



# Brisbane Public School

## December Newsletter

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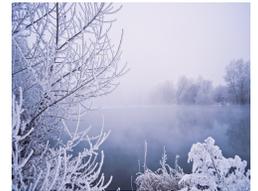
Principal: Reena Anand

Office Coordinator: Dawn Dolson

[www.ugdsb.on.ca/brisbane](http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/brisbane) @Brisbane\_PS

### 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 several classes!



It was wonderful to see so many parents come in to meet their child's teachers during interviews. Parent-teacher communication is an important part of student success. Thank you for continuing to support home and school communication. If you did not have a chance to meet your child's teacher, please contact them to set up a meeting. We encourage home reading for 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. We look forward to an exciting New Year and wish you all the best in 2020!

*R. Anand*

### Upcoming Events

#### December

- 4-10 Earthkeepers Gr 5's-see dates by class
- 9-13 Book Fair in Library (open 9:00-3:00)
- 11 Pasta lunch-send tupperware/forks
- 12 Erin Jazz Band visit @ 9:15am
- 12 Popcorn Day (changed)
- 13 Jingle Jammie Day
- 16 Festive Sweater/Santa/Elf hat day
- 17 Pizza/milk/sub orders due for new year
- 18 Winter Holiday Concert - 11:15am & 1:45 pm
- 20 Sparkle and Shine Day

Many items are on sale on [schoolcashionline.com](http://schoolcashionline.com)

#### January

- 6 Back to school, Happy New Year!
- 7-17 JK Registration
- 10 Wear Read & White for school spirit
- 14 School Council Meeting @ 7:15



Please join us for a

# Winter Holiday Concert

Come enjoy our Winter Concert!

**When?** - Wednesday, Dec 18<sup>th</sup> @ 11:15am -Kindergarten with Reading Buddies  
1:45pm- Primary/Junior classes-details to be sent by classroom teachers

Before the performances in the gym, please tour the 'North Pole Museum of Fine Art' in the pod and gym. Classes will have art presentations demonstrating the creative spirit of our students throughout the halls.

The WE Team will have a Bake Sale in the pod before the performances.

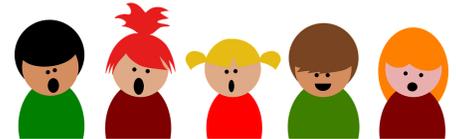
Additional parking is available in the bus zones during this special event between 9am and 3 pm.

## 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 carols and songs on December 20 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 to celebrate the upcoming holidays and have some fun!

Fri. Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>- Jingle Jammie Day

Mon. Dec. Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>-Festive Sweater/Elf hat day

Fri. Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>- Sparkle and Shine Day

In January, we will have a school spirit day on Jan 10th. Students are encouraged to wear red & white our 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 staff in the school to help build writing skills and friendship.



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 to each classroom. 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! Thanks to Ms. Tozer for organizing this fun writing opportunity for our students!

## **Junior Volleyball**

Congratulations to the junior volleyball team for their fantastic job at the tournament at Erin Public School. The team finished tied in 2nd place after winning most of their games! They played hard and improved immensely as the day went on. The team demonstrated excellent skill, teamwork and sportsmanship! Way to go Brisbane Bears! Thank you to Mme Halpin for leading this team and helping students see the importance of good sportsmanship!

## **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

Brisbane students 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 nearly \$5000.00 Our students this year would like to raise \$1000 and reach well 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/Junior" students are collecting new or gently used winter coats and snow pants over a two week period, from Monday, Dec. 2nd to Friday, Dec. 13 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. 9 to Thursday, Dec. 19th. 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. 18th. Thank you in advance for helping our local Food Bank.
3. **Candy Grams** - The "We Team and Junior" students will be selling Allan's nut-free candy canes in the junior POD to primary and junior students from Tuesday, Dec. 10 – Thursday, Dec. 12 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 nut-free event! Wednesday, Dec. 18 (during periods 3-6), before and after the Brisbane holiday concert, baked goods will be on sale. The following day, Thursday, Dec. 19 (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. Thank you to M.Siegel and the Junior team for organizing these events.

