

# BIS Buzz

## The Weekly Brownstone Newsletter

January 15, 2021



### Update from Mrs. Hine:

Dear Brownstone Families,

I am excited to welcome all children who are learning in-person back to Brownstone next Tuesday, January 19th!! The teachers and staff can't wait to have students back in classrooms with us. Below I have included some important reminders. Please read through them so we are all ready for the start on Tuesday.

#### Reminders:

- Dismissal times for walkers will continue to be staggered. 5th grade at 2:45 and 6th grade at 2:55.
- Library books need to be returned to the library, please!
- Chromebooks need to be charged and brought to school on Tuesday.
- Masks must be worn at all times when in the school building.
- Please have students wear appropriate clothing to go outside each day. Warm hats, gloves, and coats will be important so we can take mask breaks outside on cold days.
- Music lessons will begin the week of January 25th. Please check the schedule and bring instruments and music masks on those days.

- **Continue to monitor your child's health using the attached screener. Our ability to remain in-person depends on our collective adherence to the mitigation strategies.**

**In preparation for this transition, we have made a few changes to our special area schedules to reduce the number of adult contacts your child has each week in school. We have also modified our mask break procedures based on feedback from staff. If you have any questions as we return to in-person learning next week, please reach out to me.**

**I wish you and your family a wonderful long weekend and I can't wait to welcome your child back to school on Tuesday!**

**Allison Hine**

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

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### **Attachments:**

**[COVID Screener Tool](#)**

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### **Mitigation Strategies:**

**Knowing that our ability to stay in school and stay healthy is impacted by our collective adherence to the mitigation strategies, we ask that you and your family take the steps below:**

- **Wear masks that cover both the nose and mouth**
  - **Maintain social distancing**
  - **Avoid crowds**
  - **Wash and/or sanitize hands frequently**
  - **Monitor your health and stay home if not feeling well or have been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID**
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## **Bookfair News:**

**Dear families,**

**You're invited to shop our Scholastic Book Fair online from January 25 – February 7, 2021! All purchases benefit our school and connect kids with new books, favorite characters, complete series, and more.**

**You'll love the NEW option to shop for Book Fair exclusives directly from the interactive booklist and enjoy these special online shopping features:**

- **Over 6,000 items, including new releases, best sellers, and value packs**
- **All orders ship direct to home**
- **FREE shipping on book-only orders over \$25\***
- **All purchases support our school and earn 25% in rewards**

**Visit our Book Fair Homepage and click “Shop Now” to get started! The link will be live starting on January 25th!**

**<https://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bookfairs/cptoolkit/homepage.do?method=homepage&url=brownstoneintermediateschool>**

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### **Dates to Remember:**

**Monday, January 18th - Martin Luther King, Jr Day - No School**

**Tuesday, January 19th - K-6 Full In-Person Learning Re-opening**

**Wednesday, January 20th - 2Hr Delayed Opening for All Schools**

**Wednesday, January 20th - PTO Virtual Bingo Night (6-7:30 p.m.)**

**Monday, January 25th - Sunday, February 7th - Virtual Scholastic Book Fair**

## PTO:

This Wednesday night, we are holding a fun BINGO event for all BIS students. Participants will have the opportunity to win gift cards to use at the upcoming Book Fair!! We will have many guests on the Virtual Meet to call numbers, including Ms. Kamis, Ms. Carr, Dr. Britton, and Mrs. Hine. We hope you will join us for the fun. Mrs. Hine will send out a link to the Google Meet on Wednesday to all student email addresses.



### **News From Nurse Palma:**

**All 6th Graders: Need to have a mandatory physical completed this year per the State of CT. Emails 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 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 call 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](mailto:jpalma@portlandct.us) [https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/School-Nursing/Forms/HAR3\\_2018.pdf?la=en](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/School-Nursing/Forms/HAR3_2018.pdf?la=en)**

**Travel Advisory: We hope you enjoy the long weekend before school opens on Tuesday. However, if you are looking to get away, remember there is a travel advisory requiring a negative COVID-19 test or a 10 day quarantine. If any state is visited for more than 24 hours excluding New York, Rhode Island and New Jersey then you need to follow the CT Travel Advisory. Please see the following link for more information. <https://portal.ct.gov/coronavirus/travel>**

**Health and Wellness:** I am looking forward to seeing the students on Tuesday. Please utilize the COVID-19 screening tool each morning before your child comes to school. When in doubt, keep your child home. Also, please make sure your phone numbers are up to date, in case you need to be contacted. Have a plan in place if you are at work and your child needs to be picked up.

**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.

**Friday Joke:** Why wouldn't the shrimp share his treasure? **Answer:** Because he was a little shellfish!!!

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### **News from Mrs. McDonough, our BIS Social Worker:**

**This week we continued weekly social-emotional lessons (SEL) in both grades. Our lesson this week covered the important topic of "Problem Solving." Students learned about the SODAS method of solving problems:**

- 1. Identify the problem Situation.**
- 2. Think of all your Options for dealing with the situation.**
- 3. Consider the possible Disadvantages and Advantages of each option.**
- 4. Choose an option as your Solution and then do it.**

**In the coming weeks we'll be practicing our problem solving skills. Maybe you can use the method with a problem that comes up at home! The more practice students have, the better equipped they will be to handle future problems.**

**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](mailto:smcdonough@portlandct.us) or 860-342-6765, ext. 1615**