

**The Weekly Brownstone Newsletter 5/7/2021**

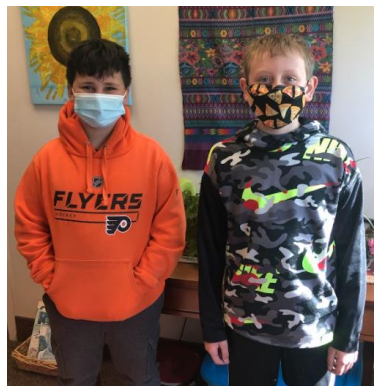


**Update from Mrs. Hine:**

Dear Brownstone Families,

I want to start by thanking our families and the PTO for all of the things that were organized for Teacher Appreciation Week. Our staff enjoyed many raffle prizes, a delicious lunch, and many heartfelt cards and beautiful flowers. Thank you for everything you did to honor the hard work and dedication our staff show each day!

We have had many great things happening this week, but I would like to highlight 2 specific things. First, two fifth grade students, Jonah Hess and Nick Grosso, spent their recess cleaning up trash around the playground. They volunteered to do this work and to make the playground more enjoyable for their peers. Thanks, Nick and Jonah!



Also, the 6th grade Garden Group planted their garden today. This followed many weeks of researching and planning. Isabel Grzegorek and Jasmine Yaney from Mrs. Morin's class wrote a description of their project in the section below.

We are looking forward to the transition activities next Friday, May 14th. All activities will take place during school hours. 6th graders will travel to Portland Middle School, and 5th graders

will travel downstairs to meet this 6th grade teachers. Please let me know if you have any questions about this.

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:

[Budget Referendum on MONDAY!!](#)

[Portland Equity and Inclusion Task Force](#)

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### Solidarity with our AAPI Community Members: Action Steps:

Portland Social Justice Coalition will host a community conversation on Zoom, Wednesday, May 12th @6:30pm. This event is a follow-up to last month's viewing and discussion of the PBS [interview](#) "How to address the surge of anti-Asian hate crimes." Participants will discuss concrete steps that can be taken in Portland to increase education and awareness about Asian American/Pacific Islander history and culture, and to combat racism. All are welcome to join the conversation. Students are invited to attend with a parent/guardian. Email [portlandsocialjustice@gmail.com](mailto:portlandsocialjustice@gmail.com) for the Zoom link. May is Asian Pacific Heritage Month - learn more at [asianpacificheritage.gov](http://asianpacificheritage.gov).

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### BIS Pollinator Garden:



A group of kids at Brownstone elementary school otherwise known as "The Garden Group", took the abandoned planter on the side of the school and brought it to life. We've researched different types of flowers, seeing what might work in the lonely dark planter. We had a challenge to find partial shade flowers, and complete shade flowers. We created an ornamental slide with all the different flowers, ideas, and suggestions for names. We met

with experts (from the Portland River Valley Garden Club to learn more about possible flowers and what they need. Once we had all the information on what mulch to use and how much dirt we needed, we went out and pulled the weeds out of the planter. We had cardboard, sand, and dirt put in the planter. Everyone worked together to figure out what cool plants we could put in. Finally we were able to put amazing flowers in the garden and we are excited to help them grow!

We want to thank Mr. Nate and Miss Karen for helping us at school, Carl Johnson, Nate Strycharz, Tim Aresco, Al Prince, and Tom Sienkiewicz who helped us get the dirt and compost, and also the experts from the Portland River Valley Garden Club.

-The Garden Group

### 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.

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

Monday, May 24th - BIS PTO - 6:30 p.m. (virtual)

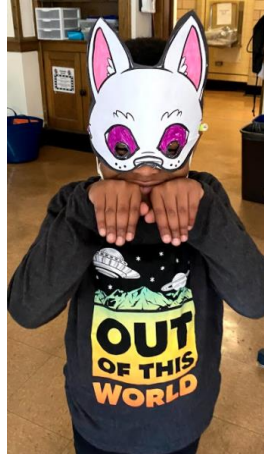
Wednesday, May 26th - 2 Hour Delayed Opening for All Schools - No Breakfast

Monday, May 31st - Memorial Day - No School

### Pictures from the week:

Fifth graders coded Ozobots to follow the flow of energy in an ecosystem!





### News From Nurse Palma:

Health and Wellness: Health and Wellness - May is National Melanoma/Skin Cancer detection month. Skin cancer is the most common type of cancer in the United States. Ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun is the main cause of skin cancer. UV damage can also

cause wrinkles and blotches or spots on your skin. The good news is that skin cancer can be prevented, and it can almost always be cured when it's found and treated early. Take simple steps today to protect your skin:

- Stay out of the sun as much as possible between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- Use broad spectrum sunscreen with SPF 15 or higher. Put on sunscreen every 2 hours and after you swim or sweat. Remember to check your sunscreen expiration date.
- Find some shade.
- Cover up with long sleeves and a hat.
- Wear sunglasses to protect your eyes.
- Check your skin regularly for changes.
- Plan ahead and have a sun safety bag ready to grab on your way out the door.

It is hard to stay out of the sun during warm Spring and Summer days, but remember to apply sunscreen on yourself and your child. Prevention is key to protecting your skin against the sun's damaging rays. Show the CDC your sun safety practice by using #SunSafeSelfie and post it on social media. <https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/skin/sunsaferselfie/index.htm>

[https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/skin/basic\\_info/index.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/skin/basic_info/index.htm)

Friday Joke: What do transplant nurses hate? Answer: Rejection!!!

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](#)