Hello All,

THANK YOU
A big thank you to the parents and families who supported us while we restructured and organised classes two weeks ago. The moving day went very smoothly with children quickly adapting and settling into the changes. It has been a pleasure to visit all of the classes since they moved to see how settled they are in their rooms.

Thank you to all the parents who ensure that their children are ready for learning each and every day, ensuring they have breakfast, a healthy packed lunch, uniform, hats and shoes, and all the items they require for school. Taking pride in attending school and themselves also leads to improved success and self-esteem.

WELCOME
I would like to welcome some new staff members to the school.
– Ms Jana Bertolla who is teaching the year 1/2 class, Ms Kim Van Kempen who is currently teaching the Prep/1 room and Mrs Sue Robinson-Ross who is working as our internal relief teacher.

ATTENDANCE
Remember that if your child is absent, the office requires a note or phone call and an explanation. Congratulations to the classes and students who are meeting regional expectations by having 95% or more attendance each week. Students who attend for at least 95% experience success in their learning and in their lives.

EVERY DAY COUNTS!

HATS AND SHOES
Students are required to wear hats and shoes when they play. Some children are coming to school well dressed with hats and shoes but by lunch times these have all been removed. Please talk to your children about the importance of wearing shoes when they play. It will make it easier for us when we give the same message. It will also reduce the list of lost property which accumulates! Thank you for your support.

PICK UP TIMES
School finishes at 2:30 each day. If you pick up your children in the afternoons then please be on time. We only provide supervision for your children until 2:45 at the gate. If children are not collected by this time then they will be required to wait outside the office until you arrive. If you are running late please call the office so we can ensure that your children are safe.

NEW WEBSITE
The Balaclava State School website will soon have a new look with lots of information, forms, documents and other information you might require. Each fortnight the newsletter will be published on the site as well. So if your child forgets to give you your copy, you will still be able to access it. The website will go “live” on 28th March.

Until next fortnight, be kind to each other,
Jane Termaat
Principal
**Balaclava Earners and Learners**

Students at Balaclava State School had two special guests at our parade today, Shane and Rebecca from Woolworths, who awarded us with new school equipment and resources as part of the “Earn and Learn” campaign.

Prizes that we received included: books, stationery, sports equipment, games and much more. When we heard the announcement that we were going to receive these prizes, students cheered with excitement. This allows our students to have fun learning experiences within the classroom and at play times with extra equipment. We had many more special guests at our parade including Northern Pride players, Blake Leary, Latu Fifita, Tyrone McCarthy and Cameron Miller who awarded students with a free pass for answering their quiz questions. Our other special guest was our ex groundsman who has now become a police officer, Constable Owen Rodgers, who spoke about safety and what it takes to become a police officer. All of our guests encouraged us to be “deadly learners” and attend school every day. Thank you to Woolworths, the Northern Pride and Mr Owen for making our parade a great way to start the day.

Maya Lai & Therese Berenger. Yr 7

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**Cross Country Fun Run**

The Cross Country Fun Run is a major fundraising initiative on behalf of our school.

We will be conducting a Cross Country Fun Run as a major fundraiser for this term so we do ask for your support. The event will be held on Friday 4th April (last day of Term 1). Family support is most appreciated.

**Funds raised will provide additional resources for the students such as new sport equipment.**

Students have received a sponsorship form with a selection of over 70 prizes to choose from such as Nerf, Sony, Hot Wheels, Razor, iPods Shuffles and more.

We ask you to seek donations on a $2 or $4 or $5 or $10 per sponsor. Students who receive only $10 or more in donations will be entitled to a prize of their choice.

Also on offer is a 2GB MP3 player for the highest fundraising student and a free surprise party for the highest fundraising class. Each student will also receive a Berri Queich frozen juice stick on the day of the event.

**WIN A FAMILY HOLIDAY TO THE GOLD COAST OR HAMILTON ISLAND OR FIJI** – each student/family has the chance to win a family holiday simply by raising $10 or more. For more details on this promotion and how to enter, please view page three of the Sponsorship Form or go to: www.myschoolathon.com.au

Please cut out the ‘how to claim your prize section’ on the sponsorship form and return along with your monies to the School Office on or before the Friday 28th March. Please be sure to fill out your prize request. The individual prizes will be delivered shortly after.

