

Brisbane Public School



9426 Wellington Rd.124, Erin, ON N0B 1T0

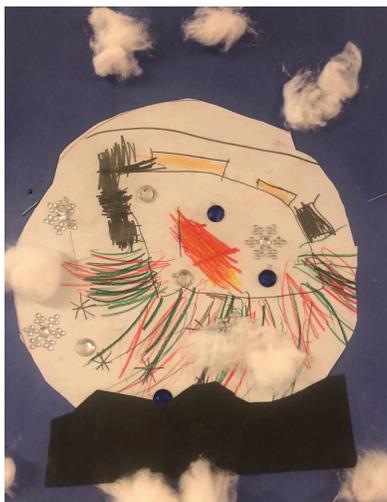
(519) 833-9621 brisbane.ps@ugdsb.on.ca www.ugdsb.ca/brisbane

Winter Newsletter

Hello Brisbane Families,

Happy New Year! We've started 2024 off at Brisbane with new energy and goals. A lot of new snow has added excitement to recess activities and we are keen to celebrate winter! In the classroom, we are approaching the end of Term 1 and educators are busy assessing student learning so far this year and planning next steps for instruction. Term 2 begins on Monday, February 5.

Our first term report card will be available for download on Thursday Feb. 15. Please take time with your child to celebrate their successes in first term - so much learning and growth has occurred, and it's important to pause and recognize that. Goal setting for term 2 will be an important part of that conversation as well. Thank you for your partnership as we support your children together.



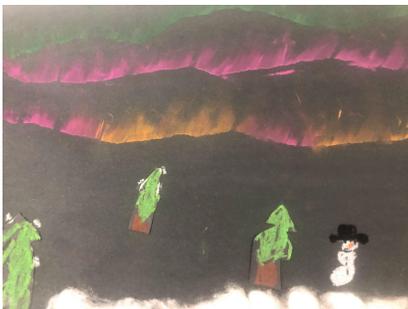
Highlights of December at Brisbane:

- Brisbane PS Book Fair: Our book fair ran from December 4 - December 8 and was a huge success. Students enjoyed browsing through the books and supplies and adding to their collections. A total of \$7832.00 was raised, with \$3573.25 going to buy new books for our school.
- Food Drive - A huge thank you to Mme Halpin's class for leading the food drive this year - please see below for more details.
- Holiday Concert We celebrated the holidays with a concert showcasing songs, dance and drama from all of our classes. We had a wonderful performance celebrating the season together, with many family members attending as well.
- New Staff - Welcome back to Mrs. Chan who is returning to Kindergarten teaching after her leave. Welcome to Mrs. VanAmelsvoort who is our new Assistant Office Administrator and works in our office on Wednesdays.



Upcoming Events

February 1	National Sweater Day
February 2	Spirit Day: Wear Red and White or Brisbane Bears wear
February 7	Carnaval de Brisbane / Outdoor Play Day (weather permitting)
February 8	Field Trip to River Run (Grades 2, 3, 4)
February 9	Beach Day
February 14	Valentine's Day: Wear Red, Pink and/or White
February 15	Term 1 Report Cards available for download
February 19	Family Day - school is closed
February 20	Field Trip to River Run (Grades 4, 5, 6)
February 21	Junior Volleyball Tournament
February 23	Jersey Day / Sports Uniform Day
February 26 - March 1	Guelph Grotto
March 7	Dance A Thon
March 11 - 15	March Break



National Sweater Day, Feb. 1: On February 1, we will be turning down the thermostat by 2 degrees in the school and encouraging students to wear their favourite warm sweater. We will be talking about energy conservation and its positive environment impacts.

Carnaval de Brisbane, Feb. 7: Get ready for some outdoor fun! Weather permitting, we will spend the day outdoors at fun winter-themed centres, enjoying and exploring the snow and winter together.

Beach Day, Feb. 9 - Student council invites all students and staff to dress in their summer clothes (but make sure they have an extra sweater in case they get chilly, and their usual outdoor winter gear!).

Guelph Grotto, Feb. 26 - March 1

The Guelph Grotto is coming back to Brisbane! The Guelph Grotto will be bringing their portable climbing wall to our school during the last week of February. The Grotto's experienced team of instructors will teach students the basics of indoor rock climbing and introduce different games and activities for all students. They offer a safe and inclusive experience for all students (Kindergarten-Grade 6). Watch for the permission form coming home from the school in the coming days.



Dance A Thon, March 7

Our School Council is hosting a Dance a Thon on Thursday, March 7 for all students. Please stay tuned for details.

