

17 November 2023

From the Principal

Just a reminder to all parents and guardians regarding the following processes:

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.

Mobile Phones – are to be “off and away all day” when students are on school grounds. Students not following the government’s Mobile Electronic Devices Policy will have them confiscated. Please read our [Mobile Electronic Devices Policy](#) on our website.

Visitors to the School – All visitors to the school **must** report to the Admin Office. If they have an appointment with a teacher, the teacher will be contacted to come and collect them. **Parents visiting the school are not to go direct to classrooms or interact with students.**

Staffing Update

I will be taking leave from Thursday 16 November to Friday 15 December to recover from foot surgery. The following staff changes will take place:

Ms Cathie Bonner – Principal

Mrs Sharlene Sookraj – Associate Principal (Year 7/Education Support)

Mrs Louise Santarelli – Head of Learning Area English.

National Schools Opinion Survey (for Parents)

Parents, please click on the [link](#) to complete a brief survey before Friday 8 December 2023. It should only take approximately five (5) minutes. The survey will provide important data which will assist in future school planning.

Mix 94.5 Masters Milk Carton Regatta

The Mix 94.5 Masters Milk Carton Regatta will be held on Saturday 18 November at Hillarys Boat Harbour. The following Year 10 students have been hard at work building the Balcatta SHS “boat” – Eduardo Russell (captain), Alina Chaudhry, Garima Choudhary, Annie Frencham, Elishah Gavanozo, Amy Kim, Steven Le, Diti Patel, Faith Patrick, Kazandra Posada and Ashleigh Sharman. The team “Moo Moo Sharks” under the guidance of Mr Miles Attey have worked over the last few months designing and building their vessel from the donated Masters milk cartons. We wish them the best as they race for the chance to win some big prize money and bragging rights as the newest Mix94.5 Masters Milk Carton Regatta champion. The team will be in Race 3 commencing at 12.25pm.

I encourage families to attend the regatta to support our students and for an enjoyable day out.

On Wednesday 8 November at the annual School Board meeting, Year 10 students, Ashleigh Sharman and Garima Choudhary, presented a report regarding a number of extra-curricular opportunities they have been involved in this year including:

- **Super, Tax and You Competition** – completed in the last week of Term 3. This competition was Australia-wide. Balcatta SHS won the People’s Choice Award for the Senior High School category. The video can be viewed on the [link](#) - *Entry 8: Winners News Now* – Jasmin Caccetta, Jessica Thompson, Ashleigh Sharman, Nadyashani Igusti (Year 10 - WA).
- **UN Youth Voice to Parliament** – students were invited to a referendum with three guest speakers (Q&A format). A video was shown inspiring unity and change. The referendum enabled the collaboration with other students and schools.
- **“Balcatta Creates” Talent Show Proposal for 2024** – the show proposes to increase art and culture with House points. It will also help to build community spirit and increase student/teacher relations.
- **Mock Trial Competition for Years 11/12 in 2024** – the competition will involve participants from all over WA and will take place at the Supreme Court, working with lawyers on criminal and civil cases.

Helen Maitland
Principal

Learning Area News

Year 10 Childcare

Students in Year 10 Childcare have been studying play-based activities. They have looked at different types of play and the reasons why children engage in play. They have also researched different developmental levels and looked at how different activities and toys support development at various age ranges from 0-5 age groups. They have researched different types of toys and taken into consideration design features, safety aspects and looked at how they encourage different types of play. Finally their assessment involved designing a playground for a range of ages. Students put in an enormous amount of effort into their projects.

Accredited Course in Early Career Discovery

On Friday 10 November, the last cohort of Year 9 students engaged in a rewarding experience at the Northbridge TAFE campus. Participating in hands-on activities, students were given the choice to delve into either jewellery-making or a fitness-based career taster, providing a first-hand look into potential vocational paths.

Balcatta Update

In addition to these activities, students successfully concluded their assessments for the Course in Early Career Discovery. This accredited qualification is designed to expose students to a range of career possibilities early on, aiding them in making well-informed decisions about their educational journey beyond Year 10.

The initiative, aimed at empowering students to shape their academic and post-secondary choices, demonstrated considerable success. Our students thoroughly enjoyed exploring the TAFE campus and gaining valuable insights into diverse courses and pathways available for their future pursuits.

This enriching experience not only broadened their horizons but also provided them with concrete insights into potential career paths and further training opportunities available at TAFE.

Free Swimming Instructor Course for students

The Department of Education has a free Swimming Instructor course for students in Balga on **Sunday 19 November 2023**.

Students will:

- obtain an accredited Swimming Instructor and CPR qualification for free.
- gain paid employment teaching VacSwim and Intern swimming lessons.

Who Can register?

Students who are at least 17 years of age.

Students do not require a minimum level of swimming to be eligible for the course, however, they must be confident in the water.

Student transition to employment with the Department of Education

The Department will support students to transition to employment for VacSwim and Intern swimming programs through:

- ongoing support and mentoring

- covering the costs of relevant screening including Working with Children Check and Department of Education Nationally Coordinated Criminal History Check.

Students will be able to apply for swimming instructor positions across the State.

[VacSwim – Take the Plunge \(Beach\)](#)

[VacSwim – Take the Plunge \(Pool\)](#)

Brazil Scholarship Opportunity and Homestay

We have an exciting opportunity to 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.

Calling
for host
families.



Important dates

20 Nov	Year 11 Exam (Maths Specialist ATAR)
21 Nov	P1 Year 10 Teen Mental Health First Aid Incursion
22-23 Nov	Year 10 Exams
24 Nov	Year 5 Balcatta Academic Challenge
27 Nov	5.00pm Uniform Shop, 5.15pm School Tour, 6.15pm Parent Information Event (for Year 6 students enrolled in Year 7, 2024)
28 Nov	Orientation Day (Year 6 students enrolled in Year 7, 2024)
28 Nov	6.00pm Gifted & Talented Parent Presentation in the PAT (for Year 7 in 2025)
29 Nov – 1 Dec	Year 9 Outdoor Recreation Camp
29 Nov	5.00pm School Board meeting