



Balcatta Update

3 March 2023

From the Principal

We held our first whole school assembly on Friday 24 February and it was pleasing to see so many parents in attendance. The purpose of the assembly was to acknowledge the academic performance of the 2022 Semester 2 Year 11 students. Congratulations to all students who were awarded certificates for Top Student and for Merit for each course.

The Academic Excellence certificate and medallion is awarded to the highest scoring student based on their Semester 2 WACE course results. Congratulations to Finn Holman.

The Respect-Unite-Excel award shows a pursuit of knowledge and commitment to achievement. The students work to the best of their ability and are enthusiastic about learning. They participate responsibly in all aspects of school life and build positive relationships with those around them. Congratulations to Eli Barr, Callum Case-McGlade and Wangchuk Penjor.

We also acknowledged our Year 12 Head Prefects for 2023 – Jessica Betti and Sonam Leksell.

2023 House Captains were also presented a certificate and badge. Principal's House Award badges were also awarded to students to acknowledge their achievements in receiving House points in the top 5% in 2022. House points are awarded in the areas of academic, sporting, cultural and community activities or endeavours. These students represent our values of Respect-Unite-Excel.

The 2023 House Captains and 2022 Principal's House Award recipients are published on our [website](#).

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. All Year 7 and Year 9 students will be provided with a detailed [NAPLAN schedule](#). NAPLAN testing commences from Friday 3 March until Monday 27 March 2023.

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.

School Board

The School Board will be holding its first meeting for the year on Wednesday 8 March. The fundamental purpose of the School Board is to enable parents and members of the community to engage in activities which are in the best interests of our students, and which will enhance the education provided by the school. It is about providing additional expertise to help the school achieve the best outcomes for the students.

Helen Maitland
Principal

Career Practitioner – Nicole Anderson

On 20 February, our Career Practitioner, Nicole Anderson, attended a professional learning conference at the Pan Pacific Hotel. The conference highlighted the role of the career practitioner in schools. "WA Today" published an article regarding this event – please refer to our [website](#) for more information.

Balcatta Bullets Running Club

Students are invited to join a running club, Balcatta Bullets, which will be held before school on Mondays from 7.00am to 8.00am on the school oval. Students will learn how to properly warm-up for running, participate in cardiovascular endurance activities, and run laps on our school track to improve their fitness.

Parents will be responsible for transporting their child before school for practice. There is no cost for this activity.

If your child is interested, please ask them to collect a consent form from Mr Attey, English teacher.

VaccinateWA – School-Based Immunisation Program

The School-Based Immunisation Program (SBIP) is a well-established service which offers National Immunisation Program immunisations to students in Years 7 and 10.

The VaccinateWA system is to be used by parents/carers to complete the vaccination consent form in order for their children/dependants to receive vaccinations whilst at school. (Please Note: VaccinateWA is not being used to book appointments for the School-Based Immunisation Program).

To provide consent for vaccination, the first step is to register your child/dependant on VaccinateWA. Log into your [VaccinateWA](#) account and follow the steps to "Add or manage dependants". If you do not have a VaccinateWA account, you will need to create one for yourself first.

Step by step information for using VaccinateWA is available on the [HealthyWA](#) website.

Immunisation Dates:

Year 7 Round 2 (HPV Dose 2) – Monday 28 August

Year 10 (Meningococcal ACWY) – Friday 21 July

If you are unable to complete the online consent form, the school will have forms available for you to use. If the information you provide needs to be clarified, you may be contacted by a staff member from the vaccination team.

If you have already completed and returned a paper consent form, the SBIP team is currently uploading the information into the VaccinateWA system. This process may take several weeks, and you will receive an email confirmation once it has been completed.

Learning Area News

The Year 10 Café Food students have started this year with some exciting activities. In Week 4 they had to 'food style' anti-pasto platters using a variety of cold meats, cheeses, pickled vegetables and homemade dips. All three classes produced some fantastic results.

Balcatta Update

Student Services

Student Mobile Phone Reminder

As you are aware, the State Government implemented a Student Mobile Phones in Public Schools policy. The policy requires all public schools to implement a ban on the use of mobile phones, smart watches, earbuds, tablets and headphones for all students from the time they arrive at school to the end of the school day. The policy is 'off and away all day'. Exceptions are allowed for students who have approval from the Principal to use a phone to monitor health conditions or when a teacher gives students permission to use mobile phones for a specific curriculum purpose. If a student needs to contact a parent/guardian, they can ask at Student Services. Parents **must always** communicate through the school on 9345 8200 if they need to make emergency contact with their child/ren.

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. Parents **must not contact** their child direct. Communications must be made through Student Services.

P&C News

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on **Wednesday 8 March commencing at 6.00pm in the Staff Common Room** (Follow the signs to the 1st Floor).

All positions, including President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, will be declared vacant. If you are interested in nominating for a position, can you please send an email to: pandcbalcattashs@gmail.com with your name and the position for which you would like to nominate. We will arrange to email the formal nomination form prior to the meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend.

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.

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

Georgie Dragicevich-Knight
President

Important dates

6 Mar	Public Holiday
7 Mar	Year 11/12 OLNA Catchup
7 Mar	Year 9 Swimming Carnival (P3-5)
8 Mar	Year 7/9 NAPLAN Practice Omnibus
8 Mar	5.00pm School Board meeting
8 Mar	6.00pm P&C meeting (Annual General Meeting)
13 Mar	Year 7/9 NAPLAN Practice Catchup Testing
14 Mar	Year 7 Swimming Carnival (P3-5)
15 Mar	Year 7/9 NAPLAN Writing
15-17 Mar	Year 12 Outdoor Education Excursion to Rottnest
16 Mar	Year 7/9 NAPLAN Reading
17 Mar	Year 7/9 NAPLAN Conventions of Language