



Balcatta Update

27 August 2021

From the Principal

Welcome to the latest Balcatta Update. It has been an exceptionally busy last few weeks for our students as they participated in a range of opportunities for curriculum enrichment, sporting activities and community participation. More information is included in this update and can be found on our [website](#) and Facebook/Instagram pages.

There has been much discussion and planning over the last few months regarding the launch of our new House system. The House system which is inspired by our heritage. We are reverting to the original names when Balcatta Senior High School was founded in 1967, which were based on various Greek gods and goddesses, all with unique characteristics and personalities. They are Zeus (red), Poseidon (blue), Artemis (green) and Aurora (gold). Students have been invited to enter a House Logo Design contest. Students will be awarded House points from various categories, including Sport, Academic, Attendance, Community and Arts. I am looking forward to viewing the finished designs and the launch of our new House system.

Recently, it was announced that NAPLAN results for 2021 will be released soon to schools. We have received preliminary feedback on how students performed in NAPLAN online tests. Preliminary observations indicate positive improvement in the Year 9 cohort for Writing, Spelling and Numeracy. Detailed analysis of school performance will be published in the next Update. Student reports will be sent to parents once they become available.

Students and staff participated in the 800m and 1500m races as part of the upcoming athletics carnivals. The carnival for the Years 9-10 and nominated Years 11-12 students is scheduled for Tuesday 31 August and the Years 7-8 carnival for Wednesday 1 September. **These dates may need to be rescheduled due to the forecast of wet weather.** Parents will be advised on Monday 30 August for confirmation of carnival dates.

[WA School Chess League Finals](#)

On Monday 16 August 2021, five students, with their teacher, Mr Miles Attey, were invited to participate in the WA School Chess League finals held at Perth Modern School.

Representing Balcatta SHS were:

Lucas Agostino (Year 10)
Jerome Pazhooparambil (Year 10)
Ethan Morariu (Year 10)
Flynn Meyers (Year 10)
Ahmed Wario (Year 9)

The winner of the tournament will be invited to represent Western Australia at the Australian Schools Teams finals which will be played online in early December.

[2021 Young Originals Exhibition](#)

The 2021 Young Originals Exhibition is open to aspiring young

artists from Years 7-12 students enrolled in WA public schools. The exhibition promotes excellence in the visual arts across a range of mediums, including computer generated works, graphic design, photography, printmaking, etc. The exhibition will be online from 7 September with all selected artworks published on the [Young Originals website](#). Congratulations to Year 8 students, Armani Kingi and Sierra Tylor-Gregorio and Year 9 student, Sonam Tshokey and Year 7 G&T students whose artwork has been selected for the exhibition.

[Courtesy on Public Transport](#)

Public transportation plays a pivotal role in moving people across the region every day. We pride ourselves in our value of 'Respect-Unite-Excel'. While we maintain these values during school, I ask all parents to talk to their children about courtesy in the community...

On public transport, please adhere to the following:

- Stand aside and let passengers exit first
- Have your fare or SmartRider ready before the bus arrives
- Respect others by being quiet and orderly
- Remove your school bag and place near your feet (do not obstruct walkways)
- Do not use spare seats for your school bag
- Use ear buds/headphones if listening to music
- Do not consume food or drinks
- Never leave your rubbish behind
- **ALWAYS** stand and offer your seat to adults (especially for the disabled, elderly, pregnant or those carrying young children).

Recently, I received an email from a disgruntled passenger: *"I despair when two of your students sitting in the priority seats couldn't even get up for an elderly lady carrying heavy bags on public transport. Beyond being one of the rules of travelling on the student fare (to stand for adults), it is disgusting manners and completely disrespectful. Please see to it that they are spoken to and perhaps a crash course in how to treat your elders!"*

This was followed up with the students concerned.