Supports for Literacy and Numeracy in Primary

We are so happy that we have been provided extra supports for our students in primary in reading and math:

- ERT - We welcome Mme. Sainte-Onge our Early Reading Teacher, who is returning to Brisbane for a second time to work with small groups of students on their reading.
- Reading Tutors - We have a number of reading tutors who are supporting students with their reading by working with them on fluency.
- MST - Welcome to Mme. Crawford, our Math Support Teacher. This is the first time that we have hosted a MST. MSTs work directly with Grade 3 students who need support with their numeracy skills.
- Math Facilitator - Mme. Mercey is working with our Grade 3 teachers this year on building capacity in math instruction and supporting our Grade 3 students in math skills.

Brisbane Student Nutrition Program and Live Free From Hunger Campaign

Every Friday, the Food & Friends student nutrition snack program provides a morning meal to



every Brisbane student! Each student gets a grain, protein and fresh fruit to either supplement their lunch or for them to take home.

Monday to Thursday there is also a self-serve snack area where students can help themselves to lots of different options any time they need it. The program costs about \$700 per week and about \$18,000 annually to provide healthy meals/snacks for our school community. Brisbane public school received a generous donation this year from President's Choice Children's Charity in the amount of \$19,000 dollars.

All of this is possible with the help of Wellington Children's Charity (Food & Friends) and generous donations. With your help, we can continue to provide healthy meals/snacks for our school community. To help fund Brisbane's snack program you can donate to the Live Free from Hunger campaign which is running now until the beginning of March. You can donate through student's School cash online or through the campaign page directly linked below. Please ensure you select Brisbane PS. You can also participate in the Mitchell's soup fundraiser. All proceeds will go directly back into the Brisbane Snack program.
<https://www.childrensfoundation.org/.../live-free-campaign>



Mitchell's Soup Fundraiser Starting February 6th - February 28 ,2024 We will be teaming up with Mitchell's soup to help fund Brisbane's snack program.

Mitchell's Soup Co. is a Canadian family-owned business that has been hand- making dried soup, stew, chili and rice dish mixes since 2008. Their artisan products offer easy to prepare, healthy meals that the whole family will enjoy. The mixes even make great gifts! Each soup costs \$10.99 and there are many flavours to choose from. Please visit our online order form to purchase. Smaller orders can be distributed to the student class room and taken home or you may pick up your order during designated pick up time at the school. **(pick up date and time to be determined.)** Orders will be available at the beginning of March. <https://bit.ly/FoodandFriends-OnlineOrder>

School Council Report

The Parent Council convened for its inaugural meeting of 2024 on January 16th, where we delved into strategic discussions regarding our fundraising initiatives for the remainder of the school year. We are thrilled to announce the revival of the Dance-a-thon fundraiser, reminiscent of our pre-pandemic Move-a-thon tradition. In this exciting event, students will once again have the opportunity to raise funds, culminating in a lively dance party. The proceeds from this year's Dance-a-thon will be exclusively earmarked for enhancing the Arts programming within the school.



Anticipate further details about the Dance-a-thon in the upcoming communications. Additionally, we are pleased to share that our popular Wednesday Sub Days, monthly popcorn days, and Mabel's Labels initiatives will persist. Every order placed for these items contributes a portion of funds to the Council, enabling us to sustain support for special programs at the school.

In the spirit of community involvement, the kindergarten liaison will soon be reaching out for donations of gently used outdoor toys to keep our youngest students engaged during outdoor playtime. Stay tuned for more information on this initiative.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support, which plays a pivotal role in funding vital programs at Brisbane. Mark your calendars for our next meeting on Tuesday, February 13th, at 7 pm. Whether you choose to attend virtually or in person in the library, we invite you to join us for an enriching discussion. Your presence and participation are highly valued as we continue to enhance the educational experience at Brisbane.



Student Council Report

This school year at Brisbane has been full of fun Spirit days that Student Council has planned, like Wear Your Favourite Colour Day, Sparkle and Shine Day, Hat Day, and even a few “Comfy Cozy Days.” I hope you won't be surprised that Brisbane is full of fun, both inside and outside. Based on our student council representatives the school loves Spirit days, although I'm not saying that you have to like spirit days in fact if you don't want to participate, that's totally fine.

Door decorating:

Recently we did a door decoration contest, which is where each class decorates their door for the holidays. Thanks for all the classes who participated! There are some great doors out there!

Decision about recess:

Last year we took a vote about extending recess by five minutes and shortening the eating time by five minutes. Most students were in favour of this change. They wanted more outside time. We said we would try out the longer recess until the winter break and then take another vote to see if students still liked the longer recess. The majority of students said they still liked the longer recess so we are keeping it this way.



-Abi Butler, Grade 5

Volunteer Opportunities

Reading Tutors We are looking for volunteers to read one on one with our students. Tutors will be given a reading program to follow and will work with students on their reading comprehension, fluency and word work. Volunteers should be strong readers themselves and should enjoy working with students. We are looking for volunteers who can come in 2 - 3 times a week, for 1-2 hours at a time. Please contact the school.

