

ISSUE 1 | 3 FEBRUARY



Charlie Banias
Margaret Obolenski
School Captains



Learning To Live Together



Deborah Harman Principal

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PRINCIPAL'S PERSPECTIVE

Welcome to 2023 – 'Empathy, Belonging, Connections'

Welcome back to all students, staff and families for the new school year. I sincerely hope that the holidays were enjoyable and that they provided time for all to relax and celebrate after our hugely successful conclusion to 2022.

I extend a very warm welcome to our 335 Year 7 students to our school community, 9 International students from China and Vietnam, and the almost 100 students who are joining us across Years 8 - 12. It will be wonderful to be able to meet and welcome many of the families at our Year 7 Welcome Evening next week and introduce them to the myriad of extra-curricular activities on offer as part of our Clubs Expo.

This year all of our work will be aligned to, and reflected through, the theme of 'Empathy, Belonging, Connections'. We have already introduced the theme at our welcoming assemblies this week and students will be encouraged through tutorial classes and assemblies to set, monitor and evaluate personal goals for the year incorporating these powerful attributes. Since 2014 our annual school themes have sought to provide focus and inspiration to our incredibly aspirational school community, as well as providing each Year 12 cohort with an individual perspective as Graduates of Balwyn High School.

We look forward to showcasing and enacting 'Empathy, Belonging, Connections' through its impact with planning of our formal events throughout 2023, as well as influencing our classrooms, co-curricular programs, competitions, teaching and learning approaches, and presentations to year level and General Assemblies.

Introducing Our New Leaders and Staff

This year we have appointed a significant number of new teaching staff and I extend a warm welcome to all of them. I know that they have already felt supported and inspired as they have undertaken induction programs and the recent two days of Staff Professional Learning. We also welcome back the following staff from their leave in 2022 - Rikara Ahmat, Deanna Pattieson, Kim Cornell, Lachlan Ellis, Oliver Morris, Carol Kim, Kathryn Ballintine, Brooke Jacobs, Nina Pappas and Sarah Ward.

Given our ongoing commitment to building both staff and student leadership capacity, it is always wonderful to see our colleagues taking up new positions as part of our Leadership Profile. We congratulate the staff who have taken on significant leadership responsibilities in new roles for 2023:

- Leading Teachers – Justin Hong (Senior School), Shaun Bowes (HOPES), Simon Maher (Mathematics & Numeracy), Teaghan Gibson (Music)
- Learning Specialists – Lucy Rimmer (Numeracy Across the Curriculum) and Jack Stewart (MS Student Engagement and Development)
- New SLWMs – Shannon Blewitt (7), Jed Miller (8), Bethany Shearwood-Boyd (9), Brian La (10), Bianca Prendergast & Viet Bui (12). These SLWMs will be joining Mercedes Marsh (Year 7), Binhui Tu (Year 8), Brandon Jones (Year 9) and Dylan den Hartog (Year 10).
- New Assistant Directors – Sylvie Tang (Middle School), Amee Duncan (Senior School), Melanie White (Music-Classroom), Emily Caracella (Music – Ensembles), Anna Brown (Sport – Coaching)

PRINCIPAL'S PERSPECTIVE Cont.



- New Heads of Learning – Tammy Li (Chinese), Tim Richardson (Outdoor Ed), Briallen Darlow (VCE EAL), Lisa Blanch (EAL Years 7-10)
- New Program Liaison staff – Kim Cornell (Marrung Lead), Paulina Makarova (House Coordinator), Cemil Ozcitti (Debating), Emily Wheatley (Public Speaking), Simon Gould & Elena Fragapane (Social Justice), Dale Lawrence & Dave Howes (Environment)
- Education Support Staff Role Changes – Bernadette Clayton (Director of Community Engagement), Erin Shale (VCE Careers), Tania Christin (Accounts Receivable)

Following rigorous state-wide selection processes throughout the second semester last year, we have been excited to finally welcome a large number of new staff. We are thrilled to have them at Balwyn High School:

RBU	Rachel Button	Art	QSU	Qi Sun	IT & Commerce
NHO	Nicole Houlihan	Art & Media	LRI	Lucy Rimmer	Maths - LS Numeracy Across the Curriculum
RCA	Rain Cao	Chinese	MOT	Mahmoud Othman	Mathematics
AFU	Amalia Fumera	Commerce	NDU	Noel Dunstan	Mathematics
MGN	Matthew Grossman	Commerce	QTR	Quyen Tran	Mathematics
RZH	Rui Zhao	Commerce	YLI	Yang Liu	Music (Classroom) & Voice
GTA	Gulcan (Gee) Tarisai	Commerce & Humanities	DHI	Daniel Hickey	PE & Humanities
JHO	Justin Hong	Director of Senior School	JWE	Jack Wells	PE & Humanities
ASA	Akash Samuel	English	RLI	Renkun (Summer) Li	Physics & Mathematics
IMD	Isobel Madden	English	BLE	Ben Lefoe	Psychology & Science
KPO	Klaudio Podreka	English	YWN	Yunkai Wang	Psychology & Science
TMC	Tanya McHenry	English	KBA	Kathryn Ballintine	Science
ARI	Annie Riley	English	PHE	Peyton Herbert	Science
LDE	Lachlan Deale	English & English Language	SCH	Siow Feng (Yui) Chong	Science & Mathematics
JKO	Jake Kostas	English & Humanities	MMA	Machi Mak	IT Infrastructure Technician
SAP	Sue Apak	English & Humanities	BWA	Bridgett Watt	Psychologist
DKE	Diana Kelly	English & Literature	LUL	Lun (Kristin) Li	Learning Support Assistant
ELA	Evan Lazarus	English as an Add'l Language	KHL	Kyra Holland	Assistant Business Manager

PRINCIPAL'S PERSPECTIVE Cont.



KSZ	Kelly Szlachetko	Food Technology	LBA	Leonardo Bamford	Laboratory Technician
SBO	Shaun Bowes	HOPES (Director)	MUR	Margaret Uren	DET Headstart Coordinator
LWI	Luke Wilcockson	Humanities			

The arrival of new staff each year – both experienced and new graduate teachers – is always invigorating for an organisation as fresh faces and new ideas and perspectives provide us all with a sense of renewal. I am confident that all of our new staff members will bring great positivity, enthusiasm and commitment to their roles. Most certainly they have been provided with fantastic support by the Leadership Team and their learning area colleagues in the early days of their work here, and they have all expressed a sincere appreciation of the privilege of being selected to work in such a marvellous school community.

Looking to 2024 and our Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Throughout this year we will also be planning for our 70th Anniversary celebrations in 2024. As part of this planning, Bernadette Clayton, Director of Community Engagement, and I will be considering nominations for the next cohort of inductees into our Balwyn High School Hall of Achievement, as well as the Sport, Music, Science and Arts Halls of Achievement, who would then be formally presented as part of a Gala Concert in mid -2024. More details around the nomination process will be forthcoming in upcoming editions of the Lion, but in the meantime we are intending to showcase a range of our marvellous alumni who have graduated from Balwyn High School and are achieving fantastic success in their careers and community service.



We are extremely proud of our current and alumni students and the pride they have as members of the Balwyn High School community. Most certainly our student body will be magnificently led throughout 2023 by Charlie Baniyas and Margaret Obolenski (School Captains), Zac Miritis and Tania Batova (Vice Captains) and Fearghas Bennett and Emma Ho (SRC Presidents) and over 400 student leaders. It promises to be another wonderful year for us all.

Deborah Harman | Principal

Learning To Live Together



Andrew Corr
Assistant Principal



Tegan Knuckey
Assistant Principal



Julien Escurat
Assistant Principal



Hamish Anderson
Assistant Principal

Professional Learning Reflection

The Principal Team made the decision at the end of 2022 to schedule two days of professional learning before the students return. With the large number of new staff and the intended focus of the two days, it made sense to schedule them at this time rather than part way through the term. The two days proved to be incredibly powerful and included presentations on cultivating psychologically safe environments, and constructing a classroom culture that maximises learning. These presentations were delivered by members of our principal and leadership teams. The presentations were followed by workshops where the ideas and strategies were discussed so that teachers felt a degree of comfort in their implementation. The work over these two days has been inspired by leadership and education consultants who our teachers and teams have worked with over the last couple of years, including Paige Williams, Glen Pearsal and Bill Rogers. The Principal and Leadership Teams look forward to continuing our work on these themes throughout the year, as well as continuing to support our teachers to meet the numeracy needs of our students across the curriculum.

2023: Introducing Vocational Education in VCE

In 2023, we introduce our first class of Vocational Major, as part of the VCE, and Victorian Pathway Certificate within the Year 11 cohort. This new offering of secondary pathways follows changes to the VCE initiated by the Department of Education. While the traditional VCE remains unchanged, VCAL now becomes the Vocational Major and a specialisation within the VCE. The VCE-VM is a course designed to offer students access to vocational and applied learning. It prepares students to post-school transition by providing them with industry exposure and experience through work related learning opportunities. Part of this course includes a VET subject provided by an RTO or TAFE as well as optional Structured Workplace Learning. Students complete the VCE-VM over two years and become eligible to pursue tertiary studies, including university courses, not requiring an ATAR or transition to an apprenticeship or employment.

The VPC provides students who would otherwise not complete VCE the opportunity to complete secondary education and wish to pursue towards employment, apprenticeship or volunteer work.

Further information about the VCE-VM and the VPC are available through DET and VCAA.

Learning at Balwyn High School

This week we welcomed our class of 2028 to Balwyn High School community. It is such an exciting time for our school community as we get to know the young people in our learning community.

At Balwyn High School, it is clear the culture of assessment allows students to become agents of their own learning. As identified in the attributes and dispositions from the Graduation Profile (provided to students upcoming completion of Year 12), when students are collaborative, inclusive, and open-minded about their learning, they make significant progress. These attributes are resonant of the Shared Learning Norms, clearly positioned in every classroom. When the learning behaviours are evident, it supports teachers to identify and respond to individual learning needs.

Students who are actively building their understanding of new concepts (rather than merely absorbing information) and who are learning to judge the quality of their own and their peers' work against criteria are developing invaluable skills for lifelong learning. Everything students say, make, do and write is an opportunity for them to show their teacher how they have progressed with their learning.

Each person in the classroom has an important role to play, with the teacher guiding learning growth and students (and families) as the active contributor. We all have a responsibility to establish and maintain a safe and rewarding learning environment, which can support the classroom teacher foster an effective learning culture. Therefore, when students actively demonstrate learning to the teacher, they can make informed decisions about how to further progress.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S REPORT Cont.

Families can refer to a range of tools to support their knowledge of their child's learning including:

- Accessing Compass Continuum
- Referring to Compass lesson plans
- Reporting Points and Semester Reports
- Communicating with the Student Learning and Wellbeing Managers
- Attending Parent, Student, Teacher Conferences
- Engaging with notices and communications sent via email and News Feed regularly
- Discussing learning with the classroom teacher
- Engaging with their child about learning intentions and success criteria
- Responding curiously to progress concerns communicated by Student Learning and Wellbeing Managers, with their child

Before School Supervision

Parents and students are reminded that Yard Duty supervision is provided from 8.15am every morning. Parents are discouraged from dropping students at school prior to 8.15am unless previous arrangements have been made for music rehearsals or sports training.

Andrew Corr, Tegan Knuckey, Hamish Anderson and Julien Escurat | Assistant Principals





Justin Hong
Director of Senior School

Learning To Live Together

Welcome to Justin Hong, New Director of Senior School.

I want to firstly thank the Balwyn High School community for the warmth and generosity in which I have been welcomed. Having the opportunity to immerse myself within the culture and the community through the leadership retreat, the induction days and across the start of this year has affirmed that the school takes a lot of pride in its commitment to excellent teaching and learning, the tremendous cocurricular programs, and the continued focus in building the capacity of staff and students.

I have always enjoyed working with and supporting young adults to develop and grow into the best version of themselves. Prior to teaching, I worked in high-performance sport science where I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to test, train and nurture youth athletes in preparation for their sport. Through this, I began teaching into Vocational Teaching where I discovered my passion for education and working with young people. I then went on to complete further study with a Master of Teaching and a Master of Exercise Science before beginning my teaching career at The University High School. Across the past six years there, I enjoyed my work in a variety of roles as Head of Sport, Head of Health & PE Domain, VCE Coordination and as a Learning Specialist.

I now look forward to my new role as Director of Senior School and working with the entire community at Balwyn High School. I was drawn to this position for the opportunity to work with such a diverse range of senior school students, to support them in achieving their goals and to develop lifelong skills as future-ready citizens. I am excited by the culture of excellence, the focus on continuous improvement, the commitment to values-driven education, and the collaborative approach in supporting all our students.

A Successful Start in 2023

The 2023 school year has started positively with the return of students on Tuesday 31 January after a well-deserved summer break. Students were welcomed with an address from our Principal and our Senior School team inviting students to continue setting challenging goals, to build and strengthen the connections with their peers, and to support each other throughout this year marked by the theme 'Empathy, Belonging, Connections'. We particularly welcome all students who are new to Balwyn High School and to our Year 10 Students as they transition to the Senior School. The evidence of the joy and care for others that has been extended by all students this week has shown the strength of our learning community and its supportive environment.

The first weeks of school has already been full of exciting events. Today, we formally induct the Year 12 students as part of their Orientation Day. As a part of this day students will attend a study skills session aimed at targeting study habits that they can apply in their specific subjects. We will also recognise the outstanding performance of our 54 top students from the class of 2022 who have achieved an ATAR of at least 97.0 and look forward to formally inducting them to the Balwyn High School Honour Board.

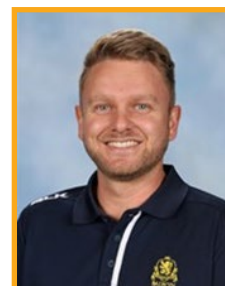
I also wish to acknowledge and thank the significant preparation and work of all staff in supporting our students' transition back to our school community – especially our outstanding Student Learning and Wellbeing Managers, and Administration Assistant Kathy Mouradian.

Senior School Team:

Dani Cantor
Director of Senior
School Wellbeing



Paul Gear
Learning Specialist-
Student Engagement &
Development (Senior
School)

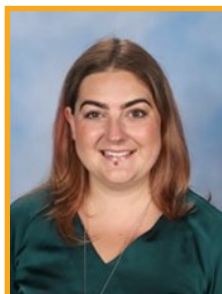


SENIOR SCHOOL REPORT Cont.

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Kathy Mouradian

Senior School Administrative Assistant

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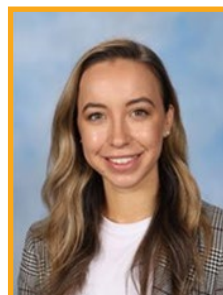
Year 10 Student Learning and Wellbeing Managers



Dylan Den Hartog

ddh@balwynhs.vic.edu.au

Year 11 Student Learning and Wellbeing Managers



Chloe Erskine

cer@balwynhs.vic.edu.au

Year 12 Student Learning and Wellbeing Managers



Bianca Prendergast

bpr@balwynhs.vic.edu.au



Brian La

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Chris Triantafilopoulos

ctr@balwynhs.vic.edu.au



Viet Bui

nbu@balwynhs.vic.edu.au

Our Careers Team provide support to all students as they set goals and navigate the path that will lead them through their Senior School journey and beyond. Please feel free to contact them if you have any queries:

Erin Shale

VCE Careers Counsellor

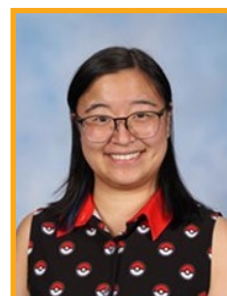
Ph: 9862 4124



Melissa Co

Year 7-10 Careers Advisor

Ph: 9862 4169



SENIOR SCHOOL REPORT Cont.

Senior School Information Nights

Please note the dates of our upcoming Senior School Information Nights. All parents and carers are welcome to attend the relevant night, should they wish to find out more about course details and the events for the year ahead. Further information on the content of these information nights will be posted onto the Compass Parents Newsfeed.

- Year 12 Parent Information Night – Wednesday 15 February
- Year 11 Parent Information Night – Wednesday 22 February
- Year 10 Parent Information Night – Wednesday 1 March

The entire Senior School team is looking forward to a wonderful and successful year ahead.

Justin Hong | Director of Senior School





Chris Land
Director of Middle School

Learning To Live Together

Welcome to 2023 – Day One 2023 – Empathy, Belonging, Connections

The Middle School Team wishes to extend a very warm welcome to our returning students, our many new students and to the families of the Balwyn High School community as we commence 2023 with an inspiring new theme: Empathy, Belonging, Connections. In Term 1 and over the course of 2023 - as we build strong, respectful and safe learning communities and reflect on our impact and the difference that we can make in the lives of others - the Balwyn High School theme could not be a more fitting representation of the core values of the Middle School.

It was with a huge amount of pleasure that we greeted over 1000 Middle School students on 31 January, Day One. The atmosphere of positivity and excitement was palpable as our new Year 7 students gathered outside the AM Rogers Hall, with the Year 8 and Year 9 students arriving an hour later. Year 7 students were welcomed with an address from Principal Deborah Harman and key members of the Middle School Team, before the 2023 Middle School Captains Sara Angekovik and Rafael Hutagalung spoke on the school's theme Empathy, Belonging and Connections. One of Sara's key messages was for Year 7 students to 'Take their time, be brave, try things out', whilst Rafael's key piece of guidance was that 'high school isn't a solo journey.' After the Middle School Captains, 2023 STEP Captains Daniel Vu and Nethmi Sumanasakera spoke about their own memories their first day at high school.



Once the Year 7 students had settled in to their new environment, it was the turn of the Year 8s and the Year 9s. The assembly featured speeches from Ms Harman, Assistant Principal Hamish Anderson, the School Captains Margaret Obolenski and Charlie Baniyas, the Middle School Captains Sara and Rafael, the Year 8 Captains Vindy Asuramuni and Khai Tang, SRC Executive member James Kim and the Year 8 and Year 9 SLWMs Binhui Tu, Jed Miller, Brandon Jones and Bethany Shearwood-Boyd. A memorable message to emerge from this assembly was the importance of empathy in forming strong connections, illustrated expertly in Hamish Anderson's speech, where he shared memories of small acts of kindness remembered from his childhood. We commend our new and returning students on their outstanding attitudes on their first day of 2023: start as you mean to go on!



Following the welcome assemblies and before attending regular, timetabled lessons in the afternoon,

MIDDLE SCHOOL REPORT Cont.

students participated in their Day One Tutorial lessons.

These lessons provided students with the opportunity to meet the other students in their Tutorial classes, to meet their Tutorial teachers and to attend to some important practical matters such as lockers.

I wish to acknowledge the tremendous preparation and work of all staff in supporting the transition of the students back into the school community this week - particularly Tutorial teachers. Deserving of special praise is our outstanding Middle School Team, including Assistant Director of Middle School Sylvie Tang, the Student Learning and Wellbeing Managers, Learning Specialist Jack Stewart and Administration Assistant Kate Llewellyn-Millard, who provide such fantastic support to students, their families and teachers.

Similarly, I would like to express my gratitude to Arwa Kaka, the Balwyn High School Registrar, who has worked so hard over the summer holidays to support the enrolment of students. Finally, I would like to thank the Student Services Team, led in the Middle School by Director of Wellbeing Sharon Gardner-Drummond. The Student Services Team does not stop supporting students and families over the holidays.

We can't wait for the opportunities that 2023 brings and we hope that students and families share our optimism for the coming year and all of the possibilities that it presents.

Middle School Matters!

Our core mantra in the Middle School is that 'Middle School Matters'; this idea sits at the heart of the work that we do with every student, every day. Our mission statement in both the Middle School is that - through a commitment to excellence - we support Balwyn High School students to value life-long learning and develop as inclusive, future-ready global citizens, who contribute positively to society. The groundwork for achieving the school's vision begins the very first time a Year 7 student walks through the school gates.

The Middle School Team has developed key themes, each of which aims to encapsulate the Middle School experience for the community in alignment with the Graduation Profile.

- Year 7 – Our New Learning Community
- Year 8 – Making a Difference
- Year 9 – My Middle School Experience: Past, Present, Future

Our message to students and families as we commence 2023 is that the small things matter: how we wear our uniform, punctuality to class, study habits and routines, forming healthy habits with technology, looking after our wellbeing, and how we treat other members of the school community. It is through living out the school's culture of excellence in every class, every day with our Middle School students that we establish the love of learning, curiosity, inclusive mindset, habits, routines, resilience and expectations that result in personal fulfilment and academic success at the end of a student's six-year Balwyn High School experience. The Middle School years matter.

Year 7 Camp: Phillip Island Adventure Resort 20-22 February

Year 7 Camp is always a highlight of the school year where our newest cohort get the opportunity to engage in a great program of activities, challenges and learnings outside of the classroom. Year 7 Camp has long been an important milestone in Year 7 students' transition to our school community, and we know that some of the relationships formed on Year 7 Camp can be long-lasting for students in their six years of study at Balwyn High School.

Payment and parent consent close today (3 February) and – due to the importance of finalizing arrangements – the school will not be in a position to accept late payments. More information





regarding Camp will be communicated via Compass Newsfeed. We can't wait to share with our Year 7 students an experience that forms an integral part of the Balwyn High School journey.

Year 7 Welcome Night and Clubs & Committees Expo – Thursday 9 February

Year 7 Welcome Night is scheduled to take place on the evening of Thursday 9 February 2023. The aim of the evening is very much about building a strong relationship between families and the school, in keeping with our Year 7 theme 'Our Learning Community'. Students and families will have the opportunity to meet with teachers, STEP leaders, and explore a wide range of co-curricular opportunities on offer through the Clubs and Committees Expo.

Families of our Year 7 students are warmly invited to attend. Welcome Night provides us with a fantastic opportunity to launch our new Year 7 Learning community.

Middle School Parent Information Nights

Parents and carers of Middle School students are warmly invited to attend the relevant Parent Information Evening for their child's year level. The sessions are planned to begin at 6pm in the David McGrail Theatre. We will notify families if these details change.

We strongly encourage parents and carers to attend these important events, which are one of the ways in which we support families to understand the key Middle School programs and priorities.

Please see below the dates of these evenings:

- Year 7: Monday 13 February
- Year 8: Monday 27 February
- Year 9: Tuesday 28 February

Student Transition and Enhancement Program (STEP)

A significant part of the transition from primary to high school for the newest members of our school community is the Student Transition Enhancement Program, or 'STEP'. STEP fosters relationships between Year 7 and Year 10 Students and supports their transition to Balwyn High School through regular workshops led by our Year 10 STEP leaders in wellbeing, self-esteem, and building positive relationships. These workshops link to our Year 7 Year Level Theme of 'Our New Learning Community.' They allow for the development of social and ethical responsibility as citizens of Balwyn High School and the capacity to be flexible and adaptable to change, derived from knowing how to learn. Further to these aims, STEP also provides a fantastic opportunity for our Year 10 students to develop their own leadership skills through the planning and organisation of learning opportunities with their Tutorial class. This year, in the newly created position of STEP Captain, we have two outstanding leaders in Year 10 students Nethmi Sumanasekara and Daniel Vu. Nethmi and Daniel addressed our new Year 7 cohort in their very first assembly, which took place on Tuesday. Please see below for a transcript of their speeches.

Hi Year 7s! My name is Daniel, and this is Nethmi, and we are your 2 STEP Captains for 2023. Transitioning into a new environment and starting something new can be nerve-racking and overwhelming, from moving into high school, to learning a new instrument and even to rock climbing. My first time rock climbing felt like I was climbing Mt Everest; getting up wasn't a problem, but coming back down rattled all of my nerves. My nerves got to me, but as my climbing partner shouted

MIDDLE SCHOOL REPORT Cont.

encouragement from the ground, I began to feel more safe in the environment, like my partner was a safety net at the bottom of the wall, there to catch me if I fall.

Soon enough, I let my partner lower me down to the ground, and by the time I had gotten to the bottom, I no longer felt like rock climbing was something that came with a million worries.

Just like having a partner to support you as you climb, all of us, your STEP leaders, are here to make your transition into Balwyn High School as seamless as possible. Each of your tutorial classes will have a small group of STEP leaders to support your class, who you will get to know better over time.

Throughout the year, we hope to make you feel more comfortable with not only the school environment, but those around you, whether this be through running games and fun activities with you, or simply joining your tutorial classes to support you and allow you to ask questions.

Before I pass off to Nethmi, I just wanted to say how excited to work you all, I'm sure this year will be full of growth and connection!

Daniel Vul STEP Captain

Hi everyone! As Daniel said, my name is Nethmi, and I will be one of your STEP captains this year.

I still remember my very first day of Year 7.

I was sitting in this theatre, just like all of you, thinking, 'How will I not get lost?' It was my little worry. So were the questions of 'how will I know what to bring to class', 'what will I do at lunch?' and 'where do I go for each subject?'

I was too scared to ask these questions, believing they were too stupid or too childish, despite the fact all the others in my class held these same little worries.

Eventually, one of my STEP leaders said to the class 'no matter how big the school seems now, you will get used to it soon', and just like that, the prospect of getting lost seemed so much smaller.

As STEP leaders, we are here to dissolve all of your little worries, even if you believe they are too small to ask. In addition, the STEP leaders will be stationed at hotspots around the school during lunch and recess this week for you to ask questions and fix locker issues, and there will be signs up to point you towards these hotspots. So be sure to check out these signs and come down to see us, even if you'd just like to have a chat!

I can say wholeheartedly that, without my STEP leaders, pushing through the year and finding my own place in the school community would've felt a lot scarier than it did.

So please, never hesitate to ask us about every single one of your little worries, say hi when you see us around the school or even come find us out in the yard if you ever need a hand with anything!

Thank you and enjoy your first day!



Chris Land
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Sylvie Tang
Assistant Director of
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Kate Llewelyn-Millard
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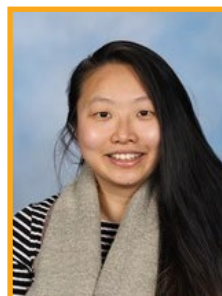
MIDDLE SCHOOL REPORT Cont.

Year 7 Student Learning and Wellbeing Managers



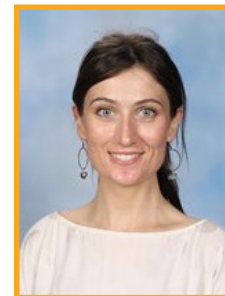
Mercedes Marsh
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Year 8 Student Learning and Wellbeing Managers



Binhui Tu
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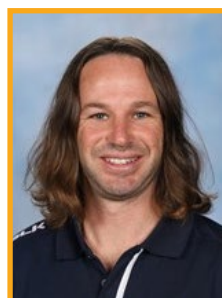
Year 9 Student Learning and Wellbeing Managers



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Jed Miller
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Brandon Jones
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Sharon Gardner-Drummond
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Wellbeing
sgd@balwynhs.vic.edu.au



Jack Stewart
Learning Specialist- Student
Engagement & Development
(Middle School)
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Melissa Co
Year 7-10 Careers Advisor
Ph: 9862 4169

Chris Landl Director of Middle School
Sylvie Tang Assistant Director of Middle School

Learning To Live Together



Dani Cantor
Director of Senior
School Wellbeing



Sharon Gardner-Drummond
Director of Middle School
Wellbeing

Student Services Team in 2023

The Student Services team are delighted to welcome Bridget Watt, psychologist to the team. She joins Sharon Gardner-Drummond (Director of Wellbeing – Middle School), Dani Cantor (Director of Wellbeing – Senior School), Lincoln Kealy (Mental Health Practitioner), Parnoon Moradi (psychologist), Jeff Lampard (Chaplain) and Gough (Wellbeing Dog).

Transitioning Back to School after the Holidays

Recommencing the school year is a time of mixed emotions for students, reuniting with peers and reengaging with their academic/curricular interests, while transitioning from the slower pace of the holidays to the routine of school. There are several key strategies to assist students to maintain their wellbeing and mitigate potential stress during this time at the start of the school year.

Sleep

Competing demands of homework and extracurricular activities often result in sleep being devalued. However, a good night's sleep is essential for optimal cognitive functioning, while also assisting to consolidate recently learnt material to memory. Sleep also assists with emotion regulation and is essential for physical growth occurring during the teen years.

Students may be struggling to transition back to earlier sleep-wake times after the holidays, which may be compounded by delayed sleep onset (up to 2 hours) associated with puberty. Students aged 12 to 13 years require 9 – 11 hours, while older students need about 8 – 10 hours sleep.

Young people can improve their sleep by developing routines, such as setting consistent times for going to sleep and waking up. To improve sleep hygiene, it is recommended to avoid caffeine after lunchtime, avoid screens at least an hour before bed and instead engage in a relaxing activity, such as reading. Journaling before bedtime can assist young people to ease worrying thoughts that may impact sleep. If delayed sleep onset is present, if possible young people could be accommodated to wake up as late as is practicable, while still getting to school on time!

Coping Strategies

It is normal for young people to experience some levels of stress with the uncertainty of a new year and settling back into the academic and social aspects of school. Students can proactively identify positive coping behaviours, attempts to manage stress over time, which are associated with improved mental wellbeing. Young people can be supported to use these strategies to replace unhelpful strategies, which may provide immediate relief from stress but be detrimental long term, such as procrastination or substance use (for older students).

https://www.youthadtoolbox.org.au/sites/default/files/documents_global/Developing%20Positive%20Coping%20Strategies.pdf

Problem Focussed Coping: is utilised when a potential source of stress can be directly managed, such as breaking down assignments/ studying into manageable chunks and scheduling realistic times for completion.

Emotion Focussed Coping: refers to dealing with negative emotions that may arise when a young person has limited control over a source of stress, such as an upcoming exam.

- Positive self-talk can assist young people to manage emotions. Self-statements such as "I've studied well for this test and I am capable" will assist students to feel grounded and think clearly, whereas catastrophic thoughts increase anxiety, which make it more difficult to focus.
- Engaging in relaxing and enjoyable activities, especially in the afternoons, can assist students to refresh for the next school day. These could include playing with a pet, moderate exercise, spending time with friends, taking a bath and listening to music. What works for each young person will be unique and a list or "coping kit" could be made at the start of the year.

STUDENT SERVICES Cont.

- Social support also assists young people to problem solve and process difficult emotions. The support of friends becomes increasingly prominent during the teen years and time spent with friends outside of school should be encouraged. However, the ongoing assistance of parents/carers is equally as important. It may be helpful to set aside time each day to discuss experiences and potential concerns, reassuring young people that a reasonable level of anxiety regarding the start of school is common and should ease as students settle into the term. Active listening (letting your child talk uninterrupted and reflecting back to them what they have said and how they are feeling) can assist them to arrive at important insights and address emotional experiences. <https://raisingchildren.net.au/pre-teens/communicating-relationships/communicating/active-listening>

Routine

<https://www.canva.com/planners/templates/weekly-schedule/>

Improving sleep and coping strategies can be tied together in a routine. Having a consistent routine can assist with cognitive effort required for organisation, assisting young people to use their time effectively. The routine could incorporate adequate time for homework, extracurricular requirements (such as music practice), employment (older students) and relaxation.

Belonging

The 2023 Balwyn High School theme is "Empathy, Belonging, Connections". Alongside academic concerns, young people may feel worried about reconnecting with classmates or making new friends as they start at BHS or enter different class arrangements. Feeling connected to peers is important for overall wellbeing as well as encouraging engagement at school. Continuing to provide a secure base for young people and an open, non-judgemental space to discuss concerns can assist with developing social confidence. Extracurricular activities or employment also provide ways to meet new people, while developing a sense of self-efficacy that can translate to enhanced self-esteem. Joining a club or committee at BHS is also a great way to find people with shared interests. Young people could reflect on their core values to assist them to clarify what they look for in a good friend.

<https://raisingchildren.net.au/pre-teens/behaviour/peers-friends-trends/teen-friendships#helping-pre-teens-and-teenagers-build-friendship-skills-nav-title>

When more support is required

After the initial couple of weeks of school, young people that are continuing to struggle to make the transition may require extra support. If it appears that a young person is overly withdrawn, agitated, demonstrating decreased interest in activities they usually enjoy, displaying reluctance to attend school and/or having difficulties with sleep, follow up may be required. Discussing with relevant SLWMs or consulting a GP to obtain a Mental Healthcare Plan for psychological support, depending on your level of concern, may be necessary to assist young people to get back on track and make the most of 2023. Kids Helpline is also available on 1800 55 1800 <https://kidshelpline.com.au/>.

Celebrate

Remind young people that it is a big accomplishment to recommence another year at high school, especially when adolescence can be such a demanding time of increased responsibility and major transitions. In particular, starting year seven or year twelve (or other years that may be personally important) are major milestones that require lots of courage and should be celebrated accordingly. A special family dinner may be a great way to continue to provide encouragement to students and value their accomplishments.

Bridget Watt | Balwyn High School Psychologist

Clubs and Committees

Wellbeing Clubs and Committees are off to a strong start in 2023.

Spectrum, the safe and inclusive place for all of our LGBTQIA+ students, staff and allies, meets on Tuesdays at lunchtime in H02 (the studio at the rear of the Raelene Curwood Wellbeing Centre). Bring your lunch and enjoy some camaraderie with like minded people.

STUDENT SERVICES Cont.

The BeYou Action Group work together to increase wellbeing for all at Balwyn High School. The Group meets in H02 on Mondays of weeks 4, 7 and 10 of term.

Running Club is a fantastic way to start the day and actively promotes strong mental health through physical wellbeing. This student led club is supervised by Dani Cantor and commences at 7:30am on Tuesday and Thursday mornings in the Sports Stadium. Once we have warmed up, we head out to the athletic track. All ages and abilities welcome!

Team LifeBlood

The Balwyn High School Community LifeBlood Team did amazing work last year, saving a massive 141 lives. If you are a new, existing or returning donor and have not yet joined the team, you can do so by logging into the website or alternatively, asking the staff to attach you to the team when you next donate. This includes people who have previously lived in the UK as that restriction was lifted in 2022.

Let's see if we can increase the number of lives saved in 2023!

State	Whole blood	Plasma	Platelets	Lives Saved
VIC	8	39	0	141
National Total	8	39	0	141

Dani Cantor | Director of Senior School Wellbeing
Sharon Gardner-Drummond | Director of Middle School Wellbeing



Day 1, Term 1 2023



Teaghan Gibson
Director of Music

Learning To Live Together

Welcome Back!

We are excited to welcome students back to the Music Program, and to have the space once again filled with music making in Instrumental Music lessons over the past few days. It is only a matter of time before we start to hear those first ensemble rehearsals echoing through the building each morning and afternoon, bringing the Balwyn High School Music Department back to life following the break.

As we launch our program for 2023, we are excited for the range of performance opportunities that will be offered to students, commencing with the Gala Soiree in early March. Watch this space!

Instrumental Music Lessons & Ensembles in 2023

Instrumental Music Lessons recommenced this week, and all beginner students will be scheduled for their first lesson as part of the Balwyn High School Music Program in the week commencing Monday 6 Feb (Week 3).

This morning we welcomed our new students to join us for a 'Meet and Greet' briefing in the David McGrail Theatre. In the briefing students learned:

- How to read the Compass schedule for Instrumental Music
- How to prepare for Instrumental Music lessons
- How to contact Instrumental Music teachers if students will be absent for their lessons
- What to bring for the first lesson
- Who to talk to if there are any questions

Students also met some of their Instrumental Music teachers. It is important that students develop a routine of checking their Compass Schedule each week to support them in communicating any scheduling issues to support continuity in their learning.

New Enrolments in Instrumental Music:

Should your child be interested in enrolling into Instrumental Music lessons at Balwyn High School for 2023, please note that we do have vacancies available in the following instruments:

- Oboe
- Bassoon
- Trombone
- Euphonium
- Tuba
- Cello
- Double Bass

We will be providing students opportunities to see, hear and engage with these instruments over the coming weeks. Please contact Vikki Divitcos (VDI@balwynhs.vic.edu.au), Tracey Launder (TLA@balwynhs.vic.edu.au) or call the Music Office on (03) 9862 4161 should you have any questions or wish to enrol your child into the Music Program.

Ensemble Rehearsals and Music Theory classes will commence in Week 3 and will appear on student Compass schedules.

Our A Strings Orchestra and Training Concert Band ensembles will commence following Year 7 Camp. Ensemble conductors will be in contact with students and families closer to this date.

Snapshot: Balwyn High School Alumni Musicians

As we commence a new year of music-making, we take a moment to reflect on and be inspired by the achievements of our Alumni.

MUSIC Cont.

Tommy Harvey

For the last 20 years, the Daryl McKenzie Jazz Orchestra have featured a student performer as part of their monthly residency at 'The Paris Cat Jazz Club'. Previously, alumni James Heathcote and Stone Chen have been selected for this opportunity. Alumnus Tommy Harvey (Class of 2022, Trombone) was offered the chance to perform with the band during January. Tommy played 'Tangerine', written by Johnny Mercer and Victor Schertzinger, a piece he previously has performed as a member of Black Orpheus. Congratulations on a wonderful performance, Tommy!

It was an enlightening experience to be able to play among such talented musicians who set the standard for the kind of playing I would like to achieve, but also daunting to be up there with such great talents. Preparing for this performance pushed me to work hard and put in the best performance I could. I couldn't be more grateful for the experience and hope to one day be playing in gigs like this from the other side, creating outstanding music every time I hit the stage.



Tommy Harvey | Alumni Performer

Stefanie Farrands, Eliza Sdraulig, Charlotte Miles and Harry Sdraulig

The Australian Chamber Orchestra is one of Australia's premier chamber ensembles, and is currently preparing to tour Australia's premier venues (including Sydney Opera House, Melbourne Recital Centre and Hamer Hall at The Arts Centre - Melbourne) featuring a program of works centred around Bruch's 'Violin Concerto No. 1 in G Minor, Op. 26'.

This tour will see Stefanie Farrands (Principal Viola – Australian Chamber Orchestra, and inductee of the Balwyn High School Music Hall of Achievement) joined by Eliza Sdraulig (class of 2012, cello) and Charlotte Miles (class of 2018, cello) to perform the world premier of 'Slanted', a composition by fellow alumnus, Harry Sdraulig (class of 2010).

It is such an achievement for these alumni to be invited to perform together with such a prestigious orchestra, and we could not be prouder of the progress each of these musicians have made in the music world since graduating from Balwyn High School.

Parents and Friends of Music

The Parents and Friends of Music Committee are a vibrant, active and highly valued committee within the Balwyn High School Music Program. The committee provides essential support for the Music Program each year, allowing us to continue to create rich opportunities for our student community.

Support from the committee ranges from assisting with large music events (Autumn, Winter and Spring Concert Series) to smaller showcase events (Gala Soiree, Jazz Night).

Should you wish to be involved in this committee, please reach out to Vikki Divitcos in the Music Office: VDI@balwynhs.vic.edu.au

Teaghan Gibson | Director of Music



Shaun Bowes
Director of Health,
Outdoor, Physical
Education and Sport

Learning To Live Together

Welcome to Shaun Bowes, New Director of Health, Outdoor, Physical Education and Sport.

I am extremely excited to be appointed to the Director of Health, Outdoor, Physical Education, and Sport position at Balwyn High School for 2023. I've previously been Head of Sport for four years at another large secondary school, I've been a Leading Teacher for School Wide Positive Behaviour Support, and a SLWM. I have a keen interest in supporting all students to develop their health literacy skills. These skills will enable students to protect, enhance and advocate for their own and others' health, wellbeing, and safety. In addition to this, I'd love for all individuals to value movement, develop their movement competencies, develop their physical literacy skills, and enjoy regular movement-based learning experiences. I look forward to encouraging the ongoing sport participation of all Balwyn students during their school years and across their lifespan to lead to positive health outcomes.

Sport 2023

We are looking forward to another huge year of school Sport, PE, Health, and Outdoor Education in 2023! Term 1 will feature a whole range of sporting opportunities, including the whole school House Swimming Carnival. The carnival is a fantastic day that allows students to support their own house, develop connections with their peers and teachers, and get involved in activities that enhance their health and wellbeing. All students who want to participate in the races will be able to, however, there will be several other opportunities for students who don't swim. House points will be awarded for all races and events running throughout the day and they will contribute towards the House Swimming Cup! Can Windsor go back-to-back and win it again in 2023? All students are strongly encouraged to come dressed in their House colours or their full Balwyn High School Sports uniform.

Key Dates:

- Wednesday 1 March: House Swimming Carnival – @ Boroondara Sports Complex
- Tuesday 14 March: Division Swimming Carnival (select students) @ Boroondara Sports Complex
- Tuesday 28 March: Region Swimming Carnival @ Aquanation
- Thursday 30 March: House Athletics Carnival @ Box Hill Athletics Track

Interschool Sport

Signups for Interschool Sport teams for Term 1 are commencing and students are required to sign up to the Forms links sent out. Students should regularly check Compass Newsfeed for the training and trial schedule. We encourage all students to sign up and attend training in a bid to be selected to represent the school.

Key Dates:

- Friday 17 February: Senior (Year 11 & 12) Baseball, Softball, Tennis, Cricket and Volleyball
- Tuesday 21 February: Intermediate (Year 9 & 10) Baseball, Softball, Tennis, Cricket and Volleyball
- Thursday 23 February: Year 8 Basketball, Baseball, Softball, Tennis and Cricket
- Friday 10 March: Year 7 Cricket (Boys/Mixed). Note - Girls is in Term 4.
- Wednesday 29 March: Year 7 Basketball, Baseball, Softball and Tennis
- Tuesday 4 April: Senior (Year 11 & 12) Hockey, Table Tennis and Basketball

You can also find dates for events on School Sport Victoria's website: Division, EMR and State.

School Sport Victoria (SSV) State Teams

We are affiliated with SSV and students who play sport at a high level have an opportunity to trial for State representative teams. There are many Sports on offer, however, you must check the age group eligibility. If you are interested in trying out for State teams and representation, please check out the information regarding the teams available, trial processes and dates by clicking on the Team Vic tab to access the information and registration documentation. Any questions please contact me in the S7 Office or the Sport Office.

SPORT Cont.

<https://www.ssv.vic.edu.au/team-vic>

https://www.ssv.vic.edu.au/team-vic/Documents/Team_Vic_Information%20Sheet.pdf

<https://www.ssv.vic.edu.au/team-vic/Documents/Sports%20and%20Registration%20Dates%202023.pdf>

Sport Education

Sport Education lessons focus on maximising participation and enjoyment through games and skill development activities. This term, Year 7 & 8 students are playing basketball, softball, baseball, cricket, or tennis. Last year, students indicated sport preferences for 2023 Sport Education. We endeavour to provide students with their first preference, however with class size constraints, second preferences needed to be considered.

Compulsory Hats for Sport and Physical Education

It is essential that all students bring and wear a BHS school hat for Physical Education and Sport Education classes in Terms 1 and 4. We make sunscreen available, and students are also encouraged to bring & use a personal water bottle to remain hydrated during activity classes. Could a parent/guardian/carer please remind their child about this important requirement? PE and Sport teachers are very conscious of student health and safety and will actively instruct and encourage students to take care of themselves and others.

Supporting Your Child

Here are some tips and advice to help support you in nurturing your child's sporting development.

https://www.sportaus.gov.au/athlete_development/top_10_tips_for_parents

<https://player.vimeo.com/video/235673748>

If you're wanting to know more about opportunities for your child, please do not hesitate in contacting me.

Shaun Bowes | Director of Health, Outdoor, Physical Education, and Sport





Simon Maher
Director of Mathematics



Rikara Ahmat
Director of Science



Amanda Clarke
Assistant Director
of Mathematics and
Science

Learning To Live Together

Welcome back to 2023. The Mathematics and Science Learning Areas are excited to offer a range of programs and co-curricular opportunities to all members of the Balwyn High School community this year. A number of new and returning staff as well as a new leadership profile in these Learning Areas means that there will be a change in the way that some opportunities are offered to community members. This includes a fortnightly STEAM activity run by our new Year 12 STEAM captains.

The STEAM disciplines lie at the heart of innovation and open doors to emerging and traditional sectors being transformed by technology. Numeracy is a foundational skill that enables young people to participate in this future. If mathematics is knowledge and skills; numeracy is the ability to connect and apply these to the world around us. Improving student numeracy is a Balwyn High School priority during this 5-year strategic planning cycle. Numeracy initiatives to be progressed during 2023 include:

Numeracy across the curriculum: Paying attention to the numeracy demands of each learning area ensures that students' numeracy development is strengthened so that it supports subject-based learning.

Rethinking mathematics: Emphasising balanced maths lessons incorporating formative assessment, differentiation, metacognition, student led enquiry, collaboration and student agency. Creating environments that nurture positive maths mindsets.

We are also excited to offer VCE Environmental Science for the first time with a cohort beginning this important and contemporary study in Year 11. Students have shown an increased interest in the natural world and our part in sustaining it and this subject allows students to develop a deeper understanding and critical evaluation of our sustainability practices.

We look forward to providing updates and celebrations of the amazing things that our community members achieve and learn throughout the year through the Lion newsletter updates.

Simon Maher | Director of Mathematics

Rikara Ahmat | Director of Science

Amanda Clarke | Assistant Director of Mathematics and Science





Ramona Tilley
Director of Visual Arts

Learning To Live Together

Art is food for the soul, and an artistic climate is a healthy climate because it breeds empathy.

Amanda Palmer

A very warm welcome to new and returning community members! The Visual Arts team is excited to work with you in 2023 and to discover the talents and ideas of our amazing students.

We are so excited to introduce Media at Year 8 this year. Media has always been a popular subject from Year 9 through to VCE, and it offers fun learning opportunities that are so relevant to students whose day-to-day lives are saturated with Media. Through the discussion, examination, and deliberate creation of selected media, students will learn about media bias, viewpoints, audiences and context. They will enhance their media literacy and learn about creating engaging stories.

Another new subject this year is Art Creative Practice, which is a new VCE study design for 2023. This subject replaces Studio Arts in our curriculum and offers excellent opportunities for our young artists to develop their practice and their ability to critique and analyse artworks from a range of perspectives.

Year 7s are starting the year with a focus on identity and exploring a range of drawing techniques and media.

Year 8 Art students will be exploring our connection to place this term while learning about printmaking techniques.

Throughout the year, we look forward to sharing highlights from our Art, Media, Photography, and Visual Communication Design classes, and welcoming you to our exhibitions and events.

We are currently seeking applications for Visual Arts Ambassadors!

We are looking for two students per year level (7-11) who are passionate about creating opportunities for their peers to enjoy, celebrate, and contribute to visual arts projects, workshops, events and competitions at Balwyn High School.

Anyone who is keen to apply should complete the below form by Friday 10 February.

https://login.microsoftonline.com/common/oauth2/authorize?client_id=c9a559d2-7aab-4f13-a6ed-e7e9c52aec87&resource=c9a559d2-7aab-4f13-a6ed-e7e9c52aec87&response_type=code+id_token&scope=openid+profile+state+OpenIdConnect



Jane Gibson
Director of Humanities



Phoebe Hutson
Assistant Director of
Humanities and English

Learning To Live Together

What our students are talking about in 2023...

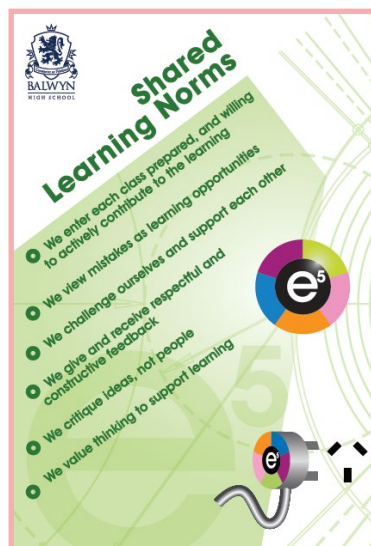
What is the meaning of Australia Day and why is it the subject of debate?

Last week, January 26th was Australia Day. This day commemorates the arrival of the First Fleet into Port Jackson and the establishment of the colony of New South Wales by the British in 1788. Interestingly, the First Fleet arrived at Botany Bay around January 20th but Captain Arthur Phillip believed Port Jackson was a better harbour, so the 11 ships were sailed north and the colony established at Sydney Cove. This day, 'Australia Day' was officially recognised in 1818 by the colony of NSW but didn't become a national public holiday until 1994.

It is a day that can mean different things to different people. For some, it is a day to celebrate with pride a society that has grown and prospered from the hard work and resilience of many generations of immigrants who helped to form the culturally harmonious, prosperous and democratic place that Australia is today. For others, it is a day that signifies not a beginning but an ending. The ending of a culture and way of life that had existed uninterrupted for at least 65 000 years until the arrival of the First Fleet. Indigenous people, the First Nations of Australia, see January 26th as 'Invasion Day' or 'Survival Day' and do not see it as a day to celebrate but a day to mourn the loss of their sovereignty, their Country, their people and their culture. In recent years, the duality of what Australia Day means has grown in prominence with some suggesting that a new day should be considered that is more inclusive of all Australians. If you are interested in this discussion and what it means you can go to this link to find out more.



Figure 1: The learning norms contextualise contentious topics in the classroom as we foster social skills in our young people to learn to live together



https://libraryedition.smedia.com.au/lib_a/sharedpages/SharedViewPage.aspx?sk=D08B5D29&href=AGE%2F2023%2F01%2F25&page=26

Upcoming dates:

- 6th March - Clean Up Australia Day
- 10th-24th of May (entries close 16th March) Australian Geography Competition
- 29th May – 2nd June Australian History Competition



At Balwyn High school we acknowledge the Wurundjeri People, the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands on which we work and pay my respect to Elders past, present and future.

Kim Cornell | Humanities Teacher
Jane Gibson | Director of Humanities



Rosie Hilder
Director of Student
Leadership/Voice

Learning To Live Together

The Student Leadership Program at Balwyn High School provides our students with opportunities to develop skills in building respectful relationships, to collaborate through team building activities and event planning, and to develop a strong sense of belonging through building connections in the school community. Our student leaders are supported to represent their cohorts and lead initiatives in the school, as they develop their own leadership capacity as collaborators and critical thinkers.

Our Year 12 Student Leadership Team in 2023 is led by School Captains Margaret and Charlie, Vice-Captains Tania and Zach, and SRC Presidents Emma and Fearghas. Our Middle School is led by Middle School Captains Sara and Rafael. All of these students have provided reflections on their goals for the leadership this year below.



2023 is going to be a busy, yet exciting year to come! I'm thrilled to support the improvement of the school community on behalf of students' expression, and I'm aiming to inspire many younger leaders to become the best versions of themselves throughout the year. I also hope to maintain and further develop positive change at Balwyn, so that students' everyday lives are well-benefited.

Charlie Banias | School Captain

As we engage in a successful start to a new year, I warmly welcome all students back to school! In 2023, I hope to inspire younger year levels to seize opportunities as they appear in an attempt to unearth their passions and find a sense of belonging within the school community. I am looking forward to creating and initiating change that reflects the contributions of all students.

Margaret Obolenski | School Captain

This year, a primary goal of mine, one that is no doubt shared by my peers, is to make this year as fun and as stress-free as possible alongside the pressures of VCE and the responsibilities of my role as Vice School Captain. I also plan to bring meaning to this year's school theme of "Empathy, Belonging, Connections" through the leadership of me and my cohort. I hope to use this theme as a beacon for the leadership team's work throughout the year so we are able to connect the greater school community through the myriad of events from Winter Warmers to Athletics Carnivals to encourage a sense of belonging in every student and to do so with compassion and empathy.

Tania Batova | School Vice Captain

As Vice School Captain in 2023, what I aim for is to be a person that can give back to the cohort that has made the last 5 years some of the most memorable of my life, and to help bring everyone together for our final year of high school. My goals are to be approachable and vocal in representing the cohort's wants and needs, and to help make this year an exciting one to remember. I look forward to spending it with you all!

Zachary Miritis | School Vice Captain

After the challenges of the last few years, the SRC is excited to work with our peers and the wider school community to provide memorable events with renewed vigour! Taking on feedback from previous years, we are focused on the leadership development of our members and our cohorts, as well as improving communication between students, student leaders and teacher liaisons to make student voice more prevalent than ever. Keep an eye out for our stalls at the fast-approaching swimming carnival; we hope to see you all there!

Emma Ho | SRC President

STUDENT LEADERSHIP AND VOICE Cont.

I am honoured and proud to be elected SRC President for 2023 by my peers and teachers and to lead a team of over forty dedicated leaders, who have each gone through extensive selection processes. In my leadership role, I will strive to build an inclusive and collaborative SRC team who will represent their respective year levels with pride, and for the whole team to work together to make our great school even better, I am looking forward to working closely with our fabulous SRC Executive team, the School and Vice Captains, PAG and other leaders across the school. I am excited for what our amazing school community can achieve together in 2023 and look forward to playing a part in making it a great year for all!

Fearghas Bennett | SRC President

As one of Balwyn High Schools middle school captains for 2023, my goal is to bring alive our themes of Empathy, Belonging and Connections. I aim to ensure everyone feels welcomed, respected, and included throughout the school. I hope to be a friendly face to new students and throughout the rest of the school by building better connections across our activities and supporting fun events for us all – where no two days are the same. I hope to assist in positive changes, where I can represent you and let your ideas and suggestions be heard. I take great pride in being one of your captains and look forward to a year where we can celebrate our diversity.

Sara | Middle School Captain

As the new Middle School Captain, my goal is focus on connecting to all the students. I want to be able to help the school to work together to become the best we can be. I aim to create amazing and inspiring speeches, as well doing my best to help everyone that needs my help. I will do my best at school events and assemblies, and be the kind and determined leader to inspire others to do the same.

Rafael | Middle School Captain

Clubs and Committees

Our Year 12 Leadership Team, made up of forty-six dedicated and passionate student leaders, work closely with the liaison staff to run many of our wonderful clubs and committees. Each lunchtime, we have a vast range of opportunities for students to participate in and this list can be viewed below. I have also asked our 2023 Environment Captains, Terry and Lin, and our Public Speaking Captains, Jess and Thomas, to provide some insights into these two programs and how students can get involved.

Name of Club	Day and Time of Club	Location of Club During the School Day
Art Club	Thursday lunchtime	U04
Arts Society	Refer to Compass newsfeed	Design
Be YOU Action Group	Monday lunchtime weeks 4, 7, 10. Refer to Compass newsfeed or Wellbeing Captains	House - H02
Book Club	Twice a term - Refer to Compass Newsfeed	C02
Chess Club	Wednesday and Thursday Lunchtimes	E12
Chinese Chess Club	Wednesday Lunchtime	E13
Chinese Language and Culture Club	Tuesday Lunchtime	E16
Computer Club	Monday Lunchtime	E21
Debating	Thursday Lunchtime	BL07
Drama Club	Tuesday Lunchtime	Theatre/X02
Dungeons and Dragons Club	Wednesday Lunchtime	BU02
Environment Committee	Wednesday Lunchtime	H02/Veggie Patch

Fitness Club (Senior School Only)	Monday to Friday Lunchtime	Fitness Centre
French Club	Monday lunchtime	C03
Homework Club	Each Wednesday after school	Library
House Coordinator	Refer to Compass newsfeed	TBC
Interact	Tuesday Lunchtime	E01
Library Committee	Thursday Lunchtime fortnightly	Library
Mahjong Club	Tuesday Lunchtime	E27 & E24
Model UN Club	Thursday lunchtime fortnightly (BHS MUN)	E16
Peer Mentoring	Allocated times during the week	L01-02
Public Speaking	Refer to Compass newsfeed	BL02
Radio Club	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday Lunchtimes	Design - M02
Running Club	Tuesday and Thursday, 7:30am	Stadium and Robert Handreck Sports Field
Science Competitions	Refer to Compass newsfeed	Refer to Compass newsfeed
Science Talent Search		

STUDENT LEADERSHIP AND VOICE Cont.

SHAPE	Tuesday lunchtime	Fitness Centre
Social Justice Committee	Refer to Compass newsfeed	C03
Sound & Light Crew	Tuesday Recess	Theatre
Spectrum	Tuesday lunchtime	House - H02
SRC (Elected representatives only)	Thursday Lunchtime	X01
STEAM Club	Tuesday lunchtime fortnightly	Science lab (Refer to Compass newsfeed)
Skyraiders Cheerleading	Mondays before school and Thursdays after school	Stadium (show court)
The Zine	Refer to Compass newsfeed	DeZien
United Christian Group	Thursday lunchtime	C03
VCE EAL Support	Wednesday Lunchtime	BL07

Public Speaking Captains – Jess and Thomas

We are excited and privileged to be your Public Speaking Captains for 2023 and the team is really looking forward to a jam-packed year. We believe public speaking is a lifelong skill, much more than it is a club, and everyone can ultimately benefit from having these skills. This year we hope to encourage our public speaking members to engage in as many activities which can be applied to their everyday public speaking situations, even at events like the Athletics Carnival.

There will be weekly public speaking sessions and some workshops on presentation skills including Impromptu, which challenges students to think on their feet, allowing members to hone their oral skills and manner of delivery to reach the audience. As many opportunities as possible will be provided for club members to build oral skills and confidence levels through presenting speeches, whilst receiving valuable feedback from peers.

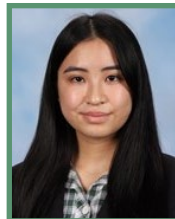
In term one, our annual Internal Public Speaking Heat will be held, inviting students from all year levels to present pre-prepared speeches. High-achieving speakers will then be selected to progress to external competitions such as Ainger Peck, Rostrum, VCAA Plain English Speaking competition (for 15-18 year olds) where they will represent the school. If you are interested, keep an eye out for workshops and competitions - come along to meetings to develop and practice your public speaking skills in a supportive and positive environment. Be empowered to develop the skills to greater self-confidence!

Jess and Thomas | Public Speaking Captains



Environmental Committee 2023

Hello Balwyn High School community! This is Terry and Lin, your new environment captains for 2023. We are pleased to welcome all students to a fresh start at Balwyn High School. We are here to announce that the first Environment Committee meeting of 2023 will be held this Thursday the 2nd of February at H02 (Raelene Curwood Wellbeing Centre) during lunchtime and each Thursday afterwards. No matter if it is your love for gardening, fondness for wildlife, passion for the environment or interest in reducing your carbon footprint, we welcome you with open arms. Here, not only can you learn about the environment around us, but also take action to make a difference in this world that we share. There will be many opportunities to acquire new skills and knowledge to create an eco-friendly community, including learning how to garden, raising your own mini plants, knowing how to correctly sort rubbish, creating DIY projects and more. Please come and bring your friends along and be a member of the committee. We are looking forward to meeting you all and seeing what ideas or discussions you will bring!



Terry and Lin | Year 12 Environment Captains
Rosie Hilder | Director of Student Leadership and Voice

GENERAL NEWS

Learning To Live Together

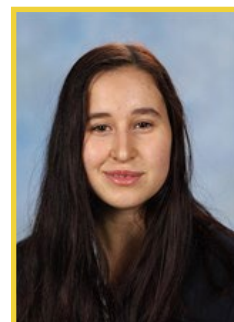
Library News

The library is open from 8.30am to 4.00pm every day (except Friday afternoons). Students can borrow a wide range of fiction, non-fiction and magazines and use the space to study independently or collaboratively and read for pleasure. There is also a large collection of ebooks to borrow online, and databases to use for research. Library staff are passionate about helping users of the library find what they need in the collection. New resources are added to the collection regularly, and requests for new resources are welcomed. Students can manage their loans online. They can see return dates of current loans, reserve books and renew current loans. A reminder that all books borrowed in December to read over the holidays are now overdue. Students should be returning or renewing them as soon as possible.

The library is honoured to have Seraphina Tass and Gabrielle Lim as Library Captains in 2023. They have started planning events for the year and are looking forward to leading a passionate team of library committee members. The Library Committee is very active – it meets to organise library events like Book Week, Sports Carnival activities, Year 7 Welcome Night and Book Club, as well as write articles and book reviews, organise displays and shelve books. If students would like to know more about the role, they can speak to any library staff member. Applications for library committee members are now open - If students would like to apply to join the library committee, they use [THIS LINK](#) (also on Compass Newsfeed this week in the Library Newsletter). Applications close on Friday 17 February.

Library news is communicated in a fortnightly newsletter called Fact and Fiction posted on Newsfeed for the whole school community. Special events will also be posted on Newsfeed, and articles appear in The Lion regularly and BHS Instagram highlights past events. Library policy can be found on the BHS website.

Katrina Dawson | Head of Library



GENERAL NEWS Cont.

Chaplaincy Second-Hand Uniform Shop News

Uniform shop fast facts:

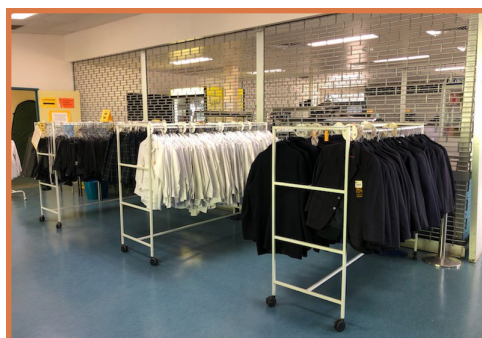
- We are open every Thursday (during school terms)
- Our opening times are 3.00 – 5.00pm
- We are located in the canteen building (look for our signs)
- We have hundreds of quality items for sale and new stock arrives weekly
- We can sell your uniform for you and you receive up to 70% of the sale price
- Look out for updates on Compass such as extended trading hours
- We accept cash, cheques and through Square we accept credit cards, EFTPOS and ApplePay (2.0% surcharge on Square transactions)
- We have change rooms available for checking sizes
- We are staffed by helpful volunteers. Consider joining our team. See below.

Full details of our shop and how to sell are on the school website. A fully completed 'Seller sheet' must accompany items left for sale. This sheet and instructions are available at https://www.balwynhs.vic.edu.au/?page_id=2334#2xu

Hot topics

- Purchase your year 12 jumpers and ties now before the winter rush.
- We require volunteers at various times throughout the school year. We process clothes on Monday afternoons and open our shop on Thursdays. If you are able to help, even for an hour, we would love to hear from you. Contact Andrea on 0408 178 341 or at secondhanduniforms@balwynhs.vic.edu.au

Help us recycle and support Chaplaincy at Balwyn High School



GENERAL NEWS Cont.

2023 School Council election – information for parents and students

What is a school council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the broad direction of a school, in accordance with Ministerial Order 1280 Constitution of Government School Councils, and the Education and Training Reform Act 2006. In doing this, a school council may directly influence the quality of education for students.

Who is on the school council?

For most primary school councils, there are several possible categories of membership:

- A mandated elected parent member category – more than one-third of the total members must be from this category according to Ministerial Order 1280. Department employees can be parent members at their child's school providing that they are not engaged in work at the school.
- A mandated elected school employee member category – members of this category make up no more than one-third of membership. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.
- An optional community member category – members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experience. Department employees are not eligible to be community members.
- A small number of school councils have nominee members.

For all schools with a Year 7 and above cohort, there is an additional category of membership:

- A mandated elected student member category, two positions.

Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is parent membership so important?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills and a range of experiences and knowledge that can help inform and shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

Why is student membership so important?

Students have a unique perspective on education, teaching and schooling and having student members on school council allows students to have a say in the future direction of their school and ensures student input into decision making.

Student representation on secondary school councils will assist in the development of students' skills, including leadership and communication.

Do candidates need special experience to be on school council?

Each member brings their own valuable skills and knowledge to the role, however, in order to successfully perform their duties, councillors may need to gain some new skills and knowledge.

Training is also available online.

For more information about training options for school councillors, see: [School Council – Training and Good Governance on the Department's website at <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/school-council-training/policy>](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/school-council-training/policy)

Code of conduct for school councillors

School councils in Victoria are public entities as defined by the Public Administration Act 2004.

GENERAL NEWS Cont.

School councillors must comply with the Code of Conduct for Directors of Victorian Public Entities issued by the Victorian Public Sector Commission. The Code of Conduct is based on the Victorian public sector values and requires councillors to:

- act with honesty and integrity – be truthful, open and clear about their motives and declare any real, potential or perceived conflict of interest and duty
- act in good faith in the best interests of the school – work cooperatively with other councillors and the school community, be reasonable, and make all decisions with the best interests of students foremost in their minds
- act fairly and impartially – consider all relevant facts of an issue before making a decision, seek to have a balanced view, never give special treatment to a person or group and never act from self-interest
- use information appropriately – respect confidentiality and use information for the purpose for which it was made available
- exercise due care, diligence and skill – accept responsibility for decisions and do what is best for the school
- use the position appropriately – not use the position as a councillor to gain an advantage
- act in a financially responsible manner – observe all the above principles when making financial decisions
- comply with relevant legislation and policies – know what legislation and policies are relevant for which decisions and obey the law
- demonstrate leadership and stewardship – set a good example, encourage a culture of accountability, manage risks effectively, exercise care and responsibility to keep the school strong and sustainable.

Indemnity for school council members

School councillors are indemnified against any liability in respect of any loss or damage suffered by the council or any other person in respect of anything necessarily or reasonably done, or omitted to be done by the councillor in good faith in:

- the exercise of a power or the performance of a function of a councillor, or
- the reasonable belief that the act or omission was in the exercise of a power or the performance of a function of a council.

In other words, school councillors are not legally liable for any loss or damage suffered by council or others as a result of reasonable actions taken in good faith.

How can you become involved?

By participating in, and voting in the school council elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might consider:

- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

What do you need to do to stand for election?

The principal will issue a Notice of Election and Call for nominations in Term 1 of each year. Council elections must be completed by 31 March, unless varied by the Minister for Education.

If you stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or, you can nominate yourself in the parent or student member category. You can only be nominated by another member of the same category that you are eligible for (e.g. a member of the parent electorate may only nominate another parent of that electorate).

GENERAL NEWS Cont.

Department employees with a child enrolled at a school where they are not engaged in work, are eligible to nominate for parent membership at that school.

Return your completed nomination form to the principal within the time stated on the Notice of Election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt via post, email or by hand delivery.

Generally, if there are more nominations than vacancies a ballot will be conducted in the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Remember

- Consider standing for election to School Council.
- Ask the Principal, Deborah Harman, for instructions if you are not sure what to do.
- Be sure to vote if the election goes to ballot.
- Contact Deborah Harman, Principal, or Lara Messom, Executive Assistant to the Principal, if you are unsure about what is required at any stage of the election process.

School council election process and timetable

School council election process and timetable for:

Balwyn High School

Event	Date
a) Notice of election and call for nominations ➤ Four Parents to be elected ➤ One Student to be elected	Friday 3 February 2023 Nominations forms are available from Lara Messom, Executive Assistant to the Principal, at LME@balwynhs.vic.edu.au or on 9819 7911
b) Closing date for nominations	Friday 10 February 2023 @ 1pm to Lara Messom
c) Date by which the list of candidates and nominators will be posted	Monday 13 February 2023
d) Date by which ballot papers will be prepared and distributed by Australia Post mail	On or before Friday 17 February 2023
e) Close of ballot	Friday 3 March 2023 @4pm (by return mail or hand delivered to the school's Reception)
f) Vote count	Monday 6 March 2023
g) Declaration of poll	Monday 6 March 2023
h) Special School Council meeting to co-opt community members (the principal will preside)	Wednesday 8 March 2023 @5.30pm (Policy and Programs Meeting)
i) First Council meeting to elect office bearers (the principal will preside)	Wednesday 15 March 2023 @6.30pm Election of 2023 Office bearers

Deborah Harman | Principal

February 2023





*Avoid
the queues
& Book your
Uniform
Appointment
Online*

BOB STEWART
Our family serving you since 1985

Bob Stewart Kew Store
are offering appointments for NEW STUDENTS 2023

1. To book, go to www.bobstewart.com.au and click on your school's page
2. Select the link: **BOOK AN APPOINTMENT**
3. Select your preferred date, pick a time and complete the steps as outlined on the booking page.  You will receive an email confirmation once the appointment is booked

If you do not require a fitting & know your size, you can order your uniform via the the Bob Stewart website. Use our Click 'N' Collect service or have your order posted to home at a \$10.00 flat rate.

We will happily exchange any uniform item that is unwashed, in original condition and returned with receipt.

Appointments will be in November & December 2022

www.bobstewart.com.au

