



Balcatta Update

12 February 2021

From the Principal

Welcome to the 2021 year. It has been a very different start. All schools had their first day postponed for a week and extra COVID-19 restrictions put in place. Where we would normally have a full school assembly, students met each other in year groups. I addressed the whole school over the PA system with key messages for a successful start to the term. We have completed the first week of this term, with staff and students wearing masks, as directed by the State Government.

The Year 7 students have been wonderful. They have adapted very quickly to their high school curriculum. The Year 7 teachers have informed me this is a particularly well-behaved, positive and respectful group of students. Today, all Year 7 students were involved in some very successful transition activities. Teachers and students were able to form closer relationships and found ways to adjust to the changing pace of high school life.

When we finished in Term 4 last year, I was looking forward to starting the new year with our new building program completed and may be some landscaping and the swimming pool completed by the end of this term. Unfortunately, that was not to be a reality. We started as we finished with significant areas still not operational. We have been working with builders to ensure that as many rooms as possible would be available via safe access through the construction area.

The Premier, Hon. Mark McGowan MLA, was scheduled to officially open the new building on 2 February but this has been postponed until later this term. I am looking forward to the completion of the refurbishment of the existing buildings, new open spaces and the swimming pool. When completed, we will have 'state of the art' facilities.

Staff Update

We welcome the following new staff to the school who bring a wealth of experience and enthusiasm:

- Carissa Thomas (Education Support teacher)
- Ainslie Sellers (Education Support Officer)
- Suzanne Fox (English/HaSS teacher)
- Nicole Temov (English teacher)
- Paije Minchin (Maths teacher)
- Maria Xanthis (Generalist teacher)
- Jynette Tidy (School Support Officer)
- Brianna Hyde (Sport Ready trainee)

The Associate Principals are:

Year 7 (and Ed Support) Cathie Bonner
Years 8/9 Mary Griffiths (for Term 1 only)
Years 10-12 Tessa Curtis

Student Services Team:

Manager Student Services – Tegan Walker

Year Coordinators:

Years 7/8

Years 9/10

Years 11/12

Chaplain

Community Nurse

Psychologist

Mark Entwistle

Luke Dragicevich

David Curtis

Merrilee Wong (M, Tu, F)

Lisa Nottage (M, Tu)

Alicia Wills (Tu, W, F)

Education Support

The Balcatta SHS Education Support Program has begun the year on a very positive note, with 10 new enrolments and 15 returning students. It has been a high energy and exciting start to the year and we have been thrilled to see our new students have grown in confidence and our returning students share their knowledge and experience with the new students.

We have commenced the year in one of the newly refurbished B Block rooms and our new teacher, Carissa Thomas, has set up a welcoming and engaging environment for students to access small group programs and pastoral care support. Most students participate in general learning area classes with the support of our Education Assistants and students have settled into classes well and are starting to become more independent with finding their classrooms and getting to know their teachers.

We will be scheduling parent meetings over the coming weeks to help us plan academic and social goals for our students. We will be finalising individual plans following these meetings and look forward to sharing news as the term progresses.

2020 WACE Results

We had some very pleasing results including top performing school in ATAR Psychology. We are very proud of our top performing students who achieved sound ATAR scores. Some of our achievements include:

- ATAR 90+ - Igor Pavkov, Marilyn Jacinto, Lily Johnston
- 79% of our students successfully completed a Certificate II and 21% successfully completed a Certificate III in Vocational Education and Training courses.
- Our Attainment rate of 99% was above like schools and above the State mean
- An increase in the number of School Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCSA) award recipients. Congratulations to the following students:
 - Igor Pavkov (Distinction)
 - Lily Johnston (Distinction)
 - Marilyn Jacinto (Merit)
 - Neeyanta Nakarmi (Merit)
 - 3 students (names withheld)

Student Mobile Phones

As you are aware, the State Government implemented a Student Mobile Phones in Public Schools policy. The policy requires all public schools to implement a ban on

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the use of mobile phones, smart watches, earbuds, tablets and head phones for all students from the time they arrive at school to the end of the school day. The policy is 'off and away all day'. Students were reminded on the first day of school. Exceptions are allowed for students who have approval from myself to use a phone to monitor health conditions or when a teacher gives students permission to use mobile phones for a specific curriculum purpose. If a student needs to contact a parent/carer, they can ask at Student Services. Parents must always communicate through the school on 9345 8200 if they need to make emergency contact with their child/ren.

