



# Balcatta Update

30 June 2021

## From the Principal

As we head towards the end of Semester 1, who would have thought that as a state we are still dealing with the uncertainty of COVID-19. During this term, we have been very privileged. Students have been able to participate in excursions and incursions including lightning carnivals, the Nexus 2021 Dance Alliance and the Year 12 Ball. Such events provide numerous opportunities for curricular enrichment and for our students to actively display our school values of Respect-Unite-Excel.

I have had the privilege of attending a number of these events including the Nexus 2021 Dance Alliance and always enjoy their performances. This year was exceptional with the addition of the choir on stage during the Year 7 dance performance of 'A Thousand Years', a highlight thoroughly enjoyed by the audience.

The Year 12 Ball, themed 'Enchanted Forest', was held in the ballroom of the Rendezvous Hotel, Scarborough on Friday 18 June. It was a special night for all who attended. The students looked fantastic in their gowns and suits. There were lots of dancing and photo opportunities with special awards going to:

Duchess of the Ball - Mrs Sonia Sanchez  
Duke of the Ball - Mr David Curtis  
Belle of the Ball - Hope Baird  
Beau of the Ball - Nathan Hamilton  
Best Dressed - Mercy Zico and Doyo Doyo  
Best Dancer - Sebastian Foran  
Cutest Couple - Zara Isikli and Jonathon Samardali

Students have completed their Semester 1 program. Parents will receive their child's report via email by the end of this week and will be able to book a teacher interview (see below for more details). To allow for more meeting times for parents to talk to teachers, I have requested and gained approval from the Department of Education to alter the configuration of the school day on Thursday 22 July for the Parent Reporting Interviews, from 1.30pm to 6.00pm. Learning programs will cease at 12.25pm and students are to leave the school grounds. Transperth buses have been notified and will be able to pick up students at 12.30pm. Any students who are unable to go home will be supervised in the library.

I would like to thank the School Board and the P&C Committees for their ongoing support. Sincere thanks to staff for their hard work and care of our students. I wish everyone a safe holiday break.

Helen Maitland  
Principal

## Year 10 Parent Information Event – 29 June

This event has been cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions this week. Parents have been sent a follow-up SMS message with information on how to access the presentation details and associated links.

## Year 10 students going into Year 11, 2022

It is time for the Year 10 students to start the process of selecting their courses for Year 11 in 2022. Students have had information presentations regarding course electives. Bookings for Year 11 in 2022 Course Counselling Interviews will be conducted between Tuesday 20 July and Wednesday 4 August. Parents will be able to access [SOBS](#) from **4.00pm Friday 16 July** to make appointments (20 mins timeslots) with either Ms Curtis, Ms Middleton, Mr Curtis or Mr Dragicevich. The 2022 Year 11 and Year 12 Academic Handbook for course selection details is available on the [website](#).

## Early school closure for Years 7-12 Parent Reporting Interviews – Thursday 22 July

The Semester 1 reporting process is currently underway and parents will receive a report which will be sent out by the end of this week. On Thursday 22 July, appointments for the Years 7-12 Parent Reporting Interviews will commence at 1.30pm and finish at 6.00pm. Students will finish school at 12.25pm on that day.

The interviews will be held on Level 1 (follow signage as you enter the school). Parents will be able to access [SOBS](#) from **4.00pm Thursday 1 July** to make appointments (10 mins timeslots) with relevant teachers. Please take care in selecting the correct event. Note: changes to this event will be subject to COVID-19 restrictions.

## SEN Planning

Balcatta SHS is currently in the process of planning for the implementation of targeted intervention for students identified as working below their year level in one or more learning areas. Students are assessed throughout Term 1 and identified through the mid-semester Interim Report process.

Following discussions, teachers will develop a SEN (Special Education Needs) Plan with specific goals for the student to focus on within the context of the class program. Strategies will be put in place to assist the student to achieve the goals and master the required skills. The goals will be assessed throughout the semester.

At reporting time, students requiring targeted intervention will receive a general report and they will also receive an extra report based on the progress made towards their specific goals.

