



Balacalava Bulletin

February 2018



From the Principal's Desk . . .

Students will be receiving their **Term 1 Communication of Learning** (FDK) or **Term 1 Report Card** (gr1-8) on February 13. Please take the time to review the report with your child and work through the Student/Parent Comment Section (page 4 for gr1-8/page 3 for kindergartens). This is an excellent opportunity to reflect with your child(ren) on his/her progress to date and set some goals for the remainder of the school year. Please complete this portion of the form and return it with your child to provide the classroom/advisor teacher with feedback.

Last fall our **craft club** was busy making winter crafts that they sold at school in December. As a result of this craft sale we raised \$416 for the 541 Eatery & Exchange in Hamilton.

In January our **swim teams** hosted a Gum Day for our gr1-8 classes. Those who participated raised \$488. This is enough to over the cost of the swim caps and some of the cost of bussing to the next swim meet. A special thank-you from Balacalava Staff to students for chewing "appropriately" - no reported incidents of gum in desks!

Thanks to all those families who were able to attend our **January 23 Social Media Fitness** session with Chris Vollum. Thanks to School Council for securing a grant to make this opportunity possible.

Coming up in February . . .

- **Monday, February 5** - Kindergarten registration opens
- **February 5/6** - we're looking forward to our gr4-6 students participating in a special **MADD Canada** program
- **Tuesday, February 13** - FDK **Communication of Learning** and gr1-8 **Report Cards** sent home
- **Tuesday, February 13** - we're welcoming **Move EDGEducation** for our grade 1-8s. Remember your running shoes and athletic wear!
- **Monday, February 19** - On behalf of the staff, we hope you enjoy the **Family Day** holiday.

M Wilson
Principal

Save the Date . . .

February 6 (6:00pm)
- School Council

February 15
- Boston Pizza - Balacalava Home & School Night!

February 20 (9:10am)
- Home & School Meeting

Thursday, May 31 (4:30-8:00pm)
- Balacalava H&S Fun Fair

New members are
always welcome!

BALACLAVA FUN FAIR

SAVE
THE
DATE

THURSDAY, MAY 31
FROM 4:30-8:00 PM

COORDINATOR -
ELLIE MILLARD

EMAIL -
BALACLAVA.FUNFAIR@GMAIL.COM

End of the Day Arrangements

A reminder to families that 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.

Any student with changes to their regular end of day arrangements (e.g., bus instead of Umbrella Family Day Care) **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. These notes help us to ensure the safety of all students by them following the instructions of their parents/guardians for the end of the day.



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.

Kindergarten Registration begins February 5, 2018

Your child is eligible for:

- Junior Kindergarten if they are age four by December 31 (born in 2014), or
- Senior Kindergarten if they are age five by December 31 (born in 2013)

Please contact the school to register! If you have neighbours with kindergarten aged children, please share this information with them and encourage them to register.

Mrs. Nelligan will request the following information:

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| - Student's Name | - Date of Birth |
| - Parents' Names | - Address |
| - Telephone Numbers | - E-mail Address |



Once parents contact the office, forms can be sent home to complete the registration process.

No out of catchment applications will be accepted at BalACLava for the 2018/2019 school year.

Head Lice - Pediculosis

Head lice (pediculosis) occurs from time to time in each school. Anyone can get head lice. School children get lice more than adults. When children play, their heads often touch. Lice crawl from head to head. Head lice are spread by direct contact only (e.g. head to head, shared clothing).

Help us reduce the spread of head lice. Please check your children on a regular basis and if you do find that your child has head lice, **please inform the school**. Your child will never be identified to other parents. An approved treatment (such as Nix, R&C Shampoo, or Resultz) must be used before your child returns to school. Consult with Bug Busters, your pharmacist, or other medical practitioner about the best product to use.

