



# Balcatta Update

6 May 2022

## From the Principal

The start of the term saw major changes to the management of COVID-19, with the lifting of some of the public health measures.

The change to close contacts means a child will no longer be identified as a close contact at school.

Reminder, if your child becomes COVID-19 positive, please contact the school. If your child becomes symptomatic they should stay home and be tested for COVID-19. Refer to [healthywa.wa.gov.au](https://www.health.gov.au).

It has been a positive start to the term, with students engaged in their learning programs.

Welcome to the following new staff:

Rachel Brown – English

Nicolette van Schie – English

Jessica Pesti – Dance

Eliza McGuinness – Learning Support Teacher

Leah Broderick – Physical Education

Wendy Doyle and Yael Hoenig – School Psychologists (Term 2)

We are hosting eleven pre-service teachers in the following Learning Areas: English, Humanities and Social Sciences, Design and Technology, Science and Health and Physical Education.

### Year 11 (2021) Awards

Due to COVID-19 restrictions during Term 1, we were unable to acknowledge 2021 Year 11 student awards. On Tuesday 3 May during the Year 12 assembly, the successful students were presented with the following awards:

Certificates for *Top Student and Merit Awards*.

Special Awards to:

*Academic Excellence Award:*

- Marko Saltamarski

*Respect-Unite-Excel Award* for following our school's values:

- Fatema Alyaser
- Jordan Kitanovski
- Achai Abulabek

Congratulations to these students.

### Parking Update

During the holidays the work continued on the Amelia Street carpark area, as well as the construction of four parking bays on Amelia Street, at the front of the school. We will communicate to parents once the Amelia Street carpark is ready.

I have received communication from parents and neighbours regarding driver behaviour, during drop off and pick up. It is very concerning to hear drivers are doing U-turns in the street and nearly causing traffic accidents, as well as students running across the road, creating potential accident situations.

Can all drivers dropping off or picking up students from either Amelia Street and Poincare Street be vigilant and careful and look out for our students?

### Specialist Dance 40th Anniversary

Our Approved Specialist Program in Dance is one of a few dance programs in Western Australia and this year we are celebrating our 40th anniversary. Over the years our dance students have performed and represented the school at numerous events. A number of our students has continued on to careers in the dance and creative industries. Throughout this year we will be sharing highlights of our dance program. An event is planned for Term 4. More details will be coming soon so you can save the date.

Helen Maitland  
Principal

### NAPLAN

Every year students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 participate in NAPLAN tests in reading, writing, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. The assessment provides parents and schools with an understanding of how individual students are performing at the time of the tests. NAPLAN is just one aspect of a school's assessment and reporting process. It does not replace ongoing assessments made by teachers about student performance. All Year 7 and Year 9 students will be provided with a detailed [NAPLAN schedule](#). Spare copies for students will be available at Student Services.

If you would like to know more about the tests, please access the NAPLAN Online – [Information for Parents and Carers](#) brochure. The brochure provides information on what parents and carers can do to support their child during NAPLAN testing.

## News

### ANZAC Commemoration

On Friday 29 April, an ANZAC Commemoration was held in a virtual format during Period 2 class. Year 12 leaders, Adzi Zein and Saadah Mahmoud led the service with Acknowledgement of Country and old video clips showing Australian and New Zealand service men and women serving in the armed forces. The video clip outlined the conditions the first ANZACs faced as they landed on the Gallipoli peninsula in 1915. Mrs Maitland addressed the whole school with a focus on the importance of ANZAC, Ahmed Wario (Year 10) recited the Ode of Remembrance, The Last Post was played showing various clips of buglers playing from around the world and concluded with one minute's silence. Thank you to Mrs Kate Barker, HoLA HaSS for organising the virtual commemoration of ANZAC Day.

### Student Achievements

Year 9 students, Nadya Igusti and Ben Ellis have been selected to represent the WA Rhythmic Gymnastics State Team in the 2022 Australian Gymnastics Championships (Nationals) being held in Queensland from 12-17 May. We wish them both the very best!

