



# Little Bucks Bulletin

Nurturing Hearts, Developing Minds, Inspiring Dreams

*December 2021 Edition  
Ottawa Elementary School*



## MESSAGE FROM MRS. DENISON

Dear Little Bucks Families,

As 2021 is nearing an end and a new year approaching, we often look back at the year in reflection and retrospect. As the last two years have been anything but normal, what does remain constant and strong is the support and caring ways of our community. My heart is filled with appreciation and gratitude as our families, staff and students continue to support one another and come together as we take on each school day.

We received an overwhelming amount of donations for our *Little Bucks "Giving" Food Drive*. Over a thousand items, that's approximately three items per student. Items will be delivered to RAM this week and our school family has learned the meaning of 'giving back' and helping our community.

On behalf of the staff at Ottawa, I would like to wish our Little Buck families a happy holiday season. Enjoy the break connecting with family and friends and we will see everyone back in school on Monday, January 3, 2022.

If you ever have a concern, question, or comment please feel free to call or email and I will be happy to speak with you.

Stacey Denison, Principal

[sdenison@buchananschools.com](mailto:sdenison@buchananschools.com)



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**LITTLE BUCKS "GIVING" OUTSTANDING SUCCESS!**



Our Little Bucks have collected over a thousand items to be delivered to RAM to help families through the holiday season. Shout out to Hardings for donating bags so our students could carry their items to school. Way to go Ottawa Family!



**OFFICE HOURS**

Our school office is open 8:00am-4:30pm

Phone: 269.695.8409

Mrs. Stacey Denison, Principal

[sdenison@buchananschools.com](mailto:sdenison@buchananschools.com)

Mrs. Hurd, Administrative Assistant

[mhurd@buchananschools.com](mailto:mhurd@buchananschools.com)

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## SCHOOL HOURS

### REGULAR DAY OF SCHOOL

8:35am-3:43pm

ECSE/Preschool AM 8:35am-11:50pm

ECSE/Preschool PM 12:25pm-3:43pm

### WACKY WEDNESDAYS

8:35am-3:10pm

### HALF DAYS OF SCHOOL

8:35am-12:05pm

*No Preschool or ECSE Classes on these days!*

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## IMPORTANT DECEMBER/JANUARY DATES



## **DECEMBER**

- 8 Wacky Wednesday Early Release at 3:10 pm
- 10 Kindergarten/First Grade Grinch Activities Day
- 10 No ECSE classes (This change was made when 12/1 was a full day instead of a half)
- 13 Board of Education Meeting 6:00pm
- 15 Wacky Wednesday Early Release at 3:10 pm
- 15 Preschool/ECSE Holiday Celebrations
- 16 Kickstart to Career Deposit Day!
- 16 Half Day for Students - Dismissal at 12:05 - No ECSE or Preschool
- 17 Half Day for Students - Dismissal at 12:05 - No ECSE or Preschool
- 17 Kindergarten/First Holiday Celebrations
- 17 Winter Break Begins
- 25 Christmas

## **JANUARY**

- 1 New Year's Day
- 3 School Resumes
- 4 PTO Meeting

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**WINTER BREAK DECEMBER 20th - DECEMBER 31st**

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**SCHOOL RESUMES JANUARY 3, 2022**



## **DEPOSIT DAY! 12/16**

Students may bring in their deposits on Thursday in a sealed envelope with the following information: Student Name, Grade, Graduation Year and Account Number found in their personal savings account register booklet. If you have questions regarding deposits, please contact the Michigan Gateway Community Foundation at 695-3521.



## **Dress for the Weather**

Please be sure to send your child with a coat, hat, and mittens/gloves for the colder weather and label their belongings. This is super helpful and will keep our Lost and Found empty as we will be able to return missing items to their owner.

We will continue to wait outside before school and will go to recesses outdoors unless the Real Feel temperature is below 10 degrees. Snow pants and boots will be needed when snow begins to fall.



## **12/10 GRINCH DAY FOR KINDERGARTEN AND FIRST GRADE**

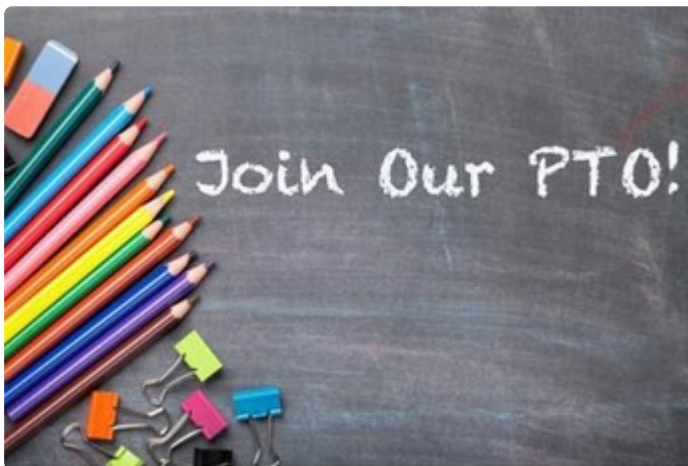
December 10th is Grinch Activities Day for Kindergarten and First Grade! Wear green or any outfit in honor of How The Grinch Stole Christmas! Students will enjoy the day with fun Grinch activities!

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### **Award and Grant Recipients at Ottawa!**

Congratulations to Ms. Calvillo and Mrs. Smith for receiving the 2021 Honor Credit Union Teacher Awards. Each teacher receives funds to help support learning in their classrooms.

Melissa Prestine, Elementary Music Teacher, was awarded a grant from the Youth Advisory Council to help purchase hand bells for her kindergarten-fourth grade students.



### **PTO OFFICER POSITIONS AVAILABLE**

We currently have the offices of President and Vice President open. If you are interested in having your name on the ballot for the upcoming election on January 4th, please send an email to Stacey Denison, [sdenison@buchananschools.com](mailto:sdenison@buchananschools.com)



Welcome to Liz and Zach McGinnis as our new PTO Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. Thank you for joining our PTO Board of Officers.

## Event Information

### Next PTO Meeting

There will be no meeting the month of December.

Next meeting will be January 4, 2022 at 6:30pm

At our January meeting, there will be an election of officers since there are two vacant positions. If you are interested in the president or vice president positions, please notify Mrs. Denison by email at [sdenison@buchananschools.com](mailto:sdenison@buchananschools.com) for your name to be added to the ballot.

We will hold the event in person unless COVID protocols change. If you cannot attend in person, we will also have a virtual link you can use to be a part of the meeting.

Meetings will be held inside, at this time, masks required, but that may change come January.

We will use this video link for all meetings: <https://meet.google.com/ikj-egvh-ijd>

When?

**Tue, Jan 4, 2022, 06:30 PM**

Where?

**Ottawa Elementary School, Ottawa Street,  
Buchanan, MI, USA**





### **Little Bucks of The Week**

We model and teach what we expect to see from students with the Buck 3. Be Respectful, Be Responsible, and Be Safe. Pictures are displayed on our wall for the entire school to see on their way to lunch and names announced during our announcements. A signed certificate will come home at the end of the week and their names will be shared in Ottawa's Update over the weekend for families!

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### **STAFF SPOTLIGHT**

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**Mrs. Monsma and Ms. Shaner**



## **PRESCHOOL TEAM**

Our preschool team consists of Mrs. Chase and Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Monsma, and Ms. Shaner. We have two Great Start Readiness Program preschool classes. Mrs. Chase and Mrs. Monsma are the lead teachers, Mrs. Fox and Ms. Shaner are classroom assistants. The program is half day with AM and PM classes with no more than 16 students in each. There are certain factors and criteria that need to be met to qualify for this program. Curriculum in preschool addresses various developmental skills, such as gross motor, fine motor, literacy, mathematics, vocabulary, and verbal expression. If you have questions regarding our preschool program, you can feel free to contact our office or email Mrs. Chase at [kchase@buchananschools.com](mailto:kchase@buchananschools.com) or Mrs. Monsma at [jmonsma@buchananschools.com](mailto:jmonsma@buchananschools.com).

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### **Mrs. Chase and Mrs. Fox**



## **DISMISSAL/TRANSPORTATION CHANGES**

We want to make sure every single student gets out the door and home safely. Please remember the following:

- You **MUST** contact our school office by 2:00 pm if you need to make changes to your child's transportation routine.
- If you need to make changes involving a bus, these changes must be communicated to our office by 1:30 pm, before the buses leave for their middle/high school routes.
- Please do not message or email teachers as they are often in session and do not receive the messages until it is too late.
- If you need a numbered car tag for the pick up line, please come into our office.
- If you are picking your child up as a walker, they will be dismissed at the doors by our front office.
- Only car riders with parents in the pick up line will be dismissed at the north parking lot doors.

# SUPERINTENDENT & BUCK PARENT CONVERSATIONS



**JOIN US!**

Mrs. Robinson wants to know what's on your mind, connect with you, and exchange information.

## **MEETING DATES & LOCATIONS**

Thursday, October 21 4:45-5:30pm, BHS Auditorium  
Wednesday, December 8 4:45 - 5:30pm, BMS Media Center  
Tuesday, February 15 4:45-5:30pm, Ottawa Gym  
Wednesday, April 27 4:45-5:30pm, Moccasin Gym

## **Board of Education Meetings**

- December 13th

Meetings will be called to order at 6:00pm unless advertised differently.

## **Transportation**

269.695.8402

## Central Office

269.695.8400

Superintendent

Mrs. Patricia Robinson [probinson@buchananschools.com](mailto:probinson@buchananschools.com)

Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent

Mrs. Michelle Munyon [mmunyon@buchananschools.com](mailto:mmunyon@buchananschools.com)

Assistant Superintendent

Mr. Mark Kurland [mkurland@buchananschools.com](mailto:mkurland@buchananschools.com)

Business Office Specialist

Mrs. Carrie Brunsting [cbrunsting@buchananschools.com](mailto:cbrunsting@buchananschools.com)

Director of Special Education

Mrs. Karin Falkenstein [kfalkenstein@buchananschools.com](mailto:kfalkenstein@buchananschools.com)

Director of Technology

Mr. Philip Place [psplace@buchananschools.com](mailto:psplace@buchananschools.com)

### YOUR FEEDBACK IS IMPORTANT!

We work hard every day to make our school the best it can be. Please tell us how we're doing!

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSedhHzyguA0\\_cCpd2Ue17IUTG5bV9LXzCo\\_e6sP2f\\_BJrovA1Q/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSedhHzyguA0_cCpd2Ue17IUTG5bV9LXzCo_e6sP2f_BJrovA1Q/viewform)



**Stacey Denison**

Stacey is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters