



Bulldog Bulletin

November 2020

Our sense of urgency continues with a purpose and a plan!

Keep up with our Burr PTO
at: www.burrbulldogpto.com

For volunteer opportunities
and questions email them
at:

burrbulldogpto@gmail.com

Burr Elementary School
41460 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, MI
48314
School Hours: 9:10 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Phone: 586-797-4100
Jeanne Poleski, Principal



Happy Thanksgiving!



During this month of giving thanks, the Burr staff is most thankful for having your children in our lives. Thank you for sharing your family with us! There is no better place to be than in an elementary school, surrounded by the love and wonder of young children!

Thank you to all of the families who came to Parent/Teacher/Student conferences! We strive for 100% attendance and we are almost there! If you missed your conference, please contact your child's teacher to schedule another time before the end of November. Working together is the key to student success!



Burr...illiant Points of Pride:

- Personalized blended learning in all K-2 classes
- a leader in educational technology by providing digital tools that increase student achievement
- Teaching coding at all grade levels
- Offering 3D printing
- A Michigan Department of Education REWARD School!

Upcoming Dates:

November 23: Virtual Book Fair and Santa Shop continue

November 25-27: No School-Happy Thanksgiving!

November 29: Book Fair ends!

December 4: Santa Shop ends! Lockdown Drill 1:30

Report Cards

Burr Elementary distributed report cards electronically to families after scheduled parent-teacher conferences on **Tuesday, November 17, 2020.**

We are celebrating the fact that 155 Burr Bulldogs in grades 3-6 were on the Academic Honor Roll for the first card marking! This is a huge accomplishment in our remote and virtual world! Our Bulldogs make us so proud and we are thankful for their achievements at Thanksgiving and always. Honor Roll certificates are being mailed home to these students.

If you did not receive your child's report card via your PowerSchool email account, please contact the Burr office by phone (586-797-4100) or email Mrs. Poleski directly at jeanne.poleski@uticak12.org.

Individual Reading Plans for Students in Grades K–3

Strong reading skills are a critical component of future success. The foundation we build in our elementary core reading instruction prepares students for success in college and career. Our district strives to assist all students with their development of essential reading skills through a process that builds independent readers and effective communicators.

For the past several years, Utica Community Schools has used the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) to assess each elementary student's reading progress. We will continue to use this diagnostic tool to identify your student's strengths in reading and target areas for improvement including additional support if needed.

For any student in kindergarten through third grade in need of reading support, your child's teacher will work in partnership with you to create an Individualized Reading Plan (IRP). This process began during November's Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences. This plan will address strengths and needs, identify additional reading support(s) at school, and provide activities for you to use with your child at home.

Third-grade state reading legislation was passed requiring districts to develop a plan to ensure that all students are reading at or above grade level by the end of third grade. After taking the third-grade state reading assessment in the 2020-2021 school year, any third grader who is more than one year behind may be retained.

Parent partnerships play a critical role in our student's success as a reader. As a partner in your child's education, we encourage you to communicate with your child's teacher regarding their reading progress. We are committed to ensuring that your child receives the foundational literacy skills needed to be successful throughout their entire future.

Therefore, we encourage you to read to your child, with your child, or to listen to your child read, at least 20 minutes every single day! This is one of the best gifts you can give. In addition, books make wonderful holiday gifts and trips to the public library are special events for the entire family to enjoy.





BULLDOG PARENT CORNER



TO MY CHILD – Author Unknown

Just for this morning, I am going to smile when I see your face and laugh when I feel like crying.

Just for this morning, I will let you choose what you want to wear, and smile and say how perfect it is.

Just for this morning, I am going to step over the laundry, and pick you up and take you to the park to play.

Just for this morning, I will leave the dishes in the sink, and let you teach me how to put the puzzle of yours together.

Just for this afternoon, I will power off the telephone and keep the computer off, and sit with you in the backyard and blow bubbles.

Just for this afternoon, I will take us to McDonald's and buy us both a happy meal so you can have both toys.

Just for this evening, I will hold you in my arms and tell you a story about when you were born and how much I love you.

Just for this evening, I will let you splash in the tub and not get angry.

Just for this evening, I will let you stay up late while we sit on the porch and count the stars.

Just for this evening, I will snuggle beside you for hours, and miss my favorite TV shows.

Just for this evening when I run my fingers through your hair, I will be grateful that I have received the greatest gift of all. I will think about the mothers and fathers who are searching for their missing children. The mothers and fathers who are visiting their children's graves instead of their bedrooms, and the mothers and fathers who are in hospital rooms watching their children suffer senselessly, and screaming inside they can't handle it anymore.

And when I kiss you goodnight, I will hold you a little tighter, a little longer.

It is then that I will be thankful for you, and ask for nothing, except one more day.



Scholastic Virtual Book Fair

Dear Burr families,

You're invited to shop our Scholastic Book Fair online from **November 16 – November 29!** All purchases benefit our school and connect kids with new books, favorite characters, complete series, and more. What a great way to celebrate and acknowledge our students' hard work during remote and virtual learning! Books are also the perfect holiday gift!

