Dear Parents and Caregivers,

We are now past the half way mark for this term, with next half looking to be as busy as the first. Thank you to the parents and families who have supported us so far this term, kept the communication channels open and have helped out with school activities. Working together makes difference to your child.

PLEASE UPDATE YOUR DETAILS
There have been a number of instances recently where we have been unable to contact parents/caregivers. If you have changed your phone number, address or any other details, please notify the office. It is important in the event of an emergency that we are able to contact you.

Have a great week,

Ms Jane Termaat
Principal

VISION SCREENING
Behavioural Optometrists from Total Optical will be visiting our school to perform Vision Screenings on Tuesday 9th & Wednesday 10th June. There is no cost for the screening as it is provided as a community service by Total Optical. Please make sure your permission slips are returned in time.

INFLUENZA
Winter is coming, bringing cold and influenza (flu) season with it. Queensland Health’s influenza page, [www.qld.gov.au/flu](http://www.qld.gov.au/flu) covers the symptoms, how to protect yourself and others from getting sick and treatment. Our school is helping to prevent the flu from spreading by:

- encouraging children, staff and visitors to cover their mouths and noses when they sneeze or cough,
- making tissues readily available and ensuring used tissues are disposed of immediately,
- ensuring children and staff wash their hands regularly,
- cleaning our facilities and resources regularly,
- encouraging staff and children with flu-like symptoms to stay at home,
- strongly urging staff and children who arrive with flu-like symptoms to instead stay at home and encouraging them to seek early medical advice.

If your child catches the flu, please seek medical advice and keep them home until they are feeling well again.

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.
**Sports Day**

Last week the Year 5 and Year 6 students attended Interschool sport for the first time in 3 years. The boys competed in Rugby League and Soccer while the girls competed in Netball and Softball. All of the students had a great time and it was very impressive to see how well the Balaclava students played and supported one another. I was also impressed to see our students demonstrate the 3R’s, Respect, Responsibility and Relationships. Interschool sport will continue on Fridays for weeks 6 – 9 during term 2.

Ms Michael Patane
Deputy Principal

**ATTENDANCE**

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Term 2 – Wk 7  Average 91%

This has been a fantastic week Balaclava, with 4 classes in dark green. Great work from 1/2A, 3/4A and 5/6A and outstanding from 1A.

**Great attendance = Great results**

**SCHOOL WIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR**

This year we are looking forward to continuing our journey with School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS).

This fortnight our FOCUS SKILL is: **I show RESPECT for others !!**

- Keep hands, feet and objects to self!
- Listen attentively to the speaker!
- Use appropriate volume and tone with my voice!
- Use kind words and positive body language!

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**JANE’S JOTTINGS**

**Problem solving strategies for Parents & Teachers**

If your child is having problems in school – academic, social or behavioural – one of the most important things you can do is to form a strong working alliance with your child’s teacher. Here are some ideas to get you started.

- Let teachers know from the outset that you respect them as professionals who have your child’s best interests at heart,
- Even if you find that you and a teacher disagree, be sure not to criticise the teacher within earshot of your child,
- When you sit down with a teacher to discuss a problem, it’s important to stay focused on your goal: finding a solution,
- Don’t get side tracked by looking for someone to blame – the teacher, yourself, your child or even another student,
- Try to understand the situation in as much detail as time permits.

**TRANSITION DAY**

Woree State High School’s first of three Transition Days will be held on **Monday June 22nd** (week 10). Any student contemplating attending Woree High School next year is encouraged to attend. Students are required to be at the school by 8:30am for an 8:45am start. Parents/Carers are responsible for transportation of students to and from Woree SHS. **Please notify the office or Mrs Roome if you wish to attend this Transition Day.**

**USING REWARDS TO CHANGE BEHAVIOUR**

A reward is a consequence of good behaviour. It’s a way of saying ‘well done’ after your child has done something good or behaved well. It could be a treat, a surprise or an extra privilege. Rewards can make your praise and encouragement more effective in encouraging good behaviour. Most behaviour is influenced by the consequences that follow it, so when you reward your child’s behaviour, the behaviour is more likely to happen again in the future. Sometimes it’s easier to criticise than it is to compliment. Bad behaviour is more obvious than good behaviour – you’re much more likely to notice when your child is yelling than you are to notice when your child is quietly reading a book. Try to pay attention to the good behaviour, too!
PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE

Our school will be involved once again in the Premier’s Reading Challenge. The challenge starts this week and finishes on Friday 28th August. Children from Prep to Year 2 need to read or experience 20 books, Years 3 and 4 are challenged to read 20 books and Years 5 and 6 are challenged to read 15 books. Every child who meets the challenge will receive a certificate signed by the Premier to recognise their achievement.

Students can obtain a record sheet from their teacher to keep track of the books they have read. When the students have read the required number of books, they can hand in their completed sheet signed by their teacher, to Ms Behrendorff or to the office. All children are encouraged to participate. Towards the end of the challenge students who have handed in a completed sheet will be in the running for prizes donated by the library. We hope all students will be involved. For further information visit: www.education.qld.gov.au/schools/readingchallenge

CLASS EXPERIMENT

This week both 3/4 classes have been learning about the mineral ochre, how it is used with binders to make paint and what it is used for traditionally.

