



Balcatta Update

28 June 2022

From the Principal

This is the last Balcatta Update for Term 2, as we all head towards a two-week break. I want to take this opportunity to wish the staff and students a restful break (hopefully COVID-19 free). The last two weeks of this term have been exceptionally busy. Some of the students were involved in a number of social activities such as the Year 12 School Ball and Year 11 Dinner Dance.

Year 12 School Ball

On Friday 17 June, it was great to finally be able to hold our Year 12 Ball (without some of the restrictions of COVID-19). The theme of this year's ball was "Casino Royale". The students arrived at the Pan Pacific Hotel looking very smart and glamorous. The function room was set up in a casino atmosphere with gaming tables of Roulette and Black Jack providing the opportunity for students to 'have a go'. There were lots of photos, socialising and dancing throughout the night. Congratulations to the special award winners:

Beau of the Ball – Khurt Baylon
Belle of the Ball – Lily Karamfiles
Best Dancer – Samuel Kimamura
Best Dressed – Bridget Ntwari and Ali Reza Jaffrey
Best Couple – Sadie Nicholson-Nelkoski and Reese Abastillas
Duke of the Ball – Arul Niroshan
Duchess of the Ball – Leanne Duong

More details and photos can be found on our [website](#).

Year 11 Dinner Dance

The Year 11 students held their Dinner Dance at the Rendezvous Hotel, Scarborough on Friday 24 June. The students enjoyed the experience of socialising, taking lots of photos and having a good time on the dance floor. We had a guest appearance of a 'dinosaur' who joined the students on the dance floor. More details and photos can be found on our [website](#).

Fogarty Update

This year Balcatta SHS commenced the School Improvement Program through being accepted into the Fogarty EDvance program which is a three-year whole school program to support the school's executive team by building leadership and management skills.

This semester, we have undertaken and completed a number of tasks including developing our Moral Purpose, which has been workshopped with the teaching staff. Our Moral Purpose is "to provide a safe, inclusive and caring environment which supports students to reach their full potential". This is at the core of everything we do.

Term 1 gathered data and feedback from staff, students and parents. The data has been analysed by our Senior Leadership Team and shared with staff and the School Board. The data underpins the initiatives of our strategic/School Business Plan, which are:

- Leadership
- Curriculum and Teaching
- Conditions for Learning

We visited two 'Fogarty' schools; Ms Tessa Curtis went to Aveley Secondary College and I went to Coodanup College. It was very interesting hearing from the schools about their journey and the improvements achieved. We will share more details as we continue our journey.

Vaping

WA schools have seen a recent increase in young people vaping. E-cigarettes, or 'vapes', are not safe for young people. They come in many shapes and sizes and can be hard to spot as they can look like everyday items including highlighters, pens or USB memory sticks.

Key vaping facts

Many vapes contain nicotine. Nicotine can cause long-lasting negative effects on young people's brain development, including impaired learning ability and altered mood, and can increase the risk of depression and anxiety.

Vapes can contain the same harmful chemicals found in cleaning products, nail polish remover, weed killer and insect spray, which can lead to serious lung diseases.

Young people who vape are three times more likely to take up smoking cigarettes.

The laws around selling vapes

It is reported that young people often purchase vapes online, from retail stores or from friends and contacts in the community. However, it is illegal in WA to sell e-cigarette devices and nicotine vaping products to anyone regardless of age, unless they are prescribed by a doctor for smoking cessation purposes and obtained with a prescription from a pharmacy. You can report suspected illegal sales of vapes to the Department of Health by emailing TobaccoPolicy@health.wa.gov.au.

Talk to your child about vaping

It is important to take the time to talk to your child about the risks of vaping. Try to start the conversation in a relaxed easy-going way, and remember your goal is to have a conversation, not deliver a lecture. Importantly, get the facts at: www.education.wa.edu.au/drug-education.

Reminder – Semester 1 Reporting Event

Semester 1 Parent Reporting Event will be held on **Thursday 30 June from 1.30pm to 6.00pm**. Bookings can be made via [SOBS](#). **The canteen/cafeteria will not be open and the school will be closing at 11.00am**. Students will be required to leave the school grounds. A normal school day applies for Friday 1 July.

Helen Maitland
Principal

News

VaccinateWA – School-Based Immunisation Program

The School-Based Immunisation Program (SBIP) is a well-established service that offers National Immunisation Program immunisations to students in Years 7 and 10.

