



We Are Blaine

Blaine Primary and Elementary Schools Monthly Newsletter

Monthly Newsletter - Issue 08, April 2020

"Every student, every day, in a new way"

MONTH AT A GLANCE

April 13	Continuous Learning Begins
April 17	National Haiku Poetry Day
April 22	Earth Day
April 26	National Pretzel Day



FROM THE PRINCIPALS

Blaine Primary and Elementary School Families,

This April edition of this newsletter includes all P-5 families, as we hope to keep everyone connected to school routines at both Blaine Primary and Elementary Schools. In addition to other updates and announcements from the Blaine School District, we'll continue to publish a monthly newsletter for P-5 students and families. We know that not being in school for the past three weeks is not normal, but our intention is to provide some consistency for families as we are away from our school family. With the governor's announcement of school closures for the remainder of the current year, we feel this communication is more important than ever.

First of all, please know that we can safely speak for all staff across our schools and share that we truly miss our students and families! Education is so much about relationships and when we aren't able to engage in those daily interactions with our students and families, it's like being a fish out of water. We've entered the unknown in so many ways, but when these types of events happen it only increases our awareness of how important schools and our community organizations are. We're all adapting to a strange reality and the pace at which change is occurring could give someone whiplash. We can all take comfort that even in the absence of being in a common space together, we are still a family. Not unlike many families that are separated from their loved ones right now, we will work together to weather this storm and come out stronger on the other side with a deeper appreciation for what we have.

FROM THE PRINCIPALS (CONTINUED)

As we move into April we want you to be aware of planning and programs that will be coming your way. We can't possibly update you on everything or answer all the questions that families are wondering about, but we'll start here and plan to continue to respond to your needs through future newsletters and other P-5 and Blaine School District communications. Here are a few updates:

- **Continuous learning opportunities** – Next week will mark the launch of continuous learning materials coming to families. We've begun by distributing these learning materials in packet (paper) form, which will be mailed to your home. We are starting with packets as we are still working to establish technology access for all families and set up online platforms (Google Classroom), so that students and families can work online to complete continuous learning opportunities. Please note the instructions for "joining a Google Classroom" are included with this newsletter. Google Classroom will be the main online platform used by staff moving forward.
- **Kindergarten Registration/Orientation and Class Placement for the 2020-21 school year.** We are still in the process of setting these systems up, but please be assured that we will publish information later this month about both of these topics. All families will have an opportunity to provide input as part of the classroom placement process. All students in current grade levels will be promoted to the next grade level as would typically happen in a normal school year. We will set up opportunities for students moving from primary to elementary (2nd to 3rd grade) and elementary to middle (5th to 6th grade) to engage in orientation/transition events.
- **Acquiring Student/Family personal items at school.** In the coming months we will make a plan for families to access their child's items left in the school/classroom. Please stay tuned for more information about this at a later date.
- **Technology Access** – If you are in need of internet services or technology access, please be sure to let your child's teacher know. We've begun distributing some devices this week to those families that are in need of technology access.
- **Address or Phone Number Updates**– At this time it's really important that we have up to date contact information for families. If you have any updates for us please contact:
Blaine Primary School
Dawn Corcorran (dcorcorran@blainesd.org)
Sheila Giffen (sgiffen@blainesd.org)
Blaine Elementary School
Denise Magnusson (dmagnusson@blainesd.org)
Kim Ellis (kellis@blainesd.org)

In spite of all the challenges in our world, we wish you a happy April and look forward to serving all of our families in the coming months!

Craig Baldwin
P-5 Principal

Lindsay Nowakowski
P-5 Assistant Principal

Michelle Mckeown
P-5 Assistant Principal

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Dear Blaine P-5 School Family,

We hope this letter finds you safe, healthy, and in good spirits given the uncertainty we are all living through with the emergence of COVID-19. We the counselors at Blaine Primary and Elementary want you to know we are here to offer help in this time of need.

Below you will find information on social/emotional resources for home, accessing counseling support from the school counselors and community providers, basic needs resources, and crisis resources.

