Dear Parents and Caregivers,

2014 has flown by and it only seems like last month when I arrived at Balaclava SS as the new Principal. Thank you to all families, students and staff who have been welcoming and supportive, I have enjoyed my first year with you all. I am very excited with our planning for 2015 and believe that Balaclava SS will continue to be grow and improve as the school of choice for everyone in the area.

The year is rapidly coming to an end and what a year it has been. We have seen lots of changes to staff, and students at this school as families have relocated across the District. We have participated in discos, movie nights, a fete, Bravehearts, Bunnings kitchen gardens – 2 of them, swimming, cross country, sports day, leadership camps and year 6&7 camps. 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, Rotary speaking competitions, award night and many more events.

Our big focus this year was on Reading and all our students demonstrated a huge increase in their reading data. The focus on reading was largely due to support from our new Head of Curriculum, Tevi Schrell, Tanya, Dolly and Raeleigh 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 Michelle Peut, we will make sure that the best practices and resources are occurring in each classroom every day.

This year we continued our focus on attendance. As mentioned in every newsletter and on every parade – attendance is the key to success. If your child is not at school, then we can’t teach them. They miss out on valuable concepts which in turn will hinder their opportunities in the future. Our school average this year was a long way from the expected 95% with our students attending only 85%. Mondays and Fridays are our worst attending days.

Thank you all for your support in 2014. Special thanks must also go to the following people - to my fantastic and hardworking ladies in the office – Schrell, Tanya, Dolly and Raeleigh 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 on the limited budget we have, and last but not least, to all 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
BACK TO SCHOOL IN 2015

Parents and carers are reminded that the first day of school for all state school students is TUESDAY 27th January 2015. Information about public holidays, school holidays and Pupil Free days is available on www.qld.gov.au/holiday

AFTER SCHOOL CARE

On behalf of the Balaclava community I would like to extend a huge congratulations to Julie Jose for her successful application in her tender for the After School Care Facility here at Balaclava State School. It has been a nerve wracking couple of months for Julie as she worked hard to write an outstanding application, and then had to be patient until the process had been followed in Brisbane. Well done Julie!

KEEP A WATCH ON OUR SCHOOL THESE HOLIDAYS

With the holidays fast approaching, we need you to look out for after-hours crime in our school. If you see anything suspicious, please remember to call the School Watch number – 13 17 88. The School Watch Program is a partnership between Education Queensland, the Queensland Police Service and the State Government Protective Security Service. It aims to reduce vandalism, theft and arson in Queensland schools. If you do see something suspicious, please do not attempt to intervene. Call the School Watch number and let the local police or State Government Protective Security Service deal with the matter. Keep the number handy – it’s 13 17 88 – and let us work together to help create a safer school community. If you would like to know more about the School Watch Program, please call Education Queensland’s School Security Section on (07) 3237 0874 OR ring the Police Link 131 444

PRESENTATION NIGHT and CONCERT

Invitations and information has been sent home about our presentation evening and our school concert. Please come along to both these events to celebrate our students’ achievements, awards and class talents.

Expensive items

Just a reminder to all parents and students that expensive items such as mobile phone, iPads, watches and jewellery should be kept at home. Students are required to leave mobile phones at the office when they come to school and they can be collected at 2:30pm. If for some reason you need to contact your child this can be done on the general school number. The school takes no responsibility if these items are bought to school and they are lost.

Keep your new wheels this festive season!

Giving or receiving a shiny new bicycle this Christmas?

Don’t let your new set of wheels become the mode of transport for thieves. Police encourage bike owners to follow these security tips and ensure that bicycle particulars are immediately recorded.

SECURITY TIPS:

1. Never leave your bike unattended and unlocked (it only takes seconds to steal a bicycle)
2. Secure your bike with a quality lock to something solid (ensure the bike cannot be lifted off)
3. If it is easy to remove, take off your front wheel and secure it to the back wheel
4. Remove accessories from the bike eg: lights, helmets and pumps
5. Don’t forget to keep your bike locked and secure at home (A bicycle left in the driveway or open garage is far too tempting for opportunistic thieves.)

School Uniforms....

A call out for any unwanted uniforms to be donated to the office please! If your children are not returning to Balaclava SS in 2015 we ask could you donate your uniforms to the school for use by other students. Has your youngest child out-grown his or her school uniform? We ask you give these to the school for use in the sickbay when a change of clothes is needed, or used on school photo day so the entire class is dressed to impress! Your help would be appreciated. It is a shame to see these uniforms sitting in the bottom of the wardrobe, or used as smocks when we can put them to good use. Thanks again for your generosity and your help!
**SUICIDE PREVENTION IS EVERYONE’S BUSINESS**

Suicide is a serious issue, especially among young people. Teachers, parents and caregivers should always take indications of suicide seriously. Parents and caregivers are always welcome to discuss any concerns with our guidance officer or visit Headspace for advice and resources at [www.headspace.org.au](http://www.headspace.org.au) or [parents-and-children.org](http://parents-and-children.org).

**Children Learn Best When:**

You as the parent, model the behaviour and habits you want your child to have. Show your child that you enjoy learning. The love and experience of reading is a great example to give your child.

**ARE YOU LEAVING US?**

If you are transferring interstate and leaving Balalava State School at, or near, the end of the year please notify the office on (07) 4081 5333. This action assists us with class numbers and staffing for 2015. Thank you for your cooperation.

**BUILDING RESILIENCE**

Children and young people frequently are placed in situations that are not to their liking. They may have a teacher for a year that they do not enjoy; play in a sports team that always loses; or eat food they are not used to on school camp. Some children are adept at pestering their parents to rescue them or change a situation so that it suits them. This is okay when a child’s physical or psychological safety is at risk, or if long-term harm is imminent if no change is made. If not, then it is better for kid’s resilience that they learn to cope with these situations themselves. Kids, when left to their own devices usually develop their own coping mechanisms, and will usually adapt their thinking or their behaviour to deal with the situation. Help your child to adapt to tricky situations, rather than changing the situation to suit them. Flexibility rather than rigid thinking is needed here. This may cause some discomfort for both of you in the short term, but boost resilience for you both in the long term.

**REPORT CARDS GO HOME NEXT WEEK**

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 “satisfactory” 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 additional assistance and support outside of 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.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

- **Trinity Bay High School – Student Orientation Day** Year 10 and 11 December 10th
- **Cairns State High School – Student Orientation Day** Year 10 and 11 December 10th
- **Trinity Bay High School – Student Orientation Day** Year 9 December 9th
- **Cairns State High School – Student Orientation Day** Year 9 December 9th
- **Presentation night** Monday, December 8th
- **School concert** December 11th
- **Last Day of term** December 12th

**SUGAR BISCUITS**

**Ingredients:**

- 1/2 cup unsalted butter
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 large egg yolk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 1/2 cups flour
- 1/8 teaspoon salt

**Cooking Instructions:** Heat oven to 350 degrees F. In large bowl beat butter with an electric mixer on medium until smooth. Add sugar. Beat until combined, scraping side of bowl occasionally. Beat in egg yolk until combined. Add vanilla. Beat until combined.

Add flour and salt. Beat until combined, scraping down side of bowl occasionally. Between two sheets of waxed paper or plastic wrap with a rolling pin roll the dough to 1/8-inch thickness. Cut out shapes. Reroll and use scraps until all dough is used.

Bake 15 to 20 minutes, depending on the size of the cookies, or until lightly browned. Remove from oven and cool on cookie sheet 5 minutes. Remove to cooling rack to cool completely. Decorate as desired.

**Make-Ahead** These cookies can be made through step 3, wrapped well, and refrigerated up to 1 week, or frozen up to 6 months.

**CHRISTMAS CROSS WORD**

**Across**

1. A sock filled with goodies on Christmas day. (8)
2. Circular decoration often hung on doors (6)
3. A red and white treat (5,4)
4. Merry! (9)
5. A gift (7)
6. The sound bells make. (6)
7. Brings presents to good boys and girls. (5,5)
8. Ice crystals (4)
9. These are made of wax and have wicks. (7)
10. A vehicle mounted on runners and pulled by horses or dogs; for transportation over snow. (6)

**Down**

1. 2 Ice crystals (4)
2. 6 The sound bells make. (6)
3. 7 Brings presents to good boys and girls. (5,5)
4. 9 These are made of wax and have wicks. (7)
5. 8 Ice crystals (4)
6. 10 A vehicle mounted on runners and pulled by horses or dogs; for transportation over snow. (6)
MESSAGE FROM OUR ADOPT-A-COP ON BICYCLE SECURITY

Police are encouraging bike owners to follow these security tips and ensure that bicycle particulars are immediately recorded upon purchase. Free bicycle ID forms are available from your local police beat or police station or email a request to DCPCairns@police.qld.gov.au.

- never leave your bike unattended and unlocked
- secure your bike with a quality lock to something solid
- If it’s easy, remove front wheel and secure it to the rear wheel
- Remove accessories from your bike e.g. lights, helmets and pumps
- Keep your bike locked and secure at home too

In the unfortunate event that your bike is lost or stolen REPORT IT TO THE POLICE – 131 444. Police recover stolen bicycles on a regular basis. If you’ve completed your bicycle ID form that information can assist in the recovery of your bike.

