



THE PROTESTANT SEPARATE SCHOOL BOARD OF THE TOWN OF PENETANGUISHENE

VILLAGE SQUARE MALL
2 POYNTZ STREET, BOX 107
PENETANGUISHENE, ONTARIO L9M 1M2
TELEPHONE (705) 549-6422 FAX (705) 549-2768

June 22, 2020

Dear Families of Burkevale Protestant Separate School,

As we approach the end of the 2019-2020 school year, we would like to take the opportunity to express our thanks for a wonderful school year and wish you a restful and enjoyable summer, as well as share information for the start of the 2020-2021 school year.

This school year has been one that has created some very unique and interesting challenges for all of us, but we believe that, in spite of these unusual circumstances, our students have experienced a very successful year. We want to thank our dedicated staff for all they have done to support our students in achieving their goals. With the many challenges faced throughout the year, in particular, the most recent closure of schools due to the COVID-19 pandemic, they continued to demonstrate their devotion and commitment to our shared vision of developing the overall well-being of our students.

We want to acknowledge that the last few months have been difficult for everyone to navigate as our new normal, especially our students and families. It is our hope that all of you are well and that we were able to alleviate some of the added stress that came about with your children learning from home. As we head into the summer, we hope all of you have the chance to rest and recharge as we prepare for September and what we hope is a year where we will be back teaching our students at school. We will address this further in the letter.

We would like to congratulate and wish our graduating students all the best as they move on to Secondary School. Our community is better because of your presence and knows that you have all the skills and knowledge to be successful in the next chapter of your educational pathway.

To the families of our students, we want to say thank you for entrusting us with the education and well-being of your child this past school year – this is not a responsibility or privilege that we take lightly. We appreciate the collaboration in partnering with you in your child's learning journey and look forward to continuing this partnership as we head into the next school year.

School Reopening Plan

On Friday, June 19, 2020, the Education Minister announced the Provincial Plan for the resumption of school for the 2020-2021 school year. Click on the following link to read the full plan – [Ontario Reopening of School Plan](#).

The Protestant Separate School Board for the Town of Penetanguishene has created a committee of board staff, school staff, and trustees who have been developing a plan to address the three possible scenarios in which the Provincial Plan speaks to:

- Normal school day back at school with enhanced public health protocols;



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- Modified school day based on public health advice where a maximum of 15 students in a typical classroom. This would require alternate day or alternate week attendance for students with At Home Learning taking place when students are not present at school;
- Full At Home Learning should schools closure be extended.

We will be communicating with you on a regular basis throughout the summer to seek information from you, as well as keep you up to date on all details of our plan so that you and your children will be well prepared for the start of the school year. At this time, we believe that the most likely scenario will be the Modified option, however, know that this could change prior to the start or during the school year as well. Please be aware that, as a parent/guardian, you will have the ability to choose whether you send your child to school should we begin with that option. If you choose to keep your child at home, your child will be able to access learning through the “At-Home Learning” delivery model.

As we plan for our new school year, our main areas of focus will be on ensuring that our students and staff are safe, and that we have strategies in place to address the mental health of all individuals. We will be collaborating with community partners to provide support to students who may be struggling with mental health currently and/or who may have difficulty transitioning back into school in the fall. We will continue to provide you with updates on what is available and more information on summer supports, which will be sent out with report cards when they are mailed out to you. Questions can be directed to Christy Hamill at chamill@pssbp.ca. We will be working closely with the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit to ensure our plan meets all the requirements to protect the health and safety of our staff and students and minimize the risks that will be present with the opening of schools.

School Year Calendar

The Ministry of Education has not yet approved our submitted plan for the school year calendar for 2020-2021. We expect to hear back from them soon so that we can share this important information with you. Please be aware that our submitted calendar has students beginning school on September 2, 2020.

As stated, we will be communicating with you throughout the summer in order to provide you with the necessary information. We will endeavour to do our best to share our plan with you as soon as possible and clearly articulate all areas of our plan so that you and your children will be fully aware of everything that will be in place.

We wish you an enjoyable and restful summer.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Lynne Cousens
Chair of the Board

Mr. Tim Overholt
Supervisory Officer