



Balcatta Update

8 April 2022

From the Principal

As Term 1 draws to a close, I have reflected back on what has been another challenging start to our year. I am amazed and very proud of our school community as we managed the complexities and ever-changing scenarios and guidelines COVID-19 dealt us.

As always, schools are very busy places and as much as possible (within COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines), we have been able to participate in a number of events which have included:

- Year 7 Induction/Orientation Week (including a day event at Ern Halliday Centre)
- Years 7 to 12 Swimming Carnivals
- National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence) with a number of events) coordinated by Student
- Harmony Day) Services and various) Learning Areas
- Excursion opportunities:
 - * Year 8 students – Women in Trades
 - * Years 10-11 students – Chef for a Day
 - * Outdoor Education events
 - * Senior Basketball Competition
 - * Year 12 Psychology/Human Biology students to Perth Zoo
- OLNA testing for Years 10-12 students
- NAPLAN Omnibus Practise Test for Year 7 and Year 9 students.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we held our Virtual Interim Reporting Event. Staff were available to communicate with parents, either by phone or email. We hope to return to “face-to-face” meetings for the Semester 1 reports.

Health and Well-being

As we approach the end of Term One, I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the importance of looking after ourselves as we take a break from regular routines.

As parents and carers, you know your children best. You are in a good position to monitor your children’s well-being and to recognise early signs they may be experiencing difficulties. These signs can include changes in behaviour, mood or health, or your child may communicate (directly or indirectly) how they are feeling and thinking.

If you are concerned about your child over the holiday period, I encourage you to seek further advice and assistance. There is a range of external services available for young people and families while schools are closed. Please read the [attached letter](#) which includes resources for services providing assessment, intervention, phone and web-based support. Your family GP may also be able to provide information/referrals to other services.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank staff for their planning and work towards engaging and supporting students during this very challenging term, with COVID-19 absences impacting both students and staff.

I wish all students and staff a restful, relaxing and COVID-19-safe holiday break.

I look forward to the start of Term 2 and the many opportunities that will come our way.

Helen Maitland
Principal

House System Report for March 2022

The school relaunched the house system in 2021 and allocated points for the last half of the year to all students for achievement in Academic, Community, Behaviour and Sporting endeavours. The reintroduction of the original Houses from the opening of the school saw Poseidon (blue), Artemis (green), Zeus (red) and Aurora (gold) become the house names and colours.

The banners for each house have been ordered and will be displayed in the new gym and we are also looking into a variety of shirts and merchandise to become available in-house colours to help upgrade our sports uniform and add to our uniform in general. The House captains will be seeking feedback from students about the type of merchandise we may produce. So far, the thought of caps, beanies and scarfs have been popular as well as socks and water bottles.

At the end of 2021, an exhaustive process of nomination and interviews was conducted and outstanding leaders were chosen to lead the houses from each year group. Each captain will receive their badge next term. The Year 7 House captains are in the process of being chosen and will be informed early next term.

Please read the attached [link](#) for 2022 House captains, current point standings, top 5 students, Years 7 - 12 leading point getters and top 5 teachers.

Uniform Reminder

Parents can order on-line or visit the Tudor Uniform showroom at Unit 1/75 Excellence Drive, Wangara. Visit our [website](#) for more details.

Learning Area News

Basketball Competition

On Tuesday 29 March, Balcatta SHS was involved in the School Sport WA Secondary Champion Schools Basketball Competition held at Bendat Basketball Centre in Floreat. This event was organised by Health & Physical Education teacher, Mr Liam Robinson.

Balcatta sent three teams to the competition; one Year 12 team and two Year 11 Teams consisting of more than 25 students. The Balcatta teams played four games each against a variety of teams over the day. All teams won at least one game and the Year 11A Division team made it through the Round Robin games before being knocked out in the semi-finals.

We also had nine Year 9 students come along to help umpire, score and coach the Upper School teams throughout the day.

Balcatta Update

Their assistance ensured the smooth running of the day and was very much appreciated.

All teams played with great sportsmanship and Mr Robinson was very proud of the way they represented their school and themselves. Well done students!

Education Support

Our Years 10-12 students are preparing for work placements by completing the Work Skills Preparation Course.

This program is based on a range of skills required across a number of disability employment providers such as Activ Foundation, Workpower and Good Samaritan Industries where they require goods to be counted, bundled, sorted, measured, packaged and organised.

The classroom is treated just like a workplace where students are required to wear PPE, practise good hygiene and follow safety regulations. They must accurately follow instructions, work independently or as part of a team by communicating

effectively, as well as applying problem-solving strategies when they find something challenging. They are building resilience and the Education Support team is impressed with their capabilities already.

Year 11 Health Studies

During Week 9, guest speakers from PBF (Paraplegic Benefit Fund) held a presentation to three Year 11 Health Studies classes. They discussed their personal stories of how they damaged their spinal cords from different forms of road trauma. The idea of these presentations was to remind our students about taking care when using the roads and not to be afraid to speak up when they are in a situation which makes them feel unsafe when driving with others. It also highlighted the "Fatal 5" that every driver needs to consider. They are **seatbelts, fatigue, speed, drugs & alcohol and distractions**. All students were thoroughly engaged and were left pondering what kind of driver they will be in the future.

Important dates

8 April	Last Day of Term 1 for students
25 April	ANZAC Day Public Holiday (Monday – no school for students)
26 April	School Development Day (Tuesday – no school for students)
27 April	Students commence Term 2 (Wednesday)
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
