



# Balcatta Update

9 September 2024

## From the Principal

The last few weeks of Term 3 are always a flurry of activity. The annual Athletics Carnival was a vibrant event which provided students and staff an opportunity to be involved as a whole community through participating in events, supporting those taking part in events and enjoying the spirit of (colourful) competition through the House system.

Book Week events started with the *Write a Book in a Day* competition and daily online quizzes.

Our musically minded and talented students have proudly represented the school through two festivals; the WA Classical Guitar Ensemble and the WA Secondary Schools Choral Festivals. It is so wonderful to have our students take part in these fantastic events. Not only do they get to showcase their own talents, but they have a chance to become part of the extended opportunities the world of music offers.

Recently the *Corroboree for Life* program culminated with students putting on a performance for their families in the PAT. It was such a proud moment for each of the students as they showed their skill, connection to each other and their heritage.

There has been a number of excursions and incursions across different Learning Areas and year groups over the last two weeks, such as:

- Parliament House Lunch
- Write a Book in a Day
- Girls in Physics Excursion to University of WA – included breakfast and a tour of the university's Physics Department
- Year 10 HaSS Geography Fieldwork excursions to Trigg Beach and Hillary's Boat Harbour
- Year 9 Career Taster Programs (for ESP students) – 2D Animation, Pinhole Photography
- Year 12 students attended the Australian of the Year presentation at Bob Hawke College

The next two weeks are particularly important for the Year 12 cohort as they come to the end of their 12 years of education in a school setting. There are a variety of events to celebrate this including the final Year 12 assembly. Some students are heading towards exams in the upcoming holidays whilst others are finalising their courses. It is important students continue to work hard towards their goals and adhere to the expectations required of them over these last couple of weeks.

Tessa Curtis  
Principal

## News

### Parliament House Lunch

On Friday 23 August, David Michael MLA invited six of our Year 12 students to lunch at Parliament House – Lakeisha Arifianto, Adam Merenda, Meejur Palden, Jaeger Peters, Thomas Robinson, Eva Veljanoski along with Miles Attey Year 12 Coordinator.

### Celebrating Indigenous Culture at BSHS: A Special Performance

On Tuesday 27 August, our school community came together to celebrate our Indigenous student population with a vibrant dance performance, marking the culmination of a five-week program with "Corroboree for Life". Under the guidance of Ash and Alana from Corroboree for Life, the dedication, hard work and enthusiasm demonstrated by the students throughout the program were truly inspiring. We are incredibly proud of everyone who participated.

During the program, students dedicated an hour to engaging in cultural activities which helped them prepare for this special performance in front of their families, peers and Balcatta SHS staff. The result was a moving and memorable celebration of culture and community.

Thank you to staff and students involved, and we look forward to continuing our partnership and creating more opportunities to celebrate Indigenous culture in the future.

### Geography Fieldwork Excursion -27-29 Aug (Barker)

On Tuesday 27 August, Wednesday 18 August and Thursday 29 August, students from three Year 10 HaSS groups went to Trigg Beach coastal area and Hillary's Boat Harbour to undertake Geography fieldwork. Students researched coastal processes and the impact of human activity on these areas. This gave them the opportunity to apply their knowledge from the classroom to real life examples. The weather was a bit on the wild side at times, but it gave students the opportunity to see these processes in action.

### WA Classical Guitar Ensemble Festival 2024

On Sunday 11 August, our Classical Guitar students competed in the WA Classical Guitar Ensemble Festival held at Carine SHS under the guidance and tuition of Amy Nordsvan, IMSS teacher. The festival provided a unique opportunity for ensembles in primary, secondary and tertiary education (both public and private) to perform in a formal environment and receive feedback on their performances. Our students did very well and received an "Outstanding" rating from the judges.

### 2024 WA Secondary Schools Choral Festival

On Saturday 31 August our Choir students participated in the annual WA Secondary Schools' Choral Festival at Churchlands SHS. The festival is a prestigious event open to all public school choirs across Western Australia and is always a highlight of the year for vocal tutors and students alike. This year, Balcatta SHS's choir, under the vibrant and inspiring direction of their new tutor Jason Wood, made a remarkable appearance at the festival. Jason is in his first year teaching at our school and leads all voice and choir lessons every Wednesday, bringing a fresh energy and passion which has quickly won over his students. The festival assesses choirs on nine key performance areas and Balcatta's choir achieved the highest level of achievement in six of these categories. This is an outstanding accomplishment. The performance is a clear testament to the dedication and hard work of the students under Mr Wood's guidance. The success at the festival marks a new chapter for Balcatta's choir program which is growing and improving with every performance.

## Balcatta Update

Congratulations to Jason Wood and the talented students in Balcatta's choir for their outstanding performance and for setting a new standard of excellence. Congratulations to the following students:

- Year 7:** Imogen Birkinshaw Campbell, Sana Parekh  
**Year 8:** Karina Murphy, Isabelle Summers, Mahyar Mirmonsef, Abby Vanderheeg, Tamira Chhetri  
**Year 10:** Epiphany Kondo-Morcom, Madeleine Glasson  
**Year 12:** Hannah Sharma

### Write A Book In A Day

On Monday 26 August, 44 of our Years 7, 8 and 10 Academic Extension students participated in an exceptional challenge to "Write a Book in a Day", showcasing their creativity and determination. For 12 intensive hours, from 8.00am to 8.00pm, the budding authors planned an entire book, complete with front and back covers, chapters and illustrations. They collaborated in their teams to work within certain parameters, pouring their imagination onto the pages, and crafting captivating tales from scratch. The endeavour was not only a test of their writing prowess and teamwork, but also a meaningful contribution, as the day aimed to raise funds for child cancer research. This year the students raised \$2,030 for The Kids' Cancer Project. Their dedication resulted in not just completed books, but also a heartfelt effort to make a difference. Thanks to our sponsors and our talented writers for their commitment and compassion, as well as Leanne Duong, Adam Fyneman and Lisa Inger for their organisation of the event and for providing emotional and moral support for the students.

### The Darling Portrait Prize – Mark Tweedie

Congratulations to Mark Tweedie (our G&T Art Tutor) for his entry in The Darling Portrait Prize, a biennial national prize for Australian portrait painting. The Darling Portrait Prize is awarded every two years to an Australian portrait painter and offers a platform for artists to explore the evolving notion of Australian identity while recognising emerging and established portrait painters.

24 finalists have been selected for this prize, from almost 1,000 entries. Please vote for Mark Tweedie for the [People's Choice Award](#). The artist who receives the most votes will be awarded \$10,000 courtesy of the Liangis Family Foundation. The exhibition continues until Sunday 13 October.

### Whole School Athletics Carnival

On Friday 30 August, we held our annual whole school athletics carnival. The weather was fine, and the atmosphere was electric. Students were dressed in their House colours and costumes and a sausage sizzle was provided at lunch time. Students were able to compete in many events and activities

### Important dates

9-13 Sep	Act-Belong-Commit Week – various activities will be held before school, Lunch 1 and Lunch 2. Daily PA announcements will be made. 9 Sep – Lunch 1 - World's Greatest Shave (old Canteen area) Lunch 2 – Staff vs Students Volleyball (new gym) 10 Sep Lunch 2 – Staff vs Students Basketball (new gym) 11 Sep Lunch 2 – Staff vs Students Dodgeball (new gym) 12 Sep Add the colours <b>YELLOW</b> and <b>PURPLE</b> to your school uniform (all staff and students) 13 Sep Dress Up Day ( <b>for Year 12 students ONLY</b> )
9-10 Sep	Years 10-12 OLNA 9 Sep Numeracy Catchup 10 Sep Reading Catchup
10 Sep	Year 7 (7.1 to 7.3) Science Excursion to Perth Zoo 4.00pm School Tour
11-13 Sep	Year 10 Outdoor Recreation Excursion to Manjedal (Scouts WA)
20 Sep	Last day for Year 12 students (breakfast and assembly)

such as long jump, giant sack race, triple jump, tug-o-war, leader ball, shot put, turbo javelin, giant quoits, relay races, 100m, 200m and 400m. Long distance races and high jump were held over the previous two weeks.

Thank you to Kirsty Johnson and her HPE team for organising this huge event and to staff for their assistance. Students were well-behaved and very much engaged for long periods, particularly in the novelty events, whilst the traditional events saw a mix of intense competition and a "give it a go" attitude.

### Champion Girls and Boys

<b>Year 7</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Boys</b>
1 <sup>st</sup>	Amber Cirillo	Pema Wangyel
Wangchuk		
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Gabriella Bretti	Brayden Van De Putte
<b>Year 8</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Boys</b>
1 <sup>st</sup>	Emily Frencham	Taylor Jalla
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Brianna Dalkin	Aston Caccetta
<b>Year 9</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Boys</b>
1 <sup>st</sup>	Charli Patrick	Enzzo Velez
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Nikita Taylor-Sandes	Tenzin Kedah Chogyel
<b>Year 10</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Boys</b>
1 <sup>st</sup>	Rigsel Tshomo Wangchuk	Calais Lye
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Chiara D'Alessandro Cerise Nel	Matthew Santich
<b>Year 11</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Boys</b>
1 <sup>st</sup>	Ashleigh Sharman	Matthew Lewis
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Annie Frencham	Alexio Lione
<b>Year 12</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Boys</b>
1 <sup>st</sup>	Minaida Peters	Dylan Pike
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Summer Blazeski	Matheus Barone Major

### House Points

Aurora	2,521
Artemis	2,496
Poseidon	2,349
Zeus	2,091

### "Querencia" Dance Showcase 2024

On **Thursday 17 October** and **Friday 18 October**, the Specialist Dance students will be performing in our annual End of Year Dance Showcase commencing at 6.30pm and finishing at 7.45pm 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 [Eventbrite](#). (Please take care when selecting your preferred date).**