



Balcatta Update

2 December 2022

From the Principal

The last two weeks have been busy with a large number of students engaged in a range of incursions and excursions. Some examples have been included in this edition of the Balcatta Update.

On Tuesday 29 November we welcomed the Year 6 students who have enrolled for Year 7 in 2023 to our Orientation Day. There are currently 188 students enrolled for 2023. There was a large number of students from various primary schools who undertook a busy program of activities from a range of learning areas. They were assisted by our staff and Year 7 student ambassadors. We look forward to welcoming them as Year 7 students next year.

Parent Feedback Survey

On Thursday 10 November, we provided an opportunity for parents to give us feedback on our survey, "End of Semester Reporting Comments". Thank you to the parents who completed the survey. Overall, the feedback supported the importance of grades and Attitude, Behaviour and Effort (ABEs) and comments indicating more ongoing feedback throughout the year to monitor progress would be desirable. The school will be reviewing processes to provide more regular feedback to parents.

November Fundraiser

This year, one of our teachers, Jonathon Giles organised a fundraiser for *November*. Along with teachers, Justin Watson and Daniel Wheeler, they raised an amazing total of \$4,063 for mental health awareness and suicide prevention.

The rate of male suicide is alarmingly high: three out of four suicides in Australia are by men! On average, one man dies by suicide every minute of every day.

Mr Giles regrew his moustache and completed a workout every day:

- 60 x Handstand Push-ups
- 60 x Push-ups
- 60 x Pull-ups
- 60 x Bodyweight Squats
- 60 x Sit-ups
- 60 reps for the 60 men we lose to suicide each hour across the globe.

When they reached their fundraising goal, they dyed their hair BLUE in celebration of International Men's Day. Well done to the "Balcatta Mo Bros" and thank you for your support in helping to change the face of men's health.

Annual Gifted and Talented Visual Art Exhibition

The annual [Gifted and Talented Visual Art Exhibition](#) featuring the artworks of our Gifted and Talented Visual Art students was held on Wednesday 23 November in the Ron Murphy Art Gallery.

The night commenced in the A Block quadrangle, with performances from our talented music students.

The quality of the artwork on display was exceptional, very talented and creative.

Top performing students were acknowledged as follows:

Awards of Excellence - Year 7 Alexandra French, Year 8 Adela Maldonado Reveggino, Year 9 Annie Frencham, Year 10 Sonam Tshokey, Year 11 Jeryn Huntley and Year 12 Khurt Baylon.

Shaun Tan Emerging Artist Award - Year 11 Jessica Betti.

Congratulations and farewell to the Year 12 students - Reese Abastillas, Samantha Antulov, Sara Avramovic, Khurt Baylon, Kaitlyn Pope, Jonny Smith, Zoë Thatcher and Ashleigh Willis.

The wearable art fashion parade was amazing, with 26 students showcasing their creations and make-up artistry. There were significant numbers in attendance and a lot of positive feedback/comments were received. This is a BIG undertaking with so many staff involved who help to shape this event, from printing invitations, setting up the art rooms, displays, music/audio and the stage, as well as cleaning, hanging art work, catering, photography and assisting the students with the wearable art, the cleanup, pack up and lock up at the end of the night.

Acknowledgement for the planning of this event goes to Sherree Tomlinson, our Gifted and Talented Coordinator, the Arts Department and Home Economics Department.

Team Connect – Cricket for Girls

Team Connect WA is a national award winning community engagement program using community sport to engage Year 7 girls at potential risk of social isolation. Their vision is for all young women to have the opportunity to have fun and create positive connections to school and community. Everyone deserves a sense of belonging and the opportunity to lead healthy and productive lives. As a result, educational, social, mental health and physical health outcomes may improve. Without this connection, children can become disengaged, which increases vulnerability to negative influences and heightens educational risk.

On Tuesday 29 November, the students were invited to attend the Team Connect Gala Day at the WACA Grounds. The aim of the event assisted in developing confidence and sociability, and gave exposure to positive role models, improved social connections to develop leadership. The students involved in Team Connect Cricket are Nataliah Bodney, Dakota Bodney, Chanelle Bodney-Kawana, Izabell Cramer, Ava Grzelec, Maria Riolo, Eva Rudd, Ada Spadacini, Tahnee Vardy, Nicola Vlahos and Deshek Wangmo. Thank you to Maria Manera who has taken on the ownership of this program.

Year 6 Orientation Day

On Tuesday 29 November, Year 6 students from various primary schools who have enrolled for Year 7, 2023 attended an [Orientation Day](#). They participated in a comprehensive

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range of curriculum activities to assist in the transition to high school, such as MESH subjects (Mathematics, English, Science and Humanities), Drama, Art, Food, Physical Education and Escape Rooms.

School ambassadors assisted with some of the class activities, such as the Escape Room, Science and performances from music, dance and drama students. They did a fantastic job.

A big thank you to Cathie Bonner and Alison Martin for all their work in organising this whole school event. Thank you to all staff who assisted with enrolments/collection of permission forms, welcoming parents and organising activities.

Learning Area News

Formula 1: Girls on Track – STEMPowerment

On Friday 18 November, a group of Year 9 and Year 10 girls attended Driver Risk Management at Perth Airport for the [Girls on Track – Inspire event](#).

The aim of the event was to inspire girls and women aged between 15 and 22 years old to pursue career pathways in the motorsport industry. These events are for those who are passionate about the sport and want to learn more about the various roles in the industry and how they can get their foot in the door. Throughout the course of the day, they completed four activities which concluded with a media coverage skit.

They had an amazing day learning about motorsport and the opportunities it offers for young women. It broadened their minds to think about more careers that were never considered before. A special thanks to Miss Christopher for organising the Girls on Track event and showing them the importance of women's "STEMPOWERMENT".

Year 9 Outdoor Recreation Camp

The Year 9 Outdoor Recreation students held their camp at the Ern Halliday Recreation Centre, Hillarys from Wednesday 23 November to Friday 25 November.

They left school on their bikes and headed to Hillarys Boat Harbour to participate in aquatic activities and lunch. During the three days, students participated in activities such as caving, "Escape the Night" scavenger hunt, kayaking, Mini Olympics, "Minute to Win it" activities, tag and Follow the Leader. They also had a go at fishing under the guidance of RecFish West learning how to bait a hook and cast a line. The students completed the Ninja Warrior course at Whitfords Nodes park and climbed the 21m high lookout and stairs.

On the final morning, it was time to pack up and cycle the 13km back to school. All students thoroughly enjoyed the camp and showed a great amount of resilience when presented with many challenges. A great representation of the fantastic students here at Balcatta SHS.

Author in Residence

Year 7 students were invited to participate in an incursion with an author from the Fremantle Literature Centre on Monday 21 November. Frané Lessac is an author and illustrator, having created beautiful illustrations for more than fifty books. Her greatest ambition is to instil pride and self-esteem in children about their own unique heritage and their ability to capture it in pictures and words. She visits schools around the world sharing the process of writing and illustrating books. The students thoroughly enjoyed the presentation and were listening attentively.

Helen Maitland
Principal

Important dates

3 Dec	Year 5 Big Art Day Out
6 Dec	Year 10 Reward Excursion to Archie Bros
7 Dec	3.30pm Parent Tour for Years 8-12 Admissions in 2023
8 Dec	Literacy Intervention Reward Excursion (ESP) to Super Bowl Warwick
9 Dec	Year 9 Reward Excursion to Archie Bros Year 10 Excursion to SciTech
13 Dec	Semester 2 Awards Assembly (Years 7/8 – Period 4, Years 9/10 – Period 5)
15 Dec	Last day for students
16 Dec	School is closed
