

16 October 2023

## From the Principal

Welcome to the start of Term 4 with all students returning to classes on Tuesday 10 October. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Tessa Curtis for backfilling in the Principal's position while I was on Long Service Leave.

On the last week of Term 3, we farewelled our Year 12 students with activities during the week. On Friday 22 September, the students celebrated their final day which included breakfast, whole school assembly and cutting of the cake.

### Year 12 ATAR

The Year 12 ATAR students undertook their mock WACE exams during the holiday break. The ATAR teachers have been providing a comprehensive study program during Week 1 and Week 2 to provide students with feedback from their exams as well as specific exam revision practice and exam study techniques. We wish our Year 12 ATAR students the best in their upcoming final WACE exams.

Recent world events have led to some concerns regarding distressing online content finding its way onto student screens and devices. It is normal for staff, parents and carers to be concerned about what our children may see, so during this time we recognise that keeping families free from harm on the internet is very important. The [eSafety Commissioner](#) provides some important guidelines and resources to help ensure that online spaces stay safe for everyone.

### Staffing Update

Tessa Curtis – Long Service Leave (Term 4)  
Marita Rozario – Associate Principal (Year 10-12)  
Declan Kerrigan – Student Services Manager

### School Board (Annual Public Meeting)

Parents and guardians are invited to attend the annual public meeting of the Balcatta SHS Board to be held on Wednesday 8 November commencing at 5.00pm. The meeting will be held in the Staff Common Room (Level 1), 56 Amelia Street entrance.

### "Ignite" Dance Showcase 2023

On Thursday 19 October and Friday 20 October, the Specialist Dance students will be performing in our annual End of Year Dance Showcase commencing at 7.00pm and finishing at 8.30pm on both nights. This performance is a culmination of the year's technique and choreography work and gives the students further opportunity to work in a professional theatre setting. Tickets are available for \$15.00 from the following Eventbrite links.

To purchase tickets for Thursday's performance - [CLICK HERE](#)  
To purchase tickets for Friday's performance - [CLICK HERE](#)

### Vale Professor Ted Snell AM, CitWA

We received the sad news that Professor Ted Snell passed away recently. Ted was an extraordinary figure in the arts and literature community. Throughout his career, Ted authored several books and organised many art exhibitions. Ted's influence wasn't limited to his academic and artistic pursuits. He also made significant contributions to the National Arts agenda.

Ted was a great support of the Balcatta SHS Gifted and Talented Visual Art Program and became the patron from 2017. In 2018 we saw the launch of the inaugural Patron of the Arts Award at the annual Gifted and Talented Art exhibition. Ted was a member of the Balcatta SHS Board from 2016 to 2021. We have passed on our condolences to the family.

Helen Maitland  
Principal

## News

### Brazil Scholarship Opportunity and Homestay

We have an exciting opportunity to potentially participate in a great program for our school. As part of a proposed scholarship program, the Brazilian Government is sponsoring 100 students from Brazil to spend one semester studying in a public high school in Western Australia. The students will undertake their studies in Term 1 and Term 2 of 2024 (a period of 23 weeks). The students are aged between 15-17 years and will enrol in Year 10 or Year 11.

We have the opportunity to enrol a number of these students in our school. However we need families to host and provide accommodation for them. Families will receive full support from the Australian Homestay Network to host students. Each student will need their own room in the home of a host family.

As a starting point, please respond by email to [balcatta.shs@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:balcatta.shs@education.wa.edu.au) to indicate your interest in hosting a student or two.

Please note this is only the first step in the process. There is other work being undertaken by the Department of Education on the promotion to families of this initiative.

### Saver Plus

School camps are an amazing opportunity for your children. However they can be stressful for some parents to afford.

If you have children attending camps in 2024, [Saver Plus](#) will assist with saving and budgeting for the camp.

Saver Plus encourages parents to save \$50 a month (for 10 months). The savings is then matched - a free \$500 for education costs, making \$1,000 available for the school camp.

Families who start saving in September will have their savings ready to pay their school camp fees in July 2024.

Saver Plus will chat with families about eligibility:

- Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card
- Payment from Centrelink and
- Earning an income (employment, carer's payment, or child support).

[Saver Plus](#) helps your families with budgeting for the cost to attend next year's school camp. Please refer to the flyer on the reverse of this newsletter.

## Balcatta Update

### WAAPA Summer School 2024

Join us at WAAPA in January 2024 for a fun-filled time. You will make new friends, learn new skills and best of all, do lots of performing! This summer WAAPA is offering a range of performing arts courses as part of our school holiday program for secondary school students. Classes for young people from Years 7 to 12 in Acting, Improvisation, Dance, Acting for Camera, Jazz and Music Theatre means there is something for everyone with a passion for the arts. This year we have a course especially designed for students from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Staff cater for all abilities and experience levels. For information about the many courses on offer please

visit [Summer School 2024](#) or contact Gabrielle Metcalf at [explore.waapa@ecu.edu.au](mailto:explore.waapa@ecu.edu.au) or 9370 6775.

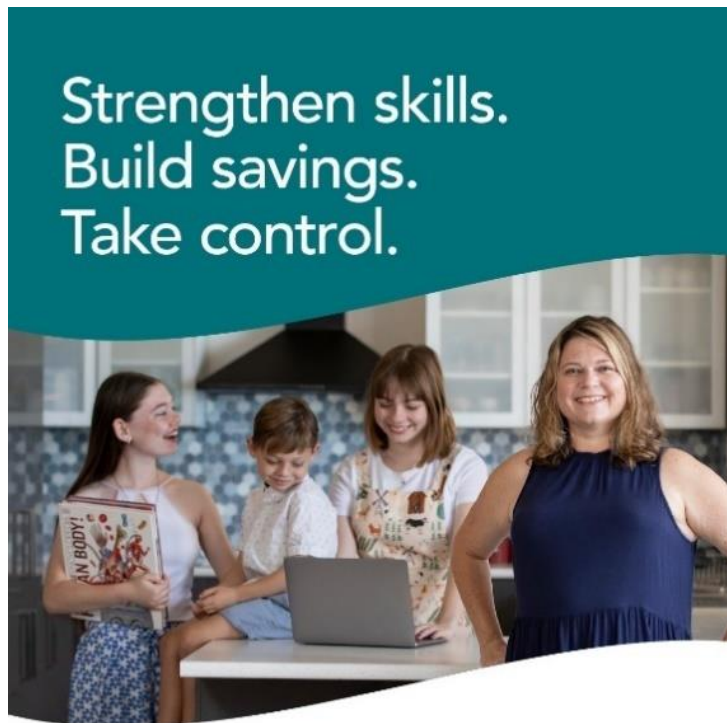
### From the P&C

The next P&C meeting will be held on Monday 16 October at 7.00pm in the Admin Conference Room.

P&C President  
Stacey Litchfield

### Important dates

16 Oct	7.00pm P&C meeting
19-20 Oct	7.00pm "Ignite" Dance Showcase 2023 in the PAT
23 Oct	Interschool Athletics Carnival
24 Oct	5.00pm School Tour and 5.30pm Year 6 POD Presentation in the PAT
27 Oct	6.00pm Year 12 Presentation Ceremony at Octagon Theatre



Save \$500 and ANZ will top up your bank account with another \$500.

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1300 610 355 [saverplus.org.au](http://saverplus.org.au)

Saver Plus supports people to develop life-long savings habits. It's delivered by Brotherhood of St. Laurence, The Smith Family and Berry Street. It's funded by ANZ and Department of Social Services, learn more [saverplus.org.au](http://saverplus.org.au)