Lunchroom Supervisors

We are looking for adults aged 18 and older who love working with kids to come in and help with lunchroom and yard supervision. There are regular shifts available, as well as on-call positions. There are volunteer positions available as well as paid positions. Training is provided. Please contact the school.



Holiday Food Drive

A huge Brisbane Bear thank you goes to Mme. Halpin's class for organizing the Food Drive this year. The class decided on theme days based on the items that are needed most by the food bank and they were as follows:

- Monday - Breakfast Items e.g. cereal, boxed milk, coffee, tea, muffin and pancake mix, juice, peanut butter, jam, honey
- Tuesday - Toiletries e.g. shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, razors, shaving cream, feminine hygiene products, diapers & wipes
- Wednesday- Cleaning Products e.g. dish soap, paper towel, toilet paper, cleaning supplies
- Thursday - Kids snacks e.g. granola bars, fruit pouches, crackers, cookies, juice boxes



Brisbane students donated hundreds of items to our local food bank. Thank you to our entire school community for your generosity!

BRISBANE

CLUBS

Legend = Grades 1-6, Grades 3-6, Grades 4-6

1. ART

Once per week - Starts in October

2. CHESS

1-3 recesses weekly - Starts in February

3. EQUITY

Once per week - Starts in October

4. GARDENING

Once per week - Fall and Spring

5. PHYSICAL/SPORTS

- Kilometer Club - Starts October
- Frisbee Club - 1-2 recesses, Spring
- Skipping Club - Once a week, Spring
- Soccer - Intramural/Team - First recess until the end of October
- Volleyball - Intramural/Team - Recesses, January
- Floor Hockey - Recesses, November
- Basketball - Intramural/Team - Recesses, April

6. LEADERSHIP

Student Council - Once per week - Starts in October

7. MINDFULNESS

Once per week - Starts in October

8. READING

Once per week - January - April

WHAT WILL YOU JOIN?

Brisbane Public School Clubs 2023-2024

What is available?

Grades 1 - 6

Kilometer Club
Mindfulness Club
Student Council
Skipping Club

Grade 3 - 6

Gardening Club (grade 2 - 6)
Frisbee Club
Chess Club

What is available?

Grade 4 - 6

Art Club
Equity Club
Recycling Club
Silver Birch Reading Club

Intramural Soccer
Junior Soccer Team
Intramural Floor Hockey
Intramural Volleyball
Junior Volleyball Team
Intramural Basketball
Junior Basketball Team

Did You Know?

- Brisbane runs several amazing clubs! We see very excited and involved children. When parents encourage involvement it enhances their experience.
- Children make new lasting friendships
- Recess can be stressful for children; our clubs enable a unique way to foster growth and friendship.

- Clubs provide an opportunity to develop proficiency in something beyond regular academics.
- They are an opportunity to explore new interests.

Commitment!

- Clubs are a means to teach children about commitment.
- Choosing and sticking to something is a valuable skill, especially when initially challenging.
- Clubs allow children to work through the pros and cons of an activity and provide an opportunity for them to express their wishes, feelings and frustration.

How do Clubs Help Me?

Psychological Benefits
Physical Benefits
Leadership Opportunities
Life Skills Development
Social-Emotional Learning Opportunities

Psychological Benefits

- Some clubs, like **Mindfulness**, specifically help children develop their ability to focus and concentrate. Over time, regular practice will have long-term positive benefits. Mindfulness, i.e. helps your child regulate their emotions, increases mental flexibility and empathy, and decreases internal agitation.
- Practising **Artistic abilities** enhances your child's right side of the brain and encourages their ability to be creative in all aspects of their life.

Physical Benefits

- **Sports** are a terrific opportunity to develop physical ability in an organized manner
- Increasing physical strength in a controlled manner helps with dexterity, agility and determination.

Life Skills Development

- **Reading** helps your child's creativity and comprehension and naturally develops their understanding of grammar.
- **Recycling and Equity Clubs** are opportunities to practise life skills, as well as develop compassion and responsibility.
- **Chess Club** is a rich opportunity to help your child be playful; it develops the left side of the brain in complex problem-solving and improves mathematical skills.

Social-Emotional Skills Development

- **Social-emotional skills** include things like recognizing emotion in yourself and others.
 - Learning to express yourself effectively
 - Understanding your thoughts and feelings
 - Knowing how to relate to others
- These skills are complex, and development begins at a very young age. They are an essential component of a healthy child. All Clubs support this learning.

Leadership

- Helping in a **leadership role**, like being on the Student Council, Recycling, or being an office helper develops confidence.
- Facing situations that may cause anxiousness and developing mastery helps your child with self-awareness and a sense of self.
- Leadership also develops your child's understanding of healthy boundaries and how to express them.

The Experience is Learning

- With clubs, learning happens when you don't even notice
- Above all, a sense of belonging can be one of the most enriching aspects.

Grades 4 - 6

