

Additionally, all volunteers will require a current police check and vulnerable sector screen. Please contact Ms. McIvor in the office if this is something that interests you.



School Council: The purpose of the school council is to “improve student achievement and enhance the accountability of the education system to parents.” (School Councils – A Guide to Members). Included with the beginning of the school year forms was a nomination form for up and coming council members. Please feel free to join us for our very first meeting on Monday, September 16th, at 6:30pm where council positions will be determined. By being a council member, you will have the benefit of: being an important partner in the education system whose views are valued; contributing to the shared goal of improving student achievement; having a vehicle through which to express opinions; being able to keep informed about what is happening at the school and the board. Hope to see you all there! If you are a first time interested member, please let us know so that we are able to send out an electronic invitation for our meeting.

ATTENDANCE: PLEASE NOTIFY THE OFFICE BEFORE 9:15 OF ABSENCES OR IF YOUR CHILD IS GOING TO BE LATE. IF WE DO NOT HEAR FROM YOU AND ARE UNABLE TO CONTACT SOMEONE REGARDING YOUR CHILD’S ABSENCE, THE POLICE MAY BE CALLED TO ENSURE THEIR SAFETY.



ALL FAMILIES WILL NEED TO CONTACT THE SCHOOL BEFORE 2:00 IF THEY WISH TO CHANGE A STUDENT’S METHOD OF PICK UP DURING THE DAY.

Paperwork and Forms

The following forms need to be returned to the school, in paper copy, no later than Monday, September 9th, 2024:

- Emergency Medical Form
- FNMI Identification Form
- School Council Nomination Form
- Student Information Sheet

The following forms need to be approved on School Days no later than Monday, September 9th, 2024:

- Responsible use of technology by students agreement (Primary and/or Junior/Intermediate)
- Element of Risk Form/Informed Consent/Trips/Cell Phone Use/Media Permission/Yearbook
- Code of Conduct

The following booklets/information will be posted on School Days in SCHOOL FILES for you to peruse:

- School Calendar
- Student Insurance Booklet
- School Information Booklet



Upcoming Events:

Volunteer Training (September 4th 8:00 am)
Volunteer Training (September 5th 3:30 pm)
Cross Country Running 4-8 (begins Sept. 9th)
Picture Day (September 12th)
School Book Fair/Meet the Teacher (Sept. 19th)
Terry Fox Walk (Sept. 27th)
Almond Sales - (Sept.26th)
Immunizations - grade 7 (Oct. 24th)

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Eat Well to Excel: The Eat Well to Excel program will be supporting healthy snack "Grab and Go bags" for students in the school. Donations are always welcome. This will begin in late September.



Concussion Policy: Burkevale's concussion policy may be found on the board website at www.pssbp.ca. Within the first couple of weeks of school, all grades 1-8 classroom teachers will review information around safety and concussions with all students in grades 1-8.

Ryan's Law: Under Ryan's Law 2015, every elementary school student in Ontario schools will now be permitted to carry asthma medication, provided they have written parental consent.

Peanut Free Environment: Due to allergies in our school community, Burkevale continues to strive to be a peanut-free environment. Please check all labels before sending products to school to ensure that foods are peanut-free.

Emergency Response: In the event of an emergency at school, please refer to Board Policy D-31 Emergency Response Protocols @ <https://www.pssbp.ca/wp-content/uploads/D-31->

[EMERGENCY-RESPONSE-PROTOCOL-1.pdf](#) Our evacuation sites will be The Penetanguishene Public Library (grades 4-8) (except Wednesdays where grades 4-8 will go to Bayfield House) and The Centennial Museum (grades K-3) If students are evacuated, the board will contact families to keep lines of communication open. Once it is deemed safe, teachers will dismiss students to their parents/guardians.

Safe and Accepting Schools: The school strives to provide a safe, welcoming, and inclusive working and learning environment for staff and students. The Provincial Code of Conduct governs the behaviour of all persons in the school and has criteria for staff and students. Progressive discipline is the process used to balance the degree of disciplinary action taken in relation to the behaviour that may have triggered the requirement to consider discipline. Please refer to Board Policy D 51B Safe and Accepting Schools@

<https://www.pssbp.ca/wp-content/uploads/D-51B-SAFE-AND-ACCEPTING-SCHOOLS-PROGRESSIVE-DISCIPLINE-REGARDING-STUDENTS.pdf>

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL BEING

Welcome back to school!

We are excited to be starting back to school, although it's bittersweet with this beautiful summer coming to an end. Your child(ren) may be experiencing a wide range of emotions related to the return to school. Our partners at School Mental Health Ontario have a great tip sheet for parents to help support your

child getting ready to transition back to school, you can find it here:

<https://smho-smso.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Supporting-Mental-Health-and-Wellness-during-the-Return-to-School-Tip-Sheet-EN.pdf>

Starting to get back into a schedule that looks more like the school year can really help.

Re-establishing bedtime routines, getting 9/10 hours

of sleep a night for most children really helps. Also, getting your child to help with lunches and washing up backpacks and lunch bags can help them feel more ready for school.



Having some open conversations about how they are feeling about school can help, with some problem solving around any worries they have. If worries are big or anxieties are high, checking in with your health care providers, or with the school team can help.

We have had a great summer providing practice for kindergarten and summer learning programs. A big shout out of gratitude goes to all the students and families that participated as well as our dedicated staff. We are excited to again have Laura Leslie (Child & Youth Worker) supporting students individually and in

small groups. If you have more questions about what's available at school you can get in touch with myself, Christy Hamill MSW, RSW chamill@pssbp.ca, 7057156775.

There are also great supports at the following local services, counseling in Midland; 287 Bayshore Dr. via Catholic Family Services Simcoe County: [Catholic Family Services of Simcoe County](http://CatholicFamilyServicesofSimcoeCounty.ca) 1-888-726-2503

Chigamik Community Health Centre: [CSC CHIGAMIK CHC](http://CSCCHIGAMIKCHC.ca) 705-527-4154

North Simcoe Youth Hub: [North Simcoe 705-427-5639](http://NorthSimcoe705-427-5639.ca) Fantastic resource, lots of great activities and resources

North Simcoe Family Health Team: [https://nsfht.ca](http://nsfht.ca)

Kids	Help	Phone
https://kidshelpphone.ca	now supports adult and child calls - you can call, text or chat online! Check them out, the website also has great resources to learn about mental health. Call 1-800-668-6868, TEXT 686868	

[One Stop Talk](http://OneStopTalk.ca) and this fantastic service available to those under 17, free counseling, with connections to local supports.

NEW STAFF AND STUDENTS:

Each year brings new changes, and this year is no exception. We would like to welcome all new students to Burkevale - some are new to education, while others

have moved into our area part way through their educational journey. We are thrilled to have you choose our unique board and school. We would also like to welcome back Mr. Geneir who is returning from a year off, Ms. Jones who will be returning part time, Mr. Pilon who will be teaching part time in the grade 5 classroom with Ms. Hartman, Ms. Dosen who will be assuming the kindergarten planning time position, and Ms. Laurin who will be replacing Madame Lucie for the year. Have a wonderful 2024-2025 school year.



First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education:

Orange Shirt Day will now be known as The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30th. The day has been recognized to focus our attention and commemorate the legacy of residential schools and all 150,000 First Nations, Métis and Inuit children forced to attend and those children who never returned home. The thought of having such a day was one of the 94 recommendations in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's final report. The link is a child friendly version of the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

https://fncaringociety.com/sites/default/files/child_friendly_calls_to_action_web.pdf

For this day of recognition and reflection all staff and students are invited to wear Orange on September 30th.



Christmas Bizarre: Do you have a creative flair, or talent? Do you have a small business, or are you an ambassador for a company? Burkevale is hoping to host their second annual Christmas Bizarre, on November 2nd or 8th, 2024. We are looking for vendors to make the event happen. If you are interested in being a part of this event, please contact the school at (705)549-7456 and ask for Deb Archer for more details. Space is limited so don't delay.

Biking to school/ Walking home alone?



Some students choose to bike to school during the fall and spring seasons. If your child chooses to bike to school, please ensure they have a properly working bike lock, as bikes are unsupervised during the school hours and locked to the outside fence. All students in the younger grades are walked to the gate at the end of the day to be dismissed to caregivers. Once in grade 4, it is assumed that students are able to make their

own way home, unless the office is notified differently.

THE SIMCOE-MUSKOKA HEALTH UNIT HAS SHARED SOME TIPS FOR ALL STUDENTS:

Elementary Schools:

Tips for a smooth start back to school:

- Routines help: pack lunches together, pick clothes the night before, relax before bed without screens.
- Encourage a positive outlook by asking about what they enjoy about school and what they can look forward to.
- It is normal for there to be back to school worries. Validate their feelings and help them to think of ways to manage situations. Offer reassurance and remind them that there are adults at school to help.
- Spending time together, being outdoors, learning ways to relax, and supporting our wellbeing.
- Talk about road safety and routes to school. For younger children, practice route to school (or bus) together.



Walk or Wheel

Walking or cycling to school is a great way for your child to get the 60 minutes of daily physical activity that's needed for good mental and physical health. It also supports in building responsibility and independence and helps them feel more connected to the community. More walkers mean less traffic around schools, which helps keep students safe and improves outdoor air quality. Even one day a week of walking or cycling to school can make a big difference!



For more information, call *Health Connection* at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 or visit www.simcoemuskokahealth.org.

ON BEHALF OF BURKEVALE, WE ARE THRILLED TO BEGIN ANOTHER FUN AND EDUCATIONAL JOURNEY TOGETHER - HAPPY 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR~