Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back everyone! A warm welcome to all of our new families, returning families and friends who have chosen our great little school for their child/ren. Whilst we had lots of sadness surrounding the holidays I hope that you were still able to make the most of the break.

We have an exciting year planned ahead and we are looking forward to achieving the goals we have set for your children, the curriculum and the school. I look forward to your continued support throughout the year and hope we can work together to ensure Balaclava State School continues to do the best for your child/ren.

Each year Balaclava State School undergoes some staff changes and this year is no exception. A special welcome to all our new teachers and staff who are excited and ready to be teaching your child/ren.

On the 3 Pupil Free Days last week the staff participated in professional development, planning and structural organisation including explicit teaching, curriculum planning, behaviour and attendance systems, updates on policies around child safety and code of conduct as well as much more.

Kind Regards
Jane Termaat

STAFFING UPDATE 2015

Please be aware that while we have organised all our students into classes, these classes may change after day 8. After “Day 8” next Thursday - our new enrolment count is sent to Education Queensland staffing officers. From this our final allocation of teachers, and therefore class combinations will be confirmed. Some changes may then need to be made.

We thank you for your co-operation and understanding that some of these matters are beyond our direct control.

At present our student enrolments are at?????. We need 325 students for us to attain the additional fraction.

Thank you once again to all the families who have chosen our school as their preferred learning place for their child/ren. If you know of anyone in the community who has not yet enrolled their child/ren into a school please encourage them to join Balaclava State School.

HEALTHY CHOICES

Since 2007 it has been mandatory for all State Schools to supply and promote healthy food and drinks not only in the tuckshop, but also fundraising ventures and classroom rewards. Parents are encouraged to support the health and wellbeing of their children by providing them with a nutritious breakfast and healthy lunchbox food and drinks.

Quote of the Week...

“The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you.”
B.B. King
HEALTHY CHOICES Cont...
We are hoping to reduce the amount of litter that lunches produce, by asking parents to consider putting lunches in reusable containers rather than providing food to their children with multiple plastic wrappings.

Not only does this reduce litter but as a Reef Guardian school it also ensures that the smaller bits of plastic do not make their way into our drains, and therefore, into the sea. Thank you for helping us to maintain our environmental awareness.

TUCKSHOP
To make things easier and less time-consuming for teachers we are requesting that parents provide tuckshop orders and money in an envelope with the child’s name and order printed clearly on the front. Please provide correct change for all lunch orders. Any parents who would like to offer some time to help in the tuckshop should contact the office. Your assistance, even if only once a month, will be greatly appreciated.

CLASSROOM TEACHERS
Our teachers often arrive early in the morning to do preparation, planning and setting up for the day before the students enter the room. This means that classroom doors may be closed to parents and students until 8:15am. Once the students enter the room things can become a little hectic with homework folders, tuckshop orders, note collections, the sharing of news about birthdays and other family events and so on. We encourage parents to maintain regular communication with teachers, however, sometimes it is more appropriate to make an appointment particularly when discussions require confidentiality or time, so that the topic is valued. Appointment times can be negotiated with your child’s teacher prior to 8:15 am if required.

STAFF MEETINGS
Our staff meetings are usually scheduled on Tuesday at 3:00pm. Please do not request interviews or appointments with your child’s teacher on these days.

ASSEMBLY
School assembly will be held on Tuesday mornings at 8:45 am. Parents are always welcome to attend. Newsletters will be going out on a Wednesday this year.

BELLS Cont...
Students need to be ready for learning, notes returned to the class teacher or office, shoes on feet and a positive attitude. We appreciate parental support with these requirements as late arrivals cause interruptions to both the class teacher and the students who are able to be organised.

LATE ARRIVALS
Any students who arrive after 9:30 am will need to report to the office for a late note before going to class. Parents, we would appreciate your support in ensuring that your children are ready for the commencement of class at 8:30 am.

REGISTERS
We have a number of registers in the school which we are required to keep for our accountability and audit purposes.
♦ Parents must sign their children out at the office if they are to absent during school hours.
♦ Volunteer registers are located in the classrooms for parents who help in the rooms with reading and other activities.

ABSENTEEISM
If your child is away please contact the office by phone (4081 5333). You may send a text message to the Principal’s phone if this is an easier option – 0407740108 – or simply email the school – the.principal@balaclavss.eq.edu.au. Absentee information is required for legal and audit purposes. By law we are required to contact any family whose child is absent for three days running without an explanation. After 10 days we are obligated to report lengthy absenteeism to authorities. Please understand that this is required in all State schools.

ATTENDANCE
As we commence the start of a new year, parents are reminded of the importance of sending children to school on every school day unless there is a reasonable excuse for the student to be away, such as illness. Research shows that students who have a good attendance record are more likely to achieve high results. Going shopping, visiting family, staying up late, being tired or extending school holidays are not acceptable reasons to be away from school. Visit the Department of Education and Training website for more information: www.education.qld.gov.au/everydaycounts
Our school attendance target for each student is 95%. Last year our attendance was only at 85%. I know we can do better this year.

PERSONAL INFORMATION
If you have changed addresses, phone numbers, (including mobiles) or any other personal details please contact the office as soon as possible so we can update your records. Emergency contact phone numbers may also need to be updated. It is important that we are able to contact you if an emergency arises. It is very distressing for a sick or injured child if we are unable to contact a carer. Please also advise, in writing, of any changes to your family’s access, custody, and caring arrangements.

SCHOOL TERMS 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Length</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term 1</td>
<td>Tuesday 27 January - Thursday 2 April</td>
<td>10 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 2</td>
<td>Monday 20 April - Friday 26 June</td>
<td>10 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 3</td>
<td>Monday 13 July - Friday 18 September</td>
<td>10 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 4</td>
<td>Tuesday 6 October - Friday 11 December</td>
<td>10 weeks</td>
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SCHOOL WIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT PROGRAM. (SWPBS)
The introduction of our School Wide Positive Behaviour Support Program in 2008 resulted in improved behaviour across the whole school. Students responded well and tried very hard to get as many “Positive” cards as they could. Staff on playground duty issue students with cards which acknowledge all behaviours. Students aim towards receiving certificates and suitable prizes to support their efforts with our 3 R’s – Respect, Responsibility, and Relationships.

This year we will also be continuing with our “Focus Skill” program. This program supports our SWPBS (School Wide Positive Behaviour Support) with “focused” lessons around the concepts and rules. Each fortnight a new value is taught. Please support this program by discussing these concepts with your child/ren when appropriate.

END OF DAY
The school day officially finishes at 2:30pm. Students should not loiter in the grounds but make their way home by bus, car, bike or foot. We understand that parents may be running late on occasion,

END OF DAY Cont...
However, as there is no teacher supervision after 2:45 pm we ask that parents collect their children on time. We thank you for your cooperation. Please contact the office if you know you are running late so we can organise supervision for your child. This reduces stress for your child and ensures they are safe. 

Parents who do wish for their child/ren to play on the playground after school are requested to supervise their child/ren.

DRESS CODE
A copy of the school dress code is available from the office. Students are expected to wear a school uniform, including closed shoes, sandals or joggers (thongs are not appropriate) and a broad-brimmed hat. Jewellery is to be kept a minimum – studs and sleepers for pierced ears, a watch, and medic–alert bracelets are acceptable. Dyed hair, especially in bright colours is also not appropriate or acceptable at this school and the wearing of nail polish is discouraged. The school appreciates your support with these matters.

HATS
Our Sun Smart policy stipulates bucket or broad-brimmed hats. Caps are NOT acceptable. Students who do not have appropriate hat wear will not be permitted to play. Hats are available from the tuckshop for $10. It is highly recommended that your child’s name is inscribed on their hat!

PARENTS REMINDED ABOUT ROAD SAFETY
With children returning to school after the Christmas holidays, and the next intake of Prep students commencing their schooling, it is extremely important for drivers to stay alert and obey road rules, especially in school zones. Police are reminding drivers about the 40km/h 'school zone' speed limits.

SCHOOL NOTICES

Community Breakfast
Tuesday 3rd February 2015
School Hall
8 AM
Gold Coin Donation

Come and meet our new teachers, followed by parade at 8:45 am.

See you there!!!
Good Start Program
The Good Start Program is a Queensland Health initiative which aims to improve the health and wellbeing of Pacific Islander and Maori children and their families.

The program focuses on working with communities to help build skills, knowledge and confidence to eat healthy and lead a healthy lifestyle to give Pacific Islander and Maori children a good start on the road to a healthy future.

**Starts Monday 2nd February 2015**

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**PREP 2015**

Welcome Prep students 2015!!!

A very warm welcome to our new Prep students for 2015. We look forward to seeing you around our school.

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**Prep B**

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**Prep A**
CHANGED YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION?
(Please use block letters, and return to school office)

DATE: ____________________________

CHILD’S NAME ____________________________

PARENT/CARER NAME/S ____________________________

HOME ADDRESS
___________________________________________________ ____________________________________________

HOME PHONE ______________________________________

MOBILE (HOME) ________________________________

MOBILE (WORK) ________________________________

WORK PHONE /S (MOTHER) __________________________

(FATHER) ________________________________

EMERGENCY CONTACTS:

NAME ____________________________

RELATIONSHIP: ____________________________

PH: _______________________________________

NAME ____________________________

RELATIONSHIP: ____________________________

PH: _______________________________________

SIGNATURE _________________________ PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME HERE

WHY NOT RECEIVE A NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL?

That way you can be sure to receive it each week, it saves on the use of lots of paper, it won’t get lost in the bottom of your child’s school bag and you will stay in the loop with what is happening in your child’s school

I would love to receive the newsletter by email. My

child’s name is ____________________________

He/she is in year ____________________________

My name is ____________________________

and my email is ____________________________
**January**
- 27th: First day of term 1
- 30th: Day 4 - enrolment count
- 31st: State Election and Student Council

**February**
- 2nd: Good Start Program begins
- 3rd: Community Breakfast
- 5th: Day 8 - enrolment count
- 17th: P&C Meeting

**March**
- 11th: Bravehearts
- 17th: P&C Meeting
- 25th - 31st: Life Education Van Visit

**April**
- 2nd: Last day of term 1
- 3rd: Good Friday
- 6th: Easter Monday
- 20th: First day of term 2
- 24th: Community Breakfast
- 25th: Saturday - ANZAC Day