



Brisbane Public School

December Newsletter

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Message from the Office

On vous souhaite un joyeux Noël et une Bonne Année!! On espère que vous trouverez des moments pour célébrer la beauté de cette joyeuse saison avec votre famille et vos amis. We wish you a wonderful holiday season filled with happiness and quality family time. We have a lot of wonderful things happening this month at Brisbane including letter writing, festive mailbox decorating and our Winter Concert with presentations by classes and the Choir!



It was wonderful to see so many parents come in to meet their child’s teachers. Parent-teacher communication is an important part of student success. Thank you for continuing to support home and school communication. We encourage home reading of 20 minutes each night. Parents play a vital role in supporting this initiative. Parents can read to their children, share interesting articles they have read, and model both the love and importance of reading at home. Students in French Immersion do not start formal English instruction until grade 3, so please support reading in English at home regularly.

We hope to see you at our Winter Concert in December. You can also look forward to beautiful art displays prepared by students, as well as our Book Fair and Me to We bake sale ! We wish you all a safe, relaxing and enjoyable holiday season, and we look forward to an exciting New Year!

R. Anand & S. Robertson

Upcoming Events

December	January
4th Chris Vollum Social Media Presentation Grade 4-6 **Parents welcome Evening presentation at EPS @ 7pm	7th Back to school, Happy New Year
6th Movie Night	11th Wear Read & White for school spirit
10-14 Book Fair in Library (also open 19th, 4-6:30)	8th School Council Meeting @ 7:15
13th Erin Band visit @ 9:15am	
14th Jingle Jammie Day	
18th Wear Red & Green	
19th Winter Holiday Concert - 2pm and 6:30pm	
20th Sparkle and Shine Day	
20th Pizza & Milk orders due schoolcashionline.com	
21st Festive Sweater/Santa/Elf hat day	
20 - 21st Sing-A-Long 9 - 9:30 am in gym	



Please join us for a

Winter Holiday Celebration

Come enjoy a celebration of music!

Please attend 1 performance - Wednesday, Dec 19th @ 1:45pm - Afternoon performance OR
Wednesday, December 19th from 6:30- 7:30pm

Our Brisbane will be singing some winter themed songs. Before the music in the gym, please tour the 'North Pole Museum of Fine Art'. Classes will have art presentations demonstrating the creative spirit of our students throughout the halls. The WE Team will have a Bake Sale and Hot Chocolate for sale in the pod from 5:30-6:30, and the book fair will be taking place in the library from 4:00 - 6:30.

Additional parking will be available in the bus zones during this special event, so please park in this area.

Reminders

- **NEW!** Check out the new Kindergarten Registration button on our website - more information below about Kindergarten registration.

Sing-A-Long

To get into the holiday spirit, we will be singing winter songs and carols
December 20 - 21st from 9-9:30am in the gym. Parents are welcome to attend!



Spirit Days



Students, staff and volunteers are invited to get creative and dress up for our spirit days this month. By participating in our Spirit Days, you can help earn points for your Colour House.

Fri. Dec. 14th: Jingle Jammie Day

Tues. Dec. 18th: Wear red and green for school spirit

Thurs. Dec. 20th: Sparkle and Shine Day

Fri. Dec. 21st: Festive Sweaters & Santa/ Elf Hats

In January, we will have a school spirit day and students are encouraged to wear their school colours to show that we are off to a great start, full of spirit and pride, in the New Year!

Letters to Friends and Staff

Holiday letter writing will begin in December at Brisbane and our elves will be busy delivering mail! All students have the opportunity to write a letter to each other and TO staff in the school to help build writing skills.



The hallways will have creative names, such as Snowflake Court and Blizzard Blvd. Each class decorates a creative mailbox to receive lettERS. We have many elf volunteers to deliver the letters. Elves sort the letters and deliver them every second break. We are encouraging positive letter writing from K-6 to build writing skills and holiday spirit (except the mailbox beauty contest...that's pure competition!!!). We hope everyone has fun with it. Let us know if you have any questions. Happy writing!

Junior Volleyball

The junior volleyball team lead by Ms. Skoczylas and Mr. Siegel had a great run during the tournament this year. The team came out swinging, snagged two wins, and fought hard during the other two game sets. Despite the two losses, each player showed outstanding teamwork and dedication. The Brisbane Bears gave Erin and Eramosa a run for their money. Way to go!

