Dear Parents and Caregivers,

The great work and the great behaviour is continuing across the school. Well done to the students who are working hard each and every day. Education Queensland’s motto of “Every Child Succeeding, Every Day” is what we focus on at Balaclava State School. We want our Balaclava students to stand out from the rest of the students in the Region by:

- coming every day,
- wearing their uniform with pride,
- being focused in class every day so that they can learn to the best of their ability,
- following our 4 B’s, and
- being a great role model for others.

The high expectations that we have of our students means that we know that our students can do, and achieve, these things.

VISITING CLASSROOMS

In past few weeks I have had the pleasure of teaching in the 3/4 B classroom and it made me wonder. “Have you visited your child’s classroom lately?” I love visiting our students to share in their enthusiasm for learning! It is especially pleasing to see how well they are responding to the Explicit Teaching program, the consolidations and the focus on reading and writing which is happening in each classroom every day. Why not drop into your child’s classroom next week and see how well he/she is learning? You will be proud!

NAPLAN TESTING 2016

NAPLAN tests the types 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 2016, NAPLAN tests will be held from 10th to 12th May for Years 3 and 5 students. Information specifically for parents and carers can be found on the 2016 NAPLAN website http://www.nap.edu.au/ The website answers many questions parents and carers may have in relation to NAPLAN. If you have any queries, please see your child’s teacher or come and see me. We are happy to answer your questions.

Have a great week!

Ms. Jane Termaat
Principal

ABSENTEEISM

0475 977 608 - send a text telling us why your child is away. Please include your child’s full name in the text message, year level/class and reason for absence.
END OF DAY
School finishes at 2:30pm each day. It is therefore an expectation that all students are picked up no later than 2:45pm as we do not provide supervision after this time.
While we understand that there are times when parents may need to collect their children after this time, it is not acceptable for the office staff to supervise students until 3:30 or later each day. It is also not acceptable for students to play unsupervised in the school grounds. Balaclava SS provides an after school care service within the school grounds. If you are aware that you are not able to collect your children on time, we recommend that you access this affordable service. Please contact Julie, the program coordinator on 07 4054 5911 for more information.

Mr Michael Patane
Deputy Principal

PREP 2016 ENROLMENTS
Do you have a child due to enrol into Prep for 2017? Children born between 1st July 2011 and 30th June 2012 are eligible to enrol for Prep here at Balaclava State School. Birth certificates and immunisation records must be produced.

KINDY ENROLMENTS
Do you have a child due to enrol into Kindy for 2017? Children turning 4 years of age by the 30th of June can enroll now. Contact Balaclava C&K Kindergarten on 07 4033 5182.

BREAKFAST READING
If your child requires breakfast please send them along to read & eat. The program runs in the Activity Room, Monday to Friday from 8:00am – 8:30am. The program is run by Ms Lois and the food has been kindly donated by REAP by OzHarvest.

WALKING BUS
Every Monday & Friday morning...
Pick up points:
8am—The Shang St Park
8:05am—McEwen St bridge
8:10am—Francis St bridge
A delicious breakfast of fruit and toast is available in the activity room upon arrival for participants.

Premier’s Reading Challenge
Our school will be involved once again in the Premier’s Reading Challenge. The challenge runs from Tuesday 24th May and finishes on Friday 26th 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. Permission forms will be sent out soon.

Good Start Program
The Good Start Program has been developed in response to the health needs identified by the Maori and Pacific Islander communities in Queensland. The focus is on helping children and families to build their skills set, knowledge and confidence about healthy eating, physical activity and healthy lifestyles. Debra Modra and Jodeci Hodge are our Multicultural Health Workers with the Good Start Program and they will facilitate these sessions every Monday from 2:30pm-3:30pm. Consent forms are available at the school office. It would be great if you could give them some feedback this term on how you think the program has worked in our school over the year. Feedback is encouraged so that the program can be improved.

Uniforms
All students have until the 1st of June to make sure they are wearing purple Balaclava shirts. Yellow shirts are not school uniform. If this is going to be a problem please contact the office on 07 4081 5333. Balaclava shirts are available from the tuckshop, prices listed below. Thank you for your support.

