



Burton Street News

Our school's mission is to provide a safe, courteous and stimulating environment where children are accepted, valued and expected to learn.

January 2001

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Dear Parents,

Schools do not always receive good news from the NYS Education Department, but, in December, Burton St. School did. The news came after several months of waiting and wondering. We had sent our 56-page application to the NYS Edu. Dept. just two days before its Sept. 18th due date. After 2 months of research and writing, we sent our package off, tucked carefully inside a blue and white striped Federal Express envelope.

As winners of the New York State School of Excellence Award, our application is sent on to the US Education Department to compete with schools across the nation for Blue Ribbon School status. The moniker gives our school recognition for the many things that it does well to improve student achievement. Our application is really a story about Burton St. School; a medium-sized elementary school set in a rural village in central New York. What makes our school better than all of the others that competed and those that did not even enter the process? That, really, is the essence of our story and one that began many years ago.

"Stop me if I have already told you this," I often say to people before embarking on another wonderful story about Burton St. School and then, telling the story anyway, I describe yet another anecdote about a successful lesson or a first grader learning to read after a long struggle. The Burton St. School story is all about successes (56 pages worth) just like these that we have experienced over the past 5-10 years. While the bulk of the application is a narrative about programs, leadership, shared-decision making, time on task, mission statements and goals, it's also about data analysis (yes, test scores) and self-evaluation. What have we done right? What have we done wrong? What are our strengths and weaknesses? Where can we improve?

The characters in our story number in the hundreds, even thousands when counting all of the children and adults that have been a part of Burton St. School. Our school's achievements are a result of the collective work of many. You witnessed this at our last holiday concert when our first extended-day
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From The Health Room

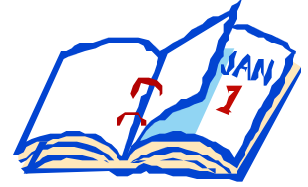
I hope your family had a happy holiday. We have had quite a bit of illness at Burton Street since mid December and the germs are still affecting our students. We know the higher incidence of illness this time of year is due to having this many students enclosed in a building. Please remind your child to wash their hands frequently at school and at home. Good hand washing is our best defense against illness.

To help stem the spread of infection, please, if your child is sick keep him/her at home. Any student with a fever over 100.0 degrees will be sent home, so if your son or daughter is running a temperature keep them home until they are fever free for 24 hours.

Grade 3 will have their physicals on Tuesday, January 23rd. If you wish to have your child seen by a private physician, please make an appointment immediately, then notify me at the Health Office (655-1355) so that I can take their name off the list for Dr. Osborn.

Cindy Hirst RN

A heartfelt thank you to all of the people who participated in the Christmas Giving Tree project. The generosity and spirit of giving were truly displayed school wide this holiday season. Through the help of the entire school and community, we were able to help 22 families this year. We have seen first hand what a great and generous spirit exists at Burton Street.



Important Dates

**January 15
(Monday)**

**Martin Luther King Day
No School**

**January 26
(Friday)**

Report Cards Issued

**January 29 through February 2
4th Grade English Language Arts
Test**



The office staff wishes to thank everyone for their thoughtful gifts and holiday wishes. They were truly appreciated.

Mrs. Pat Marzeski
and

Mrs. Mary Friend

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kindergartners began the program with the *Burton St. Song*. Many of you also remember when Senator Hoffmann donated \$10,000 to improve our playground and make it handicapped-accessible. Parents put that playground together and parents continue to improve it.

The story about Burton St. School is also a story about the community that supports it. Programs like our 4th grade Lake Week not only exemplifies the importance of community involvement, but it teaches children about valuing the environment and personal responsibility. While our 4th graders learn about the effects of zebra mussels and erosion on our lake, the community learns simultaneously that teaching children to respect and value our community's natural resources helps to ensure that as adults they will do the same.

The State Education Department did not send with the application one of those secret decoder rings to determine what was right or wrong about our school. Like so many other initiatives that come from state ed., we were left to figure it ourselves thus forcing us to dig deeply; to look closely; to critically analyze all of our teaching and learning practices. What we unearthed in the process is what we have understood for a long time, but had not put into words. By articulating what makes Burton St. School so successful, we are more likely to continue doing it. Like any behavior that is recognized and reinforced, chances improve that it will be repeated.

While Burton St. School's recipe for success may not be the same recipe employed in other schools; ours is unique in thousands of ways. And, when too many cooks ruin the soup in so many places, our "place" encourages more cooks. Teachers, parents, children and leaders all had a hand in our recipe and all are now recognized by the New York State Education Department as excellent. "Stop me if I have already told you this....."

Principal
Burton Street Elementary

From The Library

Happy New Year! I hope all of you had a restful and joyful holiday. January is the perfect month for settling in and reading all of those new books we received as gifts. If you'd like to imagine you are in warm weather reading the day away, check out the list of beach books in BookTalk. If you prefer the snow, peruse the winter books. Regardless of your preference, have fun reading with your child.

MARY KATE C.

Burton Street "Good Sports"

Good Sports of December

A Good Sport is...

- someone who plays fair
- someone who treats others with respect
- someone who always gives 100% effort
- someone who is proud of their accomplishments as well as those of others
- someone who puts the team before them self

Congratulations to the following students on a job well done, keep up the good work!

MaryKate C., Allesandra R., Clayton G., Emmajean S., Kilian Cr. Jeffrey H. , William G., Thomas T., Noah S., Tess R., Tyler S., Chelsea L., Ben R., Nick M., Christian P., Max K., Sarah R., Kristen R., McKensie J., Brad S., Taylor P., Leslie D., Tracy R., Tim R., Andreas G., and Billy R.

Book Talk :

KEY:

- FPB (Fiction Picture Book)
- FCB (Fiction Chapter Book)
- NFPB (Nonfiction Picture Book)
- JFCB (Jr. Fiction Chapter Book)

BEACH

- Hattie and the Wild Waves FPB
- Barbara Cooney
- Lottie's New Beach Towel FPB
- Petra Mathers
- Night of the Moon Jellies FPB
- Mark Sasha
- Pigs on a Blanket: Fun with Math and Time FPB
- Amy Axelrod
- Lily's Crossing FCB
- Patricia Riley Giff
- Nate the Great and the Boring Beach Bag JFC

SNOW

- Birthday Blizzard FPB
- Bonnie Pryor
- The Fantastic Book of Snowboarding NFPB
- Lesley McKenna
- First Snow FPB
- Emily Arnold McCully
- Henry and Mudge and the Snowman Plan JFCB
- C. Rylant
- It's Snowing! It's Snowing! Poetry
- Jack Prelutsky
- Snow is Falling NFPB
- Franklin Bentley
- Snowflake Bentley Biography
- Jacqueline B. Martin
- The Winter Mittens FCB
- Tim Arnold



Art Room News

Vincent van Gogh has been the favorite topic of discussion in art class this month. Students learned about the famous artist and his unique style of painting, distinguished by bright colors and vivid brush strokes.

While fourth grade students worked on self portraits painted in van Gogh's style, third grade classes were looking at van Gogh's sunflowers. Third grade students drew their own sunflower pictures, then filled in their paintings with brushstrokes, like van Gogh. Second grade used the simple shape of an apple to practice painting like van Gogh and multi age classes examined "Starry Night". They painted their own starry night pictures, complete with bright swirling stars. First grade classes painted brightly colored landscapes, in van Gogh's style of course!

Volunteers are needed for the art room to mount and hang student work, to cut paper, fill glue bottles, etc. Please see Mrs. Damon if you are interested.

Holiday Fun in Mrs. VanDee's Room

Welcome to a brand new year! I hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful and relaxing holiday. We had so much fun creating the beautiful holiday crafts and gifts that your kindergartner brought home, and I'm sure they look fun and festive decorating your homes. My particular favorite was painting Santa Claus on each child's hand. Some of the comments that your kindergartners made were "It tickles," and "It feels like ice cream." Every student was excited to go to that center! I look forward to making many of these projects annual events in my classroom, and hope that you and your child will continue to enjoy them for years to come!



Homework Hotline

The Herald-Journal's Home-work Hotline is available at **472-2111**. The teachers record a new message each week to inform the parents of what their child will be doing in class that week. Parents are encouraged to call not only the teacher's category, but also the principal's category to find out what's happening throughout the school. Listed below are the grade level category numbers. It's easy --- dial **472-2111** and wait until the voice asks for a 4 digit category number then dial in the correct number as listed below. All teachers will have a message under their respective grade level.

<u>Principal</u>	<u>7030</u>
<u>Kindergarten</u>	<u>7067</u>
<u>Grade One</u>	<u>7053</u>
<u>Grade Two</u>	<u>7060</u>
<u>Grade Three</u>	<u>7054</u>
<u>Music</u>	<u>7063</u>
<u>Art</u>	<u>7064</u>
<u>Special Ed</u>	<u>7066</u>
<u>Librarian</u>	<u>7065</u>
<u>Mrs. Coburn</u>	<u>7094</u>

Winter Hoops

Mr. Erich Nieman and other teachers and parents (TBA) will be teaching an intramural basketball program on Thursdays beginning January 11th in the front gymnasium. This program is open to all third grade students at Burton Street. We will involve participants in the fundamentals of basketball: shooting, passing, rebounding, movement, positioning, footwork, faking and ball handling skills, drill work, and game play. There is no cost for this program. We will require a weekly permission slip to be turned in to the Burton Street main office the Monday before we hold the program. **NO EXCEPTIONS** (Complete with important information. We also ask that parents come into the building to pick up their child promptly at 3:35 pm.

If you have any questions you may call me at Burton Street School (655-1325). If I am unavailable please leave a voice mail.

Thank you,

Erich Nieman

Schedule for 2001 Basketball Program all sessions 2:30- 3:35 PM

Class Date	Permission Slip Due
January 11	Monday, January 8
January 18	Friday, Jan. 12 (no school 1/15)
January 25	Monday, January 22
February 1	Monday, January 29
February 8	Monday, February 5
February 15	Monday, February 12



ning

Chelsea L.
Grade 2



St

Kaitlyn B.
Multi age

