

From the Principal

This week our Year 7 and Year 9 students participated in NAPLAN testing in Reading, Writing, Numeracy and Conventions of Language. The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) will issue individual NAPLAN student reports to the school later in the year. These reports will be forwarded to parents as soon as the school receives them.

Student Mobile Phone Reminder

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 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'. 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.

Amelia Street Traffic Concerns

I am still very concerned about student drop off and pick up by parents on Amelia Street.

Please note: there is NO capacity to park and collect students from the staff carpark.

Poincaire Street is available to pick up and drop off your child. Students are able to access the school through designated safe walkways. I strongly encourage you to instruct your child to use Poincaire Street. If using Amelia Street, ask them to walk to you at the bottom of Amelia Street - do not stop in front of the school to pick up or drop off your child.

I receive many complaints from the local community about traffic issues on Amelia Street. I would like to share one of them.

Message from a concerned local – "can you please ask parents to stop parking on Amelia St during pickup and drop off? I live on that small stretch of road and have nearly died on it trying to get out of my driveway. I have also been witness to multiple near misses where students and parents have disobeyed road rules and shunned basic common sense in their rush to get in and out. It is a major thoroughfare for peak hour traffic."

I am seeking your support to ensure our students are safe and respecting our local community.

Helen Maitland
Principal

Learning Area News

Students have been out and about this week participating in excursions, including the Big Day In at the University of WA on Wednesday 19 May. The focus was on learning about careers in Information Technology (IT). Year 12 students from IT classes

spent the day at Winthrop Hall. They participated in a comprehensive program including listening to leading speakers from companies such as Bankwest, Defence Force Recruiting, Westpac, Microsoft, BHP plus many more, outlining the future of technology and how students can get involved. Students had the opportunity to visit the numerous exhibition stands and speak with the industry representatives.

The Year 11 Health Studies students were invited to Cyril Jackson Senior Campus to be a part of their annual CJ Health Festival. This event has been running for a number of years with the aim of creating links promoting a healthy lifestyle. Our students had the opportunity to participate in a number of interactive activities addressing numerous health, well-being and life skills. Some of the agencies who participated were St John Ambulance, Hepatitis WA, Cancer Council, Donate Life and Amanda Young Foundation. There were a number of other agencies including a range of complementary health practitioners. The event was enjoyed by students as they were able to participate in a range of activities and collect useful information and giveaways.

P&C News

Fundraising - our main fundraising revenue for the P&C comes via the collection of the \$30 levy that is outlined in your school fees. I would like to thank the families who have contributed so far this year. In the coming weeks we will be working with the school to fund education resources needed for the students of Balcatta SHS.

STEM Classroom Cash - with the chance to share in \$25,000 of funding to help boost STEM opportunities at Balcatta SHS, we need our families to collect the coupons that will be in the Saturday edition of The West dated 29 May, 5, 12 & 19 June. The coupons can be handed to a classroom teacher or at the Admin office.

Amelia St Afternoon Pick-up - In the afternoon, Amelia Street is still a nightmare. Cars are parking on both sides and in the middle of the road which is preventing a free-flow of traffic. At the same time, there are multiple vehicles doing U-turns in front of where students are trying to cross the road. Poincaire Street has been available to use since the start of Term 2. You can either pick up from the front of the building or in the Arts carpark. We all need to work together to improve this situation before a student is seriously injured.

Our next meeting is being held on Wednesday 2 June 2021 at 6:30pm in the Boardroom in the school office accessed by the Amelia St entrance.

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

Georgie Dragicevich
President

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Important dates

24-28 May	Quarantine Week (Years 11/12 students)
26 May	Year 7 Lightning Carnival
31 May – 8 June	Years 11/12 Exams (timetable suspended for the week)
2 June	6.30pm P&C meeting
7 June	WA Day Public Holiday
8-9 June	Year 10 Exams (Periods 1-4, normal timetable Period 5)