Safe School Parking (City of Stirling)

The City of Stirling has contacted all schools to remind everyone of the importance of creating and maintaining safe pedestrian environments around schools. With an increase in vehicles on our roads, the City has observed an increase in impatience and consequently unsafe driving behaviour around schools. The City (as well as myself) has particular concerns for street safety during peak drop off and pick up hours. The City's rangers are available to conduct patrols at schools to assist in driver education, road safety and enforcement where necessary. Useful information can be found on our [website](#).

School Board Nominations (for parents)

I am now calling for nominations from interested parents who would like to be elected to the Balcatta Senior High School Board. There is a vacancy for ONE parent representative on the School Board who will be appointed for a THREE-year tenure. The School Board, which consists of parents, community members and school staff, has a very important

From the P&C

Welcome back to our returning families, and welcome to our new families joining Balcatta SHS in 2021. I hope everyone had a relaxing time over the holidays. It was certainly an interesting start to the 2021 school year. I would like to congratulate our students who have embraced the wearing of masks this week and have done so willingly.

The P&C AGM will be held on Wednesday 24 February 2021 at 7:30pm (exact meeting location to be confirmed). All positions, including President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer will be declared vacant. If you are interested in nominating for a position, please send an email to pandcbalcattashs@gmail.com with your name and the position for which you would like to nominate. We will arrange to email you the formal nomination form prior to the meeting.

The success of our P&C relies on the involvement and support of parents, carers and the wider school community. Being involved with our P&C provides an opportunity to:

- learn about the policies and programs of the school

Important dates

15 Feb	SmartRider photos for Year 7 and new students
24 Feb	6.00pm School Board meeting
24 Feb	7.30pm P&C meeting (AGM)
23 Feb	5.00pm to 6.00pm Year 7 AEP Parent Information Night

role in the life of the school. It engages in activities that enhance the education provided by the school, and provides a range of expertise to help the school achieve the best outcomes for all students. The Board meets each term and training is provided for members throughout the year. If you wish to nominate, please complete a [nomination form](#) which is to be sealed in an envelope and placed in the ballot box located in the school's Admin office by 4.00pm Friday 19 February. If you have any queries, please telephone the school on 9345 8200.

Parent Own Device (POD)

This year we have launched the POD Program in Year 7. We are partnering with StottHoare, a local company which has over 35 years' experience in supplying computers to schools and businesses in Western Australia. StottHoare has been approved by the Department of Education Panel computer suppliers since 2005. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, there are delays with the delivery of some orders. Stott Hoare will be in contact with those parents concerned and outline the options. Parents who are waiting for their order, please be reassured your child is not being disadvantaged as teachers will provide alternative material.

If you have any issues with a device purchased through StottHoare, please contact StottHoare Service Desk either by telephone on 9244 0050 or by email on [servicedesk@stotthoare.com.au](mailto: servicedesk@stotthoare.com.au) and they will make arrangements for collection. Before contacting StottHoare, please have the correct information ready (see our [website](#) page for details).

Helen Maitland
Principal

- engage with other parents and carers to share information
- work closely with our school to build positive attitudes with students and families
- raise funds to provide additional resources and amenities for the benefit of our students.

We encourage all our families to support our fundraising efforts by paying the P&C levy which is outlined in your school fees. Because of COVID-19 and the ever-changing restrictions, fundraising activities are very limited. Therefore, the P&C levy will be our main source of fund raising in 2021. The P&C remains committed to ensuring we direct funds into educational resources that will benefit the students at Balcatta SHS.

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

Georgie Dragicevich-Knight
President