

Bishop Weekly Update – 10/01/2020

Respect, Responsibility, and Regard

BISHOP BEARS



Dear Bishop Families - Happy October 1st -

With almost two full weeks under our belt, I'm happy to report that all is well at the Bishop. Our initial systems and structures are in place, with minor adjustments being made to ensure a smooth transition.

Teachers and staff have been working tirelessly, planning for and delivering live and remote instruction during the week ~ please join me as I convey a gesture of gratitude for their work, passion for teaching and learning, love for children, and professionalism.

I send many thanks to all of you at home as well. Our home/school partnership is more important now than ever - We are truly stronger together!



Our Full Remote Program is also up and running with positive reviews and happy students!

Family Forum

The Remote Academy team will host a webinar tonight, Thursday, October 1st at 7:00pm-8:00pm.

[Here](#) is the link to register.



Daily Arrival Plan Change for Grades 2-5



Bishop staff, students, and grown-ups have spent the past two weeks meeting outside of the school at 8:00am before entering the building at 8:10am. Now that we have practiced the arrival procedure and have clearly identified the doors of

entry for each grade, it is time to move on to what will now be Bishop's daily arrival procedure. There will no longer be lines or congregations of any students and grown-ups at arrival for health and safety mitigation purposes. Starting this coming Monday, October 5th, Students in Grades 2, 3, 4 and 5 will arrive on campus at 8:10am, report to their assigned door, enter the building, and make their way to the classroom. It is completely appropriate for grown-ups to walk their child onto campus and to their assigned door where they will say goodbye.

For our Kindergarten and 1st grade students and grown-ups. We will run one more week of meeting at 8:00am at the assigned locations; **nothing has changed for you.** We will transition to the new arrival plan during the week of October 12th (12th is a holiday FYI). It is the intent to give kindergarteners and 1st graders a preview of how their new arrival plan will look before the new arrival plan is implemented.

Thank you!

My Best,
Mark

PTO NEWS

Dates for the Calendar

Remote Academy Family Forum - Thursday, 10/1 at 7PM

Bishop Spirit Day - Friday, 10/2

PTO Community Meeting - Wednesday, 10/7 at 7PM

No School (Columbus Day) - Monday, 10/12

School Picture Day - Friday, 10/16 and Monday 10/19 (more details to follow)

Bishop Pumpkin Sale - Saturday, 10/17

Bishop Diversity and Inclusion Group (DIG) Meeting - Thursday, 10/22 at 6PM

Virtual Walkathon - Friday, 11/6

Bishop Spirit Days

Friday, October 2nd and the first Friday of every month

Students have the chance to showcase their Bishop Pride on the first Friday of each month. Students are encouraged to wear their Bishop spiritwear or Bishop school colors (yellow/gold and blue) whether they are in school or remote. Bishop spirit wear is available [here](#) for purchase. Please contact Jill Fekete, our Spirit Wear Coordinator, for more information at jillfekete@gmail.com. We are also working on developing an online Bishop Spirit Wear Store, so look for more information on that to come!

PTO Community Meeting

Wednesday, October 7th, 7:00 pm via Zoom

Please join the PTO for its first meeting of the year on Wednesday, October 7, 2020 at 7pm. All are welcome! These meetings are a great way to meet other parents, stay up to date, and voice your ideas, concerns, or feedback. The theme of this meeting is Health and Safety, with Nurse Martin as our featured speaker. Additionally, Judy Geyer from Arlington Education Foundation (AEF) will discuss funding opportunities through AEF grants. We will also present the budget for this school year and provide orientation for Class Parents.

Zoom Information:

<https://zoom.us/j/91393205901?pwd=emtzVWlrV0pjV20zNkRaU2tEZFc2UT09>

Meeting ID: 913 9320 5901

Passcode: 477282

School Picture Day

Friday, October 16th and Monday, October 19th

Mark your calendars now for our 2020-2021 school picture days! Look for more information next week regarding scheduling for our AA/BB hybrid students and our students in the Remote Academy. We'll also be looking for parent volunteers to help keep things running smoothly (see below).

Bishop Pumpkin Sale

Saturday, October 17th

Always a Fall favorite with the Bishop community, the Pumpkin Sale is being reimaged this year by Karin Moellering, Pumpkin Sale Chair, and the Bishop PTO Board to adhere to community standards for health and safety. Look for more information about this exciting event next week!

Bishop Diversity and Inclusion Group (DIG) Meeting Thursday, October 22nd at 6pm via Zoom

The Bishop Diversity and Inclusion Group (DIG) invites all Bishop parents, guardians, teachers, staff, and community members to a Welcome Meeting on Thursday, October 22 at 6pm via Zoom. Meet the DIG Advisory Board members, learn about our past initiatives, and share your thoughts and ideas for promoting diversity and inclusion at Bishop this school year.

The Bishop DIG strives to create an atmosphere of equity and inclusion at the Bishop School, create spaces to empower those who are traditionally excluded to speak, influence Arlington institutions and groups to incorporate diversity in practice as well as in policy, inform people who live or work in Arlington about issues related to diversity, increase the diversity among staff in the Arlington Public School, and offer each other mutual support as we carry out our mission. For more information, please visit our website at <https://bishopdig.weebly.com/>. To join our mailing list, please email bishopdig@gmail.com. We hope to see you soon!!

