

# December 2021 Newsletter

## Burwell Elementary

By: Katie Moon

### DECEMBER IMPORTANT DATES

Calamus Court Challenge	Saturday Dec. 4th
Calamus Court Challenge	Sunday Dec. 5th
BES Winter Concert	Thursday Dec. 16th
LHP Celebration @ 2:15 PM	Friday Dec. 17th
AR Deadline 4 PM	Monday Dec. 20th
AR Movie Celebrations End of 2nd Quarter 1 PM Dismissal First Day of Winter	Tuesday Dec. 21st
No School	Wednesday Dec. 22nd
No School	Thursday Dec. 23rd
Christmas Eve	Friday Dec. 24th
Christmas Day	Saturday Dec. 25th
Christmas Break Continues	Sunday Dec. 26th— Friday Dec. 31st

choose

### Ways to Spread Joy this Christmas and Days Beyond

1. Donate items to your local charity or to those in need. Anything, big or small, can really help someone out—and will bring instant happiness!
2. Read a book out loud. Reading a book out loud to the elderly can mean the world to them.
3. Let someone cut in line. We all live busy lives, letting someone go before you at the grocery store or convenient store line can help alleviate stress!
4. Be an active listener. Sometimes, all someone needs is to have a chat, and to have someone that will *really* listen. No need to give advice or solve problems, just be present and listen.
5. Pay for the person behind you. In 2020, someone at a Dairy Queen in Minnesota paid for someone behind them and it created a chain reaction that lasted over 2 days!
6. Make a homemade gift instead of buying one. During the holiday season, why not make a homemade card to go with the gift you are giving.



This month's Teacher Spotlight will come from Mrs. Schott in the 6th Grade classroom.

**1. What is your #1 rule in your classroom?**

Mrs. Schott— *My most important rule in the classroom is that we treat each other with respect. Students know the expectations and then come prepared to enjoy learning and are able to be themselves without fear of criticism. I believe in building the self-esteem of ALL my students.*

**2. What is your favorite part of the school day?**

Mrs. Schott— *It is the best part of any day when students are engaged in their learning and they have a “Light Bulb Moment” when the pieces of understanding come together. When students make connections that apply to their own lives and want to actively share with the group is another highlight of a school day.*

**3. What is your favorite class to teach?**

Mrs. Schott— *I honestly like aspects of all the subjects, but if I had to pick one, it would be science or even writing. Science is difficult to plan for and even harder to facilitate lab activities, but again, seeing students get excited and engaged is what makes it fun. Writing is great to have a window into a child's imagination.*

**4. If you could have an animal in your classroom, what would it be?**

Mrs. Schott— *I have had “critters” in my classroom over the years AND the novelty of it wears off pretty fast when the clean-up is required. One year we had Madagascar hissing cockroaches. They were low maintenance until they got out of the container and were climbing on the walls when Dave Newlin, our janitor discovered them! He was frantic when he called my husband who was an exterminator to explain the infestation!*

**5. What inspires you to teach?**

Mrs. Schott— *Because I am somewhat of an idealist, the notion that I could have a positive impact on a child's future is what inspires me. I believe that it is a noble profession.*

**6. If you had to describe your classroom and students to a blind person, how would you describe it?**

Mrs. Schott— *As you enter the sixth grade classroom you will encounter a hint of freshness from the aroma of “PURPLE” Pine Sol, one of Mrs. Schott's favorites, or her perfume. The room is decorated in festive monthly decorations along with the many supplemental content posters that fill the walls. Painted in Longhorn Purple and counters filled with manipulatives of various science subjects, the room is warm, welcoming, and comfortable. Patriotic and character building quotes encourage students to consider their privilege and choices. Albert Einstein guards the door as a daily reminder when you enter or exit the room that we should always ask questions and use our imagination. Burwell Public School students are fortunate to have our great school building!*

**7. If you could switch roles with another teacher or staff member for one day, who would it be and why?**

Mrs. Schott— *One day would not be sufficient to really get a taste of another's part in our educational team. I would like to switch for at least a month! I did my student teaching in 4th grade and loved it. I would enjoy working with 2nd or 3rd graders, too. Art is a passion of mine and I actually was offered the art position at the high school years ago, but I didn't want to leave the elementary students. Kindergarten looks fun, but I would need a guarantee that we could switch back!!!!*

A purple banner with a string of colorful lights (yellow, blue, green, red, white) hanging across the top. The words "Classroom Spotlight" are written in a white, cursive font in the center.

# Classroom Spotlight

The words "Grade 6" are written in a large, colorful, stylized font. Each letter is filled with different patterns and colors: 'G' is yellow with black spots and orange stripes; 'r' is green with a white swirl; 'a' is pink with orange stripes; 'd' is green with black stripes; 'e' is blue and green; '6' is pink with orange spots.

## A Trip to Newfoundland

The students in the sixth grade began the school year reading, *The Day the World Came to Town*. The book is a true story of thirty-eight jetliners bound for the United States on September 11, 2001, the day that changed the world. Due to the closing of the U.S. airspace after the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., the citizens of Gander, Newfoundland, were called upon to come to the aid of more than six thousand displaced travelers. For the better part of a week nearly every man, woman, and child in Gander and the surrounding smaller towns stopped what they were doing so they could help. They put their own lives on hold for strangers from all over the world and asked for nothing in return. In a time when the goodness of mankind was in question the people of Newfoundland affirmed that love and kindness was still alive. This positive side of that tragic day has been reported by Jim DeFede in this book, *The Day the World Came to Town: 9/11 in Gander, Newfoundland*, as well in the Broadway play, *Come From Away*. In a culminating lesson after completing the book, the students in Mrs. Schott's class were fortunate to have the opportunity to meet and ask questions through Zoom of Vernoy Paolini, someone that actually visited Gander, Newfoundland and organized the "Tour of Gratitude" in 2016.

Inspired by the stories of how the people of Gander housed, fed, and cared for these unexpected guests, Mrs. Paolini wished to personally thank the people of Gander. She and eleven others from New York traveled to Gander to express their gratitude and meet the very people discussed in the book. Vernoy is a wonderful source of information that the students enjoyed talking to and asking her their questions. It was a memorable experience for all of us!



# Kindergarten

The Burwell Jr. Sr. High School Seniors joined the Kindergarten class during Miss Tetschner's guidance time to help them write letters to Santa on Wednesday, December 1st. The Kindergarten letters included who they were, what questions they had for Santa, and their Christmas wish list. The Kindergarten students were able to practice some of the skills they have been working on this semester with Miss T like how to greet someone, good manners, and asking for help. "It was a joy to see the K students use the skills they have learned and watch the seniors be positive role models for them as well," said Miss Tetschner, K-12 school counselor.





# Elementary Artists

## Hudson Redman

## Sylvia Smith



By: Ms. Heerten

Students studied the artist, Jen Arayani, and her mixed media landscapes - using watercolor and ink pens. Students designed their own landscapes and traced over the image with a Sharpie. Each student learned how to blend watercolors to create colorful backgrounds. They finished this project off by cutting a frame that made their painting look like a window to the outdoors. Sylvia said her favorite part of this project was watercolor painting, which Hudson thought that was the most challenging. Hudson did enjoy being able to draw a nature-based piece of artwork. From this project, Sylvia learned that art takes time and effort. Hudson learned to better blend the watercolor paints.

# 2nd Grade News



The second grade class recently learned about rural, suburban, and urban areas.

# 3rd Grade News

The third grade have been learning about Newton's Law. They recently ventured across the street to Mrs. Gumb's classroom where they experienced Newton's Laws first hand.





# Counselor's Corner

by Miss Tetschner

In Kindergarten we finished our Bullying Behaviors Unit and continued our Good Manners Unit including "Filling Buckets". We discussed that everyone has an invisible bucket. We can choose to fill up someone's bucket with kindness, or dip out of someone's bucket with unkind words or actions. The Kindergarten students are doing a great job of "filling buckets" with kind words, compliments, and actions.

The Second through fourth grade are wrapping up our Bullying Unit. We discussed bullying behaviors, and the definition of being bullied is 1. Hurtful, 2. On purpose, 3. More than one time. We also talked about at least four things we could do if we are being bullied 1. Tell an adult, 2. Stand up for your self, 3. Ignore the behavior, and 4. Walk away. Lastly we discussed what a Bystander is and the difference between Telling vs Tattling. Please discuss these topics with your son/daughter and encourage them to tell an adult at school if they see bullying behaviors. We will soon start our Be a Buddy Unit.

The Fifth grade and Sixth grade have been meeting with Mrs. Larsen from the GLW Children's Council learning they are Too Good for Drugs and the Project Alert program. Mrs. Larsen will be wrapping up these lessons after the first of the year.





# Longhorn Pride



On Friday, November 19th the November Longhorn Pride Celebration was held. The Kindergarten class beat the Teachers and Staff in a Fast Free Throw shoot off! We had 15 students receive gift certificates for 1 topping personal pan pizza at the Pizza Palace! Pictured above are the individual winners. Front row: Fallon Odenbach, Whitten Jensen, Quinci Brown, Arlo Conner. Second row: Adren Brown, Talen Klimek, Eryn Pinckney, Corryn Woolsey. Third row: Ariannah DeVore, Jesa Anderson, Owen Stevenson, Jackson Joy, Jasper Borgelt, Brett Buss. Not pictured: Raylan Stutzman

# Health Reminders

## Handwashing at Home, at Play, and Out and About



Germs are everywhere! They can get onto your hands and items you touch throughout the day. Washing hands at key times with soap and water is one of the most important steps you can take to get rid of germs and avoid spreading germs to those around you.

### How can washing your hands keep you healthy?

Germs can get into the body through our eyes, nose, and mouth and make us sick. Handwashing with soap removes germs from hands and helps prevent sickness. Studies have shown that handwashing can prevent 1 in 3 diarrhea-related sicknesses and 1 in 5 respiratory infections, such as a cold or the flu.

### Handwashing helps prevent infections for these reasons:



People often touch their eyes, nose, and mouth without realizing it, introducing germs into their bodies.



Germs from unwashed hands may get into foods and drinks when people prepare or consume them. Germs can grow in some types of foods or drinks and make people sick.



Germs from unwashed hands can be transferred to other objects, such as door knobs, tables, or toys, and then transferred to another person's hands.



### What is the right way to wash your hands?

1. Wet your hands with clean running water (warm or cold) and apply soap.
2. Lather your hands by rubbing them together with the soap.
3. Scrub all surfaces of your hands, including the palms, backs, fingers, between your fingers, and under your nails. Keep scrubbing for at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the "Happy Birthday" song twice.
4. Rinse your hands under clean, running water.
5. Dry your hands using a clean towel or air dry them.



Centers for Disease  
Control and Prevention  
National Center for Emerging and  
Zoonotic Infectious Diseases

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**December Birthdays**

**January Birthdays**

- 3rd—Mrs. Swett
- 6th—Brody Gumb
- 9th—Mrs. Urbanovsky
- 11th—Samuel Olcott
- 17th—Jannessa Morrison
- 17th—Finlay Trausch
- 18th—Cody Williams
- 19th—Clayton Wegener
- 22nd—Mrs. Johnson
- 22nd—Kalli Franson
- 23rd—Robert Standlea
- 24th—Kinley Taylor
- 26th—Sullivan Trausch
- 28th—Braxton Molesworth
- 29th—Conley Feeken
- 30th—Collin Jeffres

- 9th—Jasper Borgelt
- 9th—Aubrey Ohlman
- 9th—Joshua Doyle
- 12th—Halle Woolsey
- 13th—Brigham Gideon
- 15th—Taysen Swett
- 17th—Reagan Klimek
- 21st—Breon Hughes
- 23rd—Lainee Pelster
- 26th—Fallon Odenbach
- 28th—Brit Gumb
- 30th—Tayten Ferris
- 30th—Mrs. Schott

**UPCOMING DATES & EVENTS**

<b>January 3rd, 2022</b>	No School   Teacher In-Service
<b>January 4th</b>	School Resumes
<b>January 7th</b>	No School   Teacher Workday

**Save your Tabs!**



Pull for the House.

Many Hearts. One Home.

GCEA would like to thank all the elementary students and parents who support us by purchasing our candy bars. Proceeds from the sales help with scholarships, member grants, and the Children's Fund. Once again thank you for your support.

- GCEA Member, Nancy Swett



**TURN DONUTS into DONATIONS**

Casey's Rewards lets you earn points on all your Casey's purchases - in-store, online, or at the pump. Turn those points into donations to our school. Sign up in the Casey's app!

**CASEY'S Rewards**  
POINTS FOR GOOD

Sign up on the app

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**BURWELL Shurfine Food Center**

**& Buy Best Choice Brand Items?**

Cut out the UPC label from your Best Choice Brand products and bring them to Burwell Elementary. We can redeem them for cash for our school!

**DON'T TOSS IT... SCAN or CLIP IT!**

Shop these products and help earn money for Burwell Elementary!

\*Box Tops and receipts can be dropped off at Burwell Elementary\*

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