



School Council: The purpose of the 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 nomination form for up and coming council members. Please feel free to join us for our very first meeting on Tuesday, September 14th, 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! If you are a first time interested member, please let us know so that we are able to send out an electronic invitation for our Google Meet meeting.

ATTENDANCE: PLEASE NOTIFY THE OFFICE BEFORE 9:15 OF ABSENCES OR IF YOUR CHILD IS GOING TO BE LATE.



darcher@pssbp.ca or
705-549-7456

Paperwork and Forms

The following forms need to be returned to the school, in paper copy, no later than **Monday, September 11th, 2023:**

- Emergency Medical Form
- FNMI Identification Form
- School Council Nomination Form
- Student Information Sheet

The following forms need to be approved on **School Days no later than Monday, September 11th, 2023:**

- Responsible use of technology by students agreement (Primary and/or Junior/Intermediate)
- Element of Risk Form/Informed Consent/Trips/Cell Phone Use/Media Permission/Yearbook
- Code of Conduct

The following booklets/information will be posted on **School Days** in **SCHOOL FILES** for you to peruse:

- **School Calendar**
- **Student Insurance Booklet**
- **School Information Booklet**



Upcoming Events:

- Cross Country Running 4-8 (begins Sept. 7th)
- School Book Fair/Meet the Teacher (Sept. 21st)
- Terry Fox Walk (Sept. 22nd)
- Almond Sales - (Sept.25th)
- Picture Day - K-8 (Sept. 29th)
- Immunizations - grade 7 (Oct. 10th)

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Eat Well to Excel: The Eat Well to Excel program will be supporting healthy snack "Grab and Go bags" for students in the school. Donations are always welcome. This will begin in late September.



Concussion Policy: Burkevale's concussion policy may be found on the board website at www.pssbp.ca. Within the first couple of weeks of school, all grades 1-8 classroom teachers will review information around safety and concussions with all students in grades 1-8.

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.

Emergency Response: In the event of an emergency at school, please refer to Board Policy D-31 Emergency Reponse Protocols @ <https://www.pssbp.ca/wp-content/uploads/D-31-EMERGENCY-RESPONSE-PROTOCOL-1.pdf> Our evacuation sites will be The Penetanguishene Public Library (grades 4-8) and The Centennial Museum (grades K-3/4) If students are evacuated, the board will contact families to keep lines of communication open. Once it is deemed safe, teachers will dismiss students to their parents/guardians.

Safe and Accepting Schools: The school strives to provide a safe, welcoming, and inclusive working and learning environment for staff and students. The Provincial Code of Conduct governs the behaviour of all persons in the school and has criteria for staff and students. Progressive discipline is the process used to balance the degree of disciplinary action taken in relation to the behaviour that may have triggered the requirement to consider discipline. Please refer to Board Policy D 51B Safe and Accepting Schools@

<https://www.pssbp.ca/wp-content/uploads/D-51B-SAFE-AND-ACCEPTING-SCHOOLS-PROGRESSIVE-DISCIPLINE-REGARDING-STUDENTS.pdf>

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL BEING

Welcome back to school!

We are excited to be starting back to school, although it's bittersweet with this beautiful summer coming to an end. Your child(ren) may be experiencing a wide range of emotions related to the return to school. Our partners at School Mental Health Ontario have a great tip sheet for parents to help support your child getting ready to transition back to school, you can find it here:

<https://smho-smso.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Supporting-Mental-Health-and-Wellness-during-the-Return-to-School-Tip-Sheet-EN.pdf>

Starting to get back into a schedule that looks more like the school year can really help. Re-establishing bedtime routines, getting 9/10 hours of sleep a night for most children really helps. Also, getting your child to help with lunches and washing up backpacks and lunch bags can help them feel more ready for school.



Having some open conversations about how they are feeling about school can help, with some problem solving around any worries they have. If worries are big or anxieties are high, checking in with your health care providers, or with the school team can help.

We have had a great summer providing practice for kindergarten and social emotional learning groups. A big shout out of gratitude goes to all the students and families that participated as well as our dedicated staff, Diane Dosen, Heather Johnston, and Debbie Archer. We are excited to have Diane Dosen supporting mental health literacy in the classroom this year and new staff Laura Leslie (Child & Youth Worker) supporting students in small groups. If you have more questions about what's available at school you can get in touch with myself,

Christy Hamill MSW, RSW
chamill@pssbp.ca, 7057156775.

There are also great supports at the following local services, and walk in counseling in Midland; 287 Bayshore Dr. via Catholic Family Services Simcoe County: [Catholic Family Services of Simcoe County](#) 1-888-726-2503

New Path Youth and Family Services: [New Path Youth and Family Services: HomeChild and Youth Mental Health Services](#) 705-725-7656

Kinark Child and Family Services: [Kinark Child and Family Services](#) 1-888-454-6275

Chigamik Community Health Centre: [CSC CHIGAMIK CHC](#) 705-527-4154

North Simcoe Youth Hub: [North Simcoe](#) 705-427-5639

North Simcoe Family Health Team: <https://nsfht.ca>

Kids Help Phone <https://kidshelpphone.ca> now supports adult and child calls - you can call, text or chat online! Check them out, the website also has great resources to learn about mental health. Call 1-800-668-6868, TEXT 686868

NEW STAFF AND STUDENTS:

Each year brings new changes, and this year is no exception. We would like to welcome all new students to Burkevale - some are new to education, while others have moved into our area part way through their educational journey. We

are thrilled to have you choose our unique board and school. We would also like to welcome some new staff members as well. Ms. Gratrix, Mr. McCrae, Ms. Lethbridge, Ms. Sisson and Ms. Moreau have returned from various types of leaves. A warm welcome to Ms. Berry who will be a full time EA in the fall. We are also thrilled that Mrs. Cowan is coming back as a part time planning time teacher and Ms. Dosen has increased her position to full time. Finally, we would like to welcome Mr. Quesnelle as our full time permanent evening custodian. As is obvious by our new hires, we continue to grow at Burkevale and are so happy to have new faces and staff in our building. May the upcoming year be filled with fun, learning and growth. Have a wonderful 2023-2024 school year.

First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education:



Orange Shirt Day will now be known as The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30th. The day has been recognized to focus our attention and commemorate the legacy of residential schools and all 150,000 First Nations, Métis and Inuit children forced to attend and those children who never returned home. The thought of having such a day was one of the 94 recommendations in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's final report.

The link is a child friendly version of the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

https://fncaringociety.com/sites/default/files/child_friendly_calls_to_action_web.pdf

For this day of recognition and reflection all staff and students are invited to wear Orange on September 29th as the 30th falls on a Saturday this year.



Christmas Bizarre: Do you have a creative flair, or talent? Do you have a small business, or are you an ambassador for a company? Burkevale is hoping to host their first ever Christmas Bizarre, on November 4th, 2023. We are looking for vendors to make the event happen. If you are interested in being a part of this event, please contact the school at (705)549-7456 and ask for Deb Archer for more details. Space is limited so don't delay.