Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back everyone! A warm welcome to all of our new families, returning families and friends who have chosen our wonderful school for their child/ren. I hope that you were able to make the most of the summer holidays and are now ready for a new year of learning and fun.

We have an exciting year planned ahead and we are looking forward to achieving the goals we have set for your children, the curriculum and the school. I look forward to your continued support throughout the year and hope we can work together to ensure Balaclava State School continues to do the best for your child/ren.

Each year Balaclava State School undergoes some staff changes and this year is no exception. A special welcome to all of our new teachers and staff who are excited and ready to be teaching your child/ren.

On the 3 Pupil Free Days last week the staff participated in professional development, planning and structural organisation including explicit teaching, curriculum planning, behaviour and attendance systems, updates on policies around child safety and code of conduct as well as much more.

During the holidays we had major work done to many of our classrooms spaces. Five of our existing teaching spaces have been divided into two in order to create additional teaching spaces. While the builders did their utmost to have the work completed, we are still awaiting the arrival of whiteboards and the official room dividers. The new stairwell into B block was installed on the weekend.

Ms Jane Termaat
Principal

**STAFFING UPDATE 2016**

Please be aware that while we have organised all our students into classes, these classes may change after day 8. After “Day 8” on Friday - our new enrolment count is sent to Education Queensland staffing officers. From this our final allocation of teachers, and therefore class combinations will be confirmed. Some changes may then need to be made. We thank you for your co-operation and understanding that some of these matters are beyond our direct control.

At present our student enrolments are at 363 which means we are able to have 15 classrooms.

Thank you once again to all of the families who have chosen our school as their preferred learning place for their children. If you know of anyone in the community who has not yet enrolled their child/ren into a school please encourage them to join Balaclava State School.

**LATE ARRIVALS**

Any students who arrive late will need to report to the office for a late note before going to class. Parents, we would appreciate your support in ensuring that your children are ready for the commencement of class before this time.
DEPUTY’S DESK
The 4 B’S
This year we are rolling out a new set of school rules called the 4B’s. The 4B’s stand for: Be Respectful, Be Organised, Be a Learner and Be Safe. These four rules replace the 3R’s that were in use last year.

The new rules reflect key behaviours that are required for success at Balaclava State School. Along with new rules, a new student reward system has been created where students work towards earning Balaclava Bucks for following the school rules. Students can cash in their bucks for fantastic prizes and rewards. Please help us introduce the new school rules by talking with your children about why they are important for success at school.

Mr Michael Patane
Deputy Principal

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING
The introduction of PBL has resulted in improved behaviour across the whole school. Students have responded well and tried very hard to get as many “Busted” in 2015 as possible. This year we will be handing out BALACLAVA BUCKS. Students can earn these in class, the playground, excursions and all school activities. The BALACLAVA BUCKS are rewarded for Being RESPECTFUL, Being ORGANISED, Being a LEARNER, and Being SAFE.

This year we will also be continuing with our “Focus 40” program. This program supports our PBL with “focused” lessons around the concepts and rules. Each week a new value is taught. Our Values for the next two weeks are – Lining Up and Hands Up. Please support this program by discussing these concepts with your child/ren when appropriate.

CLASSROOM TEACHERS
Our teachers often arrive early in the morning to do preparation, planning and setting up for the day before the students enter the room. This means that classroom doors may be closed to parents and students until 8:15am. Once the students enter the room things can become a little hectic with homework folders, tuckshop orders, note collections, the sharing of news about birthdays and other family events and so on. We encourage parents to maintain regular communication with teachers, however, sometimes it is more appropriate to make an appointment particularly when discussions require confidentiality or time, so that the topic is valued. Appointment times can be negotiated with your child’s teacher prior to 8:15am if required.

TUCKSHOP
To make things easier and less time-consuming for teachers we are requesting that parents provide tuckshop orders and money in an envelope with the child’s name and order printed clearly on the front. Please provide correct change for all lunch orders. Any parents who would like to offer some time to help in the tuckshop should contact the office. Your assistance, even if only once a month, will be greatly appreciated.

HEALTHY CHOICES
Since 2007 it has been mandatory for all State schools to supply and promote healthy food and drinks not only in the tuckshop, but also fundraising ventures and classroom rewards. Parents are encouraged to support the health and wellbeing of their children by providing them with a nutritious breakfast and healthy lunchbox food and drinks.

We are hoping to reduce the amount of litter that lunchboxes produce, by asking parents to consider putting lunches in reusable containers rather than providing food to their children with multiple plastic wrappings. Not only does this reduce litter but as a Reef Guardian school it also ensures that the smaller bits of plastic do not make their way into our drains, and therefore, into the sea. Thank you for helping us to maintain our environmental awareness.

BELLS
A warning bell is rung at 8:25 in the morning. This will give students time to get into class and be ready for instruction at 8:30. All students need to be at school prior to this bell and be ready to begin learning at 8:30am. Students need to be ready for learning, notes returned to the class teacher or office, shoes on feet and a positive attitude. We appreciate parental support with these requirements as late arrivals cause interruptions to both the class teacher and the students who are able to be organised.

ATTENDANCE
As we commence the start of a new year, parents are reminded of the importance of sending children to school on every school day unless there is a reasonable excuse for the student to be away, such as illness. Research shows that students who have a good attendance record are more likely to achieve high results. Going shopping, visiting family, staying up late, being tired or extending school holidays are not acceptable reasons to be away from school. Visit the Department of Education and Training website for more information:

www.education.qld.gov.au/everydaycounts

Our school attendance target for each student is 95%. Last year our attendance was only at 87.7%. I know we can do better this year.
We have a phone number dedicated to student absences. Send a text telling us why your child is away. Please make sure that you give your child’s full name in the text message, year level/class and reason for absence. The number to contact is 0475 977 608. Alternatively, you can contact the office by phone 4081 5333.

Absentee information is required for legal and audit purposes. By law we are required to contact any family whose child is absent for three days running without an explanation. After 10 days we are obligated to report lengthy absenteeism to authorities. Please understand that this is required in all State schools.

**Dress Code**

A copy of the school dress code is available from the office. Students are expected to wear a school uniform, including closed shoes, sandals or joggers (thongs are not appropriate) and a broad-brimmed hat. Jewellery is to be kept a minimum (studs and sleepers for pierced ears, a watch, and medic-alert bracelets are acceptable). Dyed hair, especially in bright colours is also not appropriate or acceptable at this school and the wearing of nail polish is discouraged. The school appreciates your support with these matters.

**Hats**

Hats are only $8 and are sold from the school office. A hat is 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 that caps do not meet our school’s sun safety regulations and must not be worn at school.

**Assembly**

Whole school assemblies will be held on MONDAY afternoon at 1:50pm. Parents are always welcome to attend. Newsletters will also be going out fortnightly on a Wednesday.

**Registers**

We have a number of registers in the school which we are required to keep for our accountability and audit purposes. Parents must sign their children out at the office if they are to be absent during school hours. Volunteer registers are located in the office for parents who help in the rooms with reading and other activities.

**End of the Day**

The school day officially finishes at 2:30pm. Students should not loiter in the grounds but make their way home by bus, car, bike or foot. We understand that parents may be running late on occasion, but as there is no teacher supervision after 2:45pm we ask that parents collect their children on time. We thank you for your cooperation. Please contact the office if you know you are running late so we can organise supervision for your child. This reduces stress for your child and ensures they are safe.

Parents who do wish for their child/ren to play on the playground after school are requested to supervise their child/ren.

**Reminder about Road Safety**

With children returning to school after the Christmas holidays, and the next intake of Prep students commencing their schooling, it is extremely important for drivers to stay alert and obey road rules, especially in school zones. Queensland Police will be out in force for the annual statewide ‘Back to School’ operation, targeting school zones with the aim of preventing serious injuries to children as a result of reckless driver behaviour. Parents also need to take the time to educate their children in the basics of road safety, particularly children starting school for the first time. Parents should ensure children wear an approved safety helmet when riding a bike, always use pedestrian crossings, and stop to look before crossing the road. Police are reminding drivers about the 40kmh ‘school zone’ speed limits. Police are also reminding motorists not to double park; not to pull into ‘no stopping’ zones; not to drop children off on pedestrian crossings; and not to use mobile phones when driving.

**Student Awards**

**Queensland 2016 Term Dates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Length</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term 1</td>
<td>Wednesday 27 January – Thursday 24 March</td>
<td>9 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 2</td>
<td>Monday 11 April – Friday 24 June</td>
<td>11 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 3</td>
<td>Monday 11 July – Friday 16 September</td>
<td>10 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 4</td>
<td>Monday 3 October – Friday 9 December</td>
<td>10 weeks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Date Claimers

**February**
- 2nd: Big Breakfast
- 16th: P&C Meeting

**March**
- 3rd: School Photos
- 14th: Scholastic Book Fair Week
- 15th: P&C Meeting
- 18th: Bullying, No Way! Day
- 25th: Easter Friday
- 28th: Easter Monday

**TERM 1 BIG BREAKFAST**

(Images of people eating breakfast)

---

**Balaclava Hotel**

Balaclava Hotel 423 Mulgrave Rd, Eastvale

Present this voucher to receive 15% off your food bill in our Gannets Steakhouse. Up to the value of $40. Not valid with any other offers. "Come back" valid from 01.02.23 to 31.03.23.

Call 40543588 to make a booking

---

**Balaclava Veterinary Surgery**

"The Caring Vets"

Dr. Paul Matthews & Staff

Balaclava Veterinary Surgery, your caring vets in Cairns.
We are animal lovers, with a great understanding of the needs of pet owners and their furry charges. Nothing is too difficult for the Balaclava Vets.

Call 4054 2166 | M 0412 965 512

378 Mulgrave Rd Westcourt

Access the road from The Chocolatier Shop

ballycats@balaclavevet.com.au

www.balaclavevet.com.au

---

**AAB Office Equipment**

Proudly supporting Balaclava State School

216 Severin Street, Cairns | Ph: 4081 7444 | Fax: 4031 8113

---

**Calanna Pharmacy**

"Keeping Our Generations Growing Strong"

General Medical Clinic
Child and Family Support Programs
Well-being Services

6 Moignon Street
Manoora, Cairns
Ph: 4080 1000

---

**AAB Office Equipment**

Are you looking for fast...easy...useful

GOODS & SERVICES in your local area?

Check the SCHOOL NEWSLETTER first!

Not only for when you're feeling crook!
We have 4 convenient locations in the Cairns Region

---

*Images and details from the advertisement*

---

*Details and images from the advertisement*