School shirts (small) $26.00
School shirts (large) $28.00
Sports shirts $10.00
Senior shirts $30.00
School bucket hat $8.00
*available from school office only
STRANGER DANGER

Local police and Adopt-a-Cops regularly speak to school aged children about personal safety and use protective behaviours model. Children are encouraged to recognise their feelings of safety in different situations. When we feel unsafe, our bodies tell us through physical sensations that something is wrong. Within the program these sensations are called **early warning signs**; however you may refer to them as natural instincts, gut feelings or intuition. Children are encouraged to identify their early warning signs, for example, butterflies in the stomach, sweaty hands, goose bumps, racing heart, and the situations in which they can occur. Parents are encouraged to discuss personal safety with children and talk to them about what they may need to do in different circumstances. There are generally three types of situations where we experience early warning signs:

1. When we **feel unsafe**, but are having **fun** and are in **control** of the situation – i.e. it is our choice to be there. For example, watching a scary movie, diving off a high tower or riding a roller coaster.
2. When we **feel unsafe**, it is not fun, but we are still in **control**. For example, going to the dentist or sitting an exam.
3. When we **feel unsafe**, it is not fun and we have no **control** over the situation. These situations are **personal emergencies** as the child is in danger of losing control over what happens to them. For example, being lost, being bullied, or being abused by a relative.

In a personal emergency, children are encouraged to:
- use safety strategies and personal networks to regain control of the situation and restore them to a state of physical and emotional safety (encourage children to develop a safety network of trusted adults)
- dial triple zero (000) if in immediate danger
- report non-urgent incidents by calling their local police station or Policelink on 131 444.

Parents are urged to take a few minutes to sit down with their children on a regular basis, talk to them about protecting themselves and what they need to do to if there is a problem or they don’t feel safe. For more information about safety out and about go to: [http://www.police.qld.gov.au/programs/cscp/personalSafety/children/Protective+Behaviours+For+Children.htm](http://www.police.qld.gov.au/programs/cscp/personalSafety/children/Protective+Behaviours+For+Children.htm)

DISTRICT CROSS COUNTRY

Congratulations to our BSS District Cross Country team!! Joseph won his age group race (12 yo boys), Jphet came 4th place (11 yo boys), and Benji came 4th place (10 yo boys). All three will represent the Cairns District at Regional Championships.

DRUM BEAT

Selected students have been invited to attend a 10 week Fusion Drumbeat Program which will run Thursday mornings. Students will explore rhythm via games and improvisation. They will learn drum songs and practice a performance. We can’t wait to see the finished presentation!

MOTHER’S DAY STALL

Spoil mothers, grandmothers and carers this Mother’s Day! Our tuckshop has opened a Mother’s Day Stall. Gift prices start from as little as $1.00 and are available now from the tuckshop!

ATTENDANCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Days Away</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep A</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep B</td>
<td>29.5</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep/1</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1A</td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1B</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1/2A</td>
<td>23.5</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2A</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2/3A</td>
<td>22.5</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3A</td>
<td>20.5</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3/4A</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3/4B</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4/5A</td>
<td>15.5</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5/6A</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5/6B</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5/6C</td>
<td>19.5</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total** 275.5

Oh Balaclava how sad. Look at all of that red! Great job from Prep A, 5/6A and 5/6B for being in the green last week. Winner of the attendance trophy is 5/6A. Come on Balaclava we can do better than this. 275.5 missed learning days is far too many. We need to be at school learning every day.
## Date Claimers

### May
- 2\textsuperscript{nd} Labor Day (public holiday)
- 5\textsuperscript{th} NAIDOC Meeting 2:30pm
- 10\textsuperscript{th} NAPLAN (years 3 & 5)
- 11\textsuperscript{th} NAPLAN (years 3 & 5)
- 12\textsuperscript{th} NAPLAN (years 3 & 5)
- 17\textsuperscript{th} P&C Meeting
- 19\textsuperscript{th} Zinc radio broadcast from BSS (6:30am)
- 20\textsuperscript{th} Walk to school day
- 26\textsuperscript{th} Fire Education (year 1)

### June
- 2\textsuperscript{nd} Fire Education (year 1)
- 17\textsuperscript{th} Athletics Carnival
- 20\textsuperscript{th} Year 6 Camp
- 21\textsuperscript{st} P&C Meeting
- 21\textsuperscript{st} Year 6 Camp
- 22\textsuperscript{nd} Year 6 Camp

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