Dear Parents and Caregivers,

The term is moving along at a very fast pace. Last week we collated our first 5 weekly reading data to discover that a number of students have made significant progress with their reading. This is very exciting news. Reading with your child for just 10 minutes a day helps students to become fluent confident readers.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT REVIEW
Next week we will participate in a 12 monthly school improvement review. This is a follow up review form the audit which was held at this time last year. External advisors will visit our school for the day. During this time they will have interviews with teachers, parents, students, and all other staff members. The programs that we use in our school will be reviewed and feedback provided to all.

At Balaclava we have a clear focus on the work for 2016.
This includes:
- Improved outcomes in Reading, Writing and Numeracy.
- Increase our attendance by 3% (we achieved a 2.7% increase in attendance in 2015).
- Decrease behaviour incidents and suspensions.

This work will be achieved by our focus on:
1. Improving teaching:
   - Explicit teaching practices in all classrooms.
   - The teaching of reading, writing and numeracy.
   - Teachers refining and embedding Australian Curriculum and foundational learning programs.
   - Leaders coaching and supervising teachers.
2. Refining and embedding data based decision making:
   - Using data to set school benchmarks, targets and short term individual student goals.
   - Measuring and monitoring school and student improvement.
3. Connecting parents and caregivers with their children’s learning.

Ms Jane Termaat
Principal

TUCKSHOP VOLUNTEERS
Do you have spare time? The tuckshop is always in need of help, so if you enjoy meeting new people come along and join the team. The students love to see their parents/carers behind the counter. Please phone the school office to enquire 4081 5333.
DEPUTY’S DESK
Over the last couple of weeks we have seen a spike in our school suspensions for students not following our 4B’s. At Balaclava State School we have a ‘no tolerance’ policy on teasing, bullying and physical abuse. Students breaking these rules will have appropriate consequences applied. Please take the time to remind your child to speak out against if they are having trouble. Every child has the right to high quality teaching and learning and to feel safe when they are at school.

Ms Michael Patane
Deputy Principal

THREE WAY CONFERENCES
On Tuesday 22nd March, we will be conducting parent-teacher interviews in the hall from 2:45pm – 5:30pm. Interviews are not compulsory, although they are highly recommended as they allow parents and carers the opportunity to receive information about your child’s progress and to ask about any concerns. Parents and carers will be able to book a scheduled time in the near future, once notes go home. The bookfair will be held the same evening, giving you the opportunity to view and purchase book/s with your child.

UNIFORMS
School shirts (small) $26.00
School shirts (large) $28.00
Sport shirts $10.00
Senior shirts $30.00
*available from tuck shop only

School bucket hat $8.00
*available from school office only

P&C COMMITTEE
The P&C is open to all parents and carers of students attending our school and all citizens within the school community. All parents/carers are invited to apply for a position within the P&C committee and are formerly elected to take up their roles for the forthcoming year.

The purpose of the P&C is to provide a forum in which members can further develop their partnership with the school and communicate ideas and aspirations for their child/ren’s educations. Balaclava State School’s P&C Committee meet once a month, generally on a Tuesday afternoon at 5pm.

How can you join us?
P&C meetings are open to all parents/carers. Meetings start at 5pm in the school office.

2016 dates are as follows:
Tuesday 15th March
Tuesday 19th April
Tuesday 17th May
Tuesday 21st June
Tuesday 19th July
Tuesday 16th August
Tuesday 18th October
Tuesday 15th November

ABSLEEISM
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.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR
The book fair will be open as of Monday 21st March. Each class will be given a time to view and purchase books on this day.

The Book Fair will stay set up the following day for the 3-way conferences, allowing parents to purchase last minute books/goodies.

PHOTO DAY TOMORROW
Photo Day is Thursday 3rd March.

If you need a replacement order envelope, a sibling order envelope, or assistance ordering, there will be a help desk set up from 8am. Correct money for orders is encouraged.

