

# Burkevale Protestant Separate School

*September Newsletter*

Summer has flown by in the blink of an eye. I hope you all had the opportunity to relax, rest and recharge for the upcoming school year. The dedicated and skilled staff has been planning and working tirelessly to prepare for the arrival of students and to ensure another incredible and productive experience. We are so delighted that you are a part of this amazing learning community and are looking forward to another positive partnership with families, as students embark on the next phase of their academic journey. In addition to agendas, Seesaw and Google Classroom will continue to be electronic forms of communication.

## **NEW STAFF AND STUDENTS:**

Each year brings new change. This includes a few additions to our staff. Burkevale now has a part time vice-principal, Mr. Cowan. Additionally, to meet the needs of increased enrolment as well as fill the gaps due to retirements, the following permanent staff have been hired: Courtney Jones, Jenna French, Leslie Wright and Kennedy Gratrix. Additionally, to fill two maternity leaves, we have hired Jill Merkley and Genevieve Landry. Additionally, two new EAs have been hired, Jeanette Marchand and Kelsey Bell. Finally, we are in the process of adding additional lunch supervisors . Thus far, Janice Collins has been added to our team. Welcome to all new members! The enrollment at Burkevale has increased to an all time high. This speaks volumes to the teachers and students in the building and the positive reputation our school has in our community. Thank you to all of you for your continued support.

## **RENOVATIONS:**

**Facilities Update:** If you drove past the school this summer, you may have noticed numerous maintenance and construction projects underway. We gave the original building an upgrade with new windows and doors, updated mechanical and electrical. Some areas also have a fresh coat of paint and new flooring. Outside, the parking lot has been revamped to accommodate more spaces and meet municipality regulations. We

have also broadened our yard on the east side by moving the fencing an additional six feet the length of the side.

Our addition is almost complete and will be the home to four new classrooms and a new restroom. The restroom will meet the mobility and instructional needs of all students. We are so appreciative of the new accommodations, and are excited about the finished project. The goal is that all classrooms will be moved in at some point in the fall.



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 7th 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](http://www.burkevale.com). Please feel free to contact the school should you require any additional information.

### **School Barbeque**

The school barbeque has been postponed until the renovations are complete and we are able to showcase our new addition. More information regarding specifics will be coming home shortly. We can't wait to share our new space with all of you!





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 for up and coming council members. Please feel free to join us for our very first meeting on Tuesday, September 19th, at 6:30pm where council positions will be determined. By being a council member, you will 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!

### **Paperwork and Forms**

**The following forms need to be returned to the school no later than Friday, September 9th, 2017:**

- 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, 2017:**

- 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

**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](http://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 super custodial team has been working assiduously to prepare for the upcoming year. A huge **thank-you** to Mr. McIvor and Mr. Knapp 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](http://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/five_ways_to_help_misbehaving_kids)