Principal’s Pen

Well, NAPLAN is almost finished. We have only tomorrow to get through with numeracy being the last of the learning areas to be tested. Thank you to the parents and staff for the support, and the extra efforts that have gone into preparing the students. While we have placed a lot of emphasis on preparing students for the tests, the rest of the curriculum has not been neglected.

HURRAY FOR HOLLYWOOD! On Thursday night we will be celebrating the end of NAPLAN with a Disco. A flyer has already gone out with further information. This is the first out of school event we have had this year so it would be great to have as many students attend as possible. Parents are welcome to dress up and join in the fun. Parents are also asked to be on time to collect their children at the end of the session as it is not possible for staff to drive students home.

EVERY DAY COUNTS AT OUR SCHOOL
Our school encourages all parents and members of our community to support the “Every Day Counts” message,
• all children should be enrolled and attend school on every school day,
• attendance is the responsibility of everyone in the community,
• children may find themselves in unsafe situations if they choose not to attend or skip school.

While most students attend school consistently, there are a small number of students who are absent from school without an acceptable reason and this may harm their education. Going shopping, visiting family, staying up late and being tired or extending school holidays are not acceptable reasons to be away from school.

We are currently conducting a parent survey to find out some information about why parents choose to send their children to Balaclava. The survey answers will be confidential with only the interviewer gathering information. This information will be used to help market our school to future prospective parents. The survey will be conducted by Mr Patane and the office staff and will run between Thursday 7th of May and Friday 29th May. Surveys can be conducted over the phone, face to face or even via email. If you have any further questions, or would like to participate in the survey, please contact the office staff as they will more than happy to get your input.

The school now has a Facebook page! Like us on Facebook to keep up to date on all the latest news and current events here at Balaclava State School.

Have a great week,

Ms Jane Termaat
Principal

Wednesday 13th May 2015
Issue No# 4
DEPUTY’S DESK

Hats
A lot of students are attending school without a bucket hat. A bucket hat is a vital part of the school uniform and without students cannot play at lunch time. Student without an appropriate hat are required to sit on the Orange Seat and miss out on playing with their friends. If your child has lost their hat a new one can be purchased for $8 at the tuckshop. We appreciate your support with this matter.

Ms Michael Patane
Deputy Principal

ATTENDANCE

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Class</th>
<th>Days Away</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep B</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>87</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prep/1</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1A</td>
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<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2/3A</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3/4A</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Year 5/6A</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>188.5</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
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</table>

P&C MEETING- ALL WELCOME

The next meeting is on the 19th of May at 5:00pm in the room above the Tuckshop. All parents are welcome to join the meetings, to share ideas, concerns, or simply to find out what is going on in our school. If you are interested in coming along, you can simply turn up and join it.

JANE’S JOTTINGS

Teaching Tolerance
Learn about traditions: Learn together about holiday and religious celebrations that are not part of your own tradition. Honour your family’s traditions and teach them to your kids — and to someone outside the family who wants to learn about the diversity you have to offer. When parents encourage a tolerant attitude in their children, and talk about their values, and model the behaviour they would like to see by treating others well, kids will follow in their footsteps. If we all could take on board that: ‘everybody is different, everybody is special, everybody is important’ the world would be a better place.
Adapted from Kids Health - http://kidshealth.org/parent/positive/talk/tolerance

Great attendance = Great results

TEACHING AWARDS

Are you inspired by an exceptional teacher?

