



Burnham School

Paw Prints

October 2017



A Note from the Principal...

Dear Parent/Guardians,

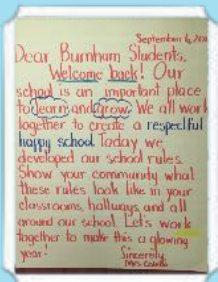
The first month of school was a fantastic one! The staff and students have settled into the swing of things and the teachers have commented on how the students have embraced their academic expectations in a positive way. It is amazing to see our hard working students.



There is a sense of pride throughout the building. In an effort to strengthen our school community, a school-wide Morning Meeting took place. The purpose of the Morning Meeting was to develop our school-wide rules. The meeting began with a greeting, recognizing the entire school community with a "hello" and handshake. The K-2 and 3-5 classes shared their specific classroom rules. After the sharing, students and teachers identified common themes which were recorded on large chart paper. Ideas were clustered and three school rules were developed. To further build students' sense of belonging, the Morning Meeting ended with a special message about working together to create a respectful, happy school. "The sense of belonging and the skills of attention, listening, expression, and cooperative interaction developed in Morning Meeting are a foundation for every lesson, every

transition time, every lining-up, every upset and conflict, all day and all year long. Morning Meeting is a microcosm of the way we wish our schools to be – communities full of learning, safe and respectful and challenging for all." (Morning Meeting Book, Kriete 2002). It is so powerful in such a productive way.

Now that we have completed the first month of school, all teachers have had the opportunity to assess the students' performance level to ensure instruction meets their needs. They have completed the assessments for language arts, which provide detailed results as to their phonics, comprehension and written expression skills. The Bridges Baseline Assessment in mathematics provided teachers with areas of strengths and weaknesses to target focused instruction. Teachers will be able to share this information as well as daily performance during the upcoming conferences. These conferences will be held on October 18th, 19th, and 20th. Teachers have begun scheduling these conferences and will continue to work with all parents and guardians to be sure we achieve 100% participation.



The teachers and I look forward to the month ahead. Watching a child master a new concept is so exciting and we celebrate milestones every day. Mark your calendar as November 15th, Visitation Day, will be another opportunity to see things in action. It can be an amazing opportunity!

Our PTO is up and running. Last month's Ice Cream Social was well attended as well as our Open House. This is a direct reflection of our supportive school community. These activities as well as others that will happen throughout the school year will certainly help to strengthen our home and school connection. As always, I believe that close communication helps to ensure our children's success.

Lastly, I thank all parents and guardians for your compliance with all procedures. Your cooperation and support are greatly appreciated and recognized.

Sincerely,

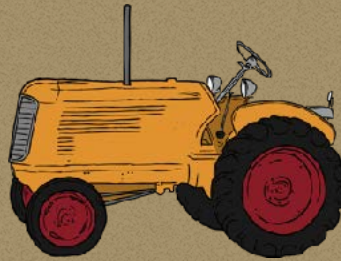
Cathy G. Colella
Principal

OCTOBER DATES TO REMEMBER

10/2	Board of Education Meeting/Business, 7 PM
10/4	International Walk to School Day.
10/5	Fire Prevention Day
10/5	PTO Meeting, 6:30 pm
10/6	Professional Development - No School For Students
10/9	Columbus Day - No School
10/11	Rain Date for International Walk to School Day
10/16	Board of Education/Education, 7 PM
10/18-20	Parent Teacher Conferences - Early Dismissal,
10/18-20	PTO Sponsored Scholastic Book Fair
10/24	Grade 5 Track Meet at Shepaug
10/25	PTO Enrichment Program at McCarthy
10/26	School Picture Day
10/31	Grade 5 Track Meet Rain Date
11/2	PTO Meeting, 6:30 pm



Bridgewater's Tractor Parade!



Principal's Weekly Schedule



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
A.M. Free	A.M. Burnham	A.M. Booth Free	A.M. Booth Free	A.M. Burnham
P.M. Burnham	P.M. Burnham	P.M. Booth Free	P.M. Burnham	P.M. Booth Free



Grade K12

"Our Community"



Our K, 1, 2 class has focused September around building our community. We developed our classroom rules which are posted in each classroom. The boys and girls decided on Respect Everyone and Everything, Be the Boss of Me, Try Hard and Never Give Up, and Have Fun! They also created their Hopes and Dreams (goals) for the start of the school year. Learn how to read, make friends with everyone, learn lots of animal facts, do my best at stations, and never give up are some of our amazing Hopes and Dreams. Community members also visit our classroom. Officer Alenckis, Region 12's resource officer, teaches the students about town community such as street signs, call 911, and being a town citizen. Our community is a special place to learn and grow each day.