Happy fundraising, and we look forward to seeing you at our Cross Country Fun Run to cheer on the students.

Kate Movley PE Teacher

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**Jane’s Jottings...**

**Beat the buzzer**

A playful way to get kids ready on time in the morning.

Getting your children ready for school or to leave the house can be a challenge. Here’s a fun way to encourage them to cooperate.

Do you find yourself nagging and shouting a lot in the mornings? Try ‘Beat the buzzer’, a game developed by researchers from RMIT University, Victoria.

The key to this game is rewarding your child for being on time and ready. Praising your child will make an enormous difference. Parents often don’t feel like praising their child for being ready on time because it’s behaviour that is expected. But if you don’t praise it, don’t expect it!

**How to play ‘Beat the buzzer’**

Explain that you want to introduce a game called ‘Beat the buzzer’ to help with getting ready in the mornings.

Establish a ‘ready time’ – your child must be ready for school at this time.

Together, write a list of what your child needs to do in the morning. With younger children, you do the writing, but ask them to help you draw a picture for each step. Explain exactly what you expect children to do on their own and what you will help with. The list might look something like this:

- Eat breakfast.
- Get dressed.
- Brush teeth/wash face/brush hair.
- Pack bag.
- Put on hat/shoes.

When you have a list that you’re both happy with, put it up where your child can check it throughout the morning. Explain to your child what will happen if he is ready on time, and what will happen if he isn’t.

Choose some special rewards for beating the buzzer. Make up a simple chart to keep track of success with ticks or stickers. Activities with mum or dad are often the most effective rewards.

Choose some appropriate consequences for not being ready. These could include not being allowed to watch TV, or going to bed 10-15 minutes earlier.

Set the timer and leave your child to it. Let her know that you have set the kitchen timer for the required amount of time. Now it’s up to her.

Watch for your child being independent and responsible. Praise and encourage him. But avoid giving reminders and instructions – this will just lead you back to nagging and fighting.

If your child gets all the tasks done by the time the buzzer sounds, she wins.

Encourage your child to check the list rather than telling him what to do next. This will help him become more independent.

It also reduces nagging from you. After a week or two of success, begin to phase out the rewards over another 3-4 weeks. Your child might need to be on time two, three, four, then five days in a row to earn the reward (make the reward a little bigger each time). Then make rewards a surprise. Your child won’t know when a reward is on offer – it just happens every now and then. Even when your child is regularly ready on time, praise her occasionally.

If at the end of the time your child isn’t ready:

Calmly let him know that the buzzer has sounded, and get him ready.

Remind her that she can try again the following morning. Follow through with the consequence you decided on.

**P&C**

Our next P&C meeting will be held on the 18th of March. All parents are welcome to attend. We meet at 5:30 in the hall.

**REMEMINDER - HARMONY DAY AT BALACLAVA**

On March 21st, the P&C committee in conjunction with KARMA will be hosting a Harmony Day celebration with the theme, “Multicultural Friendship Celebration”. Please contact Olive on olivetaudavsi@interc ode.on.net if you are able to assist in any way.

**CYBERSAFETY HELP BUTTON**

Online safety is just a click away with the Cyber safety help button now installed on all school computer stations throughout the state. The floating icon will be visible on computer desktops and is also available for parents to download to their home computer. It provides students with an easy means of reporting cyberbullying and online concerns. The button is a federal government initiative providing an online hub with 24 hour access to cyber safety help, reporting options, resources and information.


**HAVE YOUR DETAILS CHANGED?**

If you have moved? Have you changed your home phone, work or mobile number? To help us get in contact with you should your child become sick or injured, please update your records at our office. We have forms available on request. Thank you to those families who have recently updated their information.

**EMAIL NEWSLETTERS**

Technology is giving us more options. If you would like to have the newsletter emailed to you please complete the attached form and hand it into the office. This will ensure you get your newsletter each fortnight and help us to reduce our paper usage.

More to follow...

**Jane Termaat**

Principal

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_There have been many issues lately around toys at school. Home is the place for toys as they do not assist with our learning and are only creating upset if they are broken, stolen or go missing at school. From now on students are not to bring toys to school._ We appreciate your cooperation with this matter.