



Balaclava Bulletin

September 2017

From the Principal's Desk . . .



Welcome back to the start of the 2017-2018 school year. I would like to begin by welcoming all of our new students and their families to the Balaclava community. I am certain that those new to Balaclava will immediately recognize that this is a friendly school with a very dedicated staff. Please feel free to introduce yourself and get to know our staff.

I would also like to welcome our new staff members - Mrs. Higginson, Mrs. Moase, Ms. Miranda, Ms. Price, Mrs. MacLachlan.

Over the next few weeks, parents will be sent information from the school and the classroom teachers. We ask that you go over all material that is sent home, ensuring that the necessary paperwork is reviewed, signed and returned to school. Additionally, all students will also receive a student agenda. This important tool for organization and home/school communication should travel home and back to school every morning. Thank-you to the Balaclava Home & School for covering the cost of the agendas.

Once again, welcome back and I'm looking forward to seeing families at our Meet the Teacher & BBQ!

M Wilson
Principal

School Newsletters

This year we will be posting our school newsletter and other information for families on the school website (www.hwdsb.on.ca/balaclava). We encourage all parents to subscribe to our school website by following the instructions at this link <http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/balaclava/subscribe>. Many of you have already subscribed by completing the blue form sent home last June.

By subscribing you will receive an email notification when new information including community events/resources or HWDSB alerts (such as school closures) are posted. If you would like instead to receive a paper copy of the newsletter, please let your child's teacher know.

2017-18 Balaclava Bell Times

9:00	Entry Bell
9:00 - 10:00	Period 1
10:00 - 10:40	Period 2
10:40 - 11:20	Nutrition Break #1
11:20 - 12:10	Period 3
12:10 - 1:00	Period 4
1:00 - 1:40	Nutrition Break #2
1:40 - 2:40	Period 5
2:40 - 3:20	Period 6
3:20	Dismissal Bell

Save the Date . . .

September 19 (9:10am)
- Home & School Meeting

September 26 (6:30am)
- Home & School Meeting

October 3 (6:00pm) - School Council
New members are always welcome!

September 14 (5:00-6:30pm) - Meet the Teacher & BBQ (details sent home in package from the office)

Safe Arrival Check

Parents, guardians, and caregivers have the primary responsibility for the safety of their children. Please call our Arrival Line at (905) 659-3398 to report all student absences and lates on a daily basis.

An answering machine is always on, so call anytime and leave a message with the student's name, class, and reason for absence. If an absence is unexplained, you will be contacted at home or work.

If contact numbers or email address have changed, please inform the office immediately. In an emergency it is important that the office be able to contact parents quickly.

Buses

Attridge Bus Lines and **Sharp Bus Lines** will be providing transportation again this year. If you need to reach the dispatcher, please call:

Attridge - 905 690-2632

Sharp - 905 679-0001

First Student - 905-522-3232



The **Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board Transportation Department** can be reached at 1-800-691-6402.

Bus Notes

Bus changes at the end of the day are not be permitted. We will continue to only make emergency changes so that students do not find themselves in unsafe situations. Please contact the office and speak with Mrs. Nelligan if assistance is needed. A written note or email must be provided in case of emergency.

Any students not taking the bus home (e.g., caregiver pick-up, riding their bike) must have written permission from a parent/guardian. Students are to show these notes to their Period 1 teacher who will send them to the office for tracking.



Parents are reminded if they are signing out students to please do this at the office. More information will be found in your child's agenda - please review it with them carefully.

Meet the Teacher

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2017 – Please stop by the p/j playground (5:00–6:30) to meet your child's teachers. Harvey's will also be on-site for a BBQ. More details in the September Package sent home from the office.

Lost and Found

Each year countless sweaters, mittens, boots, sweatshirts, running shoes and other articles of clothing are lost by students and, although we have a "Lost and Found" box in the Front Lobby, many of these items are never claimed. We urge you to label your children's clothing with their name (especially winter boots and running shoes). At the end of every month all unclaimed articles are sent to community groups who can make good use of them. Whenever you are in the school please have a look at the "Lost and Found" box.

Volunteering at Balaclava

Whether it is helping out in a classroom, on an excursion or in our school library, volunteers are important to us at Balaclava. If you are interested in volunteering in any capacity, please request a volunteer package from our office. As per HWDSB policy, a volunteer package must be completed annually and a Vulnerable Sector Screening every three years.



This screening can be obtained either by visiting the King William HPS location or applying online.

<http://www.policiesolutions.ca/checks/services/hamilton/>



Student Agendas

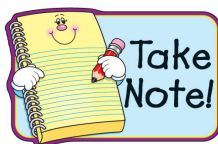
This year all students in grades 1 to 8 will have a BalACLava School Agenda. These agendas are calendars and daily planners aimed at improving our students' organizational skills. They are also a great tool for home-school communication.

Time at school will be spent to ensure that these agendas are used properly to record tests, assignments and other upcoming events. Each student will be required to have an agenda. They will be given out the first week of school. Students are to take their agendas to each class and home each afternoon. Our Home and School has generously subsidized the entire cost of these agendas.

Students Leaving School Property

For safety reasons, students are not to leave the school grounds during the school day without written consent from a parent/guardian (e.g., for a medical appointment).

Students are to bring their note to the office in the morning.



Terry Fox Run 2017

"Working together to outrun cancer"

Our annual Terry Fox Run will be held on **Thursday, September 28** (rain date: Friday, September 29). Our goal this year is for each student to donate a toonie! More information will be sent out soon.

Mrs. C. Barrett Mrs. S. DeLong



Prescribed Oral Medication

Information forms must be completed to enable our school staff to dispense medicine to your child. Please ask at the office if you need one of these forms.

2017-18 BalACLava Staff

Mrs. K. Lucyshyn	FDKA
Mrs. B. Higginson	FDKA
(Mrs. R. Attwood on leave)	
Ms. L. Wynne	FDKB
Mrs. B. Martin	FDKB
Mrs. M. Moase	FDKC
Mrs. S. Miranda	FDKC
Mrs. J. Marshall	1A
Ms. J. Price	1A (Day 5s)
Mrs. A. Todoruck	1/2A
Mrs. C. Button	2A
Mrs. S. Cassidy	2/3A
Mrs. C. Pyper	3/4A
Mrs. K. Savoie	3/4B
Ms. P. Pirie	4/5A
Mrs. D. Roczniak	5A
Ms. J. Keyte	5/6A
Mr. M. Ansty	6A Advisor
Mrs. C. Barrett	6/7A Advisor
Mr. G. Hewitt	7/8A Advisor
Mrs. S. DeLong	8A Advisor
Mrs. L. Wright	Core French/Library
Mr. R. Barrett	Core French
Mr. T. Nicks	Physical Education
Ms. D. Clarke	Music
Ms. G. Arruda	Library
Mrs. L. Jenkins	Learning Resource
Mrs. S. MacLachlan	Reading Specialist
Mrs. K. Sisler	Educational Assistant
Mrs. M. Wright	Educational Assistant
Mr. B. Maunder	Caretaking
Mr. T. Giannotti	Caretaking
Mrs. D. Nelligan	Office Administrator
Ms. M. Wilson	Principal
Ms. Sue Dunlop	Superintendent
Ms. P. Deathe	Trustee

Student Fees

School Fees this year will include Yearbook, School Lunch Days (pizza days, sub days, etc.), Tuck Shop (popcorn, cookies, etc.), Picture Day Pictures, Grad Pictures (Grade 8s), locks (gr6-8). These opportunities are voluntary for our families.

Additionally, families will be asked to pay for costs associated with class trips. Although ultimately the decision to participate lies with the parent/guardian, we believe that these excursions are valuable extensions of the learning that is happening in the classroom.

In the event of a situation where a family is experiencing a hardship related to a school expense (e.g., a class trip), please contact Ms. Wilson to confidentially work out a plan for participation.

Health and Safety During a Heat Event

A heat event occurs when the forecast calls for one or more days with a 40 or higher humidex reading. The City of Hamilton Public Health Department monitors weather forecasts closely and notifies the media and community partners of a heat event.

Once HWDSB has been notified of a heat event, information will be posted on our website and the following precautionary steps will be taken for students:

- Limit physical outdoor activities
- Ensure access to water
- Close drapes and blinds
- Move pupils through cooler areas of the school
- Monitor students for symptoms of heat stress

For more information, or steps you can take to reduce risks during heat events, please visit the following websites:

City of Hamilton

www.hamilton.ca/healthandsocialservices/publichealth

<http://bit.ly/nB4ZQp>

Health Canada

<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/climat/index-eng.php>

Student Dress Code Reminder

With the warmer weather, there is a tendency to wear less. While comfort is important, appropriate clothing is required for school. All students will be held to the following standards of our dress code (see your child's agenda for all the details).

- shorts/skirts must be longer than the tips of your fingers when your arms are straight at your sides

- spaghetti straps on shirts are not permitted.

undergarments should not be visible

- "The bottom of your top must cover the top of your bottom"



Valuables at School

We ask your co-operation in not sending valuables to school. The Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board does not have the kind of insurance coverage that would permit it to compensate students if valuable articles are lost or stolen at school. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter. **Balaclava School will not be responsible for lost or stolen valuables.**

Ticks and Lyme Disease

Lyme disease is an infection caused by bacteria. In Ontario, Lyme disease is carried by some black-legged ticks, also known as deer ticks. In Hamilton, the most common type of tick found is the American Dog tick. American Dog ticks cannot transmit Lyme disease. Ticks are bugs that sit on tall grass and bushes until they attach themselves to a person or animal passing by.

You should do a tick check after spending the day outdoors. Carefully look for ticks on your body, starting with your feet and ending at your head.

If you find a tick on your body, remove the tick immediately to prevent infection. If a tick is attached to your skin for less than 24 hours, your chance of getting Lyme disease is small.

Here are the steps to remove a tick:

1. Remove the tick carefully with tweezers by grasping the tick as close to your skin as possible.
2. Pull it straight out, gently but firmly.
3. After you remove the tick, clean the bite with soap and water.

When removing a tick:

- Do not burn the tick off
- Do not put anything on the tick to try to smother it, such as Vaseline, alcohol or baby oil
- Do not squeeze it; this could allow bacteria that causes Lyme disease to get into your body

The only way to know for sure if you have Lyme disease is to get a blood test from your doctor.

If you have been bitten by a tick and believe you have symptoms of Lyme disease it is important to see your doctor for medical advice. Tell them where you were when you got the tick bite to help them assess your risk of Lyme disease.

For more information, please visit the City of Hamilton Website at: <https://www.hamilton.ca/public-health/health-topics/lyme-disease-ticks>.