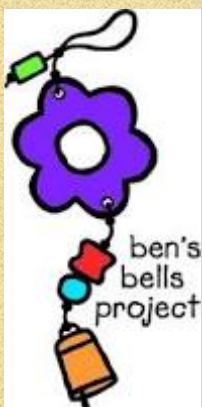
Visit Our Website!

Our web address is www.region-12.org. Once you are at the district's home page you can visit Burnham School's website. The staff will be adding information regularly. Please use it as an additional resource for information gathering.



Student Council is gearing up for a fun and productive school year. Delegates from grades 3-5 have been selected and they've had their first official meeting of the year. K-2 reps will report to meetings in the weeks to come. We are lucky to have such an interested and enthusiastic group of council members. At our initial meeting, we planned for the months ahead. Our group is excited to take on their roles as kindness ambassadors in our school community. First on our agenda is working to become a "kind campus" using the Ben's Bells project. The council will hold their first whole school Morning Meeting to discuss the development of a Kindness Code and to introduce the Ben's Bells mission. Students will soon be given Unicef boxes and Student Council is asking that they use the month of October, including Halloween, to collect funds for the United Nations Children's Fund.

Student Council News



Throughout the month, Council members will design posters and spread the word to their classmates. October is also anti-bullying month. Students are brainstorming ways to ensure our school remains bully free. Be on the lookout for messages from Student Council as our group has many ideas to help our community shine.



Mrs. Sass With a Word from the Library



Welcome back to the library and books! There are lots of exciting things going on in the wonderful world of reading here at Burnham School this month. Many new books came into the library over the summer and in September, the results are in from the Governor's Summer Reading Challenge, and the PTO will be conducting its annual Scholastic Book Fair.

Everyone at BFS did a great job of taking **the Governor's Summer Reading Challenge**.

Every June, our governor challenges all of the schools in the state to read, read, read during the summer and compete with other schools throughout the state. The schools with the highest participation and/or the highest number of books read per student receive recognition from our governor. Our school has been honored several years in a row at a special ceremony with Governor Malloy in May. Once again this year, our school did an outstanding job with 100% participation. Great work, Burnham School!



The PTO will be conducting its annual **Scholastic Book Fair** once again this year during parent conference days, **October 18-20, 2017**. Check with the PTO for times and to see if you can help. Many volunteers are needed to run this worthwhile, three day event that benefits all.





Notes and News from the Nurse...

Handwashing

We are starting off with healthy habits here at Burnham School. Since we are all back together sharing pencils, balls, computer keys, door knobs, etc., a handwashing review was just what the doctor ordered! Concepts of what a germ is, how it is spread, and how to prevent illness were all reviewed with each grade level. Various methods were used at different levels such as, glitter lotion, a book, a short video clip, and discussion with question/answer time. All students were very versed in handwashing and germ prevention. They were able to demonstrate cough/sneeze etiquette and were brilliant at these concepts! There are a lot of good soap suds working hard at Burnham School and plans to STAY HEALTHY!!!!



Illness

Moving past the summer months brings us all together in our school community which increases the prevalence of illnesses. Viruses are common among children and are transmitted through the coughing or sneezing of people infected with them. People may also become infected by touching something with viral particles on it and then touching their mouths, noses, or eyes. Review basic hygiene and healthy lifestyle practices such as:

- Wash your hands multiple times a day for at least 20 seconds
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or use the inside of your elbow
- Do not share drinks or food



The following will help to develop a strong immune system to fight off illness:

- Eat a balanced diet
- Get enough sleep
- Exercise regularly

Be assured that school staff are carefully tracking illnesses, keeping the environment clean, promoting good health habits, and staying informed to keep your children healthy.

PLEASE FOLLOW THE 24 HOUR RULES WHEN YOUR CHILD IS SICK:

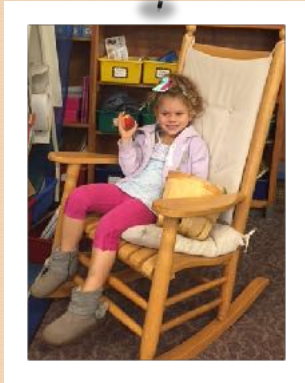
- A child must be free of fever (<100.0 F) for 24 hours (without medication to reduce the fever) before returning to school.
- Children with Strep infection must be on antibiotics for a full 24 hours before returning to school.
- Children with conjunctivitis or "pink eye" must be on antibiotics for 24 hours before returning to school.
- Children must be free of nausea and/or vomiting for 24 hours before returning to school.
- Children with a persistent cough, runny nose, and/or watery eyes should remain out of school even if there is not a fever.



