

1 December 2023

From the Principal

Throughout the past two weeks our students have been provided with a range of exciting opportunities designed to enrich learning and expand perceptions of possibility. Students have attended excursions to the Monet in Paris exhibition, the Young Illustrators Visual Art excursion, Entertaining Girls Academy and Year 9 Outdoor Rec Camp. Students also participated in the WAMC STEM program incursion and our Year 10 students completed the third and final session of the Teen Mental Health First Aid course. Our school hosted the annual Academic Challenge event for a select group of Year 5 students from our local intake schools where our Student Councillors and House Captains supported students throughout the challenges. Congratulations to 1st place winners West Balcatta Primary School. Our student leaders also engaged in leadership roles on our Year 6 Orientation Day. The Year 6 students were also treated to music, dance and drama performances giving them a taste of what is to come at Balcatta Senior High School. Throughout these events our students demonstrated exemplary behaviour and respect for the opportunities they will gain access to.

On Saturday 18 November, our Mix 94.5 Masters Milk Carton Regatta team 'Moo Moo Sharks' took out first prize in the Peoples' Choice Award for Best Design and rowed their craft across the finish line fully intact. The functional design and artistic flair were commended by those in attendance and the trophy takes pride of place in the Admin foyer. Congratulations to the Moo Moo Sharks!

During Term 4, Year 8 HASS students, Makayla Tran; Tsheyang Lhazom; Dashnyl Josol; Sebastian Bretti and Dipali Rawat began work on their entry for The Minister's Innovation Challenge. The challenge is a significant initiative which showcased the innovative and exciting education system in Western Australia and provided an opportunity for Year 8 students to develop their problem-solving, collaboration and communication skills while addressing local problems. Throughout the challenge, each team worked with an industry mentor to firstly identify a local issue or problem and secondly, apply design thinking processes to develop innovative solutions. Team Balcatta focused their attention on future Year 7 students at the school, in the quest to better equip these students with tools to successfully navigate the often-daunting journey from primary school through to high school. The precise problem articulated by Team Balcatta was: *"How might we initiate and advertise student lead clubs for future Year 7 students coming into high school to promote a sense of community and connectedness"*. The team's solution to this problem was to *"establish a process where new Year 7 students can meet like-minded peers and engage in healthy extra-curricular activities"*. Although the proposal developed by Team Balcatta did not feature in the top three entries, the fantastic idea was rolled out to the Year 7 students of 2024 on Orientation Day to strengthen the sense of community and connectedness within our school. Our students should be commended for their vision and community spirit for which our incoming students have already benefitted from the innovation.

The Year 10 River Cruise reward event was held on Wednesday 29 November. Students dressed to impress for the occasion, which was a wonderful opportunity for students and staff to celebrate a successful year.

Information about our Years 7-9 Good Standing reward event and House Points reward event will be communicated in the coming days.

Semester 2 reports will be emailed to families early in Week 10. Students will be allocated Learning Area grades and an Attitude, Behaviour and Effort (ABE) rating. There will be no comments entered for Semester 2 reports. Special Education Needs reports will indicate students' progress toward achievement of individual goals.

A reminder that the *National Schools Opinion Survey for Parents* is open to all families. Please click on the [link](#) to complete a brief survey before Friday 8 December 2023. The survey should only take approximately five (5) minutes and will provide important data which will assist in future school planning.

As this is the last Balcatta Update for the year, I wish you all an enjoyable and safe holiday break and look forward to seeing our students back at school on Wednesday 31 January 2024.

Cathie Bonner
Principal

News

Mix 94.5 Masters Milk Carton Regatta

The Mix 94.5 Masters Milk Carton Regatta was held on Saturday 18 November at Hillarys Boat Harbour. The following Year 10 students worked hard on constructing the Balcatta SHS "vessel" – Eduardo Russell (captain), Alina Chaudhry, Garima Choudhary, Annie Frencham, Elishah Gavanozo, Amy Kim, Steven Le, Diti Patel, Faith Patrick, Kazandra Posada and Ashleigh Sharman. Over the last few months, the team "Moo Moo Sharks", under the guidance of Mr Miles Attey, designed and built their vessel from the donated Masters milk cartons. The team raced for the chance to win some big prize money and bragging rights as the newest Mix94.5 Masters Milk Carton Regatta champion. The "Moo Moo Sharks" vessel, commandeered by Edoardo Russell and Steven Le, was launched into the depths of the beach at Hillarys Marina to take out the winning place, only to be disqualified at the finish line due to a contentious launch. Whilst the students were disappointed with the decision, they were quick to congratulate the newly-announced winners and genuinely shared in the spirit of the event. Within minutes, the People's Choice Award for Best Design was announced. First place winners with a prize of \$5,000 went to the "Moo Moo Sharks", who shared the prize money among themselves.

Cultural Enrichment Experiences

Throughout this semester, our students participated in a range of cultural experiences. These initiatives opened doors for students to partake in excursions which not only facilitated connections with Indigenous peers from different schools but also facilitated immersive engagements in various cultural facets, such as art, storytelling, career and pathway exploration, and other engaging activities.

Yanchep National Park Cultural Day

The Follow the Dream Outreach Program extended an invitation for students to participate in a captivating cultural appreciation event hosted at the Yanchep National Park. Guided by Uncle Noel Nannup's captivating stories, they engaged in activities fostering a deeper connection to their heritage. Spear throwing demonstrations unveiled traditional practices, while yarning circles became spaces

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for sharing narratives. For Indigenous students, it was a chance to connect with their cultural roots and fellow peers.

The University of Western Australia

The University of Western Australia offers a range of programs and initiatives dedicated to encouraging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander secondary students to complete their Year 12 education and consider pursuing higher studies at university.

The School of Indigenous Studies (SIS) Outreach Programs offer first-hand glimpses into university life. Through interactive sessions, meeting tertiary student role models and discovering various courses, students navigated decisions about their academic future with guidance from university staff.

Balcatta had the privilege of sending seven students to attend both the Year 8 Discovery Day and the Year 9 Djinanginy Day. These experiences served as a great introduction to university life, immersing students in a spectrum of hands-on activities. Additionally, students were equipped with information regarding university entry pathways and gained insights into the comprehensive support available for Indigenous students at UWA. Moreover, these events facilitated connections among students from different schools, fostering new friendships grounded in shared aspirations.

"I had a good time and found the sessions interesting. I really liked the science experiments especially the wet cloth that was totally water resistant. NASA uses this technology when sending astronauts to space. The lunch was even better - SUBWAY!!"

Written by Seth Rogers, Year 9 student.

These initiatives have provided an exciting preview of upcoming opportunities at Balcatta Senior High School designed to support the aspirations of our Aboriginal students.

BikeSpot 2023

The Amy Gillett Foundation is Australia's leading cycling safety organisation and is dedicated to making bike riding safe for everyone in the community and making it easier for people to choose to ride a bike.

One part of this program is BikeSpot 2023 – an interactive map which allows anyone to mark where they feel safe or unsafe while

riding their bike. You can view the map and make your mark at bikespot.org.

As the largest ever crowd sourcing bike safety project in Australia, BikeSpot is an incredibly exciting project which gives you the power to have input into cycling safety upgrades in your neighbourhood.

It is important we get people in communities across Australia to make their mark on the map. The data gathered will build a detailed picture of where we need to make upgrades on our roads to make cycling safe.

The BikeSpot map will close at the end of January 2024, so please get involved as soon as you can.

Triple P – Transition to High School

Transitioning to high school can be a stressful and overwhelming time. It can also be exciting to watch your child build their independence. This FREE session will cover six key skills children require to be successful in high school, and how you can support them during this time.

In this session, you will learn:

- How to help your children develop self-discipline.
- How to promote independence and help your child solve problems on their own.
- How you and your child can be involved in high school activities.
- How to help your child follow the rules, routines and expectations in high school.
- The importance of supportive friends and how to foster positive social connections.
- How to support your child's engagement at high school and the importance of attending school regularly.

When: Tuesday 5 December 2023

Time: 6.00pm to 8.00pm

Venue: ONLINE via Webex.

No need to register – scan the QR code or [click the link](#) to join.



Important dates

4 Dec	7.00pm P&C meeting in Staff Common Room (Level 1)
5 Dec	ESP Reward Excursion
6 Dec	Year 7 Science Fair
6-8 Dec	Year 10 Outdoor Recreation Camp
11 Dec	Years 7-10 House Point Reward Event
13 Dec	Year 10 SciTech Excursion
14 Dec	Years 7-9 Reward Excursion
14 Dec	Last day for students
15 Dec	School is CLOSED

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24 Jan	Admin Office is OPEN
26 Jan	Public Holiday
31 Jan	Term 1 commences for students
31 Jan to 2 Feb	Year 7 Transition Week