



BalACLava Bulletin

March 2018



From the Principal's Desk . . .

February was a busy month that included a variety of activities and events for the students at BalACLava. Our basketball teams have been enjoying their gym time and visits to other schools. Our **checkers** and **chess** teams have also been preparing for their meets. We are always proud of their effort. Our students continue to be great ambassadors for BalACLava when participating in interschool games and tournaments. A special thank-you to the coaches and parent volunteers who continue to support our teams.

Thanks also to our Home & School for arranging Staff Appreciation events (Feb 14 & 16) for the BalACLava Staff. We all enjoyed the treats and the lunch that families provided. We also appreciated those who were able to volunteer their time the day of the luncheon so staff were able to relax.

Our gr 4-6 students appreciated the visit by **MADD Canada Smart-Wheels** program. MADD is inspiring and empowering young people to be the generation that chooses not to drive impaired by alcohol and/or drugs. Our gr7/8s will be participating in another MADD program later this year. Thanks to the parents who volunteered to assist with set-up for this program.

Our gr1-8s had a great time getting active with **Moving EDGEducation** in the gym (Feb 13). It was great to see everyone trying some new moves!

A reminder that **Kindergarten registration** is now open for those children born in 2014. Please share this message with friends and neighbours as registering early helps us to have an accurate picture of our enrollment for class building and staffing. Families can connect with Mrs. Nelligan for more information.

With the fluctuating weather temperatures that we're continuing to have, please take a moment to discuss appropriate dress with your children. While we all enjoy when the warm days are here, our students need to be prepared for outdoor recess each day. We just aren't yet into short sleeves weather.

Coming up in March . . .

March 2 - PA Day
March 9 - Talent Show
March 12-16 - March Break
March 23 - Bobcat Day - Theme: March Madness (Basketball)
March 30 - Good Friday
April 2 - Easter Monday

The BalACLava Staff wish you a relaxing and safe March Break.

M Wilson, Principal

Save the Date . . .

April 17 (9:15am)

- Home & School

April 3 (6:00pm)

- School Council

New members are always welcome!

BALACLAVA

SAVE THE DATE

HOME & SCHOOL FUN FAIR

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

COORDINATOR - ELLIE MILLARD

EMAIL -
BALACLAVA.FUNFAIR@GMAIL.COM

Parking Lot and School Buses Safety Reminders

When the buses arrive at the beginning and end of the day it is extremely busy outside the school. Once buses have arrived, please park on the road and come into the foyer to drop-off or pick-up your child. Children are not permitted to walk across the parking lot without a parent/guardian due to safety concerns.

When parking on the road, please make sure you are not blocking the entrances/exits of the parking lot!

Eyeglass Recycling - How Can I Help?

Imagine if you could help a child read, an adult succeed in his job, or a senior maintain her independence . . . and provide a community with more opportunities to grow and thrive. Donate glasses and change someone's life.

Lions Clubs around the world collect used eye glasses and recycle them for people in need.

Please drop off your used eyeglasses to Mrs. Nelligan in the office.

New school website design!

As you may have noticed, we have unveiled our new school website. This represents the first significant update to the look of our school website since 2013. School websites in HWDSB are being enhanced to improve the standards associated with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). Websites will be easier to navigate from mobile devices, display standardized icons for accessibility, offer larger font size and place a greater emphasis on the search function, to name some enhancements.

Special Food Days (March-June)

<i>Pizza Lunch</i>	<i>Sub Lunch</i>	<i>Pita Lunch</i>	<i>Booster Juice</i>	<i>Lunch Lady</i>
Mar. 6, 27 Apr. 3, 17 May 1, 15, 29	Mar. 20 Apr. 10, 24 May 8, 22	Mar. 1, 22 Apr. 5, 19, May 3, 17, 31	Mar. 8, 29 Apr. 12, 26 May 10, 24	Mar. 5, 7, 19, 21, 26, 28 Apr. 4, 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, 25, 30 May 2, 7, 9, 14, 16, 23, 28, 30 June 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20, 25, 27

A reminder that Lunch Lady continues into June as families can place orders directly on-line close to the lunch date. Families are reminded to check the calendar to ensure their child isn't participating in an excursion or special event on the date that lunch is being offered before placing an on-line order.

Devices at School

We are committed to teaching and modelling for our students the appropriate use of devices for instructional purposes. We are fortunate to have iPads in each of our classes for students to use for assignments.

Primary students (FDK-Gr3) are encouraged to keep personal devices at home. With parental permission, junior (Gr4-6)/intermediate (Gr7-8) students may bring their own devices to school, if used in accordance with our established guidelines.

**** Please remember that Balaclava School assumes no responsibility for lost, damaged, or stolen property (including electronic devices) or the content of devices. Student use and storage of personal electronic devices is at their own risk. Bringing a device from home is never mandatory. Each class has iPads that are used by students for assignments. Students are never required to bring personal electronic devices to school.**

Posting Pictures of Balaclava Students

Students participating in extra-curricular activities or school events that are open to the public or that take place in public places such as on field trips and fairs, may be photographed by the school community, news media or general public. This may result in photos or videos being posted on social media sites and in electronic or print news media sites. The school has no control over how and where these images will be posted. However, **parents and guardians are asked to practice good digital citizenship by being respectful when they post photos of others, which means getting parent/guardian consent before images and videos are shared or posted online.**

Events inside the school, such as performances, awards assemblies, and commencement that are typically attended by family members are often photographed and video recorded by family members. **We ask those in attendance to respect the privacy rights of all students and their families by getting parent/guardian consent before images and videos are shared or posted online.**

EQAO Information

Please note the following dates for the **EQAO Primary and Junior Assessments**. These assessments, for Grade 3 and Grade 6 students, will be administered from **May 22 - June 4**.

After each assessment, EQAO makes approximately half of the test items (questions) public. These booklets, as well as examples of the students' answers from the past five years are available on the EQAO website - Parent Resources.

"A Guide to EQAO Assessment in Elementary School" is another resource available on the EQAO website - Parent Resources. This guide answers commonly asked questions such as "What is on the EQAO assessments? Do EQAO results count towards students' grades?"

Math, Reading and Writing are components on both the Primary and Junior Assessments. Here are some suggestions that you might find helpful in supporting your child's learning in Mathematics at home.

PRIMARY

- Include your child in everyday activities that involve addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.
- Play games and do puzzles that require reasoning.
- Solve problems with your child and talk about the different steps in the solution.
- Have your child show you how he or she can solve problems in different ways (e.g., through sketches, charts, graphs, words, tallies).
- Let your child know that everyone can learn mathematics.

JUNIOR

- Have your child help you solve everyday problems that require different operations and formulas to solve them.
- Play games with several steps.
- Ask your child to describe a problem and explain what additional information is needed to reach a solution.
- Have your child show you the steps he or she has used to solve different problems. Let your child know that everyone can learn mathematics.

Oral Communications Festival

The Balaclava Oral Communications Festival was held earlier today (March 1) in the gym. A winner from both the junior and intermediate division was chosen to move on to the next level of competition which will be held in April.



The following students participated:

Junior Level

Braden C (gr6), Avery E (gr6), Stephanie H (gr6), Aryanah K (gr6), Domenech K (gr5), Regan R (gr5), Jasmine S (gr6), Sadie Z (gr6)

Intermediate Level

Raquel D (gr7), Kaitlin N (gr7), Lauren T (gr7), Claudia T (gr7)

Thanks to all our participants, it was great to hear your thoughts!

All the best to Sadie and Claudia as they move forward to the next level of competition.

Kindergarten Registration has opened for September 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 can be accepted at Balaclava for the 2018/2019 school year.