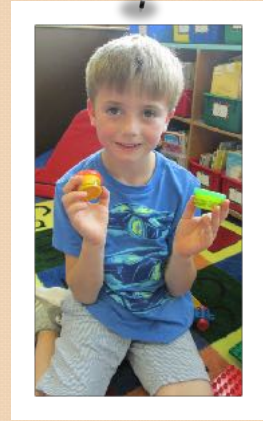
Please remember to call the school in the morning if your child will be absent. Discuss with your health care provider whether you and your child should receive a flu vaccine.

Here is how we encourage healthy habits here at Burnham School:

Simone brings peaches from her tree for show and share.



Jaydon brought playdough to share for his birthday.



Max celebrates his birthday with mom reading a story to the class.



Wellness Policy

The Region 12 Wellness policy is #6142.101 and can be found on the Region 12 website. Part of the policy addresses food celebrations. Celebrations are special times in all our lives and we recognize that it is important to celebrate important events with children.

There are a growing number of students with obesity issues and life threatening food allergies in this country and in our community. Prepared foods as well as home-cooked foods may include ingredients that could be directly or indirectly harmful to some children. These realities are reflected in a statement within the Region 12 Wellness Policy. It has been decided that the use of non-food rewards is a healthier and safer alternative for students.



We continue to celebrate important events including birthdays at school, but encouraged finding ways to recognize these occasions through non-food ideas. Suggestions for non-food celebration ideas have been sent home in our summer mailing. If you would like an additional copy, please contact our school nurse, Lisa McQueen, R.N.

Autumn



Parent Conferences – on October 18th, 19th, and 20th 12:45 Dismissal

You will soon be invited to one of the most important occasions of the school year – a parent-teacher conference. This conference gives you an opportunity to meet your child's teacher to discuss your child's progress and to bring up any concerns or issues you may have. More importantly, you can talk about ways to work together to make this year as rewarding as it can be for your child.

You will receive a note from your child's teacher regarding the scheduling of the conference. If for any reason you have difficulty making the scheduled appointment, we will try our best to make arrangements for a conference convenient to your schedule.

Here are some helpful tips for a child's teacher:

- Before the conference, talk with dislikes, and feelings. Write down problems at home, behavior, peer teacher's discipline plan and/or
- During the conference discuss the down. Listen carefully to take notes for future reference. If you do not understand something, ask to have it explained. Ask for suggestions for things you can do at home to help your child. Assure the teacher of your continued support.
- After the conference, talk with your child about the conference. Share any positive comments the teacher made about him or her and let your child know you are proud. Follow up with any suggestions you and the teacher agreed upon. Be sure to call the teacher any time you have a question or concern.



successful conference with your

your child about school: likes, your concerns: academic progress, relations, and questions about the homework policy.

concerns you have written everything the teacher says and

This year, make the parent-teacher conference time a worthwhile event for you as well as for your child. Together we can help your child to be a confident and successful student.

Patriot Day and Citizenship Day Celebrations

On Monday, September 11th and on Friday, September 15th, students in K through 5 recognized and celebrated Patriot Day and Citizenship Day. The students began their days with reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and singing a patriotic song. Students in all grades participated in additional grade appropriate activities in honor of both these days recognizing and remembering all those heroes and patriots who defend our many freedoms.



¿Qué Pasa?

Español News from Señora Granka!

¡No!



¡Hola! All of our students, from Kindergarten through Fifth Grade, have been awesome during Spanish time! They are putting their growth mindset skills to work by taking risks using new words and phrases, and by learning from mistakes. ¡Bravo! Students are busy learning, reviewing and spiraling language phrases. We create stories during class about our conversations, and students respond to questioning. This fits in with differentiated learning, because novice students can respond with a yes or no Spanish response, others can answer with one word, a short phrase, or a complete sentence.

¡Si!



STEM With Mrs. Zoeller



Science and STEM are in full swing at The Burnham School. STEM units incorporating Next Generation Science Standards and new units from Project Lead the Way will be taught to elementary students. Kindergarteners experience several activities and observant engineers in the forces and motion unit while first graders are learning about shadows and objects in the sky. Other grades are learning about magnets, properties of fluids, and processes that change the landscape both gradually and suddenly. Our future engineers and scientists are wondering about what's next.



