Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Last week I attended the Queensland State-wide Principal Conference in Brisbane with 1239 other Principals. The Key message of “United in the Pursuit of Excellence” was once more the key focus. Two key frameworks were also released. One of these was the “Community and Parent Engagement in Education” Framework. More information will go out about this in the coming weeks.

OUR REGIONAL FOCUS FOR 2015
In all schools in the FNQ Region in 2015 school improvement planning and work will focus on:
1. Improving teaching:
   - Explicit teaching practices in all classrooms
   - The teaching of reading, writing and numeracy
   - Teachers refining and embedding the C2C curriculum and foundational learning programs
   - Leaders coaching and supervising teachers.

2. Refining and embedding data based decision making:
   - Using data to set school benchmarks, targets and short term individual student goals
   - Measuring and monitoring school and student improvement.

3. Implementing SLT models and tools at all leadership levels:

4. Connecting parents and caregivers with their children’s learning.

WHAT TEACHERS WANT YOU TO KNOW

Don’t be a stranger!
Talk to your child’s teacher early and when you feel the need. Parent/Teacher conferences shouldn’t be the only time you connect.

Let your child make mistakes
Teachers don’t want perfect students; they want students who try hard. Sometimes parents think every assignment has to be done exactly right, and they can put too much pressure on their children. But it’s OK for children to get some problems wrong. It’s important for teachers to see what students don’t know, so they can go over the material again. Is your child struggling with an assignment? Encourage your child to take charge by asking the teacher for help the next day. Assignments are often clearly not the work of a child. What matters isn’t the final result; it’s letting a child have ownership of the project and learn along the way.

Stay involved
Give support and be your child’s cheerleader no matter how well (or poorly) you did in a certain subject. We don’t expect you to be an expert on every subject. Just knowing their parent is paying attention can be very motivating for a student.

Teachers are on your side – give them the benefit of the doubt. Some parents go into attack mode when their child complains about a teacher or they take the problem to the principal, so the teacher feels blindsided.

Quote of the Week
“A great school has a great school down the road.”

Great state. Great opportunity.
PRINCIPAL’S PEN CONT...

This is where a good relationship helps, as a quick text can usually sort things out before it all escalates.

Keep your child organised
Most teachers have to spend far too much time tracking down forms sent home for a parent’s signature. It’s a good idea to have your children empty their backpacks every day as part of a regular after-school routine. Set up a special place, such as a box in the kitchen, where they can put the day’s papers, or a brightly coloured folder for signed papers. Also, try to keep plenty of supplies on hand so children don’t go to school for days without the proper gear – before they get round to telling you.

If the teacher deserves a good grade, give one
Teaching isn’t easy so it’s incredibly uplifting when someone takes the time to say thank you. Why not email when your child enjoys a class event? And if you feel the teacher is doing a good job, let the principal know. Volunteering is another way to demonstrate your support. It shows your children and the teachers that you really care about their education.

Acknowledgement - “What Teachers Wish You Knew. Parents, pull up a chair: Here’s how to help your kids do their very best at school” by Lisa Collier Cool

Kind Regards
Jane Termaat

AWESOME ATTENDANCE

<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep B</td>
<td>11.5</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep/1</td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1A</td>
<td>16.5</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1/2A</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2A</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2/3A</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3/4A</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3/4B</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4/5A</td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5/6A</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5/6B</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5 Weeks covered in GREEN Balaclava, YOU are fantastic! Don’t forget green is my favourite colour and this week I’ll be wearing green everyday to remind you. Check out your daily graph to see which days have the most absences. Is Monday the day when most people are away in your class? Why do you think this is? Remember I’m still waiting for the first class to hit 100% and have every class member at school for a whole week. Is it going to be your class? (there’s a special prize for the whole class). Don’t forget the end of term reward for students who have 95% attendance or more……. it’s a super special reward, but it’s only for students who have 95% attendance for the term. Icy poles this week for Prep A, 1/2A, 2A, 3/4A and 5/6A. WELL DONE. ○ From Ms Roome

great attendance = great results

WHY NOT PLAY A ROLE IN YOUR P&C THIS YEAR?
The Annual General Meeting for the P&C Association is to be held in the Training Room next to the school office at 5 pm on the 17th March. At the AGM all existing memberships lapse and all P&C positions become vacant.

All parents and guardians of children at the school are encouraged to join the P&C so they may be informed of matters affecting their children’s school experience and to have a say in P&C activities. Membership applications submitted prior to the AGM can be accepted on that night, even if the applicant is not in attendance. Membership applications made after that date will require attendance at a monthly general meeting. The membership forms are available at the school office. For those willing to take a more active role in the P&C, nominations for executive or other positions are keenly sought and extremely welcome.

