

# Balcatta Update

3 February 2022

## From the Principal

Welcome to the 2022 school year. Again, as a community, we are faced with the challenges of COVID-19. I was very pleased we were able to start the school year with a whole school assembly, with all students following the Government mandate of wearing face masks. The key messages I covered at the assembly included:

- COVID-19 safe hygiene practices
- Mobile phone policy – reminder “Off and Away” while students are on school grounds

### Expectations and Key Messages

1. All students are to be prepared every day for school i.e. dressed in school uniform with required equipment and to arrive in class on time, wearing a mask.
2. Focus on core business – their role as a student is to focus on learning, be respectful at all times as everyone has a right to learn.
3. Always try your ‘personal best’. Don’t give up, seek support from your teachers as they all want the best for you.

I have been visiting all classes and have been pleased to see students actively engaged in their learning. The Year 7 students started with an alternative program for Week 1 which has provided them with the following opportunities to settle into the start of high school:

- Physical education team building activities
- Talks from Student Services team including ‘making friends’
- External presenters such as Helping Minds and Elevate
- IT technician assistance
- Brain theory
- Year 7 student photos taken for SmartRider cards

Students have been going to their option classes and meeting their class teachers. On Friday 4 February, Year 7 students will be attending the Ern Halliday Recreation Camp to participate in a range of activities in an off-site program.

On Thursday 10 February, the Minister for Education and Training, Hon Sue Ellery MLC will be officially opening the redevelopment of Balcatta SHS.

### Staff Update

We welcome the following new staff to the school who will bring a wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm:

Nicole Anderson (Career Practitioner), Jane Balcombe (HoLA Technologies), Kate Barker (HoLA HaSS), Selvarani Bird (Program Coordinator, ESP), Natalie Christopher (HoLA Science), Melanie Moore (Program Coordinator, Student Services), Rica Branca (Psychologist) and Nerissa Cope-Allen (School Officer, Student Services)

### Teaching Staff:

Michael Briggs (Science), Michelle Delval (Science), Pavitra Dewi (Science), Joh Gatti (English/Drama), Donna Hartley

Turner (Mathematics), Carolyn Hutton (Home Economics), James Killow (Science/HPE), Wonder Nyoni (Computing/Business), Sarah Riky (Year 7 Literacy & Numeracy), Louise Santarelli (English), Fred Sharp (Mathematics/HPE) and Chao Sun (Mathematics).

Our current Associate Principals and Student Services Team members are as follows:

#### Associate Principals:

Allison Nolan (Year 7 and Ed Support)  
Daniel Drummond (Years 8/9)  
Tessa Curtis (Years 10/12)

#### Student Services Team:

Melanie Moore (Program Coordinator)  
Alison Martin (Years 7/8 Coordinator)  
Luke Dragicevich (Years 9/10 Coordinator)  
David Curtis (Years 11/12 Coordinator)  
Rica Branca (Psychologist) (Tue to Fri)  
Louise Taylor (Community Nurse) (Mon, Tue, Thu)  
Merrilee Wong (Chaplain) (Tue, Wed, Fri)  
Desley Metcalfe (Attendance Officer)  
Nerissa Cope-Allen (School Officer).

### Amelia Street Parking Concerns

I am still very concerned about student drop off and pick up by parents on Amelia Street. All parents have been advised in previous Balcatta Updates and sent SMS messages to **NOT PARK** on Amelia Street. There are **NO STANDING** signs along Amelia Street as it is a designated cycle path on both sides.

**Please note: There is NO capacity to park and collect students from the staff carpark. DO NOT PARK on Amelia Street.**

Understandably, I am receiving complaints via phone and email from very concerned and upset community members regarding the congestion, unsafe driver behaviour as well as disrespectful and aggressive behaviour towards neighbours and staff. I have requested the City of Stirling and Police to patrol Amelia Street during pick up times. Again, please **DO NOT PARK ON AMELIA STREET, it is a designated NO STANDING ZONE**. As you have been made aware, there is currently a parking and drop off area under construction, which should address the traffic congestion. In the meantime, Poincaré Street is available to pick up and drop off your child (again, ensuring safe driving practices). Students are able to access the school through designated safe walkways. I strongly



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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/Cedric Streets - do not stop in front of the school to pick up or drop off your child. Please do not park on neighbours' lawn/front verges.

