

Balcatta Update

26 May 2023

From the Principal

Violence has no place in schools. Recent media coverage has highlighted schools are increasingly having to deal with students who are either violent or support violence by filming and posting on social media or act as willing bystanders. The Department of Education takes a very strong view on this.

The Department of Education published a document on school violence, "Let's Take a Stand Together", providing us with a strong action-based response to this issue. The following quote is the initial statement from the Minister for Education and Training:

"Every parent rightly expects that when their child is at school they will be safe, nurtured and supported to learn. Similarly, teachers and school staff should feel safe in their workplace.

It is a sad reality that some students come to school with the attitude that hurting other students or staff is alright. They choose to upset the good order of school life with intentional acts of physical aggression that create unsafe situations for others".

I, on behalf of our school community, will not tolerate such attitudes or behaviours and will continue to use every tool available to ensure those who do not show respect, who use violence and intimidation of others, face the strongest consequences available to us. We as a community need to support our students to make positive choices and not become part of a culture based on violence.

The Year 12 General students completed their Externally Set Tasks with the results contributing to their final grade. The Year 11 and Year 12 ATAR students will commence their Semester 1 exams from Monday 29 May to Friday 2 June 2023. They will receive feedback on their performance when they return to their normal timetable. The timetable for all Year 11 and Year 12 students ONLY will be suspended while exams are being held.

The Year 8 and Year 9 students had Learning Area talks regarding choosing their electives for 2024. Students are required to complete their relevant 2024 Course Selection form, numbering their preferences from 1 to 10. Gifted and Talented Visual Art and Specialist Dance students are reminded to select the relevant course as their Number 1 choice. The forms are to be signed by the parent/carer and returned to the Administration office by **Friday 9 June**.

Year 10 students have commenced the course selection process for Year 11 in 2024 which has included course talks from each of the Learning Areas and the Career Practitioner. Parents were invited to attend a Year 11 in 2024 Information event held on Tuesday 16 May. Key information presented included:

- WACE requirements
- Presentation from each of the learning areas
- Course selection process

The [PowerPoint presentation](#) and the [Year 11 and Year 12 Academic Handbook 2024](#) is available on the school's [website](#). Students should have received their personalised Course Selection form which they are to bring to their Course Counselling interview. Interviews (approximately 25 minutes) are being held from Monday 26 June to Friday 28 July 2023 (excluding school holidays). More details regarding how to make an appointment can be found on our [website](#). A reminder will be sent during Week 8.

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 head phones 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/carer, 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.

Uniforms

Most of our students adhere to our school dress code. I am seeking your assistance to ensure your child always adheres to the school dress code.

Reminder: Leggings must be navy blue only and can only be worn with shorts or skirts over the top. Leggings cannot be worn as an item on their own.

Balcatta Senior High School's uniforms are supplied by Tudor Uniforms, with uniforms ordered on-line 24 hours per day via their website: www.tudorschooluniforms.com.au

Helen Maitland
Principal

News

Year 7 and Year 8 Lightning Carnivals

The Year 8 Lightning Carnival was held on Thursday 11 May. The Year 7 Lightning Carnival was held on Tuesday 23 May with perfect weather enabling the event to go ahead this year. Balcatta SHS competed against Perth Modern, Shenton College, Churchlands SHS, Girrawheen SHS, Balga SHS, Greenwood College, Bob Hawke College and Carine SHS in a variety of sports including girls and boys basketball, soccer, netball and mixed hockey.

Although the emphasis is on having fun, the Year 7 Division 4 Netball team were placed first. Teachers were proud of the students who displayed great sportsmanship, the ability to work together and a willing spirit to keep going throughout the day whether victorious or not.

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Year 9 and Year 10 Lightning Carnivals

The Year 9 Lightning Carnival will be held on Wednesday 7 June and the Year 10 Lightning Carnival on Tuesday 20 June. Students will be competing against other schools in our area. Sports include netball, basketball, volleyball, soccer, football and hockey held at various venues. Invitations will be sent out in due course so please confirm your child's attendance and make a payment of \$15 via Consent2Go by the due date when the invitation has been received. Students must hand the Sport Selection form to Administration office as soon as possible before the event.

Education Support Parent Information Event

The Education Support Program will be presenting a Parent Information Event for 2024 enrolments. The event will be held on Thursday 8 June in our Performing Arts Theatre, 56 Amelia Street, Balcatta and commence at 4.00pm (for approximately one hour duration). A school tour will also be included. If you are interested in enrolling your child in our Education Support Program for 2024, please RSVP to Allison Nolan, Program Coordinator ESP by email on Allison.Nolan@education.wa.edu.au by Wednesday 7 June 2023.

Nexus 2023

The annual Nexus Dance Alliance 2023 concert will be held on Friday 9 June commencing at 7.00pm at the Octagon Theatre, University of WA, Nedlands. Tickets are available for \$32.00 at www.ticketswa.com (Promo Code = Balcatta). For specific access and seating requirements, including wheelchair tickets, please contact Tickets WA on info@ticketsWA.com or telephone 6488 2440 between 12.00 noon and 4.00pm on weekdays.

