

Enriching lives and sharing Christ through quality Lutheran education.



The Purple Note

December 4, 2020

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UPCOMING EVENTS

December

7th-16th Ingathering of items for Carrie's Kids (See article below)

10th Recording the Christmas concert at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

18th Last day of school before Christmas

January 4th School resumes

No School Christmas Break
December 21-January 1



THIS WEEK'S PRAYER FAMILIES

This week we remember Bev Maitland, Vivian Weber, Dean Weber, Levi Helgeson and Mastel family. If you know of a family you would like us to include in our prayers, please let the office know.

Chapel will be led by Pastor Walla, Wednesday, December 9th at 8:30 am. Our MLS bells will provide special music!

Chapel services will be live streamed on the *Martin Luther 2020-2021 Facebook group.*

Recording of our Christmas Concert

We will be recording our



Christmas Concert on
Thursday, December 10th in
the afternoon at Shepherd of
the Valley Lutheran Church
the afternoon of Wednesday
the 9th to do some recording
os speaking parts.

ATTIRE: All of the students
will be wearing choir robes for
the concert. As for attire, we

ask that your child not wear anything bulky or hooded.

We will have a DVD of the concert for each family to be distributed prior to Christmas break. We are looking so forward to sharing the gift of music and the Christmas account!

"Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise. The gift of language combined with the gift of song was given to man that he should proclaim the Word of God through music."

Whether we are lifting our voices in song or playing a musical instrument, we have always appreciated this wonderful gift God has given us.



**World Lutheran
Deaf Outreach**

Our chapel offerings during the second quarter will go to support Lutheran Deaf Outreach.

[Click here to see what we learned in chapel with Pastor Reinke and Lutheran Deaf Outreach!](#)

RECENT CDC QUARANTINE CHANGES

Public health experts locally and at the national level are always analyzing data and making changes as new information becomes available. As a result, the CDC issued new guidance reducing the number of days close contacts will need to quarantine following an exposure to a COVID-positive individual.

- The new guidelines allow close contacts of those infected to reduce their quarantine period from 14 days to 10 days.
- If the close contact receives a negative result from a COVID test, they can reduce their quarantine to seven days.
- Residents at long-term care facilities and other congregate living settings are exempt from the new guidance and should continue to quarantine for the full 14 days.
- "Individuals will be able to end their quarantine after seven days if they

receive a negative COVID-19 diagnostic test, are symptom free and wear a face covering or after 10 days without being tested,” explained Howell.

- To test out of quarantine, a person can either do a PCR test or a rapid antigen test. The earliest a test should be done is 48 hours before being released from quarantine. Individuals must continue to quarantine while awaiting test results.
- Individuals should continue to monitor their symptoms and wear a face covering for the full 14 days.
- The NDDoH will be working to update the website and factsheets with the new information. For more information on COVID-19, visit health.nd.gov/coronavirus.
- [Click here for a printable version on the new guidelines](#)

BISMARCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

COVID-19 Illness and Quarantine Guidelines

Updated 12/3/2020

These guidelines align with CDC and ND Dept. of Health requirements.

Quarantine recommendations will be made on a case-by-case basis in consultation with BBPH in an attempt to keep the school open and operational.

Person A	Person B	Person C	Person D
<p style="font-size: x-small;">Any person who has tested positive for COVID-19.</p> <p>With symptoms:</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Isolation until the following requirements have been met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 days since symptoms first appeared AND • 24 hours since last fever (without the use of fever reducing medication) AND • Symptoms have improved <p style="font-size: x-small;">The 24 hours without fever may possibly occur within the 10 days of isolation or after the 10 days.</p> <p>Without symptoms (asymptomatic):</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Isolate for 10 days from the date of first positive test:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor self for symptoms, take temperature twice daily • Released from isolation after 10 days have passed as long as no symptoms 	<p style="font-size: x-small;">Any person who lives in the same household with Person A</p> <p>No symptoms (monitor for 14 days):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarantine immediately • Quarantine while Person A is ill and/or isolated • Quarantine an additional 10 days after Person A has recovered and been released from isolation • Quarantine may end after 7 days past Person A's isolation if a negative test on or after day 6. 	<p style="font-size: x-small;">Any person with close contact to Person A (>15 min and <6 ft)</p> <p>Quarantine for 10 days following date of last exposure*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor self for symptoms, take temperature twice a day for 14 days • If symptoms develop, notify Primary Care Provider • Quarantine may be shortened to 7 days if testing negative on or after day 6 (returning on day 8) 	<p style="font-size: x-small;">Any person who has had exposure to Person B or C before quarantine</p> <p>NO QUARANTINE OR ACTION REQUIRED unless:</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Person B or C develops symptoms OR tests positive and Person D had contact within 14 days, then:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor self for symptoms, take temperature twice a day • Contact Health Department with any questions and further instructions • Contact Primary Care Provider
<p style="font-size: 1.2em; margin: 0;">Recovered and Released</p>			
<p>Definitions:</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Close contact is defined as anyone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least a cumulative 15 minutes starting from 48 hours prior to the person having symptoms. *See Close Contact and Face Covering Guidelines.</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Isolation separates infected individuals with a contagious disease from people who are not sick.</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Quarantine separates and restricts the movement of a person exposed to a contagious disease to monitor if they become ill.</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Insignificant exposure is contact with an infected individual for less than 15 minutes at a distance of over or equal to 6 feet.</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin-top: 5px;">For more information, contact Bismarck/Burleigh Public Health or the ND Dept. of Health.</p>			

An opportunity to give!

