



Balcatta Update

6 August 2021

From the Principal

Welcome to the latest Balcatta Update.

Thank you to the families of Year 10 students who attended the Year 10 course counselling interviews to select their courses for 2022. Many of our students have put a lot of thought into their career pathways. We look forward to seeing them develop towards their goals in Year 11.

I had the opportunity to attend the Year 11 Health Expo in the Library today. The students were knowledgeable about their topics and provided excellent opportunities for our school community to learn about different aspects of health. It was a vibrant and exciting atmosphere and I thoroughly enjoyed being able to engage with the Year 11 Health students in such an informative environment.

There have been daily athletic events held throughout the school for the annual athletics carnivals. Students have been involved in high jump, discus, running, etc in the lead-up to the carnivals. The athletics carnivals will be held on Tuesday 31 August for Years 9-10 and for nominated students in Years 11-12. The Years 7-8 athletics carnival will be held on Wednesday 1 September.

Semester 1 Awards

On Thursday 5 August, Semester 1 Awards presentation assemblies were held for Years 10-12 students during Period 4 and Years 7-9 students during Period 5. It was wonderful to see how many families and friends supported the students by attending the assemblies. We share their pride in their children's achievements.

Gifted and Talented Visual Art Program

Congratulations to the Years 8, 9 and 10 students (15) who sat the top-up Gifted and Talented Visual Art testing. They have been offered a position in our Art program.

The **META art and design exhibition** showcases innovative and exciting creative works completed by Year 11 and Year 12 students enrolled in Visual Art, Design or Media courses. META complements North Metropolitan TAFE's prestigious Art, Design and Photography programs and acknowledges the excellence and originality of budding artists, designers and photographers in senior secondary schools across WA. The exhibition is open at North Metropolitan TAFE Gallery Central from Monday 2 August to Friday 20 August; Mon – Fri 11.00am – 4.30pm and Sat 12pm – 2.30pm.

Congratulations to Hana Abbott, a Year 11 Gifted and Talented Visual Art student, who won the highly commended award at META.

Tessa Curtis on behalf of Helen Maitland
Principal

Learning Area News

Year 12 Children, Family and the Community

Students have been investigating the needs of families and individuals when faced with circumstances beyond their control. As a class, we focused on homeless people and their specific needs in our community. Students made a variety of items such as scarves, warm hats, gloves and heat packs, as well as purchasing some basic personal items such as toothpaste, toothbrushes and sanitiser. Congratulations to our compassionate, generous students who will help to make the world a bit brighter for the homeless members of our community.

Year 10 Childcare

Students have been learning about the needs of newborn babies and have had the experience of caring for a virtual baby of their own. The students were very excited to have their adopted baby to take home during their Childcare lesson on Tuesday 20 July. Reality soon set in when the babies awoke and required their needs to be attended to. What did the baby want? This was part of the challenge of working the baby out and determining if the cry was for a feed, nappy change, burp or a cuddle. Sometimes, the baby would cry at inopportune times such as during class, or when the students were in the shower or trying to participate in sporting activities. Just like a real baby! By the time students had to return their baby on Thursday 22 July, many were VERY tired and had gained a small insight into the workload associated with having a baby.

Year 11 Health Studies

Students were busy preparing their presentation for the annual Health Expo on Friday 6 August 2021. Prior to their presentation, they learnt the skills necessary for presenting to a large crowd. They worked on their communication skills, looked at how health is promoted in schools and on a bigger scale, and also looked at various health issues affecting our population and the ways to prevent or reverse these issues. The expo involved students forming research groups and a health focus topic. They were then required to compose a report, design an interactive activity to educate and engage students in learning about their health issue and also present a visually attractive stall. Students were encouraged to contact various organisations via telephone and/or email to collect pamphlets, ideas, giveaways and information for their topic. The students did an amazing job and were thoroughly exhausted after speaking and interacting with hundreds of students and teachers for the day. This is a great eye-opener for them if they are interested in health promotion in the future and is always a crowd favourite event.

Year 10 Gifted and Talented Visual Art

Students spent last Friday at Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery (LWAG) at the University of WA as part of a collaborative project which will result in the students' work being shown at the gallery in September. Students were fortunate enough to receive a personal tour of each of the three exhibitions at LWAG by curators Sally Quinn, Lee Kinsellas and Janice O'Lally. The project requires the students to respond to one of the works from the 'Feeling Abstract?' exhibition and use this as a platform to develop their own work.

Write a Book in a Day

This is an initiative for The Kids Cancer Project. A group of Years 7-9 Academic Excellence students will be participating in the Write a Book in a Day activity in school on 30 August twelve hours to write and illustrate a book from start to finish. To make it even more fun, unique parameters and random words provided on the morning of the activity must be included in the story. Writing starts at 8.00am and must be completed by 8.00pm.

All completed stories will be included in the Online Library on the Write a Book in a Day website, and will be shared with hospitals around Australia for families and children undergoing treatment. The money raised will go towards much needed childhood cancer research through The Kids' Cancer Project. Your sponsorship will be greatly appreciated.

VacSwim Swimming Lessons

Enrolments for [VacSwim](#) in October 2021 and January 2022 school holidays are now open! Find a [program](#) near you and [enrol](#) now. VacSwim has helped children to stay safe and confident in the water across Western Australia for over 100 years. We offer:

- vital swimming and water safety skills
- lessons for beginner, intermediate and advanced swimmers
- a variety of programs ranging from five to ten days
- opportunities to progress through [Stages 1-16](#) and obtain [Bronze Medallion](#)
- lessons at over 180 pool and beach [locations](#) throughout Western Australia
- friendly, qualified swimming staff.

Programs will operate in line with current health advice. Physical distancing and good hygiene practices will be in place.

For any VacSwim enrolment queries, please telephone 9402 6412 or send an [email](#) to VacSwim.

Important dates

11 Aug	6.00pm School Board meeting
31 Aug	Years 9-10 Athletics Carnival and Years 11-12 Athletics Carnival (by nomination only)
1 Sep	Years 7-8 Athletics Carnival
6-10 Sep	'Act Belong Commit' Week