

# Balcatta Update

4 March 2022

## From the Principal

It was very pleasing to see the return of our Swimming Carnivals. So far we have been fortunate with the weather. The Year 7 and Year 9 students held their carnivals in the newly refurbished pool. Congratulations to all students who participated and the Physical Education staff for their organisation and running of the event. The results are:

### Year 7 Female Champions

Place	Name	House/Points
1	Lorien Forbes	Aurora-25pts
2	Tayla Fellows	Aurora-14 pts
3	Charli Patrick	Aurora-11pts

### Year 7 Male Champions

Place	Name	House/Points
1	Andrew Bozich	Poseidon-17pts
2	Charlie Parker	Artemis-14pts
2	Liam Letta	Zeus-14pts

### House Points

1. Aurora ..... 117
2. Poseidon ..... 101
3. Artemis ..... 79
4. Zeus ..... 61

### Year 9 Female Champions

Place	Name	House/Points
1	Faith Patrick	Aurora-30pts
2	Olivia Kelly	Zeus-18pts
3	Amy Kim	Artemis-16pts

### Year 9 Male Champions

Place	Name	House/Points
1	Evan Papadopoulos	Zeus-35pts
2	Matthew Lewis	Poseidon-16pts
2	Eddie Russell	Poseidon-13pts

### House Points

1. Aurora ..... 188
2. Zeus ..... 152
3. Artemis ..... 150
4. Poseidon ..... 150

Well done to the champion students, great results

Wednesday 2 March saw Takari Primary School return to Balcatta SHS to hold their swimming carnival in our newly renovated pool.

It was a successful event and a welcome return to some normality.

### COVID Update

It was inevitable that COVID-19 would impact us all. Previous communications outlined the processes the school is required to follow in response to a confirmed positive case. A reminder as to the actions the school is required to undertake is listed below:

1. On confirmation of a positive COVID-19 result, the Principal will contact the Department of Education (the positive PCR text message needs to be sighted by the school).
2. Close contacts will be identified (by the COVID-19 positive student).
3. Parents of the close contacts will be notified, including follow up actions
4. Communication to the whole school community.

A number of our families and staff are being impacted, as they are being identified as a "close contact". Refer to the attached document regarding more information about the definition of "close contacts".

If your child is identified as a "close contact" please ensure you follow the Department of Health guidelines, and the information provided from the PCR result (your text message will indicate the conditions regarding isolation and further testing).

If the result is negative and states isolation is no longer required, your child can return to school. I am seeking your assistance by either emailing a screenshot of the negative result to [balcatta.shs@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:balcatta.shs@education.wa.edu.au) or your child showing the text message at Student Services.

As you can imagine it is very challenging to manage the school during these times and to ensure the whole school community is safe and there is continuity of student learning programs. It is not helpful when "rumours" or misinformation is spread regarding a COVID-19 case or close contacts. It is already challenging, and such rumours or misinformation is detrimental and unsettling.

I endeavor to get the latest COVID information to you as soon as possible and I acknowledge there have been occasions when you have received numerous messages from the school, but it is important I keep you updated.

## Balcatta Update

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Thank you to the many families who have sent through positive feedback and also raised concerns.

As you are aware the school must comply with Department of Health and Department of Education mandates in regards to COVID-19.

Reminder students are required to bring their masks to school and wear them whilst at school and on public transport.

### Fogarty EDvance Program

This year, Balcatta SHS embarked on a three-year school improvement program with Fogarty EDvance.

The program is evidence-based and has been running for nearly 10 years, with over 100 schools in Western Australia having successfully completed the program. Fogarty EDvance provides specific tailored support to schools with a focus on improving student outcomes.

Your feedback is extremely valuable, which you can provide through the Tell Them From Me (TTFM) survey tool. Data from this survey will provide us with baseline data in moving our school improvement journey forward.

Please click on the link below. It is expected the survey will take approximately 15 to 20 minutes. **The survey will close on Friday 18 March.**

<http://tellthemfromme.com/ks48y>

### School Board

The School Board held its first meeting for the year (by virtual WebEx) on Wednesday 2 March.

