



# Balcatta Update

15 December 2021

## From the Principal

We have reached the final week of the 2021 school year. What a year it has been. As I look back, I would like to share some reflections with you.

- We started the year with the school still under construction (as a work-site)
- The official opening of our new building was put on hold due to COVID-19 restrictions
- The start to the 2021 school year was delayed due to lockdown
- COVID-19 restrictions made the wearing of masks compulsory
- Year 7 enrolment numbers increased, starting the year with 6 classes
- A visit by the Premier to meet VET students
- Inaugural 'Chess Club' – achieved 2<sup>nd</sup> place overall in competition
- Students participating in external academic competitions (e.g. Australian Geography)
- STEAM – a new program for Year 7 and Year 8 students
- Representation at Years 7 to 10 Lightning Carnivals
- Participation in camps (e.g. Gifted & Talented Visual Art, Outdoor Education, Outdoor Recreation)
- STEAMTrain – showcasing dance and music performances to our primary schools
- The launch of our Education Support Program with staff and students moving into the refurbished rooms in B Block
- A revitalised House system – realigning to the original house names and the launch of the house points system
- Design competition for new House logo by students
- Numerous excursions and incursions
- Our performance at the Interscholar Athletics Carnival – highest number of 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places and two Champion Girls in their age group, Year 7 Leah Allen and Year 12 Jessica Santich
- Try-A-Trade projects – Year 9 and Year 10 students gaining building and construction skills
- Act-Belong-Commit whole school activities
- Gifted and Talent Visual Art students' artwork selected for a number of exhibitions
- Dance and music students performed at various events showcasing their talents
- Curriculum opportunities for our students including Year 7 and Year 8 Science Fair, Book in a Day, Health Expo plus many others
- Student leadership opportunities – assisting with transition activities, showing visitors around the school, etc
- Finally, with the completion of our new building and refurbishment program, we are now 'one whole site' from Poincarre Street to Amelia Street. I am so pleased our students and staff can now enjoy our 'state-of-the-art' facilities.

### Year 6 Parent Information Session

This was a very successful event which commenced with a tour of our new facilities. Tudor Uniforms set up a 'pop-up' shop. Many parents took advantage of this opportunity and either purchased or ordered uniforms. There were over 160 parents in attendance which filled our Performing Arts Theatre. The parents were informed about Balcatta SHS expectations, Parent Owned Device (POD), Education Support Program, Orientation Day program information and student day-to-day operations. I welcome our new families to Balcatta SHS. There will be more information sessions early next year once students have commenced the 2022 school year.

### Transition Program

We were able to provide a number of transition activities this year for our local intake primary schools. Some of these have become yearly events such as the Year 5 and Year 6 Primary School Art Competition, Year 5 Balcatta Academic Challenge and an invitation to our Year 7 and Year 8 Science Fair. A new event on offer this year was the participation in Strength and Fitness classes. I look forward to the continued relationships with Balcatta, West Balcatta, Osborne, Takari and Tuart Hill Primary Schools and to welcome their students and families to high school.

We welcomed our 2022 Year 7 cohort on Tuesday 30 November for Orientation Day. The students were divided into groups and participated in a range of mini lessons from the various learning areas with the dance and music students concluding the day showcasing their talents with a special performance. Thank you to the Year 7 and Year 8 Coordinator Mark Entwistle and the transition planning team for their organisation, and our many student ambassadors who assisted.

### Student Achievements

#### Creative Writing Competition

Year 8 student, Alina Chaudhry was short listed and came second across Australia for her age group in this national competition. Well done Alina. What a fantastic achievement.

#### 2021 Australian Mathematics Competition

A number of Years 7 to 10 students participated in this national testing competition. Our overall school performance was very commendable.

