Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to Term 2 and a very warm welcome to the new families who joined our school this week.

Our improvement agenda for 2016 is clearly focused on the consolidation of Explicit Teaching in all classrooms.

Our Staff maintains a focus on the various aspects of explicit teaching being targeted. These include: checking for understanding as the lesson progresses, setting the pace of teaching and learning as a result of this, and appropriate learning goals for each lesson.

Having clear and concise learning goals, which children also understand, serves to focus the teaching on the specific skills and understandings of the lesson. Children also then know if they have been successful in the learning. This work will be ongoing this year with our goal to continually improve all aspects of teaching and learning across the school.

We also consistently review student achievement targets with a view to helping children achieve the best they are capable of in their learning.

Parents can help with this by showing an active interest in the work children have undertaken at school during the day. Ask them what they have been learning. Have them demonstrate their learning to you. Take the opportunity to listen to them read to you or you read to them (even the older children). Let them see you enjoying reading – for pleasure as well as for work. The more you, as parents, support the work of the school, the more successful and happier our children are likely to be.

We are fortunate to have dedicated teachers at Balaclava who continue to work extremely well with your children in classrooms each and every day.

This term we will be very busy as we count down towards NAPLAN. Our focus for the first three weeks back will be on Reading, Writing, Grammar and Punctuation, Spelling and Numeracy. Please talk to your child about the importance of these tests, especially if they are in year 3 & 5.

This term we will be moving our assemblies to a split parade. Years Prep-2/3 A will have parade at 1:30–2:00pm. Years 3A – 5/6 C will have parade from 2:00–2:30pm.

Thank you to all the families that attended our Big Breakfast last Friday. As always, it was lovely to see so many families here at school, having breakfast and welcoming in the new term.

Ms Jane Termaat
Principal
DEPUTY’S DESK

NAPLAN TESTING TIME AGAIN

Our students in Years 3 and 5 will soon participate in the annual National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) to assess their skills and understanding in the areas of reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. The tests will be conducted in all state and non-state schools across the country from 12–14 May. An individual NAPLAN report for each child will be sent home later this year. Results provide additional feedback for parents, carers and teachers on how students are progressing in key curriculum areas. Please contact the school if you have any questions about your child participating in NAPLAN testing. Further information is available on the ACARA website, http://www.nap.edu.au/

ANZAC PARADE THIS FRIDAY

This Friday we will be holding our ANZAC day commemorative service in the hall from 8:45am. The service will pay tribute to our past and present service men and women who fought, and still fight so bravely for our country. All parents and families are invited to attend.

PREP 2016 ENROLMENTS

Do you have a younger sibling due to enrol into Prep for 2017? Children born between 1st July 2011 and 30th June 2012 are eligible to enrol for Prep here at Balaclava State School. Birth certificates and immunisation records must be produced.

CROSS COUNTRY / RUN 4 FUN

What a fantastic day at our annual Cross Country, held on the last day of Term 1. We have some fast runners amongst us (even some teachers).

Mudskippers: 307 points
Pythons: 272 points
Stingers: 255 points

AGE Champs:
‘07 boy Tony Fidow | ‘07 girl Layla Gibuma
‘06 boy Joseph Mothe | ‘06 girl Chloe Hart
‘05 boy Jephet Duck | ‘05 girl Lakita Dau
‘04 boy Jayden Dau | ‘04 girl Latoya Mothe

We would like to extend our thanks to the Balaclava School Community for your support with the Run 4 Fun Fundraising. We raised $1,985.55. Great effort! Our proceeds will go toward the purchasing of school sporting equipment. Those who were sponsored and raised money will receive their prizes this Friday.

ABSENTEEISM

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.

LUNCHES

It is important that students have enough food to eat throughout the day as children burn up a lot of energy with their active play. It is also important that children have a healthy breakfast each morning before they arrive at school. Some students are eating their lunch when they get here and then have nothing to eat for the rest of the day. Parents are also reminded to provide the plastic cutlery (spoons, forks) necessary for their child/children to be able to eat their lunch. A few students have requested that their lunches be heated up in the microwave, either in the staff room or the office. Unfortunately, due to Work Place Health and Safety policies, we are unable to do this for your child.

PREP 2016 ENROLMENTS

If your child has a missing item, please check our lost property bin in the office. Lost property bins are emptied and donated at the end of each term.
ATTENDANCE

Whole school attendance was 89.3% for Term 1. We are working on a 3% increase for Term 2.

The individual attendance reward for weeks 6, 7, 8 & 9 of Term 1 PLUS week 1 of Term 2 – will be held next week!

Invitations will be sent out to those students who reached the 92% attendance mark.

Individual attendance rewards will now be calculated every 5 weeks. This means that to reach 92% attendance and participate in the reward, individuals can only afford to have 2 days absent. This week (week 2, Term 2) is the new beginning of our individual attendance reward.

Every day at school counts... Missing even one day can make a difference over time

Missing 1 day of school each fortnight = Missing more than a year of learning over 12 years

WALKING BUS

Every Monday & Friday morning...

Pick up points:
8am—The Shang St Park
8.05am—McEwen St bridge
8:10am—Francis St bridge
A delicious breakfast of fruit and toast is available in the activity room upon arrival for participants.

GENERAL NOTICE

Westcourt & new location – Mooroolbark.
Our centres are focused on developing your child’s learning through enhanced Early Start Programs offered FREE to all children.

Mini Maestros music classes.
Ready Steady Go Kids fitness classes.
Healthy Meals included (Westcourt only).
Free courtesy bus, pick up and drop off.
Nappies supplied.
Qld Governments Approved Kindy Program.
Friendly, caring educators.
Westcourt- 4033 5170 | Mooroolbool- 40320440
www.cubbycare.com.au

IS YOUR CHILD FALLING BEHIND?

We can help them catch up and...

How can we help?

Make an appointment

We can recommend the right support for your child
Call 1800 275 753

Make an appointment to speak to an expert

Get FREE phone advice from our expert therapist

Check up by the therapist

Specially designed sessions at your local centre

FULL feedback every step of the way to help your child reach their full potential

1800 275 753 | kidstherapy.org.au | 1800 275 753
Date Claimers

April
11th  First day of Term 2, 2016
15th  Big Breakfast
19th  P&C Meeting (AGM)
22nd  ANZAC Day Commemorative Service (8:45am)
25th  ANZAC Day (public holiday)

May
2nd  Labor Day (public holiday)
10th  NAPLAN (years 3 & 5)
11th  NAPLAN (years 3 & 5)
12th  NAPLAN (years 3 & 5)
17th  P&C Meeting
19th  Zinc radio broadcast from BSS (6:30am)
26th  Fire Education (year 1)