Principal’s Pen

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

The term has started off beautifully with all students engaged in class and minimal behaviour issues both in and out of the classroom. Great behaviour means that better learning is occurring for all students. This is the way schools should be each and every day.

95% ATTENDANCE REWARD

Unfortunately the company who we had negotiated with for our attendance reward let us down but not turning up. We were all so disappointed but it was out of our control. We have now found another company who will be able to provide a slide for us at a cheaper cost and a bigger slide. On Monday the students would had outstanding attendance will have their chance to slide and play.

If your child missed out on this reward due to attendance, then they have another opportunity at the end of this term. Please make sure your child is here every day to learn in class and play with their friends.

ANZAC day

Thank you to the families who came along last Friday for the ANZAC day assembly. The students’ wreath laying ceremony was heart-warming to see. We would also like to formally thank Mr Bob Matchett who was our special guest for the day. Mr Matchett spoke to the students about the importance of ANZAC day and why this year is particularly significant.

Have a great week,

Ms Jane Tasmaat
Principal

NAPLAN TESTING 2015

NAPLAN tests the sorts of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling, grammar and numeracy. It is important to remember that NAPLAN tests are not pass/fail tests. NAPLAN tests provide very valuable information, but there are no consequences for individual students for poor or good performance. At the classroom level it is one of a number of important tools used by teachers to measure student progress. In 2015, NAPLAN tests will be held from 12-14 May for Years 3 and 5 students at Balaclava State School. Information specifically for parents and carers can be found in the 2013 NAPLAN Information Brochure for Parents and Carers on the following site: http://www.nap.edu.au/verve/_resources/NAPLAN_2015_Parent_information_brochure_web.pdf

A NOTE ABOUT NAPLAN

On May 12th, 13th and 14th all Year 3 and Year 5 every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling, grammar and numeracy. It is important to remember that NAPLAN tests are not pass/fail tests. NAPLAN tests provide very valuable information, but there are no consequences for individual students for poor or good performance. At the classroom level it is one of a number of important tools used by teachers to measure student progress. In 2015, NAPLAN tests will be held from 12-14 May for Years 3 and 5 students at Balaclava State School. Information specifically for parents and carers can be found in the 2013 NAPLAN Information Brochure for Parents and Carers on the following site: http://www.nap.edu.au/verve/_resources/NAPLAN_2015_Parent_information_brochure_web.pdf

A NOTE ABOUT NAPLAN

On May 12th, 13th and 14th all Year 3 and Year 5 students will sit for the NAPLAN (National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy) tests in Reading, Writing and Numeracy. We ask that you support us on these dates by:

- Having your child arrive on time (all tests start at 9:00am on May 12th, 13th, 14th). As there is only a set amount of time to complete the test, it is required that everyone starts and finishes at the same time. The first 10 mins is dedicated to taking the students through the test procedures and if they do not arrive on time they will miss this important information.
NAPLAN TESTING 2015 Cont...

• Ensuring your child has adequate sleep prior to the testing days. Research has shown that when you’re getting enough sleep, everything is easier. You’re more energised throughout the day and your thinking is clearer.

• Ensuring your child has a healthy breakfast and lunch and a bottle of water. Research has shown that brain-friendly carbs eg. Fruit, cereals/grains, veggies and yoghurt, help with sustaining energy throughout the day.

• Encouraging your child to relax and have a positive attitude. When we’re feeling good about ourselves it is easier to perform well. Constantly referring to tests can create anxiety in children. This is one assessment piece of many throughout the year and a positive attitude is encouraged for all activities at the school.

ATTENDANCE

Please remember the importance of children attending school every day. Queensland state schooling data, including our school data, indicates that:

• strong links have been established between attendance in one year and student achievement in the same year and in the future,
• every extra day attended increases a student’s likelihood of achieving at a higher level and reaching higher post schooling outcomes,
• past attendance is the best predictor of future attendance particularly after the student enters secondary schooling,
• early establishment of good attendance behaviour is likely to have lasting benefits for students on average and conversely, we can use attendance information to predict students who may be at risk of falling behind,
• Year 1 students who attended less than 85% of the time were more likely to repeat this attendance pattern at Year 2 and Year 3 and more likely to perform poorly on their Year 3 NAPLAN tests,
• in a sample of over 36000 Queensland State secondary students: those who attended less than 80% of the time in Junior Secondary were more than twice as likely not to complete Year 12 and over 8 times more likely not to be OP eligible.
• Mondays and Fridays and days adjacent to public holidays are more likely to be absent by students. Understanding the value of continuous schooling and minimising the impact of family events on learning is critically important for a student’s academic success, students not present in school are more likely to miss critical learning building blocks and are, as a result, less likely to feel a sense of mastery over the curriculum and their own learning,

ATTENDANCE Cont...