The following students achieved a Certificate of Distinction (top 25%) across Australia):

Year 7 – Mitchell Burnett, Jaime Jalla

Year 8 – Benjamin Ellis, Tobias Jordon-Hobby

Year 10 – Sonam Chuki Pelzang

Well done to all students. Congratulations to Jaime Jalla, Year 7 student who achieved the school's highest standardised score. On Wednesday 10 December, they were presented with their certificates at a special assembly and were rewarded with a pizza lunch.

## Balcatta Update

### Semester 2 Awards

On Wednesday 15 December, we acknowledged students' academic achievements with two assemblies for Years 9/10 followed by Years 7/8. There was a significant number of parents, families and guardians in attendance. My main message to the students was to stay focused, be proud of their efforts, reflect on what they need to focus on for next year and ensure they achieve their personal best.

We acknowledged top performing students from each learning area. Congratulations to the following students who were presented with certificates for:

#### Academic Excellence

Year 7 – Chiara Riolo  
Year 8 – Edoardo Russell  
Year 9 – Lakeisha Arifianto  
Year 10 – Finn Holman

#### Respect-Unite-Excel

Year 7 – Leah Allen  
Year 8 – Aoi Hiramatsu  
Year 9 – Stephanie Litchfield  
Year 10 – Jeryn Huntley

Year 11 students will be presented with their awards at a whole school assembly early next year.

### Parking Update

Please note the City of Stirling have erected new signage regarding **NO PARKING in the bicycle lane along both sides of Amelia Street**. Parents, please be advised that you are **NOT** to park on either side of Amelia Street as it is a designated cycle lane. If you are dropping off and picking up your child at the beginning and end of each day, I highly recommend you do so in Cedric Street or Poincaré Street. It is much easier and safer for everybody.

### Future Planning for Parking (drop off and pick up) in Amelia Street

Works on the future planning of a drop off and pick up parking area will commence in the new year. The area will be situated east of the staff car park off Amelia Street. **There will be no parking available in Amelia Street during Term 1 in 2022**, please start to discuss alternative plans with your child.

#### Alternative Ideas:

**Drop off and pick up students on Cedric Street or Poincaré Street.**

More information will be distributed prior to the commencement of the school year. Construction is scheduled to be completed for Term 2 in 2022.

**Please note the last day for students is Thursday 16 December 2021. Students will commence school on Monday 31 January 2022.**

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all staff for their hard work and contributions to Balcatta SHS during another challenging year. I am so fortunate to have such dedicated and professional staff.

Also a very sincere thank you to the members of our School Board and P&C Association for their ongoing support and contributions to the school. These members are volunteers who give up their time to advocate for Balcatta SHS. I look forward to building on the great work and suggestions from the members in 2022.

Helen Maitland  
Principal

### Athletics State Championships Winner

Congratulations to Leah Allen of Year 7, who won a gold medal in U/13 Girls 4x100m Relay at the State Championships last weekend. Leah was also selected in the Athletics West Development squad for Under 13 athletes to represent the state in athletics.

### Year 7 POD Update

This has been the first year of our Parent Owned Device (POD) Program for Year 7 students. A POD review was conducted this term and a summary of the feedback is below:

- 92% students have POD
- 62% Lenova device
- 55% purchased through Department of Education recommended supplier, Stott Hoare.
- Main content delivery platform: One Note, Connect or One Drive
- Learning Areas usage and application varies with regard to curriculum content e.g. research and curriculum activities
- Common website used: Aussie Optimum (health-related), You Tube, STILE, Mathspace
- Common applications used during lessons: internet (for research), STILE, Quizlet, Kahoot, Word, Teams, Mathspace

Issues arising from POD:

- Not all students are bringing devices to school (flat batteries)
- Students off task or misuse
- Student IT skills
- Occasional technical issues

As a school, we are refining the POD Program. Teachers are upskilling and exploring further applications to integrate into our learning area.

### Back to School Processes for Ordering School Uniforms for 2022

Tudor Uniforms is located at 1/75 Excellence Drive, Wangara and can be contact by telephone on 9408 2666.

Tudor School Uniforms Opening Hours:

- **Closed** - from 4.00pm Friday 17 December 2021 to Tuesday 4 January 2022
- **Re-opens** from Wednesday 5 January 2022
- **Open** 8.00am to 6.00pm Monday to Friday and 8.00am to 1.00pm Saturdays (January ONLY)
- **Closed Australia Day** - Wednesday 26 January 2022
- Normal hours - 8.30am to 4.30pm from Tuesday 1 February 2022

For more information, refer to our website -

<https://baltashs.wa.edu.au/for-parents/uniforms/>

### Saver Plus Education

The [Saver Plus Program](#) is a financial program for families and individuals on a tight budget to help develop life-long savings habits. The program, run by The Smith Family and the Brotherhood of St Laurence, provides participating families the opportunity to receive up to \$500 towards education-related expenses. Families with children enrolled at schools across Australia have the opportunity to be involved in this program.

### From Chair of the School Board

2021 has been another challenging year, as we thought we were working our way through COVID-19. Our community was hit with wave after wave of short shutdowns, discussions about vaccinations and variants. The Balcatta School community has taken on the challenge and thrived in leading the school community through another challenging time.

The Balcatta SHS Board has continued to meet to review and promote effective processes and procedures. With the physical surroundings completed early in 2021, students and teachers settled into their new environment with some relish and the school has operated smoothly for the majority of the year. There have been some challenges to surmount and again the Balcatta School community has illustrated resilience and the fortitude to work through these to facilitate growth for the community, especially the students.

The Board extends immense thanks to the Principal Helen Maitland and her Executive Team as they lead the school with aplomb and ensure that planning and processes are in place to work towards school improvement at all times. Their tireless efforts and unshakeable approach are very much appreciated by everyone. The care they take to ensure the best outcomes are available for every single student is tremendous. I take this opportunity to send thanks and best wishes to them all. Under their leadership, the staff of Balcatta SHS work with a singular focus towards ensuring a safe and productive environment for the students and 2021 has been no different. Their efforts are to be commended as they ensure our students experience the best quality education available.

Considerable gratitude goes to the Balcatta SHS Board for their support, integrity, strength and wisdom in ensuring the best of programs and governance for the school. Their energy promotes and demands an inquisitive approach which stimulates thought and ever-increasing enquiry as to how we can do it better. I also thank the sub-committee who reviewed the Board's 'Terms of Reference' in 2021, a vital task in terms of the future of the school by way of pathways to guarantee the best possible outcomes for students.

The Board would like to wish the Balcatta SHS community all the best for a restful holiday. Take the opportunity to recharge and bring continued energy in 2022 to work towards excellence in education at Balcatta.

Kevin Fraser  
Chair of the School Board

### P&C News

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our wonderful families a safe and happy festive season and school holidays.

On behalf of the P&C I would also like to thank the families who paid their P&C Levy in 2021. Your financial contributions ensured we were able to fund more than \$20,000 worth of educational resources for our students. Please know that the P&C always seeks to direct the monies, raised through donations and levies, into supporting educational programs and resources that will benefit the students of Balcatta Senior High School.

I would also like to acknowledge the members of our P&C for their dedication and support during 2021. Without you our P&C would not be able to function.

Stay safe over the holidays and we look forward to seeing you all back in 2022. Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 16 February 2022. 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 with your name and the position for which you would like to nominate to: [pandcbalcattashs@gmail.com](mailto:pandcbalcattashs@gmail.com). We will arrange to send an email to you with 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
- engage with other parents and carers to share information
- work closely with our school to build positive attitudes with students and families and raise funds for additional resources and amenities for the benefit of our students.

As always, please feel free to contact us either via email on [pandcbalcattashs@gmail.com](mailto:pandcbalcattashs@gmail.com) or message us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com.au/balcattashs>.

Ideas and comments are always welcome.

Georgie Dragicevich-Knight  
President