



# Balaclava Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

280 10th Concession E  
Freelton, Ontario L8B 1H6  
Phone: 905.659.3396  
Fax: 905.659.0901

EMAIL: [balaclava@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:balaclava@hwdsb.on.ca)  
PRINCIPAL: K. Keery Bishop  
k.keerybi@hwdsb.on.ca  
[www.hwdsb.on.ca/balaclava](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/balaclava)

## January 2023 Balaclava Newsletter

### **Principal's Message**

It is both a gift and a challenge to enter a new school mid-year. When I started here at Balaclava in early December, it was wonderful to see everything in full operation. I'm still working on getting to know everyone in the school and the processes that are here, and will continue to do so the rest of the school year. However, our education world is always evolving and changing and with that, I also hope to work with the staff, students, and community to make the school even better. For example, it hasn't been recent practice at Balaclava to put out a monthly, school-wide newsletter, but you'll start to see this monthly communication come out to our Balaclava School website from now on. The school website will continue to be where regular, non-emergency school updates will be posted. We'll reserve use of the School Messenger system for emergency items only. I encourage all of our Balaclava families to subscribe to the Balaclava website so you receive notification when new information is posted. To subscribe, go to: [www.hwdsb.on.ca/balaclava](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/balaclava) Scroll down the page until you find the Subscribe button and follow the prompts to complete. Once subscribed, you'll receive an email notification whenever a new item is posted on the website.

### **Thank You Home and School Show Production Team**

The school was a buzz of activity throughout the month of December with so many of the students involved in the spectacular school show Winter Variety Show, which was performed on December 21<sup>st</sup> for our school and the community. Thank you to all of the hard working volunteers, organizers, and performers who pulled off a fabulous show!

### **School Council Update**

The Balaclava School Council is a parent/guardian-driven group of volunteers who meet every month or two to discuss school-related matters and help shape the experience of students at the school. For more information about the council and

to see previous meeting minutes, please go to:

[www.hwdsb.on.ca/balaclava/school-council/](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/balaclava/school-council/)

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday, January 31 at 6 p.m.** in the school learning commons and via MS Teams. All parents/guardians of current Balaclava students are welcome to attend.

### **Go Bobcats!**

Congratulations to all of our junior and senior volleyball teams who completed their seasons in December. A special shout out to the Junior Boys team who made it all the way to the city finals at Westdale against R.A. Riddell and lost a nail biter. Thank you to the coaches, and parents and guardians who devoted their time to transport and cheer on the team. We are proud of the work ethic and sportsmanship demonstrated by all of the teams and athletes.

### **Grade 8 to 9 Transitions**

A letter was sent home with all current grade 8 students in late December outlining dates in January to March for a number of Transition to Grade 9 activities. If you have a grade 8 student and have questions about the process, please contact your child's teacher for more information.

### **Calendar of Events, January 2023**

- Jan 9 – First day back at school
- Jan 18 – Grad Photo day, Grade 8 students only
- Jan 18 – Classes Gr 3s of 23A and all of 34A, 34B and 45A to Crawford Lake
- Jan 20 – Taco Day
- Jan 27 – PA Day, no school for students