



BalACLAVA Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

280 10th Concession E
Freelton, Ontario L8B 1H6
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PRINCIPAL: Kelly Rizzo
www.hwdsb.on.ca/balaclava

September 4th, 2020

Dear families,

Welcome back! We are excited about being together once again, whether it is in person or through remote learning. We appreciate that the past weeks and months have been fraught with numerous challenges including a constantly moving landscape of information. We trust that the regular updates provided through the Director and Chair of the board helped in answering many of the big picture questions. Thank you for keeping up with the communications coming from HWDSB, and for completing important forms and surveys as required.

We are taking many actions to prevent COVID-19 at our school. You will notice that safety is guiding our programming choices and there will be some changes to our usual practices. These cover everything from parking lots, classroom set up, nutrition breaks, mandatory masks for students and more. Please review the Site Specific Plan for details. Students will receive instruction on these new protocols from school staff and we thank you in advance for your support.

Here are some important points to remember prior to our start up:

Attestation

Before a student can enter a school, we require their family to complete an attestation that they have read, understood, and will abide by expectations. Find this on the [Parent Portal](#). ([Backup location](#) for forms and translations.)

Daily COVID-19 Screening

HWDSB COVID-19 Student Screening Checklist is to be completed daily before arriving at school. The checklist is found on the Parent Portal as well as on the [HWDSB website](#). If you answered YES to any of the screening questions, or if you refuse to answer the questions, your child has failed the screening and must not attend school. Parents/caregivers should contact Public Health (905) 974-9848 or their family doctor for testing. Please contact the school using [SafeArrival](#) to report your child's absence. If the student is tested for COVID-19, we would appreciate knowing the outcome of that test.

Staggered Start Details

As you know, we will be opening our school with a staggered start timeline. This means that not all students will begin on the same day. Please see the chart below, note which group your child falls into to determine their first date and reach out if you have more questions:

curiosity.

creativity.

possibility.

HWDSB



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MONDAY SEPTEMBER 7	TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 8	WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 9	THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 10	FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 11
LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY	Staff Transition to New Assignments Remote Learning Day School Training	Staff Transition to New Assignments Remote Learning Day School Training	Students that Require Special Education Supports/Supports with Transitions and Mental Health JK Orientation Remote Learning Day School Welcome	Students that Require Special Education Supports/Supports with Transitions and Mental Health JK Orientation Remote Learning Day School Welcome
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 14	TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 15	WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 16	THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 17	FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 18
GROUP A Last Name Alpha A to K (approximately ½ class)	GROUP B Last Name Alpha L to Z (approximately ½ class)	ALL STUDENTS RETURN TO SCHOOL (Full Classes)	ALL STUDENTS (Full Classes)	ALL STUDENTS (Full Classes)

Water Bottles

Drinking fountains in all schools will be not used. Students will be able to use the hydration station and classroom taps. Please be sure to send your child with a labelled reusable water bottle so they stay hydrated, in addition to their non-medical mask.

Visiting Schools

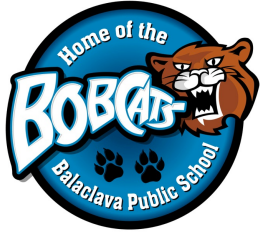
This year, our school must significantly limit or even prohibit visitors to school, including parents, to support a safe and healthy learning environment. We ask families to call or email our school if they need to supply information or contact a staff member. We will be using MS Teams for our calls as much as possible. It is strongly recommended that parents do not drop off items during the school day.

New to Kindergarten Orientation

While we were not able to hold our regular orientation we know many of our families did visit the orientation folder on the HWDSB website. Our FDKGN team will be making contact with all our families, and those who are new to school will be invited to make a short visit. They will begin to make contact on September 9th, 2020 and visits will be scheduled for the 11th as needed. A MS Teams meeting/orientation will be held on September 10th. Our educators will send out the invitations.

Elementary Reorganization

We have needed to reorganize our school this week. This has had an impact on classes and teacher assignments. All families will be able to see the class assignment on the parent portal beginning September 9th (Information that is there currently may not have been updated in the system yet). As well, our staff will be making contact with all families to welcome students to school and introduce themselves, as well as confirm which date students will attend (September 14th or 15th as their first day).



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We recognize some families may be looking for resources to assist in preparing students for what school will look like for 2020-2021 (social stories, visuals etc.). Please visit:

<https://learning4success.commonshwdsb.on.ca/>

You can learn more about COVID-19 precautions at HWDSB at www.hwdsb.on.ca/covid19.
If you have any questions, or think your child might struggle with school, please let me know.

I will continue to send updates as we receive added information. Thank you for understanding the challenges of planning the new school year, and for sharing our commitment to safe and successful school year.

Sincerely,

K. Rizzo
Principal