



BALGAZETTE

The Newsletter of Balga Senior High School

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April 2018

Principal: Mr M Carton; Associate Principal: Dr R Evans; Deputy Principals: Ms K Thomas and Ms H McGill

Principal's Report

I would like to once again express how honoured I am to have been appointed Principal of Balga SHS in this vibrant, diverse community. We have an outstanding staff at our school and all are committed to ensuring all students achieve the best possible outcomes. I look forward to us achieving great things in 2018.

I warmly welcome parents and carers to come and have a chat with me regarding any issues or ideas you might have regarding Balga SHS. I am keen to have input from the community, so please do not hesitate to come and say hello and share your views with me.

School Enrolment Continues to Grow

Balga SHS commenced 2018 with an enrolment of 619 students, which is an increase of 27 on the same time last year. Our school is recognised as a multicultural school with students from 42 different countries. In addition to this, we have 27% of our students of Aboriginal Culture. Approximately 4.3% of our students have a recognised disability and all these groups engage in well-designed programs that are based on inclusivity and individual student needs.

School Restructure

As detailed at the end of last year, we have restructured the school to better cater for the needs of our students. As a result, we now have a **Lower School** which is broken into **Junior (JS)** (Years 7 & 8) and **Middle School (MS)** (Years 9 & 10) as well as a **Senior School (SS)**, which caters for Years 11 and 12.

In addition to this, we have the **Intensive English Centre (IEC)**, which caters to the specific needs of students who are new arrivals to Australia.

Staff have worked tirelessly to embed this new model and I would like to thank them all for their efforts. I would also like to acknowledge the positive way that students have embraced the changes throughout this term and I will be seeking feedback from them during Term 2 regarding the new model.

School Communications

Balga SHS is committed to being continuously connected with our school community. For us to maintain effective and timely communications with families, we need to have up to date contact details; please ensure you inform the school of any changes to your address, telephone or email contact details.

From time to time students do become unwell or have an accident and if our records are not current, it is difficult to make contact in a timely manner.

Student Attendance

One of our major goals this year is to improve student attendance. Research demonstrates that any student who attends school less than 90% of the time will not be able to achieve the grades of which they are capable. Please work with us to ensure students attend school every day and on time to attend Form Class at 8.40am.

Our goal is to improve our student attendance rates by 10% this year. I look forward to us achieving this goal.

School Leadership

I would like to congratulate our Year 12 Leadership Team for 2018. The group comprises:

School Captains: Antreas Christoforou and Alice Uwera

Councillors: Dyllan White, Tui Weston, Aimee McClure, Hamdi Osman Ali.

I look forward to these student representatives organising school activities for students, representing the school at events and showing positive Leadership qualities throughout this year.

Mark Carton – Principal

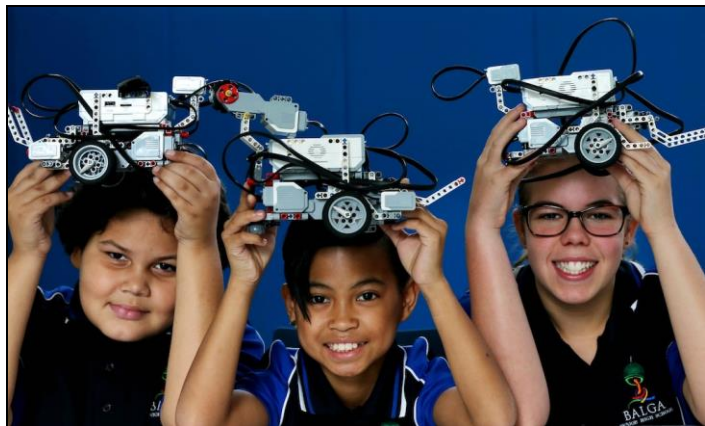
Community Safety

The April School holidays are about to start and the Police need your help. If you are a resident living near a school, please immediately report any suspicious activity to police on 131444, your local policing team or Education Security (EdSec) on 9264 4632. Together we can make our community safer and make it tougher for criminals.

SCHOOL RETURNS
TUESDAY, 1 MAY

New Partnership with Google Australia & Australian Schools Plus

Balga SHS has won a \$25,000 grant from Google Australia for its STEAM After School Program and Robotics Club. Federal Minister for Jobs and Innovation, Michaelia Cash attended the launch at the school on 21 February. This exciting opportunity aims to introduce at least two hours a week of STEAM education for its Years 6 and 7 students from partner primary schools, Warriapendi and North Balga.



Picture: Nic Ellis/The West Australian



Google's Sally-Ann Williams (left) with Senator Michaelia Cash (centre-left) and Schools Plus CEO Rosemary Conn (centre-right).

Student Services

The aim of Student Services is to provide a managed approach to student needs across the whole school with a focus on attendance, engagement and health and wellbeing.

Our Student Services team is a reflection of the holistic approach we embrace. The basis of student services stems from a collaborated student centred approach which recognises: Success at school = a partnership between Student – Community – School Partnership.

Balga SHS strongly encourages the recognition of students who have demonstrated positive behaviours in class or the wider school community. One of the ways students are rewarded is by VIVO, an online reward system which enables staff to reward and record student points. All staff are allocated a point distribution allowance to distribute to their students.

Students can then use these points to buy items in the online VIVO Shop. Rewards are aligned with the four pillars of Positive Behaviours at Balga Senior High School which are Learning, Respect, Responsibility and Safety.

Donnelle Slater, Team Leader – Student Services

Career Stars

Term One has seen another round of exciting career opportunities and strategies being explored by Balga SHS students. Many of these opportunities have been provided in conjunction with the University of Western Australia's (UWA) Aspire Team which encourages students from a variety of backgrounds to explore university options for their future career pathways.

Antreas Christoforou and Alice Uwera (Year 12), Mahina Oneroa and Hassan Almagutar (Year 11), Sadaf Darab Najafabadi and Damien Wojcikowski (Year 10) have had the honour of being chosen by a panel of Deputies and Program Managers to take on the leadership opportunity of becoming an Aspire Advocate. These six students will attend their first event for the year, the UWA Aspire Leadership Day at the UWA campus on 6 April to participate in team building and leadership activities.

The Year 12 students benefitted from Aspire's *Next Steps* session in week 9, where they explored their post school options as well as the application process for university and TAFE. Year 12 students have also completed Stage 1 of the *Career Fast Track Program* which prepares them for their career and exit pathway planning for 2019 onwards.

Year 8 students became instant detectives when they participated in *The Amazing Peacock Mystery*, presented by the UWA team. This activity helps students to become super sleuths in determining their own career and study pathways.

Finally, many of our Year 11 & 12 students are work stars as they are completing Certificates II and III in Automotive, Population Health, Fashion Design, Cabinet Making, Plumbing and Gas-fitting and Painting and Decorating with North and South Metro TAFE and MPA Skills. This requires maturity, self-management and excellent organisational skills to be able to juggle both TAFE and school commitments.

Mandy Hampson, Careers Coordinator

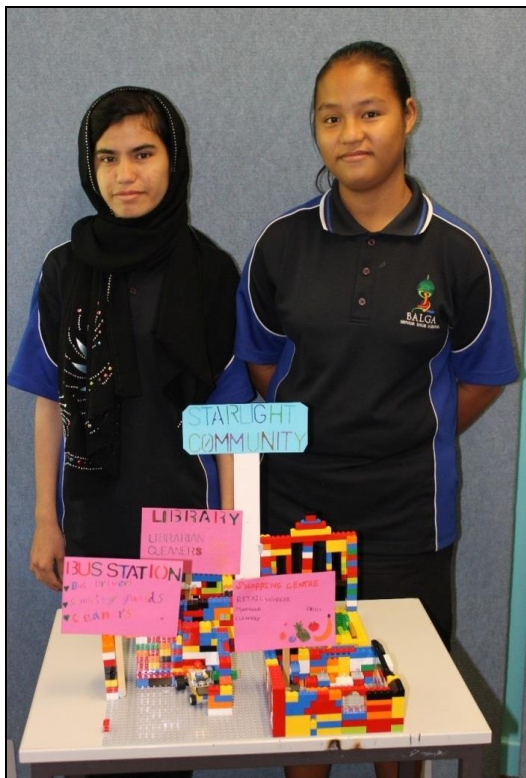


Learning Support

As part of our Careers topic this term, the Year 7 and 8 Learning Support students were investigating jobs in the local community. The students worked cooperatively and built a fantastic Lego Community displaying various businesses and identified specific work roles within chosen services.

This activity created an opportunity for students to explore and demonstrate their understanding of various employment prospects. The students were engaged and took great ownership to produce excellent models of their Lego community. An outstanding effort!

Mrs Mathews, Teacher



Year 10 Road Safety

Our Year 10 students recently attended the RAC Bstreetsmart Road Safety Awareness Program at Perth Arena.

The event shows students the consequences of distracted driving through the re-enactment of a crash scene. Students got the opportunity to listen to speakers who have been directly impacted by road trauma and interact with over 8000 WA school students throughout the day. This is such a valuable day for our soon to be learner drivers.

Bridie Guatta, Team Leader Years 9,10

Smiling Mind Meditation with School Nurse

Students are welcome to have a go at Meditation with the School Nurse on a Tuesday and Thursday for the first 5 to 10 minutes of recess.

We use the Smiling Mind App, which anyone can download onto their phones and listen. We close our eyes, do some deep breathing, relax and listen to the calming voice on the Smiling Minds App. It takes 5 minutes to feel calm and relaxed. Everyone is welcome.

We are excited to advise that Balga SHS now has a School Nurse working on Wednesdays too. Jessica Saayman worked here as a School Nurse for four years, so many of you may already know her. Welcome back Jess.

Debbie Robinson, School Nurse

Student Success

Balga SHS is proud of all of its students who leave school at the end of Year 12 and strive to achieve their goals. So it is a great pleasure to share some good news about two students who completed the 2017 UniPrep Course at Balga SHS.

Halima has been accepted into a Bachelor of Business and Tourism, beginning Semester 2 this year.

Ubah has been accepted into a Bachelor of Science (Nursing) and has just completed her first week of study.

Keep up the great work.



Future Students

Girls Academy Induction Day

On 6 February, our new Year 9 and 10 Academy students attended the Girls Academy Induction Day at Challenge Stadium, under the professional guidance of Teamworks Australia.

The day commenced with some fun team games to "break the ice", followed by sessions to challenge their leadership qualities. It did not take long before they began to shine through with each girl taking on responsibility in a range of activities and role play. We enjoyed plenty of fun and learned about ourselves and each other. It was evident that the girls had created a sense of unity by the time lunch arrived.

The second part of the day consisted of both low and high rope courses. It was awesome to see all the girls working together as a team to help overcome individual fears. When it came to the high ropes, all the girls encouraged each other as they climbed the ladder to the old bridge and all cheered when they made it to the other side.

The last activity of the day was called the leap of faith. Our brave girls climbed their way up a ten-metre pole, managed to somehow balance on a platform the size of an A4 page, and then leapt across to a narrow beam. This activity empowered all the girls to conquer many fears and develop strong bonds as they supported each other in the process and cheered every successful jump.

Both Penne Pickett and I are really looking forward to working with a wonderful group of girls who have demonstrated the potential to become outstanding young women well before they graduate from school.

*Danika Eades
Program Manager*



Theatre Sports Night

On Wednesday 21 March, 58 Balga SHS students from Years 9-12 competed in the annual Theatre Sports Competition. Eight teams showcased their talents in an energetic, creative and spontaneous display of improvisation, song and dance. The audience were left in awe of the talent, dedication and commitment of Balga SHS's Drama pupils. This made it very difficult for our three Judges; Ms Jenna Broadhurst, Mrs Silvana Cockcroft and Mr Mark Carton.

The winning team on the night was **0.8 Direction** followed by **The Fuse**. Both teams will represent the school in the Interschool Theatre Sports Competition, run by The Australian Institute of Theatre Sports during Term 3 at St Marys College. We wish our teams every success.

Kate Maughan, Teacher in Charge - The Arts



School Engagement Program

This term, Balga SHS students have been engaged in a busy learning program at the Wadjak Community Centre. Students have been developing their literacy and numeracy skills through the Keys for Life program, advertising, budgeting, design and technology concepts of bridge building, limited resources, sustainability and the importance of connection to culture, both to land and people.

Students have also had an opportunity to interact with the wider Balga community, meeting mentors from the Wadjak Community Centre and different agencies to help promote education through health and wellbeing.

Excursions to Walylunga National Park, Yagan's Memorial and SciTech have also helped to reinforce student learning. They have also been actively involved in the collection and distribution of food items from the Good Life Church in Wangara to help those in need.

*Dayna Brown and Damien Hodge
Teachers – Engagement Program*



Sports Update

The Balga SHS Girls Basketball Team placed third in the local schools' competition this term.

A fantastic effort from the girls and a great result.

A big thank you also to Mr Samuels for refereeing throughout the season.

*Brydie Donald
Teacher*



The Balga SHS Senior Basketball team played in the Champion Schools Basketball 2018 Northern Suburbs League Pool A Competition.

After completing five home and away matches the team managed to secure great wins against Dianella Secondary College and Balcatta SHS. The team conducted themselves in a fantastic manner and really enjoyed being able to play together representing the school.

The best players overall included Damien Gidgup who top scored for points scored and rebounds and Dahrel Duggan who led the team brilliantly as captain.

*Brad Stevenson
Teacher – Health & Phys Ed*



Visit by the Matildas!

Balga SHS's girls' soccer team had the privilege of meeting the Westfield Matildas on 21 March at the school. The Matildas hosted a training clinic for 90 female students, followed by a question and answer session. Thanks to Jamie Harnwell and his Sports Development Team at Football West for making it possible.

The girls' soccer team then attended the Matildas' match against Thailand on 26 March. What a wonderful opportunity for our students.



Aboriginal Cultural Garden to Build Connection to Country

Over the past 12 months, the Aboriginal Garden Project has seen significant change. Students have worked hard to keep the area clean as well as developing the new garden areas, pathways and fencing.

With a Community Assistance Grant from Bunnings (Balcatta), along with a day of their staff assisting, we were able to begin the creation of the new learning area leading out to the garden itself. The students enjoyed interacting with the adults to create the walls for the area.

Next came the placement of limestone blocks and approximately 30 cubic metres of sand to fill the area ready for paving. Several weekends of bobcat work laid the foundations for gravel pathways leading to our Dance and Yarning Circles.

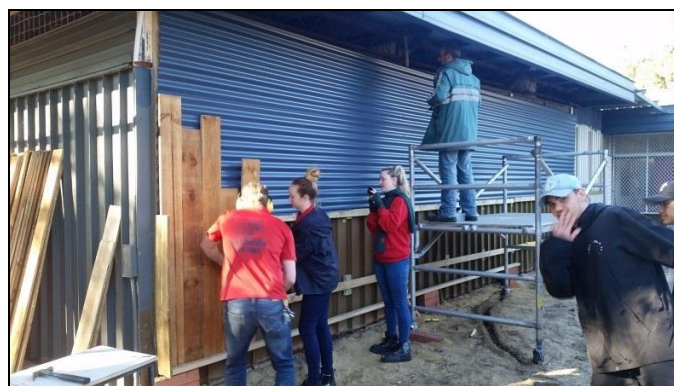
We were again lucky to receive a hard working group of people from Ernst Young who helped us with painting, pathways and planting, which really gave the area a new definition.

This year the Aboriginal Cultural Garden, through help with additional funding of a grant organised by our local Member of Parliament, has developed a working Education Centre, to be used by students and other primary schools as they visit the Garden Project. The room will be used for language, dance and all things related to the local Wadjak People.

Over the next few months as the weather cools and the soils become damp, we will move into our planting program. This includes bush medicine plants, food plants, along with many varieties of local indigenous plants.

The journey continues.

*Tim Cornish
Co-ordinator - Indigenous Garden Project*





Harmony Day 2018 By Sousananuchta Morn, Year 12 Student

Harmony Day is one of the most important events at Balga SHS, celebrating the multitude of students who come from various different countries wearing their traditional national costumes. It started with Mr Harris introducing an indigenous student who gave a Welcome to Country. There were also guest speakers who inspired us with their stories. After the speeches, there were several performances from the Drama and Music students which entertained the audience. Finally, there was a parade by students and teachers from different countries proudly displaying their flags around the gym with excitement.

Some of the countries represented in the parade included Thailand, Burma, Karen, Cambodia, Philippines, Cypress, New Zealand, Germany, England, Italy, China, Greece, Turkey, Brazil, Syria, Somalia, Ethiopia, Vietnam, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan and some African nations.

Lunch was prepared by staff for everyone to enjoy and included Dhal, Thai Green Chicken Curry, Kangaroo Stew, Spaghetti and Pancakes. After lunch there were many popular clubs including pottery, soccer and henna.

I enjoyed the day because I could share and show my traditional costume to my friends and because I learnt new things from all the cultures as well as getting to meet new people.

Our school is one of the most multicultural in Perth with 40 different cultures.





BALGA

SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Strength in Unity