



Baldivis
Secondary College

NEWSLETTER

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Welcome to the 2015 school year. We have begun the year with nearly double the number of students we had in 2014 and double the staff. It is very exciting times for the college as we grow and develop. We have maintained the importance of respect as our core value and it is embedded in all that we are doing. Our Year 7 and Year 8 students have been warmly welcomed into

the college and already in week 3 have settled in and become comfortable with their surrounds and are developing new friendships and enhancing old ones.

Likewise new staff have been busy getting to know not only the policies and processes within our college but also their new team members, support staff and students. We highly regard the importance of establishing positive rapport and working relationships with all community members. In this way we can be assured of a positive learning environment.

With 1100 students now enrolled and more enrolling by the day these relationships are more important than ever. With increased numbers we are also very keen to establish processes in the college that ensure efficiency and accuracy for all concerned. Our attendance system is just one of those areas we are attending to. As communicated previously we are installing a new software program for attendance procedures to ensure an accurate and efficient system is in place. There were some obvious questions and concerns raised in regards to the biometrics component to the system. I am happy to assure parents and care givers that the data base is a secure one and no information in it could be used beyond our attendance system. Additionally as students leave the information is deleted and no longer stored. I might also add that the biometrics simply scans points on the finger making it useless for any other purpose. Of course more information can be gathered on the Academy website.

With so many students and staff now accessing the college network we have encountered some connectivity issues. We are working with Department of Education staff and IT support to

resolve the existing issues. On that front I ask for some patience from students, parents and staff as we seek and install the most appropriate solutions and ensure a state of the art college network.

Another issue which has arisen as a result of growing at a fast rate is the increased volume of traffic at the commencement and conclusion of the school day. It is improving as parents and students become more familiar with the school, however it still presents some challenges. College staff are doing their best to supervise students as they exit the school to make for safe road crossing and bus entry. We are consulting with the City of Rockingham on this issue to find some solutions to ensure we have it set up in the best way possible. As a suggestion for some parents you could have a meeting point for your child when picking them up which is located away from Stillwater Drive. Alternatively you could also consider a later pick up time. Most traffic has cleared by 3.00pm and picking a student up at or after this time will be considerably easier in terms of traffic congestion. Please also remind your child that they must obey all road rules on their journey to and from school. They represent Baldivis Secondary College by proudly wearing their uniform and to remain safe and respectful on their journeys is extremely important and expected.

The level of excitement and engagement in classrooms has been outstanding and I am, for the most part, encouraged with the way in which students have come to school prepared to do the right thing and to try hard and work to their potential. Equally parents have been very supportive and excited their child's schooling to be positive and engaging. A reminder that the P&C welcomes new members and are hopeful that more parents will become involved at various times throughout the year. The first P&C meeting will be held at the college on Tuesday, February 24 at 6.30pm.

Already we look forward to the variety of college based activities including the upcoming swimming carnival, excursions and incursions, college representative sporting teams, OLNA testing and much more.

Here's to a fantastic 2015 school year!

Kind Regards
Keith Svendsen - Principal



THE ONLINE LITERACY AND NUMERACY ASSESSMENT - OLNA

In 2015, Baldivis Secondary College Year 10 students may be required to sit the OLNA.

What is the purpose of the OLNA?

OLNA provides students with opportunities to demonstrate the minimum Literacy and Numeracy standard required for attainment of the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE).

OLNA also helps identify students at risk of not demonstrating the minimum standard.

There are two ways in which students can demonstrate the minimum standard: prequalification through Year 9 National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) ; or performance on Online Literacy and Numeracy Assessment (OLNA).

How will I know if my child is required to sit the OLNA Test?

During Week 4 of Term One, a letter will be sent home from Baldivis Secondary College to confirm either

1. That your child has prequalified through attaining a Band 8 or Higher in NAPLAN and therefore WILL NOT be required to sit the OLNA tests.
2. That your child has prequalified for some components of NAPLAN and therefore WILL be required to sit SOME OLNA tests.
3. That your child HAS NOT prequalified through NAPLAN and therefore WILL be required to sit ALL OLNA tests.

What does OLNA assess?

OLNA assesses skills described in Levels 1-4 of the Australian Core Skills Framework. The skills described are those regarded as essential for individuals to meet the demands of everyday life and work.

The framework is in a multi-page PDF which is available online at:

<http://www.industry.gov.au/skills/AssistanceForTrainersAndPractitioners/AustralianCoreSkillsFramework>

What is the assessment structure and format?

There are three online assessment components - Reading, Writing and Numeracy. The Reading and Numeracy components comprise 60 multiple choice questions; the Writing component is an extended response of up to 600 words. Students will be allowed 60 minutes for each assessment.

When is OLNA conducted?

OLNA is conducted in March and September each year.

2015 OLNA Dates

Round One

Writing: 9 to 11 March, 2015
Numeracy and Reading: 9 to 20 March 2015

Round Two

Writing: 31 August to 2 September 2015
Numeracy and Reading: 31 August to 11 September 2015

OLNA INFORMATION EVENING

All Year 10 students and their parents are cordially invited to a presentation to learn more about OLNA



Place: Baldivis Secondary College Performing Arts Centre

Date: Wednesday the 25th of February, 2015

Time: 6pm to 7pm

RSVP: Monday 23rd of February, 2015 by telephoning the Baldivis Front Desk on 9523 3600

Vicki Forth - Deputy Principal
vicki.forth@education.wa.edu.au

HOUSE SWIMMING CARNIVAL 2015



The House Swimming Carnival is being held at the Rockingham Aquatic Centre on Council Avenue on Wednesday March 11th. The event is for participants only. All other students are expected to attend school as per normal.

To participate in the day, students need to nominate and swim in a minimum of two events. They can then spend the remainder of the

day cheering, participating in the Novelties and being part of a fantastic day representing their house with pride. Please ask your child to speak to their PE teacher about nominations if they have missed out during Registration.

Darren Russell - Curriculum Team Leader
Health & Physical Education
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SUSTAINABILITY ... A COLLEGE PRIORITY



Sustainability has been a key part of College life over the past two years and 2015 is loaded with opportunities for students, teachers and local community members to engage in rich and rewarding learning experiences through a number of projects and programs.

Baldivis Community Garden

The Baldivis Community Garden is planned to begin later in Term 1. The garden will run along the Northern boundary of the College, providing a valuable living resource for the whole community. The projects' seeds have been sown with local residents and staff acquiring the skills and knowledge of local landscape design guru, Peter Coppin. An application has been made for a federal seed funding grant and initial meetings with the City of Rockingham have been fruitful. JCY Architects, who are building our school have met with the team and are currently working on an overall garden design. In Term 2 invitations will go out to community members who wish to be part of the steering committee and help to grow our garden into an amazing place.

Student Green Teams

Students in Years 9 and 10 have applied to be part of our 2015 student sustainability leadership teams. The teams will be working to help create a culture of 'Respect' for our built and natural environments. Year 10 team members will work with the Keep Australia Beautiful Council and WasteWise Schools WA to target the growing piles of litter appearing around our College grounds. The Year 9 team will work with TravelSmart WA to examine ways we can make getting to and from school safer and greener. Stay tuned for more information about both programs written by our student reports in future newsletters.

Garden Club

Our student Garden Club kicked off with a bang as students planted their Term 1 crops. A highlight of the afternoon was the establishment of a herb bed for the canteen. All of our students will now get to enjoy the rich and rewarding flavours of organically grown herbs included in the canteen menu.

Tim Hill - Sustainability Coordinator
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FROM THE DESK OF THE YOUTH WORKER



The amount of bushfires this summer has been staggering. Stories from all around the state fill our TV and radio news broadcasts. Then the fires started around Baldivis and the stories became more real. With thick

smoke above our heads we shared fears for our families and friends safety, thoughts for the fire fighters. Then anger towards the person who is lighting them and suggestion as to what authorities should do when they catch them. Yet at the end of each fire another, more powerful, set of emotions and comments emerge by those touched by the fires... "thankfulness that my family is safe." After hours pass by not knowing the whereabouts of family and friends who are trapped in their homes. I can only imagine the stress when location of loved ones is unknown because they left their phone behind when they rushing for safety. Finally the sense of relief that falls upon you when their safety has been assured is a treasure that is hard to compare.

