

BIS Buzz

The Weekly Brownstone Newsletter 4/23/2021



Update from Mrs. Hine:

Dear Brownstone Families,

Each spring, students in Connecticut take an assessment called the Smarter Balanced. It is an untimed test that assesses students on math and language arts. Students did not take the assessment last year due to the school closure. I encourage you to make sure your children get a good night's sleep before the testing and eat breakfast each morning. The information we receive from the assessments will help us to determine if there are specific concepts or content that need to be reinforced following this difficult year in education. Grade 6 students will be participating in 3 assessments and Grade 5 students will have 4 assessments. I have included a schedule below so you know the testing days in May.

SBA/NGSS	Monday 5/3	Tuesday 5/4	Wednesday 5/5	Thursday 5/6	Friday 5/7
5th	OFF	ELA CAT	ELA CAT (cont)	NGSS	OFF
6th	OFF	ELA CAT	ELA CAT (cont)	OFF	OFF
	Monday 5/10	Tuesday 5/11	Wednesday 5/12	Thursday 5/13	Friday 5/14
5th	OFF	Math CAT	Math CAT (cont)	Math PT	OFF
6th	OFF	Math CAT	Math CAT (cont)	Math PT	OFF

Grade 5 students working together to persevere through difficult math problems:



I wish you and your family a wonderful weekend and I look forward to welcoming your child back to school on Monday.

Allison Hine

Please reach out to me with any questions. I can be reached at ahine@portlandct.us or at (860)342-6765.

Attachments:

[Town Referendum- Please vote!](#)

[TFS Youth Forum](#)

Grade 6 WIN Projects:

Grade 6 students are working on a variety of things during their WIN blocks each day. Students have Health, instrumental lessons, interventions, extra time to complete assignments, and various projects that they work on during this 40 minute block. There are students who are playing the Stock Market Game, planning Field Day, participating in a service project, and preparing for and planting a garden. These self-selected activities provide students with authentic opportunities to learn a variety of skills including research, teamwork, and communication. Below are some pictures of students weeding the proposed garden site:



News from Mrs. McDonough- BIS Social Worker:

Over the past year our country has experienced turmoil on many fronts. There has been a lot of ugliness and division. In addition to being immersed in a world-wide health crisis, we are directly in the middle of a national social justice crisis. Unrest, violence, systemic racism, inequity. There is no way to unsee what we've seen. At long last there was a verdict this week in one the most significant court cases of our time. But - how do

we talk to our children about the disturbing images that are replayed over and over in a constant loop? How do we help them process what they're seeing and manage their feelings, when we may be struggling ourselves? There is no one right answer. The most important thing is to have the tough, uncomfortable conversations with our children. Not addressing the issues will not make them go away. We don't need to have all the answers, but we do need to listen, be supportive and make it clear that racism and violence is NEVER the answer. Here is a link to an excellent article from The Child Mind Institute, "Talking to Kids About Racism and Violence."

<https://childmind.org/article/racism-and-violence-how-to-help-kids-handle-the-news/>

If you or your child is having difficulty coping with the challenges of living in these changing times, and need some extra support, please feel free to reach out to me at smcdonough@portlandct.us or 860-342-6765, ext. 1615.

Dates to Remember:

Monday, May 3rd - BIS PTO Meeting at 6:30 (PTO will share the link)

Monday, May 3rd - Friday, May 14th - SBA and NGSS Testing window at BIS

Thursday, May 13th - Open House for Grade 6 Parents at PMS - 6:00-7:00 p.m. (tentative)

Friday, May 14th - Transition Activities for all BIS Students. 6th graders will visit PMS

Wednesday, May 26th - 2 Hour Delayed Opening for All Schools - No Breakfast

Monday, May 31st - Memorial Day - No School



News From Nurse Palma:

All 6th Graders (Including PVLA 6th graders): Need to have a mandatory physical completed this year per the State of CT. Thank you to those who turned in or contacted me regarding their child's physical. Accepted physicals must be completed after January 1 of your child's Fifth grade year. Please contact me if your child has an upcoming appointment. Physical forms can be found online at the link listed below. Physicals can be handed in at school, mailed, dropped off, faxed to 860-342-6766, or emailed to jpalma@portlandct.us
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/School-Nursing/Forms/HAR3_2018.pdf?la=en

Health and Wellness: The ticks are out! If your kids are playing outside, you should be checking for ticks. Ticks can be found in the woods or grassy areas. CT has 2 new species of ticks that transmit disease, deer ticks and black-legged ticks. The deer ticks are the disease transmitting offenders that carry the bacteria that gives Lyme Disease. Lyme is called "The Great Imitator," because its symptoms mimic many other diseases. It can affect any organ of the body, including the brain and nervous system, muscles and joints, and the heart. The CDC states that

Lyme is most common in adults/children who participate in outdoor activities. Things you can do to prevent Lyme Disease: wear socks pulled over long pants, wear long sleeves, a hat and closed shoes, use tick repellent on clothing, wear light colored clothing so ticks are spotted easily, and inspect yourself, child, and your pets after being outdoors. If you see a tick embedded in your skin, remove it with fine point tweezers or a tick removal tool, get as close to the skin as possible and pull straight out with direct even pressure. Wash and disinfect the area. Save the tick in a ziplock or glass jar date and time when you found/removed the tick and call your physician. Symptoms of Lyme Disease can include: skin rash, stiff neck, fatigue, headaches, nausea, dizziness, fever, muscle and joint pain and swollen lymph nodes. The following link provides great information about Lyme Disease. Please visit the following links for more information. <https://www.lymedisease.org/> <https://portal.ct.gov/CAES/Tick-Office/Tick-Office/Information-on-Submitting-Ticks>

<https://www.lymedisease.org/lyme-disease-symptom-checklist/>

<https://www.lymedisease.org/types-of-ticks/>

Friday Joke: How does Darth Vader like his toast? Answer: On the dark side!!!

COVID-19 Screening Tool: Attached you will find the Health Screening Tool document. We ask that you utilize this tool with your child each day before school. Remember it is best to keep your child home if they are not feeling well. COVID-19 can be hard to spot. Especially in kids, it often shows up as very mild (or no) symptoms. In other words, there is a chance that your child's runny nose is a clue they have the virus. You'll need to take extra precautions right now. We are in this together to keep our community safe. Contact your child's pediatrician with any concerns or you can also call CCMC's 24-hour Pediatric COVID-19 Hotline at 1-833-226-2362 to speak to one of their clinicians. They're available to help, any day, any time.

[COVID SCREENING TOOL](#)