News from the ACE Program

Now in its third year, the ACE Program continues to grow to meet the childcare needs of families in our local communities. The latest addition to the ACE Program is AM ACE. The AM ACE Program operates from 7-8:30am at the Burnham School. There is bus service for Booth students attending AM ACE. A bus will transport AM ACE participants from Burnham to Booth to start their school day.



ACE encourages children to use their imaginations, exercise their bodies and develop problem solving skills. ACE participants get help with their homework, enjoy indoor and outdoor play, do seasonal crafts and enjoy trips to the Burnham Library. ACE partners with the Burnham Library and ASAP to provide a "stay and play" service. ACE staff will pick up children attending Burnham Library programs and ASAP programs (held at Burnham School). Children will be escorted to the ACE Program where they can stay and play with other ACE participants until 5:45pm.

If you haven't already registered your child in the ACE Program registration packets are available in your school's office. ACE will be offering childcare and enrichment activities during our half days in October. Be on the lookout for flyers in your child's Friday folder.

Any questions, please feel free to email Lanie Flanagan, ACE Director at ACEBridgewater@gmail.com.



Good Character Traits:

(Referenced in Board of Education Policy #0210.3)

Region 12 is dedicated to strengthening the character of our students by encouraging a consistent set of ethical values that direct and guide behavioral choices. These universal values, which transcend political, religious, cultural, and the Golden Rule encompasses economic differences, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Therefore, good Character Traits are essential to the learning process. We work throughout the year in developing the following:

1. ***Trustworthiness***
2. ***Respect***
3. ***Responsibility***
4. ***Fairness***
5. ***Caring***
6. ***Citizenship***



Good conduct is synonymous with good citizenship. Students are expected to exercise good citizenship at all times while in school, attending school-related activities and after school activities conducted at the school. This includes showing respect for the rights of others and regard for personal and school property. Students should strive to contribute to the climate of the school by being courteous and well mannered.

Burnham School also utilizes The Second Step Program to promote social skills necessary to be a caring community. Additionally, grades three through five have access to a second program, Steps to Respect when needed.

It is our hope that the power and influence of the school-family partnership will provide consistent messages to our students regarding the development of positive student behaviors and thus, improve student learning.



Parents are our partners in the important job of educating all our children. I urge you to attend and support the PTO, become a member, volunteer, and take part in helping your child to grow academically. PTO meetings will be held each month at 6:30 p.m. The next meeting will be held on October 5. We hope you plan to attend!

Burnham School 2017-2018 PTO Board

Co-Presidents:

Diana Kelly
Danielle Livingston

Co-Vice Presidents:

Christine Riendeau
Megan Romanoff

Secretary:

Alix Gustavson

Treasurer:

Joy Ruppert

Governor's Reading Challenge!

100% Participation Again!

Congratulations!



Congratulations!



Congratulations!!



Congratulations to all of Burnham School!



NOTIFICATION SERVICE:

The Regional School District #12 Schools have a Notification Service to enhance parental communications. This service will allow us to send a voice message to ALL of our students' parents on ALL of their contact numbers within minutes, if an emergency occurs at a school. The notification service will also assist the schools in reducing the recourses needed to pass along key information regarding school events or reminders.

The district will be utilizing this service for :

- Emergency Notification
- Inclement weather - early dismissals due to inclement weather
- Rumor Control
- Early-Release Reminders

Your child's school may be utilizing this service for:

- Attendance
- Report Card Reminders
- Grade level information i.e. field trip reminders
- Notification of Open House/Parent Teacher Conferences/Parent Visitation Day
- Art Shows and Concerts

The ability to deliver a message is only as successful as the contact information we have for our families, so please make certain we have the most up-to-date direct dial numbers. If this information changes, please let your child's school know immediately.

Important:

1. The service will leave a message on your voicemail or answering machine.
2. If you have such things as Telemarketer Zapper or Privacy Director on your telephone lines, you may not receive the call.
3. The service does NOT call extensions. If you have a direct dial number at work, you should provide your child's school with the direct dial number not a main number plus an extension.



Important Procedures to Follow!