You'll love the NEW option to shop for **Book Fair exclusives** directly from the interactive booklist and enjoy these special online shopping features:

- Over 6,000 items, including new releases, best sellers, and value packs
- All orders ship **direct to home**
- **FREE shipping** on book-only orders over \$25*
- All purchases **support our school** and earn 25% in rewards

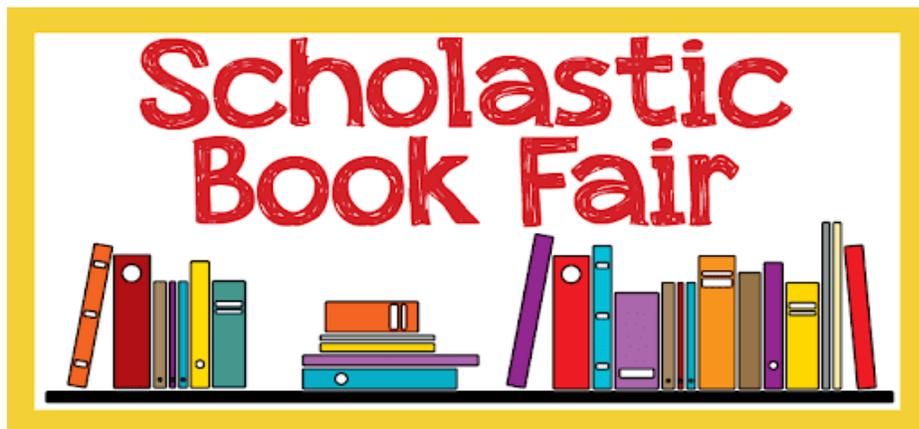
Visit our Book Fair Homepage and click "Shop Now" to get started:

<https://www.scholastic.com/bf/burrelementaryschool>

Happy reading,

Jeanne Poleski

*Free standard shipping is available on book-only orders of \$25 or more, after all discounts are applied. Free standard shipping (books) must be selected during checkout. Orders containing products other than books are not eligible for this shipping promotion.



BURR VIRTUAL SANTA SHOP SPONSORED BY PENGUIN PATCH

Dear Parents,

We know that so much about this school year looks different, but we're so excited that our school will be participating in an online Penguin Patch® Holiday Shop to spread holiday cheer!

Penguin Patch® Holiday Shop is a fun way for students to shop for family members and experience the spirit of giving while learning to earn, budget, and save! Our online shop will be open **November 18th** and end **December 4th**.

To log in to our school's secure shopping platform, please use this link:
shop.penguinpatch.com.

Your student will have over 100 delightful gifts to choose from, all ranging in price from \$0.50 to \$12. This is an amazing opportunity to empower your student to choose, purchase, and give gifts to their loved ones! Remember, a portion of every dollar spent goes back to our school, so when your child shops the school also receives funds!

All gifts will be shipped straight to your home for a small flat-fee. They'll arrive in festive "Special Delivery" packaging, with wrapping supplies included! We're excited to create this new holiday tradition and spread good cheer with you!

Happy Shopping!

Christina Courtney

Penguin Patch Holiday Shop Chairperson



Congratulations to one of our Burr...ight and Burr...illiant staff members.....

Mrs. Shannon Pihalja

The Make-A-Difference Award is given annually to individuals who have made a significant positive impact on the educational experience of a special needs student. The award is sponsored by the Macomb ISD Parent Advisory Committee which represents parents and guardians from across Macomb county. A nominee may be a teacher, paraprofessional, related service provider or any school personnel who is involved in the education of a student. Characteristics of nominees include but are not limited to:

- Communication with parents
- Excite students to reach their maximum potential
- Help to increase a child's self esteem
- Demonstrate team member skills

Recognition for nominees and the announcement of Make-A-Difference award winners for 2020 were set to take place in the spring of 2020. Unfortunately, the event did not take place due to COVID 19. The ceremony instead took place on Monday, November 2, 2020. Utica Community Schools was well represented with nominees including Burr's ECSE (Early Childhood Special Education) Teacher, Mrs. Shannon Pihalja.

Burr would like to congratulate and recognize Mrs. Pihalja for being a nominee for the Make-A-Difference award 2020. Thank you for representing the best of Utica Community Schools and Burr Elementary School!



Bulldog Dates to Know:

Lifetouch Student Picture Dates To Be Determined

November 23: Virtual Book Fair and Santa Shop continue

November 25-27: No School-Happy Thanksgiving!

November 29: Book Fair ends!

December 4: 2nd ¼ ends for progress reports, Santa Shop ends! Lockdown Drill 1:30

December 22: End of second 1/4

December 23-January 1: No School-Winter Break

January 4: School Opens

January 18: MLK, JR. Day - No School

January 19: Anticipated return to F2F

Feb 1-March 19: WIDA Testing

February 5: Third ¼ progress report ends

February 10: Count Day and Lockdown Drill 9:30

February 15-19: No School-mid-winter break

March 12: Fire Drill 9:30 A.M.

March 25: Tornado Drill 1:30 P.M.

April 1: End of third 1/4

April 2-9: No School-spring break

April 11-May 17: M-STEP Grade 5

April 12-May 28: MI-ACCESS Testing

April 26-May 21: M-STEP grades 3, 4, & 6

May 14: Fourth ¼ progress report ends

May 28-31: No School

June 1: Fire Drill 2:00 P.M.

June 11: Last Day of School-1/2 Day, fourth ¼ ends