

November 13, 2020

Dear Bromfield Community:

While the rain was a disappointing way to end the week, the early part of the week was simply glorious! It is hard to believe that we have begun the second term. Here are the topics for this week's newsletter...

Term One Grades

Homework Free Thanksgiving

Parent Conferences Postponed until January and Plans for November 23rd and 24th

Service Saturday November 14

Monitoring Student Health

Continuing Hybrid Plan

Maintaining Physical and Social Distance

Attendance

Family Travel, College Visits, and Returning Family Members

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Term One Grades

First term concluded last Friday, November 6th. Final first term grade reports will be available by 5:00pm on Tuesday, November 17th. If there is any question about grades or about general progress, please contact the teacher.

Homework Free Thanksgiving

In keeping with our desire to create balance for students, staff, and families, Bromfield will again have a Homework Free Thanksgiving. The only exceptions will be AP Courses which are college courses and VHS and Educere Courses because Bromfield does not control the content or workload of those online courses. We are encouraging our teachers to unplug as well so please be aware that emails sent Tuesday, November 24th may not be returned until school resumes on Monday, November 30th.

Parent Conferences Postponed until January and Plans for November 23rd and 24th

Parent conferences have been postponed until January. We made this decision to allow for more academic time on November 23 and 24. There will not be any school on Wednesday, November 25th. We will give more details about the January Parent Conferences in December.

Service Saturday

This month's Service Saturday will be held tomorrow, Saturday, Nov 14th, from 9-12. Bromfield Cares will again be doing yard work at some local senior citizen's homes as well as at the Healing Garden. Interested students should contact Ms. Nilan at pnilan@psharvard.org.

Monitoring Student Health

Please remember to monitor your child's health each day and do not send your child to school if they exhibit the following symptoms: Fever (100° Fahrenheit or higher), chills, or shaking chills, cough (not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough) difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, headache when in combination with other symptoms, muscle aches or body aches, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea, fatigue, when in combination with other symptoms nasal congestion or runny nose (not due to other known causes, such as allergies) when in combination with other symptoms. Our staff is asked to use the same checklist. If your child is going to be out sick, please be sure to use the absent email button on our webpage and include the reason they are out. Please remember that students who are not feeling well on a particular day cannot call into school and say they are going to stream into classes as this is not a possibility. Please refer to the School Committee Policies and Flow Chart: [HPS policy for responding to suspected or known Covid 19 cases](#)
[HPS Policy for responding to suspected or known COVID cases - Flowchart](#).

Continuing Hybrid Plan

We have decided to remain in the current hybrid/remote model of school until at least January 4th. This plan would only change if we have two cases of COVID-19 in the district at the same time and then we will become fully remote for at least 14 days. So far, we have had 0 cases of COVID-19 in the schools. This success is a tribute to careful safety measures and your community commitment. As you know, many communities around us have had to pivot to fully remote. We consider each day that the school buildings are open for students a blessing. While we are ready to transition to remote when necessary, we prefer to offer families the option for Hybrid.

As a reminder, if we were to become fully remote, we would finish the schedule for the week using the blue/green cohort. After that week, we would convert to our full remote schedule which is detailed here: [Full Remote Schedule](#).

Inclement Weather

We wanted to remind you of the information sent to you by Dr. Dwight earlier this week involving inclement weather. The leadership team spoke recently about delayed openings and decided that this year we will not use a delayed opening response to poor weather and road conditions. Bringing students in for 2 ½ hours of in-person instruction did not seem like the safest or best use of learning time and we would not be able to extend the hours as lunch service is not set up. Instead we will switch to a remote day in most cases. We have permission by the state (only this year) to use weather related remote days as school days. We will expect students to log in for lessons based on the day's schedule. If it is a Blue Day, blue day students will have their regular classes only they will be conducted entirely over Zoom. On occasions where the weather is particularly severe and impacts power and internet service, we may have a snow day that does not require on-line learning. Those days will need to be made up at the end of the year. Dr. Dwight will use the phone calling system to distinguish what type of day off we are having each time.

Maintaining Physical and Social Distance

We ask that our students remember to maintain physical and social distance outside of schools. This will be especially important in the upcoming weeks. If you watch the news, you will see that social gatherings without masks have caused a number of school districts to close school buildings and move to remote learning for a period of time. We are aware that so much is changed and that we all yearn to return to normal. Please adhere to the state guidelines so everyone can be safe and we can continue to have in-person learning that occurs with our current hybrid model.

Attendance

Please remember that students should avoid appointments that conflict with classes if at all possible. Remote classes that occur on cohort days and Wednesdays are especially important since they are still classes that meet directly with a teacher. We also want to remind students and parents that students cannot simply call into school and say they are going to stream into classes as this is not a possibility.

Family Travel and College Visits and Returning Family Members

Clearly, travel is a complicated issue during Covid 19. Please remember to adhere to the Harvard School Committee Travel Policies: COVID-19 Travel Policy (10-15-20 if you need to travel either for family reasons or a college visit. If you travel to a state that is on the more restricted list, your students must either quarantine for 14 days or produce a negative Covid test that was taken 4 days after returning to Massachusetts. This policy is more stringent than the state policy. In addition, families should fill out the appropriate Family Travel Form: [Family Trip Form](#) or College Visit Form: [College Visit Form](#).

Finally, if you have a college student returning from a non-low risk state, we ask you to either keep your hybrid student home or isolate them from HPS students until their sibling tests negative 4 days after returning to MA. These measures will provide greater safety for our students and staff.

Family Technology Update

Please continue to use the [HPS Family Help Desk Ticket system](#). The IT staff is responding to tickets as fast as they can. You can also [Book with Beth](#) for an in-person or virtual consultation. Please remember that [HPS Digital Learning Resources](#) is another great resource for families.

Clothing for Approaching Cooler Temperatures and Rainy Weather

In order to keep students in fresh air as much as possible, windows will continue to be open during the school day. In addition, we will continue to have students take mask breaks outside. We will also conduct classes outside in the tents. We will use the tents if the weather is inclement. Please make sure your children are dressed appropriately to be outside in a colder or wet environment. Rain and cold weather gear are essential for students to be comfortable during these outside mask breaks. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and support.

Harvard Schools Trust Membership

Thank you for supporting the Harvard Schools Trust. They provide valuable resources for our teachers and students. Currently, there are 42 Bromfield families as members of the Harvard Schools Trust. Five years ago, there were 128 families who were members. It would be great to get back to 128 family memberships. Please go to <https://harvardschoolstrust.org/Membership> to become a member of the Harvard Schools Trust.

PTO Membership

We want to thank those who have donated and/or signed up for membership. We are about 3/4 of the way to our Membership Fundraising Goal. If you are able, please consider joining the PTO and donating to help fund enrichment programs and other educational opportunities that are not otherwise provided for in the school budget. Please follow this link to sign up for membership. We hope you'll consider joining us! If you have any questions, please email us at info@harvardpto.org.

Traffic Flow

We want to thank all of you who have been following the established traffic flow pattern of entering the school via Pond Road. When parents use the main entrance at the beginning and end of the day, it does create a traffic logjam and potential danger to our students who are biking or walking to school. During challenging weather, it is even more important that we follow the traffic guidelines. We want to avoid creating situations where it is difficult to ensure the safety of

all of our students. Thanks in advance for your cooperation in keeping all of our community members safe.

Quarantining and School Work

As the year has progressed, a number of students have needed to quarantine. Students who are quarantining should attend their afternoon and Wednesday remote classes. They can also use teacher office hours for extra help. The teachers' Google Classrooms will also provide valuable information about the class. Students will be coded as Q in PowerSchool and will not incur any penalties for being absent.

While it would be ideal for any student who is quarantining to be provided with a live stream of all their classes, it is simply **not** possible to do so. If students are in a **class section** with a camera already in use (this includes Green Cohort members of that class section), they can get the Zoom link and live stream into that classroom with adequate notice for the teachers who teach that class section. The student's counselor will let them know which classes have remote access for the morning classes. We cannot switch student schedules, or provide alternate zoom links, to allow them into sections with cameras.

As always, please contact us if you have any questions.

All our best,

Scott Hoffman, Principal

Robin Benoit, Associate Principal