



Burnham School

Paw Prints

April 2019



A Note from the Principal...

Dear Parent/Guardians,



Although it is April, and spring is officially here, the challenges posed by this winter's weather should be diminishing soon! The most recent warmer weather has allowed us to see our grass again and a few tips of crocus and daffodils beginning to peek through. Soon we will be able to open our windows and smell the wonderful fresh air. Keeping our students' minds on the academics will be challenging as they too want to get outside and run around. The staff will use their wonderful creative talents to keep them focused on the tasks presented to them. With such dedicated and talented staff, I am certain that this challenge will be conquered.

Burnham students have participated in the 12th Annual Recycling Billboard Contest sponsored by HRRRA, All American Waste, Oak Ridge Waste & Recycling, Union Savings Bank, Wheelabrator Bridgeport, MXI Environmental Services, LLC., Newtech Recycling Inc., and Bay State Textiles. The 2019 contest theme: Recycle Right, prompted students to create a billboard that would help educate and convince the public to recycle only the items that are acceptable. There were many very thoughtful and creative entries. Local judging has been completed and Burnham School has sent the artwork of all grade level first place winners to the Regional Judging. They are the following: William Knox, Madeline Toczyłowski, Libby Planz, Fiona MacKessy, Breonna Lorentsen, and Lily Bialack. We hope to have some Regional winners!

On April 4th incoming kindergarten parents/guardians and students are invited to attend a Meet and Greet Kindergarten Readiness Program. It will be held at Burnham School at 1:30 p.m. An introductory presentation will kick off the program, followed by a visitation to the kindergarten classroom by students and a bit of outdoor play (weather permitting) and wrapping up with a presentation by the teachers. The visit will focus on how to prepare incoming

kindergarteners for school and for a successful first year. The staff and I look forward to welcoming our new students to the Burnham community.

Budget season is upon us. The budget for next year has been presented to the Board of Education and is available to the taxpayers. It can be located on the district's website. There will be a District Budget Hearing at 7 o'clock on Monday, April 1, 2019 at the Shepaug Middle/High School. The Annual District Meeting will be held on May 6, 2019, and the Budget Referendum is scheduled to take place on May 7, 2019.

Finally, as we move into warmer weather and longer hours of daylight, please continue to stress the importance of homework and time management. Homework continues throughout the year, and at times a child may need a bit more guidance in planning a busy afternoon or evening schedule. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Cathy G. Colella

Principal

APRIL DATES TO REMEMBER

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 4/1 | District Budget Hearing, 7:00 PM |
| 4/4 | Kindergarten Meet and Greet, 1:30 PM |
| 4/5 | Kids Yoga Day |
| 4/8 | PTO Meeting, 6:00 PM |
| 4/9 | Snow Monster Visits |
| 4/15-19 | Spring Recess - No School |
| 4/22 | Board of Education Meeting/Education, 7:00 PM |
| 4/23 | Garden Club Presentation |

Grade K12: Biographies

K-1-2 students are comparing families now and long ago. The boys and girls also discovered that you can learn about history through books, photos, and artifacts. They explored suitcases of mystery items and used the picture clues to determine locations like farm, schoolhouse, child's room, and kitchen. Next, the children will examine the similarities and differences among school, homes, transportation, food, entertainment, and technology. We will end the unit sharing our family and cultural traditions by making a class quilt.

Second Graders also interviewed townspeople to learn more about Bridgewater. The students asked questions about their early life, school life, and the town. The townspeople even gave students advice, such as, read and always be kind to others. The Kindergarten and First Grade students shared in a similar interview experience as they interviewed each other their favorite things such as foods, hobbies and vacation spots.





Music with Mrs. Dioron



This has been a very busy month in the Burnham School Music Room! Students at Burnham School had a special treat this month, courtesy of the BS PTO! Local musician Steve Mansfield spent the day teaching students on percussion instruments how to play as an ensemble and gave them opportunities to improvise. Students played various drums and percussion instruments from around the world, brought in by Burnham School parent Greg Bura. Students also learned a little of the history of the instruments (drums have been around a very long time!). Thank you to Mr. Bura, Mr. Mansfield and the BSPTO!



