Term 4 is filled with plenty of activity on a number of fronts. Students and teachers are completing the remainder of the work in curriculum areas and preparing for the final assessments for the year. In a few weeks teachers will begin the reporting to parents process and providing students and their parents with feedback on student performance. Administratively the college is gearing up for what will be an extraordinary year ahead in 2015.

Our building program is progressing in a timely way so that we are able to take possession of the buildings in part A of the Stage 2 building program in December. This will enable us to have the classroom learning environments established for our intake of Year 7 and Year 8 students in 2015. Part B of the building program will be complete, as scheduled, towards the end of term 1 in 2015.

As we are growing with the number of students we are also recruiting new staff to the college. In 2015 we will welcome an additional 20+ teachers and administrators as well as some additional support staff. As we get larger it is important for us to work hard at sustaining and enhancing our sense of community at Baldivis Secondary College. This means keeping our focus on not only the large aspects of a college community but also the seemingly smaller things as well. We want all of our young people, staff and parents to remain proud of their college and connected to it in very meaningful ways. Even down to things like keeping it free from litter. The litter issue has been a bit difficult. With the building sites at and around the college and neighbouring streets the wind tends to blow it around and gets caught up within the college boundary. Some of the litter problem is associated with a careless approach from some of our students. Parents please feel free to discuss this with your child and encourage them to use the bins provided and for them to remind their friends to do likewise.

The initiatives for next year are very exciting. One of those being the Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) initiative. Teachers are already planning and exploring activities and learning programs around this. Additionally we are looking to provide continued professional learning around this area. There are some ‘urban myths’ that exist around computers and schools. I want to reiterate that no public school is provided with computers. There was a Federal initiative a few years ago which meant that students in Years 9 – 12 were provided with access to a computer. This is no longer the case. The current expected ratio for secondary schools is to have a device for every 5 students and these devices are purchased by the school with restrictive budgets. In this day and age this is insufficient and hence most secondary schools have adopted the BYOD approach. In our context we have tried to keep the imposition on parents to a minimum and to allow as much flexibility in this as possible. Please feel free to contact the college to discuss this matter further if required. Social media often allows for ill-informed comment to spread and we don’t want any misconceptions to be created. If in doubt please ask us.

There are many events taking place and loads of great activity having taken place. Please enjoy this edition of the e-newsletter and don’t forget to visit our Facebook page to get the latest in what is occurring.

Kind regards,
Keith Svendsen - Principal
STUDENT LEADERSHIP TRAINING DAY

The new look student leadership team spent the day at Woodman Point Camp School at the beginning of term 4. With the addition of the year 8’s the team grew from 12 to 24 students. The first challenge of the day was learning everyone’s name. Once we landed at the campsite we were taken to the Cube, the Department for Sport and Recreation’s million dollar activity centre. They harnessed us up and then proceeded to launch us off the roof on a flying fox. Nothing starts your week like jumping off a tall building, with a small rope around your waist, flying through the air at high speed.

The next activity was called the Vertical Challenge. It is a series of high climbing apparatuses where individuals or pairs climb to the roof. It is both physically demanding and mentally challenging as you try and negotiate yourself up and around obstacles like logs and tires suspended from the roof. We had to deal with fear of heights and trusting our partners not to let us fall.

The third activity was a problem solving challenge where each group had to flip a ball from a tarpaulin high into the air, then flip the tarp upside down, and catch the ball in the tarp before it hits the ground. Just when we think we were about to get it, the groups mixed up and started again.

There were plenty of nerves and a bunch of laughs as the day progressed. The activities proved we have selected a very capable bunch of young leaders. They showed how well they can problem solve together, help each other out and carry out a plan to achieve a common goal.

The next step for the team is to set goals for next year as we look to make the college a great place to be a part of.

Leigh McIntosh | James Sammut
REMOTE CONTROL CLUB

Thursday the 16th October saw the inauguration of the BSC Remote Control Club. This is an after school activity where students can drive/fly/drift/crash their own vehicles and learn how to repair them after any “abrupt stops”. The first meet saw several students driving their RC cars around the school oval and using MDF to create their own jumps. Planning has already begun on creating bigger and better jumps!

Students who don’t have their own RC vehicles are always welcome to attend as Mr Buller has several planes for students to learn on and become RC Top Guns. The RC Club runs every Thursday from 2.40pm – 3.40pm and all are welcome.
KIDS TEACHING KIDS AT THE BALDIVIS CHILDREN’S FOREST

The 2014 Kids Teaching Kids at the Baldivis Children’s Forest was another huge success with over 130 Primary and Secondary students from across Western Australia sharing their amazing stories about the environment.

This is a nationwide program that challenges students to share their knowledge about an aspect of their local environment through a presentation and ‘hands on’ workshop that teaches participants about what they can do to make a difference.

Our talented students from Years 8 and 9 were involved in organising the event, entertaining the crowds with their amazing musical performances and taking them through a variety of scientific discoveries through their exhibited work.

Our own Mr Svendsen was on show alongside State MP Roger Cook, ABC personality and garden guru Sabrina Hahn, Baldivis Ward Councillor Matthew Whitfield, Science Teacher Nathan Curnow, ALCOA Community Programs Coordinator Scott Hansen and animal expert Ranger Red. Together they responded to some excellent and challenging questions posed by our students about the future of our local natural environment and the preparations for younger generations in Baldivis to become Sustainability Leaders.

The event was the key KTK Conference in W.A. Our students are now preparing for their roles at the International Kids Teaching Kids Conference to be held at the end of October where they will present alongside students leaders from the tops schools in Australia and South East Asia.

Community Waste Workshops

Baldivis Secondary College hosted the first community waste workshop on Saturday 20th September. The event saw a range of local residents alongside staff and students from Curtin University exploring the role of organic waste within the garden.

Using the worm farms, composts and organic food garden created by the student Garden Club, participants discovered how to save money, improve health and make a positive impact on the environment.

The event was organised as part of a local Living Smart program, in partnership with our school and Murdoch University.
PARENTS MAY BE PUTTING THEIR CHILDREN ON A PATH TO DRINKING

Teenagers whose parents supply alcohol in early adolescence are three times as likely to be drinking full serves of alcohol at age 16 as children in families that do not supply alcohol, a major new study from the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre at UNSW Australia has found.

In the largest study of its kind, researchers followed nearly two thousand parent/child pairs over four years in a bid to provide guidance to parents on how best to moderate their child’s drinking.

Chief investigator of the study, Professor Richard Mattick, said there was a deal of confusion among parents as to how best to moderate their child’s drinking and thereby hopefully minimise risks such as injury, violence, poisoning, risky sexual practices and future alcohol problems.

At age 12 and 13 years, close to one in six children in the study reported being given alcohol by their parents. By 15 and 16 years of age more than a third of the sample was being supplied alcohol by their parents. Of these, 15 per cent were drinking full serves compared with only 1.5 per cent of the younger children.

“What we found was that early parental supply of alcohol through school years 7 to 9 was the single biggest predictor of drinking in year 10,” said Professor Mattick. “It was more influential than family circumstances and issues; more influential than individual psychological risk factors and more influential than peers.”

By age 15/16 years, half of all children in the study were drinking alcohol and obtaining it from a variety of sources including parents, peers, older teens and other adults. Children who were given alcohol by their parents were also more likely to be obtaining alcohol from these “non-sanctioned” sources as those whose parents did not supply alcohol.

Professor Mattick said the results showed that contrary to opinion among many parents, supplying children with alcohol did not moderate their drinking.

“Parents are the major supplier of alcohol to the under 18s,” said Professor Mattick. “Many of these do so with the best of intentions – to introduce alcohol in a safe, supervised environment with the aim of moderating a child’s drinking.” There is also a great deal of interest in the so-called European model whereby parents allow children to sip alcohol from a relatively young age, he said.

“We know that adolescent drinking is associated with a wide range of later harms in early adulthood including injury, sexually-transmitted diseases, adult alcohol dependence, and changes in brain function have been reported by US researchers,” said Professor Mattick.

Dr Monika Wadolowski, who has recently completed her PhD on aspects of the study, said that by supplying alcohol, parents may inadvertently sanction drinking.

“Most parents will do whatever they can to minimise these risks. Our study suggests that supplying alcohol is not the best strategy to achieve this outcome,” Dr Wadolowski said.

“The results also indicate that those children who are given alcohol by their parents may be more likely to seek out alcohol from a variety of other sources.”

Further analyses will be conducted to determine the extent to which parental supply moderates excessive risky drinking at age 16 and beyond, she said.

The marketing of alcohol, industry advertising, changes in palatability to sweeter more acceptable drinks, plus the density of liquor outlets all also contribute to adolescent drinking.

- Marion Downey and Erin O’Loughlin
Seven of our brightest science students got the opportunity to visit UWA for their annual Science Morning Tea sponsored by Scitech.

This event typically hosts around 250 year 10,11 and 12 students from across the state where they get to meet a vast array of scientists from a range of disciplines. Our lucky year 9 students got to match it with some of this states great scientific minds, as they shared morning tea and asked lots of probing questions to see what made these great minds tick.

Our students were also lucky enough to have the keynote address delivered by the BBC’s Naked Scientist Dr Chris Smith and the W.A. young scientist of the year.

The students also got a small taste of what university life has to offer as well as some of the great courses UWA has available.

This event capped off National science week where again more Baldivis students were involved this time at Murdoch University in Rockingham where the top nominations from term 3’s science fair (25 students overall) got the opportunity to share a great experience with Dr Chris Smith.

The science department can’t wait to see our students Semester Two science grades keep up the good work!
ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

House Championship
Stakehill 266
Rixom 261
Peel 249
Mackinnon 225

House Champions
Year 8 Girls
Champion Amber Zulkifli Stakehill 28 pts
Runner Up Megan Gamble Peel 27 pts
Year 8 Boys
Champion Will Smith Stakehill 42 pts
Runner up Jayden Morehead Rixom 24 pts
Year 9 Girls
Champion Britney Manihera Rixom 41 pts
Runner Up Kaylie Simpson Stakehill 22 pts
Year 9 Boys
Champion Hayden Flood Peel 44 pts
Runner Up Ryan O’Keefe Rixom 23 pts
RUGBY BOYS MAKE STATE SQUAD

Congratulations to Alexander Coetzee, Kevin Ortmann, Maea Fonua and Tupuorongo Haeané who have been selected in the 2014/2015 Under 15 Rugby WA Junior Gold squad.

The squad has been selected to begin preparations for the Junior Gold Cup being held in March, 2015.

A tremendous effort! Well done.

MOVING TOWARDS SENIOR SCHOOL

Whilst we might be just moving towards the end of only our second year as a College and our oldest students completing Year 9, it is timely that we now also develop our vision for Senior School. It is imperative that we have a clear understanding of what we want our students to achieve during Year 10 and how this articulates with the wide range of pathways available to students in Year 11 and 12. Our work in this domain of our College life must provide all of our students with a wide range of opportunities to enter their chosen post-school destination, be it the workforce, university, training with TAFE or other private providers, the armed forces or within some other vocation.

Considerable effort during this year has been focused on designing a range of study options in Senior School which meet the needs of students with varied aspirations and a wide range of abilities. It is important that we have a genuine commitment to working with students to develop individual pathway plans which not only support students in achieving their ambitions but also supports students in developing the skills and attributes sought after in the workplace and wider community. We want our students to be both happy with their achievements and competitive in their endeavours outside of school. To this end, the students at our College will be engaged in an ongoing process of pathway planning which encourages each young person to think about the directions they wish to pursue and how best to achieve the skills and understandings necessary to be successful in achieving their dreams.

Our students will be aiming for a wide range of post-school destinations. Whilst the requirements of each of these are different, it is clear to us that students leaving our College with a nationally recognised qualification will have a competitive edge. Therefore, regardless of whether our Senior School students are aiming for university, TAFE or the workplace, our College course structure will be such that all students will complete a Certificate II or higher chosen from a range of industry areas. Our College is in the final stages of planning the integration of nationally recognised qualifications into our Senior School program so that each student’s aspirations and interests can be supported in a sustainable way.

Students will be able to choose to study in specialised vocational programs which offer the opportunity to engage with industry standard training and qualifications, workplace learning opportunities and career development processes so that they are best placed to make smooth transitions into their chosen field. Within this group some students will develop strong working relationships with employers so that they are able to enter in to traineeships and apprenticeships whilst still at school and completing the requirements of achieving a Western Australian Certificate of Education – commonly known as graduation.

We expect that somewhere around 50% of our students will have legitimate claims to compete for university places and will therefore study a university entry program whilst completing a Certificate II as outlined earlier. These students will be supported through our College processes to plan for gradual improvement and their successful application to a range of university prospects.

In order to support the comprehensive service provided by our College we are currently engaging a range of training, industry and employment organisations who will be able to further support all students in successfully achieving a transition into their chosen career.

In all of this, our experience shows that the Senior School partnership between our College, students and parents is critical. A flow of clear information about the opportunities available to students and the best way to access these is important for us all to make informed decisions. Our College will regularly offer information forums which will ensure that we provide students and parents with the best information available so that each student can achieve success. Importantly, parents and students should feel comfortable in talking to College staff about any aspect of their plans.

Paul Jones - Deputy Principal

October 2014

www.baldivissc.wa.edu.au

WE SUPPORT LOCAL SCHOOLS

At ACTON we recognise the value of education and want to help support our local schools. That is why we want to offer our local schools in Baldivis, a $200 donation for every member of the school community who engages in our services.

Simply present the voucher below when you choose to list and sell your property with ACTON Rockingham/Baldivis Branch, and your school will receive $200! (See below for terms and conditions)

We are also offering the FREE hire of our 6m x 3m marquee which is perfect for your school fetes and sports days etc.

8/10 ATWICK TERRACE, BALDIVIS, WA 6171
PH: 9523 3888 FAX: 9523 3899

S$200 VOUCHER

Present this voucher to show our services were referred to you by your local school. Upon successful settlement of your property, ACTON will donate the proceeds of $200 to your school. “This voucher must be presented at the time of listing to redeem.”

“EXPERIENCE THE BEST”