



Balcatta Update

12 March 2021

From the Principal

It has been very busy over the last few weeks.

The Minister for Education, Hon Sue Ellery MLC and the Premier, Hon Mark McGowan MLA, visited the school on Tuesday 16 February to view our facilities in the new Technology Block. They were met by our Year 12 Student Leader Representatives, Nathan Hamilton and Phuntsho Choden and escorted to the Technology Block, where they were introduced to Design and Technology teacher Hal Schmiedte and the Year 12 Building and Construction students.

On Wednesday 17 February we held our first School Board meeting. We welcomed the new Chair, Kevin Fraser, and parents, George Ognenis and Steven Summers.

OLNA

Some of our Years 10 to 12 students have been undertaking Round 1 of the Online Literacy and Numeracy Assessment (OLNA), which is designed to enable students to successfully meet the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) requirement of demonstrating the minimum standard of literacy and numeracy.

For example, it would be expected that a young person leaving school can write a good job application, read and follow instructions and complete the sort of maths adults encounter all the time when shopping or balancing the family budget. These skills, as described in the [Australian Core Skills Framework \(ACSF\)](#) at Level 3, must be demonstrated in:

- literacy (reading and writing), and
- numeracy.

There are two ways students can demonstrate the minimum standards:

- prequalification through the Year 9 National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN), or
- performance in the Online Literacy and Numeracy Assessment (OLNA).

Students who achieve Band 8 or higher in any of the three components of reading, writing and numeracy in their Year 9 NAPLAN are acknowledged as having demonstrated proficiency in using a range of ACSF Level 3 skills in that component.

We look forward to receiving the students' results and will provide additional assistance for students to meet the requirements. Round 2 of OLNA is scheduled for Semester 2, commencing on 29 August.

NAPLAN Online

National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) assesses the fundamental skills of reading, writing, spelling and numeracy, which are essential for every child to progress through school and life. The assessment is undertaken annually in May by all Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 students throughout Australia. The School Curriculum and Standards Authority, in collaboration with the Department of Education, is facilitating Western Australia's

delivery from paper-based to online.

On 25 March and 26 March, all Year 7 and Year 9 students across Australia will be undertaking a practise test, to check the online capabilities and to familiarise the students with the different online facilities. [Please refer to the attached letter.](#)

Learning Area News

Students are well-engaged in their learning programs. I have been into a number of classes and students are studying and learning about a range of topics including:

English

Year 7 students have just completed a unit on short stories, where they read and analysed a variety of short texts and worked on activities to strengthen their understanding of narrative conventions. Currently, the Year 7s are focused on writing letters in class. They have discussed the context in which letters are written, and the conventions used in letters. They will practise using the language required for formal letters and send cover letters and mock job applications through email to prepare them for the world after high school. At the end of the unit, the students will write a detailed autobiographical letter addressed to their teacher.

The Year 8 English classes are currently studying the Historical Fiction genre where historical facts are blended with fiction. Students are reading a variety of examples to identify the characteristics of this genre, while also learning about many significant moments and famous figures in our world's history. This unit will require the students to use ICT to develop their research skills and complete a creative writing task on a topic of their choice. At home, they may enjoy exploring the list of suggestions provided to them and start to think about ideas for their own historical piece. We look forward to reading their stories.

Year 7 Food and Fibre

This term, Year 7 students have been learning simple sewing skills to create textile items. Firstly, they learnt how to use the equipment – sometimes threading a needle can be hard! Once needles are threaded, students then learn two basic stitches, running stitch and back stitch. They completed a sampler with two rows of this stitching and used the same stitches to sew their initials. With the basics completed, students are now working on making a small bag to for the 'thumb war arena'. They will make when they move to Woodwork. Our next project is a bookmark which is designed individually by students utilising the skills they have learnt so far, as well as some of the different fabrics on offer, such as the fabulous tie-dyeing samples we have made. 'Sew much fun!' Ask your children about the fabulous things they have been working on.

Parking – Driver Behaviour

I am still very concerned about the driver behaviour by some parents on Amelia Street. I have received complaints from the local neighbours regarding parents parking on their verge/garden, flicking cigarette butts onto their properties and verbal abuse. This is so disappointing.

