

# Balcatta Update

15 December 2022

## From the Principal

We have reached the final week of the 2022 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 our “official opening event”. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the event was small and the number of guests were limited.
- The Balcatta SHS redevelopment project was awarded the “Hillson Beasley Award for Education Architecture” (nominated by the architects, Hassell). This is the highest award in the Education Projects category.
- The year commenced with the largest Year 7 cohort, starting with seven classes of MESH and other subjects and a full class for the Gifted and Talented Visual Art Program.
- Year 7 students commenced Week 1 with transition activities and an off-site recreational day at Ern Halliday Recreation Centre.
- The return of swimming carnivals in our newly refurbished pool.
- Students participated and represented the school in various sporting events.
- Continued promotion of Act-Belong-Commit through various whole school activities/events including Harmony Day, National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence, NAIDOC celebrations, Wear it Purple Day, R U OK? Day and National Reconciliation Week.
- Continued growth of our Education Support Program including a Work Skills Preparation course.
- Students participated in external academic competitions such as the Big Science Competition and Maths Fest.
- Numerous excursions and incursions across all Learning Areas.
- The appointment of a Careers Practitioner (one of 70 schools to be allocated this resource). Nicole Anderson is developing a whole school plan for Careers Education including the launch of the Balcatta SHS [Careers website](#).
- The growth of Try-A-Trade opportunities for Year 9 and Year 10 students across a range of industries.
- 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Approved Specialist Dance Program.
- The growth of our House System with the launch of the “Principal’s Award”.
- Inaugural Team Connect Cricket for girls.
- Artwork from our Gifted and Talented Visual Art students was selected for various exhibitions.
- Dance and Music students performed at various events throughout the year showcasing their talents.
- Unique curriculum opportunities for our students such as Aston Villa Football Club training clinic, Formula 1 for girls Inspire event, University of WA Space Camp, Virtual Reality learning plus many more.
- Student leadership opportunities including our student representatives visited Parliament House. Also, students assisting as umpires at sporting events, planning whole school events, transition activities, showing visitors around the school, etc.

### Student Achievements

#### Semester 2 Awards

On Tuesday 13 December, we acknowledged students’

academic achievements with two assemblies for Years 7-8 followed by Years 9-10. 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 – Tsheyang Lhazom  
Year 8 – Adela Maldonado Reveggino  
Year 9 – Steven Le, Mohamdali Mortada, Edoardo Russell  
Year 10 – Ahmed Wario

#### Respect-Unite-Excel

Year 7 – Naomi Million Asnake  
Year 8 – Sadie Woodard  
Year 9 – Samuel Omotunde  
Year 10 – Matilda Woodard

#### Education Support Program

##### Respect-Unite-Excel

Year 7 – Mia Downes, Xavier Kerr  
Year 9 – Sapphire Hocking

##### Achievement Award

Year 8 – Seth Rogers  
Year 9 – Damon Williams  
Year 10 – Kaylah Fewster-Duncan

##### Endeavour Award

Year 7 – Justin Hayward, Amelia Stone  
Year 8 – Adam Schneider

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

#### Fogarty EDvance

At the conclusion of 2022, we have completed the inaugural year of the Fogarty EDvance program. This has allowed us to gain direction from all stakeholders in the Balcatta SHS community: students, parents and staff. The feedback has led to the creation of the Strategic Direction document which has informed the newly developed School Business Plan 2023-2025.

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 2023.

Helen Maitland  
Principal

Please note the last day for students is Thursday 15 December 2022. Students will commence school on Wednesday 1 February 2023.

The Administration office will be open from Wednesday 25 January 2023 from 8.00am to 4.00pm.

## Learning Area News

### Years 7 and Year 8 Science Fair

The annual Science Fair was held on Monday 12 December for Year 7 students and Tuesday 13 December for Year 8 students. The students showcased their scientific investigation skills with a range of very interesting and unusual experiments. The judges were the Principal, Helen Maitland, Gifted and Talented Visual Art Coordinator, Sherree Tomlinson, former CSIRO scientist and teacher, Dr Suzy Rea. The judges spoke very highly of the students' work and told the students it was a very difficult task coming up with the winning projects.

Congratulations to the following winners:

#### Year 7

##### Contribution to Science Award

Ivanka Safranek, Taylah Coates (Does Hand Sanitizers really work?)

##### Gifted and Talented Art Award

Alexandra French, Joshita Asapu

##### Students' Choice Award

Patricia Arazo, Svikriti Sharma

##### Confident Communicators Award

Ivan Marjanovic, Kai Percival

##### Principal's Award

Lena Collard, Yangchen Dema, Anh Hoang

#### Year 8

##### Contribution to Science Award

Heer Bhavsar, Kaavya Maniktala, Yashvi Patel

##### Gifted and Talented Art Award

Noey Maisao, Elyysha Maynard

##### Students' Choice Award

Josh Boyce, Daniella Santich, Chiara D'Allessandro, Angel Madamekar

##### Confident Communicators Award

Jaime Jalla, Bell Goodridge

##### Principal's Award

Holly Budalich, Cerise Nel, Vivienne Antal

The Science Fair was visited by parents of Year 7 and Year 8 students, staff, and students.

## Other News

### House System Awards

The "Principal's House Award" is presented to students in the top 5% of point recipients from each year group. The points are awarded during the year by teachers in the categories of Academic, Behaviour, Culture and Community, and Sport and Participation. Over 62,000 points were handed out by teachers this year. The winning students for 2022 will receive a badge honouring their achievement, a congratulatory letter from the Principal and have their achievements published in the next edition of the Balcatta Update in 2023. They will be presented with their award at a whole school assembly early next year.

