Dear Parents and Caregivers,

The first week of the term has gone by very smoothly, with children very settled and eager to get into all their new units of work. I am very impressed with how well our Prep students have adapted to “School life” and routines. They have also shown how ready they are for learning with writing sentences, reading their sight words and demonstrating how caring they are towards each other. I am very impressed with all of them.

Thursday is Day 8 and our completed enrolment numbers will be entered into the database for Central Office in Brisbane, by 12 noon. Schools are staffed according to our numbers and Central Office calculates this by assuming each class will have maximum students per class i.e. 25 students in years Prep to 3, and 28 per class for years 4 to 6. Our final class combinations will be confirmed next week. At this stage we may have to adjust our classes as we have less children than we initially anticipated. It is not too late to enrol children who can be counted in our figures. If you know of anyone who has not enrolled into a school yet please encourage them to join our school.

Our work at Balaclava State School this year will expand on the identified improvement agenda for the school from previous years. This year, we will be working vigorously towards embedding explicit teaching into all lessons across all year levels, refining our student outcome expectations, measuring our progress towards these and developing consistent approaches to all aspects of school life.

We hope you will join with us in this exciting journey as we strive to provide the best possible learning experiences for your children.

Let’s all work together to do the best for each and every student at this school.

Kind Regards
Jane Termaat

ATTENDANCE

Term 1 – Wk 1 Average 91%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Days Away</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep A</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>97</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prep B</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep/1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>96</td>
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<tr>
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<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 3/4B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 3/4C</td>
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<td>Year 5/6A</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5/6B</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5/6C</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
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We have made a great start to the year with our attendance, lets keep it up Balaclava!
SCHOOL WIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT

This year we are looking forward to continuing our journey with School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS), which is the framework we employ to ensure a safe and nurturing environment for our students, staff and parents. We have three school rules – **Respect, Responsibility and Relationships** (The 3 R’s). Each fortnight we explicitly teach our expectations for behaviour in various contexts through role-plays, discussion and practice, and students are recognised and positively reinforced when they demonstrate the appropriate behaviour. This fortnightly behaviour focus is always shared with parents and community members at parade and through the school newsletter, as the link between families and SWPBS is an important one. When families are meaningfully involved in educational activities, their children do better in school.

BEFORE SCHOOL ROUTINE

To align with the 3 R’s, please encourage your child to follow the before school routine if they arrive at school before 8:00am:
1. Wait in the Under Cover Area. Parents are welcome to wait with their child if they wish.
2. Sit down.
3. Talk quietly with friends.
4. When the bell rings at 8:00am, walk to your classroom (or if it is Monday or Friday, come to breakfast reading)

**Have a great week!**

**Michael Patane, Deputy Principal**

IMPROVEMENT AGENDA ITEMS

Each year we develop our Annual Improvement Plan (AIP) which reflects the targets and benchmarks set by the FNQ region. While the whole AIP will soon be published on our website I thought I’d share 2 of our targets with you.

**Attendance** – 95% or greater attendance for every child. Attendance also includes students arriving on time for school each day.

**Reading benchmarks** –
- Preps – level 9 by the end of the year
- Year 1 – level 17 by the end of the year
- Year 2 – level 25 by the end of the year
- Year 3 and up – level 30+

*If your child attends school every day, and you read with your child every night, these targets can easily be achieved.*

BREAKFAST READING

Our breakfast reading commenced this week, next week on Monday and Friday at 8am. All students are welcome to attend and Parents are more than welcome to read with their children during this time. The cost of breakfast is “reading a book”. Student who read 5 times are rewarded with a McDonald’s voucher which can be used for a Calcium drink and a chicken wrap.

PARADE/P&C MEETINGS

All new parents are welcome to join us at assembly every Tuesday morning at 8:45 as well as P&C meetings which are held on the third Tuesday of every month. The first meeting will be held on the 17th of February in the school administration block.

SLOW DOWN AROUND OUR SCHOOL

With our students returning to classes, parents and carers are being urged to slow down in school zones. Most school areas have 40km/hr speed limits in place. Parents can set an example to other drivers by observing these limits when dropping off and collecting the kids from school. Being cautious and slowing down in school zones doesn’t make a big difference to your trip time, but it could save a child’s life. Parents should also take the time to teach their children about road safety and the safest ways to travel to and from school. Some basic tips:
- ensure your child knows the safest route to and from school
- teach your child to always walk on footpaths
- make sure your child crosses at pedestrian crossings or supervised school crossings and ensure they know the safe times to cross
- accompany young children when they are walking or riding to school until they are old enough to understand road safety
- teach your child to be alert for cars going in or out of driveways
- discourage your child from playing with balls or toys while walking to school.

REMINDER - 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...
REMINDER - PERSONAL INFORMATION

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.

REMINDER - 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 school office for $10. It is highly recommended that your child’s name is inscribed on their hat!

LIFE EDUCATION

In 2015 the Department of Education, Training & Employment has re-established the Life Education Program. At Balaclava State School we will access this program in Weeks 9 and 10. There will be a parent information session on Wednesday 25th March at 2:00pm in the Life Education van for anyone interested. The cost for Life Education will only be $2 per child. More information about this will go out in the coming weeks.

