



BalACLAVA Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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BalACLAVA June Newsletter

Principal's Message

We've made it to June! After 9 ½ months of making lunches, checking agendas, remembering spirit days and encouraging students not to miss the bus, you are almost there! While this school year has been as close to "normal" as many of our students and families have experienced after several years of pandemic disruptions, we know that the new normal is still a work in progress. We continue to try to figure out the needs of each student individually – academically, socially, emotionally – and support them in their development. If you or your child's educators feel that your child still needs work in a specific area, consider what small steps can be done during July and August to set him/her up for success in September. Academically, encouraging your child to read (alone or with you) for even 20 minutes a day or writing in a journal can maintain and build literacy skills. Math skills can be honed with board, card and dice games and planning and purchasing items with money themselves. Running their own lemonade stand, dog walking or lawn mowing business can help them master many of those critical skills as well. To support further social development, signing your child up for day or overnight camps, or attending the public library's Summer Reading Club and special activities could help foster social skills in novel situations. If your child and your family are dealing with mental health or emotional struggles, we encourage you to seek help from your medical practitioners and/or you can use HWDSB social work supports over the summer. For more mental health and well being supports, please see: <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/blog/we-help-update-spring-2023/>

Goodbyes

At the end of every school year, we have to say good bye to our grade 8 students and families and students and families moving out of our area. BalACLAVA wishes all of our departing students and families well – we will miss you!

At the end of June, we will also say goodbye to the following staff members: Mr. Hewitt, Mrs. Thompson-Pyper, Ms. Spada, Ms. Abou Sharaf, Ms. Sheeler, Ms. Bourassa, Ms. Crockett, Ms. Wagner, Ms. Harron, Ms. Friend, and Mr. Clyde. As more staffing changes may occur between now and September, a full list of staff and their positions will be posted on the school website in September for the 2023-2024 school year.

2023-2024 Start Up

The HWDSB calendar for 2023-2024 is now available here:

<https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/elementary/plan-for-school/calendar/>

Please note that grade 1 to 8 students will begin the school year on WEDNESDAY, September 6th. Tuesday, September 5th has been designated a Professional Activity day and no students will be at school.

Returning SK students will begin the school year on THURSDAY, September 7th. Incoming JK students will receive information to their email about their entry visit on Wednesday September 6th with a full time start date of Thursday, September 7th as well.

Class assignments for all students attending Balaclava next year will be finalized in late August and will be available on the Parent Portal for reference as September begins. More information on how to access your child's class assignment will be provided via HWDSB messaging as we get closer to September.

Thank You School Council and Home and School

Balaclava students, staff and families are very fortunate to have both an active School Council and Home and School Association. These dedicated volunteers advocate for all of our students at the board and school level, provide services such as food days, winter concert and extensive fundraising. The school is a better place because of their hard work. A sincere thank you to the volunteers of these two groups for all of your efforts this year. It has made such a difference at the school! Both groups are always looking for new members; information will be sent out in September about how you can get involved.

Calendar Items of Note

June 14	Gr 4/5 Soccer Team Tournament
June 15	Junior Team Track and Field
June 16	Home and School Pasta Day
June 21	JSA and JSB Bowling Trip
June 21	Grade 8 Commencement Rehearsal
June 22	JSC, Grade 1 to 6 Movie trip
June 22	Grade 8 Commencement
June 27	School Picnic and Water Play Day
June 27	Report Cards Go Home
June 28	Last Day of School for Students
June 29	PA Day, no school