



Balcatta Update

5 August 2022

From the Principal

Welcome. It has been a busy start to the term and we are now at the end of Week 3.

On the second last day of Term 2, Balcatta SHS was offered the opportunity for students to participate in a training session with the coaches of Aston Villa Football Club, a Premier League football club based in Aston, Birmingham, England. The team was in Western Australia for the Perth Festival of International Football. We were offered two training days on Tuesday 19 July and Wednesday 20 July. The students who participated in the training clinic were thrilled and enjoyed the experience.

Another activity in which a number of students participated was the annual "Write a Book in a Day" competition. This year Balcatta entered four teams from Years 7 to 9 in the competition. The students had twelve hours to write and illustrate a book from start to finish. Students needed to draw on a broad skills set to accomplish this task. I visited the teams throughout the day and was impressed with their energy and enthusiasm. The story lines were very interesting and the completed books, four in all, will be donated to children in hospitals all across Australia. Students raised funds through sponsorships and monies raised will be donated to The Kids' Cancer Project, a national charity with a mission to support scientific research to help children with cancer. If you would like to sponsor a specific student, you can click on the [link](#) and search for them individually (type in Balcatta). Alternatively, you can sponsor a team by searching for "**Balcatta 1**" (Year 7/8), "**Balcatta 2**" (Year 8), "**Balcatta 3**" (Year 9) or "**Balcatta 4**" (Year 7).

Mrs Nicole Anderson, our Career Practitioner, has been working with Year 9 students in HaSS studying biomes. The students participated in a MindFlight7 Virtual Reality experience. The incursion was facilitated by flight crew from MindFlight7, who worked with the students to provide them with a virtual reality experience exploring career pathways. This has been a unique experience for our students, as they are able to 'travel' to virtual field trips.

Another very interesting incursion opportunity was a presentation from the Honourable Justice Michael Barker QC (retired), who spoke to a number of Year 10 students studying Civics and Citizenship. The presentation was about the 1992 MABO decision, which paved the way for the changes to Native Title law across Australia. The students learnt about the history of Torres Strait islands and the importance of the MABO decision.

The Arts Learning Area has been busy with incursions and exhibitions. On Wednesday 3 August, the Year 9 Gifted and Talented Visual Art students were invited to participate in an extended portraiture workshop using oil paints and the Alla Prima technique. This workshop helped to refine skills learnt from their major studio work this semester.

The 19th Annual Exhibition of **St George's Cathedral Art**, an exhibition of works by senior art students from WA schools, was held at St George's Cathedral from Saturday 16 July to Sunday 24 July.

The artwork of Riscia Vinta (Year 11), Jessica Betti (Year 11) and Zöe Thatcher (Year 12), were featured in the exhibition.

The City of Subiaco is presenting the 12th annual **Shaun Tan Award for Young Artists in 2022**. The exhibition is open until Sunday 7 August. The award was open to Western Australian school students and encouraged imagination, innovation and creativity. Congratulations to Year 7 student, Lekzin Tobgay whose artwork was selected for the exhibition.

The first night of our annual Choreography performances titled Act 1; Continuum for our Dance students was held on Thursday 4 August with the second performance tonight commencing at 7.00pm in the Performing Arts Theatre. Tickets have been sold out for tonight's performance. These performances are very important for the students' development within the Dance program, and they have been engaged in intensive project-based tasks for several weeks. I had the privilege of attending last night's performance and was very proud of their achievements.

Over the last three weeks, the Year 10 students have had their course counselling interviews with Ms Tessa Curtis, Mr David Curtis, Mrs Nicole Anderson, Mrs Deb Middleton and Mr Luke Dragicevich. The course counselling is an important process in preparation for the successful transition into senior school.

Helen Maitland
Principal

News

New Parking Zone

The new carpark for "drop off and pick up" on Amelia Street will be open from Monday 8 August. The gates will be open from 8.15am to 8.45am in the morning and they will reopen from 2.30pm to 3.30pm in the afternoon each day.

For safety reasons, students will need to use the footpath to get to the new carpark. They **are not** allowed to walk through the staff carpark.