If you have any questions about this process, please feel free to contact Cathie Bonner by telephone on 9345 8200.

### Nexus 2021 Dance Alliance

On Friday 11 June our dance and choir students performed in Nexus 2021 Dance Alliance, an annual event presented by students from Shenton College, Cecil Andrews Senior High School and Balcatta Senior High School. The event was held at the Octagon Theatre, University of WA. The students involved in the performance have achieved high standards in movement education. The students, dedicated teachers and Perth dance professionals choreographed their performance. The program represented in this performance delivered excellence in both teaching and student learning. In these programs, students have the opportunity to focus on technique and performance, as well as dance history, kinesiology, theory dance, choreography and improvisation. The Nexus presentation offers the students experience in working in a professional theatre environment, and the chance to see peers from other schools in rehearsal and performance. As well as being talented performers, students in the dance program graduate with presentation skills, self-confidence, leadership skills, an ability to work in a team environment, a sense of rigour and discipline and the want to strive for excellence. All of these qualities learnt in the dance classroom are life skills which hold them in good stead for any choice of career.

### Primary School Winter Carnival

A number of our Years 10 to 12 students proudly represented Balcatta SHS at a Winter Carnival held by our local intake primary schools. The students volunteered to umpire a variety of sports such as volleyball, soccer and netball whilst earning the praises of the local primary school teachers. Thank you to Jack Nixon, Jordan Dordieski, André Alvarez, Nathan Hamilton, Marina Minic, Gabby Velez, Tahlia Wells-Vasile and Vanessa Notis.

### Science Fair

Due to COVID-19 restrictions this week, the Science Fair has been rescheduled to:

Year 7s P1-2 – Wednesday 21 July

Year 8s P1-2 – Thursday 22 July

Parents/carers/guardians are welcome to attend. If you would like to know more, contact Mr Blitvich via email on [Rodney.Blitvich@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:Rodney.Blitvich@education.wa.edu.au) or Mrs Hoy via email on [Kristina.Hoy@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:Kristina.Hoy@education.wa.edu.au) or by telephone on 9345 8221.

### Education Support Program

It has been fantastic to see the continuing expansion of our new Education Support Program throughout Semester 1. Following the refurbishment of B Block, we now have access to several custom-fitted Education Support classrooms and the *Bev Dainton* Independent Living Skills multi-purpose room. Students have been engaged in regular cooking classes where they have been creating and sampling healthy versions of their fast-food favourites and have indulged in baking 'sometimes' foods such as chocolate brownies and birthday cakes. Learning to operate a washing machine and a clothes dryer, hanging out washing and keeping a kitchen clean are among some of the independent living skills practised throughout the week. Students have also practised their cooperation skills, working together to assemble a flat-packed bed and bedside table. This versatile room has now doubled as an art studio for our budding artists and we are looking forward to putting up some great pieces to decorate the rooms.

### Leavers' Jackets

Due to COVID-19 restrictions in place this week, the Year 11 Leavers' jacket sizing has been postponed to:

- Tuesday 3 August, 12:25pm to 1:30 pm (first sizing session)
- Tuesday 10 August, 12:25pm to 1:30pm (second sizing session)

The Year 12 second group photo has also been postponed to Tuesday 21 September in the PAT.

## Important dates

1 July	4.00pm SOBS open for bookings by parents for Years 7-12 Parent Reporting Interviews
16 July	9.00am SOBS open for bookings by parents for Year 11 in 2022 Course Counselling Interviews
19 July	Staff Development Day (no students)
<b>20 July</b>	<b>First day of Term 3 for students</b>
20 July to 4 Aug	Year 11 in 2022 Course Counselling Interviews (parents and students)
21 July	Science Fair (Year 7 students) Periods 1 and 2
22 July	Science Fair (Year 8 students) Periods 1 and 2
<b>22 July</b>	<b>School finishes at 12.25pm for all students</b>
22 July	1.30pm to 6.00pm Parent Reporting Interviews (on Level 1)