Hello All,

WELCOME! - TERM 1

I trust that you all enjoyed a peaceful holiday and are ready for the year ahead. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome new families to our school – Balaclava State School is a wonderful place to learn and make new friends and I know you will enjoy being part of the Balaclava family.

Like our preppies, I have been very excited about starting at Balaclava SS. For those that have not met me, I am Jane Termaat, the newly appointed principal. I have worked for Education Queensland for almost 30 years across a range of sites – starting my career at Kuranda SS and most recently leaving Machans Beach SS. I have worked as a classroom teacher, teaching principal, and principal across a variety of school sites during this time. I strongly believe that our job in the primary school is to develop our students so that they achieve success and are able to have a happy life.

With this in mind, we will continue to develop teacher skills with Explicit Teaching, Consolidation and Classroom Management. On the pupil free days, the teachers continued to discuss strategies for ongoing improvement in curriculum and pedagogy.

Welcome to our new families. Our new preppies have settled in well and enjoying school. Throughout our other classes are more new students who are making new friends, learning the routines and layout of a new school and also settling in well. I would like to let our new parents know that they are welcome to join us at assembly every Friday morning at 8:45am as well as P&C meetings which are held each month.

With our strong focus on learning, it is very

The Big Breakfast

A big warm thankyou to the many parents, staff and students who attended our first Big Breakfast for the year. It was a huge success with our biggest turnout for years. There were many happy faces filling their stomachs with bacon, sausages, eggs, bread, juices and tea and coffee. Debra from the ‘Good Start Program’ provided a tropical fruit selection as she welcomed the new families to our school community. Thank you to the many helpers and volunteers on the day and especially to the students who helped clean up afterwards.

We hope you can again join us in Term 2 for an even bigger and better event.

Parents & Carers Association...Yes, it’s that time of year again. Our first P&C meeting for 2014 will be on Tuesday 18th Feb, here at the School Hall at 5.30pm. Come along with your mates and meet more of the Balaclava community while you see what the P&C is all about. The Annual General Meeting is scheduled for March 18th, when we will be voting in a President, Secretary, Treasurer & Committee Members. All volunteers are welcome to join the fun, or ‘put your name in the hat’ if you would like to be on the Executive Committee.

School Uniforms...It is wonderful to see a sea of purple and yellow Balaclava students smartly dressed in our uniform ready for learning in 2014. A reminder that closed in shoes and hats are also a part of our school uniform and these requirements are for the health and safety of our students at school. Those parents that have signed up to the resource scheme, your child/ren will be receiving their Balaclava school hat over the coming days. We look forward to “busting” those students that are wearing their hats outside and shoes on their feet all day.
important that ALL STUDENTS ATTEND EVERY DAY. School starts at 8:30am so it is essential that students are here by 8.15 so that they are settled and ready to learn by 8:30am. Remember – Every day Counts.

SCHOOL WIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT

This year we are looking forward to continuing our journey with School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS), which is the framework we employ to ensure a safe and nurturing environment for our students, staff and parents. We have three school rules – The three “R’s” – Respect, Responsibility, Relationships. Each fortnight we explicitly teach our expectations for behaviour in various contexts through role-plays, discussion and practice, and students are recognised and positively reinforced when they demonstrate the appropriate behaviour through our “BUSTED” program. Ask your child if they have been “BUSTED” yet – for good behaviour. This fortnightly behaviour focus is always shared with parents and community members at parade and through the school newsletter, as the link between families and SWPBS is an important one. When families are meaningfully involved in educational activities, their children do better in school.

CLASSES 2014

On February 6th (Day 8), ‘actual’ enrolment numbers in schools across the state are checked and staffing (teacher numbers) adjustments made to individual schools where necessary. This means that our teacher/class allocations remain temporary until after this date and some of our classes might need to change. We will contact you if your child is affected by this.

ATTENDANCE

If your child is absent due to illness please contact Dolly on the school number 4081 5333. Any students who arrive after 9:00am, please report to the office so the office ladies can issue students with a late arrival pass before going to class so that we are able to account for all students on a daily basis.

JANE’S JOTTINGS....

Building Resilience

All parents want what is best for their children. Sometimes though, in our endeavour to protect our children, we take control of a situation, and make decisions that are not always in our child’s best interest. Michael Grose (Parenting Educator) talks of 7 resilience robbers that reduce a child’s development of resilience.

Robber 1. Fight all their battles for them

This should be the last resort not the first option. We want our children to have strategies that will help them manage difficult situations.

Solution: Give kids the skills and opportunity to develop their own resourcefulness. Remember there are always 2 sides to a story. Be the consultant not the problem-solver.

More to follow...

Jane Termaat
Principal

SWPBS - School Wide Positive Behaviour Support

Be Respectful

BSS students are being respectful in that organised lining up ensures that they are able to enter a room in a safe and orderly way and ready for the teacher’s instructions. It also reduces the risk of injury in a time of changing supervision and ensures safety for our students.

Be Responsible

Consistent routines help students to settle and prepare for earning in each session.

Learning time is not wasted if the students enter in a calm manner.