On Monday we conducted an experiment using ochre to find out which binders (liquids) make ochre water fast and smudge resistant. Students observed what happened to the ochre when it was mixed with water, PVA glue, egg yolk and cooking oil. Next they observed how it felt to apply the ochre onto a test page. Finally they observed what happened to the ochre samples when we rubbed a finger along or added a water drop to each of the test pages. The results found included PVA Glue to be smudge resistant and egg yolk to be water fast as both the water and cooking oil samples smudged and ran.

ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

In the coming weeks our Athletic Carnival events will begin. The first day that you need to remember is our Trial Day which will be held on Friday 11th June from 12:30 – 2:30pm. This session is for the Year 4-7 to compete in their age group and house colour in the events of long jump, high jump and shot put. The top four students for each age group and house colour will compete in our Athletics Carnival against other students in their age group.

The next day is our 800m finals and 200m heats, which will be held on Wednesday 17th June in the afternoon session. Only students born in 2005, 2004, and 2003 will be able to compete. Students do not have to compete in the 800m and 200m events, it’s only if they want to.

Our Athletics Carnival is Thursday 25th June where all students from Prep to 6 will participate in events including sprints, long jump, high jump and ball games. Please come and support students participating in the Athletics Carnival on Thursday 25th June at Balaclava SS. The day will commence at 8:45am.

It is important to note that all students must be wearing enclosed shoes, if they are not wearing enclosed shoes they will not be able to participate on the day.

All students will be involved in activities for the majority of the day, and then around 2:10 pm we will have a presentation and cleanup of the school. The tuckshop will be open for everyone to purchase food and drinks. This day is a great day for all families and friends to become involved in the school community. It will be a day of fun and games and we hope to see you all there.

Daniel Samanes
Physical Education Teacher

STUDENT AWARDS
**GENERAL NOTICES**

**DO YOU HAVE A CHILD BETWEEN 2 & 10 YEARS OLD?**

Researchers in the Parenting & Family Support Centre (PFSC) at the University of Qld invite you to participate in a cross-cultural parenting study involving parents residing in Australia & Indonesia. By participating in the study, you will contribute to the development of knowledge & policy that support children & families in Australia & Indonesia. You will also have the chance to win a $100 gift card (see website for details). Share your parenting experiences by completing an online survey at the website: http://psy.uq.edu.au/par

Contact: (07) 3365 7303, Chrislyne Poniman: chrislyne.poniman@uqconnect.edu.au or Dr Ania Filus: a.filus@uq.edu.au

**PCYC YOUTH GROUP FOR TEENS WITH ASD**

Who: 12-16yr olds  
When: Fridays from 6-8pm (fortnightly in term time)  
Where: PCYC function room  
Cost: PCYC annual membership + $100 per term  
Contact: Brigitte cairnsasdyouthgroup@gmail.com

**EarlyAQtion SOCIAL SKILLS**

What: Program to develop social skills in children with ASD (bookings essential)  
Who: Children aged between 7-9yrs  
Where: Autism Qld Centre of Excellence, 15-17 Marr St, Edmonton  
Contact: 4034 6600 or email cairns@autismqld.com.au

**QSCHOOLS APP**

Stay in touch with the QSchools app  
The QSchools 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

Stay in touch with FaceBook  
Find us on Facebook!! The school now has a Facebook page! Like us on Facebook to keep up to date on all the latest news and current events here at Balaclava State School.

**FROM THE GUIDANCE OFFICER**

These tips may be useful if you feel that your child is spending too much time in front of a screen. Remember that you are the adult and you can turn off the screen or confiscate/remove the Xbox/computer/iPad etc if your child does not co-operate.

**Internet Addiction or Video Gaming Addiction; The 5 tell-tale signs of online gaming addiction**

1. Pre-occupation with gaming and hiding gaming use  
2. Social withdrawal or isolation  
3. Disengagement from school life  
4. Loss of interest in other activities  
5. Defensiveness and anger

**Tips on how to help young people with a gaming addiction;**

1. **Parent tag team:** it is important that both parents take the addiction seriously and back each other up. They must approach their child together so that the child knows they cannot divide and conquer their parents by playing one off against the other in an effort to cover up their addiction, appealing to the weaker parent for support only enables the child to continue and to some extent hide their game playing from the other parent.

2. **Encourage educational games:** there are plenty of games that have an education base, encourage a child to play these instead of violent online games. There are also websites that engage players with other players from around the world to see who can complete educational tasks, like maths problems, the quickest. The participants are given points and can progress to different levels. It can give the player the same sense of empowerment, satisfaction and achievement as online commercial games.

3. **Set time limits:** parents need to establish clear time limits with a child. Enter into a contract if necessary. Sit down with the child and discuss what is a reasonable amount of time to play a game, by involving the child in the decision making process, they are more likely to adhere to the boundaries set.

4. **Look for the school connection:** is a child turning to online games because they are not doing well at school? It is hard to tell what comes first: the poor marks or the online games. Not performing well at school impacts a child’s self-esteem. They may retreat more into the game to cope with negative feelings about themselves. At least in the virtual world they can control things. Try to encourage their studies and find out if they are finding any areas difficult.

*Pew Internet & American Life Project. USA  
Writer Helen Splarn. Editor Dr Ramesh Manocha. The American Journal of Family Therapy.*
### Date Claimers

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