You can also visit www.hamilton.ca/healthyschools to access "Bug Buster Head Lice Clinic Schedule" for treatment supports. For additional information, guidance and any questions please contact: City of Hamilton Public Health Services, 905-546-CITY (905-546-2489), publichealth@hamilton.ca

Information for Families of Grade 8s

There are lots of exciting experiences related to secondary school coming up. Families of grade 8s, please mark the following dates on your calendar:

- Feb 8 - Grad Photos
- Feb 16 - Option Sheets distributed
- Feb 23 - Option Sheets due to Balaclava
- Feb 28 - Option Sheet Entry & Interest Survey
- June 21 - Balaclava Grade 8 Graduation

Please connect with Mrs. DeLong or Mr. Hewitt if you have any questions.

Balaclava Talent Show

The **Balaclava Talent Show** is coming on **Friday, March 9, 2018!** If your child plays a musical instrument, is a dancer, a singer or perhaps has another special talent and would like to perform, this is their chance!

Starting the **week of February 5**, students from Grade 4 to 8 interested in performing in the talent show should sign up for an audition on the sports bulletin board. Grade 1-3 teachers will hold classroom auditions. **Auditions** will be held during the week of **February 26** during first nutrition break. We will not be accepting video entries this year.



Interested performers should have a prepared act no longer than 2 minutes and be ready to perform for our teacher panel during auditions. Group performances are welcomed and encouraged. Students should come to the audition prepared with any equipment required (e.g., music). We will have a keyboard, piano, drums and a microphone available for the students to use. Students are to choose only one act in which to perform. Costumes are not required at the audition but may be worn if desired. Please ensure that all materials and music are appropriate for school.

Please note that auditioning does not guarantee a place in the final program. Successful participants will be notified on March 5, 2018.

We hope to provide an entertaining and balanced program which will showcase the diverse talents of our students.

If you have any questions, please ask Mr. Nicks or Ms. Todoruck.



Safe Arrival Check



Parents, guardians, and caregivers have the primary responsibility for the safety of their children. Please remember to 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 please 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.

Oral Communications Festival

Interested students have begun working hard on their speeches for the OCF to be held in our gym on March 1, 2018. Winners from each division (junior and intermediate) move on to the next level of competition. Any interested students in grades 4-8 should see Mrs. Rocznik to sign up by the Friday, February 2.



Forest of Reading



This the time of year is when our students have the opportunity to participate in the Forest of Reading Program!!

The Forest of Reading is Canada's largest recreational reading program. The program has been developed by the Ontario Library Association to develop recognition for Canadian authors and Canadian books. The students who choose to participate in the program will help to choose the winners for the Forest of Reading by voting for their favourite books.

Our school participates in the Blue Spruce, Silver Birch and Red Maple programs of the Forest of Reading. Over the next few months students will be offered the opportunity to read the books and then at the end of the program to vote for their favourite books. The FDK-Gr. 2 students will be participating in the program through their classroom library time. The Grade 3-8 students are offered the opportunity to participate through the library program offered during Day 4 first nutrition break and/or by signing the books out through the librarian during Nutrition Break. Below is a description of the 3 different programs at the school.

FDK- Gr. 2 - Blue Spruce books. There are 10 different fiction picture books that are age appropriate for this grade level. Students will be reading these books during classroom library time and will be participating in activities related to the book. Students will vote at the end of April for their favourite book.

Gr. 3-6 - Silver Birch books. There are 20 fiction and non-fiction books with content that is age appropriate for this grade level. These books will be available to borrow through the library. Once during the 5 day cycle students will be able to come to the library to borrow and return these books, there will also be time to sit and talk and share their thoughts about the books with the librarian and their peers if they choose. For students to vote at the end of April they need to commit to read at least 5 of the books.



Gr. 7-8 - Red Maple books. There are 10 fictions books with content that is age appropriate for this grade level. These books have been labelled Young Adult as the content in some of the books is deemed appropriate for grade 7 and up. These books will be available to borrow through the library. Once a 5 day cycle students will be able to come to the library to borrow and return these books, there will also be time to sit and talk about the books and their thoughts about the book with the librarian and their peers if they choose. For students to vote at the end of April they need to commit to read at least 5 of the books.