

# Brisbane Public School

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## October Newsletter



It's been wonderful to be back together at Brisbane for the start of the 2022 - 2023 school year. Students are settling in to classes and routines, and there is great learning happening in each of our classrooms.

Highlights of September at Brisbane:

- **Terry Fox Run** - our run raised over \$2000 for cancer research. Way to go, Bears! Thank you to all of our families for your generosity. Before our Terry Fox Run, we gathered together for our first assembly since 2019. It was very exciting to be together again with the whole school. Many of our younger students wondered, "What is an assembly?" Older students were leaders and showed us how energizing it is to get together around a common goal. Ms. Oussoren promised to wear a clown wig if students met their fundraising goal of \$1000 - but everyone was surprised when students doubled their goal to \$2000, and Mme. Oussoren came to school in an entire clown outfit. Thanks, Merci again to our school community for supporting our Terry Fox Run.
- **Open House** - we opened our doors to our entire school community for our first in-person Open House in a few years. Students, families and staff were all so happy to connect with each other and get to know one another. The school was packed and bursting with excitement as parents and teachers connected, students completed activities with their families, and showcased their learning.
- **Friday Snacks** - thanks to our dedicated volunteers and funding from The Children's Foundation, we are so happy to offer free snacks to all students every Friday.



- **Orange Shirt Day** - on the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, many of our staff and students wore orange to acknowledge the history of residential schools in Canada and to commit to a path of reconciliation. Teachers prepared learning activities for students to bring awareness to reconciliation in a variety of ways, and will continue to embed Indigenous learning throughout the school year.



- **Volunteers** - we are thrilled to have volunteers back at the school. Volunteers help with lunchtime supervision, snack days, pizza & milk days, reading with students, special events and more. Please visit our website or contact the school if you are interested in volunteering at Brisbane.

Wishing all of our families a wonderful October!

### Upcoming Dates

|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Oct. 3      | First Pizza and Milk Day - Pizza and Milk Days are every Monday until Dec. 19. If you missed the pizza order deadline, pizza is available for purchase for \$2 a slice while supplies last on Mondays.                                                                                            |
| Oct. 9      | Deadline to complete the UGDSB Student Census - for students K-6, parents and guardians are asked to complete a survey for each child. A personalized link was sent to your email around Sept. 19. If you did not receive an email with a link, please contact the school so we can send you one. |
| Oct. 10     | Happy Thanksgiving - School is closed                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Oct. 11     | School Council Meeting - 7 PM in the school library                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Oct. 11- 14 | CCAT Testing Grade 3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Oct. 12     | Pita Days begin                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Oct. 18     | IEPs go home                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Oct. 21     | ECE Appreciation Day                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Oct. 24     | PA Day                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Oct. 31     | Halloween Celebrations                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

## New Staff

Several new staff joined our Brisbane family in September. A big warm welcome goes out to:

- Mme. Carol Davison - new teacher in FI Kindergarten
- Ms. Chanel Gotthardt - new Educational Assistant
- Ms. Kate Shirton-Smith - new primary planning time teacher



## Structured Literacy

Our school, along with our board, is adopting Structured Literacy as our main approach to teaching reading in the early grades. Structured literacy is based on the science of how kids learn to read. Structured literacy is especially helpful for kids who struggle with reading. Research shows that it can help all students improve their reading skills.

Structured literacy covers the following concepts:

- Phonology: the study of sounds in spoken words
- Sound-symbol (orthography): how to map sounds (phonemes) to letters (graphemes)
- Morphology: the study of base words and affixes (prefixes and suffixes)
- Syntax: understanding the grammatical order of words (like sentence structure)
- Semantics: understanding the meaning of words and sentences

During the coming months and throughout the school year, we will be focusing our learning as a staff on how to build our skills in implementing structured literacy. Our Early Reading Teacher is using this approach in her small group literacy sessions, as will our Special Education Resource Teachers and our classroom teachers.

Components of the 3 part lessons are:

- Phonological Awareness skills
- Letter/Sound Knowledge (phonics skills)
- Fluency practice



## Fire Drills, Tornado Drills & Lockdowns

We are practicing fire drills, tornado drills and lockdown procedures throughout the fall and spring months as these are required annual drills. Please take some time to talk with your child/children about these drills so they understand what to do in case of an emergency to ensure everyone stays safe. We had our first fire drill and our lockdown drill will be coming in November.

## School Council

School Council is a great way to be involved in the school community and to make a positive contribution to your child's education. The main purpose of the school council is to improve student achievement and well being. Our first meeting was very well attended and the following parents were elected. We invite everyone out to our October meeting on Oct. 11 at 7 PM in the Library.

|                   |               |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Chair             | Lori Wright   |
| Co-Chair          | Lee Cross     |
| Secretary         | Diana Araj    |
| Treasurer         | Hillary Snoek |
| Fundraising Chair | Val Bush      |

## Clubs, Activities and Sports at Brisbane

Here is a list of the activities we have available for students at Brisbane; this list will grow as the year progresses. We will keep you updated on changes.

| Activity                  | For grades | Day/time of meetings                                         | (Anticipated) start date           |
|---------------------------|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Kilometre Club            | 1-6        | TBD - Tuesday 1st break, Friday 2nd break                    | Tuesday Sept. 27th                 |
| School Plays              | 4-6        | TBD - October to January, then February to June twice a week | First week of October              |
| Equity Club               | 4-6        | Day 3 during either 1st or second break                      | Sept 22nd                          |
| Jr Intramural Soccer      | 4-6        | Recess until end of October                                  | Sept 26<br>Tournament Date: Oct 20 |
| Frisbee Club              | 3-6        | 1-2 Recesses Weekly                                          | Spring (April-May)                 |
| Primary Intramural Soccer | 1-3        | TBD                                                          | May/June                           |
| Recycling                 | 4/5        | Wednesdays                                                   | Sept - June                        |

## Soccer Intramurals

Junior soccer intramurals are up and running at Brisbane! Grade 4-6 students are enjoying playing against each other in organized teams at recess. We're looking forward to seeing how our Junior team does representing Brisbane at our family of schools' tournament at Eramosa Public School on October 21st!

## Erin Fall Fair

We are all counting down the days to the Erin Fall Fair! Thank you to our creative staff who made this gorgeous display at the front of the school.

