



Brisbane Public School

January 2020 Newsletter

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Je vous souhaite une Bonne Année!! We hope 2020 is a wonderful year filled with good health, happiness and prosperity for everyone! We have had a great start to the New Year with students thinking about their goals for the year.

To start off on the right foot this year, continue to support your child's education by asking them guided questions about his/her learning such as "What did you learn in Math today?" or "What was your favourite part of the day and why"? We encourage home reading for at least 20 minutes each night. Parents play a vital role in supporting this initiative. Parents can read to their children, have their children read to or with you 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 English reading at home as well.** We were pleased to see such an incredible turn out for our Winter Concert in December. Our students, staff, and the Equity Committee did such an incredible job performing. We also enjoyed all of the beautiful art displayed in the gym and hallways!

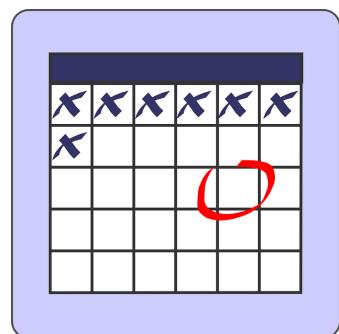


We wish you all a wonderful start to the new year, and we look forward to an exciting year ahead in 2020!

Mme. Anand

Upcoming Events:

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| 6 th | Back to school - Happy New Year |
| 7 th | JK Registration begins |
| 10 th | School Spirit Day ~ Wear red & white |
| 14 th | School Council Meeting @ 7:15pm |
| 15 th | Popcorn Day |
| 17 th | Gr 1-6 French Cultural Performance-Les Trois Mousquetaires |
| 27 th | Gr 6 Fur Trade Trip-Umplyby, Stuart, Halpin |
| 31 st | PA Day-no school for students, staff PD focus on assessment |



Me to We Team

A special thank you to all who donated to the WE TEAM annual December Coat and Food Drive. The East Wellington Community Services was over the moon with the generous donations of winter clothing and food items. Between the bake sale and candy gram sale, the WE TEAM raised \$871.85 to help build a school in Haiti. Thank you again Brisbane families for your support and for your generosity of our local and global initiatives. A special thank you to staff including M. Siegel & Mme Halpin for leading this initiative.



School Cultural Event

Brisbane will be hosting a bilingual comedy, Les Trois Mousquetaires, on January 17th at 1:45 pm for grades 1 - 6. The play will be performed by a group called Dufflebag Theatre (<https://dufflebag.com/>). We hope you and your students will enjoy the show! We received funding from the Upper Grand District School Board to support French culture and the Arts. One for all, all for one! Un pour tous, tous pour un!

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. Our **next School Council Meeting is on Tuesday, January 14th at 7:15 p.m.** in the Library. All are welcome! Students are welcome to attend and bring a book to read, game or technology. We are seeking new council members to join our team. We meet for approximately 1 hour in the library to discuss how to support our school goals and student learning as well as fundraising. If you are interested in being part of the fundraising committee, please contact Dayna Haw at daynahaw@gmail.com.

Playground and Upper Grand Learning Foundation

Thank you for your donations to our school!!! The School Council continues to work to raise funds for our new playground. We are very fortunate to have such an active and engaged Council. If you are interested in donating funds to support our school playground plan, please fill out the following link <https://www.uppergrandlearningfoundation.com/give-today/> and send in the form to the school office or donate on-line.



Move-a-thon-coming soon in February

Our upcoming Move-a-thon is in February and students will be raising funds for School Council initiatives to support student learning. We are seeking a DJ or any parent who is interested in helping to assist with the move-a-thon to contact Dayna Haw at daynahaw@gmail.com. More details will come home soon.

Avoid school suspension by keeping immunization records up-to-date

Students' immunization records must be provided to Public Health in order to attend school. In the next few weeks, Public Health will be sending notices to students with incomplete immunization records. Anyone who gets a notice should **contact their family doctor** so they can update their vaccines, and then report their new vaccines to Public Health. Report every vaccine to Public Health using one of the following methods:

- Online: Fill in the form at www.immunizewdg.ca
- Email: Send a photo of the immunization record to vaccine.records@wdgpublichealth.ca
- Call: 1-800-265-7293 ext. 4396



If a student is not getting vaccinated for medical reasons, or reasons of conscience or religious beliefs, an exemption form must be submitted to Public Health. The forms are available at www.wdgpublichealth.ca.

