



# Bear Facts

The Weekly Newsletter of  
Bethany Lutheran School  
Long Beach, CA

[www.bethanylutheran.org](http://www.bethanylutheran.org)  
Learn+Love+Lead+Serve



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Education is my chosen profession, so that means I've had over 50 "first-days-of-school" in a row. I've also watched my children have their first days of preschool (they cried), Kindergarten (I cried), high school, college, and now their own first days-of-school as teachers. And I've had 24 first-days-of-school right here at Bethany!

**This** first day is without a doubt the oddest of them all.

The halls are weirdly quiet (even with childcare here.) There are no happy parents dropping off their kids and heading out for a celebratory brunch. There are no "first day of school" pictures outside the classrooms. We aren't filing into the church to sing our way into the school year.

It's odd, and it's hard.

But here's the thing: even in the "hard," I can see God's hand at work. I see the dedicated team He called here for such a time as this: teachers and support staff who are ready, willing and able to help students experience success. I see parents who are taking a deep breath and diving into more learning-from-home assistance, unexpected as it may be. And I see our students, returning and new, who are ready for the challenges ahead.

It's going to be a memorable year, and we're so blessed to be part of your family's story and to share with you every day that you are....  
SO. LOVED. (John 3:16)

*Dr. Mary Fink*

What's new on campus:

New faces-

Miss Alicia Arzaga, formerly our middle school science teacher, is now teaching 3rd grade.

Mrs. Melissa Rodrigues is our new 5th grade teacher.

Mr. Paul Brege is our new middle school science teacher.

Senora Sandra Sayago is our new middle school Spanish teacher.

Mrs. Brianna Ojeda is our new counselor.

Miss Christi Koehlinger is our new Kindergarten aide.

Our PE teacher, Mrs. Barker, has taken a leave of absence.

And if you have not heard, our dear Dr. McDaniel will be moving to Nebraska where her husband, Gary, has taken a call. Dr. McDaniel leaves an amazing legacy of music here and we will miss her dearly! Her last Sunday at Bethany will be October 4, in case you would like to send her a farewell/thank you card or message before then.

New Curriculum

- New Science curriculum for Grades K-5
- New Math curriculum for Grades 3-5

New and improved campus-

- New water-bottle filling stations
- New HEPA filter air purifiers in classrooms
- Newly remodeled boys' restroom downstairs
- New touch-free dispensers for towels, soap and sanitizer in every room
- New plexiglass dividers for desks (on the way!)
- New office for our counselor (upstairs by the Makerspace)
- New solar panels going on the roofs of the church office, gym, youth room and part of the school...we're going green!

**School Bulletin #1**  
September 1, 2020

## DON'T FORGET

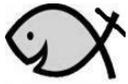
- ©Sept. 1-First Day of School, half day of instruction
- ©Sept. 7-Labor Day-No School
- ©Sept. 8-8<sup>th</sup> Grade DC Meeting by Zoom
- ©Sept. 9-New Parent Orientation by Zoom
- ©Oct. 2-Progress Reports
- ©Oct. 2-Fall Holiday-No School

## Attention Room Parents!

Are you signing up to be a room parent (or room parent assistant) for your child's class? We'll be having an orientation by Zoom in a couple of weeks. Watch the Bear Facts for info!

*Our school theme:*  
**So. Loved.**





The FISHin' Hole  
Opportunities to Serve

### HELP! HELP!

We can always use parent help to make our school the best it can be. Check with your child's teacher to see how you can pitch in.

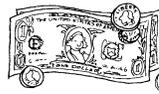
*"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." Col 3:17*

### Meet the Staff

K-	Mrs. Kendell Blake
1 <sup>st</sup> -	Mrs. Lori Lange
2 <sup>nd</sup> -	Miss Stefanie Hinrichs
3 <sup>rd</sup> -	Miss Alicia Arzaga
4 <sup>th</sup> -	Ms. Kim Imes
5 <sup>th</sup> -	Mrs. Melissa
Rodrigues	
MS History-	Mr. Andrew Morner
MS Math-	Miss Abby Einspahr
MS English-	Mrs. Carrie Evans
MS Science-	Mr. Paul Brege
MS Spanish-	Senora Sandra Sayago
Technology -	Ms. Cheryl Stejskal
K Aide-	Mrs. Christi Koehlinger
1 <sup>st</sup> Aide-	Mrs. Sandi Skiles
2 <sup>nd</sup> Aide-	Mrs. Natasha Aguilera
Student Success-	Mrs. Jill Moorman
	Mrs. Connie Kritzer
	Mrs. Sarah O'Conner
Art Teacher-	Ms. Evie Erickson
Music Teacher-	Mr. Kevin Bowers
Custodian-	Mr. Steven Lee
School Secretary-	Mrs. Kim Yoshiyama
Admissions -	Mrs. Kathy Tucker
Scrip Coord.-	Mrs. Ruth Lopez
Financial Admin-	Mrs. Maraley Shaeffer
EDC Director-	Ms. Carlota Brown
Music Director-	Dr. Carol McDaniel
Senior Pastor-	Rev. Kevin Kritzer
Family Life-	Rev. Seth Moorman
DCE-	Mrs. Kayleigh Lopez
Athletics/Care Ministry-	Mr. Karl Fink
Principal-	Dr. Mary Fink

### All the News That's Fit to Print

**Bear Facts** is our official school bulletin. We will email it every Tuesday, post it on our website and app and even text you a link so you can read it on your phone. (Can you tell that we REALLY want you to read it every week?)



