

Balcatta Bulletin

2023 Semester 1 Reflections



HIGHLIGHTS

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From The Principal

As I reflect back over the semester, I am reminded of the business of our school community.

Students have been engaged in various curricular and extra-curricular activities across the school, with a number being showcased in this edition.

This started with the incoming Year 7 students participating in an orientation program to further support their transition to high school, which included an off-site program at Ern Halliday camp. Our numbers in Year 7 have continued to grow, with 199 students enrolled at the start of the year, coming from 27 different primary schools.

Our Education Support Program is being recognised as a program of choice as numbers continue to grow, as we welcomed our largest intake of Year 7 students and new staff.

We held our first whole school award assembly early in Term 1, acknowledging top performing 2022 Year 11 students, announcing the House Champion for 2022 and the House Captains for 2023.

Another first for a couple of years (due to COVID restrictions) was our first formal ANZAC Day service since 2018. Our local Member for Balcatta, Mr David Michael MLA and representatives from the Morley and Bedford Returned Services League were able to join us. The Student Councillors led the service.

Academic Achievements

This year NAPLAN testing was held early in Term 1 followed by the first round of OLNA testing for students in Year 10 to Year 12.

All students have been engaged in their academic programs, which for some of our senior school students, included undertaking external Vocational Education and Training certificate qualifications, either at TAFE or other registered training organisations. This year we formed a partnership with MPA Plumbing and Painting Skills, which provided the opportunity for a number of Year 11 students to undertake Certificate II in Plumbing onsite at Balcatta SHS.

All Semester 1 academic progress reports have been sent to parents. It was pleasing to see a significant number of parents/guardians meeting with their child's teacher to discuss student achievement at the recent Semester 1 Parent Reporting Event.

Student Opportunities and Achievements

As one of the schools with a Careers Practitioner, a number of our students have had the opportunity to participate in a range of "Career Taster" activities, which has provided them with an insight into various industries (see article "Exploring Career Options").

The number of student clubs increased this semester, which included Fitness Club, Nail Art, Running Group, Book Club and After School sports. A significant number of students have also participated in either volleyball or badminton.

Students were engaged in sporting activities which included swimming carnivals, lightning carnivals, volleyball and basketball competitions.

On Friday 16 June, our local member for Balcatta, Hon David Michael MLA invited some of our Year 12 students to lunch at Parliament House. I accompanied Jessica Betti, Callum Case-McGlade, Jimmy Dorjee, Almozamel

Hussein, Sonam Leksell and Riscia Vinta. The students had lunch in the formal dining room and afterwards, they were given a tour of some areas of Parliament House. The highlight of the day was being able to be seated in the Chambers.

Students in our specialist programs have showcased their talents and skills, which included our Dance students' exceptional performance at the annual Nexus Dance Alliance event at University of WA.

A number of our Gifted and Talented Visual Art students have had their work selected for various exhibitions, which is a great acknowledgement of their skill.

I look forward to Semester 2, and the opportunities it brings to our school community.

Helen Maitland
Principal



Mrs Maitland with Student Councillors at ANZAC Day Service



Year 12 students sitting in the Chambers at Parliament House

Front Page photo: Nexus Dance Alliance, Year 7 - "Footloose"
Back Page photo: Students in their traditional cultural dress on Harmony Day

Our People

The following staff members have joined Balcatta SHS in 2023.



Marita Rozario
Associate Principal



Claire Piesse
Career Practitioner



Christine Bogunovich
Teacher
(English/HaSS)



Sean Brentnall
Teacher
(English/Technologies)



Peter Burgis
Teacher
(HPE/Science/The Arts)



Dale Fernandez
Teacher
(HaSS/Maths/Science/
Technologies)



Adam Fyneman
Teacher
(English)



Trevor Ghouse
Teacher
(D&T)



Daniel Gribbon
Teacher
(HaSS)



Dimi Martino
Teacher
(English/Maths/HaSS)

Student Achievements

Secondary GRIP Leadership Conference

Student Councillors from Years 8 to 12 were invited to attend the Secondary GRIP Leadership Conference at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre on Tuesday 21 March 2023. This conference was unique in that it concentrated specifically on training student leaders for their role as "School Leaders". The style, topics and content covered at this conference focused on what the students can do "right now". Students who attended came away with new skills, new perspectives and new ideas for making a positive contribution as a leader. They were able to choose elective workshops to tailor to the experience of their own leadership role. This year's theme was 'We Lead Everybody' and the full-day program encompassed presentation sessions, activities, discussions and leadership games.



WA Student Council 2023

The Department of Education set up the WA Student Council to act as a voice for students in school to address issues which concern students. School staff from WA Public Schools were asked to nominate Year 10 students for the WA Student Council. The council provides an opportunity for students to engage with education policy and help shape the future of education. The council empowers young people to have their say in their education. The Student Councillors represent public education across the state. The students will take on this role for approximately two years commencing in Term 2 as a Year 10 student and finishing at the end of Year 11. There were over 100 nominations received from across the state and only 25 student councillors appointed to the 2023-2024 council. Three students were nominated from the North Metro Region and, as part of the selection process, provided a video along with written documentation of why they wanted the role. One of our Year 10 students, Charlie MacPherson-Lee was short-listed for an interview and was successful in being chosen for the WA Student Council. Charlie was given the opportunity to meet the Minister for Education and speak about issues concerning them. Charlie has nominated herself to be on the committee for examining the problem of vaping in schools and disability. Students formed part of a team and explored issues to provide ideas for presentation to the Minister for consideration.

Congratulations Charlie and thank you to Ms Manera, Ms Gatti and Ms Holmes, who nominated and supported Charlie during this process.

At our School Board meeting held on Wednesday 14 June, Charlie spoke to the members outlying her experience on this journey. The members asked some questions for Charlie, who responded with confidence and passion.



Charlie MacPherson-Lee pictured with the Principal, Mrs Maitland and School Board Chair, Mr Fraser

David Klimoski

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 with guest speakers, Indonesian Consul General in Perth, Listiana Operananta and Football West Director, Annette Tilbrook. 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 games were very tough because it was an Under 15s tournament and most of the players in David's team are 13 years old. They won one game and lost four games. It was a great challenge for the boys who tried their best. 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 locally for Balcatta Etna Club.



Listiana Operananta, David Klimoski and Annette Tilbrook

Tegan Ellis

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 in Queensland.

Tegan competed at her first Nationals for the WA State Aerobics Team. She did well amongst the pressures and performed a beautiful routine. It was inspiring for her to see the amazing routines and skills performed by athletes from all over Australia.



Ben Ellis

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.

Ben competed in all six apparatus (Floor, Vault, Pommel, Rings, High Bar & Parallel Bars) for both the team and individual competitions in Men's Artistic Gymnastics Level 7 Open. The Level 7 Open WA Men's Artistic Gymnastics team placed 3rd. Ben also placed 5th on High Bar, 6th on Vault and 15th on Floor. He individually ranked #18 nationally. Ben's WA Acro Team Level 6 group placed 1st all around and received a Gold Medal.



Ben Ellis in action

Cerise Nel

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. She came 6th overall in her competition.



Cerise Nel and partner in action

Kate Ward

Kate was specially selected to be part of the Championship Extension Program at the Perth Netball Association, competing in the Year 7/8 division. The annual tournament was held from Saturday 3 June to Monday 5 June. Teams from all over WA competed, as well as 18 teams from Singapore. Kate's team won all their eight games, making them the premiership winners.



Kate Ward with her award and medallion

Special Events

Year 12 Ball

Our Year 12 students attended their School Ball on Friday 31 March at the Mercure Hotel, Perth.

Congratulations to the following winners:

Belle of the Ball – Tiana Crompton
 Beau of the Ball – Hashim Alhussani
 Best Dressed – Kuenzang Tshering
 Best Dancer – Drukda Drukda
 Best Couple – Jessica Betti and Asher Beard
 Duchess of the Ball – Miss Kristina Balic
 Duke of the Ball – Mr Miles Attey

It was a very special night enjoyed by staff and students.



Staff



Callum Case-McGlade, Asher Beard, Mr Curtis and Jimmy Dorjee



Best Couple - Asher Beard and Jessica Betti



Best Dressed - Kuenzang Tshering



Year 12 girls and Mr Entwistle



Beau of the Ball - Hashim Alhussani and Belle of the Ball - Tiana Crompton

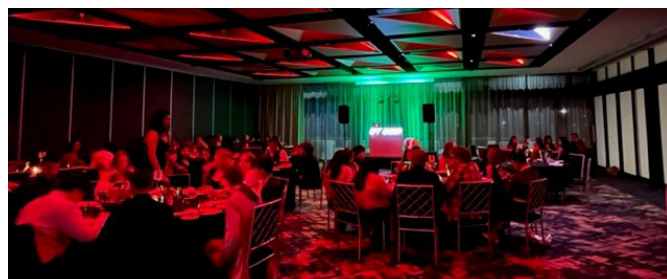
Year 11 Dinner Dance

On Thursday 15 June, the Year 11 students with Good Standing status were invited to attend a Dinner Dance held at Beaumonde on the Pointe, East Perth. Entertainment for the evening included a professional disc jockey (one of our teachers, Fred Sharp), with a dance floor available for our use. What a fun night enjoyed by the students singing and dancing the night away.

Thanks to David Curtis for organising this event and the teachers who attended.

Eva Veljanoski reported:

"Let's get this Dinner Dance pumping!!" Eff Sharp (teacher by day, DJ by night) yells into the microphone. The year 11's go wild for Eff Sharp's beautiful words. The year 11 Dinner Dance on the 15th of June will be a night to remember for all students and teachers involved. The night began with a lovely catered dinner then transformed into an unforgettable night of music, where the energy was high, and the dance floor was packed! The Dinner Dance was a great opportunity for students to mingle without the boundaries of friend groups, and form new friendships. The Dinner Dance was a great experience, which we were lucky to have the opportunity to enjoy".



Transition News

Year 7 Orientation Week

In order to provide our new Year 7 students with a positive start to their high school journey, we delivered an Orientation Week program during the first week of the school year. The program was designed to support students to develop positive peer and teacher relationships in a supportive and low pressure environment.

Students participated in the following sessions.

- Time Management Skills
- Study Skills
- Positive Peer Relationships
- Social Media and Mental Health.

The Orientation Program also assisted students to adapt to new routines and the expectations of the high school setting, providing the best conditions for student learning.

On the final day of Orientation Week, students attended an excursion to Ern Halliday Camp where they participated in team building and collaborative activities throughout the day. Activities included rock wall climbing, caving, archery and crate climbing.



Crate Climbing

LEGO Building



Archery



Using the map to explore services required in building a town

House Captains

The House Captains have been involved in a selection process by nominating for the role followed by an interview process with teaching staff where they were ranked on their performance in discussing their reasons for wanting to be a House Captain and the goals they had for the year. The role of a House Captain is to help organise teams and events within their House for the school, both within and external to the school. They are to help plan and develop competitions within the areas of Sport, Community and Arts. The role of a House Captain is part of our Balcatta SHS leadership process, and the students work closely with teachers to develop our school's community and spirit. The following is a list of the 2023 House Captains:

Year 7

Artemis - Tegan Ellis, Lily Jones
Aurora - Emily Frencham, Riley Jupp
Poseidon - Olivia Thompson, Kate Ward
Zeus - Ella Hasovic, Harlee Laver

Year 8

Artemis - Allegra McGee, Ada Spadaccini
Aurora - Ava Grzelec, Tshyang Lhazom
Poseidon - Nikita Taylor-Sandes, Hazel McCallum
Zeus - Carlo Deluca, Svikriti Sharma

Year 9

Artemis - Rigsel Wangchuk, Calais Lye
Aurora - Daniella Santich, Bipran Adhikari
Poseidon - Cloud Sangil, Adela Maldonado Revegino
Zeus - Carmela Deluca, Epiphany Kondo-Morcom

Year 10

Artemis - Alina Chaudhry, Anthony Nasteski
Aurora - Ashleigh Sharman, Annie Frencham
Poseidon - Edoardo Russell, Garma Choudhary
Zeus - Danielle Fryer, Jenna Vance

Year 11

Artemis - Lakeisha Arifianto, Eva Veljanoski
Aurora - Dylan Pike, Matheus Barone-Major
Poseidon - Pooja Sharma, Summer Blazeski
Zeus - Kai Saraceni, Luka Skordas

Year 12 Art

Artemis - Lujan Gendry
Aurora - Callum Case-McGlade
Poseidon - Riscia Vinta
Zeus - Sienna Wilde

Year 12 Sport

Artemis - Akeisha Reid
Aurora - Jimmy Dorjee
Poseidon - Almozamel Hussein
Zeus - Jerome Pazhooparambil

Year 12 Community

Artemis - Alyce Flatters
Aurora - Ra Szep
Poseidon - Andre Alvaro
Zeus - Kien Giron

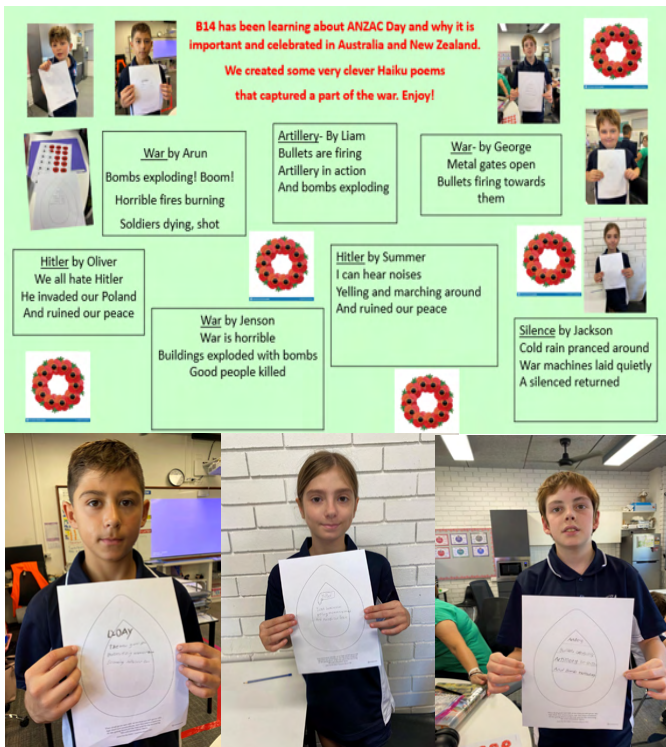
See photos of our House Captains on pages 10-11.

Learning Area News

Education Support Program

Room B14 – Sheree Fishwick

Mrs Fishwick's students have been learning about ANZAC Day and why it is important and celebrated in Australia and New Zealand. They created some very clever Haiku poems which captured an understanding of the war.



Room B9 – Linsey Williams

In B9 with Mrs Linsey Williams, this semester has been nothing short of fantastic for students as they embarked on a journey of diverse learning experiences. Students had the opportunity to explore a wide array of subjects from the intriguing world of robotics to the wonders of mathematics, the art of cooking, and the enchantment of literacy. Students worked with robotic kits, learnt about their functionalities, programmed them to perform specific tasks, and understood the principles of automation. They explored various branches of mathematics, including algebra, geometry, and statistics, discovering the practical applications of these disciplines in everyday life. Our shop in B9 has yet again been very successful in engaging students who have not only acquired valuable knowledge and skills but also developed their critical thinking, problem-solving, and collaboration abilities.



English

"Pages and Tea" Book Club

In Term 4, 2022, a group of students dedicated to reading declared our school needed a book club. They spent several lunch times planning on where and when to meet, decided on a name, brainstormed club activities and designed a logo. Pages & Tea has now been meeting fortnightly since Term 1. We have about 20 members from Year 7 to Year 11 who regularly attend meetings.

At these meetings, aside from drinking tea and eating vast amounts of biscuits, there are always several activities in progress. Some students read quietly, some out loud in groups. Others discuss books they have read and write reviews recommending books which are displayed in the library for the convenience of any student searching for a good read. Several Year 10 students are exploring the classics, which is exciting. In Week 6, some members decided they would create their own audio book. The activity was impromptu, and the results were hilarious, albeit a bit gruesome.

Many Pagers have now joined the Perth City Library, which has great online borrowing facilities. Once a member, you can download their Borrow Box app and borrow their books and audio books.

Pages & Tea is fun and friendly, and students meet after school every second Thursday from 3.15pm to 4.15pm in the school library. All students and teachers are welcome!



Book Club members reading in the Library

Science

Perth Zoo Excursion

On Wednesday 15 February, the Year 12 Human Biology and Psychology students visited the Perth Zoo where they had the opportunity to attend a series of workshops as well as visiting animal exhibits. The Psychology students used this excursion as part of their assessment tasks and the Human Biology students used it to aid in their comprehension of content covered in Unit 4 of their course.

For the first hour students were allowed to roam free to explore the African Savannah, Asian Rainforest, Australian Bushwalk and Wetlands, Primate Trail, Nocturnal House and Reptile Encounter.

Students were admitted into a psychology lecture, where friendly zoo employee, Lauren demonstrated to the classes how they use learning theories, such as classical conditioning, operant conditioning, observational learning and systematic desensitisation to train the zoo animals, get them used to being touched for vaccinations and health check-ups, as well as learning how to care for their own babies by watching employees raising their own.

The Human Biology students witnessed a lecture based on human evolution, where they learnt the differences and similarities between humans and primates. The class interacted with the skulls of primitive monkeys and apes, were challenged with sorting the skulls from the least to most primitive, wherein they almost got all skulls in the correct order.

The excursion was a fun way for students to build on learnt content from their courses, with many students coming home with cute souvenirs and stuffed animals from the zoo's gift shop.



Girls on Track

On Friday 28 April, ten Year 9 girls were given an exciting opportunity to participate in a free excursion at Carco.com.au Raceway (formerly Wanneroo Raceway) as part of the Girls On Track program. The event included several activities, such as behind-the-scenes tours, sitting in a race car, and using a rattle gun to screw and unscrew the tyres of a race car.

