



BalACLAVA Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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June 2024 BalACLAVA School Newsletter

Principal's Report

If you have driven by BalACLAVA in the last few weeks, you may have noticed a billboard attached to the fence line indicating a School Renewal Project. When our doors close at the end of this month to staff and students for the summer break, the construction vehicles will be rolling in! Our parking lot and bus areas are being completely re-done this summer. The goal is to widen the bus lanes, move the garbage and recycling bins for better sightlines to the road, re-route the parking to move cars from east to west (instead of our current route that moves west to east) to ease congestion at the exit, and build in ramps and accessible parking for more equitable access to the building. When we come back in September, please watch for signage directing you to enter at the far end of our parking lot (near the big playground). We look forward to a safer, more accessible parking and bus area for the 2024-2025 school year!

Year End Reminders

June is a very busy month in the school. We also know that families have a lot happening outside of school at this time of year as well. If your child is going to be away, late or picked up early, please remember to enter that information into Safe Arrival to help us keep track of everyone. These changes to attendance can be entered any day before the absence or up until 10 a.m. on the day of the absence. Here are some important dates to keep in mind:

- Friday June 7 is a PA day and there is no school for students.
- Report cards will come home on Wednesday June 26
- The last day of attendance for students is Thursday June 27
- Friday June 28 is another PA day and there is no school for students.

School will resume for Grade 1 to 8 students on Tuesday September 3rd. Returning SK students will begin on Wednesday September 4th. Our new JK and new-to-school SKs will be invited to a short visit on September 3rd before also beginning full time attendance on September 4th.

Information about classes assigned to students will be available on the Parent Portal just prior to school starting – more information will be shared about this through board communication in the summer.

Big Thanks for Fun Fair!

Thank you so much to the Home and School Fun Fair Committee that put on a wonderful evening of activities for the community on May 23rd. Thank you to all of the families and individuals who came out and enjoyed the event, donated time or items, or volunteered to help staff a station, set up and cleaned up. While the primary goal was to bring the community together for some fun, the secondary goal of raising funds towards the purchase of technology supports for the school was also highly successful. A total of \$11640 was raised! Thank you for all of your support.



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HWDSB Celebrates Pride Month

For the month of June, all HWDSB schools and building will be flying the Intersex-Inclusive Progress Flag. The flying of the Rainbow or Progressive Flag during Pride Month is a symbolic event and educational movement recognized worldwide. It signifies our commitment to combat homophobia, transphobia and biphobia and to end discrimination and violence against Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+ identified individuals and communities.

Summer Reading

HWDSB online library resources are available to students even through the summer! To access books from SORA, you would need your child's board-issued email and password (check with your child's teacher to get it). Visit the HWDSB website and log into the Hub. Click the SLC button or search for HWDSB System Learning Commons. You can explore e-books, audiobooks and magazines in SORA in the Primary, Middle or Secondary Widgets under "Read" or "Ebooks". If your child enjoys more non fiction materials, they can also explore Gale Elementary, Britannica and PebbleGo under the Primary and Middle School buttons.

Hamilton Public Libraries, including our local Carlisle Public Library, will be running a Summer Reading Club program for students as well. For more information, please visit the library or go to:

<https://www.hpl.ca/articles/summer-reading-club-2024>

Food Days in June

The Home and School's food days (pizza Tuesdays, Booster Juice/Sub Thursdays) is now done for the year. We thank the Home and School Association for organizing this and to all the volunteers who have participated in preparing and serving food all year.

While regular food days are done for the year, we still have one more special food day! Pancake day for all of the students (free!) will be on Monday June 17th. See below for the request for help to make that day happen.



Looking for
volunteers to help
out with our



FREE PANCAKE DAY!

Mon June 17
8:30am-noon

If you can help out the whole time that is wonderful,
or a few hours of help would be tremendous.

Please email
balaclavahands@gmail.com
or text 905-379-4898
if you are available to help.
Thank you!



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Ontario Planetarium Comes to Balaclava

On June 10th and 11th, Balaclava will be hosting the Ontario Planetarium Dome. All classes will have the opportunity to tour the universe, immersing themselves in a tour of the constellations, the Northern Lights and go on a thundering rocket launch into Earth orbit before visiting planets, moons, comets, stars, black holes and galaxies. These exciting presentations have been completely funded by the Balaclava Home and School for all students. We can't wait to head off into the stars!

Calendar of Events

June 6	Gr 7/8 Trip to Rogers Centre
June 7	P.A. Day – no school for students
June 10	Planetarium visit to Balaclava (classes: 45A,56A, 56B, 78A, 78B, 78C)
June 11	Planetarium visit to Balaclava (classes: JSA, JSB, 12A, 12B, 12C, 23A, 3A, 4A)
June 11	Track and Field, Gr 6,7,8
June 12	Gr 7/8 Trip to Tree Top Trekking
June 17	Home and School Pancake Day (free for all students!)
June 20	Track and Field, Gr 3, 4, 5
June 19	Grade 8 Commencement Rehearsal, 12:00 noon (all grade 8s to attend)
June 20	Grade 8 Commencement, 6:30
June 24	K to 6 Movie Day
June 25	K to 6 Tie Dye Day
June 26	K to 6 Water Play Day
June 26	Report cards sent home
June 27	Last day of school for students (3:35 regular dismissal time)
June 28	P.A. Day – no school for students