Please have students at school on time at 8:25am, wearing full school uniform.
- School shirt
- Black shorts
- Black shoes
WHAT TEACHERS WANT YOU TO KNOW

Don’t be a stranger!
Talk to your child’s teacher early and when you feel the need. Parent-teacher conferences shouldn’t be the only time you connect. Take a moment to introduce yourself to your child’s teacher at the first open house and find out the best way to make contact in the future. Send in your email address and mobile number. Learning doesn’t stop at 2:30pm. You can help the teacher do a better job by encouraging your children to show you something they are working on at school. Every time your children get a chance to show off what they know, it builds confidence.

Let your child make mistakes
Teachers don’t want perfect students; they want students who try hard. Sometimes parents think every assignment has to be done exactly right, and they can put too much pressure on their children. But it’s OK for children to get some problems wrong. It’s important for teachers to see what students don’t know, so they can go over the material again. Is your child struggling with an assignment? Encourage your child to take charge by asking the teacher for help the next day. Assignments are often clearly not the work of a child. What matters isn’t the final result; it’s letting a child have ownership of the project and learn along the way.

Stay involved
Give support and be your child’s cheerleader no matter how well (or poorly) you did in a certain subject. We don’t expect you to be an expert on every subject. Just knowing their parent is paying attention can be very motivating for a student.

Teachers are on your side
Give them the benefit of the doubt. Some parents go into attack mode when their child complains about a teacher or they take the problem to the principal, so the teacher feels blindsided. This is where a good relationship helps, as a quick text can usually sort things out before it all escalates.

Keep your child organised
Most teachers have to spend far too much time tracking down forms sent home for a parent’s signature. It’s a good idea to have your children empty their backpacks every day as part of a regular after-school routine. Set up a special place, such as a box in the kitchen, where they can put the day’s papers, or a brightly coloured folder for signed papers.

WHAT TEACHERS WANT YOU TO KNOW  (continued)

If the teacher deserves a good grade, give one
Teaching isn’t easy so it’s incredibly uplifting when someone takes the time to say thank you. Why not email when your child enjoys a class event? And if you feel the teacher is doing a good job, let the principal know. Volunteering is another way to demonstrate your support. It shows your children and the teachers that you really care about their education.

Acknowledgement - “What Teachers Wish You Knew. Parents, pull up a chair: Here’s how to help your kids do their very best at school” by Lisa Collier Cool.

BALACLAVA AFTER SCHOOL CARE

Bookings for vacation care have opened to the Balaclava community. Please call into their office situated at the front of the school or call 4054 5911 for information. There are only 3 weeks until children are on holidays.

CROSS COUNTRY / RUN 4 FUN
Balaclava State School is holding our annual Cross Country “Run 4 Fun” to help raise money for the purchase of sporting equipment.

By now students should have received their fundraising starter pack (sponsor sheet and authentication letter) from the school through Australian Fundraising.

Event Date: Thursday 24th March 2016
Fundraising period: 18/02/2016 to 22/03/2016.
Forms & monies due back: 22/03/2016

Students who raise as little as $10 or more will receive an incentive prize for their efforts.

Remember that door knocking for sponsorship or donations can only occur under the supervision of a guardian or trusted adult.

SCHOOL LEADER INDUCTION
Balaclava’s School Leader Induction will be held Monday 7th March at 1:50pm. All parents and carers are welcome to join in celebrating the initiation of our School Leaders for 2016.

Rob Pyne, State Member for Cairns, will be present on the day to hand over badges and welcome our student leaders into a leadership role.
Date Claimers

**March**

3rd  School Photos
4th  Individual Attendance Reward
15th  P&C Meeting (AGM)
18th  Bullying, No Way! Day
21th  Scholastic Book Fair
22nd  Three way conferences
24th  Cross country / Run 4 Fun
24th  Last day of Term 1, 2016
25th  Easter Friday (public holiday)
28th  Easter Monday (public holiday)

**April**

11th  First day of Term 2, 2016
15th  Big Breakfast
19th  P&C Meeting
25th  ANZAC DAY (public holiday)

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STUDENT AWARDS

![Student Awards Image]