



# Balaclava Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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Dear Parents and Guardians:

Last spring, students in Grades 3 and 6 at our school, and at every publicly funded elementary school across Ontario, participated in provincial assessments of their reading, writing and math skills. These assessments were conducted by Ontario’s Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO). E.Q.A.O. results of individual students who wrote the assessment last year will be sent home with students.

The following charts summarize last spring’s results:

PRIMARY	Balaclava	HWDSB	Province
Reading	88%	70%	75%
Writing	82%	62%	72%
Math	85%	49%	61%

JUNIOR	Balaclava	HWDSB	Province
Reading	88%	74%	82%
Writing	84%	69%	80%
Math	40%	35%	49%

It is important to remember that E.Q.A.O. results are a snapshot of our student’s abilities during one week of the year. During the assessment teachers are not permitted to assist or even prompt their students. As a result, marks on report cards tend to be slightly higher as they represent work completed over a term with the opportunity for additional instruction and practice to improve final results.

EQAO assessments are an important source of information about student learning. Although grades 3 and 6 actually write the tests, preparation extends beyond these years. Our school uses the results, along with other important information, to guide improvement programs and teaching practices so that all students benefit. Our school board and the Ministry of Education also use the results to direct attention and support where they’re needed.

More information about the assessments, including sample tests and examples of student responses at different achievement levels, can be found in the “Parent Resources” section of EQAO’s Web site.

Sincerely,

Ms. M. Wilson  
Principal