



# 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](mailto:balaclava@hwdsb.on.ca)  
PRINCIPAL: K. Keery Bishop  
[kkeerybi@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:kkeerybi@hwdsb.on.ca)  
[www.hwdsb.on.ca/balaclava](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/balaclava)

## **Balaclava School December 2024 Newsletter**

### **Principal Message**

The cold has finally arrived! I know this is good news for some, but it is not for everyone. At school, it is important to get our students out of their classrooms and into fresh air for a break to keep their bodies moving and their minds active. This means that classes go outside almost every day for two recesses as well as sometimes during class time for DPA (daily physical activity) or other classes. All students need to be dressed for the weather to go outside every day they come to school. On the rare occasion that the weather is too poor for outdoor time (below -15 or -20 with the windchill, there is heavy rain, or thunderstorms in the immediate area), we will stay inside for the duration of that weather. Please note that the school cannot accommodate requests by families to have a child stay in because they don't like the cold or are feeling under the weather.

In the case of extreme weather, HWDSB follows a specific policy to determine whether schools will be closed and transportation cancelled. For more information about this process, please see:

<https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/about/severe-weather/>.

### **Balaclava Food Drive**

Balaclava staff and students want to give back to our community. We are holding a food drive at the school until Friday December 13<sup>th</sup>. Students are welcome to bring non perishable items in any day the first two weeks of December. These items will be going to the Flamborough Food Bank. Thank you for your support and generosity.

### **Talent Show**

Some of our older students have successfully tried out for the Balaclava Talent Show. Our talented entertainers will show off their skills during our in-school talent show on Wednesday December 18<sup>th</sup>. Only a small number of students will be performing in this show, but don't worry – we'll have a primary concert in February and a junior/intermediate concert in May so all of our students will get to perform. Thank you to Mrs. McIntosh and her team for their efforts at bringing these shows to life.

### **The Great Gulp**

On Friday December 13<sup>th</sup>, Balaclava staff and students will be participating in the Great Gulp, an initiative brought to the school by our Student Eco-Team. The Great Gulp invites people from across Canada to take a gulp of tap water in a reusable bottle, glass or mug to raise awareness about drinking water and the importance of reducing single-use plastic waste.

Our school Eco-Team is educating all of our students on the value and importance of safe, clean drinking water. Many of our classes have recently tied this to an opportunity to learn more about Indigenous perspectives on water conservation, such as learning about the Water Walkers.

**Please support this initiative by ensuring your child has a reusable water bottle with them to school on Friday December 13<sup>th</sup>.**

**HWDSB**  
**BE YOU. BE EXCELLENT.**



# 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](mailto:balaclava@hwdsb.on.ca)  
PRINCIPAL: K. Keery Bishop  
[kkeerybi@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:kkeerybi@hwdsb.on.ca)  
[www.hwdsb.on.ca/balaclava](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/balaclava)

## Winter Break

A reminder that the school will be closed from December 23, 2024 until January 5, 2025 and will reopen following our regular schedule on Monday January 6, 2025. We hope each family has a wonderful break!

## Calendar of Events

Dec 3, 10, 17	Home and School Pizza Days
Dec 4	Knights in the Classroom (grades 3 to 5)
Dec 5, 19	Home and School Booster Juice Days
Dec 12	Home and School Sub Day
Dec 13	The Great Gulp – please bring a reusable waterbottle
Dec 13	Last day for Balaclava Food Drive
Dec 18	Talent Show, middle block
Dec 20	Non nutrition day. Regular dismissal at 3:35 p.m.
Dec 23-Jan 3	Winter Break
Jan 6	School resumes