



Welcome
to

KINDERGARTEN

ORIENTATION

Meeting Norms

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



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 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.

Kindergarten Team (2021/22)

Ms. Axon (LTO) for Mrs. Marshall/

Mrs. Miranda (DECE)

Ms. Wynne/Mrs. Martin)/Ms. Spada

Mrs. Ardron (LRT)

Mrs. Sisler/Mrs. Harron (EAs)



Support System

- Speech and Language Pathologist – Mrs. Pugsley
- English Language Learner Itinerant Educator – Mrs. Shaw
- Social Work Consultation
- School Council – Co-chairs (Mrs. Wright/Mrs. Meanchoff)
- Home and School Rep – Ellie Millard
- Office Administrator – Mrs. Nelligan
- Principal – Ms. Rizzo
- Before and After School Care Umbrella Program (Danica)
- Flamborough Eye Care (Dr. Todd Ruhl)

Flamborough Eye Care

- Get a vision test – Eye See, Eye Learn (free eyeglasses): hwdsb.info/2PRmreS

Before and After Care

- Victoria Hernandez, Program Leader at Balaclava

905-975-1912

plbalaclava@umbrellafamily.com

- To add your child to our waiting list, parents can go directly to portal.umbrellafamily.com

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



Intro to Kindergarten from Student

- <https://youtu.be/mzBK0xHg9Ak>

Your child's day

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



A School Day and the Spaces we Explore



Communication

New to Kindergarten families- staggered start
Ongoing communication methods: email, MS Teams, telephone etc.

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>

The image shows a form titled "Ontario Ministry of Education Kindergarten Communication of Learning Initial Observations". The form includes fields for Student, DEN, Days Absent, Total Days Absent, Year 1, Year 2, Teacher, Times Late, Total Times Late, Early Childhood Educator, Board, School, Address, Principal, and Telephone. There is a section for "Key Learning / Growth in Learning / Next Steps in Learning" with checkboxes for ESL and IEP. A large text area is provided for comments, with a note that comments should be entered in a font size that is clear and legible. The form footer includes the text "ESL - English as a Second Language IEP - Individual Education Plan", "304E (2015/06) © Queen's Printer for Ontario, 2016", "Kindergarten", and "Page 1 of 2".

Medical Needs

- Plan of Care is required for all known medical conditions that may impact your child while at school.
- Anaphylaxis, Diabetes, Epilepsy, Asthma etc.
- Please contact our offices to receive a Plan of Care document balaclava@hwdsb.on.ca
- Requires Physician signature

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.
- Visit your family doctor – Immunizations
- Get a vision test – Eye See, Eye Learn (free eyeglasses): hwdsb.info/2PRmreS
- Address speech concerns – Early Words: hwdsb.info/2Rszrlo
 - *(Referrals only possible up to August 31 of a child's first year in kindergarten).*



Resources:

- Attend a Check It Out Clinic: hwdsb.info/2SrbfXe (these may reopen over the summer)
- Review the FREE LookSee Developmental Screen: www.lookseechecklist.com
- Find resources at hwdsb.info/kindergartenorientation

Questions?



We look forward to meeting you and your child!