Balaclava State School
Parent and Community Engagement Plan
Working Together in the Pursuit of Excellence

At Balaclava State School we believe quality education is a three way strong responsibility shared between parents, the school and the broader school community.

**Communication between school and home is positive and constructive developing a shared a language of learning and understanding of expectations.**

- Informal parent teacher interactions and conversations initiated by both teachers and families
- 3 way interviews and student goal setting
- Engagement of home school liaison personal to help with communication/language barriers
- School newsletters sent home once a fortnight.
- School Website sharing educational information, school events and successes
- Parents and community members invited to attend /participate in weekly assemblies to disseminate information share achievements
- P&C meetings used as forum to share and feedback information
- School calendar of events shared each term encouraging family and community to plan for and be involved in events
- Parent handbook of strategies in various languages
- Teacher family communication methods ...keep in touch book/notes/before/afterschool catch up/phone calls

**Learning Partnerships between families, the community and the school promoting high expectations of students and ourselves with a “No excuses” policy toward student success**

- 3 Way interviews building the partnership between home and school, setting goals and supporting student learning
- Invitational and welcoming classrooms making time to “yarn” with families to build relationships
- Community liaison officer building partnerships with families and community members,
- Connecting to culture inviting families and elders to participate in school events and use expertise in learning activities
- Student and family support officer transitioning all new families and students into the school.
- Networking between early years educational centres and high schools to transition students into and out of primary years
- Parent workshops tailored to family and community needs to support students’ academic success
- Posters around the school with expectations
Working in collaboration with the wider Community to strengthen the school and families ability to support students learning and development.

- Community volunteers engaged as 1-4-1 mentors to support students learning development and success.
- Local sport organisations invited to engage with students to encourage both academic and sporting success. (Taipans, Sports development officers)
- Established partnerships with health and community organisations to assist with student wellbeing;
  - Wu Chopperen, Australian hearing, FLC, Smith Family, Department of Child Services, PCYC, and Community Health, Presi Care
- Good Start Program – connections between cultures and communities
- Register or survey of community and family expertise capabilities and services
- Coles – breakfast – reading program?

Meaningful and collaborative decision making that includes family and community input

- Open and honest consultation giving voice to parents and students through Parents and citizen association, school leadership program
- Creating opportunities for family input and partnership decision making and joint responsibility around student academic goals and learning strategies.
- Advertise forums and invite family and community members through a variety of media eg website, newsletters, parade, email, advertising
- Reporting and celebrating events published in media and wider community circles
- Mobilising influential community members and engaging them to involve others

Participation by families and the wider community in school activities and student learning encouraged and valued

The school advertises and publishes a calendar of events encouraging participation in school events and forums, yarning, sharing information, celebrating learning, building community including: Big breakfasts held at the beginning of each term, Sports Days, Cross County, Multicultural Festival, Presentation Day, Make and Take Days, NAIDOC events, Show Case Days, P&C Recruitment, Parent Forums, Community Afternoon Teas, Volunteering for classroom activities and other events or activities that may be decided on throughout the year by the school community

NAIDOC?
Harmony Day