



BalACLAVA Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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Meet the Teacher Evening

Our **Meet the Teacher** evening was a great success! It was so nice to see so many families visiting classrooms, connecting with teachers, and exploring the wonderful learning spaces our students call home. The positive energy throughout the building was fantastic, and we truly appreciated the opportunity to meet families in person and share the excitement of a new school year.

A special thank you to the **Strabane Optimists** for providing delicious food for everyone to enjoy, it added such a nice community touch to the evening!

Learning Beyond the Classroom

Our students have been actively engaged in learning experiences that extend beyond the four walls of the classroom:

- **Grades 7 & 8** took a trip to **Dundurn Castle**, where they explored local history and gained insight into life in early Ontario as part of their history curriculum. Students were excited to see artifacts and hear stories that brought their learning to life.
- **Grades 5 & 6** participated in **Chef à l'école**, a hands-on cultural experience that combined French language learning with cooking. Students worked together to make delicious apple-based treats and enjoyed sampling their creations, there were many smiles and happy taste-testers! Thank you to our Home and School Association for funding this great event for our students.

Sports and School Spirit

It's been an active and exciting fall season for our students!

- **Cross Country:** Congratulations to all of our runners who represented our school at recent meets. Your effort, sportsmanship, and team spirit were outstanding!
- **Volleyball:** Both **junior and senior boys' and girls' volleyball teams** have been participating in tournaments this month. Players have shown great teamwork and improvement with each game, thank you to our staff coaches for the time and dedication they give to supporting our athletes.

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We're so proud of the way our students represent our school community, on and off the court!

Upcoming Learning Experiences

This Monday, our **Grades 4–6 students** will participate in a **Day of Indigenous Games**. This event will take place outdoors on Monday and will provide students with opportunities to learn about and experience traditional Indigenous games and teachings that promote cooperation, respect, and connection to the land. We're grateful to be able to use our wonderful outdoor space for such a meaningful and active learning day.

Professional Learning and Growth

During today's **Professional Activity Day**, staff took part in important professional learning sessions.

- Teachers reviewed and updated their understanding of **HWDSB's Safe Schools policies**, ensuring that our practices continue to foster a safe, inclusive, and caring learning environment for every student.
- Staff also worked collaboratively on setting **School Improvement goals** for the year, focusing on enhancing student achievement, equity, and well-being.

This collaborative work helps ensure we are all moving forward together toward shared goals for our students and school community.

Housekeeping Reminders

A few reminders to help with end-of-day routines:

- The office becomes very busy after **3:00 p.m.**, as many parents arrive to pick up students. Locating students during this time can take a few minutes, so we appreciate your patience and understanding.
- If possible, we encourage families who are picking up close to dismissal time to meet their child at their **bus line** outside, which helps reduce congestion in the office and ensures a smoother end-of-day process for everyone.

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We appreciate your support in helping us minimize disruptions to classes and learning at the end of the day.

A friendly reminder that **Monday is Hot Dog Day** and **Thursday is Booster Juice Day**, thank you to our volunteers who help make these special days happen!

A Note of Thanks: As we move through a busy fall season, we want to express our sincere appreciation to our students, families, and staff for your ongoing support, positivity, and teamwork. Our school continues to thrive because of the strong partnerships within our community. Thank you for all that you do to make our school such a warm and welcoming place for children to learn and grow. Wishing everyone a wonderful weekend filled with rest and a bit of sunshine!