Nexus is an annual event presented by students from Balcatta Senior High School, Shenton College and Cecil Andrews Senior High School. All students involved have achieved high standards in movement education and will be performing works choreographed by themselves, their dedicated teachers and Perth dance professionals specifically for the performance. The program represented in this performance aims to deliver excellence in both teaching and student learning. Students have the opportunity in these programs to focus on technique and performance, as well as dance history, kinesiology, theory dance, choreography and improvisation. The Nexus presentation offers the students experience in working in a professional theatre environment, and the chance to see peers from other schools in rehearsal and performance.

Year 6 Parent Information Event

On Tuesday 13 June, we will be conducting a school tour commencing at 4.00pm, followed by an Information Event for parents of Year 6 students interested in enrolling their child at Balcatta SHS in 2024. If you are interested in attending the tour and information event, please RSVP by email to balcatta.shs@education.wa.edu.au by Monday 12 June.

Year 11 Dinner Dance

On Thursday 15 June, the Year 11 students with Good Standing status have been invited to attend a Dinner Dance to be held at Beaumonde on the Pointe, East Perth. Invitations have been sent to selected students and they are encouraged to attend what promises to be a great night. Entertainment for the evening will include a professional disc jockey with a dance floor available for our use. Confirmation of attendance and payment of \$100 is to be made via Consent2Go by Thursday 8 June. The cost includes DJ, buffet dinner and soft drinks.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Year 7 student, Tegan Ellis who was selected

as an athlete on the 2023 Aerobic Gymnastics WA Gymnastics State Team. Tegan attended the 2023 Australian Gymnastics Championships from 13 May to 17 May held in Queensland.

Congratulations to Year 10 student, Ben Ellis who was selected as an athlete on the 2023 Men's Artistic Gymnastics and Acrobatic Gymnastics WA Gymnastic State Teams. Ben attended the 2023 Australian Gymnastics Championships from 5 May to 21 May in Queensland.

Congratulations to Year 9 student, Cerise Nel who was selected as an athlete on the 2023 Acrobatic Gymnastics WA Gymnastics State Team. Cerise attended the 2023 Australian Gymnastics Championships from 17 May to 22 May in Queensland.

Congratulations to Year 8 student, David Klimoski who was selected to represent WA at the Bali International Football Tournament. David attended a reception at the Indonesian Consulate General of Western Australia on Thursday 4 May. The Goldfields Boys U15s team, which consists of metro and regional players from the Hyundai Talent Support Program (TSP), were presented with their shirts for the trip. The squad flew to Bali on Friday 12 May for the week-long tournament, where they played five matches against opposition from across Asia. The trip was both a sporting and cultural engagement and was in line with Football West's commitment to building stronger ties with Asia through our Asian Engagement Strategy. David plays for Balcatta Etna Club. Well done, David!

We hope to publish the results of their efforts in the next Balcatta Update.

Learning Area News

Science and Engineering Challenge

On Tuesday 9 May, 32 Year 10 students were invited to participate in a Science and Engineering Challenge at Claremont Showgrounds. Students completed eight science and engineering challenge activities, which were run by a team of volunteer activity personnel who explained, assisted and scored each team. Teams were awarded points for each activity and the school with the most cumulative points at the end of the day was declared the winner. The highest scoring school from Western Australia (the challenge ran for 5 days in Perth and 2 days in Bunbury) were invited to participate in the national final. The following paragraph was written by Year 10 student, Damon Williams giving more detail about the challenge.

"During our time at the Science and Engineering Challenge at Claremont Showgrounds, we had a great time learning about the practical implications of the sciences, such as physics and engineering. Before the event, we were split into groups of four depending on the activities we wanted. This went by without a hitch. We were then sorted into the activities we chose. For example, Team Yellow went to an activity called 'ElectraCITY'. This activity was intended to be a showing of proper budgeting skills, as well as the resistance of certain types of wires. In the afternoon most groups switched to a new activity. For example, Team Yellow went to an engineering challenge creatively named 'Flight'. In this activity, we were taught about the practical use of aerodynamics and engineering. After this activity, we went to the bridge contest, where some of our brightest minds, which is a lot, considering the type of people there, were tasked with making a bridge strong enough to withstand the weight of the 'Big Chungus'. This was where our school shone, tying for first place across the eight schools. Overall, we came 5th, missing out on the trip to nationals. But we achieved something even better, a great time learning about all ways of science."



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Important dates

29 May – 2 Jun	Year 11 and Year 12 exams (normal timetable has been suspended for all Years 11-12 students)
6 June	Public Holiday
6-7 June	Year 10 Exams
7 June	Year 9 Lightning Carnival
8 June	4.00pm Education Support Program Parent Information Event in the PAT
8 June	Nexus Dance Showcase (rehearsals)
9 June	7.00pm Nexus Dance Showcase at Octagon Theatre, UWA
13 June	4.00pm School Tour (for parents of Year 7 students in 2024)
13 June	5.00pm Parent Information Event (for parents of Year 7 students in 2024)
14 June	5.00pm School Board meeting
15 June	6.30pm to 10.00pm Year 11 Dinner Dance at Beaumonde on the Point, East Perth