Dear Parents and Caregivers,

What a great turn out of book characters we had on Friday to rejoice the 71st year of celebrating great Australian authors and illustrators! It was wonderful to see so many book characters all in one place. Some students chose to dress in easily recognised characters, others made us think carefully about who was being represented. It was also wonderful to see so many teachers dress up and celebrate reading. Well done to all who participated.

This week we held parent teacher interviews in the Hall. Thank you to all of the parents who came to the three way conferences with their child to hear of the great things they are achieving, the way in which your child can be additionally supported at home and taking an interest in the focus and targets of our school. Three way conferences help students to stay on track and encourage them to keep focused for the next term. If you were unable to attend the conferences, please make a time with your child’s teacher so you too can stay informed.

The Scholastic Book Fair held alongside the three way conferences was also a great success with many families taking the opportunity to add a few more books to their home libraries. I love books and it was difficult to resist purchasing a few for the children of friends and family. A % of all books sold goes to the school. This is used to purchase additional books for our library.

HOLIDAYS
Wow, the end of the term is almost upon us. What a term it has been! The students and teachers have worked hard towards our continuous cycle of improvement with our increased focus of reading under the Investment For Students - (I4S, which was previously known as Great Results Guarantee). This injection of funds has translated in improved outcomes for all students as demonstrated with the improvements in NAPLAN but also in our reading data. At this stage the school will receive additional funding for this in 2017 as well.

ATTENDANCE – WELL DONE
I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that the holidays don’t start until Friday afternoon – 16th of September. It is therefore expected that every student attend school until the last day of term. Our attendance data this term has seen an increase in the previous 2 years. Last year, 2015, our attendance for term 3 was only 86%, but for this year we are tracking at 89%!!!

PUPIL FREE DAY
The first day back next term is Tuesday the 4th as Monday is a public holiday. The next Pupil Free day will take place on Monday 17th of October; this is third Monday back. On this day the teachers will participate in professional development with a specific focus on the explicit teaching of Literacy.

Have a fantastic week!

Ms Jane Termaat
Principal
DEPUTY’S DESK

HATS
Just a quick reminder that all students require a bucket hat at Balaclava State School. A hat is an important and vital piece of our school uniform and helps keep students safe from the sun. While the school has some spare hats for students to use during PE, it is essential that each student has their own hat and brings it to school every day. If you require a new hat please see our wonderful office staff and they will sell you one for $8. Thank you for keeping our students sun smart.

Ms Michael Patane
Deputy Principal

STAFFROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT
Ready, set, go! The time has come to start showing your teachers some appreciation. How?...

1. Visit staffroomforimprovement.com.au
2. Register to play
3. Give tokens to your school
4. Login and give tokens every day until the competition ends

The more tokens you give your school, the better the chance your teachers have to win a $20,000 staffroom makeover.

SCHOOL WATCH
At all times and especially during these upcoming holidays, we need you to look out for after-hours crime in our school. If you see anything suspicious, please remember to call the School Watch number. The School Watch Program is a partnership between Department of Education and Training, the Queensland Police Service and the State Government Protective Security Service. It aims to reduce vandalism, theft and arson in Queensland schools. If you do see something suspicious, please don’t attempt to intervene. Call the School Watch number and let the local police or State Government Protective Security Service deal with the matter. Keep the number handy – 13 17 88 – and let’s work together to help create a safer school community. Alternatively you can contact POLICE LINK on 131 444.

UPDATE DETAILS
Parents/carers don’t forget to contact the school office to update your child’s records if you have recently moved or changed phone numbers. The ladies in the office sometimes have difficulty getting in contact with families if their child is sick or injured.

YEAR 6 STUDENT REMINDER
Students in Year 6 – please return your form indicating which High School you are enrolling in for 2017. If you have lost your form visit Mrs Roome in the office and ask for another. Remember that you require a birth certificate and evidence of where you currently live. Entry into High School is not an automatic process with High Schools in our area all being enrolment managed. This means that the street where you live determines where you are able to attend in 2017.

