



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.

April 2002

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From The Health Room

Dear Parents,

In a couple of weeks, you will receive information and a survey about the topic of implementing a standard of dress program at Burton St. School. This past winter several parents asked me about the possibility of requiring some kind of dress code that would improve the overall climate of our school by limiting clothing choices and enhancing self-esteem through genuine student individuality and creativity. To be honest, I didn't know anything about the advantages or disadvantages of school dress codes. I was not aware that school dress codes are becoming more and more common and that schools all over New York State and the United States have reported positive effects.

What surprised me most of all was that many schools reported that dress codes promote individuality more than uniformity. How do they do this if everyone dresses the same way? A standard of dress is different than a school uniform. A standard of dress offers a variety of standard clothing items and colors. While the clothes are similar in style and color, all children look and act differently depending on their personality. School dress codes actually help to enhance a student's strengths, individuality and creativity by eliminating factors that have nothing to do with determining how smart, creative, humorous, or caring an individual may be.

We contacted JC Penney's, Sears, and French Toast to determine the cost of clothes that would fit our own idea of a standard of dress. The old "school uniform" that we remember as kids doesn't exist anymore. Today, there are literally hundreds of items to choose from in every possible color, style and price. There are skirts and skorts, cargo shorts and khaki pants and even

(continued on page 2)

If it's April, it must be spring!! With the improving weather, I'm sure everyone's health will improve also. We have seen a few cases of chicken pox this spring. Many of our students have had the chickenpox (varicella) vaccine, so in all probability, our number of chicken pox cases will be drastically reduced. Isn't modern medicine a wonderful thing.

Do you know a child who needs dental care and the family can't afford it? Do you have a child who needs to see a dentist? We at Burton Street are fortunate to have a one time offer for you. Dr.'s Mark Boule, Gary Rivercomb and Dave Eldridge, and their office staff put aside one day a year to give free cleaning and emergency dental care to children who would not see a dentist due to financial restraints. This is a wonderful service, and has been underused in our district. Please contact Mrs. Hirt in the Health Room (655-1355) if you know such a child. We will be able to send 20 children and I would love to see all our slots filled.

Along with spring comes the wet season. Many children fall in the mud on the playground each day. I know your child wouldn't think for a million years that they might be the next to have a mud mishap, but accidents do happen. You may want to send along extra clothes just in case.

If you have health questions or questions don't hesitate: *Cindy Hirt RN* ^m,

Cindy Hirt R.N.

Important April Dates

April 8 - 11
Kindergarten
Registration
from 9 am to 12 noon

Report Cards
April 12, not April 5 as
listed in the school
calendar

April 15 - 19
Spring Recess
No School

April 23
Reading Riot Night
6:30 - 7:15 pm
"Jammie Night"
Just for Kindergarten!
Jammies allowed

April 23, 25, 29
May 1, 3
Pre-School Screening



(continued from page 1)

wind pants or sweat suits for phys. ed. day.

We also contacted schools who have implemented a dress code or standard of dress. While many said that there was a lot of work involved in implementing the program, the advantages far outweighed the disadvantages. All schools told us that it was easier to implement the dress code in the elementary schools than it was to implement it in the high school and that few families opted out of the program even when given the choice. Although school uniforms may not be mandated in public schools in New York State, dress codes or a standard of dress can be required and are more and more common.

To provide parents with the opportunity to share their thoughts about a possible "standard of dress" for Burton St. School children, the Burton St. School Shared-decision Making Team will be sending home a survey in the next couple of weeks. Please take a few minutes to fill out the survey and add any other thoughts, ideas or questions about school dress codes that you may have. Like us, you may want to pursue other avenues for information. We found much of ours on professional websites on the Internet. NAESP, which is the National Association for Elementary School Principals, has information regarding the results of research in the area of school dress codes/uniforms. French Toast, a retail clothing company, also has a web site that was very helpful. And, many school districts in and out of New York State have school dress codes that they report have significantly improved the climate of their school and the academic achievement of their students.

We will keep you informed as we continue to explore this topic and receive more information about it. If you have any questions that the survey does not answer, please give me a call and I will try to answer them for you.



Principal
Burton Street

Good Sports of March

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!

Nicholas P., Katie K., Kelly D., Gabriela N., Luke W., Zach M., Olivia B., Noah S., Ben S., Hillary B., Kasi P., Dan W., Devon S., Nicole H., Colleen D., Jay C., Laura G., Chloe E., Kendall K., Ben O., Chelsea L., Gerrit W., Sierra R., Brett A., Jason W., and Callahan J.

Second Grade Happenings

In March, the second grade classes visited the Cazenovia Public Library as a culminating activity in the Hands-On-Museum Artifacts program developed by Pat Hill And Julie Smith. At the Library, the children saw, first hand, how changing times during the growth of our town enabled some individuals to travel the world and bring back some of its wonders to Cazenovia. The children were engaged in several craft centers in which they made Victorian Era feather adorned bonnets and Native American dance masks. A member of the Cazenovia Spinners also demonstrated for the children how early Cazenovia settlers might have spun wool into yarn. Finally, students toured the Library while playing an artifact identification game.

The second grade teachers would like to thank Pat Hill and Julie Smith for all their hard work. A special thanks to the Public Library, the Burton Street PTA and the Enrichment Committee for funding the program.



Irish Celebrations!

On Thursday, March 14, students from the Johnson School of Irish Dance performed for the Burton Street students at a school wide assembly. Performing were seven Burton Street students: Maggie C., Mary Kate C., Alexa H., Lucy S., Brodie S., Mikaela H. and Sara R. Three Green Street Students: Carrie H., Rachel H., Kali H., and Erin J. from Morrisville. The girls loved performing for their own school and much enthusiasm was shone by the audiences as the girls performed both the soft shoe "ghillie" and the hard shoe (Riverdance type) dances!

From the Library Book Talk...

Music Notes

PARP (Parents As Reading Partners) has concluded for this year. All are encouraged to continue sharing books aloud, however. Any time is a good time to read aloud (or be read aloud to!) by a reading buddy, parent or friend. It was great fun to walk around the school and read the postcards taped to the walls outside the classrooms and discover what great books had been shared. In keeping with PARP's theme, Reading Road Trip USA, it was also interesting to note where the authors lived, and to see their locations on the US maps. Thanks again to Stearns and Wheler for providing the maps!

PARP would not have been possible if it had not been for the efforts of the creative PARP committee. I would like to thank Robin Christopher, Barb Cudney, Sharon Gifford, Posi Jones, Karen Karker, Sherry Kellish and Jill Ryan for their help.

We enjoyed listening to Natalie Kinsey-Warnock and Kim Brown. Burton Street is fortunate to be able to host two guests each year. Natalie's visit was funded through a grant from the Cazenovia Enrichment Committee. Kim's visit was made possible from the profits of the fall Library Book Fair.

As a culmination to PARP, all children were given bookmarks depicting US landmarks, and a patriotic pencil. Kim Brown added a special treat by stamping bookmarks with various Arthur characters for each child. We had great fun, and look forward to celebrating PARP again next year!

April is National Poetry Month across the United States. We will be sharing poetry during library classes throughout the month.



Rainy Day

Gina Bel-Zano

I used to hate a rainy day
There were no outside games to play,
And even though our house was
 roomy
The gray rain made the inside
 gloomy.
Now, I don't mind the rain at all,
For when no friends come to call,
I've all the company I need.
I pick me out a book, and read!

With the coming of National Poetry Month, a listing of good poetry books to share.....

Yummy! Eating Through A Day

poems selected by Bennett Hopkins

Poems of A. Nonny Mouse

by Jack Prelutsky

Days Like This

poems selected by Simon James

Poetry for Young People

by Robert Frost

Pocketful of Poems

by Nikki Grimes

Come With Me: Poems for a Journey

by Naomi Shihab Nye

Mathemagical Showtime!

6th Grade Decipher Club visited 3rd grade math classes and preformed many mathemagical tricks. Third graders were amazed with mind reading, magic sums and geometrical rope tricks among many other mathemagical tricks. Advisor is Mrs. Janet Britton.