HOW YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILD WITH WRITING

Everyday tasks such as making a shopping list can help improve your child’s writing skills. Our school encourages all parents to help their children with their writing at home. Here are a few ideas to get you started:

• ask your child to make a greeting card for a special occasion
• talk about the different ways we use writing (making lists, writing messages or notes)
• make personalised scrap books with your child – glue a photo or picture your child chooses onto a page and ask them to write words or sentences about the picture
• create a special place for your child to write. Providing writing materials, such as an easel or blackboard with scrap paper and pencils, makes a great environment to experiment with writing
• set up some plastic letter tiles or magnets for your child to play with or a keyboard to spell out or type words.
• For more information and ideas on how you can support your child’s writing visit www.education.qld.gov.au/parents/map/

FROM THE GUIDANCE OFFICERS

This year Balaclava State School will have two Guidance Officers working with students and families who need support. Linda Ballantyne and Susan Langbien.

Guidance Officers provide guidance, counselling and support services to students so that they can achieve their potential in the most appropriate educational setting. This involves working collaboratively with the school, families and community agencies.

We can assist with formal assessments, referrals to other agencies for appropriate support for children and their families as well as providing information about education, behaviour, resilience, and other issues that may arise around these areas of interest to children and their families.

We normally request written parent/carer permission prior to completing any formal assessments and as a matter of courtesy, we like to involve parents/carers with all matters involving the Guidance Officer. Confidentiality is maintained and highly respected, except when a student is in danger of harm from themselves or others or a danger to others. This is normally explained to students in the first session with the Guidance Officer.

If you have any concerns regarding your child, please speak with your child’s class teacher first. After consideration, the teacher or Principal may suggest that a referral needs to be made to the Guidance Officer, either directly if urgent or through the Student Support Committee. Cases are discussed in this forum and prioritised so that the most urgent issues are dealt with first. Parents will be informed of how the process is progressing and what needs to happen in relation to the student, their well-being and their learning.

Kind regards,

Linda Ballantyne and Susan Langbien

SCHOOL TERMS 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Length</th>
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<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>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
It was smiles all around as the Balaclava community came together again to meet up with our new families and reconnect with familiar faces. We would like to take the opportunity to give a big thank you to our community for supporting us.

!!STUDENTS OF THE WEEK!!

Congratulations to our students of the week! Keep up the great work!!

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

COMMUNITY NOTICES

THE YOUNG COMPANY THEATRE
What: Learn the essentials of stage performance
Contact: 4041 4066 or www.theyoungcompany.com.au

GET INTO HOCKEY
When: Friday 20th February
Time: 5.30pm - 7.30pm Hook in2 Hockey
6.00pm - 7.30pm Registration for all junior players
Where: Cairns Hockey Centre Rutherford Street North Cairns
Cost: $40 per participant for Hook in2 Hockey (Come & Try)
You will need to register before the day. To register and for more information visit www.cairnshockey.com.au

GIRL GUIDES
Who: Girls between the age of 5 and 17 (Adult members also welcome)
Contact: Melanie Portelli on 0416 041 510
Or email melpor26@gmail.com

WELL WOMEN’S CLINICS
(These clinics are available to Medicare eligible clients)
Service includes Pap Smears, Sexual Health Screening, Breast Awareness, also info on Contraception, Menopause, Lifestyle Issues, Bowel Health, Domestic Violence, etc. All services are provided by a specially trained Women’s Health Nurse. James Cook University (JCU) Tuesday 10th February Ph: 4226 4812 Smithfield Community Health Wednesday 11th February Ph: 4226 4800

GET IN THE GAME
What: Get Started is one of three funding programs that comprise the Queensland Government’s Get in the Game initiative to support sport and recreation at the grassroots level. Get Started assists children and young people who can least afford, or may otherwise benefit from, joining a sport or recreation club.
Contact: For further information about Get Started and to create a QGrants account and apply for a voucher, visit our website at www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/getinthegame.

CAIRNS YOUTH ORCHESTRA
Accepting new enrolments in ALL orchestral instruments at ALL levels for the Friday afternoon/evening weekly rehearsals commencing Friday 30th January. The Cairns Youth Orchestra is particularly seeking flute, clarinet and percussion players. Contact Mrs. M. Duffy the CYO Musical Director 4053 2630 or email kandmduffy@westnet.com.au

CAIRNS REGIONAL GALLERY
Tiny Tacker Tuesdays for ages 2-5, 10 - 10.45am with artist Louisa Ennis-Thomas. Discover your Gallery and make real artworks from varied fun materials. $70 for 6 weeks or $60 for members or $12 per class if booked in advance.
Contact: www.cairnsregionalgallery.com.au

AFTER SCHOOL CARE
For all our new and existing families we would like to inform you that we have limited vacancies for children to enrol at our after school care. We can have your child in full time after school care for as little as $22.40 per week. This includes all afternoon tea and at home activities. For families who would like to have per day this can be as little as $5.06. Limited Vacancies. For additional information please contact Julie on 40545911 or mobile 0408 741 867
# Date Claimers

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

## March
- **11th** Bravehearts Visit
- **17th** P&C Meeting
- **25th** Life Education Van Visit & Parent Info Session 2pm
- **26th** Life Education Van Visit
- **27th** Life Education Van Visit
- **30th** Life Education Van Visit
- **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

## May
- **NAPLAN - National Testing for year 3, 5 & 7**
- **12th** Language conventions and Writing tests
- **13th** Reading
- **14th** Numeracy
- **19th** P&C Meeting