

# THE CONNECTION

NEWS AND UPDATES FROM YOUR BURGESS PTO

## Who the PTO is

We are parents and guardians.  
We are teachers and staff.  
We care about our children.  
We want to build a better Burgess.  
**We are you.**

Every parent and guardian is already a member of the PTO. Please get involved. We welcome your participation. Even as little as an hour or two can make a significant difference.

## What the PTO does

By raising funds, we are able to provide school supplies, field trips, cultural events and more, and in turn, improve the educational experiences of our children.

By publishing *The Connection*, we promote communication between the school and families.

By involving families in the betterment of our children's school and experiences, we foster a spirit of community and cooperation.



## Building a Better Burgess

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### Dear Burgess Parents, Guardians and Staff,

I hope that everyone enjoyed their winter vacation. As we welcome the month of March, spring is right around the corner.

### Family Fun Night

Our annual Family Fun Night will be held on Friday, March 2 from 5:45 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. We are excited that The Brain Show will be returning to Burgess for the evening's entertainment. There will be an educationally-based daytime school presentation for students, and our Family Fun Night evening performance will be a different pop culture themed show for families. Family Fun Night is an event not to be missed, and it will be an exciting show that the whole family will enjoy. The event is free to attend, snacks will be available for purchase, and we will be raffling off fantastic gift baskets.

### Thank You

For more than 4 years, Dina Sexton has selflessly donated countless hours of her time to the Burgess PTO as Editor of *The Connection*. As we complete the transition to our new Editor, Christine Neslusan, we would like to thank Dina for all her hard work, dedication, and expertise. The entire Burgess community of students, parents, guardians, and staff have benefitted from your informative newsletters over the years, and we can't thank you enough. Thank you, Dina, and a warm welcome to Christine!

### PTO Budgetary Meeting

Would you like to learn more about the fantastic programs that your PTO supports, and would you like to have a role in creating the new budget for next year? If so, please join us in the Burgess library on Tuesday, March 13 at 7:00 p.m. for an important PTO meeting. We will be discussing significant changes to next year's budget. Also, did you know that there is an easy way to get first hand Burgess information and updates directly from our Principal? Our Principal, Kathy Pelley, graciously attends our PTO meetings and provides us with monthly updates, so come on down to our next meeting.

Have a great month,

Karen Kowal, PTO President

email: BurgessPTO@gmail.com, web: BurgessPTO.org

## Month-At-A-Glance

MARCH						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

**March 20** Early Release; Parent Teacher Conferences 1-3 p.m.

**March 21** Parent Teacher Conferences 6-8:30 p.m.

**March 29** Early Release

**March 30** No School, Good Friday

## Burgess PTO Website

burgesspto.org

## Burgess PTO Meeting

at the Burgess Elementary School in the Library on

**Tuesday, March 13 at 7:00 p.m.**

*All parents and guardians are welcome to attend.*

## 5th Grade Fundraising Meeting

at the Burgess Elementary School in the Library on

**Tuesday, March 13 at 6:30 p.m.**

*All parents and guardians are welcome to attend.*

## School Improvement Council

will meet at the Burgess Elementary School in the Conference Room on the

**Second Monday of each month at 3:15 p.m. (unless otherwise posted)**

*Open to the public.*

## Sturbridge School Committee

will meet at the Burgess Elementary School in the Library on the

**First Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. (unless otherwise posted)**

*All parents and guardians are welcome to attend.*

## The Connection Submission Deadline

All material for the February issue should be submitted by 3:00 p.m.:

**Tuesday, March 20**

email: burgessconnect@gmail.com

## Contact Burgess

**Main Office:** 508-347-7041

**Nurse:** 774-241-3004

**Website:** www.tantasqua.org/burgess

**Address:** 45 Burgess School Road  
Sturbridge, MA 01566

# PTO Bulletin Board

Though fundraisers are not mandatory, please know that your participation in ANY form is invaluable to our students, our staff and our school - and we always appreciate all that YOU do to make our students' community the best it can be. *Thank you!*



## Stop and Shop® A+ School Rewards

Register online at [www.stopandshop.com/aplus](http://www.stopandshop.com/aplus) or register by phone at 1-877-275-2758 or register right at the store with your smart phone. After you register your card, each shopping trip at Stop&Shop using your Stop&Shop Card earns cash for our school.

## Main Office 101

### School Cancellation/Delay

Burgess Elementary School is part of School Union #61 and the Tantasqua Regional School District.

When School is delayed or cancelled, you will be notified by the Blackboard Connect phone service/email notification system. You can also check online at [www.tantasqua.org](http://www.tantasqua.org) and click *Cancellations*.

See your parent student handbook for more information.



Support Burgess Elementary when you shop this holiday season. Visit [smile.amazon.com/ch/04-3577534](http://smile.amazon.com/ch/04-3577534) and Amazon donates to Burgess Elementary School PTO.

## School Store

Attention 5th and 6th Grade students. The Burgess School Store is open from 11:30-12:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

## Burgess Directory Copies Still Available

There are a limited number of Burgess Directories still available for sale. Please email [BurgessPTO@gmail.com](mailto:BurgessPTO@gmail.com) if you would like to purchase one.

## FREE MONEY FOR BURGESS

### Entenmann's Turn Trash to Cash Project A+

Little Bites has teamed up with TerraCycle to help eliminate waste. Save your Little Bites Snack Pouches and drop them off to the PTO Mailbox. Burgess receives \$.02 for each pouch turned in.

### Target® Take Charge of Education

If you're a Target REDcard holder, each purchase you make with your card can earn dollars for Burgess. Simply enroll in the program at [www.target.com/tcoe](http://www.target.com/tcoe).



## Burgess SPIRIT DAY

Our next SPIRIT DAY will be **Friday, March 9.**  
Wear your BLUE and GOLD and/or Burgess Wear!



# family fun night!

## Burgess Family Fun Night featuring The Brain Show

Friday ♥ March 2 ♥ 5:45 PM - 9:00 PM

This year's Family Fun Night is an event not to be missed. It's an exciting show that the whole family will enjoy!

- Free to attend
- No tickets or signup required
- Snacks will be available for purchase
- Raffles! 30 fantastic gift baskets
- 50/50 Raffle
- You do not need to be present to win
- Pop culture themed evening performance for families
- Different educationally-based daytime performance for students



5:45 PM Doors open  
5:45 PM - 6:30 PM Raffle basket ticket sales  
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM The Brain Show  
8:00 PM - 8:30 PM Raffle reading

## Scholastic Book Fair March 16-23

The Scholastic Book Fair will be open during school hours and parent/teacher conferences from March 16-23.



## Volunteers Needed!

Want to help out during school hours or during parent/teacher conferences? Contact **Heather Adamson** at **781-727-3510** or **hvadamson@gmail.com**.

## Scholastic Book Wish List

Check to see if your classroom has a Scholastic Book Wish List!

## Burgess Wear Order Deadline

The next Burgess Wear order will be placed on **March 5**. Great opportunity to order end of year gifts, incoming student gifts for younger siblings, and getting the next size up for the new school year. Order your Burgess Wear t-shirts, sweatshirts, lunch boxes and more. Visit the PTO website to order online or for printed order form ([www.burgesspto.org](http://www.burgesspto.org)).

Question? Please email Melissa David at [burgesswear@gmail.com](mailto:burgesswear@gmail.com).





## From the Nurse's Office

Dear Parents,

The state mandated annual **Postural Screening** for 5th and 6th grade students will be held during their health class beginning on March 1, 2018. Each student will be screened separately in the health office. If your child has any unusual findings, a referral to be checked by the doctor will be mailed home.

### Spring 2018 Regional Workshops For Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Date: March 6, 2018

Time: 9:30 am -12:30 p.m.

Location: The Hitchcock Free Academy 2 Brookfield Road, Ma. 01010

Guest: The Federation for Children with Special Needs

Topic: How to Access Special Education Services

Registration for this event is required. To register, please contact Colleen Pritoni at [colleen.pritoni@state.ma.us](mailto:colleen.pritoni@state.ma.us) or call (617)748-2454

**Lisa Meunier**, School Nurse  
[meunierl@tantasqua.org](mailto:meunierl@tantasqua.org)



**FREE** One-day camp for youth aged 5-25 along with their entire family, who are grieving the death of a loved one.

**Saturday, March 10, 2018**

**12:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

**Burgess cafeteria**

We have many students and their families who have suffered the loss of a loved one. This event provides a safe and fun place for families to share stories surrounding their grief and learn coping skills together. All aspects of our programs are "challenge by choice," meaning that you will not have to participate in anything you do not want to.

### How do I register my family?

Registration is currently open via our website. New families will need to create a username and password, while returning families will be prompted to log in and add additional family members as attendees. Please indicate somewhere in your registration if your child attends a Burgess school.

<http://www.comfortzonecamp.org/event/917>

## Read Across America Day – March 2

Burgess Elementary School is celebrating Read Across America Day on March 2, 2018. This day recognizes the birthday of Dr. Seuss. The event provides an opportunity for adults from our community to share the joy of reading with children. Members from various boards and agencies of our local government, police officers, fire fighters, school officials, and retired teachers volunteer as celebrity readers. The students enjoy listening to the stories and participating in the various Dr. Seuss activities. This special literacy event is always an enjoyable and rewarding experience for everyone involved. Thank you to all who participate. Read Across America Day is truly a community celebration of reading.

Amy Cantwell, Literacy Coordinator

## Save the Date!

### March 2

*Family Fun Night - The Brain Show  
Read Across America Day*

### March 16-23

*Spring Book Fair*

### March 20

*Early Release  
Parent Teacher Conferences 1-3 p.m.*

### March 21

*Parent Teacher Conferences 6 - 8:30 p.m.*

### March 29

*Half day, Professional Development*

### March 30

*No School, Good Friday*

## Burgess Class of 2018 Families

### Yearbook Meetings:

Thursday, March 1, 8, and 15 at 3-4pm.

Computer lab. 2nd floor. Please send your child with a note dismissing them to the computer lab. Pick up is at 4:00 p.m.

### Picture Submissions Due March 1:

Please upload (1) baby picture, (1) sibling picture, and any activity photos – team sports, or school group related photos of your 6th grader online to:

- [www.replayit.com](http://www.replayit.com) from your computer directly
- Download the Free ReplayIt App

Jennifer Bailey

*Burgess Elementary School*

*Class of 2018, Yearbook Chair*

## 6th Grade Trips

The 6th Grade Environmental Excursion refers to two trips taken by each 6th Grade Class. The first trip, to The Ecology School in Saco, ME, takes place at the beginning of the school year. The second trip, called Project Oceanology, takes place in June and in Mystic, CT. For more information visit the Environmental Excursion section of the PTO website at <http://burgesspto.org/info/6th-grade-trip/>.



## From the Library

Parenting in the digital age is complicated. Common Sense Media is a resource that can help you with decisions about what you want your children to see and do online, on television, with games and apps, and even in print.

As they state on their website, commonsensemedia.org, "Common Sense is the leading independent nonprofit organization dedicated to helping kids thrive in a world of media and technology." The site reviews products, has a forum for parent concerns, and supports research on the ever-changing intersection of children and media. You may find it very useful.

**Sarah Swift, M.Ed., Burgess Library Media Specialist**



### YOUTH FLOOR HOCKEY 2018 TRI-COMMUNITY YMCA

**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

For Boys & Girls, Grade K-8

WHEN: Saturdays, March 3 - April 28 (6-weeks)

K-2 grade	9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.
3-5 grade	10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
6-8 grade	11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

LOCATION: YMCA (unless weather permits for outside games - coach will notify team)

COST: MEMBERS \$40 / NON-MEMBERS \$55

REGISTER at Tri-Community YMCA; 43 Everett Street, Southbridge, MA 01550  
P. 508.765.5466 / F. 508.765.5894 / W. tricommunityymca.org

## Joshua Hyde Public Library

### Mini-Golf

**SAT., MARCH 3**

10:30 am – 4:30 pm

**SUN., MARCH 4**

1:00 – 4:30 pm

\$5.00 per person  
\$20.00 max. /family



### FUN FOR ALL AGES

(Children 10 and under must be accompanied by adult)



Sponsored by the Friends of the Library  
ALL proceeds fund library programs

Sturbridge Library, 306 Main St.



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

### VACATION FUN CLUB

April 16 - 20, 2018  
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
extended care from  
6:45 - 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

For Grades K-8 / up to age 14

### COMMUNICATION!

Monday - Poetry  
Tuesday - Story  
Wednesday - Handshakes  
Thursday - Expressions  
(Field Trip to Ultimate Obstacles in W. Boylston)

Friday - Auctioneer

In addition to great happenings, we will also be outside soaking in all of the awesome weather, swimming, and other fun activities!

Cost: \$30/day for members & \$40/day for non members

43 Everett Street, Southbridge, MA 01550

P. 508.765.5466 / F. 508.765.5894 / W. tricommunityymca.org



## Sturbridge Little League Spring 2018

ONLINE Registration Open

[www.sturbridgelittleleague.com](http://www.sturbridgelittleleague.com)

Registration for the 2018 Sturbridge Little League season is open. For more information or to register visit [www.sturbridgelittleleague.com](http://www.sturbridgelittleleague.com).



## TRYLAX 2018

Registration for the 2018 Tantasqua Regional Youth Lacrosse season is open. For more information or to register visit [www.trylax.com](http://www.trylax.com).



## Sturbridge Girls Softball League 2018 Season

Registration for the 2018 season is OPEN through March 23. For more information or to register visit: <http://sturbridgegirlssoftball.activesports.com/Register>

Email questions to: [sturbridgegirlssoftball@gmail.com](mailto:sturbridgegirlssoftball@gmail.com)

## FAMILY FOUNDATIONS 5



Family Foundations 5 is awarded funding through a grant from the Department of Early Education and Care

Facebook: Family Foundations 5

Website: <http://familyfoundations5.doodlekit.com>

Email: [Union61cfce@tantasqua.org](mailto:Union61cfce@tantasqua.org)

Phone: 508-867-2232

If Union 61 Schools are closed due to inclement weather, scheduled school breaks or have a two-hour delay we are closed.

### MONDAY

#### Caregiver/Child Playgroup

9:00-11:00 am, Hitchcock Academy  
2 Brookfield Rd., Brimfield

### TUESDAY

#### Caregiver/Child Playgroup

9:00-11:00 am, Brookfield Elementary  
37 Central Street, Brookfield

#### Caregiver/Child Playgroup

10:30-11:30 am, Heritage Green  
Sturbridge

### WEDNESDAY

#### Music and Movement

9:00-10:00 am, Hitchcock Academy  
2 Brookfield Road, Brimfield

#### Story Time

10:30-11:30 am, Wales Public Library  
77 Main Street, Wales

### THURSDAY

#### STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math)

9:00-10:30 am, Hitchcock Academy  
2 Brookfield Rd., Brimfield

#### STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math)

9:00-10:30 am, Brookfield Elementary  
37 Central Street, Brookfield

### FRIDAY

#### Caregiver/Child Playgroup

9:00-11:00 am, Brookfield Elementary  
37 Central Street, Brookfield

#### Story Time

10:00-11:00 am, Holland Public Library  
23 Sturbridge Road, Holland

All Programs are funded through a grant from the MA Dept. of Early Education & Care, and are FREE.



## Family Foundations 5 Additional Family Events

**March 10, 2018, 10:00 A.M.**

Sensational Saturday  
Brookfield Elementary School, Room 212

**March 15, 2018, 6:00 p.m.**

Listen to *The Frightened Frog* & Make a Frog Habitat  
Brookfield Elementary School, Room 212  
Register at (508)867-2232

**March 17, 2018, 10:00 a.m.**

Our annual Baby Wash  
Heritage Green, Sturbridge

**March 23, 2018, 6:00 p.m.**

Self-Regulation & Mindfulness  
Hitchcock Academy, Brimfield  
Register at (508)867-2232

### Additional Program Information

Caregiver/Child Playgroup is a literacy based program for children and their caregivers to spend time with their peers. We will have a short circle-time, story, art-time, and free-play. Please bring a nutritious snack.

Music and Movement is a literacy based music program that gets everyone up and moving to the beat.

Story Time is best suited for children 0-3 years.

STEAM is a literacy based Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics program that has fun performing new experiments each week.



Tantasqua & Union 61  
special education parent advisory council

[Union61sepac.org](http://Union61sepac.org)

(774) 241-8141

[union61sepac@gmail.com](mailto:union61sepac@gmail.com)

FB/Twitter: @union61sepac

SEPAC board members will be available for questions and conversation at all trainings and events.

### Basic Rights in Special Education

#### A Free Workshop for Parents, Caregivers, and Professionals

Thursday, March 8th @ 6-8pm

Seven Hills Family Services

208 Charlton Rd, Sturbridge MA

This presentation is highly recommended for parents just starting the special education process or parents that have a child on an IEP or 504 but have never attended a Basic Rights workshop before.

Registration is not required, but is appreciated in an effort to provide enough handouts. Please email [union61sepac@gmail.com](mailto:union61sepac@gmail.com), if you plan to attend.

### Parent Connections March "Meet Ups"

#### Connecting Families • Providing Support

Meet Up @ UNO's - Thurs, March 8th @ 8:30-10:30 p.m.

Meet Up @ Cedar Street Café - Tues, March 20th @ 9-11 a.m.

This group is for parents, grandparents, and caregivers of children with developmental, learning, social/emotional disabilities and other special education needs. We provide a welcoming space for parents/caregivers to share resources, ask questions, and network with other families.

Tantasqua & Union 61 caregivers are welcome to attend whether or not their child has an IEP or 504. We look forward to meeting you!

March 2018

Burgess Elementary

LUNCH



Daily alternate; chicken patty, **gluten free chicken, veggie burger**, or chef salad. Assorted fruit and milk offered daily. Menu subject to change



**Nutrition Tip:** Practice stealth health - sneak veggies into favorite foods. Go light on the meat and top your pizza with vegetables like tomatoes, onions, bell peppers, mushrooms, zucchini, and artichoke hearts.



Monday



Hot dog with baked beans or fruity yogurt parfait **5**

Chicken nuggets with sweet potatoes and green beans or fruity yogurt parfait **12**

Popcorn chicken with mashed potatoes and gravy and corn or fruity yogurt parfait **19**

Corn dogs with baked fries and carrots or fruity yogurt parfait **26**

Tuesday



Bosoo's cheese filled breadstick with marinara sauce and seasoned peas or soup with a roll and cheese stick **6**

Spaghetti and meatballs with broccoli or soup and roll with cheese stick **13**

Nacho chip basket with meat, cheese and salsa and corn or soup with a roll and cheese stick **20**

Toasted cheese and tomato soup with green beans or soup with a roll and cheese stick **27**

Wednesday

Chick peas offered daily! Lunch is \$2.75 Reduced is .40

BBQ chicken with buttered wheat pasta and broccoli or fruity yogurt parfait **7**

Turkey and cheese sandwich on Whole Wheat croissant with baby carrots and dip or fruity yogurt parfait **14**

Brunch for lunch pancakes with bacon and tator tots or fruity yogurt parfait **21**

Chicken fajita wrap with brown rice and broccoli or fruity yogurt parfait **28**

Thursday

Hamburger or Cheeseburger with baked fries and seasoned carrots or soup with a roll and cheese stick **1**

Brunch for lunch French toast with sausage and hash brown potatoes **8**

Mozzarella sticks with marinara sauce and seasoned peas or soup and roll with cheese stick **15**

Fish sticks with fries served with whole grain roll, cut veggies and cole slaw or soup with roll and cheese stick **22**

NO LUNCH **29**

Friday

Cheese or pepperoni pizza with green beans or fruity yogurt parfait **gluten free pizza available** **2**

Cheese or veggie pizza with carrots or cut veggies or fruity yogurt parfait **gluten free pizza available** **9**

Cheese or pepperoni pizza with seasoned carrots or fruity yogurt parfait **gluten free pizza available** **16**

Cheese or BBQ chicken pizza with seasoned carrots or fruity yogurt parfait **gluten free pizza available** **23**

NO SCHOOL **30**

Bus Pass

**Burgess Elementary School Bus Pass 2017/2018**

*This form is to be used each time a child is changing their drop off location and/or bus. Thank you.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Homeroom: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardians Name & Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Bus # \_\_\_\_\_ o Same Bus o Different Bus

Address to be dropped off at, and with whom: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by the Bus Supervisor if taking a different bus: o Yes o No

*Please contact Bus Supervisor for approval at 508.347.8940*

Approved by the Main Office: \_\_\_\_\_

March 2018

Burgess Elementary

BREAKFAST



Fresh or canned fruit yogurt and choice of milk comes with breakfast for \$1.50 reduced .30 cents



**Nutrition Tip:** Practice stealth health - sneak veggies into favorite foods. Go light on the meat and top your pizza with vegetables like tomatoes, onions, bell peppers, mushrooms, zucchini, and artichoke hearts.



Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday



Scrambled eggs, toast and hash brown patty 1

Cinnamon roll 2

Pancakes 5

Breakfast sandwich 6

French toast 7

Scrambled eggs, toast and hash brown patty 8

Cinnamon roll 9

Pancakes 12

Breakfast sandwich 13

French toast 14

Scrambled eggs, toast and hash brown patty 15

Cinnamon roll 16

Pancakes 19

Breakfast sandwich 20

French toast 21

Scrambled eggs, toast and hash brown patty 22

Cinnamon roll 23

Pancakes 26

Breakfast sandwich 27

French toast 28

Scrambled eggs, toast and hash brown patty 29

NO SCHOOL 30

Next Submission Deadline: **Tuesday, March 20**  
**burgessconnect@gmail.com**

Editor:  
Christine Neslusan

Submission Guidelines: • Submissions may be sent to the newsletter editor(s) at burgessconnect@gmail.com. • The preferred format is electronic. All submissions are subject to reformatting. • All articles are limited to school-, PTO- or town-sponsored activities intended for Burgess students and their parents or guardians. • Publication of any submission is subject to space availability. • Approval of all articles is at the discretion of the school's Principal. • The submission deadline is on or around the 20th of the prior publishing month. • Late submissions will either be put in a subsequent issue or, if time permits, placed in the current issue at the discretion of the editor(s).

All students, regardless of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, or homelessness, have equal access to the general education program and the full range of any occupational/vocational education programs offered by the district.



**Burgess Elementary School**

45 Burgess School Road  
Sturbridge, MA 01566

508-347-7041 phone • 508-347-8237 fax