



# Balaclava Bulletin

## May 2018



### *From the Principal's Desk . . .*

Our **April Bobcat Day** was a big success celebrating Earth Day. We love the creativity of our students showing their spirit in their clothing choice. Also, students each painted a piece of a large scale puzzle that will be mounted in the front foyer as a symbol of each of us having a place in the world, and of the importance of everyone working together. A special thank-you to Mr. Milum for his work in designing, creating, donating, and assembling the puzzle.

After being postponed due to the snow on the ground, our annual **Earth Day** clean-up happened Friday, April 27! Thanks to Mr. Aldebert for the mulch donation. Thanks to everyone who pitched in and cleaned up, whether at Balaclava or elsewhere to take care of the environment.

Students (and staff!) are excited to be moving into the warmer months! A reminder that students should be wearing **running shoes** (not flip-flops or sandals) when playing outside. Please ensure that your child has a pair of outdoor running shoes left at school for recess.

### Coming up in May . . .

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

Friday, May 18 - Bobcat Day (Theme: Twin Day)

Friday, May 18 - Jump Rope for Heart (K-gr3)

Monday, May 21 - Victoria Day

Wednesday, May 23 - EQAO Begins

Thursday, May 24 - 6:00-7:00 - Welcome to Kindergarten  
(families new to kindergarten)

Thursday, May 31 - 4:30-8:00 - Home & School Fun Fair

We're looking forward to seeing all our families at the school for **Open House** (May 3, 6:00-7:30) & **Fun Fair** (May 31, 4:30-8:00).

*M Wilson,*  
Principal

### **Save the Date . . .**

May 8 (6:00pm) **\*\* New Date \*\***  
- School Council

New members are always welcome!

May 15 (6:30pm)  
- Home & School AGM  
New members are always welcome!

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

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

### **Welcome to Kindergarten Night**

Do you have a child registered to start Kindergarten in September 2018?

*Countdown*  
to  
**KINDERGARTEN**

If you haven't yet registered, please call us at the school (905-659-3396).

The Balaclava Kindergarten team invites our new families to an interactive information evening. Please bring your new Balaclava Bobcat!

**Thursday, May 24  
6:00pm-7:00pm**

- Visit our kindergarten classrooms
- Meet the education team
- Participate in a preview of the FDK program

### **Open House at Balaclava**

Each spring, Open House is a time for the students, teachers and parents to celebrate our students!



Balaclava's annual Open House will be  
**Thursday, May 3 from 6:00-7:30pm.**

In addition to visiting classrooms, please be sure to stop by the library for the Book Fair. Book Fair details on p2 of this newsletter.

### **Class Placements 2018/2019**

With a new school year approaching, many parents wonder who their child's teacher will be for next school year. This planning process for organizing classes is now underway. When creating classes, teachers meet with each other and school administration to discuss the needs of each student. Some of the issues discussed are:

- Balance of ability, interests, and talents
- Learning styles of students
- Resources and remedial needs, enrichment needs
- Students to be kept together or separated because of the positive/negative influence of each other's learning.
- Balance of males/females
- Teaching styles of teachers
- Diversity

We appreciate your trust in our professional judgement in balancing the considerations mentioned above. The final decision for class placements is the responsibility of the principal. If you have further information regarding your child's learning needs that we should consider, please send me an email ([mdwilson@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:mdwilson@hwdsb.on.ca)) or note with the specifics.

We will not entertain requests for specific teachers. Please consider the bullets listed above. Please note that all class placements are tentative until the end of September. We are committed to maximizing opportunities to learn and be successful for all our students.

### **Important Dates for Grade 8s**



**Graduation Rehearsal** - Wednesday, June 20

**Grade 8 Graduation** - Thursday June 21, 6:30pm, Balaclava School  
A reception at the pavilion will directly follow the ceremony

Grade 8s should speak to Mrs. DeLong or Mr. Hewitt if they have any questions about graduation.



### **EQAO Information**

This year, the EQAO Primary and Junior Assessments (grades 3 and 6) will be administered from **May 23 - May 30**. If possible, families with children in grades 3 and 6 should avoid making appointments or travel plans during this time.

Additionally, we are looking for **volunteers** to scribe for our students who require this accommodations. If you're interested and don't have a child in grade 3/6, please contact Mrs. Ardron at the school [leardron@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:leardron@hwdsb.on.ca).



### **Riding Bikes & Walking to School**



With the arrival of nicer weather, parents may choose to allow their children to walk or ride a bike to and from the school. If this is the case, the office **MUST** have a note on file stating that the child has parent's permission and will be walking/biking instead of taking the bus.

Parents are assuming responsibility for their children when they choose this option. A reminder that it's the law for children to be wearing helmets when riding bikes.

If we do not have a note on file from a parent, we expect children to be taking the bus home as planned.



