



BALACLAVA



HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

A warm welcome to new and returning families! Even though the school year is looking very different than we are traditionally used to, we trust you had a great summer and are looking forward to another great year at Balaclava.

We do want to start off by recognizing that this year is going to look and feel a lot different than we are all used to, however the Home & School association would like you to know that we are here to help students, staff and the parent community feel as comfortable, assisted and involved as possible. We are planning on taking a larger role in communication and being able to keep everyone informed.

The goal of the Home & School association is to support the school and its programs with volunteers, financial support and advocacy. The Balaclava Home & School Association is a group of parents and guardians within our school community, who are interested in supporting the goals of the association. As we are currently in a position where our role physically in the school is non existing at this moment in time, but there are many ways that we are still here to support the students, staff and parent community. We are planning to continue our efforts in ensuring families are informed of what is going on at the school, during holidays, areas of awareness and planning of fun activities for both in school and outside of school.

Due to the great support of the Balaclava community, past initiatives have provided our school with resources and experiences it could not otherwise afford. This includes subsidies for supplies, field trips and performers as well as guest speakers, the purchase of technology, fitness equipment, musical instruments, spirit days and so much more!!

There is no better advocate for your child than you! For that reason you are already perfect to join our team of amazing volunteers! We are always happy to have new members to help us meet our objectives. It is never too early or too late to join! Even if you have been at Balaclava for years or just beginning your school journey we encourage you to get involved & we look forward to fresh ideas and energy from the new faces who join our team!

We invite all parents/guardians to join us for our first Virtual H&S meeting to learn more about planned expenditures for the coming year or to bring forth an initiative that could be considered for the benefit of all students.

THE FIRST HOME & SCHOOL meeting of the year will be held on Nov 26th at 12:30pm and the link for the meeting can be found here: meet.google.com/yzr-kqnq-fvv

WHAT DOES BEING A HOME & SCHOOL MEMBER LOOK LIKE FOR THIS YEAR?

We recognize that this school year is different than any of us have experienced in the past, and we have to find ways to continue to support our children and the school through this pandemic. Home & School is planning on continuing our involvement in organized events, activities for the children to participate in and hopefully be able to continue our fundraising efforts in the new future. We still have very big fundraising goals to work towards in order to be able to implement the new playground equipment campaign we had started planning for last year. As soon as we get the green light, we will begin that campaign again. We also want to provide activities for the school to encourage, empower and put a smile on the kids faces. These might be virtual, individual or school wide initiatives. These are tougher times and we want to make this school year as fun and exciting as year's past.

HOW CAN YOU BECOME INVOLVED:

We realize that we still might not be able to accommodate everyone's schedules; however you can still have a voice in the Home and School initiatives and determine the best use for our fundraising dollars. For example, our voting system is done online, so that all members can have a chance to vote on our initiatives, whether they can attend a meeting or not. While all parents and/or guardians are welcome to offer suggestions or comment on on-going issues or requests for funding, only those who have paid the Membership fee (\$20.00) will be able to vote.

- 1) Lend your time: When the time comes and we are allowed to be able to physically be involved in the school activities, we would love to have you as volunteers! In the meantime, we are looking for individuals to assist in some of our virtual events planned, and open to other ideas.

2) Lend your Voice: Join us for our monthly meetings, the first meeting of which will be on Nov 26th at 12:30 PM.

WHAT IS THE COST FOR MEMBERSHIP?

- For just \$20 – up to 2 adults per household can become members.
- This fee goes to the Federation (OFHSA) account, not the Balaclava Home & School.

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN A MEMBERSHIP?

Your membership provides you with:

- Voting privileges at the Balaclava H&S meetings. This gives YOU a voice as to how H&S spends the money raised each year.
- 5 million liability insurance for members while they are performing activities sponsored by the Home & School. This is required for any individual who would like to volunteer with H&S activities throughout the year.

Below you will find a separate form to complete and return to balaclavahands@gmail.com in order to register your membership.

AREAS WE PROUDLY SUPPORT:

Each year the Balaclava H&S raises thousands of dollars to support enhanced learning, technology, programs and initiatives in our school. We continually search for new ways we can be most effective and are proud of the enhancements we have provided over the years. Some of the areas we proudly support are:

Food, Spirit & Earth Days	Field Trips & Extra Curricular busses	Award Engraving	Yearbook
Gym & Playground Eqpt	Author Days & Special Guests	Performing Arts & Holiday Production	The Science & History Fair
Art Supplies & Music Pgm	Math, Science & Reading Programs	Technology in the school	Robotics Club

WANT MORE INFORMATION:

See below for a list of the 2020-2019 H&S Executive

Please keep the following key contact information handy for future reference:

President	Samantha Forrest	skreglewski@hotmail.com
Vice President & Fund Raising Chair	Ellie Millard	elliejmillard@gmail.com
Chair of Community Relations	Heather Rickard	hrickard77@gmail.com
Treasurer	Open Position	
Secretary	Leslie Paterson	lesleydpaterson03@gmail.com

WEBSITE:

Home and School's website is now accessible and will be kept updated with pertinent information and relevant links. The website is: <http://www.balaclavahomeandschool.com>



Don't forget to follow us on Facebook- [facebook.com/BalaclavaPublicSchoolParentForum](https://www.facebook.com/BalaclavaPublicSchoolParentForum)

BALACLAVA

HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

OFHSA MEMBERSHIP FOR 2020/2021

Parent/ Guardian Name:	E-mail:	Phone:
Parent/ Guardian Name:	E-mail:	Phone:
Home Address:		

- I / We consent to Home & School (H&S) e-mailing me/us regarding Balaclava Public School H&S activities

What is OFHSA?

- OFHSA stands for Ontario Federation of Home and School.
- An independent voice of parents actively supporting public education at the school, school board, and provincial level.
- A volunteer organization committed to ensuring that the education, health, safety & social well-being of children are a priority for all.
- By maintaining this membership we have a voice at the board and provincial levels and are financially separate from the school and board.

What is your Cost for membership?

- For just \$20 – up to 2 adults per household can become members (note both must be listed above).
- **This fee goes to the Federation (OFHSA) account, not the Balaclava Home & School.**

What is included in your membership?

Your membership provides you with:

- Voting privileges at the Balaclava H&S meetings. This gives YOU a voice as to how H&S spends the money raised each year.
- 5 million liability insurance for members while they are performing activities sponsored by the Home & School.

Payment

For either individual memberships or household memberships, payment of \$20 can be made via etransfer to balaclavahands@gmail.com

or

You can make your payment via Cheddar Up using this link:

<https://ontario-federation-home-school-association-member-balaclava.cheddarup.com>

If you have any questions regarding the Home & School Association please feel free to contact a member of the executive.

We look forward to seeing you!

Home & School Executive Committee