

## **BIS Buzz**

**The Weekly Brownstone Newsletter 4/30/2021**

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**Update from Mrs. Hine:**

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**Dear Brownstone Families,**

We are planning transition activities across all grades to introduce students to their new school or new grade for the coming school year. On May 14th, all 6th grade students will be bussed to Portland Middle School first thing in the morning. After a tour of the building and an introduction to the staff, they will walk back to Brownstone (weather permitting). During that time, all 5th grade students will be meeting with the 6th grade teachers and visiting the classrooms in the grade 6 wing. 4th grade students will be coming to Brownstone to tour the building and the 5th grade classrooms. Please know that cohorting, cleaning between cohorts, social distancing, and all other mitigation strategies will be in place throughout the visits that day.

Mr. Hershon, the principal of Portland Middle School, will be hosting an Open House for current 6th grade families. It will be Thursday, May 13th from 6-7pm in the auditorium at Portland Middle School. It will be recorded for anyone who does not want to attend in person. The guidance counselor, teachers and also student representatives will be there to provide information and answer any questions. Course selection sheets will be coming home with 6th grade students today. Please make sure they are returned back to BIS by May 7th.

On Monday, you will receive a link to the Panorama Family Survey. I ask that you please take a few minutes to complete the survey in order to inform the work we will be doing in the coming years. Your feedback is valued and appreciated and I will use the results as I do each year, to set priorities for our work at BIS.

The Portland Task Force on Solidarity (TFS) is inviting all youth members of our community interested in diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) to come together as a group to identify and address your ideas and concerns around DEI in Portland. They are hosting a gathering at the Town Green behind the Senior Center on Sunday, May 2nd from 1pm - 3pm. All youth members of the Portland community are encouraged to attend and be heard. [Click here for more information.](#)

6th grade students are participating in a variety of activities during their WIN blocks. Below is a picture of some students who are painting inspirational rocks with Mrs. Palma.



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](mailto:ahine@portlandct.us) or at (860)342-6765.

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### **Attachments:**

[Town Referendum Vote- May 10th](#)

[Portland Task Force on Solidarity](#)

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### **PTO:**

Our PTO will be meeting on Monday evening at 6:30. Please join us if you are able. The PTO will be organizing many things for Teacher Appreciation next week. Thank you PTO for all you do for our BIS Staff!!!!

[PTO MEETING LINK](#) (Click here at 6:30 and you will be connected to the meeting)

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### **News from Mrs. McDonough:**

News from Mrs. McDonough, BIS School Social Worker

Believe it or not - there are only 32 days left of this school year! Although it has been a year like no other, some things remain the same. The long lazy days of summer will be upon us before we know it and our children will be looking for things to do. Over the coming weeks I'll share some resources that will, hopefully, help you to plan for a fun summer. Below are links to two lists of summer camps in Connecticut. There are some virtual options, if you are not comfortable with a traditional camp this year. Please reach out if you would like me to help you to look for some camp scholarship options.

<https://www.ct.gov/kids/cwp/view.asp?a=2574&Q=437286#Channel>

[https://www.kidscamps.com/summer\\_camps/connecticut-summer-camps.html](https://www.kidscamps.com/summer_camps/connecticut-summer-camps.html)

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.

#### Dates to Remember:

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



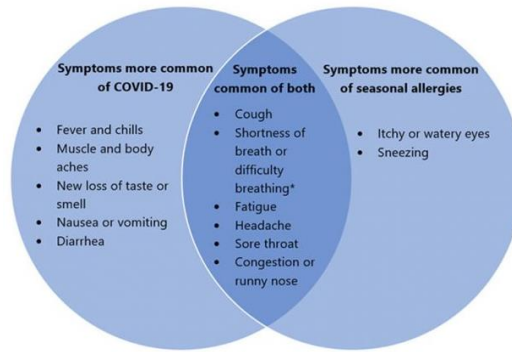
News From Nurse Palma:

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](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)

Health and Wellness: Spring is in full swing. If your child suffers from seasonal allergies, it can be difficult to keep the symptoms under control. While there's no cure for allergies, there are steps you can take to make sure your child has a sunny, symptom-free spring! Follow the below link for more in depth information on Survival Tips for Parents. Having seasonal allergies during a pandemic can be tricky. Please know that if any child presents with symptoms in the below categories for COVID or "both" while in school, they will be sent home for either a Dr.'s note confirming allergies vs Covid, or a negative PCR test. Confirmed allergy symptoms will need to be under control with appropriate medication for return to school to prevent repeated dismissals. Please contact your pediatricians office for guidance. We're sorry to say that we can't accept a parental report of allergies as a

definite diagnosis for illness complaints in school, it **MUST** come from a licensed provider. <https://www.unitypoint.org/livewell/article.aspx?id=d7f547a4-f6b1-427c-9f42-feb699b1e1d0>



Friday Joke: What do you call a fossil that just lies there? Answer: Lazy bones!!!

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](#)