## CHAPEL OFFERING

Typically we take a weekly offering during our chapel services that is used to support a charity. These offerings teach our students the importance of using our financial blessings to make a difference in the lives of others. During our learning-from-home time, we are encouraging each student to create their own chapel "bank" to collect their offerings for the month of September. When we are back together at school, we'll combine our offerings. 😊

For September we will be donating to Christian Outreach in Action in downtown Long Beach. This amazing ministry feeds hundreds and hundreds of local residents every week.

### Waiver Update

Governor Newsom released his new blueprint on Friday for re-opening the California economy. We are awaiting guidance from LA County regarding the school waiver process, but we remain committed to filing for a waiver as soon as the application window opens. We will keep you updated as we learn more.

Parents, you are ALL members of our Parent Teacher League (PTL), our amazing group of parent leadership and an important part of making Bethany such a special place.

Did you know that the PTL helped to fund the COVID19 safety updates here on campus? That's just one example of ways we're able to make a difference.

This will be a different sort of year for our group, but we're committed to supporting our students, our staff and our school.

You are also welcome to attend our PTL meetings each month (which will start on Zoom...stay tuned for a link!)

*Blessings on your school year!*  
Bonny Walleman, PTL President  
[bonnywalleman@yahoo.com](mailto:bonnywalleman@yahoo.com)



New Parent Orientation is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept.9 at 6:30 PM by Zoom. We will email you the link as the date draws near.

This informational meeting IS REQUIRED and it is important that one or both parents attend. You will receive your electronic copy of our Parent Handbook, meet members of the staff and Bethany community and hear about many of the happenings here on the Bethany campus.

We're looking forward to seeing you. 😊

### Middle School Corner

Middle School Families,

Please be sure to check out the Middle School Corner in the weekly Bear Facts newsletters for updates and information.

"We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers!" I Thessalonians 1:2

You are SO LOVED,  
The Middle School Team

## What is Scrip?

Scrip is a fundraising program here at Bethany Lutheran Church and Schools. Funds are raised through the purchase of gift cards. They can be used for the things you already buy. Re-imagine the gift card as something more than just a gift - recognize it's potential for serious fundraising!

## How does Scrip work?

Bethany purchases the gift cards at a discounted price which are then made available for purchase and use at face value. Each vendor sets their own discount percentage which is then passed on to the purchaser in the form of a rebate. That rebate is then shared with the purchaser (60%) and the running of the program / general ministry projects (40%).

## Why use Scrip?

Using Scrip is an easy thing to do and of great benefit to the families and ministries of Bethany. Use these convenient gift cards to purchase everyday things like gas and groceries. Rebates are applied annually in May.

- Bethany Lutheran Preschool - Preschool families can use scrip rebates to offset the cost of tuition.
- Bethany Lutheran School - Elementary and Middle School families can use their rebate to offset tuition costs.

Additionally, families can "bank" their rebate for their child's 8th grade Washington D.C. trip beginning in the 5th grade.

- Church

Parents of Bethany Youth (8th grade to freshman in college) can apply the rebate to their child's youth account to be used toward retreats, youth gatherings and mission trips.

A final option is to designate your rebate toward a specific ministry at Bethany: Music, Youth, Student Success, Tuition Assistance, Renaissance, Mission Alaska, Mission India or General Ministry.

## How do I purchase Scrip?

- In person

Scrip is available in the school office Monday through Friday from 8am - 4pm (Summer hours: 9am - 3pm) A selection of physical gift cards are kept on-hand. Special orders available.

- Online

ShopWithScrip.com is the website. This is a safe and convenient way to purchase Scrip. Follow the prompts to set up an online account with payment options. A greater variety of vendors from over 750 brands are available online. **Enrollment code: 1BL8EE69719L**

- On your Smartphone

After you have created an online account at ShopWithScrip.com, download the RaiseRight app on your smartphone. Use the same log-in information as the website. Ecards can be purchased and used instantly for those last minute purchases.

Contact information: Ruth Lopez, Scrip Coordinator / rlopez@bethanylutheran.org / 562-420-7783 ext 58  
I am happy to answer any questions you may have about the program!





Life Skills  
Life Lessons  
& Lifelong Friends

Whether We're In Person  
or Together Online, The  
Scouting Fun Never Stops!



# CUB SCOUT PACK 75 Parent Info Session

Wednesday, September 9  
7:00-7:30pm on Zoom

Email  
[LBpack75@gmail.com](mailto:LBpack75@gmail.com)  
to RSVP



Get More Info on Cub Scouts at [LBPack75@gmail.com](mailto:LBPack75@gmail.com)