



Bear Facts

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



Communication+Responsibility+Organization+Service+Sharing

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Happy Tuesday, everyone! We've had a wonderful start to the school year and we're thrilled to have so many new students join our Bethany family! There's a lot for parents to learn at a new school, so new-to-Bethany families, please be sure to join us for New Parent Orientation tomorrow night. (Details to the right...)

You may have noticed that there are some rather large poles in the playground and parking lot as well as a temporary shade over the lunch area. We had a construction delay with our new shades, but we're hoping for installation this Saturday!

We also have new security gates at the church and school offices. We are still working out all the kinks in the system, but just an FYI that if you need to enter the campus between 9:00 and 2:45, you'll want to come to the Arbor Road gate and push the round buzzer/doorbell. We will answer the buzzer, verify who's at the gate, then buzz you in. When you hear the latch open, you can pull on the gate to enter the campus.

You'll also notice that once folks enter the campus, we are directing all traffic through the glass door in the school office.

I hope you and your children have a blessed week!

*Serving the Savior with you,
Dr. Fink*

All the News That's Fit to Print

Bear Facts is our official school bulletin. It will be coming home every Tuesday afternoon with the youngest child in each family and will always be printed on BLUE paper. Please watch for it! You may also access the newsletter on our website.



New Parent Orientation is scheduled for **tomorrow, Wednesday, Sept. 4 at 6:30 PM in Room 130** (the Choir Room.) This informational meeting IS REQUIRED and it is important that one or both parents attend. You will receive your copy of our Parent Handbook, meet members of the staff and Bethany community and hear about many of the happenings here on the Bethany campus. Childcare for school-aged kids will be provided in the daycare room during the meeting.

Welcome
NEW STUDENTS!

Attention Room Parents!

Are you signing up to be a room parent (or room parent assistant) for your child's class? Please plan to attend a *short* orientation meeting on September 4 at 7:30. We will meet in the choir room.

School Bulletin #2

Sept. 3, 2019

DON'T FORGET

- ☺Sept. 4-New Parent Orientation-6:30 PM
- ☺Sept. 4-Room Parent Meeting-7:30 PM-Choir Room
- ☺Sept. 6-Bethany Bears Beach Bonfire-Bolsa Chica Beach
- ☺Sept. 9-Astrocamp meeting Gr. 5-6:30 PM
- ☺Sept. 9-DC Meeting-7:30
- ☺Sept. 13-School Picture Day
- ☺Sept. 18-6th Grade Camp meeting-6:30
- ☺Sept. 29-Open House
- ☺Oct. 3-Jog-a-thon
- ☺Oct. 4-Fall Holiday-No School
- ☺Oct. 7-SafeKids Parent Info Night

Chapel Leaders

- Sept. 4-Ms. Stejskal
- Sept. 11-Dr. Fink
- Sept. 18-Ms. Imes and Mrs. Tucker

Chapel is at 9:00 on Wednesdays in the church. Parents, you are always welcome to join us!

YEARBOOK PHOTOS

School pictures will be taken on Sept. 13.

Please avoid out-of-school appointments that day. We do have a make-up day for students who are absent, but those children will not be in the class photo. Your picture package has been pre-paid with your Registration Fee, and additional prints will also be available.



The FISHin' Hole
Opportunities to Serve

HELP! HELP!

We could use some help washing out the rain barrel by EDC, repairing the screen and relocating it to the garden. Contact Dr. Fink if you can help!

“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” Col 3:17

WE ♥ SCHOOL!



We are pleased to be able to offer teacher-supervised study hall after school. Students in Grades 3-8 may use study hall, which lasts from 3:30-4:15.

Parents, you can order study hall hours on the EDC/Study Hall form each month.



CHAPEL OFFERING

For August and September we will be donating our chapel offerings to Garuna Lutheran Schools in Cambodia where Ms. Imes and Mrs. Tucker served this past summer!

“Garuna” means grace, mercy and compassion in the Thai and Khmer language. The Garuna Christian Schools are 'tutorial' schools. The children in Cambodia attend government schools for half days. When they are finished with their required school session they are then welcomed to come to the Garuna Christian Schools for extra help in the core subjects including Bible stories, music, and lessons.

