



Balaclava Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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Balaclava March 2024 Newsletter

Principal's Message

A few years ago, Balaclava developed a school motto which says "When we look after ourselves and we look after one another, we all succeed." Every day our student morning announcers remind everyone in the school of this message. In addition to all of the academic subjects and learning skills we work with students on developing while they are at school, helping them see their role in the community and how they can contribute is tremendous learning. We ask students to help one another in class, to be a kind friend to someone on the playground, to be a role model and guide to younger students, to give back to the community through classroom/playground clean ups, and to find ways to problem solve and resolve conflicts respectfully. We want everyone at Balaclava to be successful students, not only academically, but also as a contributing member of a community. Thank you for your on-going support of your children as they navigate all of these tricky learning situations throughout their school careers.

Snack Program Update

We now have our snack program up and running regularly at Balaclava. With generous funding from Tastebuds, we have healthy snacks to offer students on Mondays and Wednesdays. There is always one fruit or vegetable served, and then one item that would be from another food group. Students have the opportunity to take a snack if they wish. On March 7th, Balaclava will join with other schools across our board to participate in "The Big Crunch" as part of the program. We will be launching a fundraiser later this spring to raise money to augment the funds we receive from Tastebuds and keep serving those tasty snacks. We will post information about the Big Crunch and upcoming fundraising on the school website as more details are received. Happy snacking!

Home and School Fun Fair is Coming

Back by popular demand! The Balaclava Home and School will be running a Community Fun Fair here at Balaclava on Thursday May 23rd from 4:30 to 8 p.m. There will be a BBQ, fair games, silent auction, face painting and more. This popular event is a big one for the whole Balaclava community so be sure to mark your calendars. Volunteers (adults and high school students) are desperately needed – please consider signing up for a shift. In April and May, requests to support through donations for the silent auction and for the BBQ will occur. Thank you, in advance, for any help you can offer for this fabulous community event. If you have questions or wish to sign up to help, please email:

balaclava.funfair@gmail.com

Ramadan Begins

This year, the month of Ramadan begins on or about the evening of March 10th. If this is an important time for your family, we wish you a Ramadan Mubarek. If your Balaclava student(s) will be participating in this holy time and might require special consideration for school accommodations due to fasting etc., please contact Mrs. Keery Bishop at kkeerybi@hwdsb.on.ca or speak to your child's teacher.

Kindergarten Registration Continues

Children born in 2020 or 2019 who are not currently registered at school are now eligible to register for JK (2020) or SK (2021). Registration is online but if you need assistance, please contact the school at 905 659 3396. Please go to the website for more details and the online registration information: <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/kindergarten/>
Register early so you will receive information about our Kindergarten Orientation this spring!

Calendar of Events

March 1	Regular School Day (no longer a PA Day)
March 4	Vision Screening Clinic, SK students only
March 5, 12, 19, 26	Home and School Pizza Days
March 6	Checkers Tournament
March 7	The Big Crunch
March 7, 28	Home and School Sub Days
March 10 – April 9	Ramadan
March 11-15	March Break – no school
March 26	School Council Meeting 6 p.m.
March 29	Good Friday – No school