Balaclava After School Care…..Holiday Program

Vacation Care enrolments are now open.

We have exciting excursions that have been planned by the children for the children.

The children have us going to Sugarworld, Go karts, Laser tag, Christmas shopping, Swimming, Geckos, Funny Farm, Christmas disco, Skating, Fishing, Jelly pool, Movies, Bowling, Zoom, Skate park and so much more...

Please contact Julie on 40545911 or mobile 0408 741 867

Returning to Balaclava in 2015?

If your child/ren are returning to Balaclava State School next year we need to know in advance for planning purposes. Recently an important notice went home with students with the heading ‘2015 Enrolments’ which is printed on cream coloured paper. Please fill out this notice and return it to the office or classroom teacher at your earliest convenience. Copies can be obtained from the office if you need a replacement. Thank you for your prompt response. Hope to see you again next year.

GENERAL NOTICES

CAROLS AT YORKEY'S KNOB
Where: Community Centre Parklands Wattle Street Yorkeys Knob
When: Sunday 7th December 5pm – 8:15pm
Cost: gold coin donation
What: Bands Choirs and dancers, food and drink available, candles and programs for sale. Face painting for the kids and a visit from Santa.
Contact: Maurice 0429 815 533

CAIRNS BASKETBALL HOLIDAY CAMPS
All age groups catered for with many opportunities to join in.
For information regarding specific age groups and dates please contact Nic at community@taipans.com to receive a detailed brochure / registration form.

CAIRNS REGIONAL GALLERY SCHOOL HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS
Who: ages 2-16yrs
When: Mon 15th to Fri 19th Dec 2014 and Mon 12th to Friday 16th Jan 2015
Cost: $14 to $35. What: Christmas wreaths, junk sculpture, T-shirt printing, origami, landscapes, camp dog sculpture workshops.
Contact: Carley on 4046 4888 or programs@cairnsregionalgallery.com.au

FREE COMMUNITY DAYS
Where: Cairns Regional Gallery, Cnr Shield and Abbott Sts.
When: Sat Dec 6th, 10am - 1pm
What: Free kids activities based on ‘Big Boys Toys’ an exhibition that includes full size racing cars and bikes.
When: Fri 16th Jan to Wed 21st Jan
What: Free kids activities with artists Alfredo Juan Aquilizan & Isabel Gaudinez-Aquilizan from the Philippines.
Contact: Carley on 4046 4888 or programs@cairnsregionalgallery.com.au

FRESHWATER SCAUT LEADERS NEEDED
Are you a volunteer who is interested in furthering & strengthening your leadership skills & implementing new ideas within our community? Scouting experience not necessary just enthusiasm & a commitment to help develop our youth in a positive way. Leaders needed in all sections Joys 6-8yrs, Cubs 7 ½ - 11, Scouts 10 ½ - 15
Full training provided, Contact Dermott on 0411 989 604

TYC SUMMER DRAMA SCHOOL PROGRAMS
This Summer School Holidays spin along to TYC for their 4-Day Drama Performance Programs. Special guests artists Hayley Gillespie, Kersha Mclean and Amelia Purgum. Contact: 4041 4866, email info@theyoungcompany.com.au visit our website www.theyoungcompany.com.au or 169 Bunda St, Cairns

POPPERS – Ages 6-9yrs
What: Relationships Aus host a 5wk children’s group for kids experiencing parental separation
When: Commences Tues 17th Feb to Tues 24th March 2015 from 9:30-10:50am
Where: Freshwater State School
Cost: Free
To register leave your name & number at the school office

POPSTARS – Ages 10-13yrs
What: Relationships Aus host a 6wk children’s group for kids experiencing parental separation
When: Commences Tues 17th Feb to Tues 24th March 2015 from 9:30-10:50am
Where: Freshwater State School
Cost: Free
To register leave your name & number at the school office

CAIRNS YOUTH ORCHESTRA & CAIRNS CHAMBER ENSEMBLE AUDITIONS
Where: Trinity Bay High Music Block
When: Sunday 30th November 9am to 12 noon.
Vacancies for all orchestral instruments especially flutes & clarinets. Auditions in order of arrival at Registration Desk. Audition Fee $5 per player.
Contact: Musical Director Margery Duffy OAM 4053 2630 or email kandmduffy@westnet.com.au

CAROLS AT YORKEY’S KNOB
Where: Community Centre Parklands Wattle Street Yorkeys Knob
When: Sunday 7th December 5pm – 8:15pm
Cost: gold coin donation
What: Bands Choirs and dancers, food and drink available, candles and programs for sale. Face painting for the kids and a visit from Santa.
Contact: Maurice 0429 815 533

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!