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This year, the SBIP will also offer COVID-19 vaccinations to eligible students in Year 7 through to Year 12 at selected schools as part of the regular schedule of immunisations based within schools.

The VaccinateWA system is to be used by parents/carers to complete the vaccination consent form in order to consent to their children/dependants receiving vaccinations whilst at school. (Please Note: VaccinateWA is not being used to book appointments for the School-Based Immunisation Program).

To provide consent for vaccination, the first step is to register your child/dependant on VaccinateWA. Log into your [VaccinateWA](#) account and follow the steps to "Add or manage dependants". If you do not have a VaccinateWA account, you will need to create one for yourself first.

Step by step information for using VaccinateWA is available on the [HealthyWA](#) website. Please call 13 COVID (13 26843) if you have any technical issues with VaccinateWA.

If you are unable to complete the online consent form and you have not already handed in a paper consent form, the school will have forms available for you to use. If the information you provide needs to be clarified, you may be contacted by a staff member from the vaccination team.

If you have already completed and returned a paper consent form, the SBIP team is currently uploading the information into the VaccinateWA system. This process may take several weeks, and you will receive an email confirmation once it has been done.

Learning Area News

Year 9 Try-A-Trade Taster Program

On 16, 17 and 20 June, Year 9 students (comprising of seven girls and seven boys) attended a fantastic three-day Try-A-Trade experience at North Metropolitan TAFE, Balga Campus where they were able to have a 'Taster' experience as a tradesperson.

Day 1 – the students considered the glazing trade, where they made patterned glass for their coffee table, melted down wine bottles to make a platter, developed the art of glass cutting and considered the role of a glazier as a trade.

Day 2 – the students considered the carpentry trade with lecturer, Danny (a past student of Balcatta Senior High Class of 1975). Students had to develop skills in teamwork, follow instructions and use machinery and tools safely in order to be

successful.

Day 3 – the students took their coffee table to the Furniture Finishing Trade. Lots of staining, sanding, waxing and polishing took place to achieve a fantastic result. Once completed, they carefully inserted the glass they made on Day 1, into the top of the table. Students were eagerly working to produce high standards of furniture and were excited to be able to take them home at the end of the day. They pushed through on a tight time schedule and the discussions on the bus of what they had learnt was encouraging as they explore further career opportunities.

Atwell Youth Awards

The Atwell Youth Awards were held from Sunday 12 June to Friday 24 June with the theme being "Life in the Ocean". The following Year 7 Gifted and Talented Visual Art students entered the competition:

Alexandra French, Ava Grzelec, Elizabeth Horbin, Charlize Kwan, Annie Lai, Charlie Parker, Eva Rudd, Ivanka Safranek, Nicola Vlahov and Mia Wallace.

The students have been experimenting with exploring new mediums and painting techniques, with a focus on colour and textures. Brightly coloured canvases captured the colourful corals; untouched, unbleached, and the tactile textures of healthy living species in their natural environment.

Investigating life 'Under the Sea' has given the students the opportunity to reflect on and inspire their creations. It has made them aware of the ongoing impact of how human activity affects marine life and marine habitats: through overfishing, habitat loss, the introduction of invasive species, ocean pollution, ocean acidification and ocean warming. Photos can be viewed on our [website](#).

Mural Painting

On Tuesday 21 June and Wednesday 22 June, the Year 9 Gifted and Talented Visual Art students designed and painted a mural in the B Block car park. The students developed designs from scratch based on images of flora and fauna found locally. With support from Ms Anderson, these designs were developed into a collaborative piece that fitted the proportions of the sea container.

Students had to work hard to create clean lines on a corrugated surface which is a challenge for beginners. They did an amazing job for their first mural project. The sides still need some finishing. Photos can be viewed on our [website](#).

Important dates

27 Jun – 5 Aug	Year 10 (Year 11 in 2023) Course Counselling Interviews
28 June	Years 7-12 Semester 1 reports emailed to parents
29 June	3.30 pm Parent Tour (for Year 7 in 2023 parents)
30 June	11.00am Early school closure for students
30 June	1.30pm to 6.00pm Years 7-12 Semester 1 Reporting Event (Level 1, Amelia Street)
1 July	Last day of Term 2 for students
2-18 July	School Holidays
18 July	School Development Day (Monday – no school for students)
19 July	Term 3 commences for students (Tuesday)