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## Premier's Reading Challenge

On Thursday 5 May, the Premier Mark McGowan and Education Minister Sue Ellery have launched the Premier's Reading Challenge. The challenge will run from Thursday 5 May to Friday 9 September 2022 and is open to all students from Kindergarten to Year 10. Students participating in the challenge must read at least 12 books over the five-month period to be in the running to win major prizes. Prizes include a family holiday for the winner in each of the four-year group categories, and are available for students who read the most books, as well as those who have shown a significant improvement in their reading habits. Weekly prizes are also on offer. Students can go in the draw by logging a book per week. This year's theme is *'Reading can take you anywhere'*, showcasing to students that a love of reading can open the door to a world of opportunities. Books can be read across all formats, including audiobooks, Braille and books in any language, and in all genres, including comics and graphic novels.

Additional support will be available for teachers so they can give their students any extra help they may need with phonics early in their schooling.

Visit the Premier's Reading Challenge website at [www.premiersreadingchallenge.wa.edu.au](http://www.premiersreadingchallenge.wa.edu.au) to register, search over 7,000 book titles and log books read.

## Elevate Workshops (Year 7)

The Year 7 students will undertake the second Elevate workshop next Monday 9 May during Period 2 – Junior Time Management. They will then have completed two workshops - Study Skills Kick Start and Junior Time Management this year, as part of our transition to high school program.

The following workbooks can be viewed so you can support your child with their study/homework program:

- [2022 Year 7 Elevate Program BSHS](#)
- [Study Skills Kick Start Manual](#)
- [Junior Time Management Manual](#)

All Year 7 parents have free access to the Elevate parent webinar series. The webinars are held fortnightly on Wednesday evenings. Parents and guardians can go to the following link to register – [Webinar Registration | AU \(elevatecoaching.info\)](#)

## Learning Area News

### Years 7 to 10 Big Science Competition

During Weeks 2 and 3, the Years 7 to 10 Academic Extension Science classes will be taking part in the "Big Science Competition" which is a 50 minute, multiple choice competition testing science knowledge, critical-thinking and problem-solving skills. Questions are set in real-life, contemporary contexts, making them relatable (and interesting).

The Big Science Competition is an easy way to challenge students and track their performance against the state or

nationally. Competition questions are aligned with the Australian Curriculum for Science.

Students will receive a certificate indicating their performance. The Big Science Competition could lead to selection in Science extension programs including the [Australian Science Olympiads](#) and [Curious Minds – Girls in STEM](#).

### Year 11 Psychology ATAR students

The Year 11 Psychology ATAR students have been studying cognitive processes, such as sensation and perception. They have looked at sensory organs and stimuli as well as illusions and distortions of visual perception. This included a cow's eye dissection to investigate the physical anatomy of the eye.

### Careers Information

In the lead up to National Careers Week (16-22 May 2022), we launched our own [Careers website](#). It is a live website that contains the latest information for post-schooling options, a live calendar with open days, information to assist parents and students in the lead up to subject selections and much, much more. Our school community will be engaging with this interactive platform on a regular basis, and you are encouraged to take a look.

The Careers Expo will be taking place at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre from 12-15 May. This is a free event and will be open on the weekend to allow families to explore the many opportunities available across a large number of industries, universities and VET areas.

Try-A-Trade for Years 9 and 10 students will be taking place at North Metropolitan TAFE on from 27-31 May to give students interested in pursuing a trade pathway the opportunity to try a range of trades. Interested students should see Mrs Nicole Anderson (Career Practitioner) for an *Expression of Interest* form, as places are limited.

### Young Leaders Council at University of WA

During the Term 1 holidays a number of Year 12 students attended the Young Leaders Council at UWA. Students met with other students from different schools around Perth such as Perth Modern, Aquinas College, All Saints' College and more. This day in particular focused around the idea of inclusivity and accessibility, teaching student leaders different methods for school improvement. More specifically, there was a discussion about ethno-culture and how to make events and schools more accessible for people with disabilities. Those who attended the full day said they had lots of fun getting to know other students from different schools and learning how each school had a different way of running the student council. The Young Leader Council was an enjoyable and valuable experience for the students involved as they now have created a network for themselves with the other students. They have expressed interest in going to future YLC events.

## Important dates

2-20 May	Year 12 Externally Set Tasks (EST)
9 May	School Photos – all Year groups
10 May	School Photos – catchup and Year 12 group photo
10-20 May	NAPLAN
12 May	Year 8 Lightning Carnival
12 May	Career Expo Excursion – Year 10 (am) and Year 12 (pm)