



# CONNECTIONS

March 5, 2020

## Letter from the Principal

### Important Dates

Friday, March 6

- Open House & Tour: 9 AM

Saturday, March 7

- Lucha Libre: 5:00–7:30 PM

Monday, March 9

- Running Club Begins: 3:00 PM

Wednesday, March 11

- Parents' Club Meeting: 7 PM

Thursday, March 12

- School Mass (2): 9:00 AM

Friday, March 13

- No School—Teacher In-service
- End of 2nd Trimester

Tuesday, March 17

- Free Dress in GREEN!
- Happy St. Patrick's Day

Wednesday, March 18

- Wurst Meeting: 7 PM

Thursday, March 19

- Stations of the Cross

Friday, March 20

- Free Dress & Pizza Lunch

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Submit *Connections* articles to:

Ms. Mary: [m.ancich@stbens.net](mailto:m.ancich@stbens.net) by

3:00 PM Tuesday.

Dear St. Benedict Catholic School Families,

It is very busy here at school and there is a lot going on! Thank you for taking your time while reading *Connections* to make sure that you fully understand and are prepared to act on any of the necessary items. **Please read the whole newsletter, many items that I would typically have had on this front letter had to be bumped to the second page** so that Health and Safety information could be brought forward this week.

As reported in Tuesday's email to parents, here is a more detailed breakdown of what we are doing at school to help slow the spread of any illnesses:

**Cleaning** – We have drastically increased our cleaning and sanitizing throughout the buildings. In classrooms, teachers are cleaning desks, tables, doorknobs daily with a weekly deeper clean. All our public areas (think rails, doors, etc.) are being sanitized at least twice a day. (We have temporarily discontinued the use of drinking fountains.)

**Handwashing** – As you well know, handwashing has been proven the most effective way to fight the transmission of any virus. There are several practical considerations that make it very difficult to allow for frequent handwashing with all our students. Having said that our PS-2<sup>nd</sup> grade students have been washing hands multiple times throughout the day and anyone who requests to wash hands will be allowed to do so. Teachers are also reminding everyone of the proper handwashing technique.

**Hand Sanitizing** – We have increased the use of hand sanitizer throughout the building. Teachers are monitoring its application and all those classrooms (especially grades 3-8) are using it frequently including before snack and on their way into the cafeteria. All students are asked to hand sanitize when they exit the cafeteria.

We are being proactive in other areas beside cleaning and hygiene. The school has been reviewing its procedures to be ready if there is a wider spread of the coronavirus.

**Operating Procedures** – The school has adopted emergency protocols to use in the event of exposure or suspected exposure. These are based on best practices set forth by the CDC and/or the Washington State Department of Health.

**Academic Procedures** – Last week, the school began planning for the eventuality that we may need to close our doors for an extended period. If that happens, we plan to utilize Google Classroom to continue the learning for our students. This is a technology that our Middle School teachers and students have been using this year and we are prepared to expand to the rest of the school. Included in today's *Connections* is a multi-page handout with more information about Google Classroom.

**Parent Procedures** – We need your help to stop the spread of ANY illness at St. Benedict Catholic School. It is very important that you follow our established procedures. Remember –

If your child is sick (for whatever reason) please keep them home. Students are not allowed back to school until they have been fever-free for at least 24 hours.

Brian Anderson, Principal



### SAVE THE DATE!

Lucha Libre with the Luchadores:  
Saturday, March 7, from 5 -7:30 p.m.

We are excited to announce a fun new event coming up on **Saturday, March 7, from 5 to 7:30 p.m.**, in the school auditorium. It's called Lucha Libre, or Mexican wrestling and REAL Luchadores are coming to put on a show!

### BUY YOUR TICKETS TODAY!

The event is open to all St. Benedict families, up to 200 people. The cost is \$20 and includes a Taco Bar, mask making and the wrestling show.

### Spring Conferences

Spring Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>. School will not be in session that day so that parents and teachers are able to meet and discuss student progress. This is a voluntary conference day during which parents or teachers can request a conference. If you would like to set a conference time during that day, please reach out to your child(ren)'s homeroom teacher with potential meeting times by March 20<sup>th</sup>.

### Garden Club: Grades K—4

Join St Ben's Garden Club! We will meet twice per month from 3-4 pm starting Thursday, March 12 and grow our own gardens as well as explore nearby gardens. See the Garden Club Flyer for more information and to sign up. Space limited to 12 Green Thumbs!

### Class Pictures - April 7—New Date!

Class picture day is Tuesday, April 7. This is a SCHOOL UNIFORM day. Checks should be made out to "Kids Photography" and returned in the envelope on or before picture day.

### "Mad Men" Auction News

The St. Benedict School Auction will be held on Saturday, March 28, 5:30pm at the Ballard Bay Club.



RSVP by this Friday to get tickets before the price increase. Go to school website: go to Fundraising and then to Auction!

Please contact Jaime Lin-Yu at [jlinyu@gmail.com](mailto:jlinyu@gmail.com) with any questions.

### Operation Rice Bowl

It's that time of year! This Lent, your family can use your Rice Bowl to collect money for Catholic Relief Service and their work around the world. Rice Bowls and Lenten calendars were sent home with each student last week including stories of people around the world and meatless recipes for Fridays during Lent. Please return your Rice Bowl to the school during Holy Week.

### Scrip Card Ideas

If you buy anything on Amazon, please remember to use the Amazon icon web portal found on the school website, on the fundraising page. See [www.stbens.net](http://www.stbens.net). The school earns a commission each time you enter Amazon through our portal. To earn more for the school, combine that with one of our Amazon scrip gift cards.

Order gift cards any time in the office, through the Thursday envelope scrip pouch, or twice a month after masses.