Dear Parents and Caregivers,

As mentioned last week, our school is billowing with new enrolments. We now have 334 students which is more than this school has seen in 6 years. As a result the additional staffing has been approved and the reorganisation of classes is well underway. Our new classes are – year 1/2/3 A, and 4/5 B. The 1/2/3 class will be housed in B block while the 4/5 class will be in D block.

This week we have contacted all of the parents whose children are affected by the new classes. We have taken into consideration the following: social and emotional wellbeing, academic, attendance and behaviour.

I would like to welcome Ashleigh Greaves as the 1/2/3 teacher. Ashleigh taught at Balaclava State School last year before heading off for an overseas adventure. We are very excited to have her back on staff.

At present, I do not have a teacher for the 4/5 class. I will keep you posted about this as soon as I employ the right person for the job.

NAPLAN

Congratulations to year 3 and 5 for their amazing efforts in NAPLAN this year. Balaclava saw an improvement in 9 out of the 10 tested areas. I’d like to make a particular mention to the results in Numeracy and year 5 Spelling. 24% of our year 5 students were in the upper two bands of spelling which is a fantastic effort. These improvements have occurred due to the wonderful efforts of all the teaching staff here at Balaclava ensuring that our students were well prepared for the tests as well as the focus and attention of the students who completed the tests to the best of their ability. While we still have a way to go before we achieve the Nationally expected standard, if we continue with these trends it won’t be too long before we achieve this. The 2015 results are the best that the school has seen in many years. Well done to all of you.

UNDER EIGHT’S DAY

Under Eights Week is an event proudly initiated by Early Childhood Australia Queensland Branch. It has been running for 50 years across Queensland. This Friday we are celebrating under 8’s day with students from the C&K, prep through to our year 2 classes. A host of activities have been organised and it should be a wonderful day.

Ms Jane Termaat
Principal

www.balaclavss.eq.edu.au

KINDY ENROLMENTS FOR 2016

The first five years of a child’s life are vital in helping form who they will be as adults. C&K Balaclava are now taking enrolments for children born between 1st July 2011 and 31st July 2012. Phone for more information - 4033 5182.

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 now for Prep here at Balaclava State School. Birth certificates and immunisation records must be produced.
DEPUTY’S DESK

BIKES/SCOOTERS

It is great to see so many students riding to school each day. It is important though when riding to school that students abide by these rules;
• Wear an appropriate helmet and make sure it is clipped on correctly,
• Disembark from the bike/scooter when they enter the school grounds,
• Lock the bikes/scooters up with an appropriate chain at the bike racks located outside B block,
• Do not ride bikes or scooters in the school grounds,
• Only one person per bike/scooter.

Ms Michael Patane
Deputy Principal

SCHOOL HATS

School hats are now available to purchase through the office. They are $8 each and are required for your child to participate in lunch break activities. If students do not have a hat, they must sit under cover on the Orange Seat as part of our sun safety strategy.

Please note: Caps are not part of our school uniform.

FOCUS SKILL

RESPECTING OTHER’S IDEAS

Everybody’s ideas are important to themselves. By respecting other’s ideas and opinions we help to build a trusting environment with no fear of being put down. In respecting other’s ideas we may not agree but we show that we have really listened to and understood what was said and respond in a positive way.
• Listen to the idea carefully,
• Ask questions to clarify and find out why they believe it,
• Repeat the idea in your own words to check that you understand,
• Try to find parts of the idea that you can agree with.

SCHOOL WIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT

This year we are pleased to be continuing our journey with School Wide Positive Behaviour Support.

This fortnight our FOCUS SKILL is:

I SHOW REPECT TO OTHERS
✓ Listen attentively to ALL,
✓ Use appropriate volume & tone with my voice,
✓ Use kind words and positive body language,
✓ Keep hands, feet & objects to self.

JANES JOTTINGS

HELP YOUR CHILD REMEMBER

Children with working memory challenges will need extra help: more reminders, more repetition and different kinds of instructions. Here are some approaches:
• Simplify it. Young children can’t hold as many words in their head at a time as we can, so instructions should be short, simple and direct. For example, saying “When you’ve read two pages, you can watch The Simpsons” is simpler and more direct than saying “If you complete your homework, then you can watch TV for half an hour.”
• Chunk it. Give a child three math questions to do at once (rather than the whole set of 15) and give feedback on those answers before he/she sees more.
• Hook it. Build your instructions around three or four key concepts. For kids with poorer working memory skills, the big ideas can act as a guidepost. If they can get those big ideas down, it helps them remember other concepts.
• Mnemonicize it. Teachers once used all manner of mnemonic devices to help kids remember. Some, like Every Good Boy Deserves Fudge, for remembering which note goes on which line in musical notation, are still used. These strategies became less popular as educators began to rely less on rote memorizing. It would be good to see them come back. Not only do mnemonic devices and other memory aids help children remember specific things, they also provide good general training for working memory.

Working memory and playing games

Play games. Board and card games require working memory to apply rules, remember whose turn it is, and relate the number of spots on the dice to how many spaces you can move. The training is enhanced if your child helps you remember what happens next. Go shopping. Ask your child to help you keep track of the next three or four things you have to find and have him check them off on her fingers as you find each one. You can do this at home with pretend shopping.

ABSENCE HOTLINE

We have a phone number dedicated to student absences. You will now be able to send us a text telling us why your child is away. Please make sure that you give your child’s full name in the text message and year level/class.

The number to contact is:

0475 977 608
MEDICATION IN SCHOOLS
While there are a number of bugs around at present, affecting students, parents may be inclined to send medication along to school. Please be advised that policies and guidelines for the administering of medications are very strict. For school staff to administer over-the-counter medication, authorisation is required from a medical practitioner. The following points are for security and safety purposes, and are requirements of the Health (Drug and Poisons) Regulation 1996 (Qld).

• The parent notifies the school in writing to administer medication. This may include written guidelines from the prescribing health practitioner, including potential side effects or adverse reactions.
• Provide medication in original pharmacy labelled container to the school.
• Ensure medication is not out of date and has an original pharmacy label with the student’s name, dosage and time/s to be taken.
• Notify the school in writing when a change of dosage is required. This instruction is to be accompanied by a letter from a prescribing health practitioner or change of label from a pharmacist.
• The student has received a dose at home without ill effect.
• Advise the school in writing and collect the medication when it is no longer required at school.
• Where parents are working with a prescribing health practitioner to determine a dose for that day (e.g. insulin, Rivotril) parents will provide a letter from the prescribing health practitioner instructing that parents will be responsible for notifying the school of the adjusted dose.

• This form will be reviewed annually or as the student is prescribed a change in medication.

The special forms which are required, Request to Administer Medication at School, are available from the office.
These forms, which require and must include a doctor’s authorisation must be completed by a parent or carer, for all medication, including: over the counter remedies eg: cough mixtures, pain killers or any other over the counter medicines.

TALKING ABOUT SCHOOL WITH YOUR CHILD
Strategies for talking about school with your child
Your child will probably be tired and hungry or thinking about other things when she first gets home. So easing the transition from school or after-school activities to home can help your child feel more like talking.
For example, you can simply let your child know that you’re glad to see him/her, and talk about non-school topics for a while. Younger children will probably also like help unpacking their bags and going through any notes before you ask about school. Saving questions about homework for later on can also take the pressure off!
Every afternoon or evening will be different. Even if your child usually loves to share his/her day with you, there’ll be days when he/she doesn’t want to talk.
Sometimes it’s a matter of sensing his/her mood and picking the right moment. Some days there might not be a right moment at all, and that’s OK. Simple, specific questions about parts of the day can get your child talking. For example:

• What was fun?
• What did you like best at school today?
• What does your classroom look like at the moment?
• Who did you play with/talk to at school today?
• What subjects did you do today?
• What did you buy for lunch?
• What projects are you working on at the moment?

When you ask your child about his/her day, try to use open-ended questions. These invite answers that are longer than ‘yes’, ‘no’ or ‘OK’. For example, you could ask your child what he/she did in class after recess.

STUDENT AWARDS

WOOLWORTHS EARN & LEARN
Balacalava State School has benefited enormously from this fundraiser in the past and it’s simple to participate. Anyone from our school community who shops at Woolworths can collect stickers to place on sticker sheets. They’ll get one sticker for every $10 they spend. Once they complete their sticker sheets bring them to the school office.

HEADLICE
As you know head lice is common to all schools. At present there is an outbreak across the whole school. Please assist by taking normal steps in managing this current outbreak. Please check your child’s/childrens’ hair regularly; treat if required. Please note that the student may return to school as soon as the condition is treated.
### Date Claimers

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