

BALGAZETTE



The Newsletter of Balga Senior High School

2 Markham Way, Balga Tel: 9247 0222 Fax: 9342 0944

www.balgashs.wa.edu.au

Term 2 2020

Principal: *Mr M Carton* Associate Principal: *Dr R Evans* Deputy Principals: *Ms H McGill & Mr N Samuels*

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

2020 has presented unprecedented challenges as I am sure you are all aware.

The more significant issue we, like the world, have had to come to terms with and work through relates to the COVID-19 pandemic. Restrictions were enacted from the middle of March and culminated in parents being given the option to have students school from home during the latter part of the term. During this time, we implemented health measures as they related to us and this included cancelling all incursions and excursions, not having staff meetings and not permitting play equipment to be used at school either in lessons or during break times. Social distancing was enacted across the school.

Whilst this period was filled with angst and concern by the community, this was also reflected within our school community. Staff continued to deliver quality education to our students.

At the school level, it was decided to deliver in multi formats as projected in government information. As we moved to preparing packages for at home schooling for all students, staff realigned themselves to complete preparations for Term 2 to operate in an offsite model.

All staff worked tirelessly to achieve our target of having individual student packages prepared for students for the commencement of Term 2. In our context this meant ensuring online delivery models were developed and, in line with commitments, ensuring paper packages were prepared to a level that no student would be disadvantaged through COVID-19 restrictions.

All of our Year 12 students were provided with devices so they could access online course work.

It was decided that we would drop off work to each student at their home over the school holiday period and we did this for over 550 students. The benefit of meeting with families was significant and was very well received.

Government policy then moved rapidly to the point where students were in fact permitted to return to school on the first Wednesday. A number of families chose to keep students working from home and supplementary work packages were also distributed during Week 3 in Term 2. All schools were granted an extra professional development day in recognition by the government that some period of time needed to be provided for staff prior to students returning on a choice basis. The government guaranteed teachers would not be required to teach both those present at school and those who continued to work from home. We engaged six additional staff to work with those schooling from home and this was a considerable logistic which remained in place for two additional weeks at a cost of over \$30,000. During the first week of term, our attendance was around the 30% mark and gradually increased back up to normal levels from Week 5. Students were generally very happy to be back at school even though normal break time activities were very limited. Student health and wellbeing and indeed staff health and wellbeing are being closely monitored and support counselling is now . . .

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

back engaged within the school.

Reporting to Parents

In line with Education Department directives, students in Years 7 – 10 will not receive a grade on this report. Comments indicating progress are the focus for this semester. RTP evening will not take place this semester, reports will be provided to families. We will have an RTP day in Term 4 when semester two reports are completed.

NAPLAN & OLNA

NAPLAN testing was cancelled for 2020.

OLNA testing continues and Year 9 students are being offered the opportunity to also sit OLNA in lieu of NAPLAN 9 testing.

Graduation and School Ball being revisited with the goal of ensuring they take place within the boundaries that are permitted.

Moving forward

We are now operating on a delivery as usual model within the school and staff are tracking closely student progress to ensure additional support is provided, particularly in the Senior School Year 12 space.

School Canteen

We have a new canteen operator from the beginning of this semester. Eko Priyono and his team have committed to providing healthy, affordable and quality food for all. We welcome Eko and his team and look forward to many fine meals.

Cleaning

We engaged cleaners to maintain required standards during the day. We were funded 2.4FTE and we have employed this across three cleaners. This has been effectively managed by our Head Cleaner, Verica. This additional support is funded until the end of Term 2.

School Marketing and Media

We have engaged Mr Paul Mansfield to manage this area as it is an area we need to improve on.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Paul has been given the task of developing a functional and community friendly website for Balga SHS and this will go live by the end of this term.

Building Program

As we indicated last year, we received the priority maintenance funding from the state government. This amounted to \$2m of identified work. Due to the projection that we would be operating without students onsite, I committed to a rapid roll out of the works which commenced over the school holiday period. We then moved back to an on campus model and it has caused significant work to juggle the works whilst maintaining staff and student access to rooms. Mike Leadbitter has worked tirelessly to get the best deal for the school and our Associate Principal, Dr Evans has had to juggle room movements around this work. It has required significant energy and I commend them both.

