



Balaclava Bulletin

April 2018



From the Principal's Desk . . .

At Balaclava we kicked off March Break with a fabulous **Talent Show**. Staff and students all enjoyed seeing what was being showcased from singing, dancing and playing a variety of instruments to telling jokes to hula hooping - and everything in between! Special thanks to all the staff who helped with the auditions and to Mr. Nicks and Ms. Todoruck for organizing the show.

Students had the opportunity to vote for the theme for our March **Bobcat Day**. March Madness (basketball) was the winner.

A reminder that we are continuing to accept **Kindergarten registrations** for those children born in 2014. Please share this message with friends and neighbours to have an accurate picture of our enrollment for class building and staffing. Families can connect with Mrs. Nelligan for more information.

While we all enjoy when the warm days are here, our students need to be prepared for outdoor recess each day. Similarly to last month, temperatures continue to fluctuate. Please continue to discuss **appropriate dress for recess** with your children. Additionally, thanks for all the support with indoor shoes throughout the winter - they were a big help in keeping the hallways clean. Please continue to ensure that your child has **indoor shoes** for school each day and a pair of **outdoor shoes** for recess. For safety, students should be wearing running shoes to play outside during recess.

We are continuing to work hard to focus our classroom instructional time. We appreciate parents supporting us by sending in written notes when they are picking up their children or if other arrangements are needed. If you need to bring a forgotten item or lunch for your child, leaving it with us in the office avoids interrupting classrooms during instructional time. We will call your child down at Nutrition Break instead. Thanks also to parents for continuing to wait in the lobby when picking up children both during the day and at the end of the day. Thank-you for your support.

Coming up in April . . .

Monday, April 2 - Easter Monday

Tuesday, April 3 - 6:00pm - School Council Meeting

Wednesday, April 11 - Day of Pink

Tuesday, April 17 - 9:10am - Home & School Meeting

Tuesday, April 17 - 6-8pm - Profiling Volunteer Excellence Event (@Ed Centre)

Friday, April 20 - Earth Day Clean-Up & Bobcat Day

- Theme: Earth Day

Thursday, May 3 - 6:00-7:30 - Open House

M Wilson, Principal

Save the Date . . .

April 3 (6:00pm)

- School Council

April 17 (9:10am)

- Home & School

May 3 (6:00pm-7:30pm)

- Open House

New members are
always welcome!

BALACLAVA HOME & SCHOOL FUN FAIR

SAVE THE DATE

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

Earth Day - Clean-Up

Friday, April 20 we will be celebrating Earth Day with our annual school yard clean-up and planting.

The classes will be signing up for jobs such as picking up garbage, weeding and planting flowers in our garden.



HWDSB Helps

HWDSB Helps (formerly TipOff) is a free, anonymous reporting service at HWDSB in partnership with InTouch Mobile Canada. The service encourages two-way conversations so that students, staff and families can share concerns and find help. **HWDSB Helps shares anonymous reports with the appropriate school so it can be addressed using school/Board protocols.** This is not a counselling service but can direct students in crisis to 911 or Kids Help Phone.

Contact HWDSB Helps by...

- texting 905-963-0066 - using the app (for iOS and Android) - calling 905-963-0066

FUN FAIR - MAY 31st FROM 4:30-8:00PM

Fun Fair was started in 1996 by the Home & School Association with the main objective of offering the kids a night of fun and games. This annual parent driven evening has grown to be our largest Fundraising event attracting many from our community.

Over the years, Fun Fair has funded resurfacing of the junior playground field, a score clock for the gym, musical instruments, new playground equipment for all areas, modern technology including SmartBoards, iPads, science equipment, and many smaller items for our school.

Please look out for information regarding this year's Fun Fair coming home this week with details about how you can help and items required to make this a fun and successful year.

We need everyone's help with donated items and valuable time supervising at one of the fun filled areas. Donated items can be dropped off at the school office.

