



Balcatta Update

30 June 2023

From the Principal

This is the last Balcatta Update for Term 2, as we head towards a two-week break. I want to take this opportunity to wish staff and students a restful break.

As usual the last two weeks of the term have been busy. A number of students were involved in social activities including:

Year 11 Dinner Dance

On Thursday 15 June Year 11 students were invited to attend a Dinner Dance event at the Beaumonde on the Pointe, East Perth. It was a great location overlooking the river where students enjoyed the night with lots of loud singing and dancing on the dance floor.

Parliament House Visit

Local MLA David Michael invited six of our Year 12 students and myself to have lunch at Parliament House on Friday 16 June. As invited guests, we had lunch in the formal dining room. Mr Michael was very interested in hearing about the students' studies and their future plans.

After lunch we had a mini tour and as parliament was not sitting, we were able to enter the chambers. The students enjoyed hearing about the process, and they took numerous photos.

Silent Disco Event

We held our first Silent Disco event for Year 7 to Year 10 students who had maintained their Good Standing. They were invited to participate in a Silent Disco which was held in the old gymnasium on Thursday 22 June and Friday 23 June. The students had a great time dancing away to the music, as well as a number of staff joining in.

School Champions Junior Volleyball Competition

Our Year 7 to Year 9 volleyball students performed well in the recent School Sports WA Volleyball Junior Competition held at Warwick Stadium. We have just been advised the Balcatta Senior High School Junior Girls team has been successful in qualifying for the Champion of Champions Secondary Volleyball event which will take place on Friday 28 July. We look forward to hearing how they go.

Helen Maitland
Principal

News

Year 10 students going into Year 11, 2024

The interview process for students to select their courses for Year 11 in 2024 will continue next term from Tuesday 18 July to Friday 28 July. Parents will be able to access [SOBS](#) to make appointments (25 mins timeslots) with either Tessa Curtis, Claire Piesse or Joh Gatti. Students must bring their [Year 11 Course Selection form](#) to the meeting. The 2024 Year 11 and Year 12 Academic Handbook for course selection details is available on our [website](#).

VaccinateWA – School-Based Immunisation Program

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

The VaccinateWA system enables parents/carers to give consent 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.

If you are unable to register online, download the [Consent Form](#). If you have problems downloading the Consent Form, spare hard copies are available from the Admin office. The Consent Form is to be completed, signed then returned to the Admin office as soon as possible in Week 1 next term.

Step by step information for using VaccinateWA is available on the [HealthyWA](#) website. Please call 13 26843 if you have any technical issues.

Year 10 students are scheduled to receive their vaccinations on Friday 21 July (Term 3, Week 1). No vaccinations will be given to students unless you have provided prior consent.

Learning Area News

Excursion to Herdsmans Lake

On Friday 23 June and Monday 26 June, Year 9 Science students had the opportunity to participate in a science excursion to Herdsmans Lake Discovery Centre and to participate in a series of hands-on workshops run by the centre. Students learnt about the ecological community of interdependent organisms in an aquatic ecosystem.

Students discovered the aquatic, bird, animal and plant life which live in and around Herdsmans Lake. The day started with a quick lesson on food webs and energy flow, which related directly to Herdsman Lake's ecosystem, to create a common understanding as well as the following activities:

Biotic sampling - students were outside using scoop nets to sample macro invertebrates. They were asked to identify, sort and classify their catches, before putting them back in the lake.

Abiotic Study - students tested sites at the lake and drain for pH, turbidity, temperature and salinity (electrical conductivity).

Biotic Study – students went for a walk to explore the diversity of birds and other creatures around the lake and developed an overall snapshot of the quality of the lake at that particular time.

The day ended in the Wildlife Centre where students explored their displays of work.

Balcatta Update

Important dates

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| 30 June | Last day of Term 2 for students |
| 1 – 16 July | School Holidays |
| 17 July | School Development Day (Monday – no school for students) |
| 18 July | Term 3 commences for students (Tuesday) – Year 7 and Year 8 students will be issued with a new timetable in Period 1 due to a change in their elective options |
| 18-28 July | Course Counselling Interviews for Year 10 students (Year 11 in 2024) |
| 21 July | Year 10 Immunisation |



Mentally Healthy WA