



Bear Facts

The Weekly Newsletter of
Bethany Lutheran School
Long Beach, CA
www.bethanylutheran.org

Communication+Responsibility+Organization+Service+Sharing



FROM THE PRINCIPAL



It's Teacher Appreciation Week! I'm sure you are as grateful as I am for the amazing educators we have here at Bethany. They are "all in" for our students and I thank God for them each and every day. (I also thank God that they have all remained healthy!!) The PTL has some great virtual appreciation ideas planned for the week....see the attached flyer for the info!

While our teachers are hard at work adapting lessons and supporting students through this crisis, we are also working together to make plans for the next school year.

- We're planning for the social/emotional learning and support our students will need after this huge upheaval in their lives (and yours!)
- We are taking note of what's working well and what is not with remote learning so we can refine our plan in case we need to do this again at some point.
- We're having lots of "what does this mean?" discussions about procedures for student and staff safety.
- We're examining new curriculum materials and including the new lens of "how well do these materials translate to remote learning?"

Governor Newsom announced yesterday that there would be an "easing of restrictions" in California. Details about this easing are expected on Thursday, so we should know more then about the possible impact on our students and families. In the meantime, we continue to pray for all of you each and every day as you support your children's learning from home. **We appreciate you, too!**

We miss you.

Be safe.

You are loved.

Dr. Fink

P.S. Speaking of planning, we plan to offer childcare to children of essential workers beginning June 1 and **WE WILL HAVE SUMMER CAMP** this summer. We're working on our COVID-19 plan and will follow all the guidelines in place at that time for student and staff safety. Please watch the Bear Facts for more information in the weeks ahead.

School Bulletin #33

May 5, 2020

DON'T FORGET

☺May 4-8: Teacher Appreciation Week

☺May 8 is NOT a minimum day, as previously scheduled.

☺May 16-The Bethany Block Party/Fun Day is cancelled.

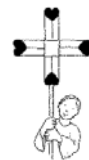
☺May 11-24 VIRTUAL Book Fair

☺May 22 and 25: No school



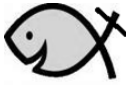
Chapel

We will post a chapel service each week on Wednesdays so we can be united in worship! This Mr. Fink will bring us the message.



Bethany Parents, we know some of you have been affected financially by this crisis. Please reach out to Dr. Fink if you need to make any adjustments in your FACTS account or are in need of any other kind of assistance.

We are standing by ready to help as best we can!



The FISHin' Hole
Opportunities to Serve

Parents, of all the things to stress about right now, FISH Hours should not be on your list. Please don't give it a second thought. ☺

[Bethany Lutheran Church Worship](#)
Our church services are pre-recorded and posted online...you can find the links on the Bethany website:
www.bethanylutheran.org
Are you in need of pastoral care?
Please call the church office: 421-4711

Middle School Corner

This week's Advisory activity provides the middle school students with an opportunity to shine the light of Christ into the lives of others. We're conducting a letter-writing campaign! Students are encouraged to write letters to some or all on the list below.

Want to join in? The more the merrier! All letters are welcome from the Bethany students!

- **Cards for First Responders:** Please write uplifting messages of thanks and appreciation! We will be able to deliver these to firefighters, police officers and medical personnel.
- **Cards for Shut-ins and the Hospitalized:** Early this year Mr. Fink spoke with the middle school about his ministry. He said he could use cheerful and bright cards for the shut-ins and those who are hospitalized.
- **Jackson Faulkner:** Jackson suffers from a rare tumor disease that can be painful and has required many surgeries. His most recent surgery was at the end of April. Jackson was previously a student at Bethany, but had to move to Arkansas for medical opportunities. Please consider sending him cards for healing because he'd be tickled to think his Bethany family is thinking of him and praying for him.
- **Please Mail Cards to-**
Bethany Lutheran School
% Mrs. Carrie Evans
5100 E Arbor Road
Long Beach, CA 90808
- **Know of some others?** We'd encourage you to write letters to those in your life who could use encouragement at this time. You can mail those directly to the recipients!

