



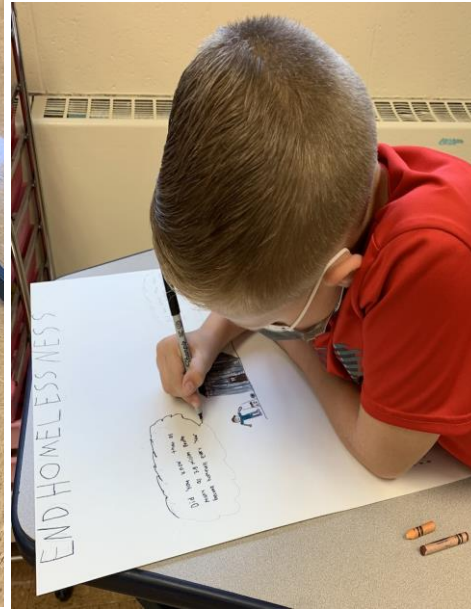
## **Update from Mrs. Hine:**

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**Dear Brownstone Families,**

**Conferences will be held on Monday, November 23rd from 12:30-7:15 and Tuesday, November 24th from 12:30-3:30. All conferences will be held virtually this year. On Monday at 9:30, I will send you an email explaining the process to select a conference time. Please check your email so you can select a time that works in your schedule.**

**Our fifth grade students participated in the Kid Governor this year. This program helps students to learn about Government by participating in an election. They develop platforms, research their chosen topic, and create information videos, which they share out with their peers. We are hoping to have a visit from the Kid Governor Bus on Tuesday as a culminating activity with our students. Check out the pictures below of fifth grade students working on the posters they made to wrap up the unit.**



I wanted to let you know that this afternoon we held an evacuation drill. During an evacuation drill, the entire student body and staff move to an alternative location which is a safe distance from the school campus. The purpose of an evacuation is to move everyone safely and quickly away from a potential danger like a gas leak. Removing the students and staff also allows room for emergency response personnel to work.

The reason we conduct drills is to familiarize students and staff with procedures and to evaluate the effectiveness of the plans we have in place. We are able to identify any potential concerns and address them so that we can adjust our procedures. Eric Giudice, who monitors security throughout the Portland Public

Schools and officers from the Portland Police Department were here to observe the drill and provide feedback.

I am pleased to let you know that our drill was orderly and efficient. Students were quiet and followed adult directions throughout the drill and staff were familiar with the procedures and were able to implement the plan quickly.

Please let me know if you have any questions about this drill or any other drill we conduct throughout the year.

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:**

**[Band Lesson Rosters and Schedule- Updated](#)**

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

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**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](#)**

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**Update from Mrs. McDonough, BIS Social Worker:**

**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 continued weekly social-emotional lessons (SEL) in grade 5 and began them in grade 6. Our topic was “Impulse Control.” We read the book What Were You Thinking? by Bryan Smith and had great discussions. 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](mailto:smcdonough@portlandct.us) or 860-342-6765, ext. 1615.**

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### **Dates to Remember:**

**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**

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

**Hydration:** Please make sure your child is bringing a water bottle to school every day. The water fountains are not being used due to Covid-19. You can only fill water bottles, if you have one. The kids are thirsty, let's keep them hydrated.

**Donations needed:** Small waters. I only have a few left. I have been giving them out to children who forget their water bottles at home. Thank you in advance.

**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](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:** Winter is coming and so is the flu! Please read the below messages from the CDC and go get your flu shot.

#### **Key Messages from CDC:**

- Getting a flu vaccine is more important than ever during 2020-2021 to protect yourself, your family and your community from flu. A flu vaccine this season can also help reduce the burden on our healthcare systems responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and save medical resources for care of COVID-19 patients.
- CDC expects flu activity to increase in the coming weeks. An annual flu vaccine is the best way to protect against influenza and its potentially serious complications.

- CDC recommends everyone 6 months and older gets a flu vaccine.
- <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/season/protect-your-health.html>

**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.

**Friday Joke:** How do you catch a whole school of fish? Answer: With bookworms.

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### **Our Week in Pictures:**

**Hard at work in Mrs. Moynihan's Room-**

