



Balcatta Update

12 December 2024

From the Principal

We have finally reached the final week of the 2024 school year. What a year it has been. At the recent assembly, I outlined some of the many activities/opportunities in which our students have participated. A number of these have been included in the Balcatta Bulletin Semester 1 and Semester 2 Reflections. I wish to acknowledge some of the “firsts” for Balcatta Senior High School this year:

- Hosting two Brazilian students as part of the Ganhando Mundo Scholarship program
- Year 10 and Year 11 students participated in the Law Society of WA's Mock Trial competition
- Our first cross country team in a number of years
- Rock Band “Serpentine” invited to perform at the WA public schools’ prestigious music concert OPUS
- Inaugural performance of our Education Support students in their first performance at the Education Support Northern Network performance event.
- Unveiling of the Junkadelic Sculptures “Band” – a project undertaken by our Education Support students in partnership with the Junkadelic Collective
- 47 Year 9 and Year 10 students undertook the Civics and Citizenship tour (the first interstate excursion since the impact of COVID)
- Our indigenous students participated in the “Corroboree for Life Program” – a partnership with the City of Stirling
- A large number of staff and students participated in the national “Push Up Challenge”, raising funds for mental health
- Students from Years 7-11 participated in the two-year BinarX project hosted by Curtin University
- Inaugural Visual Art and Photography Exhibition for Year 7 to Year 10 students
- Performances from Year 7 to Year 10 Education Support students at the inaugural Education Support Program Showcase.

Students have participated in numerous incursions and excursions throughout the year, adding enrichment to their curriculum.

This term students who have maintained their Good Standing were invited to various reward activities including Year 11 to Adventure World, Years 7 and Year 8 to Outback Splash, Year 9 Dance and Year 10 River Cruise. The students and staff had a great time at these events.

Students also participated in a range of national academic competitions with a number of our students performing well.

Our Year 8 students had success in the ScienceIQ Competition, which is an online national science quiz for school teams. Teams have one hour to complete up to 12 science questions and problems. Our teams did exceptionally well, placing first and second.

Fogarty EDvance

At the conclusion of 2024, we completed the Fogarty EDvance program which has guided our school planning through data

collection and regular feedback from all stakeholders in the school community (students, parents and staff). This led to the creation of the Strategic Direction document which has informed the School Business Plan 2023-2025 which will be reviewed throughout 2025.

WasteSorted Schools Grant Application

Balcatta SHS has been successful in our application for a WasteSorted School grant. This grant funding will enable our students to further develop sound waste avoidance knowledge, skills and values. By encouraging sustainable behaviours, we are instilling positive environmental values and attitudes in our students and the wider school community and by doing so, contributing to a more sustainable future.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all staff for their hard work and contributions to Balcatta SHS during another challenging year. I am so fortunate to have such dedicated and professional staff. Also, a very sincere thank you to the members of our School Board (we acknowledge the retirement of Chris Hatton, long-serving community member) and P&C Association for their ongoing support and contributions to the school. These members are volunteers who give up their time to advocate for Balcatta SHS.

I wish all families a restful and safe holiday break and look forward to welcoming students returning to school on Wednesday 5 February 2025.

Helen Maitland
Principal

News

Australian Mathematics Competition

In Term 4, 110 students from Year 7 to Year 10 participated in the Australian Mathematics Competition. The competition included students from Year 1 to Year 12 throughout Australasia, with approximately 60,000 participants. Students who participated are in the top 20% of mathematicians in this region. Congratulations to our students who took part in the competition. The top 3% of this group received a High Distinction, the top 20% received a Distinction and the top 55% received a Credit. Our students received 2 High Distinctions, 16 Distinctions and 30 Credits out of 110 students who sat the competition.

Two Year 8 students, Taylor Jalla and Morgan Nowicki, received High Distinctions. Their results were outstanding, and they have been invited to be part of a Mathematics and Problem-Solving course run by the Western Australian Mathematics Association, in conjunction with the Australian Mathematics Trust. This is a huge honour as very few of the High Distinction award winners are given this opportunity. Morgan also received the prize of “Best in School”, finishing in the top 0.2% of the 35,000 participants in his division. Congratulations to both these students and their Year 7 and 8 Academic Extension teachers, Mr Sun and Mr Ackermann, for aiding in their mathematical development.

We congratulate all students and teachers involved for their part in receiving these outstanding results.

Balcatta Update

Year 7 results

High Distinction	Distinction	Credit
	Mia Basic Leila Finch Katia Fonti Joshua Wepper	Anika Forbes Giao Hoang Elizabeth Jansen Dulki Jayalathge Don Sana Pawar Jasmyn Poulson Zhenphen Pelden Yangchen

Year 8 Results

High Distinction	Distinction	Credit
Taylor Jalla Morgan Nowicki (Top Student at School Award winner)	Jaida Dragicevic Lucy Forbes Karina Murphy Aiden Ryder Isabelle Summers	Danish Chaudhry Alex Di Loreto Miya Hoan Do Jordan Duong Emily Frencham Natalie Gagg Zoe Lao Chenadi Rajapakse

Year 9 Results

High Distinction	Distinction	Credit
	Sebastian Bretti Annie Lai Tsheyang Lhazom	Patricia Arazo Alexandra French Anh Hoang Daria Langiu Hazel Messenger Maria Riolo Kunzang Dorji Thinley Rigzin Nima Yoedzer

Year 10 Results

High Distinction	Distinction	Credit
	Jimmi Ilomanoska Oliver Nowicki Deden Pelsel Eric Su	Heer Bhavsar Kaleb Francis Annabell Goodridge Reza Hasny Samuel Hatch Lam Que (Mason) Nguyen Joshua Summers

Semester 2 Awards

On Monday 9 December, we acknowledged students' academic achievements with two assemblies for Years 7-8 followed by Years 9-10. There was a significant number of parents, families, and guardians in attendance. My main message to the students was to stay focused, be proud of their efforts, reflect on what they need to focus on for next year and ensure they achieve their personal best.

We acknowledged top performing students from each Learning Area. Congratulations to the following students who were presented with certificates for:

Important dates

13 Dec	School is closed – the Admin Office will re-open Wednesday 29 Jan 2025
29 Jan 2025	Admin Office is open – 8.00am to 4.00pm
3-4 Feb	School Development Days – NO students
5 Feb	Term 1 commences for ALL students
7 Feb	School Photos – Year 7 students
14 Feb	School Photos – Years 8-12 students
20 Feb	School Photos – Years 7-12 catchup

<https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/media-communications-arts/internet/national-broadband-network/school-student-broadband-initiative-ssbi>

[School Student Broadband Initiative \(SSBI\) | Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts](#)
School Student Broadband Initiative (SSBI) To boost education opportunities and narrow the digital divide, the Australian Government has invested \$8.8 million to provide up to 30,000 qualifying families and carers with school age children and do not have an active nbn connection at home, with a free National Broadband Network (NBN) service until 31 December 2025.
www.infrastructure.gov.au

Academic Excellence

Year 7 – Anika Forbes
Year 8 – Alex Di Loreto
Year 9 – Tsheyang Lhazom
Year 10 – Oliver Nowicki

Respect-Unite-Excel

Year 7 – Tye Puccio, Jigme Tenzin Wangmo
Year 8 – Jordan Duong, Maani Darab
Year 9 – Nicola Vlahos, Ugyen Thuktob Dorji
Year 10 – Bell Goodridge, Callum Kalaitzis

Education Support Program

Respect-Unite-Excel

Year 7 – Fantasia Gyorgy
Year 8 – George Barbounis
Year 9 – Tye Roesler
Year 10 – Annabella Bujaroski

Achievement Award

Year 7 – Bree Forrest
Year 8 – Oliver Parsons
Year 9 – Mia Downes
Year 10 – Christian Leighton

Life Skills Award

Year 7 – Justin Greenock
Year 8 – Jenson Bowen
Year 9 – Riley Davidson
Year 10 – Adam Schneider

Endeavour Award

Year 7 – Lucas Cassidy-Rogers
Year 8 – Arun Tsalavoutas
Year 9 – Alera Bray
Year 10 – Jack Brown

Year 11 students will be presented with their awards at a whole school assembly early next year.

ScienceIQ Quiz Competition

The Year 8 Academic Extension Science students won first and second place in the ScienceIQ Quiz competition which quizzes students' knowledge, skills and understandings in most areas of Science, including science inquiry skills. This on-line national competition presented by the Science Teachers' Association of WA was held against teams across Australia. The young scientists put their knowledge to the test with tricky questions and quick-thinking teamwork. We are so proud of their dedication and passion for learning. Certificates and gift cards have been awarded to the top two teams.

First Place: Aston Caccetta, Petar Jakovceski, Morgan Nowicki, Austen Jansen

Second Place: Maani Darab, Reegzin Sonam Chogyel, Taylor Jalla, Khedrup Pelchhen Namgyal.