The students took part in a physical fitness test which assessed their responses and reactions. They identified coloured buttons which alternated, aiming to identify the red button as quickly as possible to test their reaction times. They also participated in a coordination and reaction time test where one girl dropped a tennis ball, and another caught it as it fell vertically. These tests were designed to highlight the importance of being reactive and focused on the fast-paced world of motorsport.

The students also had the chance to build an electronic Lego car and learnt about traction and how simple modifications can increase a car's speed. They were also given a tour of the garage by one of the race team leaders and had the opportunity to watch the cars racing around the track from an observation deck.

During the event, the girls learnt about the various jobs/careers involved in the racing industry, such as engineering, racing, mechanics, media and operations. The program is part of the Girls On Track STEM program, which aims to inspire young teenage girls to pursue a career in this industry.

The students thoroughly enjoyed the event and hope to experience similar opportunities in the future.







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 five days in Perth and two 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 fifth, missing out on the trip to nationals. But we achieved something even better, a great time learning about all ways of science."

"Biological Bulldozer" Excursion

On Friday 9 June the Year 12 Integrated Science General class had the opportunity to be involved in saving our native tree ecosystem of Jarrah trees which have been affected by the Phytophthora Dieback disease. The arrival and spread of Phytophthora dieback disease in Western Australia has been catastrophic for a number of ecosystems. Students travelled to the Perth Hills Discovery Centre located in Beelu National Park to learn about the treatment, tools and processes used to manage the spread of the disease and undertook a stem injecting activity to help protect the trees and prevent further dieback spread. More than 50% of WA's rare or endangered plants are susceptible, many of which are only found in the south-west. Through hands-on activities students received a practical understanding of the "biological bulldozer".



Humanities and Social Science

Stand Up Be Heard

On Tuesday 20 June, six students from Year 9 were invited by The Commissioner for Children and Young People, Ms Jacqueline McGowan-Jones, to participate in a forum to have their concerns heard. In this forum, students had the ability to voice their concerns relating to being a young person in their local community and be a voice to change. Students separated into two groups, discussing limitations and problems they felt they faced when trying to communicate their opinions. Guest speaker, Mr Joshua Zilani, Mandurah Youth Advisory Group Chair gave a speech about his personal experiences.



Student Services

Harmony Day

Balcatta SHS celebrated Harmony Day on Wednesday 29 March where students were encouraged to celebrate their culture by wearing their traditional dress. A group of students organised a multi-cultural shared feast which was held in the Student Services outdoor area. Harmony Day is about inclusiveness, respect and belonging for all Australians, regardless of cultural or linguistic background, united by a set of core Australian values. The theme for the 2023 competitions was 'Living in Harmony'. Harmony Day celebrates the core values of inclusiveness, mutual respect for one another's culture and religious diversity and fosters a sense of belonging for everyone who calls Australia their home.



Technologies

North Metropolitan TAFE Joondalup Campus Tour

On Thursday 16 February, the Year 12 classes of Computer Science General and Certificate III Information Technology visited the Joondalup campus of North Metro TAFE. Students were given a guided tour of the facilities which included 2D and 3D graphics, IT and Cyber Security, Hospitality and Sport and Fitness.

In the IT section, students were shown the cyber security situation room, the networking and coding labs, and the attack room which was fitted out with red led light strips, bare ducting, network cabling, and a bank of network switches, firewalls and servers.

Students were able to request information on courses specific to them in readiness for further education applications later in the year. Students on visas were also provided with options for them to attend TAFE next year through TIWA.

Students enjoyed attending the campus café at the end of the tour.



Year 10 Café Foods

The Year 10 Café Food students started the year with some exciting activities. In Term 1, Week 4 they had to 'food style' antipasto platters using a variety of cold meats, cheeses, pickled vegetables and homemade dips. All three classes produced some fantastic results.

In Term 2, the Year 10 Café Food students have worked hard to complete activities and assessment tasks based on café style food products. Students produced a variety of food items suitable to be served at a High Tea service. In Week 8, Ms Holmes and Ms Murning's classes hosted formal High Teas, with students inviting staff to join them. Both staff and students enjoyed delicious food, beautiful table settings and wonderful conversations.



Resources Technology Showcase

On Tuesday 4 April, Years 9 to 11 students attended the Resources Technology Showcase, a window into careers of the future. The showcase was held at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre (PCEC). Students were encouraged to immerse themselves in technology which will be critical to the jobs/careers they take after they leave school. Students were able to ask questions direct to senior business leaders about the challenges and successes in the resource, defence technologies and space industries.