## 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 14<sup>th</sup>** 7:15 p.m. in the Library - all are welcome! There are many items for sale available on [schoolcashionline.com](http://schoolcashionline.com) such as colour house t-shirts, ornaments, toques, milk, pizza, subs, pasta lunch, popcorn etc. Please have a look and order by the deadline.

## 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](http://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 including cell phones, ipods, etc. .



## 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 9-13<sup>th</sup>, 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. If you are looking for some great gifts, pop into the library and visit with Mr. Koch for some great ideas for your child to help build their love of literacy!



## **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 20<sup>th</sup>. 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.

## **Kindergarten Registration**

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 Jan 7-17, 2020!**



Online, pre-registration for the 2020-2021 school year will open on January 7, 2020. All Junior and Senior Kindergarten students who are new to the UGDSB must pre-register online at [www.ugdsb.ca/jkregistration](http://www.ugdsb.ca/jkregistration). Please visit your school office to submit your documentation and complete your registration.

Parents/guardians applying to register their child for Junior Kindergarten French Immersion will need to contact your French Immersion school for information about program space and waiting lists. Please note that Junior Kindergarten is the only entry point into the French Immersion program in the UGDSB.

For more information on Kindergarten registration, including how to pre-register online and what documentation must be brought into the home school, visit [www.ugdsb.ca/jkregistration](http://www.ugdsb.ca/jkregistration).

***Kindergarten registration INFORMATION nights will take place in December 2019. You may attend any Information Night regardless of what school your child will attend. These are information nights only.***

Kindergarten Registration Information Nights:

Tuesday, December 3, 2019 – Montgomery Village PS, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday December 4, 2019 – John Black PS, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, December 9, 2019 – Arthur PS, 6:30 p.m.

## **Core French Plays**

Mme Siegel's Core French classes in grade 4 & 5 are ready and excited to present their play 'La Poule MaBoule' to both kindie and primary classes on Dec 2nd and Dec 3rd!

## Talking About Mental Health December 2019 – GIVE THE GIFT OF RESILIENCY

As we head through December and towards the holidays, it is important to be aware that this can be a very exciting time of year, but for some it is also a difficult time of year.

### REMEMBER:

- eat well
- get good sleep
- don't over schedule
- stay connected to family and friends
- keep daily routines going
- avoid over-use of technology
- get outside and enjoy the crisp, fresh air

### HOLIDAY “CONNECTING & REFLECTING” IDEAS:

#### 23 Days of Giving

Every day in December have everyone put something that they don't use or need into a basket. Later in the month you can go as a family and donate to a shelter or community center

#### Reflection Wall

Have a wall in the house where everyone can add sticky notes of what they are grateful about from the year. Focus on lessons learned, new skills and strategies used throughout the year

#### Rose, Bud, Thorn

Have everyone identify one or two things that they feel were successes from the year (rose), something that was a struggle (thorn) and what they did to overcome the struggle, and something they are looking forward to in the new year (bud).

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**Signs to look for that someone is struggling:** *Sometimes it's hard to tell that someone is suffering. Here are some signs that someone is struggling.*

- not coming to school or work
- not engaging with friends or family
- not participating in activities that they used to enjoy
- withdrawing
- feeling hopeless
- increase use of drugs or alcohol
- changes in behaviour
- anger/irritability

## Getting help

If you, your child/youth or someone you know is struggling, it is important to know where to reach out for help.

Who would you talk to if you were distressed, overwhelmed or struggling? Take a moment to make a list of at least 3 people or resources you would reach out to.

Who would your child/youth talk to if they were upset, overwhelmed or struggling? Take a moment to sit down with your child/youth and ask them who they would talk to. Put the kidshelpphone and HERE 24/7 or DCAFS number in their phones (see below).

All children and youth need caring adults in their lives to talk to about their feelings. Parents/guardians can be some of those caring adults, but it is important for the children/youth to have other caring adults in their lives such as:

- Family members, friends of the family
- School staff (teachers, guidance counsellors, principals, child and youth counsellors, social workers, librarian)
- Coaches, instructors
- Spiritual or religious community
- Community members (police, family doctors, librarians, etc.)

Who you can call for mental health support:

- Here 24/7 (for crisis and support with mental health or addiction concerns in Guelph/Wellington) <http://here247.ca/> 1.844.437.3247
- Dufferin Child and Family Services (DCAFS) (for crisis and mental health supports for children/youth in Dufferin) <https://dcafs.on.ca/> 519 941 1530
- Kids Help Phone <https://kidshelpphone.ca/> 1 800 668 6868
- Your family physician or family health team

Have a mentally healthy holiday season!

*Jenny Marino is the Mental Health Lead for Upper Grand District School Board  
Follow me on instagram #ugdsb\_mental\_health*

**Tips for Talking With Your Health Care Provider About Your Mental Health**

- Talk to your primary care provider**
- Prepare ahead of your visit**
- Bring a friend or relative**
- Be honest**
- Ask questions**

 **NIH** National Institute of Mental Health [www.nimh.nih.gov/health](http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health)

## December 2019 Hillsburgh Branch, Wellington County Library Events:

9 Station St  
Hillsburgh ON N0B 1T0  
T 519.855.4010  
E [hillsburghlib@wellington.ca](mailto:hillsburghlib@wellington.ca)  
W [www.wellington.ca/library](http://www.wellington.ca/library)

### Winter Make and Take (All Ages)

Come in and make a unique snowflake to put on display in the branch. Drop in. Monday, December 2 to Tuesday, December 31, during branch hours

### A Very Grinchy Scavenger Hunt (All Ages)

Help Cindy Lou Who and Max as they search for the Grinch to teach him the meaning of holiday spirit. Drop in on Monday, December 2 to Tuesday, December 31, during branch hours

### Teen Café (Teens)

Don't miss the chance to explore upcycling, new tech toys, and a variety of other hands-on projects. For preteens and teens. Please register.

Thursday, December 5, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Hillsburgh Branch Closes at 4:00 pm (All Ages) Hillsburgh Branch closes at 4:00 pm for a staff event Friday, December 6

### Let the Games Begin! (All Ages)

From cards to puzzles, checkers to word games, drop by the library for a friendly challenge. Tues. Dec. 10, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

### Hooks and Needles (Adults)

Bring your own project and join others for an afternoon of knitting and crocheting. Drop in. Wed. Dec. 11, 2:00 - 4:00 pm

### Carnegie Café: Sweet Polymer Charms (Adults)

Get in touch with your inner artist. Try your hand at creating sweet polymer charms using polymer clay. No experience necessary. Materials supplied. Please register.

Friday, December 13, 1:00 - 2:30 pm

### Community Carol Sing (All Ages)

Join with friends, neighbours, and the Young at Heart Singers as we celebrate the sounds of the season together. There will be a make-and-take craft for children and refreshments for everyone. Please register.

Tuesday, December 17, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

### **In Stitches: Holiday Ornaments (Adults)**

Learn to thread and operate a sewing machine, then create a simple decorative ornament. Machines are also available for in-branch use. Please register.

Thursday, December 19, 6:00 - 7:30 pm

### **Christmas Movie and Crafternoon (All Ages)**

Join us to create an enchanting craft before we watch the new Disney's Mickey's Christmas Carol. Rated G, run time 26 minutes. Please register.

Monday, December 23, 3:00 - 4:00 pm

### **Festive Story Time (All Ages)**

Put on your pajamas, grab the whole family, and join us for some holiday stories, songs and milk and cookies. Please register.

Tuesday, December 24, 10:30 - 11:00 am

### **New Year's Eve Movie (All Ages)**

Spend the last day of 2019 with us eating popcorn and watching Angry Birds 2. Rated G, run time 97 minutes. Please register.

Tuesday, December 31, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm

