



Brisbane Public School

April 2022 Newsletter

9426 Wellington Rd. 124, R.R #2, Erin, Ontario N0B 1T0 Ph: 519.833.9621

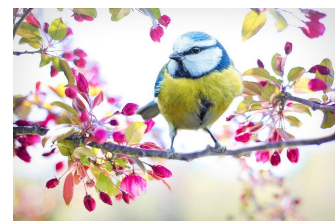
Principal: Reena Anand

Office Coordinator: Dawn Dolson

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Principal's Message

Happy Spring! Spring is a time of hope and new beginnings-just the boost we need after a long winter! We survived the winter this year and have some nice and wet spring weather. It is a great time to get outside while helping with mental health and being active. We are very excited that students will be able to use our new structures when weather permits. We hope to return to a more normal spring this year and students are enjoying playing outside on the playground and learning in classes. We are starting up some clubs including recycling, basketball and equity this month with our students!



R. Anand

Upcoming Dates - April

April 8	Class photo day! Outdoors	April 18	Easter Monday- no school
April 14	Spirit Day-wear red/Brisbane gear!	April 13	Pink Shirt Day
April 15	Good Friday- no school	April 22	Earth Day-Wear green, blue, Clean up outside and in the community

Yearbook

We are working hard on capturing great memories for our yearbook this year! It will be a hard copy yearbook to order. We are almost ready to collect orders for this year's Brisbane School Yearbook! As usual, it will be 72 pages of colour photographs representing the entire school, at a price of approximately \$25. We can't wait to share it with you! If there are any barriers to purchasing a yearbook, please let the office know.

We are seeking **Yearbook Sponsors!** Support our school yearbook and get visibility for your business! \$60 for a business-card sized space in our beautiful colour yearbook. Please contact Claire@maxhp.ca if interested.

Welcome Spring ...



We look forward to seeing some nicer weather now with showers and sunshine! Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for outdoor recess. This may include splash pants and rubber boots. It is also helpful to provide a spare set of socks and clothes to keep in backpacks for students who particularly like to get active with the wet and muddy Spring conditions!

Read-a-thon

A huge shout out to students and parents who supported our first ever Read-A-Thon fundraiser from March 11th-24th. Kids were able to raise almost \$9000 and over 2000 books were read! What an incredible success!

Congratulations to Mme. Stansfield's class in our Primary category and M. Dyke's class in our Junior category for raising the most funds. They've each won a class pizza party! Each of those classes are also home to the two students who read the most books! Individual prizes to those students will go out in the next week or so.

We thank you again for your support and congratulations to our winners and all of our students! A sincere thank you to our Fundraising team Val Bush and Kirsten Tugman for organizing and planning this great fundraiser!



Moving?

If you are moving this year or know of a new family coming to Brisbane, please let the office know as we need to submit student numbers for next year. Likewise, if you are moving out of our school community please let the office know or respond to this email.



Kindness Tree Project

Our Primary classes are participating in "The Kindness Tree Project" throughout the month of April. This project is based on one of our Forest of Reading books entitled *When We Are Kind/Nous sommes gentils*. Students will write (or draw) the different ways they are showing kindness to each other and to their environment and then they will add these to their classroom tree. The Primary hallway of trees is sure to blossom quickly throughout the month with all the examples of kindness shown by our students! We will be sure to tweet out some great photos!

International Day of Pink Preview

“Discrimination takes many shapes, whether it’s based on race, age, disabilities, gender or sexuality. The 2SLGBTQIA+ community is no stranger to the bullying and violence that stems from hateful beliefs. While progress has been made toward removing these social barriers from our society, discrimination still persists. So, every year, on the second Wednesday of April, we urge people around the world to put on a pink shirt and stand in solidarity with the 2SLGBTQIA+ community to continue fighting for equality and acceptance” ~ Day of Pink

This **April 13**, it is important for schools to be clear about the purpose of this day - standing in solidarity with the 2SLGBTQIA+ community to fight for equality and acceptance. Although kindness is incredibly important, it isn’t enough to stop bullying. On this day, we focus on speaking out and taking action when 2SLGBTQIA+ injustices happen. We know that there are many great ways your school communities come together to name and address 2SLGBTQIA+ inclusion and promote anti-bullying initiatives. This focus works to create safe, welcoming, and inclusive spaces for all our students, especially those who have identities connected to the margins and/or are racialized. We want to help you recognize and celebrate these events on a grand scale! Please see the link below to share how your school community is participating in the upcoming International Day of Pink and efforts to continue to prevent bullying in our schools: [The International Day of Pink - UGDSB Action Challenge](#)

Multi-Faith Meditation and Prayer Space

As part of our commitment to equity and inclusion, a Multifaith prayer space is available at Brisbane in the room beside the servery and a poster indicating Multi-Faith meditation and Prayer space is on the door.

Ramadan Mubarak to all of those observing!

April 2nd marks the beginning of Ramandan. Many students, families and staff in the UGDSB and worldwide are observing Ramandan, during this 9th month of the Islamic calendar.

- o A multifaith prayer space is available in the front room at Brisbane. The location of the prayer space is indicated with signage on it.
- o Prayer spaces will be equipped with carpets to aid in comfort
- o *Use of this space will NOT be enforced or denied*

Students and families who require religious or creed-based accommodations as supported by the Ontario Human Rights Code can make those requests by contacting the office.

Help for parents with Reading

“Today a reader, tomorrow a leader” - Margaret Fuller.

In education, we strive to teach our students how to be critical readers so that they can flourish in their future endeavours whether in English or in French. Reading skills in French are not unlike reading skills in your first language, however, reading in French does require attention to a different sound system, different vocabulary and at times an understanding of contexts or cultures that may be different than those in another language.

How can parents support students reading at home when they don't speak French?

One way to do this is to read with your child in their first language. Research shows that reading behaviours and skills are transferable across languages. For example, understanding how to retell a story in English using the beginning, middle, and end structure is a skill that is transferable to French.

Opportunities for shared reading will support motivation and skills in reading no matter the language. Asking your child to predict what the text will be about or what will happen next, to visualise what is happening as you read, and to use picture clues to better understand the text are all activities that will positively impact reading.

Another way to support and motivate your child is to encourage them to read to you in French and then ask them to summarize or retell what they have read. This shows them that you are interested in, and value, their reading experience in French and may even teach you some new French vocabulary along the way. Simply having a conversation with your child about what they are reading in French and asking questions is an additional way to show your interest and support.



What happens when students are not moving forward in their reading or parents have concerns about student progress?

Research shows that interventions can be effectively delivered in the student's first language, as well as in French, at a time when the gap between strong and weak readers is still relatively small. Early intervention is key. Discussing your concerns as soon as they arise by speaking with your child's teacher and then examining appropriate courses of action and support as a team are important first steps. It is important to remember that a student struggling in reading does not mean that the student is not a good fit for learning French. French as a second language programs are for all students. Promoting this belief helps to create a supportive environment where students feel more confident and can be successful.

Further Reading:

1. What Works? Research into Practice. “Supporting Early Language and Literacy. Dr. Janette Pelletier OISE, University of Toronto. The Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat.
2. What Works? Research into Practice. “ Early Identification and Intervention for At-Risk Readers in French Immersion. Nancy Wise and Dr. Xi Chen. OISE, University of Toronto. The Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat.



Grade 6 Graduation

We are in the process of planning a special recognition to celebrate our Grade 6 students! Please send in a photo along with the grad questionnaire which is on your child's google classroom as soon as possible. We are planning for an in person Graduation on Monday June 27th at 5:30-6:30. More information will be sent home to parents. Please save the date!

Wellness Works: April 2022 Authenticity

"In order for connection to happen, we have to allow ourselves to be seen, really seen." BRENÉ BROWN

Authenticity is so important, but not always easy! Learning to be authentic means:

- Speaking your truth in an honest and respectful way while remembering to also value that others have different opinions and that is okay
- Making decisions that align with your values and beliefs and lived experience while also being respectful and aware that your values, beliefs and lived experiences may not be the same as those around you
- Pursuing your passions
- Listening to the inner voice guiding you forward
- Allowing yourself to be vulnerable and open-hearted when it is safe to do so ● Speaking up for yourself and others with courage and kindness in a way that is safe for all.

Did you know that studies have linked authenticity with increased levels of happiness, personal growth, improved self esteem and better relationships!? So, where do you start? Here are some ideas:

Value your child's voice/opinion: A child that feels valued and heard is more likely to feel confident and safe in expressing their true self. You can encourage your child to share their opinion by providing options and choices whenever possible, for example "Do you prefer milk or water with dinner?". Another tip is to remember that you can respect your child's opinions and feelings and not agree with them!

Celebrate differences. Likely your child/ren will have some things they do or like that are different from your own likes and preferences. Make sure to celebrate the individualism of your child like that creative arts project or the chosen outfit for photo day. These are expressions of self and by celebrating and acknowledging, you are accepting and also teaching acceptance of others.

Live authentically yourself. Remember to model your own authenticity for your child/ren. This can be a powerful way to show your child/ren that it is okay to be your authentic self.

Make a list: Have everyone in the family/house make a list of their unique traits and qualities, likes and wishes. Share with each other. Acknowledging our own list can be a great start!

April 22nd is Earth Day!

“Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better.” - Albert Einstein

Founded in 1990, Earth Day Canada inspires people of all ages across the country to connect with nature and build resilient communities as well as foster an intrinsically motivated, enduring commitment to stewardship and conservation. <https://earthday.ca/about/>

Earth Day 2022 Theme: Restore Our Earth

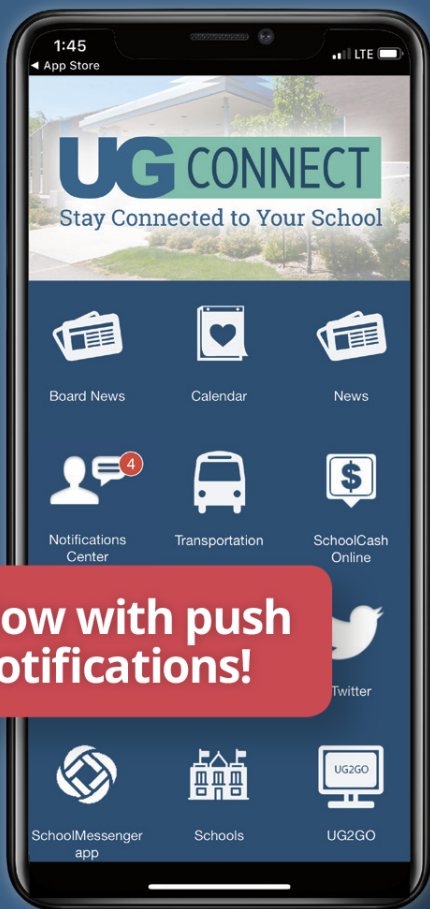
The theme is based on the emerging concept that rejects the idea that our only options to save the planet are to mitigate or adapt to the impacts of climate change and other environmental damage. Go to <https://earthday.org> for some quick facts and additional information about this problem. Students will be encouraged to wear earth colours (green, blue, brown) and help do a school yard clean up with gloves under staff supervision.

Ideas for your family to celebrate Earth Day:

- **Review previous Earth Day Themes.** For example there is an ongoing focus on ending plastic pollution. Make a pledge to always carry a reusable shopping bag, use alternatives to Ziploc bags, buy in bulk, refuse to buy over packaged products and make litter-less lunches. Download your Plastic Pollution Primer to learn more about this problem and help end Plastic Pollution!
- **Spend a day outside.** In the garden with your family, plant vegetables, trees or native flowers and attract native animals and pollinators. Or join a local community event to help clean your neighbourhood or restore local plant life.
- **Make commitments to cut down on your energy usage as well as waste.** Turn lights off, power down electrical devices, turn down your thermostat and only do full loads of laundry and dishes.
- **Learn more about the environment and the effects of global warming.** Encourage awareness and promote the Reduce (buy less), Reuse (repurpose it) and Recycle (sort it right!) way of life.

Remember that every day is Earth Day! Don't restrict yourself to just one day a year. Make environmental actions and caring about the planet a habit on Earth Day and every day! Friday April 22nd is Earth Day and students will be encouraged to wear BLUE and/or GREEN to show your love of our home planet!

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notifications!**

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Newly updated, this
handy app is the
one-stop resource for
parents and guardians.

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Staying informed and updated with the school is critical so please sign up for the Messenger App!