You can learn more about the Garuna Foundation here:

<https://www.garuna.org/garuna-schools.html>

Parents, if your child forgets his/her lunch, we will NOT let them go hungry. ☺

We will call you to see if it's ok to give them an emergency lunch from ChoiceLunch. We would prefer that you avoid using lunch delivery services like UberEats, DoorDash, etc. Thank you!



Save money on your tuition by making everyday purchases with Scrip/gift cards. Everyone buys groceries, so everyone can earn a rebate! Albertson's, Smart & Final, Sprouts, Walmart/Sam's Club, Stater Bros, Target and Vons/Pavilions are available as debit type cards. If you shop at Costco or Trader Joes you can use our Visa Scrip/ gift cards. Does Amazon deliver your groceries? Purchase Amazon cards to pay for your order!

For those of you who have purchased Scrip before we have some exciting new additions. *Forever 21, Krispy Kreme Doughnuts* and *Southwest Airlines* are the newest merchants in our Scrip/gift card Program.

The best news is that you can now pay for Scrip/gift cards with a credit card when you purchase Scrip online! In addition to linking a bank account to your ShopWithScrip account, you now have the option to use *Visa* and *Mastercard*, choose “Credit Card” under “Payment Options”. Credit Card payments are processed immediately. Paying online with your linked bank account (PrestoPay) is still an option.

You can win \$5,000 in Disney gift cards if you enter the *ShopWithScrip* Back To School Sweepstakes! Go to Shop.ShopWithScrip.com and purchase \$50 in gift cards before September 14 to enter the sweepstakes (re-loads count, too). Not signed up for *ScripNow?* Create an account at www.ShopWithScrip.com (our enrollment code is 1BL8EE69719L).

THANKSSCRIPING DAY is Sept. 12. It only happens three times per year. Vendors are offering up to 21% rebates on eGift cards and reloads from 60+ brands just in time for fall shopping!

It's time for our annual:

BETHANY BONFIRE AT BOLSA CHICA BEACH!

This Friday, 6:00 PM

See the attached flyer for details! Come and join us...it's a great way to get to know your fellow Bethany families.



Blessings on your school year!
Jen Carlson, PTL President
msjencarlson@gmail.com

Camp/Outdoor Ed/DC Meetings

Parents, please plan to attend the mandatory information meetings for these events:

- 5th Grade-Room 222-Sept. 9-6:30 PM
- 8th Grade-Room 203-Sept. 9-7:30 PM
- 6th Grade-Room 204-Sept. 18-6:30 PM

Family Park and Pool Day

Save the date! Bethany Lutheran Church's annual Family Park and Pool day will take place on Sunday September 15th from 6:00-8:30 PM at Mayfair Park. We will start with a picnic in the park and end the evening in the pool with fun and games. Cost is \$5 per person (\$20 max per family). RSVP today with Pastor Seth (smoorman@bethanylutheran.org).



Interested in joining Bethany Lutheran Church? Bethany 101 & 201 "New Member Courses"

Bethany 101 and Bethany 201 are courses that explore the key truths of the Christian faith from a Lutheran perspective and the process and purpose of membership at Bethany.

Attendance at 101 is required for those joining Bethany Lutheran Church, even those who are transferring membership from another Lutheran church. Bethany 201 is for folks who are not coming from another Lutheran church.

Bethany 101 is a one-session face-to-face experience where we talk about the history of Bethany, our vision, structure, the Bethany Blueprint and what membership at Bethany entails.

Bethany 201 is a three session online course that covers the core basics of the Christian faith from a Lutheran perspective. Participants will meet individually (or as a family) with either of our Pastors after each session to discuss the material.

The next Bethany 101 sessions will be held on BOTH October 6th and October 13th in the Music Room and begin at 11 am. Child Care will be available right next door in the preschool. Class will run approximately an hour. You need attend ONLY ONE of the two opportunities.

Bethany 201 begins after attendance at a 101. Our hope is that all those going through the 201 process will be finished by the end of November so that we can receive new members in early December.

Please RSVP your attendance for Bethany 101 with Pastor Kevin or Pastor Seth kkritzer@bethanylutheran.org
smoorman@bethanylutheran.org

Operation Christmas Child

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas...already! Each year we participate in this important ministry, packing shoeboxes to send across the world to children in need. This year, we will again participate in one GIGANTIC packing party in November, but we're starting to collect items NOW.

