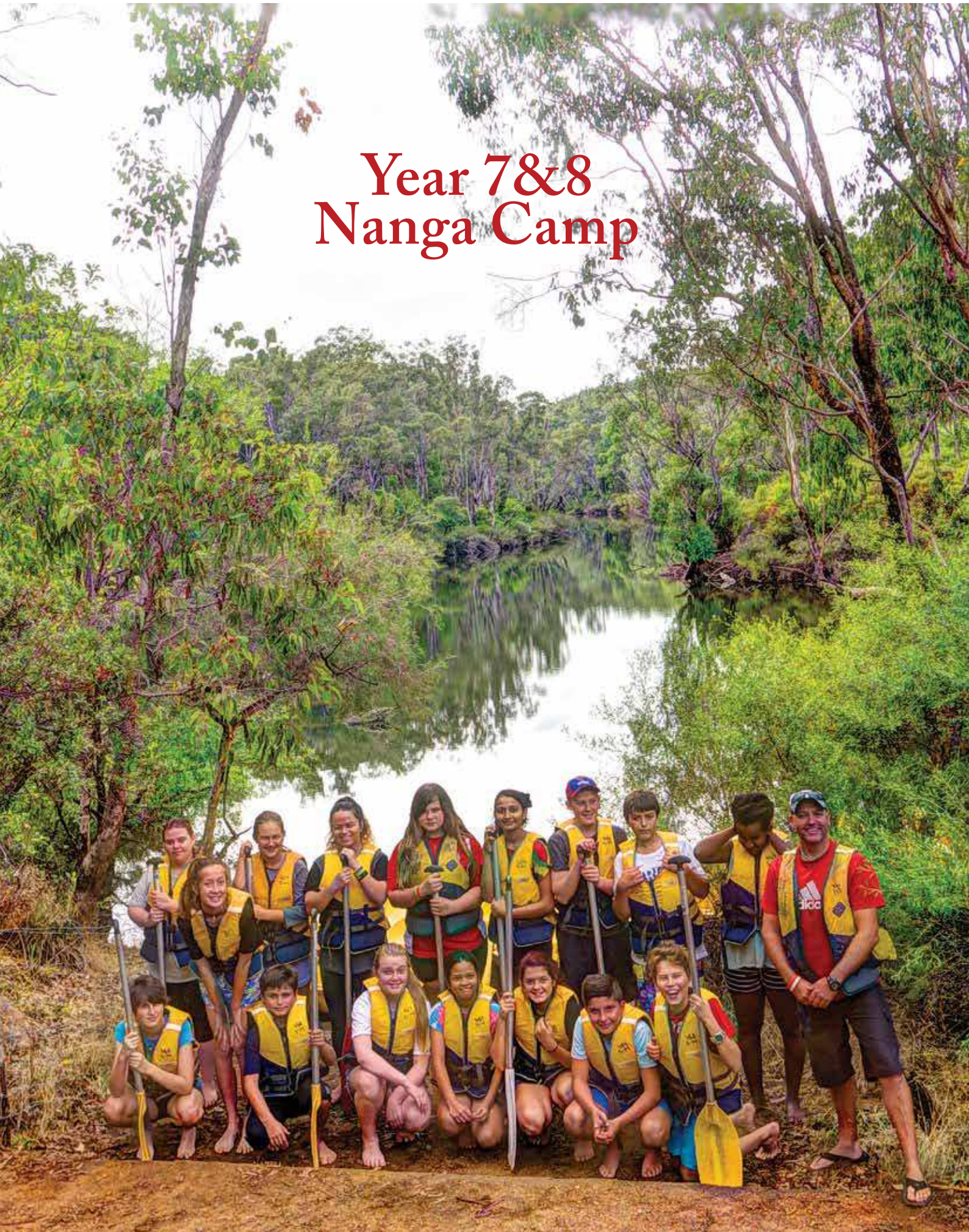


Year 7&8 Nanga Camp



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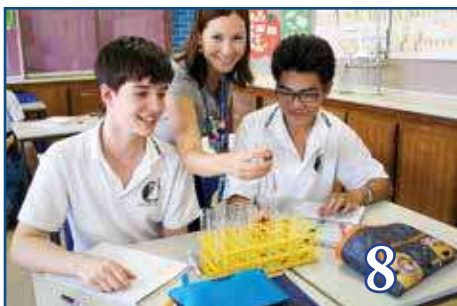
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Respect - Unite - Excel

From The Principal

Lesley Street

At Balcatta Senior High School, we are committed to providing an engaging, creative and challenging curriculum in an inclusive learning community with a strong focus on pastoral care and student achievement.



I am delighted to have been appointed as Principal of Balcatta Senior High School while Ms Kristancic takes some well-deserved leave. I was aware of the school's reputation as a school that provides a wide range of quality programs that cater for student needs including the highly regarded Gifted & Talented Visual Arts Program, the Approved Specialist Dance Program and the Multi Media Graphics program. These programs are in addition to providing a comprehensive range of courses for students of all abilities.

I have spent the last thirteen years as a director in various roles in central and regional offices although my background is as a school principal. I was previously the principal of Ballajura Community College and also of Girrawheen Senior High School so it is nice to return to a school in such an exciting time for education.

Congratulations to the 2014 Year 12 students whose results featured a number of strong performances that resulted in most students being offered places in their courses of choice. In fact 87% of the students achieving an ATAR were eligible for a 'front door' entry to university.

Balcatta's students achieved an Attainment Rate of 94%, which was higher than the State percentage of 82.8% with 98% of our students achieving the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE). Special mention must be made of Chaitra Muralidhar and Gene Mendoza who were awarded ATAR and Vocational Dux respectively. We were extremely pleased when Chaitra Muralidhar and Chloe Lau were awarded a merit based scholarship from Curtin University.

It has been a very interesting and busy term for staff and students at Balcatta Senior High School. Firstly educational history was made when Year 7 students entered high school for the first time. This move offered students several advantages including providing them with access to specialist teachers and specialist facilities. The move also brought WA in line with the other states. A second challenge was having two cohorts enter the school at one time and we welcomed 225 students to the school. We are very pleased with the positive way that students have settled in to the demands of high school. I am also delighted with the way that our senior students have gone out of their way to make them welcome, answer their queries and generally assist

them to settle in to their new environment.

During the last few weeks I have had the opportunity to visit classrooms to see staff and students in action. I have been very impressed with the behaviour and attitude to learning displayed not only by the senior school students but also by the younger students. We all know that school is more than formal classroom learning and I have been really impressed by the range of activities that are offered outside of the normal school day. These have included pool parties, carnivals, breakfasts, camps, excursions and incursions. Many of these events are featured in this edition of the Balcatta Bulletin.

On Monday 9 March Head Prefects Alisa Jakupovic and Peter Milner, accompanied by me, attended the Commonwealth Day Youth Concert at Government House. This was the first formal event that our Head Prefects have been invited to as representatives of Balcatta Senior High School. The Concert, hosted by the WA branch of the Royal Commonwealth Society was held in the presence of Her Excellency the Honourable Kerry Sanderson AO. The Concert featured solo and group performances from a number of schools including Nedlands Primary School, Scotch College, Shenton College and Penrhos College. As well as musical items, we were privileged to listen to speeches from the finalists of the 2014 Royal Commonwealth Society Speech and Leadership Contest. After the Concert Her Excellency spoke to our students about their plans for their future careers.

I wish students and staff a safe and well-deserved break.