**I am seeking your support to ensure our students respect our local community and are kept safe.**



### Uniform

Parents can order uniforms on-line or visit the Tudor Uniform showroom at Unit 1/75 Excellence Drive, Wangara. Visit our [website](#) for more details.

### Late Students

**Reminder:** Poincaire Street gates close at 8.45am. Students who arrive after 8.45am must enter through Amelia Street electronic gates and make their way to Student Admin office or Student Services to sign in.

### 2021 WACE Results

We were very pleased with our 2021 Year 12 data which included the following:

- Median ATAR 80.5 (up from 60.3 in 2020)
- ATAR 90+ - Elise Beirne, Babita Nagra
- 65% of our students successfully completed a Certificate III Vocational Education and Training course, either through school or off-site
- Three students achieved Schools Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCSA) awards:
  - Elise Beirne – Distinction
  - Two students (Not for Publication) – Merit

### School Board Nominations (for parents)

I am now calling for nominations from interested parents who would like to be elected to the Balcatta Senior High School Board. There is a vacancy for TWO parent representatives on the School Board who will be appointed for a THREE-year tenure. The School Board, which consists of parents, community members and school staff, has a very important role in the life of the school. It engages in activities which enhance the education provided by the school, and provides a range of expertise to help the school achieve the best outcomes for all students. The Board meets each term and training is provided for members throughout the year. If you wish to nominate, please complete a [nomination form](#) which is to be sealed in an envelope and placed in the ballot box located in the school's Admin office by 4.00pm Friday 18 February.

If you have any queries, please telephone the school on 9345 8200.

Helen Maitland  
Principal

## P&C News

On behalf of the P&C I would like to welcome everybody to the 2022 school year, with a special welcome to our new families joining the BSHS community. It has been fantastic to see so many Year 7 students starting in 2022.

Due to the never-ending and ever-changing COVID restrictions, our main source of fundraising monies come from the collection of the \$30 P&C levy which appears on your school fees invoice. Please know the P&C always seeks to direct the monies raised through the levy and donations to support educational programs and resources which will benefit our students.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 16 February 2022. All positions, including President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, will be declared vacant. If you are interested in nominating for a position, can you please send an email to: [pandcbalcattashs@gmail.com](mailto:pandcbalcattashs@gmail.com) with your name and the position for which you would like to nominate. We will arrange to email you the nomination form prior to the meeting.

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 closely with our school to build positive attitudes with students and families
- raise funds to provide for additional resources and amenities for the benefit of our students.

As always, please feel free to contact us either via email on [pandcbalcattashs@gmail.com](mailto:pandcbalcattashs@gmail.com) or message us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com.au/balcattashs>. Ideas and comments are always welcome.

Georgie Dragicevich-Knight  
President

## Important dates

4 Feb	Year 7 Excursion to Ern Halliday Recreation Camp
8 Feb	6.00pm to 7.00pm Year 7 Parent Information Event in PAT (RSVP: <a href="mailto:balcatta.shs@education.wa.edu.au">balcatta.shs@education.wa.edu.au</a> )
16 Feb	6.00pm P&C (AGM) meeting – parents are welcome to attend
17 Feb	6.00pm to 7.00pm Year 11/12 Parent Information Event in PAT (RSVP: <a href="mailto:balcatta.shs@education.wa.edu.au">balcatta.shs@education.wa.edu.au</a> )
22 Feb	5.00pm Year 7 Academic Extension Program Parent Information Event
23 Feb	6.00pm School Board meeting
24 Feb	6.00pm to 7.00pm Year 10 Parent Information Event in PAT (RSVP: <a href="mailto:balcatta.shs@education.wa.edu.au">balcatta.shs@education.wa.edu.au</a> )