The following procedures further insure the safety of your child. You are kindly asked to assist us with the following:

1. Please send your child to school with a note if he/s is not going home in their usual fashion. It is imperative that you include your child's full name, grade, date, phone number where you can be reached during the day, and whether your child needs to take a different bus or is being picked up. If your child must take a different bus, please indicate the number of the bus and where your child is getting off on that route. Due to the number of students on some of our buses, prior approval must be made before allowing students access to a different bus.
2. If it becomes necessary to phone in dismissal information for your child, please call by 11:00 a.m. In order to protect your child's instructional time, we will deliver messages and all other deliveries to students and teachers at lunchtime.
3. Parking is extremely limited at Burnham School. The town has requested that parents refrain from parking along the circle. During the day the circle is reserved for bus drop-off and pick-up. Having a vehicle in this location will restrict traffic flow. Additionally, during night activities the Fire Department has asked that parents look for areas that they have designated as restricted and avoid parking in those areas. They fear that if cars were in their way during an emergency, fire trucks and emergency vehicles would have difficulty exiting the premise.
4. If you are driving your child to school in the morning, please walk your child into the school while buses and other forms of transportation are visible. This will help to prevent children from walking in the path of vehicles. No child is to be dropped off before 8:30 a.m. as supervision begins at that time.
5. If it becomes necessary to pick up your child early from school, please report to the Main Office and our school's secretary, Mrs. Claire Cavalea, will call for your child. You must sign him/her out at the time of dismissal. If you're picking your child up at dismissal time, parents are asked to meet their child in the school foyer. All pick-ups must be signed out. Dismissal is at 3:15 p.m. for all students in grades K-5. However, please remember to check for early dismissal days!
6. All volunteers and visitors must sign in at the office. All visitors must bring a photo ID and have a badge printed to be worn while in the building. Again this is a safety issue and must be followed at all times.

Please feel free to contact the school should you have any questions or concerns about school procedures.



Travel and Parking Safety Tips:

As the opening of school is upon us, I am asking you to help keep our students safe. Please remember that it is a state law for all vehicles to STOP whenever a school bus has its red SOS lights activated. When the SOS lights are flashing, cars cannot pass the school bus. This means when picking up or dropping off students at their residence and even in the school parking lot. Violators are subject to a fine for each bus that a car passes.

Report to PARENTS

Maximize Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-teacher conferences are an excellent opportunity for families to meet with teachers one-on-one and learn how their children are doing academically and socially. To make these meetings as smooth and stress-free as possible, follow these tips for conference preparation, execution, and follow-up.

Before the Conference

Listen. If you hear your child talking about something he or she is doing well in or is struggling with, make a note of it. When it's time for the conference, you'll have a list of topics to discuss.

Ask. Sit down with your child and ask him or her about school. Ask what's happening in class, at lunchtime, or in special classes such as art or physical education. Does your child enjoy classroom activities? Does your child feel like he or she is falling behind academically? Is he or she bored? Are there any troubling issues with classmates? Try asking your child what he or she thinks their teacher is going to tell you about them.

Assemble notes and papers. Write down questions you want to address with the teacher. Bring copies of any assignments you have questions about. Think ahead of time how to tactfully bring up concerns.

During the Conference

Be on time. Schools tightly schedule parent-teacher conferences because there's only so much time available and dozens of families to see. Show up at least a few minutes early.

Make childcare arrangements. Maximize your time with teachers by hiring a babysitter or teaming up with another parent to take turns watching the children.

Take notes. Make note of what the teacher tells you about your child. Bring up your concerns, making sure to explore strengths, weaknesses, and social skills.

Keep emotions out of it. It is always difficult to hear that your child may not be the person you thought he or she was in the classroom. Keep your cool and bear in mind that the teacher is offering constructive criticism.

After the Conference

Talk to your child. Tell your child what you and the teacher discussed. Emphasize the positive things the teacher said. Remember that it's important for your child to feel positive about learning, the teacher, and the school.

Follow up. If there were important issues that need to be dealt with, such as finding a tutor or arranging counseling for your child, make sure to follow up in writing with the teacher soon after the conference. Specify what steps will be taken, what your responsibilities and the school's responsibilities will be, and what the timetable is for action.

Meet with your principal. If, after conferring with your child's teacher, you still feel that serious issues weren't adequately addressed, set up a time to talk to the guidance counselor or principal.

Follow through. Once you know what you can do at home to help your child succeed in school, make sure to actually do it.



Web Resources

Scholastic Parent offers a round-up of resources on school involvement, including advocating for your student and how to bridge home and school.

<http://bit.ly/19J4bqO>

Ask these specific questions from **Reading Rockets** in your parent-teacher conference to gauge your child's reading skills.

<http://www.readingrockets.org/article/19842/>