



Brisbane Public School

June 2022 Newsletter

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Principal's Message

It's hard to believe summer like weather is already here and year-end planning is already underway. Students have been enjoying school even more now that clubs and teams are back and recess is not restricted by cohorted zones. This joy is translating into fun and excitement inside and outside of the classroom as we adapt to a more normal routine. June is a very busy month ahead with track and field, graduations, playday, a school play performance, clubs and other fun events! Please continue to screen your children daily for illness using the following link:



<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/> and keep children home when ill.

Staff are working hard on report card writing and they will be available on the parent portal as of June 23rd. Please review and celebrate successes and discuss next steps for areas of improvement. If you have specific questions about your child's progress, please contact your child's teacher.

R. Anand

Moving?

If you are moving this year or know of a new family coming to Brisbane, please let the office know as we start to submit numbers and plan for next year. Please email Mrs. Dolson at dawn.dolson@ugdsb.on.ca for any changes with addresses or moves.



Upcoming Dates:

May 31-June 2	Grade 6 EQAO
June 3rd	PD Day, NEW JK Orientation 9-10am
June 7	Standards Track & Field Brisbane-Juniors
June 6-9	Gr 3 EQAO
June 14	Last Smoothie Day
June 15	Junior Track & Field- Gr 4-6
June 16	Gr 6 Orientation visit to Erin
June 17	Kindie SK Graduation
June 17	Last Pizza Day
June 17, 20,21	Gr 1-6 Climbing Ropes Obstacle
June 19	Father's Day
June 23	Junior School Play 6:00pm
June 23	Staff Appreciation Lunch
June 23	Report cards available online
June 27	Grade 6 Graduation 5:30-6:30
June 28	Play Day
June 29	Last day of School

Principal Transfer

I will be moving to Rockwood Centennial PS as Principal for the 2022-2023 school year. It is with mixed emotions that I make this announcement. I will miss everyone at Brisbane but am also excited about the challenge and change of moving to a new school.

It has been an honour and privilege to be the Principal of Brisbane over the past 8 years and watch our students grow from Kindergarten to grade 6! I have really enjoyed getting to know all of our amazing students. We have an incredible staff, student and parent community that supports school achievement and student success. I am proud to see the hard work in creating a welcoming, equitable and inclusive school. In addition, as a result of all of the hard work of our Playground Chair, Claire Upton and playground committee, we have created an outdoor space that is engaging and active for our students to enjoy which wouldn't have been possible without the support of great parents and school council. Students know I am not far and that I can be reached by email or phone or a visit at Rockwood Centennial!

A warm welcome to my successor, Jennifer Oussoren who is really looking forward to joining the Brisbane community as Principal next school year. She is currently the Vice Principal at Waverley Drive in Guelph and she has experience as a Principal in a northern Board and speaks French! Bienvenue Mme Oussoren a Brisbane!

Class Placement Process

It is hard to believe but we are already starting to plan our organization for the 2022-2023 school year. If you are planning a move to another school this summer, or know of someone moving into our school area for the 2022-2023 school year, please notify the office as soon as possible. In the past, we have received some class placement requests which can make class building very difficult and sometimes hinder the process. As a result, **we will not be taking any class placement requests for September 2023.** If your child has some exceptional circumstances that require consideration when doing class placements, please email me directly at reena.anand@ugdsb.on.ca Please know that when placing your child in a class, we consider their ability, personality, productive and supportive learning friendships, learning style, and learning needs. Class building is a lengthy process that is given a great deal of thought and time by staff. Thank you for recognizing that we do our very best for each and every student.

As a courtesy, I have attached the **tentative general school organization for the 2022-2023** school year. As new students come in and move, our organization could change again by mid September when the board's fall reorganization occurs. Please see the tentative staff link. [2022/23 Brisbane Staff List](#)

Congratulations to Mme McDonald who transferred to Palmerston PS full time! Welcome back to Ms. Corbett who will be joining the Brisbane staff full-time teaching grade 2/3.

Yearbook

I want to express my gratitude to our Yearbook Chair, Claire Upton and our team of parents and teachers working on the upcoming yearbook. They have risen to the occasion of producing memories that will last a lifetime. Thank you to Claire Upton for her outstanding dedication in ensuring photos of all of our students are captured. Thank you to the amazing Brisbane staff for also sharing a variety of photos highlighting special learning, events and activities this year. This was a big undertaking and we appreciate the collaborative efforts of staff and parent support to make it happen! Yearbooks will arrive by the end of June and will be distributed to students who ordered.

Pride flag?



As in past years, Brisbane will be proudly flying the pride flag as June is Pride month. Some of our students, staff, parents/guardians and community members identify as members of the Rainbow or LGBTQ+ community. Flying the Pride flag not only signals that our schools are safe spaces for everyone, it also aligns with our Board Vision Statement and Guiding Principles of inclusion and student and staff well-being in our Equity Plan. Brisbane will be showing our acceptance and celebration of the LGBTQ community during Pride month by raising the Pride flag. We continue to raise awareness and support equity, diversity and inclusion of all marginalized groups.

Late Arrivals

A reminder to families that our school day starts at **8:50 a.m.** We are finding many students are arriving daily after the bell in the morning and missing extremely important instructional time. This also causes an interruption to their classes while the teacher is instructing. Please arrive before the 8:50 bell and proceed to the back of the school and enter with your classes. We understand that students who have appointments etc. and this is to be expected. We appreciate your support and assistance in setting your children up for success.

New JK Kindergarten Orientation

New JK students for September 2022 have been provided with an invitation to attend our upcoming Kindergarten orientation on June 3rd at 9:00am in the gymnasium. Students are also invited to visit a classroom and see their new school and meet the amazing staff!

Class Trips/Ropes Climbing Program

At this time we are investigating and evaluating which trips are possible through an equity lens and system threshold. In the past, occasional teacher and bus driver availability were not a concern. In the current pandemic struggles, occasional teacher and bus driver availability ARE a concern. Additionally, the cost of gas and bussing has risen significantly which has caused trip costs to skyrocket. As a result, we are planning a fun and active ropes obstacle course program for our Grades 1-6 students on June 17, June 20 and 21 in our own gymnasium! The Guelph Grotto are trained staff and they will be bringing their equipment and setting up in the gymnasium. Unfortunately, Kindergartens were not able to be part of this program due to age restrictions for climbing. This is an approved Board program and student safety will be ensured. Students who are participating are required to have a consent form signed for each child to participate. Please return this form to your child's teacher by **June 15th**. The \$12 cost per student is being covered by the school council and the school from fundraising proceeds.

Track & Field

Junior students will be participating in a Track and Field Standards Day on Tuesday June 7th. This will be held here at Brisbane with the rain date being Wednesday June 7th. All students in grades 4, 5 and 6 will be participating in their respective age groups and have been practicing the events in physical education class. Qualifying students will then be invited to participate in the District Track and Field Event held at the University of Guelph on June 15th (Rain Date June 17th). Thank you to the parents who have volunteered to help with our school standards day. If you are able to help and haven't already informed the school, please email Mme Halpin dhalpin@ugcloud.ca and let her know. We look forward to fun filled day!

Extra Curriculars

Many extracurriculars are up and running from intramural sports, gardening club, recycling program, play practices and more. Thank you to the teachers who are giving up lunches and breaks to offer memorable experiences for our students! We are fortunate to have such an amazing staff at Brisbane who dedicate their time to support student activities and programs.

Grade 6 Orientation Trip to Erin

Our Grade 6 students will be going on a trip on June 16th from 11:30 to 12:30 to visit their new school at Erin PS. Students will have an opportunity to meet staff, tour the school and ask questions they might have about their new school! A trip form will be sent out as students will be taking the bus.

School Council and Volunteers

Thank you to the outstanding parents who attend school council meetings to advocate for programs and plan successful fundraisers to support our school's educational programs and playground. We are fortunate to have such dedicated parents who volunteer their time to organize the snack program, help with pizza, scribing for EQAO, pitas and smoothies as well as other school activities.

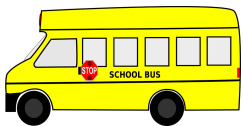
Our final meeting for school council this year is **Thursday, June 16th at 6:30** in the library and we look forward to recognizing the amazing volunteers and school council on an incredible year!

**THANK YOU
TO ALL OUR
VOLUNTEERS!**



We wish all fathers, grandfathers, and paternal figures a nice Father's Day!

Bus Patrols



Our bus patrols help report issues on the bus, both positive and negative, and help to keep their bus lines quiet and in order in the gym and on the bus. We appreciate their hard work and leadership in helping to manage the bus and help students make good choices. Bus patroller selection and training will take place in the Fall. Thank you to our outstanding patrols for their responsibility, hard work and dedication to their role!

Grade 6 Graduation



We are very excited to share that our Grad committee is working hard to acknowledge our grade 6 graduating classes of 2022. We are taking great care and consideration to celebrate our students in the safest and most meaningful way possible. We have planned an in-person graduation ceremony on **Monday June 27th from 5:30-6:30 for families to attend**. We request that you keep numbers small in order to allow for maximum distancing. The event will include a slideshow with photos of our graduates, special memories of Brisbane, award recognition and highlights from the year.

The ceremony will be held in the gymnasium with distanced seats. The Board is encouraging masks indoors. Photos can be taken outdoors and you may park in the bus turnaround area to maximize space for parking.

We look forward to celebrating this special milestone with our Brisbane students and families!

Supporting Early Literacy at home

WE recognize that students may need additional support with literacy given the disruption of learning during the pandemic. Being a proficient reader is an important skill. It impacts everyday experiences and can also affect self-confidence and motivation at school. Contrary to oral language skills, reading skills must be taught, as they are not a natural part of human development. Many early literacy skills can be transferred from English to French (or vice versa) whereas some of the skills are important to learn through direct teaching. In early literacy, staff are working on developing phonological awareness and helping students to learn to decode words.

How can you support early literacy development at home?

We understand how busy families are and so it is important to note that a lot of these activities can be done on-the-go or with different materials (not just books). Think about your child's interests and have fun with the process of learning how to read. If you are looking for ideas, please see below for some tips and activities.

- Play oral games about how many syllables are in words (driving in the car, in the grocery store, with themes - farm animals, vehicles, etc.) **Syllables = breaking the word into parts (e.g. "SPI/DER" - 2 syllables)*

- Play with rhymes, read books (e.g., Dr Seuss) or sing songs (e.g., Down by the bay) with rhyme and find the rhyming words **Rhyming= words that have the same ending sound*
- Play “Squish”: You break a word into each of its sounds, saying each sound out loud. Your child then “squishes” the sounds back together and tells you the word (e.g. “What word am I saying? b-l-ue?”)
- Online activities and apps to learn the sounds of the alphabet. Focus on learning the different vowel sounds (e.g. “a” in apple vs in cake). *This is when direct instruction becomes more important because some letter sounds are different in English than French.
- www.starfall.com is a good website for helping to support letter sounds, letter blends e.g., “sh, ch, th, wh” and other rules like “Bossy E” and “Bossy R”
- Encourage your child to read daily, find a regular time for your child to read. Primary Students have access to virtual reading programs through their classrooms.
- Have a variety of print/text materials at varying degrees of difficulty. Ensure you have some beginner books with small, simple, repetitive sentences, so they can feel successful. Graphic texts are a great choice because they are engaging but are not too text-heavy!
- Appreciate their beginning attempts at reading and comment on their progress.
- All of the same reading strategies apply that he/she has been learning in French language, except that some of the sounds of the letters are different in English and French. (e.g., *Stretchy Snake-sounds out the word*)
- Don’t discourage them by being critical of mistakes, but rather make them comfortable with taking risks and model how to sound out words by breaking them down into sounds. Model errors!
- It’s also very important to continue to read *to* your child each day, and to discuss and enjoy stories together. Point to the words as you read them, so that they can follow with their eyes and begin to recognize words.
- Flashcards and Memory or matching games are great to help them master sight words/high- frequency words, which are words that children should eventually be able to read quickly (e.g. the, this, where, my, she, because, said, etc.). This will help them learn to read more fluently (quickly), which helps with comprehension.
- As they begin to express an interest in tackling reading, try reading aloud in unison. Sit side by side with a book of their choosing. Match your reading speed and the volume of your voice with theirs as you read along together (it’ll take a little practice:). Have a prearranged signal for them to let you know when they want to try a passage on their own, then have you join in with them again. As they develop confidence with simple books, use this technique with more challenging materials. The idea being that as they build confidence, they will be comfortable reading to you on their own.
- Your child should also be encouraged to write grocery lists, notes, cards, emails, to-do lists, short stories, etc. When he/she is trying to spell, have him/her stretch out the word to hear each sound and think of which letter(s) make those sounds.

Thanks for your help in continuing to develop literacy skills in both English and French. See the attached graphic for more information. Please continue to read daily with your children to support literacy and during the summer holidays!! See the following visual for suggestions and ideas of reading 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