



Bear Facts

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

Communication+Responsibility+Organization+Service+Sharing



FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Thank you, Bethany Parents, for all the ways you are supporting your students' learning at home. We are proud of you!

I want to take a moment to communicate a bit about your students' final report cards for the year. You may be reading in the news that some schools are choosing not to assign traditional grades at this time. Every school setting is unique, but we want to let you know that we will continue with our traditional grades for Quarter 4. We also want to share with you our rationale for that decision:

As you know, we closed our campus on March 13 and began learning-from-home on March 17. Our students missed only one day of instruction. Our teachers have continued to focus on teaching to grade-level standards, and assignments for core classes have not been "optional," therefore we believe our students will be well-prepared for the next level of instruction, whatever that may look like in the fall.

We realize, however, that learning-from-home has worked better for some students and families than others. That's why we've continued to reach out to students who are struggling and deployed our teacher aides and other staff members to work with individual students to keep them on track and hold them accountable. Our teachers have also made themselves available to answer questions and hold individual Google Meets with students who require one-on-one support.

Because we were able to continuously provide robust learning opportunities in this remote-yet-supported setting, we are choosing to honor our students' ongoing work by providing traditional grades for core classes during this time. We believe this will benefit our students in the long run, especially our middle school students whose GPA's may be considered in the future for area high school programs.

We will also use the 4th quarter report card to communicate how each student performed in the learning-from-home model and include suggestions for the future where needed, in case we need to do this again at some point.

On another note, we are offering childcare to children of essential workers beginning June 1. Here is the link to register: <https://bit.ly/BLSChildCare>

Watch for summer camp registration information by the end of this week!

We miss you.
Be safe.
You are loved.
Dr. Fink

School Bulletin #35

May 19, 2020

DON'T FORGET

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

☹May 11-24 VIRTUAL Book Fair

☹May 22 and 25: No school

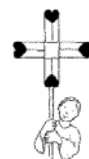
☹June 11-Last day of school

☹Sept. 1-First day of 2020-2021 schoolyear



Chapel

We will post a chapel service each week on Wednesdays so we can be united in worship! This week **Pastor Kritzer** 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

One of my most treasured possessions is a small journal my mom made me during my senior year of high school. She wrote in it every day with her beautiful handwriting, a short message about the events of that day, a word of advice, a funny moment or words of encouragement. At the end of that year, at graduation, she gave it to me and told me it was one of the hardest things she ever did - to stick with this project daily to be able to give me this incredible gift.

Middle School Corner

For the next few weeks, we want to use our "corner" to honor our departing 8th graders. Please see the attached bios of these amazing Bethany Bears!

Congratulations to the following 8th Graders who **confirmed** their faith in their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ this past weekend here at Bethany:

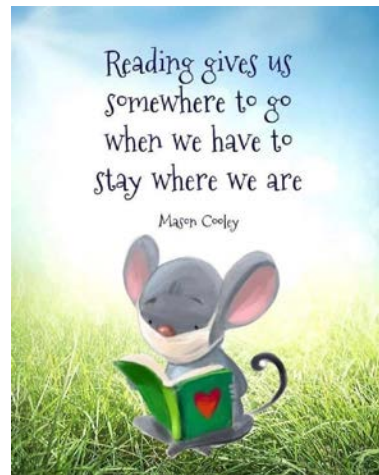
- Angelina Attia
- Philip Attia
- Riley Brick
- Jacob Clagett
- Scott DeJongh
- Caleb O'Conner
- Nolan Takle



Bethany's Virtual Book Fair

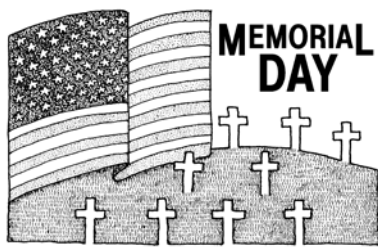
Are you doing some serious book shopping to support our library?

<https://www.scholastic.com/bf/bethanylutheranschool5>



I thought about this book today. I thought about the season of life we're currently in together. I thought about the graduating classes this year and the unique and difficult journey they're experiencing. I thought about my own personal struggles lately. I thought about my kids and how they told me the home learning was "too hard" and they "couldn't do it". And while all the words of advice and pages filled with love, humor and support were an important part of this book, the real message was this: **We can do hard things.** I can, you can, our kids can, our teachers can, **we can.** When things are hard, like they are now, we need to remember we have 100% survival rate thus far. God has brought us here, and He will bring us through. When things are hard – and they certainly are lately – know that YOU can do hard things.

You are so loved, BearFam!
Jen Carlson, PTL President



Reminder:
No school this Friday, May 22
or Monday, May 25.

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

