



# Balaclava Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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## May 2024 Balaclava School Newsletter

### **Principal Message**

Each spring, the Grade 1 to 8 classes engage in the Human Development and Sexual Health expectations as part of the Ontario Health Curriculum, (Strand D, Healthy Living). HWDSB is committed to the health and well-being of all our students. All students deserve to have the knowledge to keep themselves safe and to act with care and consideration for themselves, their peers, and all people in their communities. Our staff is committed to teaching the 2019 curriculum that includes topics such as online safety, sexual orientation, mental health, gender identification and consent, with our continued safety and well-being approach, in a professional and respectful manner that is both developmentally and age appropriate.

Parents/guardians are the primary educators of their children with respect to learning about values, appropriate behavior and ethno-cultural, spiritual and personal beliefs and traditions. Parents/guardians act as significant role models for their children. It is therefore important for schools and parents to work together to ensure that home and school provide a mutually supportive framework for young people's education.

To that end, parents are encouraged to be cognizant of the planned teaching of this health unit. Your child's teacher has sent/will be sending home a letter outlining the specific expectations to be taught and what resources will be used to teach it. You are also encouraged to look at the information posted on the HWDSB website here:

<https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/elementary/programs/human-development/>

Parent/guardians who wish to exempt their child(ren) from instruction related to these specific expectations are asked to complete the exemption letter on the Parent Portal. Alternately, paper copies of the exemption letter are available at the school office if requested.

### **Open House – May 9<sup>th</sup>**

We want to welcome you into the school on Thursday May 9<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 6:30 for our annual Open House event. This is an opportunity for you to come take a look at your child(ren)'s work and classrooms. We will also have the Scholastic Book Fair set up in the library from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. The Student Leadership team will be selling small cups of Frozen Yogurt at the tuck shop for \$2 (cash) in support of our School Nutrition program, and the Home and School Association will have a table set up with information. We hope to see you then!

### **Kindergarten Orientation – May 9<sup>th</sup>**

We are currently taking registrations for Kindergarten for the 2024-2025 school year. An orientation visit is set for May 9<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 to 5:15 for families and children new to Balaclava Kindergarten. We'll start our time in the gym at 4:30.

If you have not yet registered your child born in 2019 or 2020, please do so soon and plan to attend the session as well. Information about registering your child can be found here:

<https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/kindergarten/>

### **Do You Have a Fridge to Donate?**

Our Student Leadership Group (Tuck Shop) is searching for a gently used full size fridge (any dimensions) for our tuck shop products. If you have one to donate, please contact Mrs. Nelligan at 905-659-3396 or at [dnelliga@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:dnelliga@hwdsb.on.ca)

### **Safe Travels Around the School**

Our school parking lot can be a very hectic place, particularly at entry and dismissal times. When picking up or dropping off your children, please ensure you are supervising young children carefully and maintain a good distance from the vehicles. We also encourage drivers to slow down, look carefully, and only use the accessible parking spots if you have an accessible tag in your car. Thank you for helping us keep all of our students and families safe.

### **Spring Concert**

Spring is a great time to make beautiful music! Our music classes would like to perform for you on Tuesday May 28<sup>th</sup>. Our junior and intermediate performers will have a show at 12:00 (we'll start seating people in the gym at 11:45). Primary classes will perform at 2:30 (we'll start seating people in the gym at 2:15).

### **Balaclava Reads and Writes Winners**

In the month of April, we held a creative writing contest to any students who wanted to participate. We had over 40 entries from many talented young writers! Congratulations to our winning authors. In the Kindergarten to Grade 2 category: Keira (JSB), Annabelle (12B) and Delia (12C). In the Grades 3 to 5 category: Ryley (4A) and Ruby (45A). In the Grades 6 to 8 category: Charlotte (78A) and Emma (78A). The winning stories were shared with all of the classes for other students to enjoy. Thanks for writing.

### **Home and School Updates**

This is a busy – and exciting! - time for the Balaclava Home and School.

The Fun Fair is scheduled for Thursday May 23 on the Balaclava School grounds from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. We hope to see many families out for this fun event. Thank you so much to all of the families who donated to the Toonie bag and class baskets.

The Home and School Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Thursday May 9 at 7 p.m. The Home and School is looking for a sub co-ordinator for next year. If a co-ordinator is not secured for the position by the end of May, subs will be cancelled for the 2024-2025 school year.

We invite all parents to come to the AGM – this is where the budget is set for the 2024/2025 school year.

The Home and School is looking for volunteers to help with pancake day on Monday June 17 in the morning. Help for the whole morning or even just a few hours would be greatly appreciated. This pancake day is FREE and for all students in the school, thanks to the sponsorship of the Home and School committee.

Do you wonder what the Home and School funds raised is used for? Here's a list of the commitments and purchases made this year:

- The sports court on the east side of the playground completed (summer 2023)
- 10 French/English dictionaries (spring 2024)
- 40 multi-sport jerseys (spring 2024)
- 2 Grade 4 student published books added to the library (spring 2024)
- Free pancake day for the school (June 2024)
- Shovels for the new blacktop (winter 2023)
- 10 indoor floor hockey sticks and 12 balls (spring 2024)
- Planetarium in school excursion K-8 (June 2024)
- Grade 5/6 French cooking class (2024-2025 school year)
- School production (2024-2025 school year)
- \$2500 given towards grade 7/8 trip and grade 8 commencement (June 2024)
- \$1000 for new books for the school (spring 2024)
- Many more exciting activities planned for the following year!
- Pizza Pizza/Subway/Booster juice/Special food day offerings all year.

Fun fact – we sold 13 274 pizza slices in the 2023-2024 school year!

Contact [balaclavahands@gmail.com](mailto:balaclavahands@gmail.com) for more information for any of these update items.

### Calendar of Events

May 2	Intermediate Swim Meet, p.m.
May 2, 16, 30	Home and School Sub Days
May 3	Jump Rope for Heart Launch (Gr 1-3)
May 7, 14, 21, 28	Home and School Pizza Days
May 9, 23	Home and School Booster Juice Days
May 9	Choirfest, a.m.
May 9	Kindergarten Orientation, 4:30-5:15 p.m., school gym
May 9	Balaclava Open House, 5:30-6:30, throughout the school
May 9	Scholastic Book Fair, 5:00-6:30, library
May 15	Gr 6,7,8 Soccer Tournament
May 17	Jump Rope for Heart
May 17	56A and 56B to Hamilton Conservation Area
May 20	Victoria Day, no school
May 23	Fun Fair, 4:30 – 7:30, Balaclava school grounds
May 24	Gr 4, 5 Soccer Tournament
May 28	Spring Concerts, 12:00 (junior/intermediate) and 2:30 (primary)