

Burkevale Protestant Separate School

June Newsletter



Where did the 2022-2023 school year go? It seems like only yesterday that kindergarten parents watched teary-eyed from the gate as their three and four year olds began their academic journey at Burkevale. Now, with June upon us, we will witness more teary-eyed parents as their 'not-so-little' children graduate from Burkevale and start a new academic journey of their own. We will miss them all! Spending ten years with a group of students, supporting them as they learn, grow and mature, is one of the most fulfilling parts of being in education. Without fail, there are always students who touch our hearts, for a variety of reasons. It is those little moments, that as a parent that you remember - those moments that help to shape them, but also yourself. May you and your family enjoy the little moments this summer because in the blink of an eye, the 2023-2024 school year will be upon us!

Staff Returning and Staff Leaving: We are excited to welcome Mr. McCrae, Ms. Gratrix and Mrs. Sisson back for the 2023-2024 school year. Mr. Genier will be on leave next year, but will be returning again in the fall of 2024. He will be missed! We also need to express our sincerest appreciation and heartfelt "We will miss you" to Mrs. Cummings and Mrs. Merkley. Mrs. Cummings has held the position of Early Years Lead at the board and Mrs. Merkley was our former Supervisory Officer and current policy writing guru and Before and After School Lead. Both will be retiring this year and it will be next to impossible to fill their positions. We will miss your voice of reason, wisdom and unwavering support. Please visit often!



HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Ms. Hamill - Mental Health Lead (chamill@pssbp.ca)

Summer Safety Tips on Managing Online Activity

Parenting now includes helping guide our children on the safe use of technology and the internet. It's hard to say no to our kids, it's hard to know what's safe and what isn't, when to draw the line. To reduce the risk of online issues Paul Davis is a good resource to help support your parenting in this area. Here are some links and his top 3 tips.

Paul Davis's top 3 tips to avoid/prevent online bullying/safety concerns

1- No technology allowed in childrens bedrooms

2- No Social Media accounts until age 13+

3 - No smartphones for children until grade 8

Online Safety Tips for parents:

Paul Davis expert: <https://socialnetworkingsafety.net/sample-page/> - sign up for his newsletter or listen to a great podcast here summarizing tips on safety: <https://podcasts.apple.com/ca/podcast/digital-safety-and-children-with-paul-davis/id1631322094?i=1000576448451>

Music streaming is another area where parents may want some more information on how to manage content for children. Here's a good resource to help you out:

<https://protectyoungeyes.com/ultimate-guide-streaming-music-apps-including-podcasts/>

There are some technologies that can help parents keep track of their child's screen time and our technology specialist Mr. Kent recommends: *It is also highly recommended to use a monitoring app to manage your child's screen time and app usage.*

<https://www.nytimes.com/wirecutter/reviews/best-apps-to-manage-your-kids-phone/>

Summer Art Based Social Skills Camp

We will be having our Burkevale version of day camps again this year run by Heather Johnston and Diane Dosen. ***Please Register early to help us get ready.***

This year the groups will engage in art-based activities to support the development of skills to manage difficult emotions. Groups will consist of 4-8 students with 2 staff members at all times.

- All camps will run for 3 days of the week Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Please ensure if you are signing up for a camp that you are able to attend at least 2 of the 3 days it is running. There are two time slots available each week, morning and afternoon sessions.
- **REGISTER** via this link: <https://forms.gle/Cxz2QjXKVCrSJyfi9>
- Connect for more information **Heather Johnston** johnston@pssbp.ca

Kindie Practice Camps: We will also be having Kindie practice sessions for new students entering kindergarten or returning students who would benefit from this support. This will happen in August (14, 15, 16 & 21, 22, 23), if you would like to register please email **Heather Johnston** johnston@pssbp.ca

Local Resources Available Throughout summer:

Chigamik Community Health Centre offers some fantastic programs and resources related to food, physical and mental health; [Welcome! Ahnii! Bienvenue!](#)

Catholic Family Services of Simcoe County; [Group Counselling](#) offers many great services and walk in counselling; <https://cfssc.ca/walk-in-counselling/>

Youth HUB for 12+ (705-427-5639), [North Simcoe](#), **New Path Youth and Family Services for all ages, (705-728-5044)**
[Kids Help Phone: Get Support](#), (1-800-668-6868) now have adult and child based services.



Burkevale Library Books - The school library will stop circulating books on Friday, June 9th and all books should be returned after this date so we can do inventory. Please check your bookshelves at home and under beds for books. They will have the Burkevale barcode on the back and the Burkevale stamps inside the cover. Letters will be sent home for any outstanding books in the last few weeks of the school year. Thanks for all your support for our school library as many of the books were purchased from the

funds raised during our Fall BBQ/Book Fair/Open House and helps support our school's excellent literacy program.

Burkevale Happenings: The last two months of the school year have been abuzz with the return of activities and fun! We are so thankful to staff, students, and parents for supporting these wonderful programs and events.

May Activities:

- Primary Skittles (2x/wk)
- Junior Basketball (2x/wk)
- Intermediate Soccer and Ball Hockey (two tournaments)
- Junior and Intermediate Ball Hockey (two tournaments - one gold medal)
- Grade 7/8 Instrumental Band (2x/wk)
- Darlene the Drummer visited 4 classes
- Festival Band and Choir Competitions (gold and silver medalists)
- Saint Marie and Tiny Forest Academy trips (4 trips)
- Grade 3 EQAO
- Kindergarten @ Burkevale Evening
- Burkevale Has Got Talent
- Environmental Club and Parent Volunteers Beautifying Our Gardens (Thanks Mr. and Mrs. Rawson)



June Activities:

- Primary Play Day
- Kindergarten Play Day
- Grade 4-8 School Track Day
- Grade 4-8 Area Track Meet @ St. Teresa's High School-June 13th
- Year End Trips
- Grade 6 EQAO

June is National Indigenous History Month:

For the month of June, our school community will focus on recognizing and celebrating the unique heritage, cultures, and outstanding contributions of First Nation, Inuit, and Métis peoples.

We will also be recognizing: National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21st.

Some activities that occurred in May for both Experiential Learning and Indigenous Education:

- Grade 7 and 8's planted over 500 trees for the Severn Sound Environmental Association
- The kindergarten classes were able to go to Awenda Park and play in the sand and forest
- Greg Garratt came to talk about his Métis culture and teach the grade 3 students about dot art painting
- and so much more...



Tree Planting



Awenda Park



Dot Art Painting
Drumming



Special Thanks: As the year draws to an end, we must thank our School Council, Covenant Church partners, Tim Hortons and all of the families for giving their time, energy and love to our students and staff. We truly appreciate all that you have done! Lastly, we want to thank our students and staff - without your joint efforts, Burkevale would not be the supportive, educational and caring family that it has become. Have a wonderful summer!