Summary of project work

- All outdoor courts resurfaced.
- All upstairs rooms repainted, carpeted and new ceilings.
- New windows for upstairs rooms facing Markham Way.
- Trade areas resurfaced and repainted
- Hospitality rooms resurfaced, painted and new ceilings.
- New 32m undercover area.
- New Demountable classroom.
- All toilets refitted.
- All downstairs classrooms repainted, carpeted and new ceilings.
- All louvre window areas reframed and solid glass in place.
- Markham Way facing blocks rendered and painted.
- Electronic gate to front of school.
- Concrete pathways replacing paved and aged pathways.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

- Kerbing replaced sleeps as borders.
- Water filter fitted to bore.
- All gardens now reticulated.
- Library repainted and new ceilings.



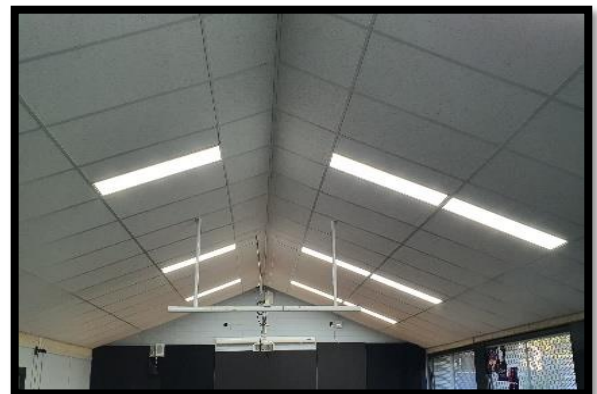
PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Semester 1 has indeed been a very busy and unusual term and we look forward to Term 3 returning to a more normal operational model. We will resume student assemblies, excursions, incursions and camps. Each of these will be closely monitored to ensure we remain within the Health Department requirements.

It is important that students focus on working hard throughout this semester to achieve the best outcomes possible.

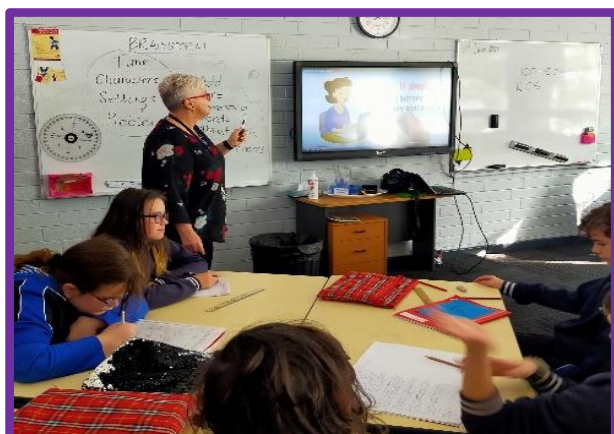
I wish to formally acknowledge the professional, exemplary efforts of all staff across Balga SHS during this challenging period. As Principal of this school I am so proud of my staff and indeed our community and students for the manner in which they have worked through this difficult and challenging time. I also wish to acknowledge the frequent contact initiated by our School Board Chair, Mr Ross McLean. His words of encouragement on behalf of the Board have been shared with staff during this time.

Mark Carton - Principal



Year 11 ATAR Exam

On Wednesday 10 June the Year 11 ATAR students sat their first English exam. After two weeks of solid preparation the students were ready and nervously excited on the day. The exam provided the opportunity for each student to display their skills in comprehension, responding and creative writing. What stood out on the Wednesday was the positive attitude of each of the students, their support for each other and a level of confidence that they were ready for this impending challenge. These students should be proud of themselves and the effort they have displayed.



