**Meet Grade 1 and their Visitors**

The Year One students were lucky enough to have 2 visits in the last few weeks by four Fire fighters from the Cairns Fire Department. They run fire education sessions across all schools in Cairns.

We learnt about fire safety, and what to do in the case of a fire. The students have been busy remembering their home addresses in case they do need to one day ring ‘000’.

All students thoroughly enjoyed both visits, especially when the Fire Truck came to school. We all got to look at the tools in the truck, to climb through the cabin, and to hold the hose and squirt water! What a great learning experience it was! Here are some pictures of the day...

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**Date Claimers**

- Thu 19 Jun: School Photo Day
- Fri 20 Jun: Athletics Carnival
- Tue 24 Jun: RSPCA School Visit
- Tue 24 - 27: Y6/7 Senior Camp
- Fri 27 Jun: End of Term 2
- Sun 28 Jun - Mon 6 Jul: School Competitions
- Tue 7 Jul: Operation Clean-Up
- Wed 8 Jul: Beginning of Term 3

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**Principal’s Pen**

Dear Parents and caregivers,

TERM 2

The term is rapidly drawing to a close. This term we have continued our explicit teaching focus with children responding well to the consolidation sessions used in each classroom. We have also continued our focus on attendance and positive behaviour. Next term we will continue working with students and families on all these areas.

In less than two weeks the year 6/7 students will be attending their annual leadership camp at Daradgee Environmental Education Centre.

**REPORT CARDS**

Teachers are currently collecting assessment pieces for Report Cards. These will be completed, edited and handed out in week 10 of this term.

**REPORT CARD RATINGS**

Your child’s report card will be coming home on Wednesday of the last week of term. (The year 6/7 students will get their report cards on Monday 23rd as they will be attending camp on Tuesday).

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 a 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.

- **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.

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**School Watch**

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- Fri 27 Jun: End of Term 2
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**Residential Address**

418 Mulgrave Road
Westcourt QLD 4870

**Postal Address**

PO Box 266M
Manunda QLD 4870

**Email**

admin@balaclavss.eq.edu.au

**Website**

www.balaclavss.eq.edu.au

**Phone Numbers**

- School - 40815333
- Fax - 4081 5300
- Tuck Shop - 4081 5312
- After School Care - 4054 5911
- C&K Kindergarten - 4033 5192
- Dental Clinic - 4054 1677 (QLD Health)

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**BREAKFAST READING PROGRAM**
The breakfast program runs twice a week on Mondays and Thursday at 8–8.25am. Parents and caregivers are welcome to come along and read with their child or other children.

**DON’T BE AWAY, COME EVERY DAY**
Remember that “Every day counts.” If your child is going to absent, please notify the school office on 40815333. Thank you for helping your child to learn.

**P&C MEETING - ALL WELCOME**
The next meeting on the 17th June at 5:15 in the school office. All parents are welcome to join the meetings, to share ideas, concerns, or simply to find out what is going on in our school.

**PREP ENROLLMENTS FOR 2015**
Please help us plan our staffing for Children born between 1st July 2009 and 30th June 2010 are eligible to enrol for Prep here at Balacalava State School for NEXT YEAR. Birth certificates must be presented upon enrolment. Enquiries are most welcome (07) 40815333.

**WHAT’S COMING UP?**
- June 17th: P&C meeting
- 19th: Whole school photo day
- 20th: Athletics carnival
- 24th: RSPCA – school visit and presentation to classes
- 24th - 27th: Year 6/7 camp.
- 27th: Last day of term 2
- July 1st: Operation Pride – Mooroobool clean-up day
- 14th: First day of term 3
- 18th: Show Holiday

More to follow...

**JANE’S JOTTINGS**

Tips for using praise, encouragement and rewards

When you feel good about your child, say so. See if you can give your child some words of encouragement every day. The small things you can say can build up over time to have a big effect on your child.

Describe what it is that you like. This is called ‘descriptive praise’. When you say exactly what you’re happy about, your child knows what you mean. For example, ‘I like the way you’ve organised your room. You’ve found a spot for everything’ or ‘I love the picture you drew. You really know how to put colours together’. And describing what you like is much more genuine and convincing than vague praise such as ‘You’re a good boy’.

Praise your child for their strengths. Children have their own unique set of strengths (and weaknesses). Try to appreciate your child’s good points. Try to avoid comparing one child to another, because this can lead to feelings of resentment or create unrealistic expectations.

Encourage good behaviour with praise, rather than pointing out the bad. This means trying to do more praising than criticising. It takes a lot of praise to outweigh one criticism. Experts suggest trying to praise children six times for every one time you criticise them.

Look for little changes and successes. If you wait until your child has done something perfectly to give a compliment, you might find yourself waiting forever.

Accept that everyone’s different, and love those differences.

Encourage each child to develop and feel excited about particular interests. Help your child develop a sense of pride and confidence in her choices or activities.

Surprise your child with a reward for good behaviour. For example, ‘Thanks for picking up the toys – let’s go to the park to celebrate’ or ‘Thanks for helping me prepare dinner. You can choose what we have for dessert’.

Praise effort as well as achievement. Recognise and praise how hard your child is trying – for example, ‘You worked really hard on that essay’ or ‘Thank you for remembering to hang your coat on the peg’.

**HEAD LICE VIGILANCE**

We have a couple of classes under attack from dreaded head lice. Please, please constantly check and treat your child’s hair for these pests. After initial treatment, check daily using conditioner and a lice comb for at least a week. Up to-date information is available at the Qld Health website www.health.qld.gov.au/lice

**TEACH YOUR CHILD TO DIAL TRIPLE ZERO (000) & REMEMBER DETAILS**

The Queensland Ambulance Service is encouraging parents and caregivers to teach their children how to become potential lifesavers by practising calling Triple Zero (000) with a disconnected or toy phone, or by playing an online training game at http://www.ambulance.qld.gov.au/default.asp

When calling Triple Zero and requesting an ambulance, an emergency medical dispatcher will provide advice and dispatch medical help to your location. For this reason, it’s also important for families to familiarise themselves with their holiday surroundings by memorising holiday addresses and beach access codes, so they can relay the correct information to Triple Zero staff.

More information can be found at http://www.ambulance.qld.gov.au/default.asp

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**SPORTS CLUBS**

To Family and Friends,

Our Athletics Carnival is Friday 20th June where all students from Prep to 7 will participate in events including sprints, long jump, high jump and ball games. Please come and support students participating in the Athletics Carnival on Friday 20th June at Balacalava SS. The day will commence at 8:45am.

It is important to note that all students must be wearing enclosed shoes, if they are not wearing enclosed shoes they will not be able to participate on the day.

All students will be involved in activities until around 2pm, then we will have a presentation and clean up the school. The tuckshop will be open for everyone to purchase foods and drinks. This day is a great day for all families and friends to become involved in the school community. It will be a day of fun and games and we hope to see you all there.

Kate Movley (Physical Education Teacher)

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**School Photo Day**

NQ School Photography will be taking our school photographs next week; on Thursday 19th June.

Envelopes have been sent home and must be returned on photo day.

Each child must have his own envelope, payments can be made together but please mark clearly which envelope the money is in.

Sibling photos are also available and will be taken if ordered. Special envelopes and order forms will be made available at the school office.

We also have our order forms available online at nqsschoolphotography.com.au for parents who need extra copies.

Special Group photos e.g.: School Captains, Choir etc. can be ordered and are $12 each.

The class and portrait photo schedule starts at 8.30 am so please be sure not to miss out on having your photo taken! We’re looking forward to seeing all of those smiles.

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