Ms Street, Peter Milner and Alisa Jakupovic pictured with Her Excellency the Honourable Kerry Sanderson AO

World Challenge Expedition - Cambodia and Vietnam 2014

During term 4 last year Mr Schmiedte and I took 8 students to Cambodia and Vietnam on a 21 day expedition. We experienced the highs and lows of travelling within a group and into unknown territory. Some of our many highlights and memorable experiences included: sunrise at Angkor Wat; a day cycling the surrounding temples of Siem Reap; 4 day trek through Ratanakiri jungle; visits to S-21 and the Killing Fields in Phnom Penh; visiting the Vietnamese War Museum in Ho Chi Minh City; a week long volunteer project rebuilding toilets at a Vietnamese Primary School and a day trip to our Cambodian Sister School – Treng Treyeoung. Not to mention the endless types of food we ate in both countries. The growth and leadership demonstrated by our students was truly inspirational. We are so proud of what they achieved in competently managing a budget, planning transport, meals and accommodation, and working together as a cohesive group to create wonderful memories that I will carry with me forever.

Thank you, Tegan Walker

Student Testimonies

Alisa Jakupovic

Visiting Cambodia and Vietnam was genuinely a trip like no other. Unlike other trips we had all been on, this one really challenged us mentally and physically. We had a lot of ups and downs, but in the end we all learnt a lot about one another and ourselves. It was good for us all to get out of our comfort zones and challenge ourselves. Our initial fears of being away from home and depending only on one another slowly faded away as we realized how great we were as a team. I would not take a second of the trip back, and I would easily do it again.

Katelyn Campbell

A trip like this was a dream of mine since I was young, and to finally get the chance to do it was amazing. It was everything I expected, and more. It was truly the best experience but it is hard to explain on paper. The emotions we experienced were like being on a rollercoaster ride but if it were a ride I would get on again and again.

Jasmine Glover

World Challenge was definitely a challenge. It taught us all different things. For me the trek was my main challenge. Having a heavy pack on my back was very hard. The highlight of the expedition was finishing the trek. It was a proud moment and gave me a lot of self-belief knowing if I put my mind to something I can achieve it.



A long hot trek



Varied means of transport

Niamh Carey

World Challenge was an unforgettable experience, worth all the trouble and effort.

The main thing I learnt from the expedition was a sense of independence, because although we were living with friends, we ultimately felt 'on our own'. This made me appreciate home, but also understand that it's nice to be away and miss normality. In saying that, the further into the trip we got, the more normal living in those conditions became.

It was a lot of fun with the other girls, and I'm grateful to have had two of my closest friends with me as there is no way it would've been as enjoyable without them. I have no regrets and will always remember the events that happened on our 2014 Cambodia and Vietnam trip.

Christina Border

The three nonstop weeks we spent on World Challenge were filled with so many unforgettable (good and bad) experiences. It was extremely eye opening to see the conditions that the local people live in and how they are so happy with the very little they have. I would definitely go back to Cambodia and Vietnam, as the countries have so much to offer and the people are so welcoming and always go out of their way to say hi, no matter the language barrier. Before the trip I was hesitant but I'm so happy to have gone and made these special memories with the girls.



A welcome rest break



Embarking on their great adventure



Heidi French

The trip to Cambodia and Vietnam was honestly the trip of a lifetime. I think I started off my international travels on the right foot. I was not reliant on my parents for money and planning, it was left to us as a team. We have all learnt important life lessons from this. I have come out of this trip more independent and self-sufficient, knowing how to get around, find accommodation and source food. This puts us 10 steps ahead of most other teens. We have seen sides of these countries that people don't usually see on a normal capital city tour. We saw the more realistic sides of both countries on our adventures through the jungle and were able to help local schools. It was a trip that I will always remember and treasure.



A new teacher for the day

Lori McMillan

I learnt many things while being away on the Cambodia/Vietnam World Challenge trip. The trip reinforced my idea that world travel is truly the best education you can get. Travelling and seeing people in all different kinds of circumstances makes you enjoy your freedom here in Australia more and more. People truly cannot appreciate what they have until they are faced with poverty in real life as opposed to seeing it in newspapers or on TV. Travelling in a group our size leads to everyone having their own opinion of where to go or what we should do. Dealing with this is half the challenge, in return we gained awareness of others and patience. The experience has helped me grow in all aspects – including budgeting and leadership. I would encourage anyone who can go on this trip in the future. The memories and experiences you will gain are priceless.



From the Year 11 and 12 Coordinator

Congratulations to our Year 12 Prefects - Nikita D'Souza, Izzuddin Verdejo, Tess Williams and our Head Prefects Peter Milner and Alisa Jakupovic. These five inspirational student leaders have already had a very busy start to the year, representing their peers at the Year 7/8, 9/10, 11/12 Pool Parties and BBQ's, the GRIP Leadership conference (9 March), Government House and Mentor Breakfast (12 March).



Newly elected prefects



Prefects with their families



GRIP Leadership Conference

UN Womens' Breakfast

On the 5 March, I had the pleasure of joining two Year 12 students Abby Clarke and Sharna Ravi at the UN Women's Day Breakfast held at the Perth Convention Centre. After a very early start we were all inspired by some very powerful messages from Carmen Lawrence (Professorial Fellow at UWA) and former Premier of Western Australia and the first directly elected Federal President of the Australian Labor Party in 2003, Mele Mauaivaio, Country Programme Coordinator for UN Women and Yassmin Abdel-Mageid – Founder of Youth without Borders, a 24 year old Sudanese Engineer. We also had the pleasure of meeting and having our photo taken with the Honourable Liza Harvey, West Australian Minister for Police.



With Ex-Premier Carmen Lawrence



With Police Minister Hon. Liza Harvey

2015 Senior School Ball

On Friday 5 June our Senior School Ball will take place at the Pan Pacific Hotel. This year's theme is "A Night in Paris". Our Year 12 students will soon be busy making invitations and place cards.

Year 11 and 12 students will only be invited to attend the Ball if they have met all the necessary good standing requirements. These include: attendance at 90% and above, no excessive lateness, correct school uniform and no major behaviour infringements or suspensions.

Year 12 students are permitted to invite an outside partner. Paperwork to be completed by students who have outside guests will be issued shortly and referee checks of these guests will be conducted. An information brochure will also be sent home about expectations and general ball etiquette.

Year 11 and 12 Graduation/WACE Requirements

All Year 11 and 12 students should now be well into their courses of study. To meet WACE requirements, students must maintain a C grade average with a minimum of 50% in English. The Senior School Directions team meets every fortnight to review the progress of every student to ensure that these requirements are being met. Students will be interviewed by Ms Keep, Mr Pestana or Ms Criddle if they are at risk. Year 11 students cannot progress to Year 12 if they have not met the minimum standard.

ATAR Holiday Revision Courses

ATAR students should have received a flyer about the revision courses coming up in the April and July school holidays. Information can also be accessed on Connect. The venues for these courses include UWA, Churchlands Senior High School and Perth Modern. These courses do require a financial outlay, however, they can really fill gaps in a student's understanding of the course content. The facilitators who are experts in exam preparation can help raise students' scores and consolidate what has been covered at school already.

Bring Your Own Device Update

A huge congratulations to all the families and students who have come on board and invested in their child's future by providing a device to help facilitate learning.

All students were surveyed early in Term 1 and the results indicate many students already have a device.

The school has had a few teething problems with internet usage and device connection. These problems are being addressed. It must be stressed that the school does not have Wi-Fi provision for "entertainment" downloads such as movies, Facebook and other non-educational domains. Each student's usage is monitored by the Department of Education and students and families will be notified if there is a problem. Please ensure your student brings their device to school every day, fully charged ready to be used for learning.

Student Elections

The Student Council is the voice of the students and they meet to discuss issues, plan events and fundraise. They are also represented on the School Council. Elections for these positions were conducted with the help of the Electoral Commission. Thank you to those who took the time to nominate to represent the school. Congratulations to the students listed below who were elected.

- Year 9: Isaac Milner, Edwin Boampong-Appiah, Brianna Patrick, Stephen D'Souza,
- Year 10: Tyler Fleming, Matthew Milner, Shannon Muggeridge, Phoebe-Lee Schmiedte,
- Year 11: Jarred Alvarez, Ben Long, Andrey Sabile, Muhammad Mohammed Firdaus
- Year 12: Prefects Alisa Jakupovic, Peter Milner, Izzuddin Verdejo, Nikita D'Souza, Tess Williams

Year 7 and 8 Councillor positions will be decided shortly.

