Hello Everyone,
Welcome to the start of the Preschool year at Balaklava Community Children’s Centre. We do hope you have had enjoyable festive season & holiday. The Centre has been open for a few weeks and we have enjoyed meeting children and their families through the Childcare service. Educators wish you all the best for the coming year.

Being our first newsletter for 2015, there is a lot of information we want to share with you. As we move further into 2015 you will find our newsletter to be more informative of the Childcare and Preschool programmes.

Staffing news
We farewell Lorraine last week a little sooner than expected as she prepares to welcome a new baby into the world. Lorraine has been a valued team member who has built strong relationships with families and children, especially our babies. Wishing you and your family all the very best Lorraine.

Some exciting news... we can announce that Lucy and Hayley are both expecting babies in July. Congratulations to you both. We wish you all the best as you enter the world of parenthood.

This year in Childcare we welcome Naomi Johnson. Naomi is a qualified educator and has a daughter that has started reception this year. Naomi has a very chatty and bubbly personality and it already feels like she has been here forever.

You will also notice that we have some new faces in the Kindy room this year. Breanna Cummins has joined our team this term as the second teacher on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. This is Breanna's first contract and she has made a great start already. Amy Hall is the kindy teacher on Fridays this term. Amy is the Director of Brinkworth Preschool and brings a wealth of experience with her. If you see Naomi, Breanna or Amy around please say hello and help us make them feel welcome.

Playgroup news: we have a new paid Playgroup Coordinator 😊
Playgroup is on again every Friday of school terms this year. 9.30—11.30am, except public holidays. This term we welcome Kirstyn Rundle who won the position as playgroup Coordinator. Kirstyn has been an employee of our centre for many years in our childcare room. Kirstyn brings a lot of experience and is known for her creative flare. Kirstyn has carried on from where Jillian finished off last year and we are very thankful to Jillian who stepped in, with short notice, to fill the position at the end of last year.

Playgroup is a great way to introduce our environment to your child prior to them starting Kindy and/or Childcare with the comfort of their parent / carer not being far away. Playgroup supports children to make friends with other children their own age and is a great way to meet other parents in a safe and relaxing environment. Playgroup is affordable for families- $1.50 per child, or $2 per family (2 or more children) and there is no termly / annual membership fee. This makes playgroup very flexible and enables you to come as often or as little as you like.

NB: Whilst Kindy is in session, the inside activities for Playgroup will be based in the Church Hall across the road, but you can still play with your child in the yard, under the verandah and make use of the toilet and change facilities here.

Thankyou Thankyou Thankyou
A massive thankyou must go to all our volunteers that put in a huge effort into maintaining and giving the Centre and grounds a spruce up during the closure period. Dale and Denis Gathercole, Janice and Murray Smith, Nat, Skye, and Emma, Theresa and John Kamouzis and anyone else that popped their head in to check on the place (and the chook!). When we were off holidaying you donated your time to the Centre, so thankyou!

Buses
Preschool children that travel on the buses are dropped off and picked up from the Centre by the bus that they travel on to home. This means we have up to 9 buses stopping at the Centre to drop off / pick up children daily, so we remind you to walk behind the buses and that the parking area directly outside the Centre on Scotland Street needs to be clear for the buses to use during 8.15—9.15am & 1.45—3.45pm. We encourage you to use our car park at 3 Humphrey Street for safer drop offs and pick ups.

Audits @ BCCC
You will be pleased to know that last Thursday we had a DECD SAFE audit. An auditor inspected our administration files to ensure staff and volunteer police clearances were appropriate for working with children and were current.

Our annual financial audit was conducted on Wednesday 4th Feb. A special note of congratulations to the Finance Committee and our Finance Officer Julie Griffiths for the excellent work they do – nothing to report from the auditor – well done. The auditors report will be available for viewing at the AGM.

Looking forward to ...Learning Together Everyday,
Dale & Skye
Governing Council News
Have you considered nominating to be a Governing Council representative to represent the parent community?
Our AGM date is fast approaching (16th March) Governing Council is a group of 10 parents and 3 staff who meet 10 times annually (7pm—9pm on a Monday night) to discuss and make decisions about Centre functioning, policies, finances, staffing, building and grounds management, performance review, strategic planning, etc. Nominations are for a maximum 2 year term with Office Bearer positions vacated annually. We have included a brief description of what the Office Bearers role entails for your consideration.

Chairperson
- Provides the leadership to the board
- Acts as the spokes person when required
- Main communication link between BCCC and Governing Council
- Chairs all meetings, makes sure meetings run smoothly and constitutionally
- Ensures decisions are actioned and that the board achieves its aims
- Sits on the finance sub committee with the treasurer, Director, Assistant Director and Administration Officer

Treasurer
- Oversees financial management
- Keeps the board informed of the financial state of the Centre
- Presents the annual balance sheet at AGM
- Convenes finance sub committee meetings (1hr meetings at a time prior to Governing Council meetings. Time / Day as negotiated)
- Contributes to budget development

Secretary
- Minute taker for all meetings
- Prepare and distribute minutes, agenda and reports via email prior to Governing Council meetings (in consultation with the Director and Assistant Director)

Committee member (7 positions)
- Attend Governing Council meetings (10 per year)
- Provide feedback on policies
- Contribute to discussions and decision making

If Governing Council is not for you but you would like to be involved, maybe being a member on one or more of our sub committees may be of interest to you. BCCC has a Grounds—coordinating working bees and providing advice /assistance to staff in improving and upgrading aspects of our outdoor yard, Fundraising—coordinating annual and spontaneous / major fundraisers to raise funds for resources and equipment for our children, NQS—be leaderships go to people for feedback on our Quality Improvement Plan, and WHS—assist staff to action WHS tasks from Business Manager (DECD program) sub committee. These sub committees usually coordinate themselves, meeting at times that are convenient to members as required.

As a not for profit Centre it is vital to have an efficient and informed Governing Council with passion for providing the children in our community with high quality care and education.

More information will be distributed to your family pockets in the foyer in coming weeks, but please do not hesitate to see a Governing Councillor or Skye, Julie or Dale in the office if you would like more information.

The AGM will be held at BCCC in the Preschool room, 7pm on the 16th of March. We need a minimum of 10% of families (18 families) to be represented the AGM in order for the compulsory meeting to proceed. We need your support, so please save this date.

Childcare news
Childcare has been kept busy welcoming many new faces to the Centre since opening the doors for 2015. Educators are spending lots of time getting to know children’s routines and catching up on what new skills and language children have developed during the 3week closure period. Bookings have been historically high during the vacation care period and flowing into Term 1 this year.

A change to the Childcare staff roster will commence around week 5 this term to backfill staff on maternity leave and to schedule in non contact time for educators and leadership staff when there is space in the office. (agh! It’s a tight squeeze). Our priority is to keep changes to the roster at a minimum and the girls will remain in the same primary care giving groups to ensure minimal interruption to our children and families.

Preschool news
Preschool days—just to clarify!
This term Preschool children attend on their designated 2 days each week of either Monday and Wednesday or Tuesday and Thursday (8.25am—3.00pm). In addition, all Preschool children have been allocated Friday of weeks 2, 4 & 6 or weeks 3, 5 & 7 for the full day (8.25am—3.00pm).

The first weeks have focussed on getting to know each other, the routines of the day, learning each others names, about colours and enjoying some special activities on a special one off day when we wore our thongs—in recognition of Australia Day.

A curriculum newsletter was sent home, so if you haven’t received yours, please let us know. Thank you for helping the children by organising their snack separately. The fridge is rather crowded, so this is a huge help. Keep up the good work.

Lost property @ BCCC
Please name as much as you can to prevent items from being lost. Items left behind with names on them are put in the Treasure Boxes in childcare and kindy and returned to you at your child’s next session.

Lost Items with no name are put in the blue lost property box, located on top of the Kindy bag racks near the foyer entrance door.

Foyer pockets
Families that were enrolled at BCCC in 2014 will have noticed their family pocket in the foyer may have moved.

In the school holidays staff updated the family pockets in the foyer to include our 62 new kindy children and many new Childcare families.

Family pockets are now in alphabetical order of Surname, with Childcare and OSHC family pockets being just outside the Childcare door.

Families who have a child enrolled in Kindy will find their pockets closest to the foyer entry door. If you cannot find your pocket please let staff know so we can assist and to ensure you haven’t missed any important information.

NB: Pockets are located depending on which service your oldest child is enrolled in. All your children’s information will also be placed in that one pocket.

FUNDRAISER: MAGNETIC ACTIVITY CHARTS
Please see Pamphlet accompanying this newsletter: a great resource to help your family and a great fundraiser for our Centre—$10 for every chart sold