

**BISHOP BEARS - STRONGER TOGETHER**



 **Bishop Weekly Update - PTO Edition** 

 **Dates for the Calendar**

Monday, September 28th - No School (Yom Kippur)

Friday, October 2nd - Bishop Spirit Day

Wednesday, October 7th - PTO Community Meeting

 **Bishop PTO News**

Welcome to the 2020-2021 School Year! This year will look different than past years, but the PTO executive board and coordinators are excited to find new opportunities to bring our community together safely. We hope you'll join our efforts in creating great Bishop experiences and memories for our children.

 **Bishop PTO Mission Statement**

The mission of the Bishop PTO is to bring parents and community members together to build a strong Bishop community and align resources with the vision and direction of the School with an emphasis on enhancing the dynamic educational experiences of our students.

 **PTO Executive Board**

Christina Marko, Co-President

Laura Tikonoff, Co-President

David Brecht, Co-Treasurer

Lindsay Pacheco, Co-Treasurer

Neshe Gafari, Recording Secretary

Amanda Maltais, Communications Coordinator

Lindsay Sweeney, Class Parent Coordinator

Tai Sokoloff, Fundraising Coordinator

 **PTO Community Meeting**

**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.

 **In Search of Volunteer Roles**

- Class Parents - Thank you to everyone who has volunteered already! We are still looking for volunteers for the following teachers: McLaughlin (1), Ferguson (1), Schuette (2), and Brubaker (2). You'd be helping your child's teacher by assisting in 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, Room Parent Coordinator, at [lindsay\\_sweeney4@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:bishopschool.pto@gmail.com).

## 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 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 asking families to consider donating \$135 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 COVID-19, and humbly ask you to consider your own economic situation when making your donation. Donations to the Bishop PTO Annual Fund can be made [here](#).

Thank you for your consideration and support of our fantastic Bishop community!

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.

## Spirit Days

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.

## 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](mailto: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](http://varalloortho.com).