Zoom Information:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81979117298?pwd=ZmlRQUJ5Sk9PbGc1UXpCU2xNVno3dz09>

Meeting ID: 819 7911 7298

Passcode: 711512

In Search of Volunteer Roles

- Class Parents - Thank you to everyone who has volunteered already! We are urgently looking for volunteers for the following teachers: Schuette (2), Higgins (1), Defossez (1), and Brubaker (2). You'd be assisting your child's teacher by helping to organize occasional virtual and/or in-class activities, events and holiday celebrations; being a link between families, the teacher, and the PTO; and helping to ensure each child has what he or she needs to be successful this academic year. If you are interested in becoming a Class Parent, please contact Lindsay Sweeney, Class Parent Coordinator, at lindsay_sweeney4@yahoo.com.
- Arlington EATS Snack Coordinator - Did you know Arlington EATS provides healthy snacks for any Arlington Public School student that needs one? This is an important service, especially this year. In order to make this happen, Arlington EATS needs a Bishop Elementary School Snack Coordinator. Responsibilities include raising funds to purchase snacks, creating a snack wish list on Amazon for parents to purchase from, and purchasing bulk snacks to repackage. If you are interested in learning more about this important volunteer opportunity, please contact bishopschool.pto@gmail.com.

- Picture Day Volunteers - Are you looking for a fun and easy way to get involved with the Bishop Community? We are looking for several volunteers to help the Coffee Pond photographers organize and manage the kids for school pictures. Look for our Sign Up Genius coming next week and consider helping out!

Annual Fund

Welcome to the 2020-21 School Year! This will undoubtedly be a memorable year at Bishop Elementary and we are so thankful for our wonderful community of students, parents, teachers, and staff to help us navigate this unprecedented time.

Life has changed dramatically over the past six months, and while our PTO activities have changed, our goal remains the same -- to enrich our children's educational experience and build community spirit at Bishop School. This goal is more important than ever as we begin this extraordinary year with our Bishop students enrolled in both hybrid and remote learning models. As your PTO Board, we have been working diligently to plan for reduced fundraising because of COVID-related restrictions, while balancing a greater demand for classroom and remote learning initiatives.

In the past, the PTO has asked Bishop families for a suggested donation of \$135/child towards the [PTO Annual Fund](#), which helps support supplementary programs and costs, such as teacher and classroom funds, online subscriptions that enhance math/science/spelling/etc., and enrichment programs and field trips, just to name a few.

This year, we are once again asking families to consider donating \$135/child to the PTO Annual Fund so we can continue supporting our teachers, classrooms, and students to the best of our ability during these trying times. We realize there are many challenges facing Bishop families, including economic hardship due to the pandemic, and humbly ask you to consider your own economic situation when making your donation.

(The broken link that was shared last week has now been corrected)

Donations to the Bishop PTO Annual Fund can be made by any of the following ways:

- PayPal via the PTO Website - <http://www.bishopschoolpto.com> (please scroll down and click on the PayPal link in the "Quick Links" section)
- Check payable to "John A. Bishop PTO" (this can be dropped at the Bishop main office). Please also print and complete this [online form](#) and include it with your check

Thank you for your consideration and support of our fantastic Bishop community! If possible, we would greatly appreciate that you make your donation by November 1, 2020 so we can provide support to our teachers and classrooms out of the PTO Annual Fund as soon as possible this school year.

PS - Did you know you can select John A. Bishop PTO for your company's corporate match program? Please direct any corporate match questions to David Brecht, PTO Co-Treasurer, at taavi4598@gmail.com.

Please note: the Bishop PTO is a volunteer non-profit and all funds raised go towards supporting our children and teachers with the exception of a nominal cost for overhead expenses.

Bishop School Directory (coming soon)

Our Bishop School Directory Coordinator, Jessica Tsymbol, is hard at work planning for the 2020-2021 school directory. We will be using a new system this year to create an online, easier, and more secure method to access the Bishop School Directory. Look for more information and instructions on how to sign up and register coming soon!

AmazonSmile for Bishop!

Did you know you can sign up for AmazonSmile in just three steps? AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of all eligible purchases to Bishop (search for John A. Bishop PTO) at no cost to you! In a time when we are ordering more online and donations are more important than ever, this is an easy way to support Bishop. Also, anyone can add Bishop to as a charity for AmazonSmile so please forward this information to family and friends who want to help support our awesome community!

Stop & Shop A+ School Rewards Program

Stop & Shop has a great program called the A+ School Rewards Program, where you can select up to two schools to receive donations automatically from Stop & Shop! Register [here](#), then go to "My Account", click on "Rewards & Programs" and select Bishop Elementary!

Community News:

Interested in getting information to the Bishop community? Information that you'd like to share with the Bishop community can be included in the weekly Principal's Update. Please email the relevant information to Amanda Maltais (Communications Coordinator, Bishop PTO) at aemaltais@gmail.com

Varallo Orthodontics Partners in Education Program

Over the past several years, budget cuts have affected our local schools. To offset some of those cuts, Varallo Orthodontics has started the Partners in Education Program, or P.I.E. For every patient in grades K-8 who starts orthodontic treatment with

their office, they will donate \$25 to the patient's school PTO. This program runs until 12/31/20. To schedule a free consultation or find out more, visit them at varalloortho.com.

Stay Up to Date

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

Websites:

Bishop School (general info, links to the school system):

<http://www.arlington.k12.ma.us/bishop/>

Bishop School (news and events): <https://bishopschool.net/>

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