The fundamental purpose of the School Board is to enable parents and members of the community to engage in activities which are in the best interests of students and which will enhance the education provided by the school. It is about providing additional expertise to help the school achieve the best outcomes for the students.

Welcome to our new members, Professor Clive Barstow (community member) and Tabetha McCallum and Phillip Saraceni (parent members).

Helen Maitland  
Principal

## Important dates

7 March	Public holiday – Labour Day – School Closed
8 March	Year 8 Swimming Carnival – Periods 3 to 5
11 March	Year 10 Swimming Carnival – Periods 3 to 5
14 March	Year 7 Immunisations – Round 1
14 March	Year 7 Interm Swimming Lessons start
25 March	Year 7 Interm Swimming Lessons finish
25 March	Year 12 School Ball
29 March	SOBS open for bookings for Parent Reporting event
31 March	Years 7 to 12 Interim Reporting Event (format to be confirmed)
6 April	Year 8 Immunisations – Round 2
8 April	Last Day of Term 1

# School-based close contact in a high caseload environment

## Testing and isolation advice for schools

### Close contact definitions in schools

#### Face-to-face

At least 15 minutes face-to-face contact where a mask was not worn by the exposed person and the person with COVID-19.

#### Small indoor space/classroom/no mask

Greater than two hours within a small indoor space or classroom environment, where masks have been removed for this period by the exposed person and the person with COVID-19 (note: others wearing masks in this scenario would not be a contact).

#### Advised by WA Health

Someone who is directed by WA Health that they are a close contact.

### Confirmed positive case

**Notify your school and isolate for a minimum of 7 days.**

- At Day 7, if symptoms are present remain in isolation until symptoms clear.
- If no symptoms after Day 7, leave isolation and no testing is required.



### Symptomatic close contact

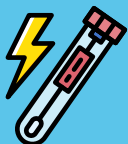
**Notify your school. Quarantine for a full 7 days from the last date of contact with positive case; and take a PCR test or a RAT on Day 1 or as soon as possible:**

- if positive – refer to **Confirmed positive case**
- if negative PCR, continue to quarantine
- if negative RAT, continue to quarantine and take RAT in 24 hours
  - if RAT positive – refer to **Confirmed positive case**. You must report your positive RAT.\*
  - if RAT negative – continue to quarantine.

**Take a PCR test on Day 6 or a RAT on Day 7:**

- if positive – refer to **Confirmed positive case**. You must report your positive RAT.\*
- if negative – and no new household members have tested positive – quarantine ends after Day 7, and people should monitor for symptoms.

**\*Report your positive RAT to WA Health at [www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/ratregister](http://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/ratregister)**



### Asymptomatic close contact

**Notify your school. Quarantine for a full 7 days from the last date of contact with positive case; and take a PCR test or a RAT on Day 1 or as soon as possible:**

- if positive – refer to **Confirmed positive case**
- if negative PCR, continue to quarantine
- if negative RAT, continue to quarantine and take RAT in 24 hours
  - if RAT positive – refer to **Confirmed positive case**. You must report your positive RAT.\*
  - if RAT negative – continue to quarantine.

**Take a PCR test on Day 6 or a RAT on Day 7:**

- if positive – refer to **Confirmed positive case**. You must report your positive RAT.\*
- if negative – and no new household members have tested positive – quarantine ends after Day 7, and people should monitor for symptoms.

If symptoms develop, refer to **Symptomatic close contact**.

### Symptomatic (not a close contact)

**Get a PCR test immediately and isolate until the result is returned:**

- if positive, refer to **Confirmed positive case**
- if negative, not required to isolate but should stay home where possible until symptoms clear.

**If you take a RAT because a PCR test is unavailable:**

- if positive, refer to **Confirmed positive case**. You must report your positive RAT.\*
- if negative, continue to isolate and repeat RAT in 24 hours – if negative after this follow-up test, you are not required to isolate but should stay home until symptoms clear.