



Balaclava Bulletin

June 2018



From the Principal's Desk . . .

This month we opened our doors to families for Balaclava's **Open House**. It was great to see so many of you.

We also welcomed many new Balaclava families at our **Welcome to Kindergarten night**. If you have a child who will be 4 years old by December 31, 2017, we're excited to have them join us in September. Please stop in between 8:00am and 3:00pm to register them.

Thank-you to Home & School for another successful **Author's Day**. All our students were excited to participate and meet authors Aly Livingston (k-Gr1) and Sylvia McNicoll (Gr2-8).

Our May **Bobcat Day** was a big success. Great to see the creativity from all our "Twins" at school!

Of course, a major highlight of May was the Home & School's Annual **Fun Fair!** Thanks to the organizing team led by Ms. Millard for another fabulous Fun Fair! A special thank-you to all the staff and families who were able to attend and/or support Fun Fair! Thanks for making it such a great success!

A reminder that our regular sub, pizza, pita, and Booster Juice **lunch days** and **milk** program have ended for the year. Thank-you to the dedication of our Home & School volunteers for making these days possible this school year. Our Lunch Lady days will continue through June as ordering is week by week online. Home & School is also organizing some special lunch days for June - please look for paper copies of the information with your child.

While there are many events and celebrations to look forward to in June, it is also very important that our students continue with their daily routines (arrive on time, read every night and complete all assignments). June is an important month for students and teachers as we are all working very hard to prepare our students for the next grade.

Coming up in June . . .

- Friday, June 8 - P. A. Day (no school for students)
- Tuesday, June 12 - Gr6-8 Track and Field Meet
- Wednesday, June 13 - Friday, June 15 - Gr7/8 Ottawa Trip
- June 18-22 - Bike Week - Gr4-6 Classes
- Tuesday, June 19 - Home & School Meeting
- Thursday, June 21 - Gr3-5 Track and Field Meet, Grade 8 Graduation
- Wednesday, June 27 - Bobcat Theme & Activity Day! Theme: Hawaiian Day
- Wednesday, June 27 - NB1 - Volunteer Tea
- Thursday, June 28 - Last day of Instruction for Students
- Friday, June 29 - P. A. Day (no school for students)

M Wilson,
Principal



Save the Date . . .

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

Volunteer Celebration

We would like to thank all of the wonderful volunteers at our school.



Please join us for our Volunteer Tea **Wednesday, June 27** at 10:40 in the library. We hope to see all our volunteers there!

Grade 8 Graduation

Thursday June 21, 2018,
6:30pm
Balaclava School

A reception at the pavilion will directly follow the ceremony (until 8:30pm)



Graduation Rehearsal:
Wednesday, June 20,
9:00am

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

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

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) 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.

2018-19 Classroom Organization

We will have 14 classes next year.

The classes for next year are:

FDKA
FDKB
Grade 1A
Grade 1/2A
Grade 2A
Grade 2/3A
Grade 3/4A
Grade 4A
Grade 5A
Grade 5/6A
Grade 6A
Grade 6/7A
Grade 7/8A
Grade 7/8B

Classroom organizations are subject to change until October 2018.

Textbooks & Library Books



Please return any school textbooks and library books to the school. Look in your closets and under your beds. Search everywhere! Even if you have books from years ago, please return them. They are valuable resources and we need them back. Thank-you!

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

Health Canada

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/Jewelry - 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.



Before and After School Programs

Our school has a Before and After-School program for children in Kindergarten to Grade 6. If you completed the Before and After-School survey earlier this year, and you provided consent to release your information, we will be providing your contact information to our existing child care operator.

For more information on the Before and After-School Program you can reach the **Umbrella Family & Child Centres** at 905-312-9836. If you require information on the City of Hamilton's child care subsidy program you can call 905-546-4870 or check their website

<https://www.hamilton.ca/social-services/early-years-and-child-care-services/financial-support-child-care> .

CodeCats

The Balaclava CodeCats had an awesome year learning to code, building robots and dismantling computers to build an arcade. Special thanks to the Home and School funding, teachers lending us iPads, use of the library and Mr. Barrett's time and dedication. Without all of you Coding Club would not have been a success!

-Zara, CodeCat

Fun Fair 2018

A special thank-you from the Balaclava Staff for such a great Fun Fair this year! Although we were a bit worried the morning of Fun Fair, the skies cleared and it was great to be able to be outside!

This year's volunteers included parents, Balaclava staff, Balaclava students, Waterdown District High School students, and community members. It was great to see everyone working together! Without you the Fun Fair wouldn't have been possible! Thanks so much for your time. We especially enjoyed seeing so many former Bobcats back to help!

Thanks also to those families who were able to support Fun Fair this year through their donations (Toonie Bag items, bake sale items, basket items, food, etc.).

A special thank-you to Ms. Millard and her organizing team who did a fantastic job ensuring a successful event.

~ Balaclava Staff