John Howard Society

The Bullying Prevention Program aims to educate students about making good choices in order to prevent bullying. Each of the multi-session bullying prevention / social competency and skill development programs are completed within the school . Grades K-2 are currently participating in the program and grades 3-6 will participate after the Holiday Break. Each grade completes a different program all of which fall under the anti-bullying umbrella.

The programs are:

Grade JK-2	One by One: We Get Along
Grade 3-4	UP2ME
Grade 5-6	The Power Within



Making Math Meaningful

Every day children go about their daily lives exploring and discovering things around them, and by doing so they're exposed to the world of mathematics. Since mathematics has become increasingly important in this technological age, it is even more important for our children to learn math at home, as well as in school.



Attitude is Important

How do you as a parent feel about math? Your feelings will have an impact on how your children think about math and themselves as mathematicians. Take a few minutes to reflect on these questions:

- Do you think everyone can learn math?
- Do you think of math as useful in everyday life?
- Do you believe that most jobs today require math skills?
- If you answer "yes" to most of these questions, then you are probably encouraging your child to think mathematically.

Positive attitudes about math are important for your child's success.

Mathematics as Problem Solving, Communication, and Reasoning

Helping your child learn to solve problems, to communicate mathematically, and to demonstrate reasoning abilities are fundamental to learning mathematics. These attributes will improve your child's understanding and interest in math concepts and thinking.

A problem solver is someone who questions, investigates, and explores solutions to problems. They stick with a problem to find a solution, understand that there may be different ways to arrive at an answer, and attempt different ways to get there. You can encourage your child to be a good problem solver by involving him or her in family decision making using math.

To communicate mathematically means to use words, numbers, or mathematical symbols to explain situations; to talk about how you arrived at an answer; to listen to others' ways of thinking and perhaps alter their thinking; to use pictures to explain something; and to write about math, not just give an answer. You can help your child learn to communicate mathematically by asking your child to explain a math problem or answer. Ask your child to write about the process she or he used, or to draw a picture of how he or she arrived at an answer to a problem.

We Day – Me to We Team

The grade 6 students at Brisbane are excited to continue to raise funds towards our goal to build a school in Haiti. It costs \$10,000 to build a school with the Free the Children education program. Over the past five years, the Brisbane We Team has raised \$4 206.62. Our students this year would like to raise \$1000 and reach over 50% of our goal. With your help, we can do it. Go We Team, go!

In December, the following **four initiatives** will be led by our "We Team", students working together to make a change locally and globally.

1. **Coat Drive** - The "We Team" students are collecting new or gently used winter coats and snow pants over a two week period, from Monday, Dec. 3rd to Friday, Dec. 14th in the junior POD area. All donations will be greatly appreciated and shared in our local community.
2. **Food Drive** - A classroom challenge! The "We Team" students are collecting non-perishable food goods from Monday, Dec. 10th to Thursday, Dec. 20th. The top primary and junior classes with the most food collected will receive a "special surprise" to share with their classmates! Donations will also be accepted outside the gym at our school holiday concert, on Dec. 19th. Thank you in advance for helping our local Food Bank.
3. **Candy Grams** - The "We Team" students will be selling Allan's nut-free candy canes in the junior POD to primary and junior students from Tuesday, Dec. 11th – Thursday, Dec. 13th for 50 cents each. Students can share a holiday wish and treat with their friends. The candy grams will be delivered to the classrooms on Thursday, December 20th, before our last day together before the holidays.
4. **Bake Sale** – A two-day, nut-free event! Wednesday, Dec. 19th (5:30 - 6:30 pm), before the Brisbane holiday concert, baked goods will be on sale. The following day, Thursday, Dec. 20th (2nd nutrition break), unsold baked goods will be on sale in the Pod for students to purchase.

On behalf of Brisbane's "We Team", thank you for your support, donations and happy holidays to you and yours.

Medication at School



The cold and flu bugs seem to have started their winter tour. If your child is ill, it is best that they stay home, rest, and recover. If your child requires medication while at school, please be aware that paperwork allowing us to administer the medication must be filled out in advance. The [form for administration of medication](#) is available at the office. This includes prescription and over-the-counter medications, such as Tylenol. [All medications must be stored at the office.](#)

School Council

School Council is a great way to be involved in the school community and make a positive contribution to your child's education. Council meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month. Next School Council Meeting is [Tuesday January 8th](#) 7:15 p.m. in the Library - all are welcome!

Inclement Weather and Transportation

When you hear the radio announcement, "[All school taxis and buses in Centre Wellington and the Town of Erin will not be operating today](#)"- your child's bus or taxi is cancelled and the school remains open. During inclement weather, please listen to: Erin Radio 88.1 FM; 1460 AM CJOY; 106.1 Magic FM; Oldies 1090 AM; 99.1 FM CBC; 105.3 Kool FM; Newstalk 570 AM; 96.7 FM CHYM; or, watch CKCO-TV. These stations will announce cancellations. Bus cancellations are also reported on the Board website after 6:30 a.m. at: www.ugdsb.on.ca and on twitter @STWDSTS [Brisbane is in the blue division](#)



Winter Recess & Weather



With the winter weather upon us, this is just a reminder that **all students are expected to go outside** for recess and students need to bring the necessary clothing to make recess enjoyable (ie. [winter coats, snow pants, hats, mittens and winter boots](#)).

Students must go outside for physical activity and health benefits. Also, we do not have supervisors inside during recess breaks. Time outside is important; after students come in from outside, they are able to re-focus faster and they're able to concentrate better.

Recess allows them time to get some fresh air and time to run around. In fact, there are numerous scientific studies that have found that being outdoors for 20 minutes or more gives children a mental edge, not just a physical one. If the weather is extremely cold (-25 Celsius or colder), we modify time outside or students are kept indoors.

Use of Technology

A reminder that technology items should be kept at home unless there is a special project going on at school and students have been given permission by their teacher to bring it in to support learning. The school is not responsible for lost devices.



Trading Cards

Please do not send trading cards to school with students. This includes hockey, Pokemon, etc. as it creates conflict between students at recess and the school is not responsible for lost cards.

Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair will take place from December 10-14th, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., in the library. Cash and cheques will be accepted. We receive valuable resources, books and educational materials from the proceeds made from the Book Fair. The Book Fair will also be held on the day of December 19th to allow parents to purchase books prior to the Holiday Concert.



Helping your child learn French

Parents who don't know French can help their child learn French.

As a parent, the best thing you can do to help support your child's learning is to talk with him or her in the spoken language used at home. Talking helps build communication skills. These skills are transferable from one language to another. (Cummins, 1998)

When engaging with your child, consider the following:

- listen to a television program together and ask your child to share his/her thinking
- listen to music and ask your child why he/she thinks the artist wrote the song
- listen to the radio and ask your child to share his/her opinion about what is happening in the city and/or the world
- use a variety of words (i.e, friendly, kind, considerate)
- allow your child to hear you questioning what you see and hear around you
- talk out loud as you attempt to solve a problem
- tell your child a story about when you were little or tell him/her a story about something that happened at work that day and leave off the ending for him/her to provide
- ask your child to provide 3 things and make up a story that includes all three (example: a princess, a racecar, and an ice cream cone)
- read aloud daily to your child, talk about the pictures, make predictions and see if they come true
- read to your child on vacation or during a long wait at the doctor's office
- read a book to your child and ask him/her what he/she would do if he/she was the main character
- leave notes for your child in his/her lunch box or school bag

- ask your child to leave notes for you around the house
- have your child create a to-do list

Lost and Found

Please check out the items in the Lost and Found as they need a home! Please also label your child's clothing to ensure we can return it. The Lost and Found will be open until Dec 22nd. After that time, items will be donated.



Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol (VTRA)

The Upper Grand District School Board is committed to providing safe learning environments for all students, staff, school visitors, and community members. When a student behaves inappropriately, Principals use progressive discipline to help a student take responsibility for their actions, change their behaviour, and learn from their mistakes.

When safety is threatened by the potentially violent or dangerous behaviour of a student, which places either the student or others at risk, school staff follow specific protocols for the protection of all. It is important that you and your children are aware of these protocols.

For more information, please visit the board's website: <http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/parents/article.a.spx?id=51057>

Kindergarten Registration - School website

Important information about Kindergarten registration this January. We're getting ready to welcome our newest group of little learners to the school! **Kindergarten registration for the 2019-2020 school year takes place from January 8 to 18, 2019.**

All Junior and Senior Kindergarten students new to the UGDSB must pre-register online. (SK students attending a UGDSB school for JK do not need to pre-register online).

Pre-registering online between Jan. 8-18 will save families time by allowing you to fill out important forms and documentation when it's convenient for you.

Once you've pre-registered online, parents/guardians must go into their child's home school before the Jan. 18th deadline to drop off documentation and complete their registration. **Please note that all parents hoping to register their child for JK French Immersion must complete their registration document verification by Jan. 18 at 4 p.m.**



For more information on how to register and the JK French Immersion selection process, please visit www.ugdsb.ca/jkregistration.