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# Brisbane Public School

## *November Newsletter*

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### **Message from the Principal**

Thank you for visiting your child's virtual Open House for the 2021-2022 school year. Our hope is that by watching and reading the messages that were shared, you feel well informed and reassured that your child's learning and well being are in good hands. By signing on to the Google Classroom and by providing your preferred email address you have taken an important step in ensuring communication is shared with you and should we have to pivot to remote learning, you are familiar with how to access the google classroom and resources.

We have continued to reinforce physical and mental well being for our students and have set high expectations for learning. We also continue to ensure the pandemic protocols are being followed and our students have been doing a fantastic job following the regular routines and procedures including social distancing, wearing a mask and regular hand washing.

Please know that even though parents are unable to access the school, you can contact your classroom teachers or myself by phone or email with questions or concerns. We can set up phone or virtual meetings to discuss any questions or needs you may have for your child.

We were thrilled to showcase all of the incredible learning happening in classrooms and recess activity outdoors on our beautiful playground when we hosted our Trustee, Jenn Edwards and our Superintendent, Matt McCutcheon on October 13th. Staff have been working hard on using diagnostics to find out where our students are at in their learning and then using that data to program responsive and engaging lessons. We have also started up some clubs and staff are working hard to create safe and inclusive classrooms where all students feel welcome.

We have a busy month ahead with Remembrance Day, progress reports, Parent-Teacher interviews, and Bullying Prevention week! N'oublions pas le Jour du Souvenir. Brisbane will distribute poppies however, we cannot accept cash donations at school for poppies. Parents who wish to donate may make donations outside of school (grocery stores, banks, etc... or at



<https://www.legion.ca/remembrance/the-poppy-campaign/donate-to-the-poppy-fund>

Progress report cards will be going home this month to recognize student progress this term. Please review student successes and areas of need with your child. Continue to encourage daily reading and good study habits.



## Twitter

Stay up to date with what is happening in and around the school. Check out our photos from the Halloween parade and Fall door decorating contest! Follow us on twitter @Brisbane\_PS

## Upcoming Events - November

Nov. 7- Change your clocks!

Nov. 11- Remembrance Day

Nov 12 -Spirit Wear orders due

Nov 15-28-Online fundraiser auction

Nov. 17- Progress Reports come home

**Nov. 17- Parent/Teacher Interview Portal Opens (closes 24<sup>th</sup>)**

Nov. 15-19- Bully Prevention Week

Nov. 25- Pyjama/Comfy clothing Day, Parent-Teacher Interviews

Nov. 26-PD Day (no school for students) - Parent-Teacher Interviews

## Progress Reports - November 17th

Gr. 1-6 Progress reports will be coming home on November 17th. The fall Progress Reports encourage early and ongoing communication between you and your child's teacher, and inform you how well your child is developing the learning skills, work habits and academic skills we know are essential for success. The Progress Reports will report on academic subjects, such as language, math, social studies, science and technology, but instead of assigning a grade or mark, it will tell you how well your child is progressing: "very well", "well" or "with difficulty". The progress reports will highlight strengths and areas to improve, and will include comments from your child's teacher that are clear and meaningful. If you have questions about your child's progress after reading the report, please contact your child's teacher. Parent-teacher interviews will be held virtually the evening of November 25th and the PA Day on November 26th to communicate progress for Grades K-6.

## Brisbane Spirit Wear

We're excited to announce that Brisbane Spirit Wear is once again available! Our spirit wear includes items such as hoodies, sweatshirts, sweatpants, t-shirts, hats, toques, and more. A portion of all orders will help fund activities right at our school. All orders can be placed online with Dufferin Apparel using the following link and password:

<https://www.dufferinapparel.com/customer-catalogues/schools-elementary-public-up10-20/brisbane-public-school/none/brisbane-spiritwear-bears-please-contact-for-password/>

password: public70

As there is currently a 2-4 week turnaround for order completion, all orders placed by **Friday, November 12, 2021** will be picked up and delivered directly to students at school. After this date, families will be responsible for picking up their own orders at Dufferin Apparel in Orangeville.

## Parent-Teacher Interviews-Virtual/Phone

The evening of Thursday, November 25<sup>th</sup> and Friday, November 26<sup>th</sup> (PD Day-during the day) have been set aside for parent-teacher interviews. All interviews are being booked online and held virtually or by phone. Booking online again this year makes it more accessible for parents booking interviews for more than one child. The online system will **open Nov 17<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m.** and closes Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup> at 10 p.m. **[A letter outlining how to sign up for interviews will be sent home soon.](#)** Please follow the directions below to book an interview online with your child's teacher(s). Interviews are a wonderful opportunity for parents, teachers and students to work collaboratively to discuss, plan and set effective next steps for individual student achievement goals. If you are unable to attend the meeting during these times, please set up another time to meet with the teacher. Your child's OEN number (located on their progress report) is required to login to set up an interview, as well as their date of birth. See below for finding the 9 digit OEN:

Instructions for ONLINE booking: (available Nov 17<sup>th</sup> 4 p.m.)

1. Visit: <https://www.ugdsb.on.ca/pti/Parent/LoginParent.aspx>
2. Input student's OEN number (found at the top of the student's progress report)
3. Input student's date of birth
4. From "Teacher List" choose "Show Details", then select a teacher.
5. Select "Show Appointment Schedule".
6. Select time and then choose "Book Appointment".
7. Repeat process for booking an appointment with another teacher.

*Interviews are 15 min each and we appreciate you respecting the timelines to be courteous to the next parent(s).*

## Late Arrivals



A reminder to families that our school day starts at 8:50 a.m. If your child/children are arriving after this time, please wait outside of the front door, ring the bell and we will send them to class. Announcements and O' Canada are in session at 9am so please wait patiently.

## Outdoor Recess

It is getting chilly out and the snow will be here soon! Please remember to send indoor shoes and assist your child in wearing the **proper clothing** to school and label it. This includes a **warm jacket, hat, mitts and waterproof footwear.**

Thanks for sending extra socks in your child's backpack just in case and extra clothes for our Kindergarten students! All students are expected to participate in outdoor recess. An active break to unmask and fresh air help with concentration and success in the classroom.





## 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 is open. Brisbane remains open unless schools are cancelled.

Follow @STWDSTS for all updates on bus cancellations.

During inclement weather, you can also 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 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](http://www.ugdsb.on.ca)

## Life-Threatening Allergies

We have children in our school with potential life-threatening allergies to **nuts, tree nuts, sesame seeds, raw honey, and shellfish**. This is a medical condition called anaphylaxis that causes a severe reaction to foods or other materials, and can cause death within minutes. Although this may not affect your child's class directly, we are letting you know so that you may refrain from sending foods to school that contain these products. We aim to create an allergy-safe environment at Brisbane and reduce the risk of allergens. Our school has procedures in place for the prevention and management of anaphylactic reactions. If your child has health concerns of any kind, please tell your child's teacher or the office, and we will take necessary health protection steps. Thank you for your understanding in ensuring a safe environment for all of our students.



## School Drills

In the interest of student safety, the Upper Grand District School Board has directed all schools to conduct 6 fire drills and a lockdown drill. Students have become quite accustomed to our different drills, including the lockdown drill. During our drill we strive to minimize anxiety by reassuring students that the activity is a "practice" situation and we are only practicing just like we do with fire drills and tornado drills. Detailed drill procedures have been developed in conjunction with our local police services and provided to all schools as part of our Emergency Procedures Manual. Every teacher has a copy of this manual and all emergency procedures are reviewed throughout the year.

In a lockdown, students and staff are directed to secure areas where doors can be locked and the children can be kept out of sight, such as a classroom. If a student is not near their own classroom when a lockdown is initiated, they will be welcomed into the closest one. Please note that

during a lockdown drill no one will be allowed to enter or leave the building, including visitors to the school. In the event of a real lockdown, only emergency responders (police etc.) will be allowed to enter the building and no one may leave their secure area until they receive an "all clear" from the authorities. Practicing these drills is just one more way that helps us continue to ensure the safety of our staff and students.

## **Surveillance Cameras**

There are cameras around the exterior and throughout the school hallways which act as deterrents to those thinking about damaging our school property as well as evidence in case we need to investigate any issues. You will notice there are stickers on our school doors indicating that there is video surveillance. We also have surveillance cameras at the front of our school.

## **School Council**

Thank you to our dedicated parents for providing funds to support our school programs. School Council is a great way to be involved in the school community and make a positive contribution to your child's education. School council has supported the purchase of Silver Birch books in the amount of \$ 2,000 for our students and we look forward to using these great resources in our library and classrooms. Thank you to our Council for planning a fundraiser to support programs.

Our School Council is hosting a Holiday season online auction from **November 15<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>** on Facebook as a way to raise funds to support our school. In order to make our auction a reality, we are seeking unique and interesting items to auction off. Contributions like gift cards, gift baskets, small electronics, artisan crafts, direct seller merchandise, services, local business gift cards etc. would be a great way to support our fundraiser. No donation is too small! Here is the link: <https://facebook.com/events/s/brisbane-ps-online-holiday-auc/989583814940255/>

Pick up for items won would be December 4<sup>th</sup>, location to be determined.

Your contribution will be vital to helping us succeed in planning our auction. With your generous donation, we can continue to improve and enrich the school for our children.

If you're interested in learning how you can help our auction, contact our fundraising co-chair Kirsten Tugman at [kirstentugman@gmail.com](mailto:kirstentugman@gmail.com) or (647) 294-8779. All donated items for auction would need to be received by Wednesday November 10<sup>th</sup>.

As always, your contributions are valuable to our school.

**Our next Council meeting is November 18th virtually through google meet. If you are interested in attending, please email our Secretary Diana Arajs [diana@poisecommunications.com](mailto:diana@poisecommunications.com)**



## **Daylight Saving Time Ends**

On Sunday November 7th we return to Standard Time. Remember to turn your clocks back that morning and enjoy an extra hour of sleep!

## **Safe and Inclusive Schools/Anti- Bullying Campaigns**

As part of our Safe and Inclusive Schools/Anti- bullying campaigns, we continue to educate students about: respectful and responsible behaviour, appropriate ways to deal with conflict, and keeping their hands and feet to themselves. Brisbane Public School's Safe Equitable and Inclusive School Plan is posted on our website. We will also be recognizing Bullying Prevention Week Nov. 15 -19 through in-school activities such as pink shirt day on Nov 20th.

## **What can be done to stop bullying?**

Some important strategies to stop bullying are:

- providing good supervision for children
- providing effective consequences to bullies
- using good communication between teachers and parents
- providing all children opportunities to develop good interpersonal skills
- creating a social context which is supportive and inclusive, in which aggressive, bully behaviour is not tolerated



Students need to report issues to teachers or supervisors so that follow-up can happen. If you are hearing about concerns, please inform your child's teacher in order for follow-up to occur.

## **What Can Parents Do if Their Children are Being Bullied?**

1. Ask the child directly. Often children do not wish to tell their parents due to shame and/or fear that bullies will retaliate if they tell. Look for signs such as: fear of going to school, increased illness, lack of friends and increased fearfulness.
2. Understand the difference between conflict, unkind behaviour and bullying and help your child learn how to deal with conflict.
2. Work with the school immediately to make sure your child is feeling safe and that monitoring at school is going on. If the bullying is happening on the way to and from school or on the bus, inform the school. If your child is timid, and lacks friends, try to arrange for your child to participate in positive social groups which meet his or her interests. Developing your child's skills and confidence in the context of a positive social group can be very helpful.

## **What to do if Your Child is Aggressive or Bullies Others?**

Take the problem seriously. Children and youth who bully others often get into serious trouble in later life, and may receive criminal convictions. They may have continuing trouble in their relationships with others. Here are some things you can do to turn the situation around.