We also hosted our first ever Bring A Friend to Music Days! Thank you to everyone who was available to come and visit our class. Guests got to see what a regular music class looks and sounds like, and even got to join us in some of our games! For more details on what we've been working on, check out the newsletters on our music class [webpage](#).



Over the next few weeks we will be choosing songs and polishing them until they are performance ready. We hope to see everyone for our concert on Spring Arts Night, May 15th at 6:00!



Principal's Weekly Schedule



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
A.M. Booth 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

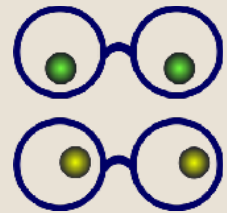


Notes and News from the Nurse. . .

Vision Awareness

Your child's eyes are constantly in use in the classroom and at play. The following are some vision problem warning signs. Ask the school nurse to have your child screened at school or check with your doctor for further advice if you notice any of these signs.

- Eyes turning inward (crossing) or outward
- Squinting or tending to rub eyes
- Headaches
- Blurred or double vision
- Losing place while reading or using finger to maintain place when reading
- Not doing as well in schoolwork as before or consistently performs below potential
- Avoiding close work or holding reading material closer than normal
- Eyes tire when reading or doing school work
- Turning or tilting head to use one eye only
- Making frequent reversals when reading or writing



Here are some examples of how we encourage healthy habits here at Burnham School with healthy lunches, and non-food birthday celebrations:



Healthy snack of strawberries!



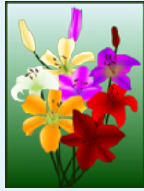
Wyatt's non-food birthday celebration!



Mikey's non-food birthday celebration!



Celebrating Burnham School's Administrative Professional, Claire Cavalea!



Mrs. Cavalea brightens each day with her warm, gentle and caring greetings. She helps to make our days safe and productive. Please be sure to wish Mrs. Cavalea a wonderful day on Wednesday, April 24!

Thank you, Mrs. Cavalea, for all that you do for Burnham School!

**“Happy Administrative Professionals Day”,
Mrs. Cavalea!**

ACE Happenings

We have GROWN!

As the ACE Program nears the end of our fourth year in operation, the days of 3-5 children attending our afternoon program are a distant memory. Now, we often have days with 13-18 children in attendance, along with three ACE staff on duty. As we grow, we continue to be blessed



with staff that are dedicated to the well-being of children in our community. Claire Hagen and Megan Piersall, both graduates of the Region 12 school system, have joined the ACE staff. “Miss Claire” and “Miss Megan” are both currently working in Region 12 schools; we are grateful for the enthusiasm



and creativity they bring to ACE. All of the ACE staff are highly trained, we care deeply about children and we are always ready to help your child with homework, play indoors and outdoors with them, as well as do arts and crafts with them.

As our program continues to grow, we ask that parents needing to use the program let ACE know of their daily or weekly childcare needs as soon as possible. Please email ACE at ACEBridgewater@gmail.com with your childcare needs as soon as you know them. We always anticipate some drop-ins to the program, but due to the larger number of children in the program any advance notice that you can provide to ACE regarding your childcare needs greatly aids ACE in our staff planning.

We wish you and your family a happy and healthy Spring.



Miss Turney... With A Farewell Word From the Library

Dear Burnham Students,

What a privilege it has been to be a curator of knowledge and reading in this school for the last two years. It has brought me such joy to watch you try new book series and get excited about reading! Reading during library time with you and watching a book come to life as we read and discuss has truly made this job a blessing! I will miss working with you and exploring the world of reading along with you.

