



# Balaclava Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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## **Balaclava February 2023 Newsletter**

### **Principal Message**

Our term one is now completed, and educators are currently working on preparing student term 1 report cards (grades 1 to 8) and Communications of Learning (JK, SK). These will come home on February 17<sup>th</sup>. While grades are a good measure of how successfully your child is engaging in the academic program at school, I strongly encourage families to pay close attention to the learning skills section. These six areas can be overlooked because they don't come with a formal mark, but are often a very strong indicator of student achievement to their full potential over time. As adults, we're very aware of how much our skills in responsibility, organization, independent work, collaboration, initiative and self-regulation impact our day to day lives. If you have concerns about your child's learning or academic skills after reading the report card, please reach out to your child's educator(s). While there aren't any formal interview periods provided in the board calendar, educators will continue to communicate with parents and guardians throughout the year when you need more information. For a summary of Ontario report card development, please see:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/student-assessment-evaluations-and-report-cards>

### **Kindergarten Registration**

We're already looking for our next group of Balaclava students! If you have a child in the Balaclava catchment area who was born in 2019 (JK) or 2018 (SK), registration will open for the 2023-2024 school year on Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup>. For more information and the documents you will need to register, please go to:

<https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/kindergarten/>

### **Grade 8 Commencement – Save the Date**

Our Grade 8 students are already beginning to think about transitioning to secondary school as they participate in activities over at Waterdown High School and complete their option sheets. We are excited to start planning their commencement ceremony to celebrate the end of their elementary education. The Grade 8 commencement is scheduled for Thursday, June 22 at 6:30 here at Balaclava School. Mark your calendars! More information will follow to our Grade 8 families closer to the event.

### **Spirit Wear Ordering**

We are pleased to offer new Balaclava spirit wear. Hoodies, sweatpants, t-shirts and long sleeve shirts are all available on School Cash Online. Orders are due Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup> for distribution after March break. All funds raised will go to support Balaclava's instrumental music program and the purchase of some much-needed new instruments.

### **School Mental Health Ontario**

SMHO has a number of valuable resources including those that can help families in monitoring and supporting their child's mental health and well being. Those resources can be found here: <https://smho-smsso.ca/parents-and-caregivers/>

### **Continued Encouragement to Wear Masks**

HWDSB continues to strongly recommend that you wear a well fitted mask in all indoor settings, especially when it is crowded. HWDSB continues to be a mask friendly environment. Medical masks are available for students, staff and visitors in the office. For more information from Hamilton Public Health about keeping healthy, please go to: <https://www.hamilton.ca/people-programs/public-health/diseases-conditions/coronavirus-covid/protect-yourself-and-others>

### **Calendar of Events**

Feb 2	Grade 8s to WDHS – Experience a Day
Feb 14	Spirit Day – Wear Red or White or Pink
Feb 17	Home and School Pancake lunch day
Feb 17	Report Card Day
Feb 20	Family Day – no school
March 3	PA Day – no school for students
March 13-17	March Break – no school for students