### HWDSB Launches Parent Voice Survey to Gather Input for Improvement

HWDSB invites parents, guardians and caregivers to participate in a Parent Voice Survey to share what you think HWDSB is doing well, and how might HWDSB improve its education services.

Parents, guardians and caregivers play an important role in HWDSB and we value your opinion. Your feedback helps us make decisions about how we deliver school services for students. HWDSB has made a commitment to partner with its parent/guardian and caregiver communities, and to work together to help students learn and grow to their full potential.

This survey should take no longer than 15 minutes to complete. There are no right or wrong answers. All data collected in this survey is anonymous and combined as a group.

You can find the survey online at <http://bit.ly/HWDSBParentVoice>.

If you would like to learn more about how we use the data and maintain your privacy, please visit <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/about/privacy-and-access>. Thank you for taking the time for this survey and helping HWDSB with your feedback. The survey will be open until May 31.

### Parents of Grade 7 Students

Each year, the parents of grade 7 students, volunteer to help coordinate, set up and “run” the graduates social event. This has been a long standing tradition at Balaclava, as it gives the grade 8 parents a chance to enjoy the evening celebrating their child. Next year, it will be your turn to enjoy the evening.

Thanks to Neale Mayo for helping to co-ordinate. **We do however require 15-20 volunteers for the day before** (Wednesday, June 20) and/or (most importantly) the **evening of grad** (Thursday June 21). Parent volunteers will need to be on site from about 5:00pm - 9:00pm on the Thursday. The main duties will be to set up tables and décor, put out food and beverages, replenish stock and supplies, and tidy up afterward.

Student volunteers are organized by Mrs. Rocznik, and she will be in touch with you about this in May.

Can you please let us know that you are willing to help out?

Thanks a lot!

~ Kenlyn Hughson ([thehughsonfamily@gmail.com](mailto:thehughsonfamily@gmail.com))

### 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.policysolutions.ca/checks/services/hamilton/>

Please stop in at the office if you have any questions.



## Balaclava Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair is coming to the Balaclava Library the first week of May.

Kindergarten to Grade 5 classes will be brought down during class time on Monday, April 30th or Tuesday, May 1st to view the Book Fair and create their wish lists to bring home and share with their parents.

Grade 6-8 students will be able to visit the Book Fair during first Nutrition Break on Monday, April 30th.

On Thursday May 3rd during the indoor part of first and second Nutrition Break students will be able to visit the Book Fair to purchase the items they would like. The Book Fair will also be open during the Open House if parents wish to visit the Book Fair with their children and be with their children when they make their purchases.



## Health and Safety During a Heat Event

A local 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 the board's website and the following pre-cautionary 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 room
- ⇒ Monitor students for symptoms of heat stress



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

**City of Hamilton** - [www.hamilton.ca/healthandsocialservices/publichealth](http://www.hamilton.ca/healthandsocialservices/publichealth)

**Health Canada** - [www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/slimat/index-eng.php](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/slimat/index-eng.php)

## Dress Code

As we see a return to nice weather, I would like to remind all community members of the Appropriate Dress Policy. Students, staff and other school personnel are required to wear clothing that is appropriate and suitable for the school environment and setting.

- ⇒ Pants/shorts/skirts/etc. - worn so that the undergarments or backside are covered ("the top of the bottoms will meet the bottom of the tops.")
- ⇒ Shorts/skirts - should be at least as long as the fingers of an outstretched hand.
- ⇒ Shirts - spaghetti straps, halter tops, tube tops, muscle shirts, low necklines, and tops that expose midriff sections are not permitted
- ⇒ Clothing/Jewellery - must be appropriate for school by being free of inappropriate or offensive words, messages, or pictures of a racist/sexist, negative ethnic, objectionable, suggestive, or violent message, or which advertise alcohol or drugs.



If a student's clothing is deemed inappropriate he/she will be asked to change. Parents may be called to provide proper clothes. We appreciate your cooperation in regards to this policy.



### Year-End Assemblies

**Thursday, June 28, 9:10am FDK-gr3**

**Thursday, June 28, 11:30am gr4-7**

As shared with School Council and Home & School earlier this year, we are excited to be changing the format of our year-end celebration to focus on positive characteristics. In addition to reflecting on events of the year through a slide show, this year's recognitions will include:

- \* **Carson Clapham Award** (one FDK/class) - description: always trying to be the best that you can be, polite, respectful, and was a good friend
- \* **Nan Dodman Friendship Award** (one gr1/class) - description: being a good friend to all, caring about the environment and being helpful and caring to others
- \* **Tiger Hunt Award** (two gr5s) - description: quick thinking, brave in the face of adversity, and self-confident
- \* **Bob Vardy Award** (one student/class (K-7)) - description: living up to our motto of Learning to Care - Caring to Learn
- \* **Frank Shiraishi "Spirit of the Bobcat" Sportsmanship Award** (two students/class (gr1-7)) - description: consistently positive participation and demonstrating that winning isn't everything
- \* **Citizenship Awards** [Don Chappel (two students/class (K-gr3)), T.B. Munroe (two students/class (gr4-6)), Joseph Bogle (two students/class (gr7))] - description: demonstrating good citizenship traits (being reliable, friendly, courteous, concerned about the well-being of others, respecting the rules and listening to and respecting the opinions of others)
- \* **Perfect Attendance** - description: perfect attendance

We will also be celebrating and reflecting on the year through a slideshow of Balaclava memories from 2017/18. We hope that you can join us!

### **Oral Communications Festival**

Congratulations to Sadie and Claudia on representing Balaclava so well at the Family of Schools 4 Cluster Final for oral communications April 19. We're so proud of you both! Claudia has advanced to the next level and will be competing at the system level May 9. Good luck, Claudia!



### **Track and Field 2018**



Track and Field Important Dates:

For Grades 3,4,5 the HWDSB meet at Mohawk Sports Complex will be held on Thursday, June 21st 2018 (Rain Date Monday June 25th)

For Grades 6,7,8 the meet will be June 12th (Ottawa Trip conflicts with rain date)

Races and events will take place during PE class and Nutrition Break as needed. After the races and events we will be inviting participants to join the team by the end of May. If students are away during initial races/events we will try to accommodate them by the end of May. (We need to submit names and practice as a team during June.)

Please let me know if you have any questions, comments or concerns.  
Mr. Nicks

## A Message for May from Home & School!

We are finally beginning to see teeny signs of Spring – warmer weather, rain with no ice and, hopefully, soon, some flowers! May marks an end to our H&S food days. Let's express gratitude to our fantastic co-ordinators this year: Jennifer Frank (Pizza); Mags McLaren (Pita); Heather Pickles (Booster); Michele Quinn (Subs), and Sarah Kahnamoui (Milk). We appreciate all your efforts ensuring the Bobcats get their meals on these days! We also thank the numerous volunteers who help distribute the food. None of this would be possible without your help!

Final food days are as follows:

Subs: May 22	Booster Juice: May 24	Pizza: May 29
Pita: May 31	Milk: May 31	

In an effort to help our parents provide hot lunches for our Bobcats, H&S will be running some food days in June. Please look for the order form for ALL the lunches in mid-May.

Our annual FUN FAIR takes place on May 31 from 4:30p to 8:00p. As always, there will be lots of activities and entertainment! Don't miss this great opportunity to catch up with fellow Bobcat families & teachers, enjoy a BBQ dinner with friends and enjoy the FUN. If you wish to become involved or want more information, please contact our Fun Fair coordinator **Ellie Millard** at [balaclava.funfair@gmail.com](mailto:balaclava.funfair@gmail.com) or (905) 902 8404.

We are looking for more photos for the 2017/2018 Yearbook. If you have photos from school events, trips or classroom activities, please submit to our Year Book coordinator Julie Reid at [star-xd@cogeco.ca](mailto:star-xd@cogeco.ca) no later than May 11.

Also this month is our Annual General Meeting on May 15 at 6:30pm in the library. We invite both members and non-members to attend and be a part of the plans for next year. Agenda items include the 2018/2019 budget, discussions of initiatives and fundraisers for the next year. Attend and have a say in what will happen next year!

We are looking for volunteers to fill some roles in our Executive for next year - Treasurer, Volunteer Coordinator, Fundraising Coordinator and Vice President. If you are interested, please send an email to [vidya.dath@gmail.com](mailto:vidya.dath@gmail.com) and attend our AGM on May 15.

Please direct any H&S related questions to Vidya Dath at [vidya.dath@gmail.com](mailto:vidya.dath@gmail.com). Don't forget to visit our Facebook page: Balaclava Public School - Parent Forum!

With Gratitude from The H&S Executive Committee.

### Fun Fair Plant Sale



Once upon a 'thyme'... Balaclava School held a Fun Fair!

At the Fun Fair there will be a **Plant Sale!** Students in

Gr. 2, 3 & 4 will be given a small flower pot to bring home. Please pick a plant from your garden, a family members, a friends or even a local garden centre. It could be a flower or a vegetable plant. A tag will be included to record the name of the plant.

Plant it in the flower pot and bring it back to school on Wednesday May 23rd.

*Extra pots will be available outside the office for other students.*

Thank you for your contribution!

Thank you to our Kindergarten classes who have volunteered to take care of the plants until the Fun Fair! Questions? Contact Kim Mummery at [kimmummery@gmail.com](mailto:kimmummery@gmail.com).

## Hosta la vista baby!

