



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
PRINCIPAL: K. Keery Bishop
k.keerybi@hwdsb.on.ca
www.hwdsb.on.ca/balaclava

May 2023 Balaclava School Newsletter

Principal Message

Over the course of the year, we join other HWDSB schools, as well as organizations around the country to recognize a number of important days. It is interesting that May 1 to 5 has been designated both as Education Week and Mental Health Awareness Week. These two topics are so closely intertwined. In education, we know that working with students to support their well being enhances their academic success. But maintaining good mental health and well being can be challenging, and supporting your child through those challenges can leave parents and guardians feeling helpless. Parents and guardians are very important partners in supporting student mental health. I encourage families who have questions, concerns or are looking for additional strategies to support their child look to School Mental Health Ontario <https://smho-smso.ca/> in the parent and caregivers section for helpful suggestions. Within our school board, We Help supports students, families and school staff in supporting mental health and well being. The link to review this ever-growing resource can be found here: <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/secondary/supports/mental-health-and-well-being/>

Music Monday...on TUESDAY May 2 at Balaclava

Organized by the Coalition for Music Education in Canada, Music Monday is a national event celebrating the importance of music in our lives, and especially in our schools. This annual celebration began in 2005 and has occurred every year since, in communities throughout Canada and beyond. Several of the Balaclava classes and groups have come together to plan a celebration of music on Tuesday May 2nd. Thank you to our organizers, led by Ms. Sheeler, and all of our student and staff participants.

Open House

We are pleased to host a Spring Open House for all current JK to Grade 8 students at Balaclava and their families on Thursday May 11 from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Families are welcome to tour your child's classroom, meet some of the educators and visit the Scholastic Book Fair in the library. Please note that there is no Fun Fair running as there has been in previous years. We look forward to seeing you there!

Alternate Dismissal Reminders

With the nicer weather upon us, many students are requesting to walk or bike ride home from school. If students are assigned a bus and have typically used this as their mode of transportation home, it is important that the parent/guardian provide the school with a note in advance advising us of the date of this allowance (if a one time thing) or with information that indicates that the child is permitted to do this on any day. It will not change anything with their assigned bus allocation, in case of inclement weather, but it does allow our afternoon supervision staff to release students with this permission from our bus lines at the end of the day. Notes can be directed to balaclava@hwdsb.on.ca or paper copies

can be directed to the school office. Please note that we cannot accept a text message written on a student's phone as parent/guardian permission.

Frozen Yogurt Comes to the Tuck Shop

As an addition to our nutrition break tuck shop during the warmer weather, beginning Wednesday May 3rd, the Student Leadership team will be offering 4 flavours of TCBY frozen yogurt. For \$4, you can get a cup of vanilla, chocolate, swirl or cotton candy. Nutritional and allergen information is available via the School Messenger email that went out to families on May 1st. All proceeds raised will go to support our instrumental music program.

Jump Rope for Heart

Students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 (and students in 34A and 34B) will be participating in Jump Rope for Heart again this spring. The goal is to develop heart healthy personal physical literacy goals, as well as to raise funds to support the Heart and Stroke Foundation. A parent letter to kick off the event will come home on May 5th with students in those classes. The participating classes will be skipping outside (weather permitting) on May 19th during last block.

Registration and Demissions before the 2023/2024 School Year

As we get closer to the end of the school year, we know that some families may be moving to other areas over the summer. Please let us know with an email to balaclava@hwdsb.on.ca if your child will not be continuing to attend Balaclava next year. If your child is currently in grade 8, we will assume he/she is going to Waterdown District Secondary School unless we have similarly received notification from you. If you have a child who will have turned or will turn 4 or 5 in 2023, you can register them now for Kindergarten for the 2023-2024 school year. For more information, please go to: <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/kindergarten/> If you have any questions about the processes of registration or demission, please contact the school office.

May Calendar

May 2	Music Monday (on Tuesday!) Assembly
May 4	Intermediate Swim Meet
May 5	Jump Rope for Heart K-3 Launch
May 11	Open House, 5 to 6:30
May 11	Kindergarten Orientation
May 25	Gr 7 Public Health Vaccination Clinic
June 2	P.A. Day – no school for students