Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Laughter, smiles and giggles filled the air on Friday as the under 8’s of Balaclava State School celebrated being under 8. What a fantastic morning we had. Play dough, dress ups, music, dancing, building, construction, painting and kite flying created a colour mosaic of activities. A huge thank you to the prep teachers for their organisation and thoughtful planning which all contributed to a successful morning. Under Eights Week is an event proudly initiated by Early Childhood Australia Queensland Branch. It has been running for 50 years across Queensland. The theme this year was “Voices of children—Look, listen, hear and respond.”

On Monday, 18 students transitioned successfully into their new class with Ms Greaves. The students were enthusiastic about their new placement and were all engaged in their work by mid-morning. The creation of the new class has alleviated the numbers in our other classes which is positive for those students and teachers alike.

COLDS AND FLU
Although we want students to attend school every day as this is important for their learning, we do not want sick students at school. If students are sick, being at home in bed is the best way for them to recover. The current strains are very strong and although most staff received flu vaccinations, we still have a number of absences due to illness.

Ms Jane Termaat
Principal

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

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.

WOOLWORTHS EARN & LEARN
Balaclava 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.

KEEP ON READING
The Premiers Reading Challenge concludes next Friday the 28th of August. All completed record sheets must be returned by September 6th (Week 9).
DEPUTY’S DESK
John Fleming Visit
Last Friday we had John Fleming and two of his teachers from Haileybury College (VIC), one of the highest performing schools in Australia doing lesson demonstrations for our teachers. Over the last 12 months John Fleming has helped us implement explicit teaching at Balaclava State School. Through this process we have seen considerable growth in our school academic data. It was an amazing experience having him here and his feedback was extremely positive and beneficial to our teachers and students. John will return for one more visit this year in term 4.

Mr 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
Well-functioning, healthy and positive families make time for talking and listening, show affection and encouragement, accept differences, share chores and decisions, keep in touch and make family time.

Make time for talking and listening.
Often parents forget that talking with children can be difficult and that they think in different ways from grown-ups. Try to remember how it was for you. The people you liked were probably those who listened to what you had to say. Listening means not only hearing the words but working out what your child is feeling behind the words. Listen without jumping in with answers or lecturing or criticising. Remember what it feels like when you want to talk and have someone just listen. Check that you’re hearing your child correctly by repeating what you have heard but in different words. Show you are interested with brief fill-ins like ‘Mmm, go on’ or ‘Really!’”. “Put down’ messages, threatening and blaming are likely to make your child feel bad or hopeless.

ATTENDANCE
Great attendance for week 5 from 1A and 4/5A and super attendance from 2/3A!! Prep A, 2A and 5/6B, you were so close, we know you can hit green next week! Remember that EVERY DAY COUNTS.

STUDENT AWARDS
INDEPENDENT/SUCCESSFUL READERS (PART 2)

Why do teachers send books home to be read?

- Teachers listen to your child read, record how he or she has read a book, and use this information to plan lessons that meet his or her learning needs. Teachers send books home so children will have valuable opportunities to practice what is taught at school.
- Your child may have already read the take-home book and be able to tell you about it. However, as with any developing skill, additional practice will help your child to improve his or her word recognition, comprehension and fluency.
- Another benefit is that you can get a sense of how your child is progressing.

When can I find the time for my child to read the take-home book?

Children arrive home from school looking for relaxation and entertainment. How this ‘down time’ is used is different for all children—it may involve playing sport, watching TV, using a computer or tablet, attending interest clubs, seeing friends, or enjoying time alone. So, how might you fit reading the take-home book into a busy day? The ideal situation would be to sit with your child, but that’s not always possible. Here’s how you might manage a busy weeknight scenario.

Reading a book in the car; as you’re travelling in the car, ask your child to read to you from the back seat. While you can’t see the book, you’ll know whether what is said ‘sounds right’. If what your child is reading doesn’t sound right, you could say:
- Sorry, I missed that bit. Can you read it to me again?
- I’m not sure what the author meant there
- I love that bit. Read it to me again
- So what was (the character) doing?
- I wish I could see the pictures/photos/drawings. Tell me about them.
- Who was it that said…?
- What did they say about…?
- What did you just say?

Reading a book at home; if you are able to listen to your child read at home, there are a few points to consider:
- Set aside a usual time for reading because routine helps to develop a readiness to read.
- Let your child choose the place for reading.
Successful reading can happen on the floor, out the back and in the cubby house!
- Encourage your child to hold the book so he or she becomes familiar with handling it (turning the pages and so on). In the case of an e-book that is displayed on a tablet device or computer, give your child time to become familiar with how to navigate through the e-book and interact with it.

What if my child refuses to read?
What should you do if your child doesn’t want to read the take-home book?

INDEPENDENT/SUCCESSFUL READERS cont...

You may hear comments such as:
- Do I have to? I’m too tired
- The teacher didn’t say I had to (check with the teacher so you know what is expected)
- I forgot to bring it home (check your child’s school bag)
- Can’t I just finish…?
- That book’s boring/dumb/stupid...

It’s at this point that you may like to use one of the following strategies – because some reading practice is better than no reading practice.
- Use a timer (kitchen, sport) so your child understands that the reading practice will be for a short period,
- Read the book aloud to your child,
- Read the book aloud to your child but have your child read words that you know he or she can already read,
- Have your child point to the words while you read the words aloud,
- Read the book aloud together,
- Read half the book each,
- Put a sticky note a few pages ahead and tell your child they just need to read to the sticky note,
- Say, ‘I’ll read it to you and then you can read it to me’,
- When reading a story (fiction book) try changing the names of characters to your family’s names,
- If the book is available as an audio book, have your child read along with the narrator,
- Suggest that your child reads the book into a voice recorder or into a microphone (even if the microphone doesn’t work),
- Ask your child to read to a stuffed toy (favourite teddy bear), sibling or placid pet,
- Encourage your child to read to a relative or friend via a video call,
- Have your child read the book using a different voice,
- Have your child use a puppet to do the reading,
- Give your child a special pointer eg. magic wand,
- Give your child a reading cape or reading hat to wear,
- Let your child read using a handheld torch, book light or head torch,
- Link reading the book with after-school or after-meal snacks,
- Take the book with you to appointments to read while waiting (eg. at the doctors),
- If your child wants to start staying up later (as they get older) tell him/her that when the book has been read they can read other books in bed. If they don’t want to read then they can turn out the light. After reading the book, it is essential that both of you talk about the author’s message.

Taken from Anne Bayetto—Read, Record, Respond
Date Claimers

**August**
- 28th: Premier’s Reading Challenge concludes

**September**
- 2nd: Year 5/6 Camp
- 3rd: Year 5/6 Camp
- 4th: Year 5/6 Camp
- 8th: Woolworths Earn & Lean Concludes
- 8th: Book Fair
- 15th: P&C Meeting
- 18th: Last day of term 3

**October**
- 5th: Labor Day Public Holiday
- 6th: First day of term 4
- 9th: Big Breakfast
- 19th: Pupil Free Day
- 20th: P&C Meeting

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