Student Wins Prestigious Traineeship

Balcatta Senior High School is one of 12 schools involved in the Follow the Dream program.

Follow the Dream: Partnerships for Success (FTD) is a voluntary program for aspirant Year 10-12 Aboriginal secondary school students. The program provides after-school tuition and individualised mentoring, support and case management to assist and support these students to continue achieving excellent outcomes at school, complete Year 12 and obtain university entry.

Year 11 student Ebony Hayes was selected to join the program in 2014 and due to her outstanding results, attendance and commitment to her studies she has been selected out of hundreds of applicants to be offered one of two Business School-Based Traineeships For Indigenous students by BHP Billiton Iron Ore for 2015. BHP is a proud sponsor of the Follow the Dream program and comments have already been made on what a wonderful ambassador Ebony is to the program and to the school.

Ebony now travels into the city every Thursday to the BHP Billiton building in the City Square, where she will complete a Certificate II in Business over two years, working in various departments. School-Based Traineeships are designed to give secondary students a start in their chosen career. Who knows where Ebony will find herself in two years' time!

Congratulations to Alison Martin

Our Special Dance teacher, Ms Alison Martin, has been nominated for the Australian Independent Dance Teacher Award – in the category of Secondary School Teacher. Alison was nominated by her peers which is an honour in itself and she is held in high esteem.

The Presentation Ceremony was held on Sunday, February 1st 2015, in the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) music auditorium, Mt Lawley.

Alison received a framed certificate of recognition. Congratulations from all of us at Balcatta Senior High



Science News

Year 12 Mentor Program Launched at Breakfast

Thursday, 12 March 2015, was an early start for the Year 12 students and staff who gathered in the Staffroom to officially launch the Year 12 Mentor Program for 2015 over a delicious breakfast.

Our guest speaker, Mr Sebastian Croce, provided an inspiring and motivational multimedia presentation outlining a winding path to his current position as Business Development Executive of Education at Apple. The audience travelled with him from his days at Balcatta Senior High School through to TAFE, employment and university. The importance Sebastian placed on the various mentors in his life confirmed for everyone the benefit the mentor relationship has for both the student and the teacher.

Eric Parsloe of The Oxford School of Coaching and Mentoring states: "Mentoring is to support and encourage people to manage their own learning in order that they may maximize their potential, develop their skills, improve their performance and become the person they want to be."

We hope students enjoy the many benefits of mentoring including being supported to maintain their participation in education and training and assisted to develop their vision for their preferred future.

I would like to thank Ms Anna Sanzogni, Ms Val Terry and Ms Sharon Di Nucci for their assistance in providing this event for our Year 12 Students.

Mrs Kath Criddle, Program Coordinator
Vocational Education & Training, Student Engagement,
Technology & Enterprise



Sebastian Croce & some of our prefects



Term One started off flat out as usual down in the Science Block! All classes have settled into a routine of learning. Year 7s and 8s have been working on Safety, Equipment and Science Enquiry/Investigating. Year 9s commenced with Biological Science and Year 10s with Genetics.

We are stressing to all students that in order to study Physics or Chemistry in Year 11/12 that they must be achieving A or B grades in years 8 - 10. The top 32 students at the end of year 9 will go into the advanced pathway in Year 10 which prepares students for Physics/Chemistry.

Our Science lessons are underpinned by safety. Appropriate footwear, safety glasses, hair tied back and most importantly - safe and sensible behaviour are necessary during practical activities.



We acknowledge Mr Dinsdale our former Head of Science and fantastic Chemistry teacher. After 17 years at the school and 40 years in Education - Mr Dinsdale retired this term and was farewelled by a large group of staff and students at an afternoon tea. He will be fondly remembered.



Kristina Hoy With Year 11 Chemistry Students

We are pleased to welcome Mrs Kristina Hoy into the Science Team. She is doing great things with her wonderful Year 11 Chemistry class. Mrs Hoy is a great role model - as a young, enthusiastic and successful scientist.

Rod Blitvich
Head of Learning Area Science

2015 Swimming Carnival

2015 Champions:

1st Place Winners

Girls: Erica McGregor (Year 12), Jasmine Glover (Year 11), Jessica Cameron (Year 10), Kendal Barden (Year 9), Katia Folau (Year 8), Tatiana Stjepanovic (Year 7),

Boys: Jeremy Kwan (Year 12), Jarred Alvarez (Year 11), Matthew Milner (Year 10), Luka Stjepanovic (Year 9), Micah Presitipino (Year 8), Ronan Manumua-Saena (Year 7)

2nd Place Winners

Girls: Tess Williams (Year 12), Hannah Turko (Year 10), Brianna Patrick (Year 9), Chloe-Bree Schmiedte (Year 8), Jeanne Wang (Year 7)

Boys: Dima Ciobanu (Year 11), Ari Gillespie (Year 10), Isaac Milner (Year 9), Matthew Tennant (Year 8), Justin Kadem (Year 7)

3rd Place Winners

Girls: Cheyenne Chooi (Year 12), Denielle Cristobal (Year 10), Robyn Bennett (Year 9), Kaylea Ormsby (Year 8), Alyssa Manumua-Saena (Year 7)

Boys: Juwan Freeburn (Year 10), Tyler Ambrose (Year 9), Thomas Vlatko-Rulo (Year 8), Sebastian Bazan-Carr (Year 7)



Nanga



Camp



What's Been



Year 8 scientists at work



Great fun at Year 9 carnival



Dance Flash Mob - recess surprise



Year 12s hitting the books



Year 8 students at work



Year 8 - working as a team



Josh working on a microscope prac



Year 11 boys at work

What's Happening



Our Year 7 boys at their carnival



Year 9 carnival fun



Another Dance Flash Mob



Part of the Flash Mob at recess



More teamwork in class



Year 11 girls at work



Year 11 girls working with microscope



Year 8 scientists

Gifted and Talented Visual Art

We have got off to a busy start to the year in the Arts with a warm welcome extended to all of our new Year 7 & 8 students. They have all adapted to attending school 6 days a week and are producing some great artwork in their Saturday morning classes. They are working with artists Ben Waters and Leah Gale.

The annual art camp will be held in week 9 with 60 of our art students attending. The camp is in Dwellingup and it is set to be a very busy time with lots of fun workshops planned. We will be organising a mini exhibition next term to showcase the students' efforts.

Photography Excursion

The photography students are working with Craig Mecham. Recently they took a trip into the city for some architecture and urban art image photography. They used both digital and film photography and the results are looking great.

Portrait Painting

Artist Mark Tweedie is back for another year of tutoring with our students after last year's positive and productive experience. The students are gaining so much from his portrait expertise and his broad variety of style.

Ceramics

Our year 9 girls are working with artist Amanda Harris and have created some great clay Fantasy Beasts.

Bead Collaborative Piece

Shayne O'Donnell is working on a collaborative piece made from ceramic handmade beads. When finished this should look fabulous when hung at the exhibition.

Excursion to REmida

On Saturday 7th March I took 10 of our Gifted and Talented students on an excursion to REmida in West Perth. The purpose of the trip was to collect supplies for their wearable art. The students have designed outfits and will now create their costumes from the recycled materials.

The students were blown away with the amount of resources readily available for them to take. Items ranging from; cloth material, plastic off cuts, old computer parts, cardboard, fly screen mesh, corks, (anything and everything really). We piled the bus full of great supplies that they will now be able to use to construct their costumes.

REmida acquires/sources their supplies through donations from local businesses.

A quick history of REmida Perth

REmida Italy was founded in 1997 in Reggio Emilia through the Early Learning Centres. Bold Park Community School founded REmida Perth in 2004 in Carine, Western Australia. Bold Park offers an inspiring series of workshops, which explore how to implement the Reggio Emilia philosophy in the classroom.