PREP 2017 ENROLMENTS
Children born between 1st July 2011 and 30th June 2012 are eligible to enroll for Prep at BSS. Birth certificates and immunisation records must be produced.

KINDY 2017 ENROLMENTS
Do you have a child due to enroll into Kindy for 2017? Children turning 4 years of age by the 30th of June can enroll now. Contact Balaclava C&K Kindergarten on 4033 5182.
This year, we are giving families the option to pay with cash OR via Centrepay.

Swimming starts early next term, so it is important that we receive the permission and payment information by the end of this term.

**JANE’S JOTTINGS**

We all know how sleep affects our life – a good night sleep makes life’s dilemmas easier to cope with while a bad night’s sleep (or limited sleep) makes us grumpy, lethargic and mostly no fun to be around. Sleep problems in kids don’t just drive parents batty, they also affect children’s health and development, including academic performance, growth and even immunity.

Sleep researcher and psychologist Dr Sarah Blunden, from the Centre for Sleep Research at the University of South Australia, told a recent psychology conference in Melbourne (2010) that sleep problems – which can be medical or behavioural – can affect memory, attention, thinking ability and behaviour. For children there are also studies that link bed wetting with sleep problems.

*Adapted from: ABC Health & Well Being – Kids Need a Good Night’s Sleep by Helen Carter, KidsHealth*

**INFORMATION REGARDING EXEMPTIONS**

A few parents are choosing to take holidays and other time out of school for more than three days during the school term. The process of exemption from school is not automatic. Parents need to apply for this with the correct paper work. This is available from the office upon request – Exemptions from Compulsory Schooling & Compulsory Participation. Every parent of a child of compulsory school age has a legal obligation to ensure their child is enrolled and attending school or participating in an eligible option.

Parents can apply for an exemption when their child cannot attend for a period of more than 10 consecutive school days for reasons such as:

- Illness
- Family reasons (family holiday)
- Cultural or religious reasons

Parents/carers can visit the school office to ask for an application form for exemption. Once completed these are presented to the Principal for a decision. When a decision is made you will be informed in writing.

**ATTENDANCE**

Week 7, Term 3: Whole school average 91%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Days Away</th>
<th>Unexplained Absences</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep A</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep B</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>90</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prep/1</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1A</td>
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<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1B</td>
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<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1/2A</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>3.5</td>
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<td>97</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Year 3/4A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 5/6A</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5/6B</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5/6C</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>87</td>
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Super Job Balaclava! In the green with 91% for the week and NO RED. Congratulations to 2A with 97% and 3/4A with 95%. You guys are awesome! Keep up the great work. Only 3 weeks to go for the term, so keep those absences down and earn your invitation to the Slip ‘n’ Slide reward in week 1 next term.

Week 8, Term 3: Whole school average 91%

<table>
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Another GREEN week, Balaclava you’re AWESOME! Well done to 1A with that fantastic dark green rate of 97%. Super job to 1B, 1/2A, 3A, 5/6A, 2/3A, 3/4A, PA, P/1, 4/5A, PB, and 5/6A for hitting the green, you ROCK! I love that 1A and 3A had no unexplained absences for the week, remember to bring a note with your reason for being absent when you return to school from being away.

We are on a green streak Balaclava, let’s keep it up, and remember MISSING SCHOOL IS MISSING OUT!

Ms Karen Roome
Head of Student Services
## Date Claimers

**September**
- 2nd: Book week celebration
- 5th-9th: Scholastic book fair
- 6th: Prep for a day (group 1)
- 6th: Three way conferences
- 7th: C&K Balaclava Kindy open afternoon
- 9th: Prep for a day (group 2)
- 14th: Woree SHS 2017 year 7’s transition day

**October**
- 3rd: Public holiday (Queen’s Birthday)
- 4th: First day of term 4
- 14th: Under 8’s Day
- 18th: P&C meeting
- 21st: School swimming
- 28th: Day for Daniel
- 28th: School swimming

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## STUDENT AWARDS

These students were awarded for their achievements.

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