[Vaping Information](#)

We take the opportunity to share some information about an emerging concern across the country: **Vaping and young people.**

Vaping, or e-cigarettes, is a recent introduction into society and we are only just beginning to understand the impact this has on our health. We all know the impacts of smoking tobacco. However, many people have been led to believe that vaping is not harmful. This is simply not true. Below are some links to relevant fact sheets and information you may find helpful when talking to your child:

https://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Electronic-cigarettes-e-cigarettes

<https://www.quit.org.au/articles/teenvaping/>

Helen Maitland
Principal

Learning Area News

Year 7 and 8 Geography

The Year 7 HaSS students studied Geography, with an emphasis of 'Water in the World' and compared the availability of water in Australia to another country. After a few weeks of investigation, students were asked to present their information on an annotated visual display. The students presented their displays in digital format and poster format. It is always an amazing revelation to see the various ways students engage and present their work after investigating a topic.

Year 9 History

In the Year 9 Academic Extension class, the students submitted a presentation for a History competition, explaining "What does commemoration look like in your community?". Students were placed in groups and had to address the topic. The students then presented to the rest of the class members who had the difficult choice of choosing the best three presentations. The students voted on which of the three selections would be the one to be entered into the competition. The choice proved to be so difficult for staff and class members that a compilation of the three was submitted as the final product for the History competition.

Try-A-Trade Project

On Monday 16 August to Wednesday 18 August, under the guidance of Wayne from Skill Hire, our Try-A-Trade students from Year 9 and Year 10 constructed a new life-size chess board and two limestone block/timber bench seats. The chess board was constructed with paving blocks and reinforced with concrete. The students took great pleasure in measuring the area and laying the pavers. They were a credit to the school and themselves and their trainer was very pleased and impressed. This was a hands-on project for the students who thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Chess pieces have been ordered and the giant chess board will soon be ready to use. The chess board is situated in A Block outside The Arts rooms.

Year 7 Children's Book Week Excursion

On Monday 23 August, a group of 50 Year 7 students attended a Children's Book Week workshop at Karrinyup Library called "Old Worlds, New Worlds, Other Worlds". The workshop was conducted by award-winning young adult author, Deb Fitzpatrick who loves using stories from real-life and was an engaging and interesting speaker. The students were given a presentation on how Deb plans and writes her novels, specifically how she came up with the idea for *The Amazing Spencer Gray*. She detailed her research process and gave tips on how to use inspiration to create storylines and characters for her novels. The students were captivated and enjoyed learning about creative writing from a published writer. The 2021 Children's Book Week poster was designed by former Balcatta SHS Gifted and Talented Visual Art student and Academy Award winner, Shaun Tan.

Year 7 STEAM

On Wednesday 25 August, Year 7 STEAM students attended a water-powered rocket workshop in the Library. The students banded together to build their own water bottle rockets under the guidance of Alex Frost, University of WA Aerospace Project Manager, Mr Matthew Witcombe and other team members. Once they were completed, the students went to the S Block grassed area to launch their rockets.

Act-Belong-Commit Week (6-10 September)

We are coordinating our own Act-Belong-Commit week from 6 September to 10 September with a range of activities. The focus will be on Positive Mental Health.

Foodbank: As part of Act-Belong-Commit Week, we are hosting a school food drive. We are calling on all parents/guardians, students and staff to help us tackle the growing issue of hunger in Western Australia by asking for food donations (non-perishable items only). Some examples include food cans (fruit, vegetables, soups, tuna, etc) and long-life items (UHT milk). Please check the donations are within the 'use-by' dates. Donations can be dropped off at the front office **before Friday 3 September**.

Important dates

31 Aug	Years 9-10 Athletics Carnival and Years 11-12 Athletics Carnival (by nomination only) (To be confirmed)
1 Sep	Years 7-8 Athletics Carnival (To be confirmed)
6-10 Sep	'Act Belong Commit' Week
7 Sep	3.30pm to 4.30pm Years 5/6 Primary School Art Competition in the Art Gallery
9 Sep	R U OK? Day
13 Sep	Periods 1-2 Year 7 Immunisation (Round 2)

