



The Ballard Bugle



Our calendar is now available on our website:

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

DECEMBER HAPPENINGS As we get closer to the Winter Break we have a lot of things going on this month. From all of us here at Ballard, we wish you a safe and happy holiday season! We will see you in 2025!

Thursday December 12th - Winter Festival Day

Students wear their favourite festive gear or colours for the school winter concert. Blue and white (Hanukkah colours or winter colours), silver and/or gold, red and green, multicolour, black/red and green (Kwanzaa).

Friday December 13th - Holiday Concert

Families are invited to attend. 1:30 - 3:00pm.

Wednesday December 18th - Favourite Outfit Day & Grades 6-8 Winter Dance.

Thursday December 19th - Character Day & Kindergarten Winter Concert

Dress like, wear a shirt of your favourite character from book, show or video game. Kindergarten Concert 1:30pm, Kinder families are invited to attend.

Friday December 20th - Last day of School - Holi-Day

Wear the colours or sweater of your favourite holiday (Hanukkah, Valentine's day, St Patrick's, Christmas, Halloween (no costumes), Eid, Holi, Diwali, etc!) Students can also wear favourite colours to represent their favourite Holiday.

PLEASE NOTE: If you wish to dismiss your child early from school straight after the holiday concerts, please submit this on the safe arrival app or let your child's teacher know prior to the concert. If not, you **MUST** check your child out at the office as you exit the building. The office will likely be busy at this time so please try to inform teachers or use safe arrival first.

NEW END OF DAY PROCEDURE

Please be aware of the new end of day procedure at W.H. Ballard. Students are asked to kindly exit the school grounds promptly at 3:10 pm. A supervising educator is on duty on the back playground between 3:10 and 3:25 pm. During this time, all students must exit the school grounds for legal purposes. Students are invited to re-enter the school grounds after 3:25 when the school day has officially ended and supervision has concluded. It is important during this transition to speak to your child regarding "street safety" as we are a high traffic area especially during dismissal time. Students are asked to please not play with balls or block exits during this time in order to keep everyone safe. Please have a meaningful discussion with your children regarding this procedure.

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.

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.

BRRRRR....IT'S GETTING COLDER

We have been very fortunate this fall to be able to enjoy such beautiful weather. Unfortunately, the warm weather is coming to an end and some days we never know what to expect or how we should dress. Please consider sending your student with extra weather appropriate clothes so they remain warm and toasty when they go outside.