



*Welcome*  
*to*  
**KINDERGARTEN**  
**ORIENTATION**

## Meeting Norms

- Microphone off and cameras off
- We will have time for questions at the end of our presentation:
  - Hand up or use the chat for questions
  - Welcome to turn on your video when asking questions



# Land Acknowledgement

- The Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board acknowledges our presence on ancestral Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee Confederacy land as determined by the Dish with One Spoon treaty.
- The Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt represents the treaty relationship between the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and Anishinaabe with respect to sharing the land and resources thereon.
- The intent of this agreement is for all nations sharing this territory to do so responsibly, respectfully and sustainably in perpetuity.
- We respect the longstanding relationships with the local Indigenous communities, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and the Six Nations of the Grand River.



# BalACLava 2020-2021 Kindergarten Team

Mrs. Marshall/Mrs. Miranda (DECE)  
Ms. Wynne/Mrs. Higginson (DECE LTO  
for Mrs. Martin)  
Mrs. Ardron (LRT)  
Mrs. Sisler/Mrs. Wright (EAs)





# Support System

- Speech and Language Pathologist – Mrs. Pugsley
- English Language Learner Itinerant Educator – Mrs. Tadeson
- Social Work Consultation
- School Council – Co-chairs (Mrs. Hue/Mrs. Meanchoff)
- Home and School – President (Mrs. Forrest)
- Office Administrator - Mrs. Nelligan
- Principal - Ms. Rizzo
- Before/After School Care Umbrella Program Site supervisor - Alyson  
(905) 975-1912 to register

# Speech and Language

Learn more about...

## Kindergarten Speech, Language & Early Literacy

By age four, most children can do the following:



### Listening

- Follows directions with two or three parts (e.g. “Please get your hat and coat and meet me at the door.”)
- Answers simple what, where, who and why questions (e.g. “Why is the boy sad?”)
- Knows basic body parts and colours



### Speaking

- Are understood most of the time by people who do not know them
- Speak in four to five word sentences
- Use endings on words like dogs, jumped, biking
- Ask lots of questions, like “what, where, why” (e.g. “Where is the dog going?”)
- Use speech sounds for their age, as shown below:



## Why Use First Languages?

Research tells us that students benefit academically, socially and emotionally when they are encouraged to develop and maintain proficiency in their first languages while they are learning English. Language skills and conceptual knowledge are transferable from one language to another, provided there are no learning disabilities. The first language provides a foundation for students to learn a second language serves as a basis for emotional development and provides an important link with the student's family and cultural background. A strong first language helps students:

- Develop mental flexibility
- Build problem-solving skills
- Communicate with family members
- Understand their own cultural and family values
- Value cultural diversity and multiple perspectives
- Expand career opportunities
- (Many Roots, Many Voices, Ontario Ministry of Education and Training, 2006)

## **What Can Parents Do?**

- Read to your child in your first language
- Facilitate conversations in your first language
- Review school work in detail in your first language
- Teach reading and writing skills in your first language
- Borrow bilingual kits from the library
- Provide reading materials in your first language
- Enroll your child in Heritage Language Classes
- Provide rich family experiences

(HWDSB: ESL/ELD Resource Manual, 2005)



# The Kindergarten Program

- Play based
- Child centred
- Developmentally appropriate
- Inclusive
- Provides a safe and caring environment



# Getting to know your child is our priority

- Educators observe each child to find their interests, their strengths and their learning needs
- Observation/documentation and assessment shape the play-based learning program
- Educators plan programming to meet each child's needs based on skills, strategies and interests demonstrated



# Your child's day

- Full day, every day (9:15 – 3:35 p.m.)
- 2 Nutrition Breaks
- Outdoor exploration/Play area
- Variety of activity levels
- Buses/Drop off routines (Brave wave)
- Before and after-school programs (childcare)





**What is Kindergarten like  
during a pandemic?**











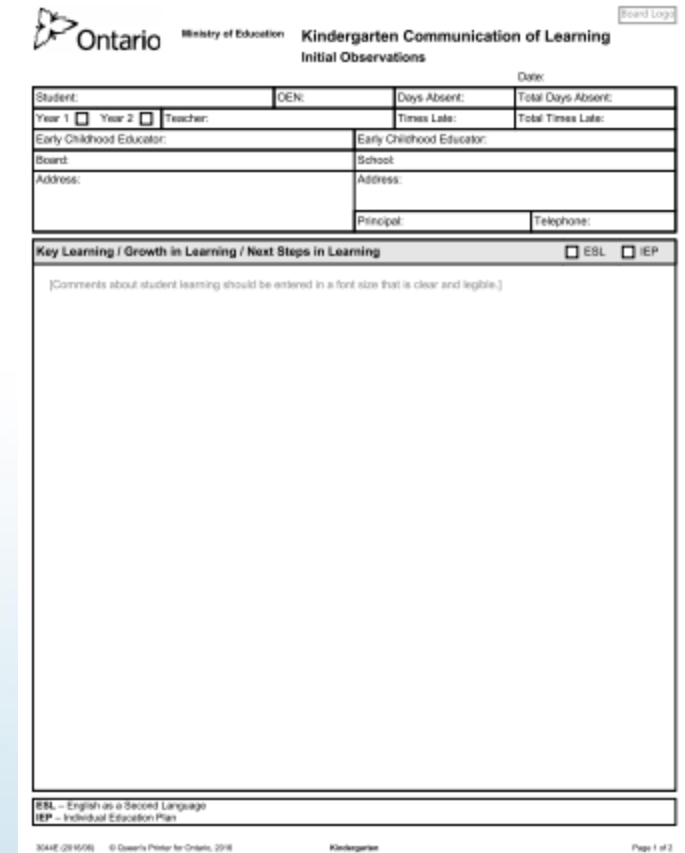
# Communication

Educators/Parents/Caregivers may use a variety of methods for ongoing communication (email, MS Teams, SeeSaw, telephone etc.)

In addition, we have three Communication of Learning Reports:

- Fall (Nov) - Initial Observations
- Winter (Feb) and Spring (June)

Full day Kindergarten: Understanding Your Child's Reports <http://bit.ly/2V7xqxC>



Ontario Ministry of Education Kindergarten Communication of Learning Initial Observations

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student: _____	OE#: _____	Days Absent: _____	Total Days Absent: _____
Year 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Year 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Teacher: _____		Times Late: _____	Total Times Late: _____
Early Childhood Educator: _____	Early Childhood Educator: _____		
Board: _____	School: _____		
Address: _____	Address: _____		
	Principal: _____	Telephone: _____	

Key Learning / Growth in Learning / Next Steps in Learning ☐ EBL ☐ IEP

[Comments about student learning should be entered in a font size that is clear and legible.]

EBL - English as a Second Language  
IEP - Individual Education Plan

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- Kindergarten/Grade 1 transition, monitoring
- Plan of Care – Medical conditions



# How can you get involved?

- Express interest in your child's learning
- Attend parent/caregiver/educator conferences
- Attend school events
- Volunteer/Home and School
- School Council
- Join an HWDSB advisory committee





# The **COUNTDOWN** to the **first day** of school!

- Establish routines (sleep, eating times etc.)
- Practice opening containers independently, putting on shoes (Velcro)/coats
- Practice identifying their name, letters in their name etc.
- Expose your child to wearing a mask safely and independently
- Visit your family doctor – Immunizations
- Get a vision test – Eye See, Eye Learn (free eyeglasses): [hwdsb.info/2PRmreS](https://www.hwdsb.info/2PRmreS)
- Address speech concerns – Early Words: [hwdsb.info/2Rszrlo](https://www.hwdsb.info/2Rszrlo)
  - *(Referrals only possible up to August 31 of a child's first year in kindergarten).*





## Additional Resources:

- Attend a Check It Out Clinic: [hwdsb.info/2SrbfXe](http://hwdsb.info/2SrbfXe)
- Review the FREE LookSee Developmental Screen: [www.lookseechecklist.com](http://www.lookseechecklist.com)
- Find resources at [hwdsb.info/kindergartenorientation](http://hwdsb.info/kindergartenorientation)

## BalACLava Elementary School

### MISSION

BalACLava is an inclusive and engaging community where creativity and commitment to equity are utilized to optimize learning for all.

### VISION

We aspire to make the world a better place through informed, responsible, and compassionate action.

### MOTTO

When we look after ourselves and we look after one another, we all succeed.

## Questions?



**We look forward to meeting you and your child!**