We wish you and your family health and wellness, and have you in our thoughts and hearts even as we are separated by the closure of schools. Please reach out to us if there is any way we can help.

Craig Robinson
BPS School Counselor
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Cell: 360-303-0698

Sarah Point-Moore
BES School Counselor
spointmoore@blainesd.org
Office: 360-303-0164

Kaatri Jones
BSD Mental Health Counselor
kjones@blainesd.org

SEL Resources

We plan to continue supporting the social/emotional learning (SEL) of all students through at-home learning opportunities in coordination with academic materials provided by classroom teachers. This may include games, activities, or worksheets sent home with academic packets to families, and online learning opportunities posted through the District website.

In the meantime, here are some online links you can check out to start engaging with your child on topics such as emotion regulation, empathy, and problem solving.

Conscious Discipline (emotion regulation):
<https://consciousdiscipline.com/covid-19-five-helpful-responses-for-families/>

Facing COVID-19 (emotion regulation and parenting supports): Articles and videos for parents/guardians on supporting kids through coronavirus - <https://childmind.org/coping-during-covid-19-resources-for-parents/>

Empathy: Talking with Trees lessons and videos on empathy and other social/emotional topics - <https://talkingtreebooks.com/definition/what-is-empathy.html>

Individual or Family Consultations

The school counselors are available to consult with students/families remotely as needed by email, phone, or video meeting app. Please contact your child's school counselor during their office hours (M-F 9am to 4pm). Email or phone messages received outside these hours will be responded to during our next regular office hours. You may notice that the number we are calling from is blocked in caller ID because we may be calling from a personal phone.

Mental Health Counseling

Many providers are shifting to telehealth platforms – providing counseling services remotely by phone and apps such as FaceTime, Zoom, Doxy.me and WhatsApp.

If you or your child are already engaged with counseling, contact your provider to find out whether remote access is an option.

Here are some local providers you might try if you are seeking counseling services:

- Catholic Community Services (360-676-2164) – Medicaid/Molina only
 - Touchstone Health (360-788-4228) – most insurances accepted (including Medicaid/Molina)
 - Compass Health (360-922-6670 or 1-844-822-7609) – Medicaid/Molina only
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Basic Needs Resources

If you have unmet needs for food, clothing, shelter, transportation, or other basics, please contact our support staff at Communities in Schools and the Family Service Center. They have a wealth of knowledge and connection to Blaine community organizations that can help.

- Communities in Schools –
Britt Rhodes (brhodes@blainesd.org)
- Family Services Center –
Jessie Burton (jburton@blainesd.org)
- Bob Feastor (rfeastor@blainesd.org)

Crisis Resources

If you or a family member are having a mental health crisis or are a victim of domestic violence, help is available from these local and national organizations.

- Crisis Line – Volunteers of America (VOA)
1-800-584-3578
- Crisis Text Line - Text HOME to 741741
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
1-800-273-8225
- Whatcom County Crisis Triage & Stabilization Center 1-360-676-2020
- Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services (DVSAS) of Whatcom County
24 hr helpline 1-360-715-1563
- National Domestic Violence Hotline
1-800-799-SAFE (7233);
online chat <https://www.thehotline.org/help/>

Joining A Google Classroom

1) Sign in to your Google account

- Open Chrome (preferred), Edge or Firefox browsers
- In the address bar go to <https://google.com> and click “Sign In” at the top right
- If another Google account is already logged select “Add another account”
- Enter your username -
first.lastname@stu.blainesd.org
(just put in your first and last names separated by a period and then @stu.blainesd.org. No spaces.) Click next
- Enter your password, using BlaineXXXX but instead of XXXX, put in your lunch number.
- After successfully logging in click on the Google G-Suite application button at the top right and select Classroom

Gmail Images

2) Join A Class

- From the G-Suite application button select Classroom
- Click the + at the top right and “Join class”
- Enter the class code provided by your Teacher
- After joining your class use the dashboard button to access the class

Join class
Create class

Join class

Ask your teacher for the class code, then enter it here.

Class code

Cancel Join

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