Dear Parents and Caregivers,

This year has flown and Balaclava State School has had another amazing year accelerating down the Highway to Success. The successes we have experienced this year have been due to the fantastic staff that we have here, the wonderful families and students who help to build our profile, and the great support that we have from the Region and other schools in the area.

I am already very excited with our planning for 2017 and believe that Balaclava will continue to grow and improve as the school of choice for everyone in the area. Our successful marketing strategies have increased our school enrolments by a whole class next year. This growth has also translated into more preps on books next year compared to previous years.

With a week to go, I thought it timely to look back at the activities we participated in this year and some of the work we have done. We have participated in discos, movie nights, Bravehearts, Wonder of living program, prep open days, swimming, cross country, sports day, leadership camps and year 5/6 camps, Under 8’s day, Book week and of course – NAIDOC day which was a huge success. We celebrated special days: Day for Daniel, World Teacher’s day, Teacher Aide day, Student Services day, Cleaners day and Tuckshop day. There have been excursions, breakfast reading, visits to JCU, a fashion display at the Cairns Show, Good Start Pacific Islander after school activities, and after school sports activities including: dance crew, AFL, NRL, ARU and many more.

Surrounding all of these activities was our core business of literacy, numeracy, science and the other key learning areas. Schools are busy places! Our big focus areas this year were on: Reading, writing, numeracy, attendance and behaviour. The data in these areas has improved significantly across the school. Next year we will continue our unrelenting focus on these areas as there is still room for growth.

We made some exceptional gains in our NAPLAN data this year with an improvement in 8 out of 10 areas. Our continued focus on improving our NAPLAN, and all other data will also continue next year with the continued support from our Head of Curriculum, Tevi Cory, our Master Teacher, Michelle Peut, our Inclusive Education Officer – Ms Toni Behrendorff – and of course our teachers and Teacher Aides.

This year we continued our focus on attendance. As mentioned in newsletters, on facebook and at parade – EVERY DAY COUNTS. Our attendance program “Driving into the Green” won Balaclava the Showcase Award for Excellence in Schools. Again, I would like to thank the BSS community for their support with great attendance, the win was a TEAM effort shared between staff, students and their families.

A few staff are leaving us at end of the year and I wish to thank them for their efforts; Ms Megan Rea, Ms Jana Bertolla, Mr David Kachel, Ms Joan Kitto, Mr Daniel Samanes and Ms Jess.

...continued over page
PRINCIPAL’S PEN …continued

Special thanks must also go to the following people - to my fantastic and hardworking ladies in the office – Schrell, Dolly and Jessie - for their continual assistance and support each week, to our lovely cleaners who ensure that our school is always neat and tidy at the start of each day, to Brian for ensuring our grounds are well maintained, and last, but not least, to all of my wonderful staff who work so hard to ensure that our students have the best outcomes possible in all areas each and every day. Your efforts are never unnoticed.

I hope you all make the most of a well-deserved break and we will see you all in the New Year to go through the cycle once more!

As this is the last newsletter of the year, I would like to wish you all a fantastic festive season, and a safe holiday.

Jane Termaat
Principal

REPORT CARDS

Your child’s report card will be coming home next Wednesday. As an Education Queensland State School, we follow particular rules regarding our report ratings, which are as follows:

- A or VHA rating - The student has achieved an EXCELLENT result, above the age appropriate and state-wide standard and has produced a consistently very high standard of work;
- B or HA rating – The student has achieved an VERY GOOD result, above the age appropriate and state-wide standard and has produced a high standard of work;
- C or S rating – The student is performing at the age appropriate standard and is performing AT the EXPECTED state-wide standard. The term “satisfactory” or “sound” is used;
- D rating - Student is DEVELOPING skills and knowledge required to reach the age appropriate and state-wide standard. Students receiving this result may require some additional assistance and support during class;
- E or Support required rating – Student requires significant additional staff/parental support in the future to be able to reach age appropriate standards at this stage; and
- N rating – insufficient evidence to obtain a rating/standard. This may be given if your child was away for a significant amount of time or is currently working on an individual program separate from the current year level work. A comment will be placed next to the rating stating why it was given.

SCHOOL CONCERT

The School Concert is Thursday 8th December at 8.45am-10.30am. Everyone is welcome to attend and watch the BSS students and teachers groove and shake their way through the morning.

PREP 2017 ENROLMENTS

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

FREE DRESS DAY

FREE DRESS DAY
FRIDAY 2nd DECEMBER
Come dressed in your favourite outfit, bring a gold coin donation and help fight poverty!

The money Balaclava raises will go towards buying a goat for a family in Mozambique, South Africa.

This is a great way to further ethical and intercultural understanding, reconnect our students with the true meaning of the season, and remind them of the value of giving.

