

From the Principal

As you will be aware, the Prime Minister has announced a public holiday as a national day of mourning for the late Queen Elizabeth II on Thursday 22 September. This means that Balcatta SHS will be closed on this day. It is important to note that the **school term officially ends on Friday 23 September** and all students are expected to attend school on this day. All previous arrangements for the 23 September remain in place and it will be "business as usual."

I appreciate that this may cause some inconvenience but given the circumstances, I appreciate your understanding. I look forward to welcoming students back in Term 4.

The last two weeks have been extremely busy with a number of whole school events.

Whole School Athletics Carnival

The Athletics Carnival was held over two days; Tuesday 30 August for Years 9-12 and Wednesday 31 August for Years 7-8. There were a number of students competing in events and earning House points. The results are:

Champion	Boy	Girl
Year 7	Tenzin Kedah Chogyel	Deshek Wangmo
Year 8	Jordan Duong	Daniella Santich
Year 9	Jaime Macapagal	Faith Patrick
Year 10	Dylan Pike	Minaida Peters
Year 11	Levi Susac	Tiana Crompton
Year 12	Adzi Zein	Eloise Vlatko-Rulo

HOUSE RESULTS

1 st	Poseidon
2 nd	Zeus
3 rd	Aurora
4 th	Artemis

Congratulations to our champion students and to the students who 'had a go'. We are hoping next year to see the return of the whole school athletics carnival held on the same day.

Act-Belong-Commit Week

This week, we celebrated [Act-Belong-Commit Week](#) with an extensive program promoting mental health and well-being 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.

The program included:

- Staff vs students – volleyball, basketball and dodgeball games in which the staff won 2-1
- Giant games such as Jenga, Connect 4, bean bag throw, chess
- Tapestry with Ms Curtis
- Table Tennis
- Circus skills with Ms Gatti
- Nail painting with Ms Holmes
- Clay art with Ms Anderson.
- RU OK? Day – Thursday 8 September
- Flash Mob by the Specialist Dance students

On Friday 9 September, the timetable was suspended for Period 4 and Period 5 which allowed students to participate in a range of other activities and visit information stalls provided by external agencies such as:

- WA Football Commission
- Team Connect (WACA Cricket)
- Helping Minds

- City of Stirling
- City Wide Youth

Other activities on offer included:

- Silent disco
- Drumming
- Giant board games
- Karaoke
- Virtual Reality experience.

As an Act-Belong-Commit school, we take a pro-active approach and role in supporting the mental health and well-being of students, staff and the wider community.

Year 7 and Year 9 NAPLAN

Year 7 and Year 9 parents will be receiving their child's individual report. NAPLAN is a national literacy and numeracy assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. NAPLAN is the only national assessment which all Australian children undertake. The school received the cohorts' reports and the overall results are steady, indicating:

- Year 7 and Year 9 Reading, Grammar and Punctuation, Spelling and Numeracy are in the same median band as 2021.
- Median scores for Year 9 Writing and Reading and Year 7 Spelling are higher than the 2021 scores.

The individual reports will show students' NAPLAN results and are reported on a scale from Band 1 to Band 10. For further details on how to read your child's Individual Report, a document "*Frequently asked questions Individual student reports*" is enclosed with your child's Individual Report.

It was recently announced NAPLAN will be conducted in Term 1 rather than Term 2 in 2023.

Year 9 OLNA New

Currently Online Literacy and Numeracy Assessment (OLNA) testing occurs across four weeks in March and four weeks in September each year. The March testing period is when those Year 10 students who did not prequalify through Year 9 NAPLAN, sit OLNA for the first time. Year 9 who did not achieve Band 8 in NAPLAN will sit OLNA in Term 4 this year. (More detailed information to follow).

Students will continue to be provided with six OLNA sittings (if required) while enrolled in a secondary school setting. This will ensure students have time to undertake focused instruction, based on the feedback provided to schools after each OLNA round, before they sit again.

Consent2Go

Consent2Go is a communication tool we will be implementing at the start of next term. It is designed to enable you to receive excursion/incursion and camp forms via your email address. It will also allow you to update your contact details and your child's medical details. An added feature is that it will also direct you to pay for the excursion, etc via [BPoint](#).

Vaping Presentations

On Friday 26 August, the Years 7 to 10 students were visited by Azelene Williams from the Perennial Health Institute. Azelene is also a registered social worker and holistic counsellor. She talked to the students about the effects of vaping, the effects nicotine can have on your body, addiction and about what is actually in e-cigarettes.