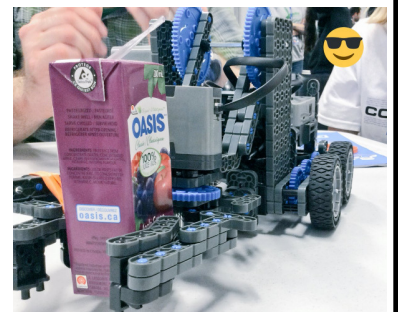
ALSO

There are SPONSORSHIP opportunities for families and/or businesses to partner with Fun Fair. Please enquire. However you choose to get involved and help, please know it is greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions regarding this year's fun fair please contact email Ellie Millard
~ balaclava.funfair@gmail.com or tel 905.902.8404

Robotics Club

March 26 our Robotics Club went to the HWDSB Education Centre to compete in VEX-IQ Ringmaster Challenge. In the 2018 competition there were 25 schools. All the kids had a great time and it was a great experience to be able to drive their own robot. We had to use teamwork, sportsmanship and perseverance to work together to make it all happen. We used controllers to control the robot to pick up coloured rings (red, green, and blue) and move them to poles, push them to floor goals, and release a bonus tray. By doing these things we scored points. There were different awards based on the number of points. In the end each person got a certificate for completing the VEX-IQ Challenge. We hope lots more kids (gr4-8) think about joining our club this year or next year to learn about robotics. It's a great experience with science, technology, mathematics and more. Thank-you to Mr. Barrett for the Coding Club, Mrs. DeLong for making our t-shirts, Home & School for purchasing our robot, and the board for setting up this competition.
~ The CodeCats!



Lion's Club Donation

A big thank-you to the Lion's Club of Waterdown for their generous donation to support Balaclava. With the donation we were able to purchase three wobble stools. These stools are self-regulation tools that help with focus, attention, calming, and active listening. They provide the movement and tactile input that is necessary for some students to be able to attend to learning in class. Thank, Lion's Club!



International Day of **Pink**

Wednesday, April 11, 2018, staff and students across HWDSB will join millions of people worldwide wearing pink on the International Day of Pink. We do this because we want to make a statement that we stand against all forms of bullying. It also reminds us that when we stand up and speak out, we can make a difference.

The International Day of Pink began in Nova Scotia when two high school students saw a classmate being bullied for wearing a pink shirt. The two students intervened, but wanted to do more. A few days later they were able to get their entire school to wear pink. That school sent a message that together we can stop bullying.

We know that bullying can be a problem in our schools and in our wider community. Bullying can happen to anyone, anywhere. Collectively, we can stand up and speak out against bullying. We will continue to support anti-bullying efforts that make our schools safe and welcoming places for all of our students.

Please wear pink on **Wednesday, April 11, 2018**. You can learn more at dayofpink.org.

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 23 - 30, 2018. Math, Reading and Writing are components on both the Primary and Junior Assessments.

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. If you have any further questions after reviewing these resources, please feel free to contact your child's teacher.

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>.

BalACLava Public School

FUN FAIR

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

YOU ARE INVITED TO SHARE IN THE FUN



Sack Race

*Used
Book
Sale*



*Plant
Sale*

*Egg & Spoon
Race*



EVERYONE WELCOME
WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING OUR
COMMUNITY NEIGHBOURS AND FRIENDS

ADULT SILENT AUCTION

OBSTACLE COURSE

CLIMB ABOARD A FIRE TRUCK

**MEET THE HAMILTON MOUNTED POLICE
AND THEIR FOUR LEGGED PARTNER**

YOUR CHANCE TO TAPE A TEACHER

**LIVE MUSIC WITH OPEN MIC AND SCHOOL
BAND**

*BBQ * COTTON CANDY * POPCORN * SNO CONES
* BAKE SALE * GAMES & PRIZES * FACE PAINTING
* ANIMAL PETTING AREA * TOONIE BAGS
* BASKET RAFFLE * KIDS PENNY SALE