Please consider including Bible Verses and encouraging messages of prayers and well-wishes on your cards. We want to be the hands and feet of Christ to others! Please mail your card(s) to Bethany by Monday, May 11th. We will get them delivered from there!

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Seeking gently-used jewelry and accessories!

Student Success will once again be hosting our gently-used accessories sale at some point in the future.

Are you cleaning closets while you are sheltering in place? Please save your gently-used accessories (jewelry, scarves, handbags, belts, etc.) and drop them off for Jill Moorman when school is back in session. Separately-bagged items are greatly appreciated. (Items remaining after the sale will be donated to a worthy cause.) If you would like to help with this sale, please contact Jill Moorman:
imoorman@bethanylutheran.org 562-307-6123

Pulling it together is not the easiest, even under normal circumstances. In the midst of a pandemic, my chances of keeping my cool and not dropping one of the many balls in the air are slim, slim, slim. I find that my temper may be short, my patience thin and I'm just plain tired at the end of day where I don't feel like I did much. Usually, if I'm being unreasonably grumpy with one of my kids, there is something deeper behind it – frustration, fear, exhaustion.

These are overwhelming, scary times. A devotion I read recently reminded me of 3 things that I try to keep in front of me:

1. Irrationality loses power in the face of reason.
2. Fear diminishes in the presence of calm.
3. Conflict eases in the light of compassion.

Wow. What if... in the middle of all this madness, I approached things with more reason, calm, compassion. What if... I turned to someone I love and instead of being exasperated, asked them "what can I do to help?". What if... I were a source of calm and reason to others, and told them that while things are uncertain for all of us, if we lean on each other, we will get through this storm together? There would be tremendous power in turning things around like this.

We're all in the same storm, just different boats. Your experience is uniquely yours, but your BearFam is here for you to help along the way. Know that you are loved, that you CAN do this, and that there is a master plan at work – by the One who brings all reason, calm and compassion. Stay strong, friends – our future is bright!

Jen Carlson, PTL President

BETHANY TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

A+

*Monday, May 4: Virtual Teacher Bouquets

Draw a flower over the weekend, then show your teacher in your Google Meet on Monday!

Tuesday, May 5: Life is Backwards Without You!

Wear your clothes backwards and show off your style in your Google Meet on Tuesday!

Wednesday, May 6: We miss you!

Have your parents email a 10-second video to your teacher telling how much you miss him/her.

Thursday, May 7: Chalk Your Walk

Decorate your sidewalk giving a shout-out to the Bethany teachers and staff. Send a pic of your creation via the Bethany app!

Friday, May 8: We love you!

Room moms will deliver pic-collages and PTL will deliver goodie baskets to teachers!

**Parents, take a picture of your child learning at home and send it to your room parent by Wednesday!*

Dear Parents and Families:

Reading increases knowledge and vocabulary, lowers stress, and supports your child's emotional growth. But perhaps the best benefit is the lasting bond you create with your child when you read with them.

Visit our VIRTUAL Book Fair with your child to discover new books together!

Save the date!

Book Fair dates: **May 11th - 24th 2020**

Shopping hours: **All Day!**



NEW In-School and Online Shopping Options! With Book Fair eWallet, a safe and convenient digital payment account, your student can shop the Fair cash-free! And if you're not able to attend the Fair, try our new online shopping option. We've partnered with The Scholastic Store™ to offer over 6,000 products that ship direct to your home (with free shipping on orders of \$25 or more)! Visit our homepage to access eWallet or shop online. We look forward to seeing you and your family at our Book Fair!

<https://www.scholastic.com/bf/bethanylutherschool5>

Sincerely,

Dr. Mary Fink
Principal

Mrs. Natasha Aguilera
Librarian

Bethany Lutheran School



Kids & Family Reading Report™: 7th Edition