The fourth grade students at Burton Street are working hard to prepare a dance show called *Picture This!* Each class is making up a dance based on the pictures in the Library classroom walls, painted last year by artist in residence, Tammy Goldacker. The fourth graders studied her paintings and analyzed them for form, shape color, contrast, line, style and theme. They then began to find ways to "dance" what they saw in the pictures.

The school assembly is on April 29 and the parents will view the show on Tuesday, April 30, at 7 pm in the Burton Street Auditorium.

By performing *Picture This!* fourth graders will be meeting all the NYS Standards for the Arts by creating, performing, using materials, evaluating and understanding the process used in a staged performance.

Art News

Students at Burton Street School have been learning about the great American artist, Georgia O'Keeffe; best known for her large paintings of flowers. Students, looking closely at O'Keeffe's work, have learned much about this famous artist. Examining her work helped students discover the "magic" of using tints and shades of colors and blending and mixing colors.

Students have also been working on their clay projects. Fourth grade classes made wonderful wide mouth fish and are scheduled to make their plaster gauze masks. These will be the molds for their raku clay masks. Third grade classes have designed and constructed their clay clocks and will be assembling them for the art show. Second grade classes have finished both of their clay projects, sun faces and "pinch" vases. Multi-age classes made and painted flower pockets and first grade classes had fun making pinch pots.

April Lecture Series at the Public Library

Each year the April Lecture Series at the Cazenovia Public Library features a unique region of New York State. This year we are proud to offer to our community "River of Destiny: The St. Lawrence River and the Thousand Islands."

The Lecture series begins Thursday, April 4 with "The 1000 Islands: New York's Forgotten Secret."

Tuesday, April 9, the Boldt Castle operations manager chronicles the rehabilitation of Bolt Castle and other facilities on Heart Island.

Thursday April 18 "Boldt Castle : In Search of the Lost Story" analyzes the myths and facts of Boldt Castle.

Tuesday, April 23 Skip Couch discusses shipwrecks and the treasures he has found on his diving trips.

Friday, April 26 Robert Russell will speak about his summers spent vacationing on an island in the St. Lawrence river.

All presentations begin at 7:30 pm in the community room. They are free and open to the public. For information call 655-9322 or visit the web site:

www.midYork.org/cazenovia

Third Grade Speech Night

Third Grade Speech Night

Have you ever wondered if cats really have nine lives, or how tornadoes are formed, or why bath towels smell even though you are clean, or what the fastest insect is?

The third grade students are hard at work composing speeches answering these and many other questions, to be presented to their parents and families on Speech Night, April 10th & 11th. The children are researching their topic areas and preparing and rehearsing their speeches in preparation for the big night. Each child will design a poster illustrating his/her own speech. This third grade tradition is an informative as well as enjoyable evening for all.



Madison Gabor
Grade K



May Winning Stamps



Maria Hudson
Grade 3

Earn Your High School Equivalency Diploma

Cazenovia High School is now a GED Testing Center

2002 Testing Dates

May 10 - 11

July 12 - 13

December 13 -14

Call Mr. George DeHaas at 655-1325, extension 328 for details and eligibility information.

The Elementary School Counselor: A Varied Position

(excerpts from "What Everyone Should Know About the Elementary School Counselor")

by Channing L. Bete Co., South Deerfield, Ma, 1998

An elementary school counselor's job is as varied as the students he/she serves. A counselor works to:

- Help students develop communication skills
- Help find early solutions to children's problems
- Encourage children to have a successful school experience
- Aid children in developing appropriate behavior patterns
- Link children to new interests in and out of school
- Include parents in their children's education

An elementary school counselor provides many useful services to students, staff, parents and the community. Some of these are:

- Consulting with individuals to find solutions to problems

- listening to suggestions and concerns from members of the school community
- Teaching in individual, small group and classroom settings; reinforcing positive ways to deal with common behavioral issues
- Referring students and parents to community agencies for help when needed

Elementary school counselors are part of the team which helps address all kinds of student, staff and parent concerns. They participate in meetings and conferences with:

- Teachers
- School Administrators
- School Support Staff
- Parents
- School Psychologists and Social Workers

The elementary school counselor works to provide support and intervention to help students get the most they can out of their days in school. Sometimes a kind word or an open ear is all that is needed. Other times a link to more sophisticated services is needed. The art of school counseling is knowing the difference.