

BIS Buzz

The Weekly Brownstone Newsletter 10/30/2020



Update from Mrs. Hine:

Dear Brownstone Families,

We have had a wonderful week here at BIS, starting with the arrival of all our in-person learners on Monday, and ending with a fun day of Halloween costumes. This afternoon, most students watched a webinar sponsored by the CT DEEP. It took place in the planetarium at Mystic Seaport, where staff led the students on an interactive exploration of the phases of the moon (with a little Halloween twist). Ask your child about what they learned!

Conferences will take place on Monday, November 23rd and Tuesday, November 24th. Next week, homeroom teachers will send you out a link that you will use in order to select a conference time that works best for you. All conferences will be held virtually this year. If none of the available time slots work for you, please email your child's teacher and they will work to accommodate your schedule.

The band instrument Personal Protective Equipment has arrived!!! (Yes, this is another sentence that I never thought I would write...) This means that we can begin playing instruments in school next week. Please read the attached documents to learn more about this and to see your child's scheduled lesson

time. This will be important to know as your child will need to bring their musical instrument to school.

[Band Letter](#)

[Grade 6 Schedule](#)

[Grade 5 Schedule](#)

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.

PTO:

Next meeting will be held on Monday, November 9th. at 6:30pm.

Please help to raise money for the BIS PTO by purchasing beautiful balsam wreaths for the holiday season. The order forms were sent home this week with students and a copy is also attached below.

[BIS PTO Wreath Sale Order Form](#)

From the Tech Department:

Please use the following link to report Chromebook tech issues or needs: [Chromebook Service Desk Form](#)

There is also a link on the school website under Parent Resources.

PVLA:

PVLA school photos are here and ready for pickup for those who ordered them. Please stop by the school and ring the doorbell between 8:45- 3:00 any day or call ahead to make other arrangements.

Dates to Remember:

Saturday - October 31st - Daylight Savings Time End - Turn clocks BACK 1 hour before going to bed

Tuesday, November 3rd - PD Day for Teachers - No School for Students - Election Day

Monday, November 9th - Last Day to Order BIS PTO Holiday Wreaths

Wednesday - November 11th - No School - Veteran's Day

Friday - November 20th - Report Cards Are Going Home

Monday, November 23rd - Early Dismissal for Students - Teacher/Parent Conferences

Tuesday, November 24th - Early Dismissal for Students - Teacher/Parent Conferences

Wednesday, November 25th - Thanksgiving Break - No School

Thursday - November 26th - Thanksgiving Day - No School

Friday - November 27th - Thanksgiving Break - No School

Mrs. McDonough's Update:

Overall, our return to full, in-school learning has gone very well. Students are following the protocols and seem happy to be back with their teachers and friends full time. This week we began weekly social-emotional lessons (SEL) in grade 5. Our topic was "personal space." We read the book Personal Space Camp by Julia Cook and had great discussions. Next week we will begin SEL for grade 6. If you have any questions or

concerns or if your child is having difficulty adjusting to full in-person learning, please feel free to reach out to me at smcdonough@portlandct.us or 860-342-6765, ext. 1615.



News From Nurse Palma:

All 6th Graders: Need to have a mandatory physical completed this year per the State of CT. Letters went home to families who need to provide a physical for their child. Around 80% of 6th graders need a physical turned in to the school. Thank you for those who turned in or called regarding their child's physical. The last mandated physical was Kindergarten, so don't be surprised by the year of your child's last physical on file. Accepted physicals must be completed after January 1 of your child's Fifth grade year. Please call me if your child has an upcoming appointment. Physical forms can be found online at the link listed below. I also included one in the mailing. Physicals can be handed in at school, mailed, 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: October is also Breast Cancer Awareness Month! The COVID-19 pandemic has affected just about every aspect of life, including screening, diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up care for breast cancer. Please, if you haven't already, go get your yearly mammogram. If you feel a lump call your Doctor. Don't wait. Why are mammograms important? Screening mammograms are considered the international gold standard for detecting breast cancer early. Mammograms can usually find lumps 2 or 3 years before a woman or her primary care provider can feel them. Research has shown a 25 per cent reduction in deaths from breast cancer among women who regularly screen. Self breast exams are also important in early detection. While mammograms can help you to detect cancer before you can feel a lump, breast self-exams help you to be familiar with how your breasts look and feel so you can alert your healthcare professional if there are any changes. Follow the link to help teach you how to do a self breast

exam. <https://www.nationalbreastcancer.org/breast-self-exam> Below links on breast health.

<https://www.breastcancer.org/> <https://www.acraccreditation.org/mammography-saves-lives>

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 833.226.2362 to speak to one of their clinicians. They're available to help, any day, any time.

[Screening Tool LINKED HERE](#)

Friday Joke: What is a witch's favorite subject in school? ? Answer: Spelling!

Our Week in Pictures:

Mr. Searson's class surprises him with confetti and a song on his birthday:



Fun costumes from today:





