

BIS Buzz

The Weekly Brownstone Newsletter 11/20/2020



Update from Mrs. Hine:

Dear Brownstone Families,

Today, report cards were scheduled to come home with your child. Due to some technical glitches, the report cards are not printing. I hope to get the hard copy to you next week before we break for the holiday. The teachers have inputted the standards-based grades, and will be ready to discuss these with you at conferences on Monday and Tuesday. If you have not yet signed up for a conference, please call the school office at your earliest convenience at (860)342-6765.

Due to the Reopening Committee's recommendation, supported by the Board of Education in their meeting last night, we will be moving to remote learning for the two weeks following the Thanksgiving break. In preparation for this, we are sending home additional books and materials with your child. Please keep these books in a safe place so that they can be returned to school when we are back to in-person learning.



I know that the move to remote learning presents multiple challenges for our Brownstone families. We are working as a district and with the Town of Portland to develop plans to support needs including child care, nutrition, heating, clothing, and/or housing. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or Sheryl McDonough in the coming days and weeks if we can be of help.

Next week I will send you more details about the remote learning that your child will follow, beginning on November 30th. Teachers will provide detailed daily schedules for Google Meets in their Google Classrooms. Below are the overall daily schedules:

| Distance Learning Days | | | |
|------------------------|--|------------------------|--|
| Grade 6- 3 person Team | | Grade 6- 2 person Team | |
| 8:30- 9:00 | Morning Meeting | 8:30- 9:00 | Morning Meeting |
| 9:00- 9:30 | Searson- ELA Santavenere- Math Baldwin- Sci/SS | 9:00- 9:30 | Verrastro- Math Morin- ELA |
| 9:30- 10:00 | | 9:30- 10:00 | |
| 10:00- 10:30 | Brain Break | 10:00- 10:30 | Brain Break |
| 10:30- 11:00 | Searson- Math Santavenere- Sci/SS Baldwin- ELA | 10:30- 11:00 | Verrastro- ELA Morin- Math |
| 11:00- 11:30 | | 11:00- 11:30 | |
| 11:30- 12:00 | Santavenere- ELA Baldwin- Math | 11:30- 12:00 | Verrastro- Sci/ SS Morin- SS/Sci |
| 12:00- 1:00 | Lunch/ Break Time for All | 12:00- 1:00 | Lunch/ Break Time for All |
| 1:00-1:30 | Specials- SEL, Art, PE, Music, STEAM | 1:00-1:30 | Specials- SEL, Art, PE, Music, STEAM |
| 1:30- 2:00 | Santavenere- ELA Baldwin- Math | 1:30-2:00 | Verrastro- Sci/ SS Morin- SS/Sci |
| 2:00- 2:10 | Organize materials and review assignments | 2:00- 2:10 | Organize materials and review assignments |
| 2:00- 3:25 | <small>Office Hours/PLCS/team</small> Meetings/PPTS&504s&Parent Meetings/Student Feedback | 2:00- 3:25 | <small>Office Hours/PLCS/team</small> Meetings/PPTS&504s&Parent Meetings/Student Feedback |

| Distance Learning Schedule | | | |
|----------------------------|---|------------------------|---|
| Grade 5- 2 person Team | | Grade 5- 3 person Team | |
| 8:30- 9:00 | Morning Meeting | 8:30- 9:00 | Morning Meeting |
| 9:00- 9:30 | Graf- ELA Distin- Math | 9:00- 9:30 | Moynihan- ELA Peer- Math Baio- Sci/SS |
| 9:30- 10:00 | | 9:30- 10:00 | |
| 10:00- 10:30 | Brain Break | 10:00- 10:30 | Brain Break |
| 10:30- 11:00 | Graf- Math Distin- ELA | 10:30- 11:00 | Moynihan- Math Peer- Sci/SS Baio- ELA |
| 11:00- 11:30 | | 11:00- 11:30 | |
| 11:30- 12:00 | Specials, Art, PE, Music, STEAM <small>(Specials teachers will also meet with Bridge cohort)</small> | 11:30- 12:00 | Specials, Art, PE, Music, STEAM <small>(Specials teachers will also meet with Bridge cohort)</small> |
| 12:00- 1:00 | Lunch/ Break Time for All | 12:00- 1:00 | Lunch/ Break Time for All |
| 1:00- 1:30 | Graf- SS/Sci Distin- Sci/SS | 1:00- 1:30 | Moynihan- Sci/SS Peer- ELA Baio- Math |
| 1:30-2:00 | | 1:30-2:00 | |
| 2:00- 2:10 | Organize materials and review assignments | 2:00- 2:10 | Organize materials and review assignments |
| 2:00- 3:25 | <small>Office Hours/PLCS/team</small> Meetings/PPTS&504s&Parent Meetings/Student Feedback | 2:00- 3:25 | <small>Office Hours/PLCS/team</small> Meetings/PPTS&504s&Parent Meetings/Student Feedback |

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:

[Information on the PopUp COVID Testing in Portland](#)

Please note that due to the 1/2 days next week, breakfast and lunch will not be offered:

[Lunches/Breakfasts next week and After Break](#)

[Sophomore Class Auction- TONIGHT!](#)

News from Mrs. McDonough:

This week we continued weekly social-emotional lessons (SEL) in both grades, 5th grade in person and 6th grade virtually. We continued to practice “impulse control” using the Kids’ Book of Questions. It was definitely a challenge for students to wait their turn silently, when only one student was allowed to answer a question. Ask your child how he/she did with the game. It was a breeze for some students, a challenge for others!

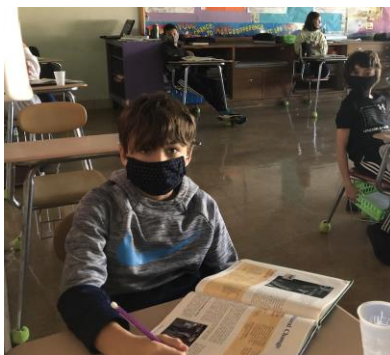
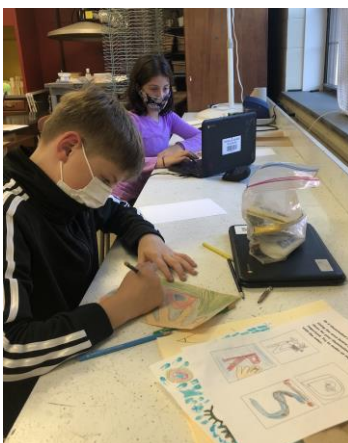
Please be on the lookout for a “Family Needs Survey” that will be sent via email to all BIS families soon. Remote learning can be stressful and place a heavy burden on families. Although our goal is safety for everyone, we know that nothing that is happening now is natural or easy. We want to help, to the best of our ability, families who need more support right now. We also know that there are families who are doing okay and have resources that can ease the burden for others. This survey asks what your family needs. For those who are managing well, the survey asks how you might be able to help your neighbors who may need a helping hand. Survey responses will be sent to Allison Hine and myself and kept in the strictest confidence. We will not reveal any identifying information without your expressed permission.

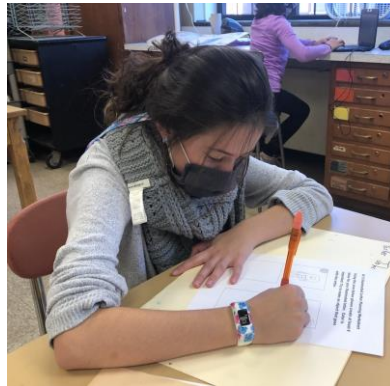
If you have any questions or concerns or if your child is having difficulty coping with the challenges of living in these changing times, please feel free to reach out to me at smcdonough@portlandct.us or 860-342-6765, ext. 1615.

PTO:

Next meeting will be held on Monday, December 14th. at 6:30pm.

Our Week in Pictures:





Dates to Remember:

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



News From Nurse Palma:

Donations needed: Small waters. I received a generous donation and should be all set for a while. Thank you!

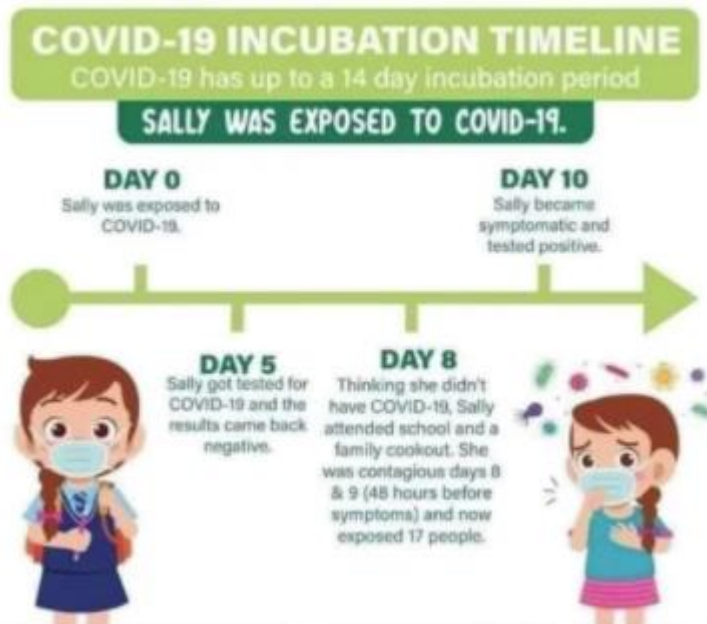
All 6th Graders: Need to have a mandatory physical completed this year per the State of CT. Letters went home to families who need to provide a physical for their child. Around 60% of 6th graders need a physical turned in to the school. Thank you for those who turned in or called regarding their child's 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

Travel advisory: If you are traveling over the Holiday break please keep in mind that CT has a travel advisory. An Affected Traveler is a person entering into the State of Connecticut who has spent twenty-four (24) hours or longer in an Affected State or an Affected Country within fourteen (14) days prior to arriving in Connecticut but does not include an individual remaining in Connecticut for less than twenty-four (24) hours. The term "Affected Traveler" includes Connecticut residents who are returning from a visit to an Affected State or an Affected Country. There is a mandatory self-quarantine for a period of fourteen (14) days from the time of last contact with such Affected State or Affected Country. Basically if you spend more than 24 hours visiting family in a state that is on the travel advisory, you need to quarantine or get a PCR COVID-19 test. Please see the below link for FAQ's.

<https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/travel>

Pop-up Drive-through COVID-19 testing this Saturday in Portland : Free COVID-19 testing Saturday November 21 from 10am-2pm at the Portland Library. One way, enter from Freestone Avenue at The Portland Library, exit by The Portland Waverly Senior Center. This pop up testing site is sponsored by the Community Health Center of Middletown, arranged by the Chatham Health District with assistance from The Town of Portland.

Health and wellness: If you have been exposed to COVID-19 and are considered a close contact keep in mind COVID-19 has an incubation period of 14 days. A person on quarantine may decide to get a COVID-19 test, but remember that if you have a negative COVID-19 test during quarantine it doesn't mean you can end your 14 days of quarantine early. You may start showing signs of sickness after your test. The 14 days of quarantine still needs to be completed. When we contact trace we go 2 days prior to the test result for asymptomatic or 2 days prior to symptom onset. Please see the below timeline for Sally. Please don't be like Sally.



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 or call 211. They're available to help, any day, any time.

[COVID SCREENING TOOL](#)

Friday Joke: What did the turkey say to the turkey hunter on Thanksgiving Day?? Answer: Quack, Quack!