Amidst the aftermath of anger and confusion that bushfires bring comes something special. When faced with the choice, we will choose loved ones over property every time. It is this reminder

of how important each life is that is helpful to remember when facing the challenges of adolescence. Issues and conflicts will rise up and we will face many challenges through the teen years. Challenges like negotiating what parties are safe to go to. Conflicts such as managing the balance between social time and homework. We all face moments where dealing with issues can appear like a controlled burn but could quickly become a raging bushfire. Our understanding of how to deal with it could quickly change and we lose control. Then there are those decisions we make that affect those around us. Is that promotion or new job really worth the extra time taken away from family when they really need you present in their lives. Do we really need to move house and move people away from their support networks.

So the next time you are facing the challenges of raising a teen, when the situation is fired up and heading out of control, let the lessons learnt from a bushfire guide you. Perhaps you will need to stand firm as they push a boundary because the safety and wellbeing of your family is the most important thing.. Perhaps you will need to take your focus off possessions or gaining more



stuff to create space to appreciate each other's company. Or perhaps you just need to catch your breathe and remember...they are the most valuable thing is this world and nothing is important enough to come between you.

Leigh McIntosh - Youth Worker
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YEAR 7 CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY!



On Friday 27th February all Year 7 students will take part in our Clean Up Australia Day around the school grounds and adjacent community.

This is a fantastic opportunity to explore concepts from a range of subject areas, including: HASS (civics and citizenship), Maths (data and statistics) and English (media and advertising). It is also a wonderful chance for Year 7



students to work alongside peer mentors from Years 9 & 10 to reinforce our College value of 'Respect'!

As with previous years all students will be supplied with all the necessary safety equipment and those with allergies provided a key role in supporting the day.

ADVANCING IN AVID

What is AVID?

AVID is a readiness program that has been designed in America. Its main purpose is to help students in their structure, organisation and preparation for class as well as for the world after high school. Here at Baldvis Secondary College we are the first High School in Western Australia to implement the use of AVID as a whole school approach, meaning that in every class your child is in, aspects of AVID are being taught.

Why AVID is important?

AVID is a massive part of the Baldvis Secondary College culture, it's implemented in all our official documents and will continue to be a vital part of our school as we grow and develop. The reason why we hold AVID in such high regard, is that we believe it has the power to improve not only a students academic skills, but also their social and emotional skills. As students progress towards upper school, the use of AVID skills and strategies will allow them to be more organized and prepared for exams, tests and assignments, therefore creating less stress and anxiety for our students. Something that no teenager needs to deal with at this time of their lives.

What are some of the key focus areas of AVID?

Here at Baldvis we focus on 3 main components and use them from Year 7 right through to Year 12, these being the AVID Binder, Interactive Notebooks and finally Cornell Notes. Every student here at Baldvis uses these AVID tools as it promotes crucial skills such as organisation and structure.

How you can support your child with AVID

As parents it is vital that you support your children where possible, here are some quick and simple things you can do in order to make sure your child is on the right track with AVID:

- Having a general conversation with your child on what they have been doing in AVID.

- Getting your child to show you their AVID binder making sure that everything is organized and attached by the binder rings.
- Questioning your child on "what does AVID mean to them?"
- Making sure your child has all the equipment needed (pens, pencils, ruler, exercise books etc.)

Below is the lowdown on what each year group is focusing on in Term 1 2015 in AVID

Year 7

This term, Year 7's will be developing the AVID strategies of Cornell note taking, marking the text and Costa's level of thinking. They will be implementing these strategies through the "Campaign Manager" task. This task requires them to pair up with a partner, create questions, interview them, and present to the class why their partner should be awarded "teenager of the year 2015". This links to the Theme of "who am I", a focus point that we want all our year 7 students to engage in as it give them a chance to reflect on themselves as well as their peers.

Year 8

This term, Year 8's will be developing the AVID strategies of Cornell note taking, marking the text, Costa's level of thinking, critical reading/writing skills as well as public speaking skills. These strategies will be used through the "role models" task in which students need to pick two role models (one famous and one community based), do some in depth research comparing the similarities and differences between the two, and finally report back to the class their findings through a presentation deciding which role model has the biggest influence on them and why. They will also start to think about their Individual Pathway Plans (IPP) through this task as they discover what jobs/career paths both their role models undertook in order to get to the position they are/were at.

Year 9

This term, Year 9's will be developing the AVID strategies of critical reading/writing, Cornell note taking, Costa's level of



thinking and public speaking skills. These strategies will be used in many different ways from them taking Cornell notes constantly to evolving their Individual Pathway Plans (IPP). The first half of the term is looking at goal setting and expanding their IPP documents while the second half is using the Internet and their devices to research career options and search for local jobs in the community.

Year 10

This term, Year 10's will be developing the AVID strategies of Cornell note taking and Costa's level of thinking questioning. These strategies will be used in many different ways from them taking Cornell notes constantly to growing and progressing in their Individual Pathway Plans (IPP). The first half of the term is spent revising their short-term and long-term goals as well as the initial formation of their IPP. The second half is looking at post school destinations/available pathways students have through the use of websites such as my future. They will be presenting their findings to the class early term 2.



I hope this article has given you some idea of what AVID is about here at Baldyvis Secondary College. If you have any questions or queries PLEASE feel free to contact me! I'm always happy to have a chat and discuss how we can all work together to get the best result for your child.

Shane Sharma - AVID Coordinator
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SUPPORTING THE BYOD INITIATIVE



Some hints for supporting your child's use of their iPad or laptop

- Establish routine with your child of checking the device to ensure that it is in good order.
- Similarly, establish a daily routine of charging the device so that it is ready to go each day.
- If your child reports issues with connectivity or integration with the College network then please contact our ICT Support Officer via email (Graham.Pilsworth@education.wa.edu.au) to seek immediate support. These issues are often very minor and quickly fixed when action is taken.
- Regularly check your child's device to identify how it has been used during the day. You can check the History in Safari or other browsers to find out which sites have been visited and at what times. A conversation about what you see is often valuable and a 'cleared' History is often a sign of something to be investigated further.
- If your child has a Facebook or other social media account you can set it up so that you receive notifications and messages from your child's account on your account. You will be able to quickly and easily if the time that they are on Facebook are appropriate.
- The devices we have asked students to bring to school are for educational purposes. If you are concerned about your child using games or other 'Apps' which are not educationally oriented then please remove them from your child's device. Regularly checking this will give you the best possible opportunity of ensuring that the device is used for educational purposes.
- Ensure your child's device is set to the "Wi-Fi Off" setting. Teachers will remind students to turn the Wi-Fi on when it is needed for classroom activities. Large numbers of students walking around with the device connected to the Wi-Fi will result in a less efficient network for everyone.
- Periodically check your child's photos and videos on their device. This will give you a good insight in to how the device is being used for educational purposes as well as allowing you to see the type of photos and videos being taken which are not educationally based.

The most important aspect of ensuring that students use their electronic device effectively is the partnership between the College and parents. Where students see that parents and teachers are being diligent about the appropriate use of the device then students are more likely to understand the parameters around the educational use of the device and our expectations in relation to this.

Supporting the BYOD Initiative

Paul Jones - Deputy Principal
paul.jones@education.wa.edu.au



BALDIVIS FOOTBALL CLUB REGISTRATION

All past and new players welcome. To register you need to complete the online registration form, which can be found by following the attached link; <https://reg.sportingpulse.com/v6/regofrm.cgi?alD=7&pKey=a124b86961ca5faeffcc78bd7e554424&clD=191&formID=36056>

Any new player requesting a transfer will need to collect a clearance form first before registering.



If you have any issues or concerns please do not hesitate to contact the football club at baldivisjrfootball@y7mail.com

CALLING ALL NETBALLERS

Baldivis Netball Club is having a registration day this Saturday the 21st of February in two locations. One at Mike Barnett's on Dixon Road (RDNA) from 10 to 1 pm and also at Rockingham City shops near JB HIFI from 9 to 3 pm. When registering all fees need to be paid in full on the day. Please see fees below. If you are interested in registering and can't make it this Saturday, Tracey Simpson (the President of Baldivis Netball Club) will be in the library this Wednesday and Friday lunch time giving out forms and answering questions. Also like our facebook page to keep updated from the club.

Registration fees:

Netsetgo (8 to 10 year olds) \$125
 Juniors \$155
 Seniors \$160
 Uniforms \$90

Tracey Simpson -
 President
 Baldivis Netball Club

traceysimpson@live.com.au

