



Balaclava Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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March 2023 Balaclava Newsletter

Principal Message

March is the month things start to turn around in a school with the March break marking the very quick descent into the whirlwind of the spring. It's also when students who may have been struggling to achieve certain learning goals so far this year can start to turn a corner. I'm always reminded of Robert Kraus' Leo the Late Bloomer children's book which talks about the patience needed while waiting for a child to have enough time and practice before achieving a goal. Last month you received your child's term 1 report card. There may have been some marks or comments on there that indicated an area that your child needs more time and practice with. Keep an eye on them in the next while to see if they are ready to "bloom", but if you still have concerns, please reach out to your child's teacher to gain insight into what strategies are used and what your child can keep working on.

Bus Transportation

Transportation Services requires students to be listed on their bus manifest to ride on their buses. This means that students can only ride on the bus they are assigned to by Transportation, and are to get off at their assigned stop. If you need your child to get off at a different, existing stop on a regular basis, that can be requested through Transportation or we can help facilitate that at the school. If your child needs to get off at a different, existing stop as an occasional practice, please write a note and send with your child to communicate with the office and we'll facilitate with the bus driver. ***Please note, however, that students are not able to travel to or from school on a bus to which they are not assigned.*** Families wishing to make after school arrangements will need to do so without the expectation of riding a different bus. If a regular, long term arrangement is required (e.g. regular after school care at an alternative site) a courtesy bus form can be requested at the office. If there is room on the bus and the request successfully makes its way through the approval process, the student will be assigned for the remainder of the year to that bus.

If you have questions, please take a look at the details on the Transportation website here: <https://www.hamiltonschoolbus.ca/>, or contact the school office.

Hockey Hall of Fame Tickets

We have a number of ticket coupons for students under 13 available in the school office. (Please note that the coupons require the purchase of one regular price admission to access the one free youth admission). Coupons are valid until September 4, 2023. Feel free to stop by and pick up a coupon while they are available.

Supporting Families to Foster Resiliency

Millgrove School has kindly extended an invitation to all Balaclava families to join them for an informative session entitled “Supporting our Families to foster Resiliency, Perseverance and Grit. Manage Stress and Discover Strategies to Support Wellness”. Interested participants can attend in person (Millgrove School Learning Commons) or online (MS Teams) on Tuesday, March 21 from 7 to 8 p.m. See flyer on Balaclava School website for more information.

Balaclava School Council

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday March 28 at 6 p.m. in the Balaclava Learning Commons. All parents and guardians are welcome to attend. A link to the virtual option for the meeting will be shared on the school website before the meeting. Minutes from the January 31st meeting are posted on the school website. Stay tuned for details about an upcoming evening of Financial Literacy Learning for families hosted by our School Council in April.

Looking for Lego

We have an eager student group (and staff) looking to start a lego club at Balaclava, but we are short on lego. If you have a bin or bucket of lego going unused at your home and you are interested in donating it, please bring it by the school anytime. Thank you to our families who have already made lego donations. We can't wait to get building!

Kindergarten Registration is On Now

If you have a child born in 2018 or 2019 you can now register them for Kindergarten 2023 2024. We encourage you to begin the registration process soon so we can inform you of the upcoming Kindergarten Orientation later this spring. For registration and more information about starting Kindergarten, please go to: <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/kindergarten/>

A Day at the Beach

Our classes from grades 1 to 5/6 will be participating in a Beach Day on Friday, March 10th to help us get into those holiday vibes before the March Break. Students are invited to wear their beach friendly clothes (no bathing suits, please) and will participate in activities in the various classes. A reminder that students will still be going outside for recess/dpa so wear extra layers to still feel comfortable in those activities too.

Calendar of Events

March 1	Xello course selection for grade 8 students with WDHS guidance
March 3	PA Day, no school for students
March 10	Beach Day, grades 1 to 5/6
March 13 – 17	March Break, no school for students
March 20	Senior Kindergarten Vision Screening
March 31	Home and School Blue Jays Spirit Day (Hot Dogs and Popcorn pre-orders)