



# 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.**

February 2002

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## From The Health Room

### **What Does Effort Have to do with Achievement?**

Dear Parents,

In your opinion, which one of the four choices below play the biggest role in success on school work? (Or any task for that matter?.)

- Ability
- Effort
- Other people
- Luck

Adults know that there is a high correlation between the effort we expend on a task and our success on that task, but do kids know this as well? Research tells us that three of the four choices listed above actually inhibit achievement. How often have you heard yourself say, "If I'm lucky, I'll do well on the test (insert any task)." When children attribute their success to luck, they actually minimize the role that hard work and effort play in whether they are successful or not. This can have a disastrous effect as school work gets increasingly harder in each succeeding school year.

Using a simple rubric, teachers and parents can help children understand the relationship between effort and success. This rubric can be a 4-point rubric like many of the rubrics we use for scoring writing work, but rather than describing key characteristics of a paragraph, this one will describe how much effort was put into a task. A score of 4 describes the learner as one who worked on the task until it was completed despite problems or difficulties along the way. A score of 1 simply states that the learner put very little effort into the task. The self-evaluation should be done before the assignment or task is graded. Later, the student can compare his/her own effort grade with the actual grade that was received. More often than not, more effort results in good grades and poor effort results in poor grades, but this is not always obvious to young children until it is pointed out to them. Research has shown that students who were taught about the relationship between effort and achievement increased their achievement more than students who were

Can you believe that we are half way through this school year? So far the year has sped by. It's amazing how quickly time passes when students are hard at work, as well as nurses.

February is full of Health observances. We observe Heart Health Month, as well as Dental Health Month.

In observance of Heart Health Month, we will have free blood pressure screening available in the Health Room any time in February. Please stop by at your convenience to have your blood pressure taken.

In observance of Dental Health Month, mark your calendar for February 13, 2002. It is officially Sugarless Wednesday..... helping kids become more aware of non-essential sugar in their diets. You may want to observe it by making it the one day to eliminate sugar laden treats from your family diet. I think I will try it!

We are in the midst of cold and flu season. At this time of year we also see strep throat, conjunctivitis (pink eye), and stomach flu, which has been especially virulent. Please use your best judgment when your child says they are sick in the morning. I know it is sometimes hard to decide whether to keep children home at such an early morning hour, but if they are not well, they will not have a productive day. And as always, keep washing those hands!

*Cindy Hirt RN*

Cindy Hirt, R. N.



Have you remembered to send in an excuse for your child's last absence?

## Important February Dates

### February 12

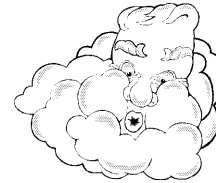
Reading Riot Night  
6:30 - 7:15 pm  
all grade levels

### February 18 -22

Mid -Winter Recess

## WINTER WEATHER

As the weather gets colder we need to remember to dress our children in layers. This is the best way to keep them their warmest and allow them to



adjust for days that have changeable weather. Remember that all children at Burton Street School have outside playtime every day, except in inclement weather, and it is necessary that they be appropriately dressed.

Should there be a necessity to close school, tune your radio to: WSYR (570 AM), WYYY (94.5 FM), WWTZ (93Q FM), WNDR (1260 AM), WHEN (620 AM) or WMCR (Oneida). Television channels 3, 5 and 9 will also carry school closings and notices of early dismissal. All broadcasters have the news by 6:00 am and it is on the air by 6:30 am.

## Lost and Found

Items are beginning to gather on the Lost and Found table in the back hall. If your child has missing items please come and check the table.



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taught techniques for time management and comprehension of new material (Van Overwalle and DeMetsenaere, 1990). Our weekly spelling tests are an easy way for us to show kids how studying and doing the daily assignments throughout the week contribute to their success on the Friday spelling test. To many students who struggle with school work, the success of others appears easily acquired. They don't see the time and effort that is spent at home on reading practice, studying, and working through things that are not easy. While elementary school work doesn't have to be a, "no pain, no gain" scenario, kids need to know that the amount of effort they put towards anything (whether it's soccer, Irish step dancing, art work, violin lessons or memorizing the multiplication facts), will determine (even more than ability, luck, and the people you know) how well they will accomplish these things. Students who believe that they don't have the ability to do well don't even bother trying. A self- fulfilling prophecy is when we believe that we can't do well and don't. By thinking that success is out of their reach, kids actually sabotage their own chance at succeeding. It can also give them an easy excuse for not putting forth their best effort. "I can't do it anyway so why try?!" I have heard a number of times. When we help them learn how to measure their effort and compare it to their actual achievement, we can begin to help kids learn that achievement goes up when effort goes up.

