September 2025

BURKEVALE NEWSLETTER

"You're off to great to great places. Today is your first day! Your mountain is waiting, so get on your way!"
– Dr. Seuss

A Warm Welcome!

From the office @ Burekvale

Hello and welcome to a brand-new school year! 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 back Ms. Charlebois and Ms. Sisson who are returning from a year off, Ms. Pellarin, our new Mental Health Lead, Ms. Hunt-Miller our new office administrator and Ms. Koopman, Ms. Huson, Ms. McIvor, Ms. Laurin, Ms. Zucchiatti, Ms. Pihl, and Ms. Crawford who will be filling in for staff on leaves.
All staff are looking forward to partnering with you to ensure a fun and successful year for your child. Let's make this year one to remember!
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A new year, a fresh start!!

What's Inside:

2 - Schedules, Important Forms, & Health and Safety Information

3 - Smooth transitions

4 - Important Dates and Events

5 - School Council and Volunteers

School Closures/Bus Cancellations:
All notifications will be communicated with our local radio stations, PURE COUNTRY 106, and Rock 95 when buses are substantially delayed, or canceled. WHEN BUSES ARE CANCELED, THE SCHOOL WILL BE OPEN FOR STUDENT LEARNING AGAIN, UNLESS THE WEATHER REQUIRES THE SCHOOL BE CLOSED FOR SAFETY PURPOSES. THE YMCA BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM WILL FOLLOW THE SAME PROCEDURES FOR SNOW DAYS AS THE SCHOOL.
Additionally, a communication message will be sent to families through email or phone.

"Our collaborative efforts can create a supportive environment that encourages children to thrive."

DAILY SCHEDULE
8:35-8:50 Gates are opened
8:50 School begins
8:50-10:40 Learning block
10:40-11:20 Snack/Recess
11:20-12:40 Learning block
12:40-1:20 Recess/Snack
1:20-3:10 Learning block
3:10 Departure

Staying Connected

Strong communication between parents and teachers is crucial for student success. Our collaborative efforts can create a supportive environment that encourages children to thrive. Parents, you know your child best and can share important details about their strengths and challenges.
As teachers, we bring our expertise in the classroom, offering parents updates on progress and behavior.

ATTENDANCE:
PLEASE NOTIFY THE OFFICE BEFORE 9:15 OF ABSENCES OR IF YOUR CHILD IS GOING TO BE LATE. IF WE DO NOT HEAR FROM YOU AND ARE UNABLE TO CONTACT SOMEONE REGARDING YOUR CHILD'S ABSENCE, THE POLICE MAY BE CALLED TO ENSURE THEIR SAFETY.
ALL FAMILIES WILL NEED TO CONTACT THE SCHOOL BEFORE 2:00 IF THEY WISH TO CHANGE A STUDENT'S METHOD OF PICK UP DURING THE DAY.

SCHOOL DAYS

Field Trips, Forms & Office Communication:
We will be using the digital administrator, School-Day, again in the upcoming year. All new students will receive a registration letter within the first week of school that has a unique registration code for each child in the household. Please ensure you register as soon as possible, as many forms, notes etc. are posted through this platform. We hope to drastically reduce the use of paper, and to make completing forms and payments much easier for you! Thanks for collaborating with us, as we continue to move digitally. For those families without wifi, we will have options available at the school. Please feel free to contact the office at your convenience. Sports' notes and communication will also be shared via School Day in the upcoming year.

"Check your weather app daily!"
https://simcoecountyschoolbus.ca/

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.

Health and Safety

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 Response Protocols @ https://www.pssbp.ca Our evacuation sites will be The Penetang Public Library (grades 4-8) (except Wednesdays where grades 4-8 will go to Bayfield House) and The Centennial Museum (grades K-3) 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.

Smooth Transitions

A smooth transition back to school starts with setting up routines that help students feel organized and ready.

Establishing a consistent bedtime routine ensures they get enough rest to be alert and focused.

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.

Packing backpacks the night before helps prevent last-minute stress and sets the tone for an organized day.

Encouraging a positive attitude toward learning through cooking fosters excitement and motivation, making the school year a successful and enjoyable experience.

We have had a great summer providing practice for kindergarten and summer learning programs. A big shout out of gratitude goes to all the students and families that participated as well as our dedicated staff. We are excited to again have Laura Leslie (Child & Youth Worker) supporting students individually and in small groups.

These simple steps can make a big difference in starting the year off right!

Together, let's create a year filled with joy, discovery, and success!

School Meet & Greet
September 18th
6:00-7:30

Come to meet the teacher and peruse our annual Book Fair!

"Smile, picture day is September 11th!

Upcoming Events in the Calendar

- Volunteer Training (Sept. 3rd 8:00 am)
- Volunteer Training (Sept. 4th 3:30 pm)
- Cross Country Running(begins Sept. 9th)
- Picture Day (September 11th)
- School Book Fair and Meet the Teacher (Sept. 18th from 6:00-7:30)
- Almond Sales (Sept. 25th)
- Terry Fox Walk (Sept.26th)
- School Council 6:00 (Sept. 29th)
- National Day Of Truth and Reconciliation (Sept. 30th)
- Immunizations - grade 7 (Oct. 9th)

Download the full calendar here

Look for our fall outdoor activities coming soon!

School Information

- https://www.pssbp.ca
- 705-549-7456
- smcivor@pssbp.ca
  jmclaren@pssbp.ca
  wcowan@pssbp.ca

Instagram: burkevale_school

School Council

COME JOIN THE TEAM!

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). Included 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 Monday, September 29th at 6:00pm 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 meeting. When a meeting is scheduled, most meetings occur on the first Monday of the month at 6:00 pm.

VOLUNTEER TRAINING

TRAINING AVAILABLE ONLINE OR IN PERSON

- In-person: Sept. 10th 8:00 am
- In person: Sept. 11th 3:30 pm

VULNERABLE SECTOR SCREENING AND POLICE CHECK REQUIRED

Self-guided, online training is available on the school website. All trainees must complete a short quiz demonstrating their knowledge of the content.

LET'S WORK TOGETHER FOR AN AMAZING 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR