Dear Parents and Caregivers,
Welcome back to Term 2 and a very warm welcome to the new families who joined our school this week.

Our improvement agenda for 2015 is clearly focussed on the consolidation of Explicit Teaching in all classrooms.

Our Staff maintains a focus on the various aspects of explicit teaching being targeted. These include: checking for understanding as the lesson progresses, setting the pace of teaching and learning as a result of this, and appropriate learning goals for each lesson.

Having clear and concise learning goals, which children also understand, serves to focus the teaching on the specific skills and understandings of the lesson. Children also then know if they have been successful in the learning. This work will be ongoing this year with our goal to continually improve all aspects of teaching and learning across the school.

We also consistently review student achievement targets with a view to helping children achieve the best they are capable of in their learning.

Parents can help with this by showing an active interest in the work children have undertaken at school during the day. Ask them what they have been learning. Have them demonstrate their learning to you. Take the opportunity to listen to them read to you or you read to them (even the older children). Let them see you enjoying reading – for pleasure as well as for work. The more you, as parents, support the work of the school, the more successful and happier our children are likely to be.

We are fortunate to have dedicated teachers at Balaclava who continue to work extremely well with your children in classrooms each and every day.

This term we will be very busy as we count down towards NAPLAN. Our focus for the first three weeks back will be on Reading, Writing, Grammar and Punctuation, Spelling and Numeracy. Please talk to your child about the importance of these tests, especially if they are in year 3 & 5.

**WOW! 95% REWARD**

Last term we finished with an outstanding improvement in attendance. 2014 = 87.9%, 2015 = 90.7%. That’s almost a 3% improvement overall.

While our overall attendance has improved, there is still a gap of approximately 3% attendance between out indigenous students and our non-indigenous students. Please help us to close this gap by sending your child to school every day.

157 students had attendance of 95% or more last term. Another 46 students had attendance above 90%. That equates to 2/3’s of our school having outstanding attendance. These attendees will receive their award of time on the jumping castle on Monday 4th May!

This term we will also be targeting positive attendance with another amazing reward to be offered to those students who attend 95% of the time of more. Come on Balaclava – you can do it!
PRINCIPAL’S PEN CONT...

NAPLAN testing time again
Our students in Years 3 and 5 will soon participate in the annual National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) to assess their skills and understanding in the areas of reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. The tests will be conducted in all state and non-state schools across the country from 12–14 May. An individual NAPLAN report for each child will be sent home later this year. Results provide additional feedback for parents, carers and teachers on how students are progressing in key curriculum areas. Please contact the school if you have any questions about your child participating in NAPLAN testing. Further information is available on the ACARA website. http://www.nap.edu.au/

REMINDER - PARADE CHANGES THIS TERM
If you missed it in the last newsletter – This term we will be moving our assemblies to Tuesday afternoon at 2pm – 2:30pm. This means that parents who are collecting children in the afternoon may like to come a little earlier so they can hear the messages of the week. This change is the result of viewing the lost learning times in the mornings. Students work at their optimum in the mornings when they are fresh and we would like to capture this as best we can. All parents are welcome to attend.

Have a great week,

Ms Jane Termaat
Principal

LUNCHES
It is important that students have enough food to eat throughout the day as children burn up a lot of energy with their active play. It is also important that children have a healthy breakfast each morning before they arrive at school. Some students are eating their lunch when they get here and then have nothing to eat for the rest of the day. Parents are also reminded to provide the plastic cutlery (spoons, forks) necessary for their child/children to be able to eat their lunch. A few students have also requested that their lunches are heated up in the microwave, either in the staff room or the office. Unfortunately, due to Work Place Health and Safety policies, we are unable to do this for your child.

TRANSITIONS TO YEAR 7 IN 2016
While it feels like 2016 is far away High schools are already preparing for next year’s intake. At the big breakfast on April the 24th, liaison officers will be at school to answer questions, handout enrolment forms, provide information about AB study and help with requested documentation. If your child is going to high school please take some time to visit the stall.

ANZAC DAY
REMINDER – PARADE THIS FRIDAY 24th APRIL
This Friday we will be holding a COMMUNITY BREAKFAST prior to the ANZAC day commemorative service. The service will pay tribute to our past and present service men and women who fought/fight so bravely for our country. It will also recognise and acknowledge the 100 years since the landing on the shores of Gallipoli.

PREP ENROLMENTS FOR 2016
Do you have a younger sibling due to enrol into Prep for 2016 Children born between 1st July 2010 and 30th June 2011 are eligible to enrol in Term 2 for Prep here at Balaclava State School. Birth certificates and immunisation records must be produced.

BIG BREAKFAST
Our term 2 BIG BREAKFAST will be held on the morning of the ANZAC Parade. We will start serving breakfast at 7:45 am and stop at 8:45. A gold coin per person is all that is asked.

BREAKFAST READING PROGRAM
Our breakfast reading program will continue this term with the added bonus of Cummins Diesel providing food and volunteers to run the program. Students will be offered different cereals, toast and juice each Monday and Friday. Students are welcome to read on these days as well if they wish to continue with attaining the McDonald’s vouchers.

We are also adding a Wednesday breakfast reading day to our weekly Calendar.

“Big Breakfast THIS FRIDAY!!”
“Big Breakfast THIS FRIDAY!!”
**AWSOME ATTENDANCE!!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Days Away</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep A</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep B</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>87.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep/1</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>90.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1A</td>
<td>90.5</td>
<td>91.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1/2A</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>95.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2A</td>
<td>118.5</td>
<td>89.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2/3A</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3/4A</td>
<td>108.5</td>
<td>91.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3/4B</td>
<td>103.5</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4/5A</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>90.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5/6A</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>88.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5/6B</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>92.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHOLE SCHOOL</td>
<td>1306</td>
<td>90.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Well done Balacalava, we are in the green for term 1. Let’s keep it up and continue to get better and better class attendance scores. Our goal for each class is to have a higher term 2 score than term 1. Congratulations to 1/2A who wins the highest attending class award, well done also to Prep A who came a close second.

**JANE’S JOTTINGS**

Try these tips to encourage the behaviour you want in your child

- **Responsibility & consequences.** As children get older, you can give them more responsibility for their own behaviour. You can also give them the chance to experience the natural consequences of that behaviour. You don’t have to be the bad guy all the time. For example, if your child forgot to put her lunch box in her bag, she will go hungry at lunch time. It is her hunger and her consequence. It won’t hurt her to go hungry just that one time. Sometimes, with the best intentions, we do so much for our children that we don’t allow them to learn for themselves. At other times you need to provide consequences for unacceptable or dangerous behaviour. For these times, it is best to ensure that you have explained the consequences and that your children have agreed to them in advance.

- **Say it once & move on.** It is surprising how much your child is listening even though he might not have the social maturity to tell you. Nagging and criticizing is boring for you and doesn’t work. Your child will just end up tuning you out and wonder why you get more upset. If you want to give him one last chance to cooperate, remind him of the consequences for not cooperating. Then start counting to three.

**JANE’S JOTTINGS Cont…**

- Make your child feel important. Children love it when they can contribute to the family. Start introducing some simple chores or things that she can do to play her own important part in helping the household. This will make her feel important and she’ll take pride in helping out. If you can give your child lots of practice doing a chore, she will get better at it and will keep trying harder. Safe chores help children feel responsible, build their self-esteem and help you out too.

- Prepare for challenging situations. There are times when looking after your child and doing things you need to do will be tricky. If you think about these challenging situations in advance, you can plan around your child’s needs. Give him a five-minute warning before you need him to change activities. Talk to him about why you need his cooperation. Then he is prepared for what you expect.

- **Maintain a sense of humour.** Another way of diffusing tension and possible conflict is to use humour and fun. You can pretend to become the menacing tickle monster or make animal noises. But humour at your child’s expense won’t help. Young children are easily hurt by parental ‘teasing’. Humour that has you both laughing is great.

**SCHOOL WIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR**

This year we are looking forward to continuing our journey with School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS), which is the framework we employ to ensure a safe and nurturing environment for our students, staff and parents. We have three school rules – Respect, Responsibility and Relationships (The 3 R’s). Each fortnight we explicitly teach our expectations for behaviour in various contexts through role-plays, discussion and practice, and students are recognised and positively reinforced when they demonstrate the appropriate behaviour.

