Dear Parents and Caregivers,

The term is racing along so quickly, as it always does. We have many special activities happening in the next few weeks so make sure you read this newsletter or connect to our Facebook page so that you stay up-to-date.

DEPUTY’S PEN
TRINITY BAY VISIT

Last Monday I had the pleasure of attending a Dr George Otero seminar at Trinity Bay High School. The seminar was on building stronger links between high school and primary school and also on how to develop leadership skills in our year six students. The student council attended with me and it was a fantastic opportunity for them to see what high school life is like and discuss some of their key questions on what it is like attending high school. The feedback from the students was very positive and they will be sharing the information they learnt with their fellow year 6 students.

Michael Patane
Deputy Principal

TEACHER AIDE DAY

Friday 4 September 2015

Each year on the first Friday in September, schools celebrate the support provided to students and teachers by their teacher aides. This celebration day enables the school community to recognise the skills, abilities and flexibility that teacher aides contribute to the daily life of the school. Presentations will be held on parade in the 1st of September.

LET'S RECOGNISE OUR SCHOOL SUPPORT STAFF AND CELEBRATE THEM!

31 August – 4 September

Without School Support staff thousands of young Queenslanders would have not have a quality education. Queensland’s public schools would not open, there would be no enrolments, no excursions, no play areas or ovals freshly mown and safe, things would stay broken, computers would no longer be networked or effective educational tools, no school farms, no science experiments, no outdoor education and literally no lights on if the bills weren’t paid!

In many ways, School Support Staff are the unsung heroes of our school system – now is the time to change that. While we appreciate our School Support Staff every day, we will especially appreciate and celebrate their hard work in the first week of September as this week is School Support Staff Recognition Week.

The Director-General has joined with us in supporting this week and encouraging celebrations and finding opportunities for acknowledging them. If you drop into the office please acknowledge and thank our staff for their smiles and support. It’s great to see such important support and recognition from the Department.
Here are some great facts about the NAPLAN improvements our school saw this year.

2015 saw the biggest increase in NAPLAN data for years 3 and 5 since 2008
For the first time in 3 years Balaclava school achieved similar to the National average in 3 strands.

**NUMERACY**
The school achieved similar to the Nation in Numeracy in both years 3 and 5 which has not occurred in previous NAPLAN tests.
Year 5 Indigenous data is the best data that the school has achieved to date.

**WRITING**
The school achieved similar to the National cohort in the upper to middle bands in writing in year 5.
Indigenous year 5 students produced the best data that the Indigenous students have achieved at Balaclava State school since 2008.

**SPELLING**
Year 5 spelling data was similar to the National average. The school achieved similar to the National cohort in the U2B in spelling in year 5 at 24.2%. This is the highest percent the school has ever achieved.
While our year 3 spelling data was at a low point, 17% achieved in the U2B.
The year 5 Non-Indigenous students outperformed the National average (498) with 510 points.

**BOOK WEEK**
The CBCA celebrates its 70th Anniversary in 2015. The Book Week theme will be Books Light Up Our World. On the 4th of September we will celebrate our favourite book characters and books with a special dress up day and parade. We will also vote on our favourite book week novels and stories for this year and see if we agree with the judges. More information about this will go out next week.

**MOVIE**
On Thursday the 10th of September the P&C will be holding a movie night. A flyer with more information will be going out soon.

**2 WEEKS TO GO - KEEP ON READING**
Congratulations to the students who have handed in their reading records. The Premier’s Reading Challenge continues until September the 4th so there is still plenty of time to get involved! All completed record sheets must be returned by September 4th.

**JANE’S JOTTINGS**
Now that information is so accessible, in fact, working memory is more important than ever. That’s because now we need to know what to do with all that knowledge. It’s less important to memorize facts than to actually know how to apply them efficiently. As long as students know the principles behind scholarly instruction;
Reconsider video games. By the same token, you might want to take a second look at the value of video games your child is playing. Of course, playing several hours a day isn't healthy. But games with lots of navigation through different scenes have been shown to improve visual-spatial working memory scores. And, espionage video games that involve strategy or planning can also improve working memory. That’s because you have to execute an action without guidance and remember the consequences of the action.
Play other games, too. Here's a low-tech way to work that working memory. Grab a newspaper or magazine and give your child 30 seconds to circle all the letter A’s or all the instances of a particular word. "This kind of quick visual scanning is linked to working memory or, when on a road trip, have your kids say aloud the kinds of cars they see. Then have them recall the names in reverse order. "Remembering something in backward sequence is a key feature of working memory.

**Memory Games**
- Concentration. A venerable card game where you place matched pairs of cards face down and players turn over two at a time looking for matches. Vary the number of pairs depending on the age of the player.
- Make technology an aid. In an age of programmable cell phones and electronic calendars, you may wonder whether technology has become more of a crutch than compensation. But it can actually help students more efficiently manage the massive amounts of information they're expected to handle these days.

**EARN & LEARN**
It's back! Woolworths Earn & Learn starts on Wednesday 15th July. Freshwater State School has benefited enormously from this fundraiser in the past and it’s simple to participate. Anyone from our school community who shops at Woolworths can collect stickers to place on sticker sheets. They'll get one sticker for every $10 they spend. Once they complete their sticker sheets collect them up and bring them to class for collection by our student council members. Sticker sheets are available from your child’s classroom or you can print them off the website at woolworths.com.au/earnandlearn.
RESPECTING OTHER'S IDEAS

Purpose: Everybody's ideas are important to themselves. By respecting other's ideas and opinions we help to build a trusting environment with no fear of being put down. In respecting other's ideas we may not agree but we show that we have really listened to and understood what was said and respond in a positive way.

- Listen to the idea carefully.
- Ask questions to clarify and find out why they believe it.
- Repeat the idea in your own words to check that you understand.
- Try to find parts of the idea that you can agree with.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

FOCUS SKILL

BRINGING UP GREAT KIDS

What: 4wk course to help overcome some of the obstacles getting in the way of being the parent you want to be
Where: Uniting Care Community, 98 Birch St, Manunda
When: Mondays 10th August to 31st August from 9:30am to 12pm
Cost: Free (child minding not available)
Contact: 4050 4955 (booking essential)

GIRL GUIDES

Girls between 5-17yrs can become a Girl Guide. Girls in Guiding achieve goals, improve communities & grow in confidence. Guiding is for adults as well
Any woman 18yrs & older who is prepared to make the Guide Promise can be an adult member. Take advantage of the personal & professional development opportunities that Guiding offers. Develop skills in areas such as leadership, event planning, advocacy, communications & more.
To Begin Your Adventure
Contact: Melanie 0416 041 510 or email melpor26@gmail.com

BEACHES RUGBY UNION JNR SIGN ON & SKILLS CLINIC

Who: Boys/girls U5 to U11’s. Boys U13 to U17’s
When: Sat 15th August from 11am to 12pm
Where: Ivanhies Football Ground, Smithfield
Bring: A parent & a birth certificate.
Free sausage sizzle afterwards.

CAIRNS FAMILY BIKE RIDE

What: To Raise awareness & funds for the Declan Crouch Fund
When: Sunday 23rd August from 6:30am
Where: Sound Shell, Fogarty Park, Cairns Esplanade
Who: Family registrations from 8am. Adult Cyclists from 6:30am
Major prize for highest fund raiser.

HELP, I'VE GOT A TEENAGER!

Register: www.familybikeride.org.au
What: 6wk course to help build a better relationship with your teen
Where: Uniting Care Community, 188 Aumuller St, Bungalow
When: Tuesdays 11th August to 15th September from 5:30pm to 8pm
Cost: $60 per participant or parent couple, inc. handouts, tea/coffee
Contact: 4050 4955

RAISING RESILIENT TEENAGERS

What: Free online program empowering parents to make sense of adolescence & parent their teenager more confidently
Who: Seeking English speaking parent/guardians of children 12-15yrs with internet access
Register: www.parentingstrategies.net/depression.brief.intervention or for further details contact the researchers at med-parentingstrategies@monash.edu or call 03 9905 1250

FNQ WORLD CLASS FOOTBALL IS BACK @FSS

When: Fridays from 3:05pm
Where: The Top Oval, FSS
Cost: $10 a class, or block bookings available
Contact: Joe Holt 0422 409 335 or 0411 967 917
info@worldclassfootball.com.au
Date Claimers

**August**
- 28th Premier’s Reading Challenge concludes

**September**
- 2nd to 4th Year 5/6 Camp
- 4th Dress up Day for Book Week
- 8th Woolworths Earn & Learn Concludes
- 8th Parent Teacher Interviews & Book Fair
- 10th Movie Night

**October**
- 5th Labor Day Public Holiday
- 6th First day of term 4
- 9th Big Breakfast
- 19th Pupil Free Day
- 20th P&C Meeting