



BURLEIGH HILL BUZZ

A Publication of Burleigh Hill Public School, 15 Burleigh Hill Drive, St. Catharines, Ontario (905) 227-6641

Burleigh Hill Public School's Monthly Newsletter

January 2012

Dear Parents/ guardians:

Welcome back to a brand new year! I hope the break has been good for all of us as we settle into a new year of learning.

Our learning plans are progressing well as we are now embarking upon solidifying the students' writing skills. We spent time successfully motivating students to write down their ideas for their animation projects. They were able to see their ideas come to life and were eager to write about the process in their reflections. The teachers are engaged in learning about implementing a writer's workshop to further engage the students in successful writing experiences that will enhance their skills.

Technology is also at the forefront in terms of learning experiences for the teachers. How do we use it to get maximum value for our kids? This requires constant learning for the teachers. We know that we are all lifetime learners and it is truer now than ever before. Technology is changing rapidly and we are communicating differently every day. We must keep current if we expect students to emerge from schools with a usable skill set.

Term 1 report cards come out on February 9th. Even though we had parent/teacher interviews at midterm, please feel free to ask for another interview if needed.

As always, sincerely yours,

G. Vanden Beukel and Burleigh Hill Staff

PARENTS/VISITORS/VOLUNTEERS AND SAFE SCHOOL PLAN

All parents/visitors are required to check in at the office, whether you are here to drop something off or you are picking your child up. Your child will be paged to the office. Please wait in the foyer.

Parents picking their children up at the end of the day should wait in the foyer until their child is dismissed.

If you are staying to help at the school, you are required to sign in/out and take a visitor's badge at the office. This includes parent volunteers, Brock volunteers, co-op students, etc. This will help us to monitor all visitors to the school.

Thank you for helping us ensure a safe school environment for everyone!

ABSENCES

At this time of year we have more absences than usual. Parents are asked to call the school and leave a message regarding absences. Please state your child's FIRST and LAST NAME and the REASON for their absence. The voice mail is on 24 hours a day.



THANK YOU TO OUR SCHOOL COUNCIL

A huge **Thank You** goes to all of the support that the Parent Involvement Council provides to the students, families and programs here at Burleigh Hill.

INDOOR SHOES

Students are not allowed in classrooms or hallways without proper shoes for safety reasons. Please make sure your child has a pair of "indoor" shoes, preferably a pair that can stay at school during winter boot season. All articles of clothing, shoes, boots, etc. should be labeled with your child's first and last name.



MARY'S COLD

Mary had a little cold but
wouldn't stay at home,
And everywhere that Mary
went the cold was sure to



roam. It wandered into Mary's eyes and filled them full
of tears. It jumped from there to Bobby's nose, and
thence to Jimmy's ears.

It painted Anna's nose bright red and swelled poor
Jimmy's head, Dora had a fever and a cough put Jack to
bed. The moral of this little tale is very quickly said,
Mary could have saved a lot of pain with just one day in
bed.

It can be expected that "cold" weather and 'Mary's
cold" go together occasionally. As important as regular
attendance is, **there are times when a day at home is
the best cure!**

Cold Weather Alerts at DSBN

Winter is a time of wonder for many
children; many enjoy the crisp air, the
freshly fallen snow and participating in
a whole host of exciting winter sports
and activities.



Although we feel it is important for students to spend
some time outside each day exercising and socializing
with their peers, there are times when bitterly cold
temperatures and other inclement weather conditions
require that we keep children inside.

Because Niagara is such a large geographical area, and
weather conditions may vary from one municipality to
the next, the decision whether or not to hold recess
outdoors is made by the individual school principal.
When making this decision, principals will often consult
with neighbouring schools, talk with parents as they
arrive in the morning, and if the decision to send
children outside is made, will equip yard duty staff with
walkie-talkies so that they can communicate with the
office to sound the bells to bring students in earlier.

The health and well-being of our students is a top
priority at the District School Board of Niagara, and if it
is determined that the weather conditions pose a risk to
their safety, students will be kept indoors. Extreme cold
weather alerts issued by the Niagara Region are often
good indicators that students will stay inside.

Even when temperatures are not low enough to
necessitate an indoor recess, it still may be quite cold
outside. Here are a few tips to help ensure that your
child stays warm during the cold winter months.

- Try to send children to school with plenty of layers,
such as long underwear, sweatshirts, sweaters and
pullovers. Layering their clothing will allow them to add
or remove items depending on the weather.
- Students should have a warm winter coat that repels
the snow, sleet and rain, while blocking the wind.
- Warm socks and boots will keep their feet warm and
dry in the snow and slush.
- Hats are one of the most important parts of dressing
warmly in the winter. A thick winter hat will keep
students from losing too much of that essential body
heat.
- Put on a good pair of gloves or mittens that are water-
resistant as well. Gloves will keep kids' hands toasty
warm and protect their skin from becoming damaged
by the wind and chill.

If you have any questions about our inclement weather
procedures, please visit our website dsbn.org, or
contact the principal.

Your Future is Here!

Grade 8 students and their families are invited to attend
High School Open Houses in January 2012. For a full list
of open house dates, times and details, please go to

www.dsb.org

We are Counting Down to Kindergarten!

Children who will be four years of age or older by December 31 are eligible to enroll in Kindergarten starting September 2012.

Going to school for the first time is a major step for children and their parents. At the DSBN, families start that journey together at the 'Kindergarten Countdown' open houses. Families can visit our school, meet the kindergarten teacher, and receive a gift bag filled with fun learning resources and information that will help children develop school readiness skills.

Mark your calendar for Thursday, February 2, 2012 from 4-6 p.m. for our Kindergarten Countdown open house. Visit www.dsbniagara.org and click on "Kindergarten Registration" for all the details!



"Hey Parents! Do you know what your kids are watching?"

Young people look to celebrities for reassurance about their fashion and behaviour.

The evidence is clear....

The more youth see smoking in movies, the more likely they are to start smoking.

Ways to Protect our Kids

- 1. Be aware** of what your children are viewing and learn which movies have smoking in them.
Updates available every Thursday at facebook.com/hookedbyhollywood.
- 2. Talk to your children** about tobacco and movies and teach them to be media aware.
- 3. Show your support** to get tobacco out of youth-rated films in Ontario at smokefreemovies.ca.
- 4. Spread the word** to other parents and join the discussion on facebook and twitter.

www.smokefreemovies.ca
facebook.com/hookedbyhollywood

Where can I go to find out about school closures?

There may be times during the school year where inclement weather or other situations could cause transportation cancellations or school closures.

Information about transportation changes and school closures will be available on the websites, social media, radio and television stations listed below as soon as it is available. Please do not phone the school for transportation or school closure information.

Websites/Social Media:

www.dsbniagara.org

http://twitter.com/D_S_B_N

<http://www.facebook.com/DSBNIagara>

Television:

**Cogeco Cable 10
CHCH Television
City TV**

Radio:

**CKTB 610 am
CHML 900 am
EZ Rock 105.7 fm
Htz 97.7 fm
KLite 102.9 fm
The River 105.1 fm
Wave 94.7 fm
Y-108 – 107.9 fm
Z 101.1 fm**

At times when student transportation has been cancelled and schools remain open, the decision of whether or not to have children go to school that day rests with the parent or guardian.

Should you decide not to send your child to school when transportation has been cancelled but schools remain open, or if your child is ill or late, please ensure that you call the school to inform them of your child's absence.

COMMUNITY CARE TOY DRIVE

For the last 3 weeks we've been collecting Canadian Tire Money and loose change for our annual Community Care toy drive. This is our 13th year campaigning for such a worthy cause.

The Little School with the big heart has come through again. We've collected a grand total of \$2966.00 in Canadian Tire money and loose change.

Kids helping kids is what it's all about. We believe in community service and helping others. This is our character education in action. Our campaign's success is due to school, home, and community working together for one common goal. **We truly have achieved success together!** Because of our efforts, many children around the city will have a gift to open on Christmas day.

Vaccines and elementary school children

Niagara Region Public Health is conducting an annual review of vaccination records for all elementary school children in the Niagara region. **If the vaccination information we have on file for your child is NOT complete, you will receive a letter and questionnaire from us in the mail later this month (January, 2012).**

- Please follow the instructions for reporting your child's vaccinations to us, as outlined in the letter. Various options for reporting are available.
- If your child is overdue for one or more vaccinations, you will need to make an appointment with your child's doctor to get your child vaccinated. You can also make an appointment for your child at one of Public Health's General Immunization Clinics by calling 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7425.
- If you are a parent/guardian not wishing to vaccinate your child, you will need to provide Niagara Region Public Health with an original legal exemption document.

Students under 18 years of age attending Ontario schools must have proof of immunization against diphtheria, tetanus, polio, measles, mumps, and rubella (German measles). We are required to have this information by law (*Immunization of School Pupils Act, 1990*). **Please provide us with your child's missing vaccination information by March 8, 2012 or your child may be suspended from school.**

For more information, please call the Vaccine Preventable Disease Program at 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7425.