• the recommended attendance range is between 95 and 100% attendance rate. Over a 12 year period a student who attends 92% of the time will have lost almost 1 year of school contact.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Days Away</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep A</td>
<td>18.5</td>
<td>85</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prep B</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
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<td>Prep/1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 1A</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1/2A</td>
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<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2A</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2/3A</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3/4A</td>
<td>19.5</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3/4B</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>76</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 4/5A</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5/6A</td>
<td>28.5</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5/6B</td>
<td>27.5</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>289.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Oh Balaclava, how sad not even one class in the green. We really need to make sure we keep our absences to a minimum for the rest of the term.

BIG BREAKFAST/ANZAC CEREMONY

Our Term 2 Big Breakfast was held on the morning of the ANZAC Parade last Friday. A BIG Thank You to all who attended, much fun was had by all.
**BREAKFAST READING PROGRAM**

Our breakfast reading program will continue this term with the added bonus of Cummins Diesel providing food and volunteers to run the program. Students will be offered different cereals, toast and juice each Monday and Friday. Students are welcome to read on these days as well if they wish to continue with attaining the McDonald’s vouchers.

We are also adding a Wednesday breakfast reading day to our weekly Calendar.

**LUNCHES**

It is important that students have enough food to eat throughout the day as children burn up a lot of energy with their active play. It is also important that children have a healthy breakfast each morning before they arrive at school. Some students are eating their lunch when they get here and then have nothing to eat for the rest of the day. Parents are also reminded to provide the plastic cutlery (spoons, forks) necessary for their child/children to be able to eat their lunch. A few students have also requested that their lunches are heated up in the microwave, either in the staff room or the office. Unfortunately, due to Work Place Health and Safety policies, we are unable to do this for your child.

**EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

**REMOINDER - TEACH YOUR CHILD TO DIAL TRIPLE ZERO (000) AND REMEMBER DETAILS**

The Queensland Ambulance Service is encouraging parents and caregivers to teach their children how to become potential lifesavers by practising calling Triple Zero (000) with a disconnected or toy phone, or by playing an online training game at http://kids.triplezero.gov.au/. When calling Triple Zero and requesting an ambulance, an emergency medical dispatcher will provide advice and dispatch medical help to your location. For this reason, it’s also important for families to familiarise themselves with their holiday surroundings by memorising holiday addresses and beach access codes, so they can relay the correct information to Triple Zero staff. More information can be found at http://www.ambulance.qld.gov.au/default.asp

**TUCKSHOP NOTICE**

Please do not ask for credit as refusal often offends.

**PREP ENROLMENTS FOR 2016**

Do you have a younger sibling due to enrol into Prep for 2016 Children born between 1st July 2010 and 30th June 2011 are eligible to enrol in Term 2 for Prep here at Balalava State School. Birth certificates and immunisation records must be produced.

**GOOD START PROGRAM**

The Good Start Program has commenced for Term 2.

****Every Monday 2:30pm to 3:30pm****

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

**JANE’S JOTTINGS**

A reward is a consequence of good behaviour. It’s a way of saying ‘well done’ after your child has done something good or behaved well. It could be a treat, a surprise or an extra privilege. Rewards can make your praise and encouragement more effective in encouraging good behaviour. Most behaviour is influenced by the consequences that follow it, so when you reward your child’s behaviour, the behaviour is more likely to happen again in the future. Sometimes it’s easier to criticise than it is to compliment. Bad behaviour is more obvious than good behaviour – you’re much more likely to notice when your child is yelling than you are to notice when your child is quietly reading a book. Try to pay attention to the good behaviour, too!

**SCHOOL WIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR**

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 fortnight our **FOCUS SKILL** is: **Be a Learner!!**

✔ Work tough, stay on task!
✔ Have pride in your bookwork!
✔ Work well with each other!
✔ Listen to the teacher!
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

PARADE AWARDS

Congratulations to all of our students who received awards this week!! FANTASTIC EFFORT!!!
MOTHER’S DAY

Mother’s Day Morning Tea

Friday 8th May 2015
9am to 10:30am

Coffee and Tea
Scones with jam and cream
Lucky dip gift
$5.00

Everyone is welcome; most especially Mothers, Grandmothers and Carers.

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Mother’s Day Stall

Friday 8th May 2015
8:30am to 10:30am

All gifts will be wrapped and available for under $10.00
The Mother’s Day Stall is available to all classes throughout the day by timetable

This is a P&C event; all proceeds will be going towards Math’s Resources.

RABBITOHS VISIT

Last Friday, Balaclava SS played host to special guests, John Sutton and Kyle Turner, professional NRL players for the Sydney Rabbitohs.

Regular first grade players, John and Kyle spoke to the Years 4-6 students about a range of topics including life as a professional sportsman, setting and achieving goals and the importance of education and health.

Kyle Turner is a proud Indigenous man who has played for the Indigenous All Stars and is currently studying his third year of a Bachelor of Education. John Sutton had the honour of lifting the trophy as captain when the Rabbitohs won their 21st premiership in 2014, and will enter his 12th season with the Rabbitohs. Souths Rabbitohs run many community and school based programmes in the Redfern area and we are especially pleased that they chose to visit Balaclava SS.

CROSS COUNTRY – FUN RUN

Our annual Cross Country took place on Thursday 2nd April. It was wonderful to see so many students participating and lots of parents and guardians coming along to support the students. Thank you to all of the staff and students that assisted in making the day a big success. The support provided by parents and members of the community support helped our students raise a total of $2663.50! This money will go a long way towards helping our schools purchase new sports equipment and will also aid by subsidising the cost of transport for students to sports-related curriculum and events. Congratulations to the Stingers for winning the overall points trophy with 286 points.

On Friday 1st May, all students who finished 1st, 2nd and 3rd from the 10, 11 and 12 year old age groups at our cross country will travel to the Esplanade for the District Cross Country. We wish all of these students the best of luck and congratulate them on their achievements.

“School Disco 14th May!!”

“School Disco 14th May!!”
Bullying No Way

Dear Reader,

I strongly believe that bullying is unacceptable and isn't cool. This is because it effects education, health and relationships. Who would not strongly believe this also?

Firstly, I strongly believe that bullying isn’t cool because it effects education. When children bully other children they get suspended. This concerns parents and principals. The principals would say that this effects attendance. It is boring at home because school is lots and lots of fun.

Secondly, I seriously believe that bullying should never be ignored because of health. It effects children’s health because hitting can hurt the person being bullied.

Finally, I strongly believe that bullying can’t be ignored because of relationships. When children are swearing instead making friends they don’t make friends. Plus bystanders do nothing but just watch and don’t report the bullying. That is why bullying can’t be ignored.

In conclusion, who would seriously believe that bullying is cool? I believe that bullying is very uncool because it effects education, health and relationships. So, seriously, who would think that bullying was cool? Would you?

By Janina Jong, Year 3
21 April 2015
GET READY FOR HIGH SCHOOL!

Ready for High School Checklist

☑ Tick each item when it has been done.

1. This year
   - Participate in transition programs at the high school
   - At high school transition day, find out about:
     - School uniforms (including sports uniform)
     - Map of school
     - School start and finish times
     - Transport to and from school - get forms to fill out
     - Support Programs offered in the school - Homework Club etc.
     - School fees, stationery and school supplies list
     - The name of the Year 7 coordinator
     - Possible subjects and courses to choose from for next year

2. Next Year
   - Before the first day:
     - Buy school uniforms, books, stationery, school bag, drink bottle, etc.
     - Label everything
     - Break in school shoes to make them more comfortable
   - At home:
     - Pack your bag and check you have everything
     - Organise personal hygiene items in school bag
     - Set an alarm on your phone so you’re not late – EVERY day counts!
     - Photocopy your school timetable for your diary and for the fridge
     - Check your diary each night for homework
     - Make a quiet place for study. Buy a calendar or planner for your wall

Solid partners Solid futures
**Date Claimers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>May</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Mother’s Day Stall</td>
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<tr>
<td>12&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>NAPLAN - National Testing for year 3, 5 &amp; 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<td>13&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>School Disco</td>
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<tr>
<td>19&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**June**

| 8<sup>th</sup> | Queen’s Birthday Holiday |
| 16<sup>th</sup> | P&C Meeting |
| 18<sup>th</sup> | School Photos NQ School Photography |
| 24<sup>th</sup> | Report Cards go home |
| 26<sup>th</sup> | Last day of term 2 |

**July**

| 13<sup>th</sup> | First day of term 3 |
| 16<sup>th</sup> | Community Breakfast |
| 17<sup>th</sup> | Show Day Holiday |
| 21<sup>st</sup> | P&C Meeting |

**August**

| 18<sup>th</sup> | P&C Meeting |

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**Important DATE!**

**The Mother’s Day Stall is coming 8<sup>th</sup> May!!**

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These advertisers support us, please support them:

- **Balaclava Veterinary Surgery**
  - “The Caring Vets”
  - Dr. Paul Matthews & Staff
  - [Visit their website](http://www.balaclavavet.com.au)

- **AAB Office Equipment**
  - Exclusive Authorised Dealer for RICOH
  - Digital Copiers - Colour Copiers - Laser Printers - Rentals
  - [Contact them](mailto:sales@aabequipment.com.au)
  - [Visit their website](http://www.aabequipment.com.au)

- **Calanna Pharmacy**
  - Various locations in the Cairns Region
  - [Visit their website](http://www.calannapharmacy.com.au)

- **Caffe Suprimo**
  - On the Marina
  - 40% OFF
  - [Website](http://www.caffesuprimo.com.au)

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*Valid only at Caffe Suprimo Cairns. Up to equal or lesser value. Not valid on special days. Contact store for conditions. Selection from main menu only.*