Nominate a teacher for the QCT Excellence in Teaching Awards.
Registered teachers from state, Catholic and independent schools are eligible for nomination in four award categories.
Nominations close 22 July 2015.
Download a nomination form at: www.qct.edu.au/awards

10 ‘Commandments’ for Life
We all know the story of the 10 commandments. Recently I was inspired to reflect on my own personal commandments and how they influence my life. Through reflecting on our personal values we can all contribute to the world being a better place.
• Be here now - Being present, fully awake and focused on what is occurring at the moment enables you to respond most resourcefully to what is happening.
• Breathe - By consciously breathing deeply and fully and becoming aware of your natural breath, you will maintain your self-awareness and ability to flow with life. You also lower your stress hormones, adrenaline and cortisol, when you breathe deeply.
• Listen to your intuition - By listening to your inner voice, you will more easily make the right choices in each situation. You will also build your self-trust and strengthen your ability to naturally and appropriately respond.
• Seek to empathise and understand - Everyone wants to be more deeply understood. If you can listen with compassion and seek to understand what is going on for others, you will strengthen your relationships and sense of connection.
JANE’S JOTTINGS Cont...

• Be open to change - Life is in constant change. By developing an open-minded, open-hearted attitude, you can flex and flow with life and often find solutions that are better than your original plans.
• Build trust - Take care to meet needs, manage expectations, and keep promises. These three foundations are critical to building trust in yourself, in your relationships and in your school and community.
• Speak the truth - Speak up authentically and directly, with kindness and compassion as well as honesty and discernment.
• Collaborate - We live in an interconnected world. Our efforts together are so much more powerful than our efforts alone. Seek out ways to work together with others, build trust and create a better outcome for all.
• Appreciate and celebrate often - Take time to share your love and praise with others. Take time to honour achievements, discoveries, and mistakes as well as mourning losses suffered and rejoicing in larger dreams realised.
• Honour the cycles and the seasons - There is a time to sow and a time to reap - there is the time of new life in the spring, the time of fullness in the summer, and the time of darkness, death, and stillness in the winter. All these seasons cycle around again to new life and creativity in the Spring. These seasons happen in our relationships and projects as well. Pause, reflect, and mark both small and large occasions. Honour the ebb and flow of Life, realise it is OK to alter your pace of living to make it appropriate to what is happening at the time.

Sally Mabelle  www.sallymabelle.com

DEVELOPING VOCABULARY

One of the Big 6 elements of reading is building vocabulary. Did you know?
A broad and deep vocabulary is directly related to knowledge acquisition and promotes further learning. Research shows that it is critical to the improvement of comprehension and written expression.

• Children growing up in less economically advantaged homes have fewer experiences with words before they enter school (Hart & Risley, 1995).
• Linguistically “poor” first graders knew 5,000 words; linguistically “rich” first graders knew 20,000 words (Moats, 2001).
• Vocabulary knowledge is a predictor of reading comprehension success (Dickinson & Tabors, 2001)
• The vocabulary gap between struggling readers and proficient readers grows each year (Stanovich, 1986).
• After the primary grades, the “achievement gap” between socioeconomic groups is a language gap (Hirsh, 2002).
• For English Language Learners, the “achievement gap” is primarily a vocabulary gap. (Carlo, et al., 2004).
• Student vocabulary should increase by 2000 – 3000 words per year, 400 of which are taught explicitly (Beck, McKeown & Kucan, 2002).
• Students need approx. 12 encounters with a word to improve comprehension (McKeown, Beck, Omanson & Pople, 1988).

WALK SAFELY TO SCHOOL DAY

All Primary School children will be encouraged to walk safely to school on Friday May 22nd to:
• Promote the health benefits of walking,
• To reduce the level of traffic congestion,
• To help create regular walking habits at an early age,
• To reinforce safe pedestrian behaviour,
• To reduce the car dependency habits,
• To reduce the level of air pollution created by motor vehicles.

Did you know according to latest research announced in the media 60% of children are being driven to and from school so participating in Walk Safely to School Day is more important than ever.

PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE 2015

Our school will be involved once again in the Premier’s Reading Challenge. The challenge runs from Tuesday 19th May and finishes on Friday 28th August. Children from Prep to Year 2 need to read or experience 20 books, Years 3 and 4 are challenged to read 20 books and Years 5 and 6 are challenged to read 15 books. Every child who meets the challenge will receive a certificate signed by the Premier to recognise their achievement. Recording sheets will be available in the coming weeks from your teacher. All children are encouraged to participate. We hope everyone can become involved.
Thank you to the P&C for organising the Mothers’ Day stall on Friday.

