



News from the Dog Pound

H. W. Burgess Public School
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We acknowledge that the land on which our school sits and on which we gather each day is a part of the traditional territory of the Chippewa, Odawa, Potawatomi and Delaware Nations. These Indigenous Nations, known as the Anishinaabeg and Lunaapeew, agreed through their ancestral languages to the mutual sharing of the land, with obligations and responsibilities to the environment. And today, these obligations and responsibilities extend to all peoples.

December 2021

Spirit Wear

Anyone wishing to order some cool new Bulldog swag are encouraged to visit [Screen Art Ordering Page](#).

This year's order is a little bit different – instead of submitting a paper order form, you can order the style, size and colour you like, all from the Screen Art website. All payments are made directly to Screen Art and they will deliver all ordered products to the school before the Christmas break. They've even included a handy sizing chart so that you can be sure that the shirt you choose will fit well.

If this is a Christmas gift, please let the school know so we don't send it home with your child – we'll give you a call for pick up instead.

Thank you to the Home and School for organizing the sale of Spirit Wear this fall. Orders are due online Monday, December 6th at 9:00 am.

Covid Screening

Thank-you to our parents/guardians for assessing your child(ren) daily and reporting whether they are experiencing any signs of illness.

Upon our return to school in January, all students will need to confirm they have completed the Ontario Covid-19 School and Child Care Screening, much like they did in September.

This will be required for elementary students from Monday, January 3rd to Friday, January 14th. This is in accordance with the Ministry of Education's direction.

Parents of students in Kindergarten – Grade 3 are to confirm completion of the screener via an email sent to them each morning. If you would prefer a paper copy of the confirmation, please let the office know. Students in Grade 4 – 12 will verbally confirm the screener's completion during morning attendance and if they have not done the screener, will be given a device on which to do it.

Please refer to the Ontario screening tool [Covid School Screener](#) will advise you whether you should send your child(ren) to school or not and will also advise you of next steps. All students who are experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19 must not attend school and should seek appropriate medical attention as required.

While the verification of screening is only required for the first two weeks back from break, families are encouraged to continue to administer the screener every day to ensure that their child is safe at school.

Travel and Return to School

At this time, any person who is unvaccinated and travels outside of Canada, even for 1 day, is not permitted to return to school for 14 days following their return. Federal guidelines currently do not require that they isolate

unless they are showing symptoms of Covid-19. If you are travelling outside of Canada over the Christmas break, or anytime, please be aware of this restriction. If you have any questions, please contact CK Public Health (519-355-1071 ext.2457)

Being Prepared During Pandemic

Due to the protocols set out by Public Health, we have altered our school in several ways that do present some challenges for students. Families can help in the following ways:

1. Send more than one mask – in the colder months, masks become lost and soiled more quickly.
2. Send a water bottle – our drinking fountains are closed so if students are thirsty through the day, they really need to have a water bottle to use at the filling station.
3. Reinforce proper hand hygiene at home

School Cash Online

As we work towards having no cash entering the school, we continue to encourage parents to sign up for School Cash Online. We have had great success with our Pizza Days in November and plan to expand the options offered in the new year to include choices other than pizza as well.

Visit the HW Burgess website (see above) to register and order online. If you are having any trouble getting set up in School Cash Online, please contact the office – Mrs. Aubie is happy to walk you through the steps over the phone or you can set up a time to come to the school and she can help you out on the front porch!

Pizza/Hot Lunches

We plan on continuing to offer pizza from Bill's International Pizza every Thursday for the remainder of the year. We are hoping to add a second hot lunch option every other Tuesday as well and are currently sourcing local restaurants/caterers to provide us with a variety of options.

We will not be sending home paper order forms for pizza and hot lunch options. All notification for pizza/hot lunch options comes through an email from School Cash Online. To receive the email, you must have your children registered with School Cash. You are not required to purchase an item every time it is offered, but the email serves as the order form for any items we are selling. This reduces the amount of paper we use, and it prevents orders from being lost

Holiday Celebrations

Staff have been planning a variety of activities to engage students through the month of December – these activities cover the areas of Reading, Science, Math, Art, Drama, Music and Social Studies.

Our Grade 6 students have planned out the last week with a fun activity every day. Students are encouraged to show their school spirit and participate in these during the week of December 13:

Monday – PJ Day (wear your warmest and comfiest PJ's to school)

Tuesday – Holiday Colouring Contest (winning entries to be displayed around the school)

Wednesday – Red/White/Green Day (wear any or all of these colours today)

Thursday – Holiday Head Gear Day (any head decoration will do – hats, headbands, barettes)

Friday – Sweater Day (wear a hockey sweater, a holiday sweater, a warm sweater, any sweater will do)

School Council and Home and School Association

Our next meetings will be on Monday, February 7th at 6:30 In the Learning Commons and on Google Meet. Both School Council and Home and School meetings will be held at the same time. All parents are welcome to attend these meetings, if you would like to be included, please contact the office so we can send you the Join code or the instructions required to attend in person.

Inclement Weather

The Lambton Kent District School Board has administrative procedures, which will assist parents on mornings when dangerous weather conditions exist, such as fog at this time of year. If foggy, busses may be cancelled for the morning route, however students will be bussed home after school. Parents should listen to their local radio station (99.1 FM) or check the transportation website at www.schoolbusinfo.com or download the MySBI app by CLASS.

HW Burgess is in Zone 5.

Pediculosis

Head lice can spread very quickly and cause families a great deal of frustrating and painstaking work to get rid of the problem. Your assistance in early detection is greatly appreciated. Please check your child for head lice weekly. If you find evidence of head lice, please contact the school immediately.

Students should stay home for 24 hours to allow time for their parents to ensure that treatment is given and all the nits are removed. We check classes to prevent further spread, but your support is also required to check your child(ren)'s heads as well.

Infestation by head lice is an unpleasant nuisance, but not a health problem. Head lice do not carry or spread disease. By working together, we can control the spread of head lice in our community.

Playground Equipment Closed Until Spring

Our playground equipment is now out of bounds. There are many risks associated with using the equipment once the colder weather has arrived.

1. Freezing temperatures: At temperatures below 0 C, the pea stone does not offer any degree of protection to a falling child, regardless of depth.
2. Snow build-up: Snow can cause two problems on a play structure. Firstly, it can make play surfaces very slippery. Secondly, it can create suffocation hazards if the openings at the end of tube slides become closed in by drifting snow.
3. Ice or freezing rain: As noted above, ice or freezing rain can make play surfaces, hand grips and stairways very slippery, increasing the risk of slip and fall injuries.
4. Clothing: Winter clothing is much different than normal clothing. Synthetic materials, such as nylon, reduce the sliding resistance, particularly on plastic slide beds. This can increase the travel speed to a dangerous level, and if combined with frozen ground cover, can increase the chance of injury. Winter clothing is also very bulky and is more likely to have drawstrings or hooks and clips which can become entangled in components of the equipment.

Please encourage your children to stay off the playground equipment after school hours also.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Dec 6 – Spirit Wear Orders due

Dec 17 – Last Day of Classes

Jan 3 – First Day Back to School

Jan 3 – 14 – Complete Covid Screener and report results to school

Feb 7 – School Council/Home and School – 6:30