This fortnight our **FOCUS SKILL** is: **Be a Learner!!**

- **Work** tough, stay on task!
- **Have** pride in your bookwork!
- **Work** well with each other!
- **Listen** to the teacher!

**TUCKSHOP NOTICE**

Please do not ask for credit as refusal often offends.
AFTER SCHOOL CARE
For all our new and existing families we would like to inform you that we have limited vacancies for children to enrol at our after school care. We can have your child in full time after school care for as little as $22.40 per week. This includes all afternoon tea and at home activities. For families who would like to have per day this can be as little as $5.06. Limited Vacancies. For additional information please contact Julie on 40545911 or mobile 0408 741 867.

QSCHOOLS APP
Stay in touch with the QSchoools app
The QSchoools app now allows for push notifications to deliver essential information directly to a device including emergency alerts and important updates. Find out more on the DETE apps page. http://deta.qld.gov.au/about/app/index.html

GOOD START PROGRAM
Good Start Program
The Good Start Program is a Queensland Health initiative which aims to improve the health and wellbeing of Pacific Islander and Maori children and their families.
The program focuses on working with communities to help build skills, knowledge and confidence to eat healthy and lead a healthy lifestyle to give Pacific Islander and Maori children a good start on the road to a healthy future

Starts Monday 27th April 2015.

PARADE AWARDS
Congratulations to all of our students who received awards this week!! FANTASTIC EFFORT!!!

GENERAL NOTICES
UNDERSTANDING BEHAVIOUR
What: A step by step guide for parents with a child Under 7 with ASD
When: 26th May from 9am to 3pm
Where: Cairns Early Years Centre, Bentley Park College
Cost: Free. Childcare not provided but lunch & light refreshment is.
Contact: workshops@autismqld.com.au to register

EarlyAQtion RESPITE
Do you need some time for yourself or have an appointment booked? Experienced staff can look after your child with ASD on Thursdays & Fridays from 9am to 2pm.
Who: Children under 7yrs registered with Autism Qld. Bookings essential.
Cost: $20 per hr or $80 for 5hrs (minimum of 2hrs)
Where: Autism Qld Centre of Excellence, 15-17 Marr St, Edmonton
Contact: 4034 6600 or email cairns@autismqld.com.au
# Date Claimers

<table>
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<tr>
<th>April</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24th</td>
<td>Community Breakfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25th</td>
<td>Saturday - ANZAC Day</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>May</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NAPLAN</td>
<td>National Testing for year 3, 5 &amp; 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12th</td>
<td>Language conventions and Writing tests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13th</td>
<td>Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14th</td>
<td>Numeracy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19th</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8th</td>
<td>Queen’s Birthday Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>16th</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>18th</td>
<td>School Photos NQ School Photography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24th</td>
<td>Report Cards go home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26th</td>
<td>Last day of term 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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*Big Breakfast THIS FRIDAY!!*

- Balaclava Veterinary Surgery
  - Acupuncture
  - Adult Dog Training (Delta Assco.)
  - Behaviour Therapy
  - Chiropractic (Spinal) (Diploma)
  - Hydrotherapy
  - Microchip ID Service
  - Puppy Daycare
  - Ultrasound
  - For Total Care
  - Dr. Paul Matthews & Staff
  - Call 4054 2166
  - M 0412 965 512
  - 378 Mulgrave Rd Westcourt
  - Across the road from The Cheese Shop balvet@bigpond.com www.balaclavavet.com.au

- AAB Office Equipment

  - Exclusive Authorised Dealer for RICOH
  - Digital Copiers - Colour Copiers
  - Laser Printers - Rentals
  - 4081 7444

- Calanna Pharmacy

  - 63 Gunner St - Ph: 4031 9611
  - 67 McLeod St - Ph: 4031 4222
  - 355 Sheridan St - Ph: 4031 2440
  - 600 Bruce Highway - Ph: 4054 2440

- Wuchopperen Health Service Limited

  - Services: Counselling & Support, Children & Family Care, General Clinic, Women’s Child & Maternal Health
  - For ALL appointments please call: Cairns Ph: (07) 4080 1000
  - enquiries@wuchopperen.org.au
  - www.wuchopperen.org.au

- Caffe Suprimo

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  - www.caffesuprimo.com.au