

BURKEVALE PROTESTANT SEPARATE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2025

MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

*FROM ALL OF THE STAFF AT BURKEVALE,
WE WISH YOU AND YOUR FAMILY
A JOYOUS AND HEALTHY 2026.*



THE CHRISTMAS CONCERT CONTINUES AT BURKEVALE SCHOOL



Mark your calendars as booked for **December 16th** (snow date of the 17th) for the Burkevale Christmas concert! Despite our library still being on the stage, a student population that is beyond the capacity of our gymnasium (let alone when parents and/or grandparents join in the festivities), we are forging ahead, once again with our Christmas concert. A special thanks to Mr. Kent and Ms. Keefer for giving up their space for the week! Creative minds hashed out a schedule so that all loved ones would have the opportunity to come and watch the students celebrate the joys of Christmas. Our evening will be divided into four separate time frames, with the kindergarten students going first, followed by grades one to threes, fours and fives, and finally the grades six to eight group.

Kindergarten:	5:30-6:00
Grades 1 to 3:	6:15-7:00
Grades 4 to 5/6:	7:15-7:45
Grades 6-8:	8:00-8:30

BURKEVALE HAPPENINGS

In November and December:

- Girls' basketball and boys' volleyball wrapped up with coaches Mr. McCrae, Mr. Genier Mr. Vavrovics and Mr. Pilon
- The Student Council, composed of representatives from grades 4-8, has organized a number of fun activities for students
- The primary classes attended Cinderella at the King's Wharf in late November
- Multiple classrooms have gone ice skating at the local arena
- Forest School outings and classroom drumming continues

**CLICK TO SEE OUR DECEMBER
CALENDAR LINKED BELOW.**



Food Drive

Every year, I am astonished at how much support and love the Burkevale Families show to our own families as well as those in need within our community. That is one of the most blessed parts of the Christmas Season - people coming together to spread kindness and love to those who need it most. Once again this year, we will be collecting food items for St. Vincent de Paul beginning on December 1st and concluding December 5th. Staff will take donated items to the church for distribution. Below is a list of suggestions to send each day, but any items on any day are appreciated.

- **Monday:** Canned goods
- **Tuesday:** Cereal & other non-perishable breakfast items
- **Wednesday:** Pasta & non-perishable dinner items
- **Thursday:** Snacks
- **Friday:** Loonies & Toonies
(to purchase gift cards for perishable foods)



GRANDFATHER TEACHINGS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER:

From the desk of Ms. Montgomery



For the month of December, our school community will continue to focus on the grandfather teaching of **TRUTH**. The turtle lives life in a slow and meticulous manner because he understands the importance of both the journey and the destination. This teaching can be shown with honour and sincerity in all that you say and do.

In the month of November we recognized National Treaties Week which took place the first week of November.

There is an online resource through the Anishinabek Nation that guides students and educators through a series of videos learning about the importance of Treaties. Click the logo below to access these resources online:



A SPECIAL SHOUT OUT TO FATHER PATRICK AND THE THE MARTYR'S SHRINE FOR THE SANTA VISITS, TIM HORTONS, THE LION'S CLUB AND THE ARCHER FAMILY FOR THEIR DONATIONS TO OUR EAT WELL PROGRAM

THE ENTREPRENEUR FAIR

THE GRADE 7 AND 8 STUDENTS WILL BE SHOWCASING THEIR CREATIVITY AND TALENTS AT THE ENTREPRENEUR FAIR ON DECEMBER 11TH DURING THE DAY. CLASSES ARE EXCITED TO MAKE PURCHASES AND ATTEND THE EVENT. CLICK THE CART BELOW TO A LINK OF THE STUDENTS' ITEMS, COMPLETE WITH COSTS, IN CASE SOME OF THE STUDENT SHOPPERS ARE INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING THE EVENT BY MAKING A PURCHASE ON THE 11TH. THANKS IN ADVANCE FOR CONTINUING TO SUPPORT THIS FUN AND AMAZING BUSINESS EXPERIENCE FOR OUR INTERMEDIATE STUDENTS!



Adopt a Family

Christmas brings out the best version of so many people - we care a little more, give a little more, and show a little more patience and empathy toward others. This year, we will be supporting two families from Burkevale. Information is below for those wishing to donate items to the families. There will also be a live link on School-day for monetary donations. Any amount is greatly appreciated. In both families, there are a total of three boys to support.

Boy #1:

Size: Tops size 14, bottoms 10-12
Interests: Arts & crafts, Lego, games

Boy #2:

Size: Men's medium (tops & bottoms)
Interests: Lego, space, board and card games

Boy #3:

Size: Tops size men's small, bottoms size 14-16
Interests: Playstation 5 games, board games, lego



FROM THE SIMCOE MUSKOKA HEALTH



UNIT



Stay Healthy This School Year!
Respiratory infections (like colds or the flu) can spread easily from one person to another. This happens when:

- Someone coughs or sneezes on another person.
- Germs land on things like door handles, desks, or keyboards, and someone else touches them.
- Germs can get into your body through your eyes, nose, or mouth.

The best way to stay healthy is to wash your hands!

Use soap and warm water for at least 15 seconds. Try singing "Happy Birthday" twice while washing. If your hands aren't dirty, you can also use hand sanitizer for 15 seconds. Also:

- Keep up with your vaccines.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes.
- Stay home for at least 1 day if you're sick.

Your kids can do these things too! If your child is sick, keep them at home for at least 24 hours, especially if they have a fever.

Call the school to let them know your child is away because of illness.

Some sicknesses must be reported to the health unit. The health unit checks these reports and gives the school advice if needed, like how to stop germs from spreading.

To help keep everyone healthy:

- Wash your hands often.
- Cough or sneeze into your sleeve.
- Make sure you and your child's immunizations (vaccines) are up to date.

For more information, contact the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit at **1-877-721-7520** or visit:

www.simcoemuskokahealth.org



December is here

and the holiday break is just around the corner!

This time of year can bring some wonderful times at school and at home with family and friends, it can also be a very stressful time. While we celebrate, we can buffer the stress by being intentional about how we recognize and manage our own emotions through the holiday season.

Keeping some structure in place over the month of December and through the break can also help keep things running smoothly, and help give everyone the energy they need to manage the excitement and stress of the holidays.

Finally, don't forget to check in with each other and talk about what is exciting, what's stressful and what you can do as a family to support one another!



Holiday Wellness



Mental Health Resources & Supports:

Please know that you are not alone!

There are community mental health supports available for you and your family!

To book a local appointment with a mental health professional, click here:

[1door \(access local resources here\).](#)

New Path has the Quick Access Clinic available here:

[Quick Access Child and Youth Mental Health Clinic \(click here\).](#)

Finally the local **mental health crisis line** is available 24/7 at **705-728-5044** and

Kids Help Phone can be accessed online ([Kids Help Phone \(click here\)](#)), or

by phone **1-800-668-6868** or text **686868**

Wishing you a restful, joyous and connected holiday season!