

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.

PTO Executive Board Members

President: Alicia Rice
Vice-President: Erin Perreault
Treasurer: Melissa David
Secretary: Gretchen Marino



Building a Better Burgess

Season Greetings!

Burgess Wear Delivery Information

Thank you to all who ordered for the Burgess Wear Holiday Store. Orders are expected to arrive at Burgess the week of December 9.

Square 1 Art - Order delivery

Square 1 Art orders will be in this week. You can pick up your order BEFORE each of the Holiday Concerts.



Any orders not picked up will be sent home with your child.

Cookie Walks

Thank you to all those who have signed up for baking and volunteering! Cookie walks are a delicious Burgess tradition and take place during each of the Holiday concerts. All proceeds go to the current 5th Grade Class Extracurricular Educational Experiences in the 6th Grade. Volunteers to sell cookies are needed for the Grade 1 and 2 concerts. Sign up link for Volunteers: www.signupgenius.com/go/9040c4da5a62ca6fd0-holiday1

Baba Sushi Night

December 5 is our next community give back night at Baba Sushi. 1% of the days total receipts will be donated to the Burgess PTO.

Comfort Zone Camp - From Nurse Lisa

A grief support program for children and their families who have lost a loved one. It is a fabulous program and is being held at Tantasqua High School on Saturday, December 7. The program is free and lunch is provided. If interested please call 804-377-3430 or register at <http://bit.ly/czcfamilyprogram>.

Holiday Happenings

The school is a bustle with activities as we enter December. Please make sure to check your student's backpack daily for any notices that may come home. There will not be a PTO meeting in December. We will see you in January!



We wish you and your family a happy, healthy, and safe holiday season!

Your Burgess PTO Executive Board

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

There will not be a PTO meeting in December. We are decreasing your holiday stress and we will see you **January 14, 2020 at 7:00 pm!**

Month-At-A-Glance

DECEMBER						
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	29
30	31					

December 4 Early Dismissal, Staff Development
 December 23 - 31 No School, Holiday Break
 January 1 No School, Holiday

Burgess PTO

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 14 at 7:00 p.m. in the school library.

Website: burgesspto.org

Email: burgesspto@gmail.com

Burgess Wear: burgesswear@gmail.com

Facebook: Burgess Elementary School PTO

Remind App: burgesspto

Connection: burgessconnect@gmail.com

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.

Contact Burgess

Main Office: 508-347-7041

Nurse: 774-241-3004

Website: www.tantasqua.org/burgess

Address: 45 Burgess School Road
 Sturbridge, MA 01566

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.

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!*



Easy Everyday Ways To Support Your School



Amazon Smile - Use smile.amazon.com/ch/04-3577534 while shopping and Amazon donates to Burgess Elementary School PTO



START TIME	TIME BLOCKS
10:00 AM	ROBIN
3:00 PM	

2019 Lil Shoppers Holiday Shoppe

TIME	AREA	10:00-10:30	10:30-11:00	11:00-11:30	11:30-12:00	12:00-12:30	12:30-1:00	
10:00 AM	Annals (3)	Girouard/ Moore (2)	Ramirez (2)	Thompson (2)	McCormick (2)			
10:15 AM								
10:30 AM	Green/Howe (3)	Deno (2)	Edmonds (3)	Phillips (3)	Mullen (3)	NO CLASS		
10:45 AM								
11:00 AM	Myron (6)	OverFlow Time - Time for kids to catch back if they forget their shopping or need more time						
11:15 AM								
11:30 AM	Ripley (6)	Jones (6)	Thomas (6)	Broun (6)	Parent (6)	NO CLASS		
11:45 AM								
12:00 PM	McKeon (5)	Runnals/ Joshi (5)	Thurston (5)	Boal (5)	Keen (5)	NO CLASS		
12:15 PM								
12:30 PM	Campbell/ Earnest (4)	Rodriguez (4)	Kennaway (4)	Star (4)	Coch (4)			
12:45 PM								
1:00 PM	Cave (4)	Quinn/Jones (4)	Quiber (4)	Peck (4)	Grout (4)	NO CLASS		
1:15 PM								
1:30 PM	McGarry/Edmonds (1)	Monard (1)	Parenteau (1)	Hougard (1)	Brewer (1)			
1:45 PM								

Note: The younger grades tend to need the most help. Also, I had to work around some Christmas concerts, which may have made your time slot seem different from the end of your grade. If you are combined with another class, I picked the smallest classes to make it seem less chaotic. However, if for some reason your children don't have enough time to shop, they can come down on the OVERFLOW TIMES 11:00-12:30 or just see one of us and we can make it work.



Download the remind app to stay connected to the Burgess PTO. Once you set up your free account; select "Join Class", enter "burgesspto" next to the @ symbol, and select "Join" account. You will receive messages from Burgess PTO directly to your phone like a text.

Available online 2018-2019 District School Calendar

You can access the 2018-2019 school year calendar online at tantasqua.org

Click on **District Calendars**.

Burgess Wear Day Every Friday!

Every Friday is now Burgess Wear Day. Wear your Burgess Wear or Pack color!





Here is what is happening around the school. Dates and times to remember. Ways to get involved. And more!

Notes From The Nurses Office

Several beautiful holiday dresses, skirts, shirts and ties are available in the health office for any student who would like to choose an item for the concerts and holidays!

All students grade 1-5 recently participated in vision and hearing screening. If students required further evaluation, all referrals were mailed to parents by November 5th.

Holiday Concerts

All concerts are held in the cafeteria. Families are welcome to attend. Please consider car pooling to assist with parking for all. Remember to park in designated spots. Remembers to keep all fire lanes clear. Thank you & enjoy the show!

Friday, December 6	9:30 A.M.	Grade 1
Monday, December 9	9:30 A.M.	Grade 2
Tuesday, December 10	9:30 A.M.	Grade 3
Wednesday, December 11	9:30 A.M.	Grade 4



Grades 5 & 6 Band and Chorus Concert
Thursday, December 12
7:00 P.M.
Burgess Cafeteria

Holiday Shop Opening to All Students

Burgess Holiday Shoppe is opening soon! This shoppe provides a place for your child to independently purchase reasonably priced items for their loved ones. The money raised from the shoppe go towards the Grade 6 end of year celebration.

The Burgess Holiday Shoppe will run December 9-13. Items range in price from \$0.25-\$12.75, with most priced under \$5.00. There will be over a hundred gifts to choose from including personalized gifts for moms, dads, grandparents, pets, teachers, and blended families. Please note that we can take cash, credit cards, or gift certificates which can be purchased in advance online at holidayshop.org/giftcert.

The Holiday Shoppe could use the support of a few elves. If you are interested, please sign up here:

www.signupgenius.com/go/9040c4da5a62ca6fd0-holiday

We appreciate your support for holiday shopping event by all grades as your child, too, will one day enjoy their Burgess graduation celebration.

Heather Hendrick & Alicia Rice



Annual Holiday Concert Cookie Walks

Grade 5 will be hosting the traditional Cookie Walks at the holiday concerts. All money made from the Cookie walks will help reduce the cost of the Grade 6 Extracurricular Educational Experiences. We are looking for 14-20 bakers per date below, as well as 2-4 volunteers to help sell cookies at each concert. Bakers and volunteers can be families from any grade.

Donations of cookies will be accepted at any of the below concert dates/times:

- Grade 1 - Friday, December 6 at 9:30 a.m.
- Grade 2 - Monday, December 9 at 9:30 a.m.
- Grade 3 - Tuesday, December 10 at 9:30 a.m.
- Grade 4 - Wednesday, December 11 at 9:30 a.m.

Band and Chorus Concert:
Thursday, December 12 at 7:00 p.m.

Volunteers for the Cookie Walks are needed from 8:30am-10:45am or 6:30pm-8:45 for the Band and Chorus Concert.

If you can donate cookies or volunteer at a cookie walk sign up here: www.signupgenius.com/go/9040c4da5a62ca6fd0-holiday1

Thank you -
5th Grade Fundraising Committee





Here is what is happening around the school. Dates and times to remember. Ways to get involved. And more!

Burgess's Read-a-Thon Program READ to SUCCEED

Once again, Burgess will sponsor its annual read-a-thon program. The goal of "Read to Succeed" is to inspire children to engage in recreational reading. All students in grades K-6 have the option and opportunity to participate in this program.

The program will run from January 2, 2020 through February 3, 2020. The program has changed this year and it will all be done online. A detailed letter with instructions will be sent home in the next week.

Our students' participation in this program is greatly appreciated. Thank you for the support and cooperation from home.

Amy Cantwell, *Literacy Coordinator*

From the Culture Club

Continuing with the spirit of being thankful, we would like to thank everyone who was able to participate in our Half-Day Hat Day and make a donation to Racing For Everyone!

Our character trait for December will be: Giving and Kindness. They say that it is better to give than to receive, so our students will have the opportunity to share inspirational quotes of giving and kindness by completing and decorating a Gift of Kindness Slip. Students will also have the opportunity to share their gift with the whole school by reading their quotes during morning announcements. Please take some time to discuss giving and kindness with your family and ways that you spread more giving and kindness with your family and your community.

Remember the Burgess Way! Let's be BEARS today!

