were also entertained by some of our Music students, which complemented the event. Congratulations to The Arts team on a successful event.



Big Art Day Out

On Saturday 13 November, Balcatta SHS hosted our annual event, Big Art Day Out. Approximately 80 Year 5 students from over 40 different primary schools attended the event where students were treated to a free art taster. Sherree Tomlinson, Art Coordinator together with four art tutors, artist/teacher Michelle Murning, artist Kathryn Haug, art teacher Ingrid Murray and artist Torren Whisson (an ex-Balcatta SHS Gifted and Talented Visual Art student) rotated the students through four different art activities, providing them with experiences in four different studio areas. The students had a fabulous day and were so excited about their marvellous creations which they were able to take home and show their parents.

Applications are now open for Year 5 students to apply to be tested for a position in the 2023 cohort for the Gifted and Talented Visual Art Program. This event is a perfect opportunity for students to have a small taster of what Balcatta SHS has to offer in our Gifted and Talented Visual Art Program.



Music

Congratulations to our Year 8 Music students, Siddharth Das, Edoardo Russell and Gegan Gomes, who recently performed 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.



Sid Das, Eddy Russell and Gegan Gomes

Choreography Assessments

The choreography assessments originally planned for July were postponed. On Friday 27 August the Years 7-11 students were assessed on their performance (as well as their rehearsal work and a post-performance reflection), while the Year 12 students were assessed on the backstage and production/organisation roles.



'Elysian' Dance Showcase

On Thursday 28 October our Years 7 to 12 Dance students worked very hard preparing for their final performance for the year. This performance was a culmination of the year's technique and choreography work, and gave the students an opportunity to be assessed in a professional theatre setting. The performance was held in the Dolphin Theatre, University of WA.



Health & Physical Education News

Year 11 Health Expo

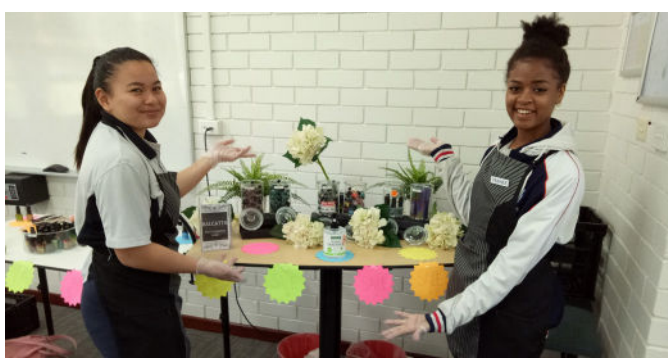
Prior to the Year 11 students preparing their presentation for the annual Health Expo held on Friday 6 August, they learnt the skills necessary for presenting to a large crowd. They worked on their communication skills, looked at how health is promoted in schools on a bigger scale, and various health issues affecting our population and the ways to prevent or reverse these issues. The expo involved students forming research groups and a health focus topic. They were required to compose a report, design an interactive activity to educate and engage students in learning about their health issue and also present a visually attractive stall. Students were encouraged to contact various organisations via telephone and/or email to collect pamphlets, ideas, giveaways and information for their topic. The students did an amazing job and were thoroughly exhausted after speaking and interacting with hundreds of students and teachers for the day. This was a great eye-opener for those interested in health promotion in the future. This event is always a crowd favourite.



Saadah Mahmoud, Bridget Ntwari and Elyase Abdi (Gum Disease Effects)



Sky Moustafa, Gabriela Vogler de los Santos and Rebecca Kopellis (Fun Facts Alcohol)



Atasha Fabian and Haifaa Hussein

Athletics Carnivals

The Athletics Carnivals were held on Tuesday 31 August for the Year 9, Year 10 and nominated Years 11/12 students, and Tuesday 7 September for the Years 7 and 8 students. The weather for the Years 7 and 8 carnival turned out to be warm and sunny after the original date was cancelled due to inclement weather. They participated in a range of events, comprising throwing, running and jumping. 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 elite athletes were selected to represent Balcatta SHS in the Interschool Athletics Carnival held in October.

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 Leksel
 Year 11 – Sangay Dorji and Adzi Zein, Marina Minic
 Year 12 – Tyson Smitham, Jessica Santich

Final House points results were:

Aurora = 1295
 Artemis = 1139
 Poseidon = 1094
 Zeus = 1086



Year 7 Shot Put

Jordan Duong, Year 7 100m race



Year 9 race



Asher Beard - Long Jump

Years 11/12 200m race

Health & Physical Education News

Year 9 Outdoor Recreation Camp

From Wednesday 24 November to Friday 26 November, Mrs Johnson's Year 9 Outdoor Recreation class headed to the Ern Halliday Recreation Camp. The morning started with the students putting their mountain biking skills to use and cycling the 13km to Ern Halliday Recreation Camp in Hillarys. The students proudly made the distance and settled into camp life by assembling their tents. They grabbed their gas cookers and eskies and set up for the next three days. The first activities of the afternoon were abseiling and the flying fox. Many students conquered their fear of heights to 'have a go' on both. Upon returning to camp it was time to complete their tent set up, cook dinner and get showered before the 'Escape the Night' activity. This involved working in teams in the dark to complete a scavenger hunt.

The next morning students headed to the beach to compete in a series of lifesaving and educational activities. There were flag races on the beach, board paddling relays and learning important lifesaving signals. After a quick wash off and snack they headed into the bush for team building activities. It was extremely hot and all students soldiered through to complete mazes while blindfolded, giant domino pattern-making, balance beam walking and bridge making. After a break for lunch and recreational activities, it was time for orienteering around the grounds. Again the heat was quite unbearable, so many students somehow ended up orienteering themselves under the shady trees and back to the campsite. Much later, with energy to spare and the temperature dropping, students headed to the pump bicycle track within the grounds. It was great fun for the more experienced riders. The second night involved Mr Birkett's 'Mini Olympics', where the students had a laugh.

With some cheese, crackers and salami nibble platters prepared by the boys to S'mores prepared by other groups, the students relaxed before bed with some snacks. They were going to need all the sustenance they could get to prepare for their 13km ride back to school on Friday in 35° heat.

On the final day, they packed up and cycled the short distance to Hillarys Boat Harbour for lunch, then continued the bike ride back to school.

All students were well-behaved and demonstrated great team work at camp. Fun was had by all and they slept well when they arrived home on Friday night. A big thank you to Mrs Johnson, Mr Birkett and Miss Hyde for attending camp with the students.



Blindfolded students doing team building activities

High Dive event in the Mini Olympics

Interschool Athletics Carnival

On Tuesday 26 October, Balcatta SHS competed in the Interschool Athletics Carnival held at the State Athletics Centre. We had a very keen team, mostly comprising of Years 7 to 10 students. All students were impeccably behaved on the day and represented our school with great pride. Our team was very successful, gaining 21 First Places, 18 Second Places and 16 Third Places. Leah Allen of Year 7 won the Champion Girl in the Year 7 group and Jessica Santich of Year 12 won the Champion Girl in the Year 11/12 group. Balcatta SHS came fifth overall. The Year 7 and Year 8 students were very strong and we can't wait to see how we can improve next year.



Leah Allen, Year 7
Champion Girl

Jessica Santich, Year 12
Champion Girl



Starting the flag race



Students ready to cycle



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