Balcatta Update

There are many dangers and risks of vaping. The health concerns associated with [vaping](#) include a threat of lung disease, including emphysema and chronic bronchitis which are the most common and are both irreversible. Nicotine addiction can also result from vaping and this can disrupt normal brain development and make trying to quit more difficult. Both of these are long term effects which can be difficult for students who vape to understand, but it is important they are discussed so students can see what their potential future could look like if they continue to vape.

Principal's House Awards

The top 10% of students who earned house points in Semester 1 received a letter and certificate from the principal. As a reward, they were invited to a barbeque lunch on Wednesday 7 September. They have also been placed on the Principal's House Award list. At the end of the year, there will be a similar award and congratulatory letter from the Principal. The students on this list at the end of the year will receive a Principal's House Award pin which they can wear next year as a sign of achievement. They will also be able to attend the end of year house winners' pool party.

Breakfast and Farewell Assembly for Year 12 students

Your child's final week of schooling is very important. Due to the recent announcement of the public holiday on Thursday 22 September, the assembly has had to be rescheduled to **Wednesday 21 September**. Normal classes will be held on Monday and Tuesday. We apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Parking will be available for parents in Poincare Street and Amelia Street (drop off and pick up zone).

Wednesday 21 September – Breakfast and Assembly

- 7.45 am Students arrive in full school uniform and proceed to Student Services for breakfast.
- 8.30 am Year 12 Student Prefects will cut the cake and conduct a short speech to fellow Year 12 students. Shirt-signing can occur during breakfast.
- 8.30 am Parents/guardians are invited to attend the assembly – please arrive at 8.30 am and assemble inside the Performing Arts Theatre. Student Councillors will escort you to the Gymnasium.
- 8.40 am Year 12 students prepare for their assembly, which will also be attended by the whole school and parents/guardians.
- 8.50 am Students will line up in alphabetical order alongside the tennis courts.
- 9.00 am Assembly commences.
- 9.45 am Assembly concludes.
- 9.50 am Year 12 students will assemble at the Poincare Street side of the school for photographs. Immediately afterwards, they are to leave the school grounds.

Friday 23 September – Free Dress and Farewell Activities

- Students are required to attend class for Period 1 only.
- Students will walk to the oval for novelty events, such as:
 - tug-of-war;
 - sack races; and
 - three-legged races
- Students will then leave school before the end of Period 2.

Important dates

16 Sep	"Gloria" CO:3 Dance Excursion – Heath Ledger Theatre
20 Sep	Year 7 Round 2 Immunisations (P1-2 in PAT)
21 Sep	Year 7 G&T Awesome Arts Festival Excursion
21 Sep	Year 12 students – 7.45am Breakfast and 9.00am Assembly (parents invited to attend assembly)
21 Sep	4.00pm Primary Schools Art Exhibition in Ron Murphy Art Gallery
22 Sep	Public Holiday (National Day of Mourning for Her Majesty the Queen)
23 Sep	P1-5 Normal timetable applies for Years 7-11 students. P1-2 for Year 12 students. Last day for all students – Term 4 commences on Monday 10 October

Save the Date Reminders:

Tuesday 25 October – students will be rehearsing for the Year 12 Presentation Event (times to be confirmed).

Wednesday 26 October – Year 12 Presentation Event in the Gym commencing at 6.00pm.

Helen Maitland
Principal

Information for Parents

Charges and Contributions

Thank you to the families who have made payments this year. Just a reminder that our preferred method of payment can be made via [BPoint](#). Payments can also be made at the office on weekdays between 8.15am and 3.30pm using cash, credit card (Mastercard or Visa payments can also be made over the telephone).

Should you have any queries regarding your account or if you would like to discuss time payment options, please contact the school on 9345 8200. Balcatta Senior High School relies heavily on parent/guardian payments for course fees which enable our classes to be maintained and updated as required by the curriculum.

Leavers WA

Leavers WA will be held from Monday 21 November to Thursday 24 November 2022. It will be an opportunity for Year 12 students to celebrate the end of their schooling with their friends. It is a challenging time for school leavers, many of whom are fast approaching adulthood. Often, it is the first time they will be away from home without supervision. It is important to celebrate Leavers in a safe and responsible way. WA Police are there to protect the community, including leavers and visitors, and to uphold the law. We ask that school leavers follow some basic rules:

- Party safely and care for your friends;
- Respect the communities you visit and the people living in those communities;
- Drive safely and respect the well-being of yourself, your passengers and other road users at all times; and
- Make your Leavers something to remember, not something to forget.

On the [Leavers WA](#) website you will find:

- information to help plan your Leavers;
- what you need to know about your Leavers wristband;
- advice for parents and guardians; and
- tips for you to stay safe during Leavers and where to go for help if something goes wrong.

For updates on Leavers week, please visit the [Leavers WA Facebook](#) page.