



Balcatta Update

14 February 2024

From the Principal

We held our first whole school assembly on Friday 9 February and it was pleasing to see so many parents in attendance. The purpose of the assembly was to acknowledge the academic performance of the Year 11 students in Semester 2, 2023.

Congratulations to the students who were awarded certificates for Top Student and for Merit for each course.

The Academic Excellence certificate and medallion is awarded to the highest scoring student based on their Semester 2 WACE course achievements. Congratulations to Grace Palden.

The Respect-Unite-Excel award shows a pursuit of knowledge and commitment to achievement. The students work to the best of their ability and are enthusiastic about learning. They participate responsibly in all aspects of school life and build positive relationships, which they show through consideration, empathy and kindness to staff and peers alike. Congratulations to Stephanie Litchfield and Minaida Peters.

We also acknowledged our Year 12 Head Prefects and Student Councilors for 2024. These roles are very competitive with a number of students applying and going through a rigorous selection process.

Congratulations to our 2024 Student Leaders.

Year 12 Prefects:

Eva Veljanovski and Jaeger Peters

Student Councillors:

Year 11 – Ashleigh Sharman and Edoardo Russell

Year 10 – Isha Singh and Oliver Nowicki

Year 9 – Tsheyang Lhazom and Tshering Dema

Year 8 – Olivia Thompson and Lily Jones.

Eva and Jaeger addressed the assembly and outlined their roles and responsibilities and what they hope to achieve this year.

Year 7 Parent Information Event

It was pleasing to have such a good turnout for the Year 7 Parent Information Event on Tuesday 13 February

The P&C hosted a “Meet and Mingle” before the formal presentation which was a great opportunity for parents to meet staff who were present, as well as other parents.

The session covered a lot of information, with presentations from numerous staff, and included:

- Student Services – support, attendance, good standing and the focus on “well-being and positive relationships”.
- Curriculum – Learning Area Heads of Departments - outlined the structure, focus and assessments.
- House Update – Year 7 students were allocated to their houses. Allocation house points outlined.

Parents were reminded there is useful information in the Year 7 Parent Handbook. If you have any queries, please contact the school.

The [Year 7 Parent Handbook](#) and the [Year 7 Parent Information 2024 PowerPoint](#) are available on the [School Website](#).

School Board Nominations (for parents)

I am now calling for nominations from interested parents who would like to be elected to the Balcatta Senior High School

Board. There is a vacancy for TWO parent representatives on the School Board who will be appointed for a THREE-year tenure. The School Board, which consists of parents, community members and school staff, has a very important role in the life of the school. It engages in activities which enhance the education provided by the school and provides a range of expertise to help the school achieve the best outcomes for all students. The Board meets each term and training is provided for members throughout the year. If you wish to nominate, please complete a [Parent Nomination Form](#) which is to be sealed in an envelope and placed in the ballot box located in the school's Admin office by Friday 16 February.

NAPLAN

Every year students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 participate in NAPLAN tests in reading, writing, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. The assessment provides parents and schools with an understanding of how individual students are performing at the time of the tests. NAPLAN is just one aspect of a school's assessment and reporting process. It does not replace ongoing assessments made by teachers. All Year 7 and Year 9 students will be provided with a detailed NAPLAN schedule. NAPLAN Practice testing dates are Wednesday 28 February, Friday 8 March and Tuesday 12 March. NAPLAN testing will commence from Wednesday 13 March until Monday 25 March 2024.

If you would like to know more about the tests, please access the NAPLAN Online – [Information for Parents and Carers brochure](#). The brochure provides information on what parents and carers can do to support their child during NAPLAN testing.

OLNA

Year 11 and Year 12 students have two opportunities to sit the OLNA this year, if required. The first round OLNA testing for Year 11 and Year 12 students will commence as follows:

Monday 26 February to Tuesday 27 February – Writing
Thursday 29 February to Friday 8 March – Numeracy and Reading.

The practice and example tests can be accessed by students via the [OLNA test-delivery website](#).

Username: (four-digit SIRS school code only – do not include the letter 'p').

Password: prac14

An information letter will be sent to the parents of selected Year 11 and Year 12 students who are required to sit one or more components in this round.

The first round of OLNA testing for Year 10 students will occur during Week 2 and Week 3 in Term 2. More information will be sent to parents soon.

Cafeteria – NEW Online Ordering System

The [Balcatta SHS Pinnacles Cafeteria](#) is operated by “Bain Marie”. A new online lunch ordering system is now in place called [“Flexischools”](#). You can now place your order online before 9.30am Monday to Friday by downloading the app and registering.

Helen Maitland
Principal

Balcatta Update

Learning Area News

Health and Phys Ed

Most students with Physical Education lessons will be participating in swimming and water activities in their timetabled classes. Students will be made aware of this and will know to bring appropriate swimming attire to class. This includes swimming outfit (full brief bathers as a minimum), towel and a bag for their wet gear. Where numbers are high, some students will begin in Week 4. All students are expected to participate, as it is a great opportunity for your child to build their confidence.

We understand many students are not confident in the water and are feeling reluctant but please be aware that students will not be made to do anything they feel uncomfortable with. Please note all students are able to stand in the shallow end of the pool. Some of the lessons will be stroke-based. We will also be focusing on fun activities such as shallow water relays, water polo, novelty activities using pool noodles and inflatable rings etc.

Students will be assessed on their participation and willingness to join in, not their swimming ability.

If your child will not be able to swim in any of the lessons, please provide a written note explaining why. Students not participating will be provided with written work on beach and pool safety and swimming techniques. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Health and Phys Ed office.

Swimming Carnivals will be held in Week 5 for all year groups except Year 7, which will be held in Week 7. During Term 4, Year 7 students will have the opportunity to have In-term Swimming lessons daily for two (2) weeks. They will be in small groups with specialist coaches and students of their own ability.

The Volleyball Club has started again on Tuesdays commencing from 3.00 pm to 4.00 pm. If any students are interested, they can collect a form from the Health and Phys Ed office.

Student Services

Student Mobile Phone Reminder

As you are aware, the State Government implemented a Student Mobile Phones in Public Schools policy. The policy requires all public schools to implement a ban on the use of mobile phones, smart watches, earbuds, tablets and headphones for all students from the time they arrive at school to the end of the school day. The policy is **'off and away all day'**. Exceptions are allowed for students who have approval from the Principal to use a phone to monitor health conditions or when a teacher gives students permission to use mobile phones for a specific curriculum purpose. If a student needs to contact a parent/guardian, they can ask at Student Services. Parents **must always** communicate through the school on 9345 8200 if they need to make emergency contact with their child/ren.

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 Admin, allowing them to leave the school grounds. Parents **must not contact** their child direct. Communications must be made through Student Services.

Health News

Health Reminders

If your child is unwell, please keep them home from school. As you are aware, COVID is still prevalent in the community as it is important to practise safe hygiene.

Ensure you notify the school by telephoning 9345 8228 or by SMS on 0409 686 684 to report your child is going to be absent.

As you know we have had some extremely hot days. Please ensure your child is prepared for the extreme heat. It is concerning to see students arrive at school wearing jackets and windcheaters.

It is important they keep hydrated and stay out of the extreme heat during recess and lunch.

With the extreme hot weather upon us, it is important to talk to your child about sun safety and teach them good sun protection habits. For more information, click on [Sun Smart for Parents](#).

P&C News

Our first meeting will be held on **Monday 19 February commencing at 7.00pm in the Admin Conference Room** (follow the signs). Everyone is welcome to attend.

The success of our P&C relies on the involvement and support of parents, carers and the wider school community. Being involved with our P&C provides an opportunity to:

- learn about the policies and programs of the school.
- engage with other parents and carers to share information.
- work closely with our school to build positive attitudes with students and families.
- raise funds to provide for additional resources and amenities for the benefit of our students.

As always, please feel free to contact us either via email on pandc@balcattashs@gmail.com or message us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com.au/balcattashs>. Ideas and comments are always welcome.

Stacey Litchfield
President

Important dates

19 Feb	7.00pm P&C meeting in Admin Conference Room
20 to 23 Feb	Years 7-12 G&T Art Camp
21 Feb	5.00pm School Board meeting in Admin Conference Room
26 Feb to 8 Mar	Years 11/12 OLNA
26 Feb	Year 8 Swimming Carnival
27 Feb	Years 10-12 Swimming Carnival
28 Feb	Years 7/9 NAPLAN Practice Test
29 Feb	Year 9 Swimming Carnival