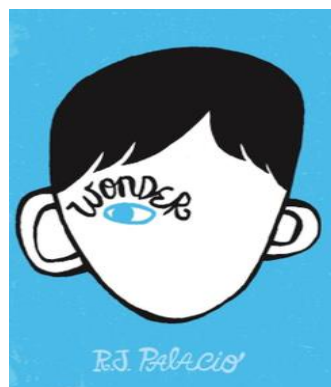
'Wonder' by RJ Palacio

The Year 7 students have been studying the novel, 'Wonder' this term and they have collectively produced some outstanding work. Students have been developing their summarising skills, learning how to take examples from texts to support their ideas, redesigning the front cover and writing interesting and thought provoking blurbs. Check out the writing of one of our students.

My blurb on Wonder by Reuben Oneroa 7AC

"The shaking of the spaceship's throttle is creating vibrations through my body. The beautiful planets hover past my windshield and bright stars are shining in my eyes, blinding my source of sight. All of these amazing events possible within my mind. My name is Auggie, August Pullman, and my LIFE is..... uummmmm, let's say different to anyone's average life"

With this amazing novel, you'll discover the adventurous life of August Pullman. Every step of the way you will be clinging onto the edge of your seat. At school, he only wants to fit in and gather new friends. Unfortunately, he encounters countless bullies. Fortunately, his friends assist him throughout his first new days at school, which grants him excellent grades. His interest in Science has assisted him and others through this time..... Will August be able to get through Year 6?"



MATHEMATICS

I recognise that this year had a disrupted start and many of our students have participated in a learning from home program during parts of Terms 1 and 2. Maths staff were involved in using Connect as the online program and also created hard copy packs of work to be delivered to students.

In Term 2 the focus has been on ensuring adjustments were made to the learning programs. Assessments and tests for senior school have been aligned to SCSA requirements.

For the WACE numeracy standard, students must successfully complete the numeracy component of the OLN in Year 10, 11 or 12. Our current focus is ensuring students who have not achieved a 3 begin OLN practise as part of the Mathspace program. This year the Year 9s will be sitting for OLN in August. Preparations are being made to ensure students are given opportunities to practise OLN type questions starting next term. The Externally Set Task (EST) occurred in week 7. Year 12 staff conducted revision sessions with the students leading up to their assessment. I would like to thank my team for making themselves available to support students in their own time and responding to the many emails after school hours.

Satwant Mioduszewski HoLA – Mathematics

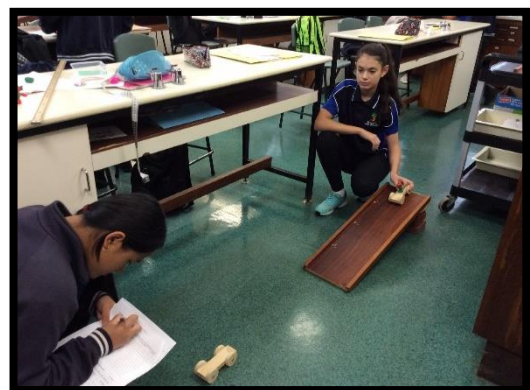


SCIENCE

Due to the disruptions this year, Science lessons were modified. As the number of students declined in the classrooms, Science staff switched to delivering online lessons through Students and Teachers Integrated Learning Environment (STILE) and Connect sites. Students were familiar with STILE lessons since the beginning of the year and the transition to online learning was rewarding both for teachers and students. In spite of these issues teachers worked tirelessly and assembled Home study packages that were delivered to all students. Students communicated with their teachers and continued their science learning.

Early this term, the majority of students returned to class and teachers were able to continue classroom teaching. During practical lessons the students buzzed with excitement in all science classes. Tests and assessments were scheduled and programmes commenced smoothly. Additionally students participated in the Big Online Science Competition organised by Australian Science Innovations.

All middle school classes are learning Physical Sciences this term, while the upper school students continue with their SCSA courses. Scientific literacy, numeracy and problem solving skills are covered across all year levels in Science. Practical hands on activities were included while covering topics like energy, electricity, light, sound, forces, machines and motion. Year 11 and 12 students have completed their Semester one courses and are now starting their Semester two courses. Year 12 Human Biology students sat their EST in week 9.



SCIENCE



I would also like to welcome Imogen Parson to our Science team. Imogen is currently relieving Andrew McCheyne as a Science Laboratory Technician and working tirelessly to meet teacher demands for practical lessons. She is also preparing the laboratories for the upcoming Science week early next term.