This excursion supported the WA Curriculum: Science, Technologies and HASS, with interactive displays of world class robotics, artificial intelligence, virtual reality, autonomous vehicles and remote operations centres. Students and teachers experienced a behind-the-scenes look at the technology which is transforming the resource, defence and space industries, and shaping the jobs of tomorrow.



Learning Area News

Technologies Cont.

Certificate II in Plumbing Pre-Apprenticeship School Program

Balcatta SHS offers the delivery and assessment of the Certificate II in Plumbing Pre-Apprenticeship School Program. This course is delivered over a year and is open to students from North Metropolitan Secondary schools. To date, the students have been learning how to use plumbing tools correctly and have experienced working at heights and building a restricted height scaffold.

The students have risen to the challenges faced in this new type of learning environment and showed ability to apply themselves to take responsibility for learning and working safely in this industry.

Mike Albin, Plumbing Trainer from MPA Skills, has been impressed with the dedication and focus the students have shown to really take on the various aspects of plumbing. He has mentioned the students have been a pleasure to train and share the “Aha moments” with them when they begin to understand why and how the work is done.

There is a strong camaraderie amongst the students and their teamwork skills have put them in good stead to complete the training with good results.



Exploring Career Options: Students Attend Exciting Career Taster Excursions

In today's rapidly changing world, students are eager to explore their interests and gain practical experience in various fields to make informed decisions about their future careers. Career taster excursions have proved to be a valuable platform for students, offering them a glimpse into different professions and observing occupations in action. Throughout this term, our students have had the incredible opportunity to attend a range of exciting Career Taster experiences, opening their eyes to new possibilities and shaping their career aspirations.

The Joondalup Career Taster Conference, which took place on Wednesday 3 May, brought together students from various schools. During this conference, keynote speakers, industry experts and panel discussions enlightened our students about a wide range of career options in the Operations and Customer Engagement industries. Our students gained valuable insights into emerging industries, career development opportunities and had the chance to network with potential training organisations. The conference provided them with a broader understanding of various career pathways, encouraging them to explore new possibilities and venture into exciting fields.

On Friday 26 May, our aspiring Auto Electricians and Mechanic enthusiasts participated in the Automotive Taster. The excursion provided a glimpse into the inner workings of a mechanical workshop looking at wheel balancing diagnostics and troubleshooting electrical automotive switch boards. By engaging in hands-on experiences, students developed a deeper understanding of the technical skills and problem-solving abilities required in the automotive industry.

On the Wednesday 7 June, students with a flair for style and creativity participated in the Hair Styling Career Taster excursion hosted by North Metro TAFE. This immersive event provided students with hands-on experience in the world of hairstyling. Through interactive sessions, they learnt how to perform multiple braiding styles, curling methods and hair-drying techniques. Overall, the experience provided students with practical experience, industry insights, networking opportunities and a deeper understanding of the hairstyling profession.

To culminate the term's career exploration journey, our students attended the North Metro TAFE Portfolio Open Day on the Monday 26 June. This event showcased a multitude of opportunities in Cookery, Patisserie, Hospitality, Events, Tourism, Hairdressing, Barbering and Beauty. Through interactive workshops and activities with lecturers, students were able to gain meaningful experiences and explore the different certificate and diploma pathways available. The open day broadened their understanding of industry-specific pathways, paving the way for potential careers in these fields. It was a chance for our students to discover their interests and consider pursuing fulfilling careers in the culinary arts, hospitality or related industries.

The career taster excursions play a pivotal role in shaping our students' future careers. By providing hands-on experiences, industry insights and networking opportunities, the excursions empower students to explore their passions, develop practical skills and make informed choices. Whether it is hairstyling, automotive engineering, hospitality or the culinary arts, these excursions enable students to take the first steps toward a fulfilling and successful career.

We look forward to continuing our efforts in providing our students with meaningful Career Taster experiences which pave the way for their bright futures.



Students at the Automotive Career Taster

Students at the Hair Styling Career Taster

The Arts News

Years 7-12 Gifted & Talented Art Camp

From Monday 20 March to Thursday 23 March, 79 students from Years 7 to 12 Gifted and Talented Visual Art travelled to Nanga Bush Camp in Dwellingup for their annual art camp. The students immersed themselves in their surroundings by experiencing what nature had to offer, with the nightly visits from bats, the bounding leaps and visits from a grey kangaroo, even a hungry kookaburra who thought our lunch looked tasty. The students worked alongside various tutors (see comments below) and thoroughly enjoyed the art workshops. They worked hard to create and produce some great art. There was also a lot of down time for the students to chill in the forest, fish down at the river and relax under the towering trees.

It was a great experience had by all and it was wonderful to see the special bonds and the friendships developing between all year groups.

Tutor - Mark Tweedie

"Students were tasked with creating immersive collages observing the surrounding Dwellingup Forest. Inspired by the work of Australian artist Alan Jones, the workshop encouraged students to utilise the opportunity of working outdoors and reimagined conventional ideas of landscapes, using collage and colour experimentation. Students commenced with a loose abstract approach, working on paper and focusing on textures, unexpected colours and bold mark making. They then moved to a contour line drawing from life, choosing key elements of the lush and dense bushland, before slowing down the pace for a considered construction of their collage."

Tutor - Jodie Davidson

"Exploring the natural surroundings along the edge of the Murray River, students took time to stop and observe botanical details of the bracken fern beneath Blackbutt, Redgum, Marri and Jarrah trees. Collected leaves were wrapped in cloth and boiled in a eucalyptus bath to extract tannins creating imprints of the undergrowth. As they waited, students harvested sap from the Marri tree and used this to make inks to paint on cloth, depicting the close-up details of the plant and animals seen around the camp. Not only did they forget phones and computers, students had the opportunity to experience creativity using natural materials and leaving space for connecting and conversations."

Tutor - Michelle Murning

"In recent years, there has been a growing trend of incorporating natural elements into design projects. This has been particularly evident in the field of fashion, where designers are using the natural environment as a source of inspiration for their creations. In the case of the calico bag designs, students utilised a range of natural elements to create unique and visually appealing designs. The elements included plants, animals and landscapes. For example, some students used images of flowers, leaves and trees to create intricate patterns on their bags. Others used images of animals, such as birds and butterflies to add a touch of whimsy to their designs."

Tutor - Natalie Zuchetti

"Students learnt wet felting techniques using naturally dyed merino wool to capture the surrounding bush land using colour, textures, natural elements and hand stitching to bring a narrative in contemporary landscape artworks."



The Arts News cont.

Moulin Rouge “Get Technical” Excursion

On Thursday 23 March, Years 10 to 12 Drama students had the opportunity to experience a “behind-the-scenes” look at the Moulin Rouge musical. The cast and creative personnel provided backstage information and Q&A about The Arts industries and careers in the performing arts sector.



Media and Creative Arts Workshop

On Thursday 1 June, Year 10 Media students attended the Media and Creative Arts workshop and campus tour at Curtin University. They were given guidance and tuition to examine TV production and participated in a news reading activity.



Literature Centre

On Tuesday 13 June, some of our Year 7 and Year 8 Gifted and Talented students were invited to attend a new program run by ‘The Literature Centre’ in Fremantle. It was an action-packed day, where students participated in workshops and developed their creative ideas and techniques with highly successful professional visual artist and award-winning graphic novelist, Aśka.

Aśka was amazing. The students were so engaged and loved every minute of it, I can’t wait to take them back again.

Gifted and Talented students from John Curtin College of the Arts also attended. It was so nice for our students to mix with a new group of like-minded peers from another school.

The centre staff were very impressed by our students’ work and behaviour.



Nexus Dance Alliance

The annual Nexus Dance Alliance 2023 concert was held on Friday 9 June at the Octagon Theatre, University of WA, Nedlands. 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 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. The following performances were choreographed by our Dance teachers, Alison Martin and Kristina Balic:

- “Shakira Shakira” – Years 11/12
- “Footloose” – Year 7
- “Poison” – Year 8
- “Conga” – Year 10
- “Out of Control” – Year 9
- “Rescue” – Years 11/12



Year 7 - “Footloose”



Years 11/12 - “Rescue”



Year 9 - “Out of Control”

People and Print

Two of our Year 10 students, Garima Choudhary and Annie Frencham, recently participated in the Intergenerational Art workshops, 'People and Print'. The entire workshop sessions were sponsored by the City of Stirling.

The workshop sessions took part over a six-week time frame:

Week 1 – initial meeting with their selected subject (Saturday 29 April 2023)

Week 2/3 – Scribe workshop (Saturday 6 or 13 May 2023)

Week 4/5 – Print workshop (Saturday 20 or 27 May 2023)

Week 7 – Frame workshop (Saturday 10 June 2023)

The workshop series "People and Print" was developed to connect teenagers with an interest in the visual arts with an elderly resident as their portrait muse. The students worked with artist, Naomi Antenucci, developing skills to produce their own edition of prints, specifically using the copper plate etching process. The students also gained confidence and developed sensitive communications skills and understanding of the older age group. This had important benefits for the elderly participants, which included reducing depression, alleviating loneliness and debunking ageist stereotypes, which can also improve the way an elderly person perceives themselves.

Garima and Annie's presence was truly a highlight. They brought an infectious enthusiasm and dedication to their art, which was greatly appreciated by both the facilitators and the older participants. Garima and Annie formed strong connections with the older participants, fostering a sense of intergenerational bonding and creativity.

The students, in their own time were required to:

- attend an initial meeting with their selected subject to allow time for sketching, photographing, and learning their story. This took place during mentored group sessions.
- attend two workshop sessions, Scribe and Print, to learn about the printmaking process and produce the artworks.
- produce a minimum edition of three prints during the Print workshop session. One print was for the student to keep, one was to be given to the elderly resident and one was to be kept by the City of Stirling.
- attend a final meeting with their selected subject to gift them one of the finished artworks.

It is through collaborative efforts and generous contributions like this, we can create such enriching experiences for our students and the community at large.

Atwell Youth Art Awards

The Atwell Youth Art Awards is an annual exhibition showcasing the artistic merits and talent of West Australian local high schools. The exhibition was held at Melville Arts @ Atwell House from Sunday 11 June to Wednesday 21 June. The award presentations were held on Thursday 15 June. Seven of our students had their artwork in the show including:

Samira Jacques Gerbaz, Year 7

Vivienne Antal, Year 9

Karma Pema Dolkar, Year 9

Jessica Betti, Year 12

Three of our students received 'Highly Commended' awards:

Miya Do, Year 7

Annabell Goodridge, Year 9

Riscia Vinta, Year 12



Worlds of Fantasy by Annabell Goodridge, Year 9, "Highly Commended" award



Kookaburra by Miyo Do, Year 7, "Highly Commended" award

Artwork by Vivienne Antal



Annie Frencham with her "portrait muse"



Garima Choudhary with her "portrait muse"

Health and Physical Education News

Swimming Carnivals

The swimming carnivals were held during Term 1. Results were as follows:

Place	Girls	Boys
Year 7 – Tuesday 14 March		
1st	Maya Szarnyasi	Kristoff Dimitrovski
2nd	Jade Burnett	Tyler Eyre
3rd	Elizabeth Deada	Aston Caccetta
Year 8 – Wednesday 1 March		
1st	Lorien Forbes	Liam Letta
2nd	Tayla Fellows	Charlie Parker
3rd	Ava Grzelec	Dante Gyorgy
Year 9 – Tuesday 28 March		
1st	Chiara D'Allesandro	Mitchell Burnett
2nd	Kayla Hidderley	Jimmi Ilomanoski
3rd	Daniella Santich	Noah Uepa
Years 10-12 – Tuesday 28 February		
Year 10		
1st	Faith Patrick	Evan Papadopoulos
2nd	Georgie Hookway	Ben Ellis
3rd	Olivia Kelly	Matthew Lewis
Year 11 and Year 12 Place getters		
1st	Minaida Peters – Year 11 Champion Girl	
	Tyson Fisher – Year 11 Champion Boy	
	Danny Antal – Year 12 Champion Boy	
2nd	Austin Machin – Year 11	
	Asher Beard – Year 12	
3rd	Clinton Dorji – Year 11	
	Levi Susac – Year 12	



Year 10 boys ready to race



Year 8 Champion Girls

Year 9 Champion Girls



Year 7 Champion Girls



Year 8 Champion Boys



Year 7 Champion Boys



Year 10 Champion Girls

Year 11 Champion Girl

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 was 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.

Year 9 and Year 10 Lightning Carnivals

The Year 9 Lightning Carnival was held on Wednesday 7 June and the Year 10 Lightning Carnival on Tuesday 20 June. Students competed against other schools in our area. Sports included netball, basketball, volleyball, soccer, football and hockey, held at various venues.



Year 7 Basketball teams



Year 8 Basketball team Year 8 Boys Basketball in action



Year 7 Netball team



Year 8 Netball teams



Year 8 Football team

Champion Schools Junior Volleyball Competition

On Friday 9 June, students from Year 7 to Year 9 attended the School Sports WA (SSWA) Volleyball Junior Championships at Warwick Stadium. Two junior boys' teams and two junior girls' teams were selected. One of our boys' teams made it to the finals and was placed fifth overall. The Division 1 girls team made it all the way to the grand finals, a close game, finishing in second place to the top Greenwood team. The girls displayed a passionate game and great sportsmanship led by their Year 12 team coach, Iraia King. Fantastic support was given from the other three Balcatta teams, cheering the girls on in the finals. Overall, it was a great day of fun and comradery by the volleyball students who displayed skills in sportsmanship, leadership and competitiveness.





Students in traditional cultural dress for Harmony Day

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