Burkevale Protestant Separate School

June Newsletter

The 2023-2024 school year was certainly one for the history books. Finally, the School Board, Burkevale students, staff and the parent community received the long-awaited news of the approval of a new Burkevale School. Lord knows, we certainly need more space, and the excitement of creating a learning environment for every student to thrive individually and collectively is awe-inspiring. There is a portion of our new building that brings some sadness - 39 Burke Street has been Burkevale's home for over a century! We shall grow and create new blossoms, but never forget our roots. Other historical moments had to be our victorious float in the Winterama parade, for the second year in a row, our first-ever Ontario Skills Competition in Toronto, and our victory for junior ball hockey. Now, with June upon us, we will pay homage to our graduates as they move on to high school and the next leg of their academic journey. Much like our new school, we hope the roots they established here will serve them well. 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, as a teacher or 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 2024-2025 school year will be upon us!

Staff Returning and Staff Leaving: We are excited to welcome Mr. Genier, and Ms. Jones for the 2024-2025 school year. Ms. Charlebois will be on leave next year, but will be returning again in the fall of 2025. She will be missed! Also away for part and/or all of the upcoming year are Ms. Sisson and Ms. Bell as they continue to enjoy their new bundles of joy. Finally, we also need to express our sincerest appreciation and heartfelt "We will miss you" to Ms. Hamill, our mental health lead and dear friend, as she takes care of her own personal health and well-being.

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Ms. Hamill - Mental Health Lead

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**:** **About Paul Davis | Social Networking Safety** **-** sign up for his newsletter or listen to a great podcast here summarizing tips on safety: Tara's Take - Parenting, Education & Life With Kids: Digital Safety and Children with Paul Davis on Apple Podcasts

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:
The Ultimate Guide to 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.*
The 3 Best Parental Control Apps to Manage Screen Time (and Keep Your Kid Safer Online) of 2024 | Reviews by Wirecutter

Transition to School Camps: We will be having Kindie practice sessions for new students entering kindergarten or returning students who would benefit from this support. This will happen in August (20,21,22 & 26,27,28) if you would like to **register please email, Diane Dosen, ddosen@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; CFS Counselling + Wellbeing

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.

One Stop Talk: If you are under 17 yrs of age this is for you, start with a conversation and end with a plan to start feeling better: One Stop Talk . This service immediately connects you to a professional therapist from a network of community based, child, youth and family services across Ontario.

Burkevale Library Books - The school library will stop circulating books on Wednesday, June 5th 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 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.

Activities:

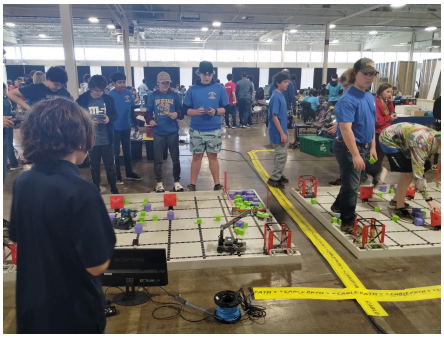
-Primary Skittles (2x/wk)
-Junior Basketball (2x/wk)
-Junior and Intermediate Soccer (two tournaments)
-Junior and Intermediate Ball Hockey (two tournaments - one gold medal)
-Grade 7/8 Instrumental Band (2x/wk)
-Darlene the Drummer visiting weekly
-Festival Band and Choir Competitions (gold and silver medalists)
-Awenda and Tiny Forest Academy trips
-Grade 3 & 6 EQAO
-Kindergarten @ Burkevale Evening
-Track and Field Day and St. Ts Meet
-Year End Trips
-Environmental Club and Parent Volunteers Beautifying Our Gardens (Thanks Mr. and Mrs. Rawson)

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.

Special Thanks: As the year draws to an end, we must thank our School Council, Covenant Church partners, Tim Hortons, The Lion's Club, The Knights of Columbus 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!

Ontario Skills:

On May 6th, 16 grade 7 and 8 students participated in an Ontario Skills Competition held at the Congress Centre in Toronto. The 16 students were divided into four teams of four with each team specializing in a different area of study - Green Energy, Animation, Vex Robotics, and Technology. The Burkevale teams displayed amazing perseverance, problem solving and determination demonstrating their talent in each of the areas. They came away learning a lot, feeling proud of themselves and keen to participate again. Congratulations on a job well done! A special thanks to Ms. Montgomery, Mr. Kent, and the entire grade 6-8 staff for their added support with this endeavor.