

Burkevale Protestant Separate School

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

September 6th, 2016

Welcome back to another exciting school year.



On behalf of the staff at Burkevale, I would like to welcome you all to a new school year. Together, we look forward to a productive partnership where all students can reach their full potential. Once again, our vision is to inspire in students a life-long love of learning by supporting their development, potential, and sense of self-worth, while honouring their individuality. Staff has been working tirelessly to prepare for the upcoming school year and we are all looking forward to a fantastic 2016-2017 where increased communication with home will be evident through the use of Google Classroom and/or SeeSaw. We are hoping you all take part in our online communities, as there is much to see and learn. Thank-you in advance for your continued cooperation, support and collaboration as we support your child(ren)'s growth and development.

Sincerely,

Julia McLaren

Big News

As many of you may be aware, Burkevale will be the school where the existing port-a-pac is evidence of changes at this time, a lot of work. The demolition and construction is slated to begin also be upgrades made to the main building to are all tremendously excited about this venture, accommodations that may have to be made while will do everything in our power to minimally impact students. Your understanding and patience during this process will be greatly appreciated.



constructing an addition at the north end of located. Although physically there is no has been taking place behind the scenes. in late fall or early winter. There will create a more energy efficient space. We but realize that there will be some the construction process takes place. We

Paperwork and Forms

The following forms need to be returned to the school no later than Friday, September 9th, 2016:

- Student Information Sheet/Emergency Medical Form
- responsible use of technology by students agreement form k-8
- Media/Transportation/Walking Consent/Informed Consent
- Element of Risk Form/Informed Consent

The following forms need to be returned, as relevant, by FRIDAY, September 9th, 2016:

- Milk Order For for Oct./Nov.
- First Nation, Metis, & Inuit Identification Form
- School Council Nomination Form
- Ryan's Law

The following booklets/information has been sent home for you to peruse:

- School Calendar
- Agenda
- Student Insurance Booklet



Volunteers are an integral part of school communities and we rely on parents and grandparents to help in this capacity. Whether you are able to attend field trips, would like to help out from home, or can volunteer in the school from time to time, we would love to have your support. As in the past, all volunteers must complete a police check and/or offence declaration. Additionally, a volunteer code of conduct and volunteer form must be completed yearly. Every third year, volunteers must attend or complete the electronic version of the volunteer training. This year's training will take place on Thursday, September 8th at 8:00am-8:45am or 6:30 pm to 7:15pm. At any time, you may complete the training offered online at www.burkevale.com. Please feel free to contact the school should you require any additional information.

SCHOOL COUNCIL: The purpose of school council is to "improve student achievement and enhance the accountability of the education system to parents." (School Councils – A Guide to Members) Enclosed with the beginning of the school year forms was a letter from the past school council chair, as well as an election form coming council members. Please feel us for our very first meeting on Tuesday, 20th, at 6:30pm where council positions determined. By being a council member, have the benefit of: being an important partner in the education system whose views are valued; contributing to the shared goal of improving student achievement; having a vehicle through which to express opinions; being able to keep informed about what is happening at the school and the board. Hope to see you all there!



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HEALTH AND SAFETY

Eat Well to Excel: The Eat Well to Excel program will be supporting healthy snack bins for students in the school.

Concussion Policy: Burkevale's new concussion policy may be found on the board website at www.pssbp.ca. Included in each student's back to school packets was an 'Element of Risk' form that must be completed by parents. Additionally, if teachers suspect a concussion, parents will be asked to remove their child from school to seek medical attention. Return to school will not be permitted without medical approval.

Ryan's Law: Under Ryan's Law 2015, every elementary school student in Ontario schools will now be permitted to carry asthma medication, provided they have written parental consent.

Peanut Free Environment: Due to allergies in our school community, Burkevale continues to strive to be a peanut-free environment. Please check all labels before sending products to school to ensure that foods are peanut-free.

Regular School Maintenance: Once again, our superb custodial team has been working assiduously throughout the summer to prepare for the upcoming year. A huge **thank-you** to Mr. Melvor, Mr. Knapp and Mr. BOYER for their hard work and efforts!

Emotional Support and well-being: The excitement, anxiety and sometimes panic of returning to school may mean different things for different families and students.

The change of seasons and return to school brings up different things for everyone. Some love it, some are neutral, some really struggle getting back into the swing of things. Below are some links to provide you as a family or educator as you support your children/students head back to class.

<http://kidshealth.org/en/parents/back-school.html>

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/ages-stages/gradeschool/school/Pages/Ten-Tips-for-Your-Childs-Success-in-School.aspx>

Recognizing whether your children are happy, neutral or stressed about returning to school is a good first step. When you know how they're feeling about it you can support them in using some tools to ease the stress.

One of the best ways to reduce stress is to support your child's connection with staff at the school. Connection with a safe caring adult helps reduce their stress and improves the transition back to school. Let staff know if your child is stressed about returning to school, if there are changes in the home environment or other things impacting their stress levels and ability to be focused at school.

Often stress behaviours are seen by adults and caregivers as misbehaviours. If we can recognize our children's stress behaviours we can better support them in managing stress and reducing behavior that is challenging. Stuart Shanker has 5 tips on how to do that in the following article,

http://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/five_ways_to_help_misbehaving_kids

School Barbeque

The school barbeque has been scheduled for Thursday, September 22nd. More information regarding specifics will be coming home shortly. The school barbeque has been a time honoured tradition at Burkevale, as



it provides an opportunity for meeting your child(ren)'s teachers and finding out a little bit about classroom expectations and methods of communication. This year, we are excited to share with all families our new tools for communicating with home. We hope the reciprocated use of these tools will make increase student-parent-teacher communication and allow for increased student successes throughout the year, as we work collectively to meet the individual needs of every student. Our annual book fair will also be running in the library. Thanks to Mr. Kent for his organization of the event. We hope to see you all there!