Dear Parents and Caregivers,

This is the last newsletter for Term 1 2020. I would like to thank all the parents who have provided support to the school this term ensuring that their child has been:
- attending every day and ready for learning,
- having a healthy lunch and getting homework done,
- wearing a uniform including hats and shoes.
We are proud of our school and work hard to ensure that we have high expectations of all students at all times.

Thank you also to the parents who have maintained open and healthy communication with the staff of the school. It was wonderful connect with our parents during this week’s 3-Way-Conferences via phone. It is our partnership together that will keep your child progressing and achieving stronger academic outcomes.

As a school community we find ourselves in an uncertain time. As Principal I make a commitment to you as parents and caregivers that we are striving to work together with you as we navigate the days ahead. None of us can really predict exactly what the future might hold.. However I can assure you that the wellbeing of our students and staff is our number one priority. All of our staff have been working collaboratively to ensure that our school is a calm and safe place for your children and our teams.

We will keep you informed of any major decisions that are made by the Department of Education that relate to our work in schools. Changes will be communicated to you by SMS, email, our website and Facebook prior to the school term commencing. If you need to, please update your contact details with us next week to make sure your details are up to date.

Even if you are not on Facebook you can see our Facebook public feed from our school website.

www.balaclavass.eq.edu.au

HOME PACK INFORMATION
As promised in previous communication, we have actively promoted the online learning resources that are available for parents and students to ensure the continuity of learning.

We have printed learning packs for every child in our school and these are available for collection from our Hall. These learning packs include: some reading, writing, mathematics, wellbeing and fun tasks to assist in keeping your children learning.

We have sent an SMS out to all of our parents to let everyone know that these are now available. Please let us know if you don’t receive one and we will arrange to get it to you.

IMPORTANT LINKS
Education Queensland
www.education.qld.gov.au
Learning at home
www.qld.gov.au/learningathome
Queensland Health
www.health.qld.gov.au
Australian Government Department of Health
www.health.gov.au
Village Help
www.villagehelp.com.au

Friday 27th March 2020
Week 9, Term 1 (Issue No# 5)

Commencing Monday 30th March our school will operate as ‘student free’ for the remainder of this term with exception to those students who have parents that work in essential services or vulnerable students. Please phone the school if you have questions in relation to this.

Stay safe and stay well,

Cindy Freier
Principal

Like us on Facebook

www.balaclavass.eq.edu.au

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Great state. Great opportunity.
**UP DATE YOUR DETAILS**
Please make sure your contact details are up to date. Clear communication with parents critical at this stage we need to ensure that we can connect you about any changes in our school operation.

**GOOD HYGIENE**
Everyone must practise good hygiene to protect against infection and prevent the virus spreading. When you practise good hygiene you:

- cover your coughs and sneezes with your elbow or a tissue
- put used tissues straight into the bin
- wash your hands often with soap and water, including before and after eating and after going to the toilet
- use alcohol-based hand sanitisers
- avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- clean and disinfect frequently used surfaces such as benchtops, desks and doorknobs
- clean and disinfect frequently used objects such as mobile phones, keys, wallets and work passes
- increase the amount of fresh air available by opening windows or adjusting air conditioning

**NAPLAN CANCELLED 2020**
Federal, state and territory ministers met last week and decided that NAPLAN will not proceed this year. This result was due to a need to focus around the well-being of staff and students and the desire to concentrate on the continuity of learning.

**3 WAY CONFERENCES**
A big thank you to all of the parents who supported their child/children by participating in the phone 3 way conferences yesterday. We appreciate your co-operation with the last minute changes and entrust that you all found the interview informative and insightful.

If you were unable to talk but would like to reschedule a phone call with your child’s teacher please contact the teacher. Working together goes a long way towards achieving positive results for your child.

**CROSS COUNTRY - POSTPONED**
Unfortunately we have had to postpone our school cross country. We will inform the school community of a new event date as soon as possible.

**YEAR 6 REEF TRIP - POSTPONED**
The Year 6 Reef Trip has been postponed. A new date will be advertised in the near future.

**P&C AGM MEETING POSTPONED**
The P&C AGM has been postponed. We will communicate a new date for the AGM as soon as possible. We are always looking for more members for the P&C. Please contact the office for more information.

**HARMONY WEEK AND BULLYING NO WAY DAY**
Last week our students celebrated Harmony Week and Bullying No Way Day. The focus skill for the week was ‘We learn and play in Harmony’, ensuring all students at Balaclava State School know the school expectation of respecting others. Throughout the week our students engaged in cultural and resilience activities. These activities celebrated and respect all cultures. Students were then invited to dress in cultural clothes or wear an orange shirt on Friday 20th March.

**KEEP A WATCH ON OUR SCHOOL**
With the holidays approaching, we need you to keep an eye out for after-hours crime in our school. If you see anything suspicious, please remember to call the School Watch number – 13 17 88. If you do see something suspicious, call the School Watch number and let the local police or State Government Protective Security Service deal with the matter. Keep the number handy – 13 17 88 – and let’s work together to help create a safer school community.

You are also able to report school crime and vandalism to the Police Hot Line -131444
Helping our children navigate the stresses and strains of daily life is more important than ever. While we may not be able to remove all these challenges, we can pass on skills to help young people cope with stress and adversity. It is what’s known as resilience, the ability to overcome difficult experiences and be shaped positively by them. Our brains respond to the information around us, so resilience can be taught, modelled and nurtured. By doing this, through strong support networks and encouraging communication, we can help young people understand when they feel down and know what they can do to make themselves feel better.

- Have one-on-one time with each child, without distractions.
- Give sleep a chance
- Get out and exercise
- Teach delayed gratification
- Eat the alphabet
- Model gratitude

In 2020 Balaclava State School has commenced implementing a new program to provide quality teaching and learning to build student wellbeing. The Resilience Project’s Program as part of our whole school instructional program to support the development of student well-being and social-emotional capabilities.

The year-long wellbeing program consists of a series of weekly lessons that are completed with a Student Journals. The curriculum is broken up into four areas:

- Emotional Literacy,
- Gratitude,
- Empathy and
- Mindfulness.

We are excited about this work and can already see some great learning for students.