Parents, please be cautious and courteous when dropping off and picking up your child/ren. **When exiting the carpark, there is NO RIGHT TURN onto Amelia Street.**

Year 10 Immunisation

The Year 10 [School-Based Immunisation Program 2022](#) Meningococcal vaccine is available to all Year 10 students. This vaccine is **NOT** COVID-19 related.

The immunisations are scheduled for Thursday 18 August 2022. No immunisation will be given unless a consent form has been received.

If you would like your Year 10 child vaccinated on this day, please complete and sign the consent form then return it to the Admin office as soon as possible before the immunisation date.

Spare copies are available from the Admin office.

Balcatta Update

Wearing of Masks on Public Transport

Students and parents are reminded the wearing of masks is still mandatory on public transport.

Whilst we appreciate masks being uncomfortable, we ask the students to please follow the rules to protect themselves, other passengers, the bus drivers and their families during this difficult time.

Student Achievements

Lorien Forbes and Tayla Fellows

Lorien and Tayla, both in Year 7, attended the Artistic Swimming National Championships in Brisbane, QLD from 30 June to 4 July. They won a bronze medal in the 13-15 age category team event and a silver medal in the International Event. Their club, West Coast Splash, was second overall in Australia.

Nadya Igusti and Ben Ellis

Year 9 students, Nadya Igusti and Ben Ellis, were selected to represent the WA Rhythmic Gymnastics State Team in the 2022 Australian Gymnastics Championships (Nationals) held in Queensland from 12 May to 17 May.

Nadya has represented Western Australia in Australian Gymnastics Championships four times, giving her invaluable experience and friendships. She is determined to work towards her goals for next year.

Ben had an amazing experience competing for WA in the Men's Artistic Gymnastics Team, Level 7 Open. It was an intense competition and he was inspired to see so many high level gymnasts at their best. The WA team placed 5th and Ben ranked 9th overall on vault as well as performing his other routines well. This was a great outcome. It was his first National event and he was the youngest competitor on his team, as well as in his level. Ben currently trains 15 hours a week over four days. His commitment and determination are commendable, particularly in the last couple of years when sport has been so affected by COVID-19 restrictions.

James Edwards

Year 12 student James "Eddi" Edwards is currently producing his debut solo album, using skills learnt in Certificate II Music. He has an eclectic and moody style featuring sounds of nature and his mesmerising vocal harmonies provide a platform for the listener to ride through his music in a trance. He was recently informed one of his songs has been played on JJJ digital radio and has been shortlisted as a potential winner of the contest. This is an amazing achievement and should be celebrated.

To support him, you can go to the [link](#) and listen, review and download the three songs from his upcoming album by clicking on the following link:

Year 9 students – "Legion"

Rock band "Legion" featuring Year 9 students, Siddharth Das, Gregan Gomes and Edoardo Russell and their Music teacher, Mr Daniel Rees spent about two days tracking the different elements of their song including everything you can hear on the link below. Mr Rees is very pleased by their professionalism and commitment they have shown in preparing their song.

Please give their song a listen/review/download and support them in their journey by clicking on the [link](#).

Autism in Cricket

The Autism Association of Western Australia is holding a "Come and Try" morning session at the WACA grounds on Saturday 3 September for all children who love cricket or want to find out more about the game. All ages from 4 years old are invited to come and give cricket a go.

Take part in the fun activities, meet cricket legend Adam Gilchrist and take home a goody bag. It is also a great way to find out how the Autism in Cricket Team, Endorsed Clubs, and the [WACA - Western Australian Cricket Association](#) staff can support you to link up with your local cricket club.

RSVP for the "Come and Try" session here bit.ly/3RZFJtC

Reminders for Parents

Visitors to the School

All visitors to the school **must** report to the Admin Office. If they have an appointment with a teacher, the teacher will be contacted to come and collect them. **Parents visiting the school are not to go direct to classrooms.**

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.

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.

Important dates

11 Aug	Year 7 NAPLAN Trial Test (Periods 2 and 3)
12 Aug	Year 9 NAPLAN Trial Test (Periods 1 and 3)
12 Aug	Years 9 to 10 Assembly (Period 4)
12 Aug	Years 7 to 8 Assembly (Period 5)
15-19 Aug	National Science Week
18 Aug	Year 10 Immunisations (Meningococcal vaccine) – Consent forms available from Admin office