Dear Parents and Caregivers,

ATTENDANCE
Congratulations Balaclava for the improved attendance rates last week. Special congratulations to the following classes achieving 90% or more with their attendance; Prep B, Prep/1, 2/3B, 3/4A, 4/5B and 5/6A. The challenge to the whole school is that this week we see all classes in the yellow and green, no red. If this is the case, Miss Belinda will run a special one off Zumba lunchtime class in the hall for all students to enjoy. Remember, EVERYDAY COUNTS.

NAPLAN
I have been informed that the individual student NAPLAN reports were mailed out this week. We will forward these home once they arrive. I have had an opportunity to review our school data and am very pleased with our Numeracy and Reading results. Writing is an area for improvement and as a school, we will review our current processes, investigate alternatives to develop and implement an enhanced writing program.

COLDS AND FLU
Although we want students to attend school everyday as this is important for their learning, we do not want sick students at school. If students are sick, being at home in bed is the best way for them to recover. The current strains are very strong and although most staff received flu vaccinations, we still have a number of absences due to illness.

Head Lice…. A notice to all parents and carers that headlice are on the radar again. Please be aware they may have made their way to your house. Nits love clean hair so no-one is immune! We ask all families to be proactive in this matter and take prompt action to keep the spread of lice to a minimum.

School Lunches….Children need food in their tummies in order to concentrate in class and have energy to play at recess. Please do not let your child go hungry! Balaclava SS has two lunch breaks - 10.20 am and 12.35 pm - so they require fruit, sandwiches, salad or last nights leftovers; as long as you have packed 2 meals each day or organised tuckshop for your child. Please be aware that peanut butter is not permitted due to allergies of classmates; we do not want to risk an allergic reaction.
STAFFROOM MAKEOVER
Help us win a $20,000 staffroom makeover! Thanks to QT Mutual Bank we have the chance to win a $20,000 staffroom makeover as part of their “Staffroom for Improvement” competition. The prize is a complete makeover of our school’s main staffroom. The winning school will be the one with the most votes weighted against the number of students, so any school, small or large has an equal chance to win. We need as much support from our local school community as possible. Even if we don’t take out top prize we have the chance to win a $10,000 as part of the People’s Choice award. Simply visit www.staffroomforimprovement.com.au to read the terms and conditions and register your interest today. The competition kicks off on 18th August so spread the word and get as many people as possible to vote for our school.

2014 PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE
The reading period for the Premier’s Reading Challenge closes on 5 September. Time to make sure your students are on track to meet the reading targets before the deadline. If you haven’t registered, it’s not too late.

PREP ENROLMENTS FOR 2015
We have a number of prep students enrolled for next year already. This is fantastic for this time of year. Of course we have room for plenty more! Do you have a younger sibling due to enrol into Prep for 2015? Children born between 1st July 2009 and 30th June 2010 are eligible to enrol this term for Prep here at Balalava State School. Birth certificates must be presented upon enrolment. Enquiries are most welcome on (07) 40815333

BREAKFAST READING
The breakfast reading program will continue this term with reading and breakfast available from 8 am until 8:30 each Monday and Thursday morning. Students who read 5 times will receive a McDonald’s voucher. We have approximately 15 – 20 students who turn up each day for this program.

More to follow...

Jane Termaat
Principal

SWPBS - School Wide Positive Behaviour Support
This week we revised: “How to enter and Exit the classroom and other learning areas”

- Walk quietly and calmly in line or own your own.
- Keep your body to yourself and respect others personal space.
- Wait your turn to enter or exit the classroom
- Ask the teacher for permission to leave the classroom.

I HAVE READ MY NEWSLETTER!
Would you like the chance to win a free tuckshop for your child? Simply complete the form below, and hand it into the office no later than next Friday morning. The winner will be announced on parade next term.

The family (name) __________________________ from year ________ has read the newsletter this week!

Parent signature: ____________________________________________________________________________

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Science with 3/4 A- Our Building Challenge
In our “exploring properties of Materials” science unit the students had a building challenge. They were required in teams to build a free-standing 1 m tall tower that would hold a standard dictionary for at least 30 seconds. They had a strict list of materials and instructions that they had to follow and such was the activity all members of the team were needed in order for their tower to be constructed. All students soon came to realise that most familiar materials are suited to a particular purpose. They really did prove that there are some future engineers in the class both boys and girls. Ask your child what materials were used and how they went.