Poppies Project

Local artist Jodie Davidson has spent the week at school, working with our year 9 students on a collaborative art piece. We are reminded that on ANZAC day 2015 it will be a 100 years since the Gallipoli landing.

The student's involvement in the making of the poppies not only reflects the story of the poppy as a symbol of remembrance, but also engages students using the same crafts used in WW1.

The students have made 643 poppies. This number has been taken from the Australian fatalities at Gallipoli during the first 5 days of battle. That number is only 2 more than the current school population of 641 students. The thought of this triggered many emotions for the students.

Jodie spent time introducing the topic and discussed how making the poppies for remembrance first came about and what they represent all over the world.

Later she demonstrated how to make the poppies and the students worked in 6 groups. It became quite the production line that led to each student making 6 poppies. The poppies will be showcased at the Anzac Day assembly.

Sherree Tomlinson, GATE Coordinator



From the President P&C

The Parents & Citizens (P&C) Association extends a warm welcome to all our students, parents, teachers, staff and to our new Principal Ms Lesley Street. We would like to acknowledge and thank our previous Principal Ms Anna Kristancic for her continued support and commitment to our community and wish her a relaxing and safe holiday.

The P&C have had an exciting start to our 2015 social agenda. We were invited to attend the Year 7 & 8 and Year 9 & 10 pool parties, which proved very successful. We would like to thank all those who supported our fundraising activities at these events.

On Wednesday 18 March, the P&C held their Annual General Meeting (AGM). It was great to see familiar faces but also to welcome new members to our committee. My sincere thanks to the members of the 2014 committee who were so dedicated to our P&C. Your efforts were greatly appreciated.

For 2015 the Executive Committee was voted in and the Office Bearers are as follows:

- President: Ms Helen Notis
- Vice President: Mrs Jenny Ambler
- Secretary: Ms Natasha Naumovski
- Treasurer: Mr John Gregg

We have a dedicated group of parents and carers on our Committee who are passionate about our children's education. P&C meetings are a great forum to discuss issues that pertain to our school and the community. If you would like to support your child on their educational journey, come along and join us at one of our meetings, held on the third Wednesday of the month.

The P&C manages the School Canteen and Uniform Shop. The success of the Canteen is attributable to the dedication of a small group of individuals. Under the supervision of Manager, Jenny Young assisted by her staff and volunteers, the Canteen is thriving in 2015. Having the Year 7's on campus has made a positive difference, and the results for Term 1 have been very promising. If you are able to help please see Jenny as she will appreciate your assistance.

Having students wear the Balcatta Senior High School uniform instils a sense of pride in our school. Our committed and dedicated Uniform Co-ordinator, Sammi Carruthers ensures that our students have access to uniforms throughout the year. Although 2015 started a little nervously with a shortage of some



**P&C President at
2014 Graduation With
Jordan Harris**

uniforms, Sammi's persistence ensured that the wait time was shorter than expected. Well done to Sammi on her efforts.

This year the P&C will continue to address the things that matter for our students like the canteen and uniform shop as well as raising funds for resources. We will make informed decisions and work with the school community to ensure that our children receive the best education possible.

We are looking forward to a busy year of fundraising and community events and would like to remind parents and students that we will be holding a Sausage Sizzle at Bunnings, Balcatta on Sunday 9 May. We hope you will support us at this important fundraising event. We look forward to a busy and productive year in support of our students.

Have a safe and restful break.

Helen Notis, P&C President.

Design and Technology Woodwork Students Enjoy Working on their Project

David Huang, Katelynd Gullotti and Damien Huang are showing what our school's vision ("Respect, Unite, Excel") looks and feels like in the wood workshop. They consistently embrace a "can do" attitude; respect their classmates, school resources and school staff; help other students; and achieve excellence with their outstanding work ethic. These students are making good decisions and are developing great habits. Keep up the good work.

Bernd Jahn
Design and Technology Teacher





Former Student Sebastian Croce With prefects
Alisa Jakupovic, Nikita D'Souza & Tess Williams