I have suggested on several occasions to collect your children from Poincaré Street where they are able to access the school

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through designated safe walkways. I strongly encourage you to instruct your child to use Poincaré Street, or have your children walk down Amelia Street. It is not permitted to collect your children at the car park entrance of the school's driveway. Some parents continue to disregard the signage which states "Bus Zone" either side of the school driveway which makes it dangerous for cars exiting the grounds.

Please note: there is NO capacity to park and collect students from the staff carpark.

I am seeking your support to ensure your children are picked up in a safe manner and to be respectful of the local neighbours.

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.

Uniform Policy

School uniforms are available at [Tudor Uniforms](#). The Uniform Shop on site is not operational, and orders will need to be through the Wangara warehouse or online. As the weather cools down, we request that 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.

Balcatta SHS Uniform – Jacket Availability

Due to a shortage of certain fabrics being manufactured in China, our uniform supplier only recently became aware they can no longer source a supply of our current school jacket. Currently Tudor Uniforms have stock available of the existing jacket but only in certain sizes.

To ensure we have a jacket available in all sizes, we have worked with Tudor Uniforms to find an alternative. The new jacket we have selected is a softshell fabric which is becoming very popular

in schools across Australia.

The details of the jacket are:

- 100% polyester mechanic stretch fabric bonded with microfleece
- 3 layer Softshell fabric 245gsm
- Waterproof rating 10,000mm and breathability rating 800mm
- Front slant pockets with reversed opening for better water repellency
- Adjustable sleeve opening

Please note the existing jacket that many of our students are currently wearing will remain part of the school uniform. There is no requirement to purchase the new jacket if you currently have the existing one. The cost of the new jacket will be \$59.00.

Thank you for your understanding.

Helen Maitland
Principal

From the P&C

On 24 February 2021, the P&C held the Annual General Meeting. The following people were elected to the committee:

President – Georgina Dragicevich-Knight
Vice President – Stacey Litchfield
Treasurer – Tony Bujaroski
Secretary – Christina Durgutovski

We extend a sincere thank you and welcome our existing and new members who attended the AGM and supported the P&C.

The success of our P&C relies on the involvement and support of parents, carers and the wider school community. Being involved with our P&C provides an opportunity to:

- learn about the policies and programs of the school
- engage with other parents and carers to share information
- work closely with our school to build positive attitudes with students and families
- raise funds to provide for additional resources and amenities for the benefit of our students.

In 2021, we are again encouraging all of our families to support our fundraising efforts by paying the P&C levy which is outlined in your school fees. Because of COVID and the ever-changing restrictions, fundraising activities are very limited. The P&C levy, therefore, will be our main source of fund raising. The P&C remains committed to ensuring we direct funds into educational resources that will benefit the students at Balcatta SHS.

As always, please feel free to contact us either via email at pandcbalcatashs@gmail.com or message us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/balcatashs>. Ideas and comments are always welcome.

Georgie Dragicevich-Knight
President

Important dates

25-26 March	Years 7 and 9 NAPLAN practise test
1 April	Last day of school for Term 1
2 April	Good Friday (Public Holiday)
20 April	Term 2 commences for students



Dear Parent/Guardian

NAPLAN TESTING FOR YEAR 7 AND YEAR 9 STUDENTS

NAPLAN testing for Year 7 and Year 9 students will occur in the fortnight of 10 May to 21 May 2021. You will receive more information about these tests as the time approaches.

As NAPLAN testing is now **ONLINE**, all schools across Australia are required to run a practise test. This test will be held on Thursday 25 March and Friday 26 March 2021.

Year 7 students will have a Writing test during Periods 1 and 2 on Thursday 25 March and an Omnibus test (includes Reading, Conventions of Language and Numeracy) during Periods 1 and 2 on Friday 26 March.

Year 9 students will have a Writing test during Periods 3 and 4 on Thursday 25 March and an Omnibus test (includes Reading, Conventions of Language and Numeracy) during Periods 3 and 4 on Friday 26 March.

	Thursday 25 March	Friday 26 March
Periods 1 and 2	Year 7 Writing	Year 7 Omnibus
Periods 3 and 4	Year 9 Writing	Year 9 Omnibus

All NAPLAN testing requires students to be in Computer Laboratories so other year groups may have room changes to accommodate the testing.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me by telephone on 9345 8200.

Yours sincerely

Mary Griffiths
Associate Principal

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