Holloways Beach Leadership Camp
Balaclava State School participated in a Leadership Camp along with Gordonvale, Aloomba, Yorkey’s Knob, Cairns West, Trinity Beach and Kuranda on the 5th of March. We completed several activities including: Aus. Identities, high ropes and lots of team building exercises. All leaders had a chance to face their fears and develop self-confidence during the 2 day camp. We were also responsible for preparing and serving meals. The 2nd day focused on our school action plans. The leaders have a lot of fantastic ideas for their schools. We will receive a midyear visit to check on the progress of our action plans. We will present to all schools at the end of the year, to show our accomplishments. The camp was a memorable experience where we made new friends and tackled challenges we were not too comfortable with. Our self-confidence has grown immensely.

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: 
**Following Teacher Instructions!!**

- **Listen** carefully to what school staff are saying!
- **Follow** their instructions straight away!
- **Ask** a question if you are not sure what they want you to do!

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).

Stay in touch with FaceBook
Find us on Facebook!! The school now has a Facebook page! Like us on Facebook to keep up to date on all the latest news and current events here at Balaclava State School.

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. Please help your child by packing healthy sandwiches, fruit and some snacks for their lunch breaks every day. A great lunch makes it easier for students to focus on their learning. 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. **Please note that due to workplace health and safety reasons we are unable to heat up lunches.**
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 Balaclava State School. Birth certificates and immunisation records must be produced.

TUCKSHOP NOTICE
Please do not ask for credit as refusal often offends.

PREP B UPDATE
Prep B - Geography Unit: What is my place like?
Today we created a model to describe and record the features of a place. We also made a pictorial map and wrote a sentence to explain a location.

STUDENT AWARDS
Hello from 1/2 A. We have had a great start to the term with great behaviour and our whole class attendance getting better every week. We have been busy learning all about the Handa’s Surprise book in English and about different types of sums and patterns in maths. We have also been doing lots of experiments with food in science and learning about maps in geography. It hasn’t been all serious learning though, on Friday we had lots of fun making cards and gifts for our beautiful Mums. Happy Mother’s Day Mums! We also had a blast doing our maths assessment- a shape shaker. We painted our 3D shapes and put fluoro stickers on the corners, wool on the edges and labelled stickers on the faces. We also put beads into our 3D shapes so that they make a rattling noise when we shake them. Check out our awesome shapes below. Thanks for reading!

STUDENT AWARDS!!
Congratulations to all of our students who received awards this week!! FANTASTIC EFFORT!!!

SCHOOL NOTICES

DISCO THEME: HOLLYWOOD MOVIE STAR

FOOD:  
★ Hot Dog $3 or with sauce $3.50  
★ Poppers $2  
★ Pack of Chips $1.50

TIME:  
Prep to Year 2: 4pm to 5:30pm  
Year 3 to Year 6: 6pm to 7:30pm

WHEN: THURSDAY 14TH MAY
FOR SALE: GLOW STICKS 1 FOR $1 OR 3 FOR $2
WHERE: THE HALL
ENTRY: $3 PER PERSON
### May

- **12th**: Language conventions and Writing tests
- **13th**: Reading
- **14th**: Numeracy
- **14th**: School Disco
- **19th**: P&C Meeting

### June

- **8th**: Queen’s Birthday Holiday
- **16th**: P&C Meeting
- **18th**: School Photos NQ School Photography
- **24th**: Report Cards go home
- **26th**: Last day of term 2

### July

- **13th**: First day of term 3
- **16th**: Community Breakfast
- **17th**: Show Day Holiday
- **21st**: P&C Meeting

### August

- **18th**: P&C Meeting