



Balcatta Update

4 November 2021

From the Principal

There have been many great opportunities for our students over the last two weeks including:

2021 Creative Writing Competition

Congratulations to Alina Chaudhry of Year 8 whose story for the 2021 Creative Writing Competition, *'Afterlife'* has been shortlisted. Alina's entry was one of the top five in Year 8. Due to the current COVID-19 restrictions, the award ceremony will take place online on Thursday 25 November where there will be an announcement of the prize winners, as well as comments from this year's judging panel and an interview with our Year 12 judge, award-winning author, Cath Moore.

Try-A-Trade Furniture

On 25 to 28 October, some of our Year 9 students were invited to participate in the inaugural Try-A-Trade Furniture Making Program. The program introduced students to furniture making and provided an opportunity for them to experience, explore and make informed decisions about further training and careers in these trades. The students completed a cabinetry project, learnt workshop safety procedures, completed their White Card, listened to presentations from local industry representatives and investigated career pathways by reviewing current academic performance, goal setting, career entry and progression options. Training was provided by qualified tradespersons on a voluntary basis. The program was held over four days at Balcatta SHS and Balga Campus.

Interschool Athletics Carnival

On Tuesday 26 October, Balcatta SHS competed in the Interschool Athletics Carnival held at the State Athletics Centre. We had a very keen team mostly comprising of Years 7 to 10 students. All students were impeccably behaved on the day and represented our school with great pride. Our team was very successful, gaining 21 First Places, 18 Second Places and 16 Third Places. Leah Allen of Year 7 won the Champion Girl in the Year 7 group and Jessica Santich of Year 12 won the Champion Girl in the Year 11/12 group. Balcatta SHS came fifth overall. The Year 7 and Year 8 students were so strong and we can't wait to see how we can improve next year.

'Elysian' Dance Showcase

On Thursday 28 October our Years 7 to 12 Dance students worked very hard preparing for their final performance for the year. This performance is a culmination of the year's technique and choreography work, and gives the students an opportunity to be assessed in a professional theatre setting. The performance was held in the Dolphin Theatre, University of WA.

Gifted & Talented Visual Art Exhibition

On Tuesday 2 November, we held the annual Gifted and Talented Visual Art Exhibition in the Ron Murphy Art Gallery.

The exhibition was well-attended by families, staff and other community members, including David Michael MLA and Mayor Mark Irwin. Jodie Davidson, one of our art tutors opened the exhibition, with a very sincere and passionate speech about the Arts. The art work was amazing, with so many talented students showcasing their work. The Wearable Art fashion parade was a highlight. We were also entertained by some of our Music students, which complemented the event. Congratulations to The Arts team on a successful event.

NEWS

School Development Day

Students are not required to attend this Friday 5 November as it is a student free day. School recommences on Monday 8 November.

New staff

Welcome to Sheryl Nosan-Blank who is teaching Year 7 Mathematics and English classes.

Gifted and Talented Presentation

The Gifted and Talented Secondary Selective Entrance program provides the opportunity for exceptionally able students to study in learning environments that challenge, inspire and empower them to excel every day. Students in Gifted and Talented programs learn with like-minded peers, following an enriched curriculum designed for their needs, delivered by teachers with expert skills and knowledge. Access is provided to universities, industry bodies and mentoring programs with opportunities to take part in national and international competitions. The selection process starts when students are in Year 5, testing in Year 6, with placement starting from Year 7.

Balcatta is one of 23 schools who will be hosting this event on Tuesday 9 November in the Performing Arts Theatre commencing at 6.00pm. Please register for a [parent presentation](#) to learn more about the Gifted and Talented application and selection process.

Remembrance Day

On Thursday 11 November, we will once again, be running the RSLWA Poppy Appeal. This annual appeal ensures that ex-service men and women are able to access adequate welfare and care services. The appeal is run in accordance with Remembrance Day as poppies are the universal symbol of Remembrance. This came to be after poppies were the only flower to bloom on the battlefields in Turkey. Poppies will be available from Student Services for a gold coin donation. Monies will be donated to RSLWA.

Helen Maitland
Principal

Balcatta Update

Student Services

Attendance Process

All students are expected to attend every school day and to be on time. Students who arrive late to school may miss information at the start of the lesson. Arrivals after 8.50am are classified as a morning absence and require students to bring a note from their parent/guardian explaining their absence.

We understand there are circumstances when your child will not be at school. The school is expected to follow up absences that are not explained. As part of the parent/guardian's responsibility, you can help by contacting the school to provide a reason for the absence or send your child with a note on their return. A medical certificate should be supplied if your child misses an assessment.

Leaving School Early

No student is permitted to leave the school grounds without permission from their parent/guardian. Parents requiring permission for their child to leave the school grounds **must** provide the student with a note and contact Student Services either via SMS on 0409 686 684 or via email at balcatta.shs@education.wa.edu.au. Students must sign out at Student Services, allowing them to leave the school grounds.

Uniform Policy

The Uniform Shop on site is not operational, and orders will need to be through the Tudor Uniforms, Wangara warehouse or online. As the weather changes, we request your child is

prepared with the correct uniform. Student Services is unable to provide loan uniforms due to our supply not being returned.

An additional point of clarification is **blue leggings**. Leggings can be ordered as part of the school uniform from Tudor Uniforms but **must be worn underneath a skirt, shorts or skort** – not as an item on their own. The Balcatta SHS [Uniform Policy](#) outlines this and other uniform requirements.

School uniforms are available from Tudor School Uniforms, 1/75 Excellence Drive, Wangara. Opening hours are: 8.00am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday.

More information is available on our website - <https://balcattashs.wa.edu.au/for-parents/uniforms/>

Student Mobile Phone Reminder

As you are aware, the State Government implemented a Student Mobile Phones in Public Schools policy. The policy requires all public schools to implement a ban on the use of mobile phones, smart watches, earbuds, tablets and head phones for all students from the time they arrive at school to the end of the school day. The policy is 'off and away all day'. Exceptions are allowed for students who have approval from the Student Services Manager to use a phone to monitor health conditions or when a teacher gives students permission to use mobile phones for a specific curriculum purpose. If a student needs to contact a parent/carer, they can ask at Student Services. Parents must always communicate through the school on 9345 8200 if they need to make emergency contact with their child/ren.

Important dates

5 Nov	School Development Day (students do not attend school on Friday 5 November)
9 Nov	6.00pm (DoE) Gifted & Talented Secondary Selective Entrance Program Presentation (application and selection process) in PAT
11 Nov	Remembrance Day Poppy Appeal (poppies available for a gold coin donation at Student Services)
12 Nov	Last day for Year 11 students – Reward Excursion to Adventure World
15 Nov	4.30pm Parent Tour for PS staff and parents of Year 5 students attending Takari and West Balcatta Primary Schools (RSVP required)
16 Nov	4.00pm Parent Tour for PS staff and parents of Year 5 students attending Balcatta, Osborne and Tuart Hill Primary Schools (RSVP required)
15-19 Nov	Year 11 Exams
18-19 Nov	Year 10 Exams