### Website Upgrade

Please note, the school's website is currently undergoing an upgrade and you may not be able to access it. You may be able to access information via the following links:

POD - [Parent Owned Device \(POD\) - Balcatta Senior High School \(balcattashs.wa.edu.au\)](https://parentowneddevice.wa.edu.au)

Stationery Lists - [Stationery Lists - Balcatta Senior High School \(balcattashs.wa.edu.au\)](https://stationerylists.wa.edu.au)

## Back to School Processes for Ordering School Uniforms for 2023

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 4.00 pm Monday 19 December 2022 to Wednesday 4 January 2023 (inclusive)
- **Re-opens** from Thursday 5 January 2023
- **Open** 8.00 am to 6.00 pm Monday to Friday and 8.00 am to 1.00 pm Saturdays (January ONLY)
- **Closed Australia Day** - Thursday 26 January 2023
- Normal hours - 8.30 am to 4.30 pm from Monday 30 January 2023.

For more information, refer to our website - <https://balcattashs.wa.edu.au/for-parents/uniforms/>.

## P&C News

To our wonderful families, we would like to take this opportunity to wish you a wonderful festive season and a happy and safe new year.

The Balcatta Senior High School P&C has a long and proud history of supporting and committing financial support to the school for the purposes of improving educational outcomes for students.

In 2022 the P&C was able to provide funding, totalling \$20,000 to assist the school with:

- Creative Writing workshops
- Purchase of corded Nibblers that will be used in Metalwork
- Funding to assist with the implementation of the MindFlight7 Virtual Reality Career Experience program.

The P&C has been an integral part of the BSHS community during the school's 50-year history. For the success of the P&C to continue, it needs committed and dedicated families to carry on the work, well into the future.

The P&C will be holding the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 8 March 2023. The current Office Bearers will be stepping down as they have finished their journey at Balcatta SHS. The positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer will all be declared vacant.

To continue the work of the BSHS P&C, we are seeking energetic, dedicated, and engaged people who would be interested in taking on a role. This is an opportunity for parents to become involved with the school community and be part of the educational journey of the students. If you believe you can make a difference and would like to be part of a well-functioning P&C, then join the committee and be an advocate and voice for the BSHS community. If you would like to know more about joining the P&C or are interested in taking on a position, please come along to our final meeting before the AGM which is being held at 6.00 pm on Wednesday 22 February 2023.

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 in collaboration with our school and Principal to build positive attitudes with students and families

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- raise and pledge funds to provide for additional resources and amenities for the benefit of our students.

The current committee will make themselves available to provide support and guidance during the transition period to the new committee. We will assist where possible to make the transition and handover smooth and seamless. There is also a fantastic resource in WACSSO. They are the peak body representing parents and public school students in WA and provide training and support to P&C's. They have great resources available for members covering almost every situation a P&C may encounter.

The current committee can be contacted by either email at [pandcbalcattashs@gmail.com](mailto:pandcbalcattashs@gmail.com) or Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com.au/balcattashs> to answer any questions or provide further information.

Balcatta Senior High School P&C

## From the School Board Chair

It is with great pleasure that I present this narrative for the final 2022 Balcatta Senior High School Board Update, highlighting the journey and challenges that was 2022. We have learned to live with the challenges however, Term 2 presented a unique trial for the whole country with very heavy COVID-19 numbers and serious shortages. The Balcatta community was, as always resilient and courageous and found a pathway to success. I would like to underline the community's commitment to the School Business Plan priorities and highlight the values of 'Respect-Unite-Excel' as these guide our thoughts, processes and actions at all times.

Once again, we extend sincere thanks to the school executive and leadership team, so capably led by the Principal, Helen Maitland, for their guidance and direction. We also extend gratitude to our

Board members for their energy, dedication and valuable contribution. We welcome and thank everyone for their support and commitment, attendance, sharing your experience and expertise and engaging in robust and enthusiastic discussion. I am proud to lead such a wonderful team and offer service to the school community.

Our students are privileged to have a school environment with state-of-art facilities, allowing them to access the best quality education in an up-to-date venue and an excellent environment. We finally held the official opening of the school redevelopment. Sue Ellery MLC Minister for Education and Training acknowledged the significance of the new building to the Balcatta community and unveiled the plaque to officially open the building.

On behalf of the Board and the parents, I would like to thank the wonderful teachers, support staff and school management for their hard work and dedication in guiding our children through their education in challenging and uncertain times.

The Board holds in high regard, the learning environment of the students and teachers and to support our awareness of this, we invite comprehensive presentations around current context, focus on student achievement and outlined pointers for success and strategies, including standardised testing, data, student services, student engagement and programs.

I would also like to acknowledge the Balcatta SHS P&C which is an integral part of the Balcatta community and thank them for their support and commitment to the school community.

Finally, Board members attended the Year 12 Presentation evening celebrating the achievements of a cohort who faced many challenges over the past three years, equal to any in the history of the school. It speaks to the efficacy of the Balcatta community that these fine young people reached their goals despite these challenges. Well done to all!

Kevin Fraser  
Chair of the School Board

## Important dates

<b>15 Dec</b>	<b>Last day for students</b>
<b>16 Dec</b>	<b>School is closed</b>
<b>2023</b>	
25 Jan	Administration Office is open from 8.00 am to 4.00pm, Monday to Friday
26 Jan	Australia Day Holiday (School is closed)
30-31 Jan	School Development Days (no students)
<b>1 Feb</b>	<b>Students commence Term 1</b>
1-3 Feb	Orientation Week for incoming Year 7 students
3 Feb	Year 7 students to Ern Halliday Recreation Centre