Keep up your hard work and your reading! Don't be afraid to explore and try new book series! For fifth grade, I challenge you all to try and read the Legend Series! Some have you have already read it and really enjoyed it. Continue to engage in the reading of Refugee and enjoy the end of the story with Miss Turney. Fourth grade, I challenge you to try the Series of Unfortunate Events. It has action, mystery, and adventure and is definitely an enjoyable read! Third grade, I challenge you to try the Nancy Drew or Hardy Boy Mystery series. When I was your age, I enjoyed them so much, and I think you will too. And for third and fourth grade, I hope you enjoy the rest of the read aloud of A Wrinkle In Time that we started together! I'm sure you will all be thrilled by the ending of the story.

Kindergarten, First, and Second Grade, I hope you continue to enjoy your library time with Miss Turney. She is a wonderful Librarian and a wealth of knowledge of books. I hope you learn to explore different series on the easy reader shelves. Some of my favorites are the Mo Willem stories- like Elephant and Piggie, the Pinkalicious series, and the If You Give a Mouse a Cookie series. There are so many more wonderful stories that I hope you will read and take home with you. Also, as you grow in your reading, don't be afraid to challenge yourself to read books off the Pre-Emergent reader shelves and the Emergent readers shelf. Great adventures await you on those shelves, such as the Dragon Masters series and the Magic Tree House series.

I know you will all excel and thrive as you continue your years of learning and knowledge here at Burnham. Continue to use the library and Miss Turney as a source of learning and reading! I will miss you all dearly!

Love,

Miss Brittany Turney aka Mrs. Ernest Wilson

We will miss
you, too,

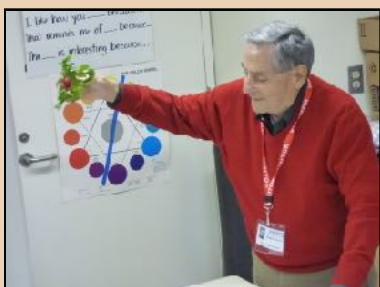
Miss Turney!!!





Roxbury-Bridgewater Garden Club Visits Booth Free and Burnham Schools

Each year the Roxbury-Bridgewater Garden Club partners with our schools to provide enrichment opportunities. This year's focus is on gardening, stimulating our students' knowledge and love of gardening. Master Gardener, Mrs. Adrienne Caruso, of the Roxbury-Bridgewater Garden Club, began this year's program with a visit to Booth Free School and Burnham School to guest-teach botanical watercolor painting to K-5 students during their scheduled art classes. Also assisting Mrs. Caruso were her husband Mr. Joe Caruso and Mr. Rudy Simari. Each student completed a beautiful painting of lettuce or radishes. These works will be framed and later exhibited at each town's library during the month June. The Roxbury-Bridgewater Garden Club will be returning to the schools later in the spring to help students plant potatoes for a late-summer harvest, and to oversee the planting of lettuce and radish seeds. Being early crop vegetables, the lettuce and radishes should be ready for a mid-June harvest before the end of the school year.



Burnham Student Shines in the Arts!

Burnham student, Fiona MacKessy, has a talent for ceramics. She was one of fifteen entries submitted by students at the Village Center for the Arts in New Milford and one of two selected to be included in the National K-12 Ceramic Exhibition. Fiona's "A Hotdog Dressed as a Hotdog" will be featured on a national stage at the annual conference of The National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA) March 27-29. This entry was chosen from 1,164 submissions nationwide. Fiona's masterpiece will be sent to Minneapolis, Minnesota for the exhibition.

Fiona MacKessy, age 8, artwork created at age 7, "A Hotdog Dressed as a Hotdog"



Designed to showcase the best K-12 ceramic work made in the country, the exhibition takes place in a different city each year in conjunction with the annual conference of The National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA). **Congratulations** and best wishes for our shining artist, Fiona MacKessy!



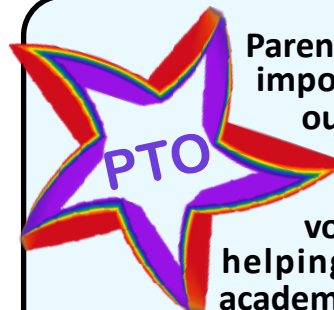
The month of March was another productive month for the student council. We will be starting a new fundraising activity in April. We researched local pet shelters and decided to raise supplies for the Animal Welfare Society (AWS) which is located in New Milford, but services the Region12 towns as well. A flyer will come home on Friday detailing what types of items AWS needs. Any help you can provide is appreciated.



We are planning some fun filled activities for the remainder of the school year. Please keep a lookout for flyers detailing these events.

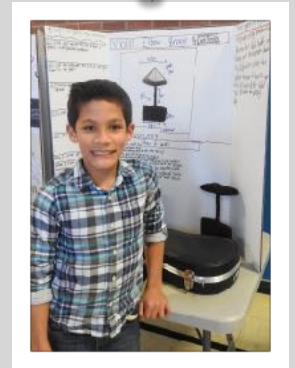
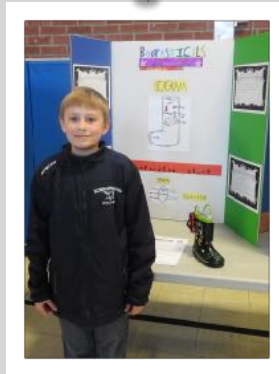
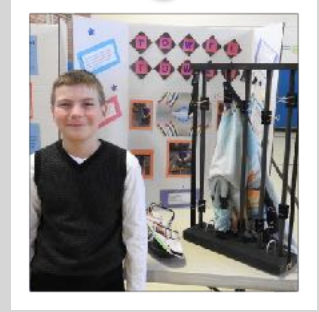
Visit Our Website!

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.



Parents are our partners in the important job of educating 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 6:00 p.m. The next scheduled PTO meeting is April 8. We hope you plan to attend.

Burnham School's Invention Convention Wednesday, March 27, 2019!



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.

Report to PARENTS

Effective Homework Help

Students with parents who are involved in their education are more likely to earn higher grades, adapt well to school, and pass their classes. But is there a point when parents can be too involved—specifically, with homework? Consider these scenarios:

- Your child's big science project is due tomorrow, but her schedule has been so busy lately that she hasn't had time to finish it herself. You want her to get a good grade, so you end up doing most of the work for her.
- Your daughter's entry for a school poetry competition seems pretty bad so far. You suggest phrases that sound better. When the awards are announced, your daughter comes home and says, "We won!"
- Your son's math homework packet is a big part of his grade, but he's having trouble with a few of the concepts. You wonder if it's okay to help him with some of the answers?



If parents end up taking over homework tasks—as in the first two examples—involvement can quickly turn into interference. Use these strategies to reasonably support your child as he or she tackles assignments.

First, create conditions conducive to learning. Make sure your child has a quiet, well-lit space to do work, away from the TV or other distractions.

Help your child learn time management. Set a time each day for doing homework, and block off time on the weekends for working on big projects. Make sure your child has a planner. Create a visual calendar at home to help your child keep track of assignments.

Be positive. If your child is losing steam while completing homework, reinforce the importance of school. If your child is frustrated with a project or a tough new concept, be encouraging.

Guide, don't do. Don't do homework for your child. Instead, help your child understand assignments by discussing concepts. Have your child walk you through the way he or she learned to solve a problem, and try to come up with a hands-on method to practice it.

For instance, if your child is struggling with basic division, gather pennies or paper clips, count the total, and, together, divide them into groups of five, six, or seven.

Brainstorm together. Challenge your child to come up with a variety of ideas for projects. If your child is

writing a poem, brainstorm ideas he or she could write about rather than telling him or her what to say.

When your child does homework, you should do work, too. If she is reading an essay, you can read the newspaper. If he is working on math problems, you can balance your checkbook. This shows your child that the skills he or she is learning are related to adult tasks.

Stay informed. Talk with your child's teacher. If your child is consistently having trouble with a specific topic, let the teacher know.

Web Resources

The **National PTA's Homework Help Web page** offers strategies to help parents cut homework stress and maximize learning.
<http://bit.ly/PTAhomeworkhelp>

Visit the **Department of Education's homework portal** for resources on study skills and helping kids get organized.
www2.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/homework