Principal  
Burton Street Elementary

**Burton Street "Good Sports"**

**Good Sports of January**

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 themselves

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

Emily W., Alex S., Nick B., Akasya C., Patrick C., Noah Z., Kyle J., Caroline L., Joseph N., Jamie S., Mikala M., Patrick M., Rebecca W., Shawna P., Steven L., Christopher S., Tori W., Robby C., Amelia S., Joseph N., Brett G., Luke G., Samantha J., Mitch M., Maggie C., and James W.

**Book Talk:**

**The Fiddler of the Northern Lights**

a fiction picture book  
by Natalie Kinsey Warnock

Henry was a believer. He never doubted Grandpa Pepin's stories, however outlandish they sounded to the rest of the family. The story that most intrigued Henry was the one about the fiddler of the Northern Lights. One night Grandpa and Henry go on a trek to find the fiddler, and what they discover is something that is to be experienced only once in a lifetime. Read The Fiddler of the Northern Lights to find out what Grandpa and Henry encountered on that starry, frozen night



Want to get some exercise along with having some fun? Come play co-ed non-competitive volley ball. Contact the Cazenovia District Office at 655-1317. Teams are already being formed.

**From The Library**

The PARP committee is planning great things for PARP (Parents As Reading Partners) to be held March 4-15. The theme this year is Reading Road Trip, USA. Upon completion of a book read and shared, the children will write postcard to the author of the book they read, and tell of their favorite part. The postcards will be displayed on the cork strips all around the school. A map of the United States will hang outside each classroom (courtesy of PARP and the PTA) and will show where the authors live. Geography and reading will be highlighted during this two week celebration of sharing books with parents, siblings, babysitters, and friends. As a special treat, author Natalie Kinsey Warnock will visit Burton Street on Monday, March 4 to kick off PARP. We are presently reading her books in library class, so the children will be familiar with them and will be well prepared for her visit.



To close PARP on a positive note, Kim Brown will be visiting on Friday, March 15. Kim is author/illustrator Marc Brown's sister, and will share sibling stories and how she became the model for Arthur's sister D. W. in the fictional series. PARP is always fun, and we look forward to various treats throughout the celebration, but mostly we savor the treat of sharing a good book with a parent, sibling or friend. Natalie Kinsey Warner books and selected books by Marc Brown will be available for sale prior to the visits. A letter to parents concerning the sale will go home with the children the week of February 11th. Please check your child's backpack.

February is Library Lover's Month. Share a book with your valentine.

## ADAPEP Update...

Burton Street third graders recently participated in a set of classroom activities which emphasized following directions, problem solving and cooperation. Based on the Project Adventure model, they ranged from a simple "find your partner" task to a complex nine person "pipeline" detail.

Each activity is preceded by clear directions, and students are asked to repeat them before beginning the tasks. At the conclusion of each activity there is time for discussion of the skills involved and the challenges completing it. One of the more interesting activities is simply called "build a tower." Groups of four students are given twenty 3x5 index cards and asked to devise a way to stack them in as tall a tower as they can. They can fold the cards, but not tear or link them together. Each student is requested to participate in some manner, (planning, folding, stacking, guarding the tower, etc.). A time limit is set and afterward, the towers are measured for height. A variation on this activity is to encourage the students to design any kind of structure, then explain their structure to the group.

Classroom teachers participate in the activities, and assist in the organization of the groups. The variety and scope of the tasks offers an opportunity for students to work with random partners in their class, and to practice listening and teamwork skills as well.

ADAPEP, the district's alcohol and drug abuse prevention program, fosters the development of student assets such as teamwork, participation and cooperation. Throughout the school year all students in grades 2 - 4 have opportunities to participate in classroom activities related to the goals of substance abuse prevention. Questions about ADAPEP can be answered by George DeHaas @ 655-1325, extension 328.

## So Long For Now...

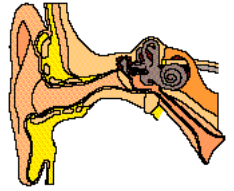


I want to take this opportunity to thank all the people who made teaching Physical Education at Burton Street such an awesome experience. First, thanks go to Mrs. Gorton, and all the other principals prior to her leadership. The secretaries and the custodians deserve many thanks for putting up with my requests and needs. I will truly miss being part of what I know is one of the best elementary teaching staffs in NY state. Thank you colleagues! To the children of Burton Street, I want to let you know that it has been a pleasure being one of your physical education teachers. I will see you all when you graduate and come to Green Street School - I'll be in the gym.

Love,  
Mr. Mark Evans

## Parents: Can your children hear you?

By Nancy Saya and Netti Goeler,  
Speech Pathologists



Do you know what CD players, stereos, arcade games, noisy toys and concerts have in common? Over time, they can cause hearing loss in children (and adults). Children are exposed to a great deal of noise in today's society. It is not just how loud the sound is but how long you are around the sound and how close you are to the sound. Excessive or prolonged exposure to noise causes what we call a high frequency hearing loss (damage to the hair cells in the inner ear). This type of loss interferes with the understanding of certain sounds as well as the ability to discriminate words and causes difficulty with listening when background noise is present. Hearing is critical to your child's talking, listening, learning behavior and safety. Recent studies indicate that children with hearing loss due to noise include 6% of children by 2nd grade, 11% by 8th grade and 12% by 12th grade. Parents can assist in the prevention of noise damage by following these tips:

1. Monitor the noise levels that children are exposed to. Personal stereos should not be heard by anyone other than the listener.
2. Listen to toys prior to purchase.
3. Limit the time your child spends in video arcades and ask to lower volumes in movie theaters and other places your child frequents.
4. Provide earplugs when the noise can't be reduced
5. Have your child's hearing tested by an audiologist if they participate in noisy activities. This will check for early signs of hearing damage.
6. Follow the noise rules using the acronym EARS

**E** = Earplugs  
**A** = Avoid loud sounds  
**R** = Reduce volume  
**S** = Shorten the time in noise

## Important Safety Message

Never leave your child unattended in your car even if it is only for a few minutes. Children left sleeping in cars can awaken at anytime and may find themselves alone/abandoned. Despite the unlikelihood of childhood abduction, heat exhaustion, or the vehicle being put into gear accidentally, why take the chance? It is considered child neglect to leave small children unsupervised in a motor vehicle.

Cazenovia Public Library Events

Artists in the News

The Children's Art Show at the Earlville Opera House will take place from February 2nd through the 23rd. Five Elementary schools will be represented at the show: Hamilton Central School, Sherburne-Earlville Elementary School, Lake Street Elementary, Morrisville-Eaton and **Burton Street Elementary**.

The following Burton Street Elementary School students have their work on display at the Opera House this month: Jonathan A., Clancy K., Sasha O., Jamie P., Emma H., Hannah P., Morgan T., Jake A., Sara J., Katie H., Alex W., Brodie S., Tin: G., Rachel G., Chelsea L., Emma S., Rae T., Haley B., Kelly D., Addie B., Oliver G., Patrick M., Cara O., Kevin R., Mikayla M., Maggie C., Derrick Z., Joey L., Will G., and Ben L.

If you would like to see the show, you can call the Earlville Opera House @ 691-3550 for times when the gallery is open and directions.

**February 9 10:15 am**  
 Story Hour for children 5 - 8, in the Community Room  
 Betsy Kennedy will share books about snow people  
 Movie, *SNOWMAN*, will be shown


**February 9 2 pm**  
*Baroque Reflections* classical concert in the Community Room

**February 10 2 - 3 pm**  
 Storyteller Beth Tegart will tell stories to children  
 ages 5 - 8 in the Community Room

**February 15 7:30 pm**  
*Albert Road* performs original and eclectic music

**February 28 7:30 pm**  
 Italian Opera Concert performed by Lorie Harken and Thomas  
 Anthony, in the Community Room

All events are free and open to the public. For more information call 655-9322 or visit the library web site at [www.midYork.org/cazenovia](http://www.midYork.org/cazenovia)



**February  
Winning Stamps**

Andrew Clements

Zantha Hourigan	Grade 1	Grade K
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If you are the parent of a preschool child and have not notified the school of your child's name and birth date, please complete the form below and return it with your child or call the Burton Street School Office at 655-1325 as soon as possible. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Parent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Names of Preschoolers:

Date of Birth:

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