In August, we're collecting school and art supplies (so you can participate as you're shopping for your own kids.) We're collecting:

Pencils, sharpeners, erasers, colored pencils, pens, note pads and small journals that would fit in a shoebox. You can bring your supplies to school anytime.

Thanks for your support!



Middle School Corner

The middle school students will be experiencing their first Cross Academy Elective this week! Cross Academy Electives are designed for students to enjoy unique experiences that educate them as a whole-child of God. We never know which student will discover a new skill or hobby they want to pursue!

During the first session of electives the 8th graders will focus on public speaking skills, the 7th graders tackle real-life math, and the 6th graders learn first aid and CPR techniques.

Got skills? We're always looking for new elective courses to offer! Elective courses happen once a week on Thursday afternoons from 2:25-3:10pm. Each session is usually 7-8 weeks in length. Some elective courses offered in the past include: board games and card games, square dancing, official baseball scorekeeping, ping pong, finger-knitting, and life-hacks. The sky's the limit for possible electives!

We'd love to hear from you! For more information, or with questions, please contact the Cross Academy Elective coordinator, Cheryl Stejskal at cstejskal@bethanylutheran.org.

SAVE THE DATE!

Bethany Lutheran Church and Schools
Community Open House
(takes the place of our annual Fall Fling Open House)

Sunday, September 29
12:00-3:00





September 3, 2019

Dear Bethany Parents,

Our kids have learned important safety procedures like “look both ways before crossing the street,” “stop, drop and roll,” and “duck and cover.” As we are all painfully aware, we now live in a day and age where it has become prudent and necessary to equip them with a new safety procedure: what to do in the face of a violent threat. Fortunately, the science of protection has provided us with effective responses to increase safety and survivability.

This school year Bethany Lutheran School is partnering with Safe Kids Inc., a team of law enforcement and education experts, who have developed a curriculum that teaches these responses in a non-threatening manner: The H.E.R.O. Program.

H.E.R.O. is an acronym for: **Hide! Escape! Run! Overcome!** Our teaching staff has already participated in the training and will be leading students through the curriculum this year.

Your child will learn these safe-thinking skills and empowerment strategies through age-appropriate activities, stories, classroom discussions, journaling, and student-parent discussion. Once they have been prepared in this non-threatening manner, the school will participate in school-wide drills that meet and exceed safety mandates determined by government officials.

The H.E.R.O. Program has been vetted by numerous focus groups consisting of students, teachers, school administrators, school psychologists, university faculty, law enforcement and most importantly, parents!

We want all parents to be fully informed about this program before we teach the lessons, so the authors of the program, Scott Johnson and Adam Coughran, will be giving a parent presentation here at Bethany:

Safe Kids Presentation
October 7, 2019
6:30 PM in the church
Childcare and homework passes provided

We also encourage you to visit Safe Kids Inc.’s website at www.SafeKidsInc.com to learn more. You can also download the free H.E.R.O. Companion Guide for Parents by clicking on the “Families” tab.

We value the safety of our children above all else and believe the H.E.R.O. Program will create a safer learning environment for our entire school community as well as equip our students for potential threats outside of school.

Please plan to join us on October 7. And as always, if you have any questions please don’t hesitate to contact me!

Sincerely,
Dr. Fink



Scott Coleman, Vice President

Scott served for 13 years as a police officer at an internationally-accredited law enforcement agency in Southern California. He served in various assignments, including hostage negotiator, primary response officer, field training officer, trauma response officer, and detective. Scott's creative background as a published author and expertise in safety helped define his current mission to prepare our youth to respond effectively to violence. Scott has been recognized by the United States Congress and the California State Senate for his contributions to the safety of our schools and communities.



Adam Coughran, President

Adam has nearly two decades of law enforcement experience ranging from street level patrol, to field training officer, to instructor. Adam has completed hundreds of hours of specialized training and certifications in adult learning concepts and curriculum creation, active shooter response, weaponless defense tactics, counterterrorism, and many others. He has appeared as a safety expert on numerous media outlets including CBS, ABC, NBC, CNN; in addition to being featured in a Nancy Grace safety documentary for parents and students. Adam holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from Chapman University in Political Science and Organizational Leadership. Outside of law enforcement, Adam is an educator holding instructor positions at various Southern California universities.



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