1. Talk to your child, talk to his/her teachers or administrator. Keep in mind that a bully may often try to deny or minimize his or her behaviour.
2. Make it clear to your child that you will not tolerate this kind of behaviour, and discuss with your child the negative impact bullying has on the victims. Do not accept explanations that "it was all in fun."
3. Increase your supervision of your child's activities and whereabouts, and who they are associating with. Spend time with your child, and set reasonable rules for their activities.
4. Cooperate with the school in modifying your child's aggressive behaviour. Frequent communication with teachers and/or administrators is important to find out how your child is doing in changing his or her behaviour.
5. Praise the efforts your child makes toward non- violent and responsible behaviour, as well as for following home and school rules. Keep praising any efforts the child makes.
6. If your child is viewing violent television shows, including cartoons, and is playing violent video games, this will increase violent and aggressive behaviour. Change family and child's viewing and play patterns to nonviolent ones. Make sure that your child is not seeing violence or fighting between members of his or her family. Modelling of aggressive behaviour at home can lead to violence by the child against others at school and in later life.
7. Seek help from the classroom teacher, school social worker, or children's mental health centre in the community if you would like support in working with your child.

## **Helping your Child with Difficult Situations**

Life is full of things that are hard to deal with. Sometimes children need help in dealing with these events. "Resiliency" is what helps adults and children to "bounce back" from the difficult events in life. The best way to help your child be more resilient is to model the skills for them. Here are some ideas that you can try:

1. Starting at birth, respond to baby's smiles and cooing by smiling and cooing back often.
2. Comfort your child when he or she is upset. Hugs and a quiet voice can go a long way in calming a child.
3. Teach your child to take deep breaths to calm down when they are upset and then talk when they are relaxed.
4. Help your child to see another way of looking at things: "I know that you want to play with that toy. Tom waited for the toy and now it is his turn. He would be sad if you took it away."
5. Instead of making your child say "sorry", talk about his or her feelings and the feelings of the other person involved in the event.

6. At night when you put your child to bed, ask them to think of one positive thing that happened to them that day. You could share something too.
7. Point out your child's strengths: "Hey! You rode that bike by yourself!"
8. Encourage your child to keep trying even if something is hard.
9. Read positive, happy stories together.
10. Give your child lots of time to play. Help them play with other children in a positive way.

If you would like more ideas and information on raising a resilient child go to

<http://www.reachinginreachingout.com/resources-parents.htm>

## **Talking About Mental Health and Nature**

Fall is here and so is that pre-winter chill! We are very fortunate to have wonderful outdoor learning spaces thanks to our parents and all of the fundraising that has been done! We have outdoor picnic tables, outdoor chalkboards and learning areas to sit and gardens to explore.

Getting outside makes such a difference to how we all are doing inside. Spending time in nature improves our mental health and well-being. Being outdoors is a simple way to add some much needed down time. Adding some time in nature is having some much deserved peace and quiet in our busy lives. One study showed that even 5 minutes in nature improves our mood. 5 minutes! We all can take 5 minutes (or more if you have it) to go outside and enjoy nature.

If you want your family to be less stressed, happier, more resilient, feel better about themselves, have increased attention and to have a better ability to learn....

Then **GO OUTSIDE!** Take your kids outside! Enjoy and be part of nature.

## **Lunch Supervisors Needed:**

We have very dedicated and reliable lunch supervisors at Brisbane. We have a few going on maternity leave and have upcoming openings for their positions this month. This is a paid position and training is provided. Vulnerable sector screening and proof of vaccination are required.

If you love working with wonderful children, who are enthusiastic, fun, and engaging, Brisbane Public School wants you as a Lunch Supervisor. We are currently hiring for this position. We require an individual who is caring, energetic, patient, has the ability to ensure the safety and security of our students, and loves working with children.

The position requires a commitment of two nutrition breaks: 10:25-11:25 and 12:50-1:50 for one position and Wednesday afternoons. We also have a greeter position available in the morning from 8:30-9:00 am. This is a paid position, \$14.25/hour, and training will be provided including covid training. Your responsibilities include monitoring lunchrooms and outside recess. Lunch supervisors are required to have a criminal record background check. If you want to be part of a great school community at Brisbane with wonderful students and staff please respond to this email or call the school and leave a message 519 833-9621.

## **Clubs and Activities**

We have some fun and engaging clubs happening! Our recycling club officially kicks off the first week of November!

Our junior students will be responsible for picking up the recycling bins from their assigned location, delivering the recycling to the large bins, and returning the empty recycling bin. The club will run once a week for the whole school year. At this time we are only recycling paper and teachers will be asked to put their bins outside their classrooms on the assigned pick up days. This way junior students do not need to enter any classrooms. Thank you to Mrs. Geddes, Mlle ....for helping with our recycling program.

Our equity committee includes Junior students who are interested in signing up and learning about equity and social justice. They have worked on creating land acknowledgements to read on the announcements and will be learning about Diwali while creating announcements and posters. They will also be learning about Treaty Week. Brisbane is committed to creating an environment where all students feel welcome and safe. We will continue to ensure equity and inclusion are part of our school culture. We are purchasing new equity resources that are developmentally appropriate to teach our students about diversity, inclusion and anti-racism through literature and classroom discussions from Kindergarten to Grade 6. Our staff equity committee welcomes any parent member interested in being part of our committee. Thank you to our equity committee including Mme. Dyer, Mme. Angeli, Mr. Carter, Mme. Hawkins.

## **Gardening Club**

Mme. Dyer enjoys meeting with students to build a connection with nature through gardening. In the club students explore plant identification, insect identification and possible relationships with plants, plan for a vegetable garden for the spring and do some pruning and weeding.

## **Silver Birch Reading Program:**

Thank you to our school council for purchasing resources for our Silver Birch reading program. Teachers in the primary grades will read a variety of new picture books to their students. The Silver Birch Club meets in the library for children in the junior grades and a few fluent primary readers to discuss the variety of resources they are reading and have an opportunity to vote and share their favourite books.

This year, we have purchased many resources including the following:

- Reading A-Z licenses to improve reading and offer virtual books-\$2000
- Je Lis (French virtual reading resources) \$800.00
- Math up-an online Math program \$500.00
- class set of dictionaries \$270.00
- 2 new Basketball nets for gym \$2366.00 + cost of installing
- Reading assessment- Coffret d'evaluation en lecture \$482.00
- Benchmark Literacy assessment \$605.00

Reading at home daily with your children is an important way to build literacy skills and encourage a love of reading! Here are some tips on building a reader at home!

## BUILDING A Reader At HOME

### Explore Books!

Give your child an opportunity to explore books. **Visiting a library or bookstore** gives your child a chance to find topics and books that interest them.

### Read, Read, Read!

Make sure to read for at least **30 minutes per day!** Students can read independently, aloud to an adult, or back and forth with a partner.

### Ask Questions!

- Predictions
- Characters
- Main Idea
- Problem
- Solution
- Retell Story
- Genre
- Moral

### Make it Fun!

**Reading shouldn't be a chore.** Intentionally read with your child/discuss books but also research topics and do book activities together.

### Be an example!

Children learn by example, so **let your child see you read** whether it be a book, newspaper, cookbook, etc.

### Pick Good Fit Books!

**A book that is a good match for your child** should meet the following requirements:

- Purpose for reading
- Interest
- Can they understand what they are reading?  
Can they retell the story?
- Do they know most of the words?

### For Beginning Readers:

- Point out and read words in natural settings – stores, streets, etc.
  - Memorize sight words
  - Visualize the story in your head
  - Ask questions before, during, and after
- Don't immediately tell an unknown word to your student.** Instead, ask them to:
- Sound out the word
  - Break the word into parts
  - Try a different vowel sound (long/short)
  - Use illustrations for clues
  - Skip the word, re-read sentence, and go back – what word would make sense?

### For Advanced Readers:

- Notice interesting, new vocabulary words, and make it a challenge to use them in conversation
- Read with expression
- Explore non-fiction books and their text features (diagrams, table of content, etc.) along with other genres as well
- Compare and contrast books
- Discuss connections to literature
- Think of new titles for books
- Explore multiple books from the same author