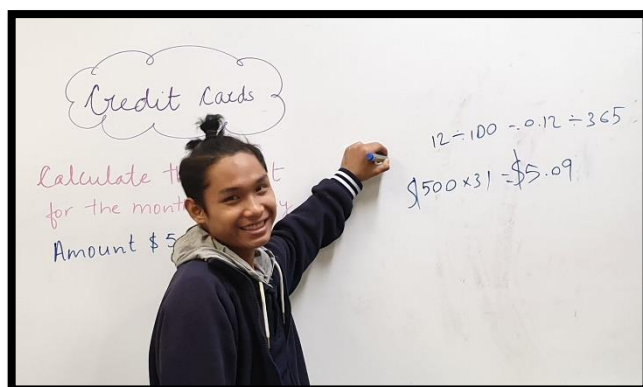
A big thank you to all the teachers, non-teaching staff and cleaners who have made the science area clean and safe for our students.

Ms Guddy Litt – LAC Science

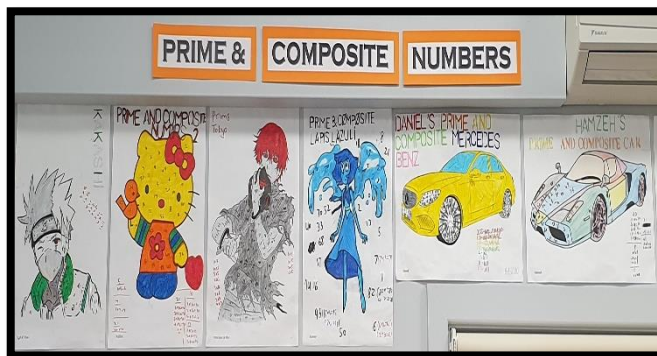
LEARNING SUPPORT

Learning Support - Mathematics

The main focus in Mathematics for Senior School was to develop functional mathematical skills and understanding through activities designed to promote successful transition from school into the wider community. Students learnt the concept of credit specifically, using credit cards. They gained an in depth knowledge about credit cards. The students took great pride and excelled in calculating the annual rate based on real-world examples.



In Lower School, the students learnt about prime and composite numbers. All students demonstrated their creativity in completing posters on their favourite cars and cartoon characters and displayed various prime and composite numbers on them. The students thoroughly enjoyed the activity and I commend them for their enthusiasm despite the challenges this term.



Ms Selina Mathews –Teacher Learning Support

HaSS Highlights

On their return to school at the beginning of Term 2, the students in Ms Hill's 7AC and Ms Stojanovski's 7Gen joined forces for a day dedicated to exploring the meaning of the ANZAC spirit. Poppy wreaths were made along with stained glass poppy decorations and Anzac Biscuits. Everyone was able to enjoy the fruits of their hard work by having a delicious afternoon tea. It was a great day, working together in teams and sharing the wonderful multicultural spirit for which Balga SHS is famous.



In their studies of Economics and Business, Ms Spaniers 8AC1 class have been investigating Choice Magazine's, Shonky Award recipients. They also considered the rights of consumers and possible actions that can be taken with retailers or manufacturers when purchasing faulty, misleading or dangerous products and services. In the 9AC2 class, the students have been learning about global corporations such as Coca Cola, Ikea and Nike. In addition, the students have also been investigating the manufacture and assembly of iPhones along with the cost of different production choices to Apple and its customers.

In Mr Alitvoski Year 10 class in Term 1, the students really enjoyed researching the impact that the human race is having on the environment, along with the renewable energy options that are now available. This term, the students have enjoyed looking at some key issues in Economics as a result of the Covid-19 Pandemic and how this is continuing to impact on the world's population.

Ms Mandy Hampson
HASS Learning Area Coordinator

Careers Website Supports Online Learning

2020 has been an extremely challenging and unusual year due to the impact of Covid-19. The ability to work and learn online has been a great asset in terms of stemming the spread of the virus. The Balga SHS Careers website, www.balgashscareer.com has played an integral part in assisting our students in their careers research during this period. The website is accessible to students, teachers and parents and includes career planning and investigation tools, current information from all universities and training providers, templates for cover letters, resumes and mock interviews. Better still, it also enables students to create their own digital portfolio. In addition, the Year 12 students have started their journey towards moving into the world of work and further study by completing the *Careers Fast Track Program* which maps out a career plan for the future.

***Ms Mandy Hampson - Careers/HaSS
Coordinator***

www.balgashscareers.com

We have a School Careers Website.
It's a "One Stop Shop" for everything you
need with Career Planning and help.

CHECK IT OUT NOW!

Ms Mandy Hampson

[Latest News and Events](#)
[VET](#)
[Uni Admissions](#)

[Find What Careers Suit You](#)
[Work Experience](#)

[Gap Year](#)
[Choose a University](#)
[Find a Job](#)

[Create a Resume](#)
[Defence Careers](#)
[Youth Allowance](#)

THE BEST WAY TO PREDICT THE FUTURE IS TO CREATE IT

DRAMA NEWS – DRAMA NEWS – DRAMA NEWS – DRAMA NEWS – DRAMA NEWS

Term 2 2020 has been frustrating and challenging for the Drama department. Many of our rehearsals have been put on hold and our productions postponed. Throughout these strange times, the students never cease to amaze us with their energy, commitment, sense of humour, passion and talent; continuing to create performances which are engaging and entertaining.

At the end of Term 1, many tasks were adapted and modified in response to Covid-19 restrictions. We commend the students for their resilience and perseverance; meeting the challenges presented.

The recent lifting of restrictions is very positive for us. The opportunity to view external performances and present our work to internal and external audiences will potentially happen in Term 3. We are very excited about this and look forward to updating you all on future 2020 Drama productions.

Drama out. Exit stage left.

Ms Jenna Broadhurst and Ms Kate Maughan

GIRLS ACADEMY

Some of the Year 11 students have been coming into the Girls Academy to complete their art assessments for their timetabled classes. Due to COVID-19 some students fell behind. Tiahsha and Jiceira have completed some beautiful pieces for the theme "surrealism".

They both have incorporated their Aboriginal culture and have achieved some high marks for their work. We have some beautiful talented artists on our hands.



GIRLS ACADEMY

Throughout Term 2 every Monday and Thursday we have been supporting the girls with an afterschool art and homework program. During this time the girls have been catching up on any work they have fallen behind on or anything they may not be understanding.

The girls have completed some fantastic artwork. They are now working together to complete some big art pieces with the Noongar 6 seasons to hang in the academy room.

It's always fantastic when we have teachers and staff coming in to complement our girls. The lovely Sophie has never really tried cultural painting. When she came and asked for a blank canvas, I made sure to tell her I wanted to see the completed piece. Sophie has had numerous teachers and staff approach Girl's Academy staff about her fantastic piece of work. It's real inspiring to see the girls channel into their culture through painting.



GIRLS ACADEMY

During Reconciliation week our lovely Year 10 students Jazari and Jorja gave a speech about what reconciliation means to them and what they would like to see happen in the future.

During reconciliation due to COVID-19 the girls were unable to participate in their usual celebrations. Together the girls have put together a video of 'pass the ochre challenge' – this challenge embraced the girls with the 5 core values of the Girls Academy – Leadership, Connection, Empowerment, Resilience and Respect.



Karratha Girls Academy have made all the Academies around Western Australia a personalised academy sticker for the fridge. The girls were excited to put these on and are very appreciative of the ladies and girls at Karratha Academy.



GIRLS ACADEMY

Didi our Post school transition officer has been working very closely with the seniors 11/12's throughout Term 2, Tuesdays and Wednesday. Didi helps supports the girls during school years as well as a further 2 years after school (years 13 and 14). Didi is currently working with the program manager and senior school management to further support the girls with job career pathways.

Ms Danielle Toy – Program Manager

BOYS ROOM

During Term Two, our focus was on healthy food and movement choices.

Our nurse Debbie, was welcomed to the Boys Room where she shared with students some healthy eating options.

Students were then able to make their own juice and toast – this meant squeezing the oranges, cooking the toast, and choosing fresh fruit in preference to packaged options. We also discussed the importance of exercise and staying active.

Mr Dave Pascal



HOME ECONOMICS

It has been a busy and productive first Semester in Home Economics.

With the disruption of COVID-19 our students and staff have risen to the challenge. Assessments were changed to an emphasis on theory based, allowing for, at home, or in-school completion. With practical cooking lessons on hold, the students were happy to work on the modified program. The extra assessments included, a Jigsaw puzzle, based on The Australian Guide to Healthy Eating, knitting a scarf and headband, hand embroidery of a cushion and a landscape created using textiles.



HOME ECONOMICS



The senior school Hospitality students continued their written assessments. COVID was not going to slow down one dedicated and focused year 12 student, who completed her two-year course, one term ahead of time.

Congratulations and well done goes to Samra Hafeez. An excellent effort.



Staff breakfasts and lunches provided by the Hospitality students commenced when students returned, which have been a welcome addition for staff.

Well done to the students, teachers, and support staff of Home Economics for a fantastic effort in first semester.

Ms Annette Connop-LAC Home Economics



VISUAL ARTS



Taimana Oneroa Yr 9

'Creativity takes courage' the wonderful words from Henri Matisse ring true for our students who participate in the Visual Arts program at Balga SHS.

The students have continued to impress with drawing, designing and painting this semester, experimenting by using vibrant colours with confidence and panache. The Year 11 cohort has studied Surrealism and the Year 12s have been immersed with paintings from around the school using a photographic realism technique.

The year 9 and 10 Business Enterprise cohort has been busy creating a series of ceramic fun planters that are ready for sale.

Mr Trenton Harris – Art Teacher

YEAR 7/8 CERAMICS



VISUAL ARTS – YEAR 11 STUDENTS



Tiahsha Hill



Mark Ursal



Jiceira Riley



Warittha Samathan

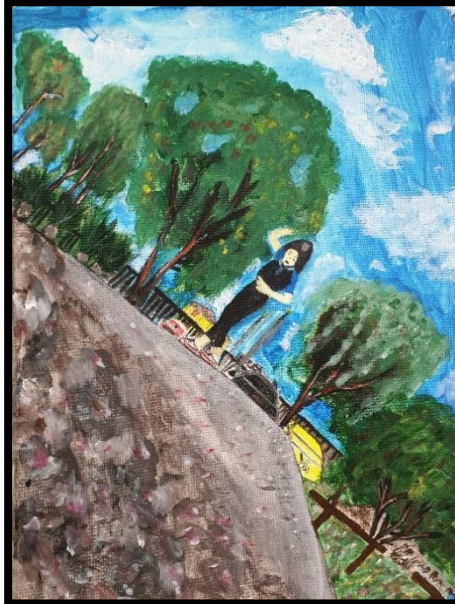


Chit Naing Aung



Destiny Dorizzi

VISUAL ARTS - YEAR 12 STUDENTS



Above left to right: Adrian Pacio, Nay Ler Pwe Paw & Nicole Sino



Below left to Right: Nay Nay Way, Nsimire Nakasherura & Catherine Angara



San Ny lang



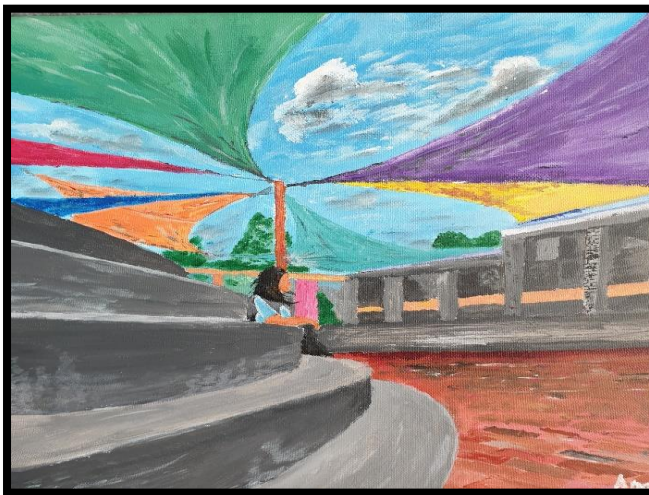
VISUAL ARTS - YEAR 12 STUDENTS



June Garlett



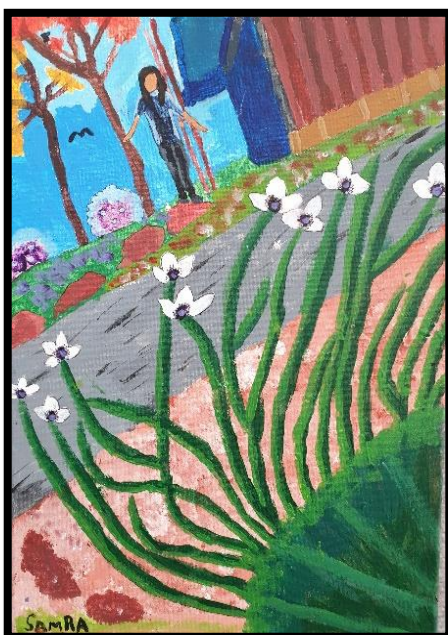
Lawrence Arcilla



Anjelica Pajela

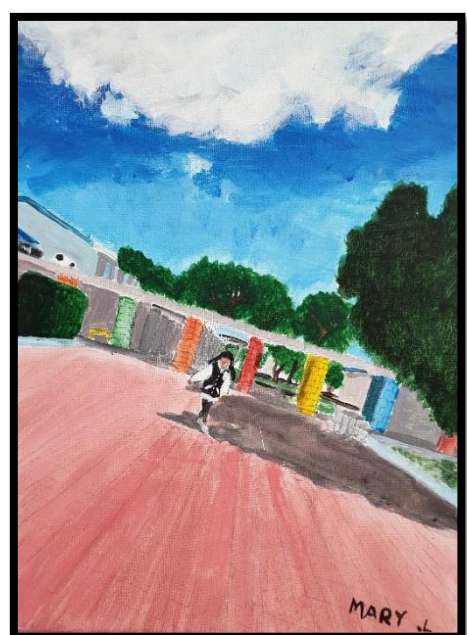


Doh Nay Nyor Mya Tun



**Job
well
done!**

Samra Hafeez (Left)
Mary Lian (Right)



STUDENT SERVICES

Red Frogs is a not-for-profit support program for young people from the ages of 13-20. Red Frog volunteers provide positive peer-modelling by being a presence at venues where young people gather. They promote and educate young people on safe partying behaviors and provide a 24/7 Hotline support for those in need of advice or assistance. Red Frogs acts as a safety network during what can be a challenging and vulnerable time for young people.

Red Frogs distribute 8 tonnes of Allen's red frog lollies, donated by Allen's. Student Services received a number of bags of red frogs to share with students and staff. Students from years 11 and 12 were able to hear the Red Frog message while enjoying a red frog lolly during form.



Red Frogs equips young people with the information, advice and tools necessary to confidently navigate many of the challenges they may face in this unique season of life.



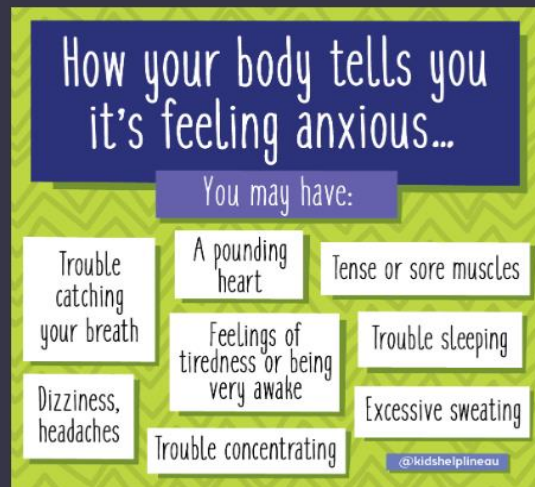
Red Frogs empowers young people to be a voice of change within their culture, to make positive life choices, to dream big and to reach their potential.

Are you worried about novel coronavirus (COVID-19)?

Kids Helpline is still open 24/7 to answer your call, email or WebChat

Anxiety is a normal response to a threat like a disease. Humans have lived with the threat of diseases as they've been around. While worry is generally a negative feeling, it does actually serve a purpose. It's one of the ways our brain tries to help us be more alert, create a plan and respond quickly to a threat.

While Kids Helpline counsellors can't provide health or medical advice, we can provide emotional support anytime and for any reason. In a time of high uncertainty, a little bit of support can make a big difference!



Students and families may be experiencing increased stress or anxiety related to the pandemic coronavirus. There are a lot of agencies providing support. All calls to the following agencies are free.

Key Phone Numbers:

Kids Helpline: 1800 55 1800

Headspace: 1800 650 890

Lifeline: 13 11 14

Beyond Blue: 1300 22 4636

The following websites have Information and Online Support

Lifeline: <https://www.lifeline.org.au/get-help/topics/mental-health-and-wellbeing-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

Beyond Blue: <https://www.beyondblue.org.au/the-facts/looking-after-your-mental-health-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak>

Headspace: <https://headspace.org.au/young-people/how-to-cope-with-stress-related-to-covid-19/>

Kids Helpline: <https://kidshelpline.com.au/coronavirus>

Department of Health: <https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert>

World Health Organisation: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>



Raising Children Network

Children are as individual and as different as their parents and making decisions about what's best for raising children is very personal.

The Raising Children website offers up-to-date, research-based material on more than 800 topics spanning child development, behavior, health, nutrition and fitness, play and learning, connecting and communicating, school and education, entertainment and technology, sleep and safety.

It covers [grown-ups](#), [newborns](#) (0-3 months), [babies](#) (3-12 months), [toddlers](#) (1-3 years), [preschoolers](#) (3-5 years), [school-age children](#) (5-9 years), [pre-teens](#) (9-11 years), and [early teens](#) (12-15 years).

There are tips, videos and other useful resources.

The Raising Children Network provides information that can help parents with the day-to-day decisions of raising children. It also provides information to help parents and carers look after their own needs. The information is based on the best science in parenting, child health and development, presented in language we can all understand.

This is a website for Australian mothers, fathers, grandparents and anyone else who has responsibility for the care of children. www.raisingchildren.com.au

Dental Health Services

All school children are eligible for the School Dental Service from the year they turn five until they are 17 years of age. For enrolment information contact your closest School Dental Therapy Centre or Dental Health Services on 9313 0555 for further information.

Children aged between 2 – 17 years are eligible to receive dental care under the Child dental benefits schedule if their parent is in receipt of Family Tax Benefit A, visit the following website

www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/childdental

Immunisation information for parents

Immunisation programs in our community are designed to keep everyone well and safe, especially those people who are most at risk, such as babies.

Parents or legal guardians who make a conscious informed decision not to immunise their child should note the following:

In the case of a Measles or Pertussis (whooping cough) outbreak, Western Australian schools are required by the Department of Health, to exclude students who have not received the appropriate vaccination.

Please make sure your school-aged child is fully immunised and that you have provided a copy of the AIR immunization record to the school.

Did you know that as parents you can ring the National registry or visit www.humanservices.gov.au to check out your child's immunisation status? All you need is your Medicare number. Alternatively, phone 1800 653 809 or email air@humanservices.gov.au



BALGA SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

An Independent Public School

SCHOOL TOURS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

To arrange contact school on [9247 0222](tel:92470222)

INNOVATIVE AND OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC PROGRAMS



- ATAR PROGRAMS AVAILABLE
- UNIVERSITY PREPARATION COURSE (Partnering with ECU)
- NNEI PROGRAM
- CERTIFICATE II COURSES (Sport, Hospitality, Child Care)
- LEARNING SUPPORT PROGRAM
- INTENSIVE ENGLISH CENTRE

CHALLENGING AND REWARDING EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- POLICE RANGERS
- AFTER SCHOOL SPORTS (AFL, Badminton, Soccer, Netball)
- ROBOTICS CLUB (Partnering with Google)
- YOH Fest (Drama)
- HOMEWORK CLUB (Weekly)



KEY SCHOOL PARTNERS

