Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Our Great Results Guarantee funding is targeted at improving reading. Reading is the most important skill that children learn so it is most important that as parents, we assist our children to learn to read. There are many things you can do at home;

- Read to your child every day, even big kids enjoy stories read to them,
- Talk with your child as children need a broad oral language to be able to know words,
- Read signs and notices around your house and the community,
- Access books – buy them or borrow them; the town library is a wonderful resource,
- Listen to your child read

Ten minutes a day is all it takes.

THANK YOU

A big thank you to all the parents who are supporting their children every day by ensuring that they;

- Read with them every night,
- Have their homework completed,
- Have a healthy and nutritious breakfast each morning,
- Have a healthy and substantial lunch for school (including fruit break if appropriate),
- Have the equipment required to complete their school work effectively,
- Attend school every day,
- Know the behaviours that are expected in school and the broader community.

The support you provide your child/ren means that they have the best chance of achieving successfully in all areas of school.

Teaching and learning is not restricted to the teachers and the classroom space alone. All research supports the knowledge that students who receive high parental support improve faster than those who don’t. We encourage all parents to support their child/ren in all areas of learning.

BYSTANDER BEHAVIOUR

March 20th is National “Bullying NO Way” Day and one of the focus areas is Bystander Behaviour. I have included a few snippets from the “Bullying No Way” website to discuss Bystander Behaviour.

On Friday we will be holding lunchtime activities in the Hall. Students will show their support against bullying by wearing orange on the day for the price of a gold coin donation. All monies raised will go to the Student Council. Please show your support against bullying by also wearing orange.

What’s the issue?

Bullying is a difficult problem that only gets worse when it is ignored. Research has demonstrated that bystanders play a significant role in bullying:

- Bystanders are present most of the time (85%) where adults are rarely present,
- Most young people feel uncomfortable but very few know what to do to stop it happening,
- Bullying behaviour is reinforced where people watch but do nothing,
When bystanders do intervene, the bullying is more likely to stop quickly most of the time.

The solutions involve not only students but also school staff and parents. Members of the whole school community may be involved in bullying, being bullied or by knowing that the bullying is happening. We can each be part of the problem - or part of the solution. It's up to everyone to create a safe school environment and we can all help. Motivating bystanders to act is now being promoted as a major positive response, not just for schools, but in communities and workplaces.

Bystander behaviour includes:
• watching an argument on the street,
• gathering to watch a playground fight,
• knowing that someone is being hurt but not intervening or seeking help,
• failing to investigate and be proactive about the bullying in your school.

Although we might not be directly involved, our behaviours contribute significantly to what takes place.

Some behaviours can make the problem worse:
• giving 'silent approval' by not becoming involved
• assisting by joining in,
• reinforcing by encouraging, cheering and laughing, even if not actively participating.

Alternatively, some behaviours can be helpful:
• trying to stop the bullying behaviour by defending the person being bullied, reporting the behaviour,
• challenging and positively influencing individual and group attitudes and beliefs,
• learning and teaching about the deeper issues which underlie bullying behaviour.

Students are important in creating a safe and supportive school environment.

First of all, keep yourself safe. Each bullying situation is different. Responses need to be appropriate to the situation and it's not always appropriate for young people to act alone. Then, consider that the messages you give out, even in little ways, can make a huge difference. Research has shown that the greatest influence on students’ bystander behaviour is what they think their friends (ie. you!) expect of them - not what their teacher or parents think.

You can help by some of the following:
• Make it clear to your friends that you won’t be involved in bullying behaviour,
• Never stand by and watch or encourage bullying behaviour,
• Do not harass, tease or spread gossip about others,
• Respect everyone and value the differences between people,
• Be friendly towards others who are new to your school, who are left out or on their own.

If you see someone being bullied, keep safe and choose your response to match the situation:
• Speak up and let the person doing the bullying know what they are doing is bullying,
• Refuse to join in with their bullying and walk away,
• Support the student who is being bullied to ask for help,
• Ask a teacher or support person for help. Reporting what happened can help 'unravel' a situation.

3 WAY CONFERENCES

On Tuesday 24th March, we will be conducting parent-teacher interviews in the Hall form 2:45pm – 5:30. Interviews are not compulsory although they are highly recommended as they allow parents the opportunity to receive information about their child’s progress and to ask about any concerns or celebrations of the great things their child has achieved. 3-way interviews invites your child to be present during the meeting as they can also share their successes or where they require support.

Interviews of 10 minutes have been scheduled for each family. Please mark at least three (3) suitable times (as someone may choose the same time slot as you). Please ensure the form is returned to your class teacher no later than Friday 20th March to ensure your preferred time. If you are unable to attend please let me know and we can arrange an alternative time.

BOOK FAIR

As we are focussing heavily on reading this year we will be holding a Book Fair during the 3 way conferences. While you are waiting for your appointment you may like to take the opportunity to purchase a book for your child. Books will range in price for but some can be purchased for as cheaply as $1.

KEY DATES

We have a number of key events coming up in the next few weeks. Please keep an eye out for the dates to remember so you can keep up with these.

Have a great week,

Kind Regards
Jane Termaat

“Book Fair is coming... Get caught reading for your chance win to a prize!!!
AWSOME ATTENDANCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 1 – Wk 7</th>
<th>Average 89.5%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prep A</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prep B</td>
<td>15.5</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>19.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2/3A</td>
<td>13</td>
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<td>Year 3/4A</td>
<td>15.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 3/4B</td>
<td>18.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 4/5A</td>
<td>19.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 5/6A</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 5/6B</td>
<td>9</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Prep A – You ARE AMAZING! Well done with only 5 days away for the whole class for the whole week. Balaclava, we have let the orange creeping this week. Don’t let the rain keep you away from school. EVERY DAY COUNTS. Icy poles this week for Prep A and 5/6B. Remember we want to be in the green every week.

AFTER SCHOOL SUPERVISION

A number of students are not going home on the bell. We only provide supervision until 2:45 after which time we have staff meetings, planning meetings and other appointments. Please discuss with your child the importance of going home straight way at the end of the day.

If you pick your child up at the end of the day but are running late please call the office so we can arrange supervision.

Students who participate in the “The Good Start” program or the after hour dancing program have all provided permission to be here after 2:45.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

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.

BULLYING NO WAY

A reminder to all parents and students that at Balaclava 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

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
**REMINDER - 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.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Radio</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
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</tbody>
</table>

**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.

**BRAVEHEARTS**

A BIG THANK YOU! To the Bravehearts team for their outstanding presentation enjoyed by all who attended.

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**!!STUDENTS OF THE WEEK!!**

Congratulations to our students! Great work!

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**!!BRONZE AWARDS!!**

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**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. Find out more on the DETE apps page, http://deta.qld.gov.au/about/app/index.html

**BOOK FAIR**

We invite you to visit our Scholastic Book Fair and experience a celebration of reading! Our Scholastic Book Fair theme this year is Kings, Queens and Castles: Enter the Kingdom of Books! – surrounds students in the celebration of reading with hundreds of fun, engaging, affordable books for them to discover. Please make plans to visit our Book Fair on Tuesday 24th March after parade and alternatively there will be opportunity to purchase books at the 3 way conferences on Tuesday afternoon from 2:45pm to 5:30pm. See you there!!!

*Book Fair is coming... Tuesday 24th March!!!*
JANE’S JOTTINGS

Why play is important
- Play is one of the most important needs your child has.
- It is one of the ways children learn about and practise living in their world and their culture.
- It also helps children to manage their feelings and to cope with upsetting things that happen in their lives.
- Play helps build relationships
- And play is relaxation and fun!!

TIPS FOR PARENTS
When your child wants to show you something, stop what you are doing and pay attention to your child. It is important to spend frequent, small amounts of time with your child doing things that you both enjoy.

PARENT TRAPS - The Criticism Trap
The criticism trap involves becoming locked into frequent and unnecessary power struggles with your child typically resulting in the parent reacting to misbehaviour with escalating criticism (“Robert, leave your brother alone”), threats (“If you do that one more time you’re in big trouble”), yelling and finally hitting. This type of discipline often backfires, with the parent’s rapidly building anger serving to lead to resentment and further hostility between parent and child. If these kinds of battles take place frequently, it’s time to try a new way of handling the situation.

Triple P, Positive Parenting Program for every parent

GENERAL NOTICES

ELLIS BEACH SURF CLUB SIGN ON / OPEN DAY
When: Sat 28th & Sun 29th March from 10am to 3pm
Where: Ellis Beach Clubhouse
What: Clubhouse tours, beach activities for Nippers, free sausage sizzle etc
Contact: ellis.slsc@bigpond.com

UNDERSTANDING BEHAVIOUR
What: A step by step guide for parents with a child Under 7 with ASD
When: 26th May from 9am to 3pm
Where: Cairns Early Years Centre, Bentley Park College
Cost: Free. Childcare not provided but lunch & light refreshment is.
Contact: workshops@autismqld.com.au to register

EarlyAQtion RESPITE
Do you need some time for yourself or have an appointment booked? Experienced staff can look after your child with ASD on Thursdays & Fridays from 9am to 2pm.
Who: Children under 7yrs registered with Autism Qld. Bookings essential.
Cost: $20 per hr or $80 for 5hrs (minimum of 2hrs)
Where: Autism Qld Centre of Excellence, 15-17 Marr St, Edmonton
Contact: 4034 6600 or email cairns@autismqld.com.au

ROOKIES 2 REDS RUGBY @ FSS
When: Tues, 10th, 17th, 24th & 31st March from 3-4pm
Where: Freshwater State School
What: Professional coaching for 5wks
Who: 5-7yrs & 8-9yrs
Cost: $60 includes family pass to Reds home game plus pack etc
Contact: 1300 753 733 or register
www.rookies2reds.com.au

LITTLE LIFESAVERS @ CAIRNS ESPLANADE
Term 1: Saturdays from 14th Feb to 28th March from 8:15 to 10am
Holidays: Mon 13th to Fri 17th April from 8-10am. No Wednesdays
Term 2: Saturdays from 18th to 6th June from 8:15 to 10am
Cost: Holiday session $85 inc rashy. Term sessions $150 inc rashy.
Contact: 4049 1201 or rdavidson@lifesaving.com.au

CAIRNS SURF CLUB SIGN ON DAY
When: Saturday 28th March from 10am to 2pm
Where: Cairns Surf Life Saving Club, Palm Cove
Who: All ages & abilities 5yrs & over. Free sausage sizzle
Contact: surf.admin@cairnssurfclub.com.au or 4059 12363

EarlyAQtion SOCIAL SKILLS
What: Program to develop social skills in children with ASD
Who: Children aged between 7-9yrs. Bookings essential.
Where: Autism Qld Centre of Excellence, 15-17 Marr St, Edmonton
Contact: 4034 6600 or email cairns@autismqld.com.au

“HELP”, I’ve got a Teenager
HELP course for people with children twelve years and older. The course runs for six weeks with two and a half hour session held weekly. Build a better relationship with your teen. Where: UnitingCare Community, 188 Aumuller Street. Bungalow
When: Thursdays, May 7 – June 11, 2015
Time: 5.30pm to 8.00 pm
Cost: $60.00 per participant or parent couple
Course includes weekly handouts and tea/coffee
All enrolments and enquiries please phone
UnitingCare Community Family Support 4050 4955

*Book Fair is coming… Get caught reading for your chance to win a prize
## Date Claimers

<table>
<thead>
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<th>March</th>
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<tr>
<td>20(^{th})</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Day against Bullying</td>
<td>Last day of term 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>25(^{th})</td>
<td>3(^{rd})</td>
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<tr>
<td>Life Education Van Visit</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>26(^{th})</td>
<td>6(^{th})</td>
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<tr>
<td>Life Education Van Visit</td>
<td>Easter Monday</td>
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<td>27(^{th})</td>
<td>20(^{th})</td>
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<td>Life Education Van Visit</td>
<td>First day of term 2</td>
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<td>30(^{th})</td>
<td>24(^{th})</td>
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<tr>
<td>Life Education Van Visit</td>
<td>Community Breakfast</td>
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<tr>
<td>31(^{st})</td>
<td>25(^{th})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Education Van Visit</td>
<td>Saturday - ANZAC Day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

"Book Fair is coming... Tuesday 24\(^{th}\) March!!!"

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### NAPLAN - National Testing for year 3, 5 & 7
- 12\(^{th}\) Language conventions and Writing tests
- 13\(^{rd}\) Reading
- 14\(^{th}\) Numeracy
- 19\(^{th}\) P&C Meeting