Burgess Author Visit

We are excited to welcome author/illustrator Marty Kelley to Burgess on Tuesday, January 14, 2020. The focus of Marty's presentation will be on the writing process. Your child will bring home a form to order books on the day of the author visit. Books will be personalized and sent to the school. Thank you to the Burgess PTO for their generosity in sponsoring this special literacy event!

Amy Cantwell, *Literacy Coordinator*

Library on the Trail

In this season of gratitude, I want to express mine for the parents and community members who built the Burgess Discovery Trail behind the lower ballfield.

Third graders recently used the trail during their library class for a nature experience inspired by a read-aloud of the book *Giving Thanks: A Native American Good Morning Message*, by Chief Jake Swamp. The author is Haudenosaunee, a member of the Six Nations of upstate New York and Canada. He explains that in this tradition children are taught to greet the world each morning by saying thank you to all living things. Our Burgess third graders went into the small woods of the Trail to discover what was living there, or placed there, note their observations in their writing journals, and find something they particularly liked.

I am grateful to Sturbridge parents and members of the Trails Committee for providing the means to this experience. With occasional maintenance, this trail, and its possibilities, is bound to last a long time.

Mrs. Swift, *Library Media Specialist*

MCBA Reading Deadlines Extended

The library's Massachusetts Children's Book Award program (MCBA) got a huge boost from the fall Scholastic Book Fair, thanks to Book Fair chair Michelle Phillips. At her request, Scholastic sent a special display full of books from this year's list. Students and parents were able to purchase their own copies of favorite books, and children younger than grades 4-6 were able to get in on the MCBA action.

The state-wide reading "challenge" is restricted to grades 4-6. Meanwhile, thanks to a fourth grader's suggestion, deadlines for two of the three incentives have been extended. The first deadline, for anyone reading five or more books, remains at the end of February. Burgess students will cast their votes then for their favorite, along with the rest of the state's participants.

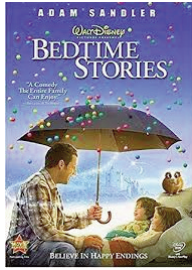
Anyone with the goal of reading 10 or more from the list, to earn a free book from the Spring book fair, now has until Mid-March. And, any student who manages to read the complete list of 25 books by the end of May will be invited to a pizza party, in the library, in June.

At this time, fourth graders are the most avid participants, with many of them already eligible to vote in February, and some already qualifying for a free book in March. As always, participating students need to do a quick book response through the library web page, at burgesslibrary.weebly.com/mass-childrens-book-award.html

Mrs. Swift, *Library Media Specialist*

Community News

News and information from around the Tantasqua and Union 61 School District towns.



Pajama Movie Night
 Friday, December 13 - Burgess Cafeteria
 Doors Open: 6:30 p.m. & Movie Starts: 7:00 p.m.
 Tickets: \$5.00 pp or \$20.00 family (4+) maximum
 Concessions will be available for purchase



In conjunction with the Burgess School Nurse's Office and Sturbridge Police Department, Girl Scouts from Cadette Troop 64510 are earning their Silver Award by meeting a need in our community and raising money for Bedtime Backpacks for children in entering foster care. Each backpack will be filled with toiletries, blanket, a book and stuffed animal based on age. You can support this project by coming to our movie night! Can't come to movie night? For a \$10 donation you will sponsor a Beekle Bundle (stuffed Beekle and hardcover Beekle book) for one of the backpacks. Please purchase tickets or donate through our PayPal link: www.paypal.me/GSTroop64510

December, 2019



FAMILY FOUNDATIONS 5

Connecting families & community and supporting YOU as your child's first teacher!

Funded by the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Grant from the Department of Early Education and Care and serving the towns of Brimfield, Brookfield, Holland, Sturbridge, and Wales

Brookfield Elementary School – 37 Central Street, Brookfield
 Hitchcock Free Academy – 2 Brookfield Road, Brimfield
 Holland Public Library – 23 Sturbridge Road, Holland
 Wales Public Library – 77 Main Street, Wales
 Heritage Green Community Room – 40 Heritage Green Dr, Fiskdale

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
1	2 Music & Mvmt 9:25-10:25AM Brookfield Elem Playgroup 9-11AM Hitchcock Academy	3 Playgroup 9-11AM Brookfield Playgroup 10:30-11:30AM Heritage Green, Sturbridge	4 Music & Mvmt 9-10AM Hitchcock Academy Story Time 10:30-11:30 Wales Public Library	5 STEAM 9-10:30AM Brookfield Elem STEAM 9-10:30AM Hitchcock Academy	6 Playgroup 9-11AM Brookfield Elem Story Time 10-11 Holland Public Library	7 Stone Soup Story Fun! 10-11AM, Hitchcock Academy (many optional activities 11-1PM)	
8	9 (No regular programs today) GINGERBREAD FUN! ** Story, activity and tour 9:30-10:30AM @ The Public House 277 Main St, Sturbridge  Registration requested!	10 Playgroup 9-11AM Brookfield Playgroup 10:30-11:30AM Heritage Green, Sturbridge	11 Music & Mvmt 9-10AM Hitchcock Academy Story Time 10:30-11:30 Wales Public Library	12 STEAM 9-10:30AM Brookfield Elem STEAM 9-10:30AM Hitchcock Academy	13 Playgroup 9-11AM Brookfield Elem Story Time 10-11 Holland Public Library	14	
15	16 Music & Mvmt 9:25-10:25AM Brookfield Elem Playgroup 9-11AM Hitchcock Academy	17 Playgroup 9-11AM Brookfield Playgroup 10:30-11:30AM Heritage Green, Sturbridge	18 Music & Mvmt 9-10AM Hitchcock Academy Story Time 10:30-11:30 Wales Public Library	19 STEAM 9-10:30AM Brookfield Elem STEAM 9-10:30AM Hitchcock Academy	20 Playgroup 9-11AM Brookfield Elem Story Time 10-11 Holland Public Library	21	
22	23 No Programs 12/23-1/1	24	25	26	27	28	
29	30 **To register for this event, please sign up at one of our programs or email us at the address below!				(Jan. 2) STEAM 9-10:30AM Brookfield Elem STEAM 9-10:30AM Hitchcock Academy	(Jan. 3) Playgroup 9-11AM Brookfield Elem Story Time 10-11 Holland Public Library	All programs are free. No prior registration is required unless noted otherwise.

Follow us on  Family Foundations 5 - Twitter  @union61cfce - web: <http://familyfoundations5.doodlekit.com>
 Email: 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.

December 2019

Burgess Elementary

BREAKFAST



Breakfast comes with fruit, yogurt, milk and juice. \$1.50 reduced is .30 cents



Nutrition Tip: Children who consume yogurt consume at least 12% more bone health promoting nutrients: Calcium, Vitamin D, Potassium.
Reference: NHANES 2013-14

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Donuts 2	Breakfast sandwich 3	French toast 4	Pancakes 5	Cinnamon roll 6
Donuts 9	Breakfast sandwich 10	French toast 11	Pancakes 12	Cinnamon roll 13
Donuts 16	Breakfast sandwich 17	French toast 18	Pancakes 19	Cinnamon roll 20
NO SCHOOL 23	CHRISTMAS VACATION 24	NO SCHOOL 25	NO SCHOOL 26	NO SCHOOL 27
NO SCHOOL 30	NO SCHOOL 31			

December 2019

Burgess Elementary

LUNCH



Daily offering: chicken patty, veggie burger, gluten free chicken, or yogurt parfait with gluten free muffin, chef salad. Assorted milk and fruit with lunch. \$2.75 reduced is .40



Nutrition Tip: Include whole grains. Aim to make at least half your grains whole grains. Look for the words "100% whole grain" or "100% whole wheat" on the food label. Whole grains provide more nutrients, like fiber, than refined grains.

Reference: USDA MyPlate



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Chicken nuggets with baked fries and carrots or fruity yogurt parfait 2	Walking taco! All the fixings to put into your DORITO bag. Served with corn or soup with a muffin and cheese sticks 3	NO LUNCH 4	Hamburger or cheeseburger with onion rings and mixed vegetables or soup with a muffin and cheese sticks 5	Cheese or pepperoni pizza with green beans or fruity yogurt parfait gluten free pizza available 6
Appetizer plate! (2) mozzarella sticks with marinara and (3) chicken nuggets with mixed vegetables or fruity yogurt parfait 9	Brunch for lunch! Pancakes with bacon and hash brown patty or soup with a muffin and cheese sticks 10	Pulled BBQ pork sandwich with cheddar cheese goldfish, cole slaw and peas or fruity yogurt parfait 11	Grilled cheese with tomato soup and green beans or soup with a muffin and cheese sticks 12	Cheese or veggie pizza with broccoli or fruity yogurt parfait gluten free pizza available 13
Chicken tenders with rice and carrots or fruity yogurt parfait 16	Hamburger or cheeseburger with baked chips and peas or soup with a muffin and cheese sticks 17	Grilled chicken parmesan over pasta with green beans or fruity yogurt parfait 18	Walking taco! All the fixings to put into your DORITO bag! Served with corn or soup with a muffin and cheese sticks 19	Cheese or pepperoni pizza with broccoli and a cookie! Or fruity yogurt parfait gluten free pizza is available 20
CHRISTMAS VACATION 23	NO SCHOOL 24	NO SCHOOL 25	NO SCHOOL 26	NO SCHOOL 27
NO SCHOOL 30	NO SCHOOL 31			