Not returning to Balaclava State School in 2017

Name: ________________________________

Please return to office if your child will NOT be returning to BSS in 2017.
DEPUTY’S DESK

This year has been a fantastic year at Balaclava and it has been a pleasure working with all the wonderful parents, staff and students. I would just like to thank all of the parents for all of their support during the year. It has been really impressive to see the growth of our school and the improvement in our students. Some of our great achievements this year include;

- Inaugural Balaclava Academy of Sport Program
- 2016 State Showcase winner for community engagement.
- Greatest Naplan results ever

2017 is shaping to be another fantastic year and I hope you are all looking forward to it. Please have a safe and happy holiday season. I look forward to seeing you all back at school on the 23rd of January.

Ms Michael Patane
Deputy Principal

BALACLAVA VACATION CARE OPEN DATES

Monday 5 December – Friday 9 December.
Monday 12 December – Friday 16 December.
Monday 19 December – Wednesday 21 December. Closed for 3 weeks pending numbers.
Monday 16 January – Friday 20 January.

For bookings please contact the after school office on 40545911 or mobile 0408741867.
To be accepted into vacation care any outstanding fees must be paid in full.

BE OUR EYES AND EARS THESE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

A reminder that our school grounds, including basketball courts, ovals and undercover areas are out of bounds over the school holiday period. Please remind your children that they are not permitted on the grounds during the holidays. Police have encouraged members of the community to report suspicious activity and incidents of trespassing. We encourage our school community to keep an eye on our school.

THANK YOU FROM TUCKSHOP

We have come to the end of yet another year – on behalf of the tuckshop team and the P&C, I want to take the opportunity to say a very big thank you to all of the parents, carers, staff and students for your ongoing support of the tuckshop. The response to the recent Krispy Kreme fundraiser has been wonderful and I am pleased to announce that we have reached our goal and can contribute to the purchase of a new freezer! We wish you a very merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year. We are looking forward to seeing you all in 2017!

ABSSENTEEISM

0475 977 608 - send a text telling us why your child is away. Please include your child’s full name, year level/class and reason for absence.

ATTENDANCE

**Week 7, Term 4:** Whole school average 88%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Days Away</th>
<th>Unexplained Absences</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep A</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep B</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep/1</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1A</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1B</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1/2A</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2A</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2/3A</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3A</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3/4A</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3/4B</td>
<td>19.5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4/5A</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5/6A</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5/6B</td>
<td>17.5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5/6C</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A few classes have let the RED in this week, but overall a slight improvement. Come on Balaclava we can hit the GREEN every week. Great job from 2A with their dark green effort of 96%, the trophy goes to you. A few less days away would have seen those classes in orange hit green.

**Week 8, Term 4:** Whole school average 88.6%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Days Away</th>
<th>Unexplained Absences</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep A</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep B</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep/1</td>
<td>14.5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1A</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1B</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1/2A</td>
<td>11.5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2A</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2/3A</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3A</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3/4A</td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3/4B</td>
<td>23.5</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4/5A</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5/6A</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5/6B</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5/6C</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Prep A, wonderful job with 95%. Good work also to PB, 1A, 1/2A, 3A, 3/4A, 4/5A and 5/6C icy poles are coming your way. Let’s have another fantastic attendance week this week, remember your individual attendance has to be 90% for weeks 5 to 9 to receive the sports pack.

Ms Karen Roome
Head of Student Services
**Date Claimers**

**December 2016**
- 5th: Presentation / Graduation evening – 5.30pm
- 7th: Woree SHS Yr 7 transition day 3
- 7th: Trinity Bay SHS Yr 7 orientation day
- 7th: Report cards go home
- 8th: School concert – 8:45am
- 9th: Individual attendance reward
- 9th: Honeycomb movie reward
- 9th: Last day of Term 4

**January 2017**
- 23rd: First day of school, Term 1
- 26th: Australia day (public holiday)
- 27th: Big breakfast

---

**STUDENT AWARDS**

[Images of students with awards]

[Advertisements for local businesses]

---

These advertisers support us, please support them.

---

Calanna Pharmacy
578 Shute Harbour Rd, Airlie Beach | Phone: (07) 5473 6131
Pharmacy No 10 | Ph: 4080 1000

“Keeping Our Generations Growing Strong”

Calanna Pharmacy North Cape
136 Shute Harbour Rd, Airlie Beach | Phone: (07) 5473 6131
Pharmacy No 10 | Ph: 4080 1000

Australian Newsletter Services P/L, Authorised Supplier of Free Newsletter Covers For Schools & Churches
PO Box 1878, Springwood B.C., Qld 4127 Ph: (07) 3290 1966, Freecall: 1800 245 077, Fax: (07) 3290 1988, Email: info@austnews.com.au

[Additional text about local businesses and services]