ROLE OF THE PRESIDENT
• Chair the monthly P&C meetings
• Signatory for official agreements/Representative at official functions
• Outside School Hours Care Licensee
• Oversee the activities of the P&C
• Assist and encourage other executive members to fulfil their roles according to the guidelines

ROLE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT(S)
• Act as the President’s understudy
• Take responsibility for activities and/or projects within the school and report back on these to the monthly meetings

ROLE OF THE SECRETARY
• Oversee maintenance of records and registers, correspondence and other documents
• Assist with preparation of agenda and minutes for monthly meetings (this role is greatly assisted by the P&C Administration Officer)

ROLE OF THE TREASURER
• Oversee financial management of the P&C and Subcommittee accounts
• Report the financial situation of all accounts to the monthly meeting
• Ensure that the P&C complies with the Accounting Manual for P&C Associations (this role is greatly assisted by the P&C Admin Officer)

The injection of new ideas and enthusiasm is essential to keep the P&C moving forward in its goal to support the best possible education of our children. It is an opportunity to make a real and lasting contribution. If you would like to nominate for a position, just complete and drop a note to the office with the following information: Name, Nominated position(s) and Phone Number.
**ATTENDANCE**

**WHY EVERYDAY AT SCHOOL COUNTS!**

Did you know your child’s best learning time is the start of the school day? That’s when every minute counts the most!!! The First bell goes at 8:25am!! All students are to ready for learning at 8:30am!

Just a little bit late doesn’t seem much but……..

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>He/ She is only missing for</th>
<th>That equals...</th>
<th>Which is...</th>
<th>and over 13 years of schooling that’s...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 minutes per day</td>
<td>50 minutes per week</td>
<td>Nearly 1.5 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly <strong>Half a year</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 minutes per day</td>
<td>1 hour 40 mins per week</td>
<td>Over 2.5 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly <strong>1 year</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half an hour per day</td>
<td>Half a day per week</td>
<td>4 Weeks per Year</td>
<td>Nearly <strong>1 and a Half years</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 hour per day</td>
<td>1 day per week</td>
<td>8 Weeks per year</td>
<td>Over <strong>2 and a Half years</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 or 2 days a week doesn’t seem much but……..

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If your child misses...</th>
<th>That equals...</th>
<th>Which is...</th>
<th>and over 13 years of schooling that’s...</th>
<th>Which means the best your child might perform is...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 day per fortnight</td>
<td>20 Days per year</td>
<td>4 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly <strong>1.5 years</strong> Equal to finishing in grade 11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 day per week</td>
<td>40 Days per year</td>
<td>8 weeks per year</td>
<td>Over <strong>2.5 years</strong> Equal to finishing in grade 10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 days per week</td>
<td>80 Days per year</td>
<td>16 weeks per year</td>
<td>Over <strong>5 years</strong> Equal to finishing in grade 7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 days per week</td>
<td>120 Days per year</td>
<td>24 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly <strong>8 years</strong> Equal to finishing at grade 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**LUNCH**

Please ensure that your child has a healthy lunch every day. A large number of students are coming to school without food. Students need to have eaten breakfast in the morning, have lunch and a snack for the afternoon break. Without food your child cannot do his/her best at school.

**TUCKSHOP NOTICE**

Please do not ask for credit as refusal often offends.

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**School Leaders Induction Ceremony**

**Congratulation to our school leaders** (listed below in no particular order).

Tech Crew: Hiva Evans, James Gregory, Emmett Warner

Sports Captains & Vice Captains: Jeff Daniels, Brandon McMurtrie, Justin Pilot, Genevieve Fidow, Molly McKendry, Nevis Esrom, Hamish Parker, Papa Halistrama-Viniki, Jemma Saville, Michelle Abai, Martina Lee Long, Neva Pange.

**School Captains:** Brandon McMurtrie, Varni Nona, Molly McKendry, Kelli Baker.
BULLEYING NO WAY

A reminder to all parents and students that at Balclava we have a no tolerance policy on physical abuse or bullying. Students breaching this policy run the risk of being suspended as well missing out on extra-curricular activities such as camp and interschool sport days. Please remind your child if they are experiencing any bullying to contact a teacher. We thank you for your support on this matter.

FREE DENTAL CARE

• All Qld school aged children from 4 years to completion of Year 10
• All Qld children aged between 2-17 years who receive Family Tax Benefit A (Child Dental Benefits Schedule) or have a current pension/concession card.

When arranging an appointment, dental staff will be happy to include other eligible children in your family. Please bring your Medicare Card to your appointment

Contact your nearest clinic for an appointment
Van 173 0418 716 687
Van 188A 0407 599 670
Van 141A 0412 059 394

WRITING

Despite our ever-increasing use of technology, writing is still a basic life skill and used by most people on a daily basis. For students in particular, writing by hand is involved in at least 25-50% of tasks in the school day. Writing by hand is a complex task that develops skills in a number of areas and aids learning and creativity. The best way to improve handwriting is to practise. Just ten minutes of practice every school day will lead to better handwriting within weeks.

HATS

As of this week students are not permitted to wear caps and are required to wear a broad brimmed hat. Our Sun Smart policy stipulates bucket or broad-brimmed hats. Students who do not have appropriate hat wear will not be permitted to play. Hats are available from the Tuckshop for $8. It is highly recommended that your child’s name is inscribed on their hat!

Wear your hat every day,
‘No hat’ means you cannot play,
Keep it on ‘til half past two,
Our safety rule applies to you.

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.

LIVE WELL WITH ASTHMA

Are you or someone you care for living well with asthma? If you:

• wake up coughing, wheezing or breathless
• struggle to keep up with normal activity
• use your blue reliever puffer more than three times a week
• are unsure about the way your medications can
• work best for you

These are all signs your asthma is not well controlled or signs you are not living well with asthma. If your asthma is limiting your quality of life, Asthma Foundation Qld invites you to join us for a free one hour Live Well with Asthma workshop. To register please call Asthma Assist on 1800 645 130 or visit http://www.asthmafoundation.org.au/QLD/Courses_for_the_community.aspx
Where: Cairn City Library, 151 Abbott St
When: Tuesday 10th March from 10—11am

RENDER WEATHER

While we do not currently face any cyclone threats, I have included information for you today which you may like to keep should things change in the near future.

CYCLONE PROCEDURES

Upon a cyclone warning, parents are advised to listen to the radio re possible school closures.

♦ Should a cyclone threat emerge unexpectedly during the school day, parents may be advised at short notice by radio of impending school closures. We will ensure that appropriate supervision is maintained until all students are collected from school.

♦ Be prepared when school re-opens to send your child/ren to school with their own drinking water and lunches.

♦ It is possible our tuckshop may not be open immediately after.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Radio</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Radio</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HOT FM</td>
<td>103.5 FM</td>
<td>4CA</td>
<td>102.7 FM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEA FM</td>
<td>99.5 FM</td>
<td>4AM</td>
<td>846 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABC</td>
<td>106.7 FM</td>
<td>ABC</td>
<td>801 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABC-Beaches</td>
<td>99.5 FM</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

QSCHOOLS APP

Stay in touch with the QSchools app

The QSchools app now allows for push notifications to deliver essential information directly to a device including emergency alerts and important updates.

LIFE EDUCATION

!!EXCITING NEWS!!

The Life Education Team and Harold the Giraffe will be visiting; Balaclava State School From Wednesday 25th March to Tuesday 31st March 2015.

Life Education motivates and empowers young people to make smart life choices for a healthy future.

MODULE: ‘Harold’s Surprise’ – Prep
Harold and the class are invited to possum’s party in the park. On the way they become aware of and develop appreciation of their bodies, discuss the importance of healthy food choices and exercise, safety in the environment and identify how people grow and change.

MODULE: ‘CLUED UP’ – Prep/1 & YEAR 1
The Children help Harold investigate the disappearance of his friend Cocky. Through being detectives and solving the mystery, they learn about friendship, healthy food choices, safe and unsafe living and cooperation.

MODULE: ‘Harold’s Mystery Tour’ – Year ½ & YEAR 2
The class joins Harold and his friends on a mystery tour where they experience an ‘Amazing Body Adventure.’ The children explore appropriate remedies when feeling sick, issues of safety and ways to cope when feeling pressured.

MODULE: ‘Harold’s Heroes’ – YEAR 2/3
The children join Harold’s superhero team to make the world a safer, healthier place for everyone. Throughout the mission they discover the importance of clean air, safe use of medicine and safety in the environment.

MODULE: ‘Harold’s Diary’ – YEAR ¾ A & B
The Children are invited to read Harold’s Diary as he shares stories relating to bullying, feelings, developing coping strategies, safety with medicines and the importance of making healthy food choices.

MODULE: ‘MIND YOUR MEDICINE’ – YEAR 4/5
The children develop an understanding and gain information on legal drugs, their effects on physical development and their potential for harm. The program encompasses risk-taking, responding to pressure and recognising harmful situations.

MODULE: ‘ON THE CASE’ - YEAR 5/6 A & B
The class identify ways nicotine adversely influences physical and social development. Students also identify high risk situations and develop strategies to deal with the influences and pressures to smoke.

BRAVEHEARTS

Ditto’s Keep Safe Adventure!
Education Program

On Wednesday 11th March Students in Prep A to 2/3A will have the opportunity to experience the Personal Safety Education Program “The Ditto Show”. Bravehearts are extremely proud of this program and believe that by providing children with the basic principles of personal safety, we are providing them with the tools to stay safe. A gold coin donation will ensure the continuation of the program throughout Australia. Please bring your gold coin donation to the school office on Wednesday morning.

PARENTS WELCOME TO ATTEND!

!!STUDENTS OF THE WEEK!!

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

!!BRONZE AWARD!!
# Date Claimers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>March</th>
<th>April</th>
<th>May</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>NAPLAN - National Testing for year 3, 5 &amp; 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious Instruction begins</td>
<td>Last day of term 1</td>
<td>12&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Language conventions and Writing tests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bravehearts Visit</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
<td>13&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<td>17&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>6&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Reading</td>
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<tr>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting Annual General Meeting</td>
<td>20&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>14&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<td>20&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>First day of term 2</td>
<td>Numeracy</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Day against Bullying</td>
<td>24&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>19&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Community Breakfast</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Education Van Visit</td>
<td>25&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>26&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Saturday - ANZAC Day</td>
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<td>Life Education Van Visit</td>
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<td>27&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<td>Life Education Van Visit</td>
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<td>30&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<td>Life Education Van Visit</td>
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<td>31&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Life Education Van Visit</td>
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