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Bishop Weekly Update: June 6, 2019

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

6/17 (Mon): Fifth Grade Recognition (Starts at 9:00am with reception to follow.
If you are planning your day around this event, expect to finish by 10:30am)
6/19 (Wed): **Last Day of School!** 11:30 dismissal (no lunch)

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PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Final Message for 2019

As I type this last Bishop Weekly Update for the 2018-19 school year, I want to tell you how much I appreciate you and your family. Thank you for sharing your children with us; trusting the Bishop staff as they work tirelessly, day in and day out, educating our young learners.

The current era that we live in, brings its opportunities and challenges. The social emotional health of our community has taken center stage. If we aren't healthy, physically and mentally, and if we don't feel safe in our surroundings and supported by the ones closest to us, learning anything is difficult.

The Bishop School staff is committed to providing the safest, supportive, and inclusive community for ALL students, ALL staff, and ALL families.

I'm proud of our accomplishments to date and look forward to the many new opportunities that will rise to the top in the future.

I wish you and your family the healthiest and happiest summer.

Student Classroom Assignments for 2019-20

All students will receive their classroom/teacher placement for the 2019-20 school year during the first week of August. You will receive your teacher assignment only; no class lists will be sent out.

Another Bishop Green Team Accolade!

Our amazing Green Team, headed up by Bishop parent, Ms. Davidson-Jardeleza, has recently received another recognition from the Department of Environmental Protection.

The Bishop Green Team is a prize winner in THE GREEN TEAM drawing for 12 bookmarks adorned with plantable seed paper. The Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs and Department of Environmental Protection commends the Bishop TEAM for their outstanding efforts to increase recycling and pollution prevention in the community. Great work, GREEN TEAM!

Bishop Ambassador Program

Think back to your (and your child's) first days at Bishop...

Try to remember what it was like to be a new family to the school...

Would it have been easier if you already had a friend at the school? Someone who could answer your questions?

The Bishop PTO's Ambassador Program helps new families feel welcome and quickly acclimate to the Bishop community. The volunteer commitment is minimal. The impact on new families high. Last year Bishop parent volunteers welcomed nearly 100 new families to our community. Please consider joining the team. We are especially looking for Bishop families with incoming Kindergarteners, or current Kindergarten families.

The program takes place over the summer when Ambassadors contact incoming new families (from all grades, but mostly Kindergarten) to answer questions and share information.

Goals:

- Give new families and students support and a person they can contact to ask questions

- Create a stronger Bishop community, resulting in a stronger student, family and community bond

Overview:

- A volunteer team of 'Ambassadors' proactively contacts new families over the summer
- All new families, regardless of grade, are included in the program
- Families are included regardless of point of entry into the school system (e.g., beginning of the year, midyear transfers, etc)

Information for Ambassadors:

- The goal is for each Ambassador to be responsible for just a few families. The more Ambassadors we have the better
- Ambassadors are given contact information for their assigned family
- Ambassadors will be provided with a brief script and FAQ to help guide conversations with new families

Please contact us with any questions or if you are interested in joining the Ambassador team. If you already know someone entering Kindergarten next year, please consider being their Bishop Ambassador.

Amy Moyer & Jill Fekete

aewilliams@hotmail.com and jillfekete@gmail.com

Co-Chairs, Bishop Ambassador Program

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS IN THE BISHOP GARDEN OVER THE SUMMER MONTHS (UPDATE)

The Bishop School garden is looking for summer garden volunteers! Sign up for a week (or more) and help keep our students' hard work thriving all summer long. Most importantly, we need help watering the garden three times a week. No experience is necessary, but your knowledge is welcome to help with weeding and monitoring for pests and disease.

Abigail Wolf, the Bishop School garden educator, will be offering two [volunteer orientation sessions](#), on **Sunday, June 9 at 11 AM and on Friday June 14, right after dismissal. She'll explain how to water and show you around the garden: what's growing in each bed, which crops are needed for curriculum in the fall, and which are available for you to harvest as a thanks for your help.**

Please sign up for a week in the garden over the summer by clicking on this [LINK](#) and contact Abigail at abigail@homeharvest.biz with any questions and to RSVP for the orientation session of your choice

UPDATE: *THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU*, to all of the families who have signed up to care for the garden beds over the summer. The most crucial piece to a community project as such, is sustainability; we cannot continue this work, year in and year out, without your support, dedication, and commitment to learning.

Important Kindergarten Dates to Note

Friday, June 14th last day for current kindergarteners (full day)

Monday, June 17th and Tuesday, June 18th Screening of incoming kindergarteners

Save the Date

Bishop's 5th Grade Recognition -

A Monday, June 17th @ 9:00am - Reception to follow

PTO NEWS

The PTO Officers for the 2019-2020 School Year

Co-Presidents: Elisa Komoni (2nd year) & Christina Marko (1st year)

Co-Treasurers: Karin Moellering (2nd year) & David Brecht (1st year)

Fundraising Coordinator: Christian Na (2nd year)

Room Parent Coordinator: Laura Tikonoff (2nd year)

Communications Coordinator: Junko Nagano (2nd year)

Recording Secretary: Neshe Gafuri (1st year)

Meet Christina Marko

Christina and her husband, Mike, are the parents of Madeleine, who will be a 1st grader at Bishop during the 2019-2020 school year. Originally from Missouri, Christina moved to Boston in 2006, and after meeting Mike playing in an adult kickball league on Cambridge Common, has never left. She earned her PhD in Anatomy and Cell Biology from the University of Kansas Medical School and currently works as the Scientific Communications Manager and the Research Assistant to the Chief and Chair at Harvard Ophthalmology/Mass. Eye and Ear. In her free time, Christina enjoys playing fantasy football, traveling, and cheering on the Virginia Tech Hokies and the Kansas Jayhawks. As a relatively new Bishop Bear, she enjoyed the past year volunteering for school events and is looking forward to supporting teachers, staff, students, and families in the Bishop community through the PTO.

Meet David Brecht

David and his wife Epp have lived in Arlington since 2010. They have a son in 5th grade (Teddy), a son in 3rd grade (Tristan), and a daughter entering kindergarten (Tess). David earned his BA from Boston College and MA in international relations from Tufts/Fletcher School. In his early career, David taught middle school math in Houston and served as a Peace Corps English teacher in Estonia. He is currently a healthcare bond analyst at Amundi Pioneer Investments in Boston. At the mid-point of his expected 12-year Bishop experience, David is excited to be joining the PTO Board.

Meet Neshe Gafuri

Neshe and her husband, Kouros, are the parents of Danial, who is graduating from Kindergarten at Bishop. Neshe is originally from Kosovo. She came to Massachusetts in 2000 because she was awarded a Presidential Scholarship to study as an undergraduate student at UMASS Amherst. After completing her undergraduate degree in Economics, she continued to pursue her graduate studies at UNH Durham, where she obtained her MA in Health Economics and MS in Statistics. There she also met her husband, at the Mathematics department. Neshe, currently works for the Executive Office of Health and Human Service/MassHealth in Boston as a statistician in the Office of Behavioral Health. Her hobbies are indoor rock climbing and yoga. Neshe is very excited to join the PTO Board and is looking forward to supporting the Bishop community through the PTO.

Help Bishop PTO while you shop

Do you need to buy presents for grads and dads and all those summer birthdays? How about food, drinks, and supplies for your BBQs? Bishop PTO is a part of **Amazon Smile** program that contributes a part of your purchase to Bishop PTO at no cost to you. Please follow these [step-by-step instructions](#) and help raise money for our programs. The instructions also includes how to use browser extension to make sure you're routed to Amazon Smile. No extra steps are needed once you're registered.

Also the **Stop & Shop A+ Rewards Program** allows Bishop to earn points every time you purchase anything at Stop & Shop. All you need to sign up for a Stop & Shop card (if you don't have one already) and register online and select Bishop.

Open Coordinator Positions

We have a few coordinator positions open for the 2019-2020 school year. Please contact Elisa Komoni if you are interested in any of the following open positions:

Supplies Coordinator

The supplies coordinator is responsible for ensuring that teachers and staff have all the supplies needed for the school year. Responsibilities require purchasing and stocking the supplies closet as necessary.

Family Dance Coordinator

This is a fun event that happens in February. The Family Dance coordinator is responsible for locating a DJ, ordering cookies and water, decorating the gym, and facilitating the photo booth. It requires about a week of involvement organization wise.

Garden Coordinator

The garden coordinator serves as a liaison between Home Harvest (the company Bishop has hired to maintain the garden for educational purposes) and Bishop. Responsibilities require checking in with teachers and Home Harvest as necessary to facilitate the curriculum. Other duties remain to be determined.



UPCOMING PTO-SPONSORED EVENTS

We have completed all PTO-sponsored events for this school year. Thank you to all the parents/guardians for your generous donations and for volunteering your time. We need both kinds of donations to enrich our students' experiences in many different ways.

The Bishop school PTO board members wish everyone a healthy and joyful summer!



STAFF SPOTLIGHT!

This is the last staff spotlight of the year. How well did you guess your Bishop staff?

From Last Newsletter:

Family: one sister

Birthday Month: April

Hobbies: painting, going to the movies with friends, traveling

Pets: none

Favorite Book: I Like Myself, Daring Greatly

Favorite Food: pizza, strawberry cheesecake

Favorite Color: Fuchsia

Favorite Candy: peppermints, starbursts

Favorite Vacation: Jamaica

Favorite Music: hip hop, pop, R&B

When I grow up . . . I want to travel the world and live on the beach.

Answer: Tanika Claiborne, METCO Elementary Social Worker

From Last Newsletter:

Family: one daughter

Birthday Month: December

Hobbies: reading, baking, karaoke

Pets: cat

Favorite Book: The Magic Thief Series

Favorite Food: pasta - all kinds!

Favorite Color: purple

Favorite Candy: peanut butter cups, Twix

Favorite Vacation: New Hampshire

Favorite Music: Kpop, alternative rock

When I grow up . . . I want to open a cat cafe!

Answer: Amber Dempsey, Teacher Assistant



COMMUNITY NEWS

Boys in Motion Coaching Opportunity

Arlington Community Ed is looking for 2 coaches for the fall season of Boys in Motion. This non-competitive running program for boys in grades 4 and 5 practices 2 days a week after school for 1 hour. The term runs from the end of September through the week of November 18th. There is an optional 5K on November 23rd. Coaches are paid \$25/hr each, and ACE will pay the registration fee for coaches who want to participate in the 5K.

Contact Tanya Serrao if interested at Tserrao@arlington.k12.ma.us

Boy Scout Ice Cream Social & New Family Information Meeting

Thursday, June 13, 2018 at 7 pm at Menotomy Rocks Park (125 Jason St., Arlington)

Cub Scout Pack 306 is excited to welcome girls in to our Pack. Cub Scouting is a family activity so siblings are always welcome.

Our Pack does exciting outings throughout the year like Snow Tubing, Family Camping, Lowell Spinners, Museum of Science, and Battleship Cove Overnights. Cub Scouts runs in parallel with the school year. The Pack (all Cub Scouts) meetings are at the First Baptist Church in Arlington. At Pack Meetings we do exciting activities like the Pine Wood Derby, Pumpkin Carving, Indoor Camp Fires, and the Rain Gutter Regatta. We also meet one other night per month as a smaller group - your "Den" - which is separated by school grade, starting with Kindergarten for Lions this year.

All families interested are invited to learn more about our Pack by visiting our web-site at:

www.csPack306.scoutlander.com and clicking on the "Contact our Pack" link at the top.

Fall 2019 Soccer Registration Registration Open until 6/15

Join over 2000 players in Arlington Soccer Club! **Register NOW!** Please use your EXISTING family account so that we retain your player's history - if you create a new account and player record(s), we cannot guarantee placement on the same team. Please visit our [website](#) for additional program information and [fee schedule](#) – and, like us on [Facebook!](#)

Late Registration begins June 15. Signing up during Late Registration means that a late fee of \$50 will be added for grades 2 and above.

Celebrate the Longest Day of the Year! Friday, 6/21, 5-9pm, the Harvard Museums of Science & Culture, [11 Divinity Ave, Cambridge, MA](#) Free and Open to the Public

We are pleased to welcome the community to a night at the museums to celebrate the Summer Solstice. Enjoy FREE admission to all four museums, join in a variety of activities, see performances, and grab some food on this special night of the year!



Highlights:

- At the Harvard Museum of Natural History: Admire Harvard's internationally acclaimed "Glass Flowers." This stunning collection of hand-crafted plant models was created by Czech glass artisans Leopold and Rudolf Blaschka.
- At the Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology: Explore more than 600 objects from Asia, Oceania, and the Americas in *All the World Is Here: Harvard's Peabody Museum and the Invention of American Anthropology*.
- At the Collection of Historical Scientific Instruments: Learn how scientific instruments have influenced the development of astronomy, navigation, physics, biology, medicine, electricity, and communication in *Time, Life & Matter*.
- At the Harvard Semitic Museum: Use unique augmented reality technology to "take" an Egyptian Hippo Goddess out of the case, and expand her into a statue you can even walk around!
- Make a summer crown with fresh flowers and greens to wear during the event.
- Enter the Solstice Raffle to win HMSC museum memberships and special gifts from our museum shop.
- Marvel at circus performers
- Enjoy tasty treats from the event food trucks.
- Fire jumping & flame tattoos!

FREE PARKING AT [52 OXFORD ST](#) OR OFF MBTA RED LINE

More info:

<https://hmsc.harvard.edu/summer-solstice>



KEEP UP TO DATE

Bishop PTO Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/BishopPTO/>

Websites:

Bishop School: <https://bishopschool.net>

Bishop PTO: <http://www.bishopschoolpto.com/>

Contact PTO Executive Board members:

Co-Presidents: [Sarah Eastman](#) (Senior) and [Elisa Komoni](#) (Junior)

Co-Treasurers: [Ami Fatula](#) (Senior) and [Karin Moellering](#) (Junior)

Fundraising Coordinator: [Christian Na](#)

Room Parent Coordinator: [Laura Tikonoff](#)

Communications Coordinator: [Junko Nagano](#)

Recording Secretary: [Sheelagh Stirling](#)

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