As we enter the season of Advent and Christmas, we want to take the opportunity to gather extra gifts for kids in our community who are in need.

We will still take our offering and hat money to assist with Lutheran Deaf Outreach, our mission for



carrieskids.com

- protein bars
- cereal

Also appreciated would be children's socks, mittens and caps. We will have a box outside of each classroom starting Monday and ending on Wednesday, December 16 where your child may bring any items to donate during those days. We hope to be able to bring some warmth and nourishment to kiddos in our community this Christmas season!

this quarter. In addition to this, we will also take in items to be given to **Carrie's Kids**.

Food items they would prefer would be anything that is packaged in self serve, single-sized units.

- granola bars
- cookies
- crackers
- fruit cups

Lanyard Usage

Our students have done a good job remembering to wear their masks at the appropriate time, and we have seen how it has helped us avoid having to quarantine two classes.

The students remember to use them-- when they have them. The school had been given some generic white, fabric masks at the beginning of the school year. We made them available for students who had forgotten or misplaced their masks, but now we have run out.

We recently provided each student with a lanyard that they are to use during the day so that they will not misplace their mask.

- The lanyards themselves will stay at school.
- Before going home, whether it be the end of the school day or after ABC Care, our child's teacher will remove the lanyard and have it ready for the next day.
- Upon arriving to school, your child should have a mask ready to go. If in morning ABC Care, they can get their lanyards there. If they arrive at a time that they go directly to their classroom, they can get their lanyard there.

- It doesn't hurt to simply pack 5 masks in your child's back pack at the beginning of the week so they have a clean mask ready to go each day.

Please make sure that your child has a mask when entering school each day, especially if they participate in morning ABC Care.

Students should take their mask home daily to be washed.

We will have some disposable masks for purchase (.50 per mask) if your child forgets. The fee will be added to your TADS account.

MASK POLICY

To parents of students in Kindergarten-6th grade.

(This DOES NOT pertain to PRESCHOOL CLASSES.)

When it comes to the battle against COVID 19, we do have some great advantages at Martin Luther School.

- Our small class help us to more easily social distance in the classroom. Students are able to do seat work or use flexible seating while still social distancing.
- We have installed a HALO LED air purifying system which constantly is working to clean and recycle air through the building.
- By God's grace and measures listed above, the number of positive COVID cases in our student population is extremely low with symptoms minimal.

However, even with these factors in place, the possibility of one of our students, staff, or a member of our families contracting COVID is very real that needs to be addressed.

As much as we try to keep our classes separated and contacts limited, the reality is that we have several teachers who are "floaters," who teach different classes. There are many overlapping relationships in our small school where all it would take is one positive COVID case to put several classes in quarantine or isolation due to close contacts.

We all see the numbers of COVID cases on the rise on our community and state. We currently are dealing with a significant number of staff members and families who are absent because they have either tested positive and need to quarantine, or they are close contacts and forced to self-isolate. When staff members, as well as our substitutes are absent, this puts an extra burden on the staff that IS present at school. These measures can be addressed simply by having our teachers and students periodically wear masks in school.

Current COVID protocols by health care officials include:

When both parties are wearing masks or maintaining 6-foot distance, only the person who tested positive would need to quarantine. Close contacts would need to self-monitor for symptoms while continuing at school.

Because of our current situation in our community, our students and staff will use masks on a more frequent, yet very limited basis.

Times we will require mask use:

- Small group work where students are working less than 6 feet apart, “centers” work
- Teacher and student working closely, one-on-one
- Classes where grades are intermixed and not able to be 6 feet apart
- ABC Care when less than 6 feet apart.

Times when masks are NOT needed

- When students are seated or in an activity where they are already 6 feet apart
- Lunch
- Recess
- Depending on the activity, gym

Our goals

- To maintain a healthy environment for our students and staff.
- To maintain adequate staff to serve our students and their families while taking safety measures to address close contacts and positive cases
- To continue as much face-to-face education for our students as we can.

We will begin this safety measure this Monday. If they are in morning ABC Care, they will need to have a mask. Several students have already been wearing masks on their own and have found what works for them. (One class has pretty much been up and running with this practice purely on their own.)

Consequences and concerns about COVID-19 are multi-faceted. Reactions and opinions reach widely across the spectrum. This has been a challenging decision to make. My hope and prayer is that we can navigate through this process together in a spirit of unity, illustrating God's care and love for one another. What a blessing it is to help our kiddos grow not only academically and spiritually in the knowledge and love of our Lord and Savior!

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. (wolfgram@lutherschools.org or 400-1179) As always, I welcome your input. In His service,
Denise Wolfgram

Pick Up During the School Day and Office Access

One of the hardest adjustments for us to make at MLS **AND** the hardest restriction to have to enforce is to limit parent access to the building. We've always appreciated the opportunity to visit with our parents and grandparents at drop off and pick up time. We appreciate your understanding when we work to reinforce new procedures to help keep all of us healthy and in school.

Just as a reminder for our K-6 grade guardians/parents.

- Parents are to drop off their student at the south door and not enter the building.
- If you need to contact Julie or Mrs. Wolfgram in the office, call the office (224-9070) and we will arrange to let you in and meet with you.

- In the case that you are in the building, we ask that you wear a mask.
- If you need to pick up your child early or for an appointment during the school day, contact the school when you have arrived, and we will escort your child to the front door to meet you.
- **Please note that the NORTH door is for Zion Lutheran Church activity only. Martin Luther families are to use the SOUTH and WEST doors only, NOT THE NORTH DOOR.**

If you need to visit in person with Julie, our office manager, call her at 224-9070, and she will arrange a time for you to meet with her.

IMPORTANT INFO----SNOW DAYS!?!?!

We've already had our first bit of cool weather, and soon we'll be seeing snow in the forecast. To be informed about any cancellations due to weather, we will be using the "Remind" program and will contact parents via text.

To be included in the system, enter this number: (Like the phone number to whom you are texting) **81010**

Text the message: **@mrswolf**

If you do not text, simply send an email to the following address:

mrswolf@mail.remind.com.

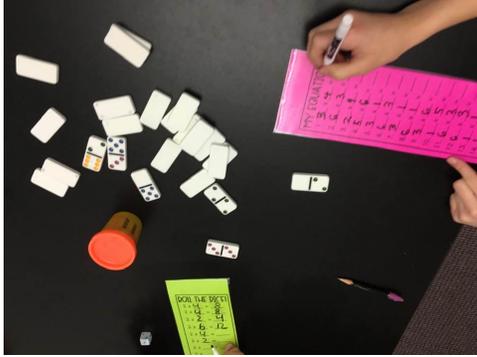
Thank you for participating We don't want to leave anyone out in the cold! (No pun intended. It just happened.)



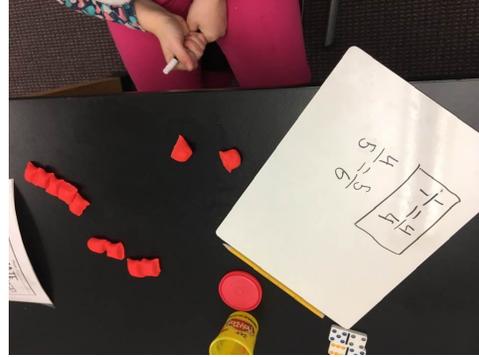
We are LOVING the good eats that our cook, Miss Beverly, has created for us! From the office and kitchen staff, we apologize for any menu changes that

have taken place as we have gotten started. We will try to announce those changes earlier to allow you time to make any arrangements as you see fit. We sometimes need to make substitutions as we navigate through this new program with the "Summer Lunch Program" which allows us to provide these meal at no cost to you.





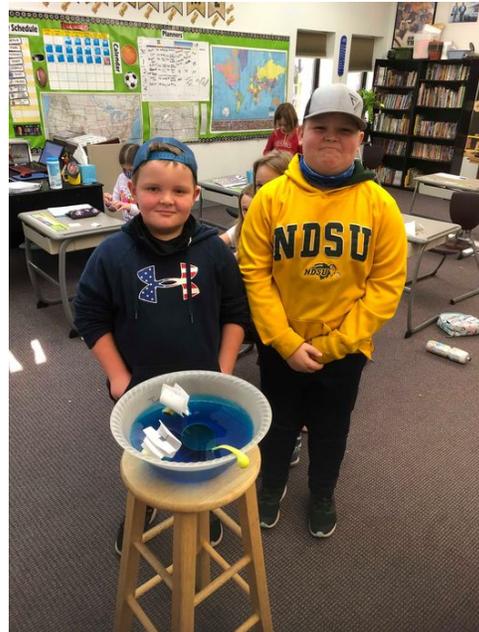
Wednesday-
Time for 3rd grade MATH
CENTERS!



Creative ways to learn
fractions!



In fourteen hundred...



...ninety two



Columbus sailed....



...the ocean blue!