Public Health is committed to helping students update their vaccination records so they can avoid suspension from school.

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. You **do not need to call the school** on “no bus” days to let us know that your child will be absent. During inclement weather, please listen to:

Erin Radio 88.1 FM; 1460 AM CJOY; 106.1 Magic FM; Oldies 1090AM;
99.1 FM CBC; 105.3 Kool FM; Newstalk 570AM; 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 as well as on twitter @STWDSTS Brisbane is in the blue division



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.

The Upper Grand District School Board now has Chromebooks for student use in all 25 public libraries across the district. The program first launched in 2017 at three pilot sites within the Wellington County library system and has grown to include all 25 public library branches that serve our region. Each branch has been outfitted with five Chromebooks that are available exclusively for Upper Grand students to access and complete their homework and assignments.

For more information, visit the board website at <http://www.ugdsb.ca>

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) to build vocabulary

What is the Special Education Advisory Committee?

Every school district is required to have a Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC).

SEAC is a broad-based, educationally focused committee that meets monthly to engage in a variety of discussions all related to the educational programs for students with special needs. These meetings are open to the public and are held on the second Wednesday of each month throughout the school year. Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Upper Grand District School Board office in Guelph.

At SEAC meetings, the representative members from different organizations (ABC - Association for Bright Children, Autism Ontario Wellington Chapter, FASD-Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders, Integration Action for Inclusion in Education and Community (Ontario), Learning Disabilities Association of Wellington County, Parents for Children's Mental Health, VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children) share knowledge about their agency programs with the committee. These community members then take back points of information about the Board's

educational programs to the agencies that they represent. In addition, SEAC makes recommendations to the board with respect to any matters affecting the establishment, development, and delivery of Special Education programs and services for exceptional students within the board. The SEAC committee also participates in the board's annual review of the Special Education Plan and participates in the board's annual budget process as it relates to Special Education.

For further information about SEAC or Special Education Programs in the Upper Grand District School Board please call the Program Department at 519-941-6191 ext. 254.

Equity Committee



This year, we continue to work with our Equity Committee to build student awareness and student leadership about the importance of having a safe and inclusive environment where every student feels welcome. In addition, we want to teach our students that there are different kinds of families and no two families are alike. If you feel you have a need for an accommodation for religious reasons, please contact the school.

Brisbane Response Training & Annual Drills

At Brisbane, the safety and well-being of our students is our highest priority. Although we hope that an incident that requires response from emergency personnel will never occur in our school, we must be prepared to respond quickly and effectively in case it does.

Each year our school must conduct drills to ensure staff and students are prepared in the event of a real emergency. While our school has been conducting fire drills, lockdown drills, and tornado drills for the last several years, beginning this school year, we are now also required to conduct a bomb threat drill.

The protocol requires the following number of drills in each school year:

- Three (3) fire drills in the fall and three (3) fire drills in the spring
- Two (2) lockdown drills
- One (1) tornado
- One (1) bomb threat drill

For each of these drills, there is an education component to explain why they are necessary. All drills are conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the needs of our students. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school office. We will be conducting our first lockdown drill in the New Year in January.

Colour House Initiative

In the New Year we plan to continue our focus on kindness and caring at Brisbane and our colour house team will be meeting to discuss our next initiative. Stay tuned for more details!

Talking to Children

How many times have you asked your child what they did in school today and he/she said “nothing”? Do you feel that most of the conversations you have with your children are just about telling them what to do? Many parents feel this way; life is busy.

Giving children opportunities to have conversations is really important for their growth and learning.

What to do? Children often ask a lot of questions, especially young children. Parents answer those questions and the conversation often just ends. How do you keep the conversation going? Instead of answering the question, what if next time you ask a question instead? Consider these questions:

“What do you think it is?”

“What do you think about that?”

“What interests you about that?”

“What do you notice?”

“How do you think that works?”

If you get a one word answer you might make a comment such as, “Tell me more.”, “I’d like to hear more about that.” or ask another question.

Listening carefully is also important when talking to your child. Children respond positively if they know they have been heard and that you are interested in what they have to say. Use comments to encourage your child to keep talking:

“Tell me more about that.”

“That must have been difficult/interesting.”

“It sounds like you had fun.”

“You must have felt disappointed/frustrated/angry.”

Talk while having dinner together, preparing dinner, going out for a walk, at bedtime, on the way to school or while standing in the grocery line. Think of yourself as a partner in the conversation.