



The Ballard Bugle



Our calendar is now available on our website:

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

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU

We would like to say a special Thank you to the Optimist Club of East Hamilton. This past year they have donated to and supported our school in so many ways. Their support is greatly appreciated by staff and students alike and we treasure this wonderful partnership.

The Optimist Clubs strive to aid and encourage the development of youth. They believe that the giving of oneself in service to others will advance the well-being of humankind, community life and the world. They are always looking for new members and volunteers. If you or anyone you know is interested, they meet every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm at St. Paul's United Church. You can also visit their website for more information.

STUDENTS SIGNING OUT FOR 2ND NUTRITION BREAK

Just a reminder that the privilege of going home for 2nd nutrition break is extended to grade 7 & 8 students only. Students are to use this opportunity to go home

for lunch. Visiting local stores and businesses is not allowed. Students are also asked to be respectful of our neighbours and their property. Students are to sign out with their teacher and return to school by the end of break. They are to enter the school from the back playground with the other students. If a student is late returning to school, they are to come to the office where they will be marked late.

REMINDERS We would like to remind all families that all HWDSB schools subscribe and advise families to use the School Messenger app. This is a very important tool for parents to use to help manage student attendance. If your child is going to be absent from school, or late for school, has an appointment please report this information on School Messenger. If your child is to be dismissed early, you can also report that information on School Messenger. We realize that there may be times that you may have an unexpected early dismissal for your child.

Pizza Reminder Please remember that pizza this year is pre-order only. No "day of" sales are permitted. Thank you!

100th ANNIVERSARY We will be celebrating our 100th anniversary on Friday, October 25th from 5-7 pm. Please join us for this special event! There will be performances in our auditorium, memorabilia for viewing, food trucks and Ballard swag for sale. All profits will go to our school nutrition fund.

PHOTO RETAKE DAY Our photo retake day will be November 11th in the morning.

PICKING UP YOUR CHILD EARLY????

The office is a very busy place, especially close to the end of the day so we ask that parents please follow these steps to ensure a smooth pick up. **Please note that we do not call students down before a parent arrives as we have no place for them to be supervised while waiting.**

1. Use School Messenger, send a note with your child or call the office to give us advanced notice that your student will be leaving early. This makes the teacher aware so that the student can be prepared when they are called down when you arrive. Especially if they are not in their classroom.
2. Please plan ahead. Give yourself enough time and remember that it can take a bit of time to locate your student and have them get ready. Especially in the winter, it can take a bit of time for the students to get all of their gear on.
3. Please avoid picking up students during nutrition breaks. We have no way of reaching students who may be outside at that time. We don't want to keep you waiting longer than necessary.
4. Please make sure that your contact / pick up list is up to date. In case of an emergency or in the event that the person picking up your child is not on their pick up list, we will be calling parents to verify. If you are sending someone that is not on your list, please notify the office. Individuals picking up may be asked to provide identification before a student is released to them.

ENTERING THE SCHOOL? In an effort to maintain a safe environment for our students, **Visitors to our building must be buzzed in and check in at the office for direction.** Parents are not permitted to move freely about the building or walk students to class unless given permission by school staff. We thank you for your cooperation.

HALLOWEEN We wanted to outline for families what's happening for Halloween at Ballard this year. There will be a parade for FDK students only in the auditorium. Parents are welcome to attend. Look for more information from your child's teacher closer to the event. All students are welcome to wear their costumes. We ask that students not wear masks, bring any type of weapon or to wear scary costumes as it frightens younger students. There will also be a dance for students in grades 6-8. Look for more information from your child's classroom teacher regarding parties / snack sharing.

LOOKING TO VOLUNTEER? Should you be interested in volunteering with us, please remember to make sure that you have a Vulnerable Sector Police Screening (must have been issued within the last six months) completed and have filled out volunteer information forms. Once the forms have been filled out, you will be invited to have an interview with Mr. Shearer our Vice-Principal. Forms are available at the office.