



Bear Facts

The Weekly Newsletter of
Bethany Lutheran School
Long Beach, CA
www.bethanylutheran.org



Communication+Responsibility+Organization+Service+Sharing

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Welcome!

I realized the other day that this is the *earliest* school will ever start, since we always start the day after Labor Day! The summer flew by and school kind of snuck up on us, didn't it? But it certainly feels like it's time to have our family back together.

The Bible says, "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up." It's our task to support each other in our work for the Kingdom. Would you like to encourage our teaching staff in their mission? You can do this by sending them a note or e-mail and by holding them up in prayer all year long.

Thank you, and God's richest blessings on your school year.

Serving Him with you,
Mrs. Fink

WELCOME to our new 8th Grade Teacher, Mrs. Natasha Schuldheisz! She is a graduate of Concordia University, Irvine with teaching experience in a couple of different schools after following her husband around the country as he finished his training as a Lutheran pastor. We are thrilled to have Mrs. Schuldheisz join our team!

Mrs. Moorman (former 8th grade teacher) will be working with our Student Success program this year.



All the News That's Fit to Print

Bear Facts is our official school bulletin. It will be coming home every Tuesday afternoon with the youngest child in each family and will always be printed on BLUE paper. Please watch for it! You may also access the newsletter on our website. (We can even alert you by e-mail that it's ready...look for the form in your classroom visit packet!)



Parent Reception

Parents, please join Mrs. Fink for a cup of coffee in Freedom Square after you drop off your children the first day of school. (We'll even have travel lids for you, if you're on your way to work!)



New Parent Orientation is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 9 at 7:00 PM in the church. This information meeting IS REQUIRED and it is important that one or both parents attend. You will receive your 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. Childcare for school-aged kids will be provided in the daycare room during the meeting.

First Day of School
Tuesday, Sept. 2
NOON DISMISSAL!
See you there!

School Bulletin #1

August 24, 2008

DON'T FORGET

- ☺Sept. 2-First Day of School-Half Day...dismissal at noon-EDC available if pre-registered.
- ☺Sept. 9-New Parent Orientation-7:00 PM
- ☺Sept. 16-School Picture Day
- ☺Sept. 21-Vicar Seth's ordination-4:00 PM
- ☺Sept. 23-PTL General Meeting
- ☺Sept. 28-Bethany 101 begins
- ☺Sept. 29-Oct. 3-7th Graders to Catalina

YEARBOOK PHOTOS

School pictures will be taken on Sept. 16. Please avoid out-of-school appointments that day. We do have a make-up day for students who are absent, but those children will not be in the class photo. Your picture package has been pre-paid with your Registration Fee, and additional prints are available from Lifetouch.



If you are interested in learning more about Bethany Lutheran Church, plan to join us Sunday, Sept. 28, 4:00-5:15 for "Bethany 101." This is the first step toward becoming a Bethany church member. Child care is provided.

Please RSVP to the church office: 421-4711.



The FISHin' Hole
Opportunities to Serve

HELP! HELP!

Would you like to take care of your FISH hours right away before school starts? We need some help this Saturday, Aug. 30 putting some final touches on some projects around campus. Our trustees could sure use your help! Just show up around 8:00 or so and they'll put you to work.

Watch this column in future Bear Facts for more FISH ideas.

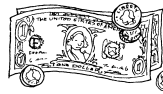
"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." Col 3:17

Sunday School

Bethany Lutheran Church offers Sunday School and Adult Bible Classes for 3-year olds through Adults. Classes are held at 9:30 on Sunday mornings and you are always welcome!

Our Sunday School Rally Day kickoff is set for Sunday afternoon, September 7, here on our grassy field. We are doing a potluck this year, so please bring food, table settings, and drinks for your family. Bottled water will be provided. A bounce house for the younger children, and games for the older ones is also planned. We will still have our dessert contest, and judging will take place at 1PM. Categories for desserts are as follows: 1) Anything chocolate, 2) Cookies, 3) Pies and 4) Cakes. The day's festivities will end around 3PM. Make plans now to join us!

We've attached a new school calendar for you that is updated with Grandparent Days and PTL meetings!!



CHAPEL OFFERING

Every Wednesday at 9:00 AM, we have a Chapel (church) service for the entire school. Sometimes the students lead these, and sometimes members of the staff lead them. At each of these services we collect an offering for a worthy charity. These offerings teach our students the importance of using our financial blessings to make a difference in the lives of others.

Our Student Council will decide where our monthly chapel offerings will be used. Watch the Bear Facts for more information.

You are always welcome to attend our chapel services and your support is always appreciated.

Looking for a hot lunch form?
Lost your EDC order form?
Forgot what the dress code says?
All this information, and much more, is available on our school website:

bethanylutheran.org/school..

Check it out!



WE ♥ SCHOOL!



We are pleased to be able to offer teacher-supervised study hall after school. You will receive the order form at your Family Classroom Visit. Please fill it out and return it by Sept. 5.

Late Start

Just a reminder that Wednesdays are "late start" days for the upper grades, 5th-8th. Doors open at 8:30 and class begins at 8:45 sharp!



A simple way to reduce your tuition is to use our SCRIP/Gift Card program. For every \$100 of SCRIP you purchase, \$2.50 is set aside in your SCRIP Rebate Account. In May you will receive a SCRIP Rebate letter telling you how much your Scrip Rebate is. You can deduct that amount from your May 2009 tuition payment, or if you've paid your tuition in full you can deduct your rebate from your first tuition payment next year. If your child is in Grades 5-7, you may "bank" your child's SCRIP Rebate for their 8th Grade Washington DC trip. Last year, several of our families had rebates over \$1000!

Some things to remember:

- *If you are purchasing SCRIP for friends and relatives, you must use your own check-we accept checks from school parents only.
- *"Debit Card" type SCRIP may not be exchanged or returned.
- *SCRIP will be sold in the school office Monday through Friday and between church services on Sunday mornings.
- *SCRIP can be ordered anytime using SCRIP order envelopes (available in EDC). Orders can be delivered to your child's classroom or you can pick up your filled order in EDC.
- *SCRIP order forms can also be printed from our website: www.bethanylutheran.org. Call Carol Grudt at 420-7783 ex.58 if you have any questions.

BE SURE TO READ THE SCRIP NEWS IN THE BEAR FACTS EVERY WEEK AND WIN FREE GIFT CARDS!

Policy Changes

The Bethany Board of Schools has approved the following policy changes to our parent handbook:

Due to increasing problems with tardy students, the tardy policy now states:

- ❑ Children arriving at school after their starting bell has completed ringing must be accompanied by their parent to the School Office.
- ❑ The student must have a valid and written excuse to receive an "Excused Tardy" slip. Valid excuses include medical and dental appointments, emergencies or special circumstances.

Cell phones continue to be a distraction for many of our students during the school day, but we understand the need for some students to have them for after-school contact with parents. Therefore the Board has approved the following change to the cell phone policy:

- ❑ During school hours, cell phones will be collected by classroom teachers and stored in a locked location for the school day. Students may collect their cell phones at the end of the school day. It is the student's responsibility to retrieve their cell phone from the classroom teacher before leaving the classroom for the day.

If you have any questions about these policy changes, feel free to contact Mrs. Fink.

After School Dismissal

- * All Extended Day Care (EDC) students in 2nd-8th will report to the lunch table area.
- * K-1st EDC students will be escorted to EDC Room.
- * All students in 2nd-6th Study Hall will report to lunch table area.
- * All students in 7th-8th Study Hall will report to the classroom.
- * All students being picked up via the drive-through system will report to EDC tables. From 3:15-3:30, the "one-way drive through" will be enforced. Students should wait for their car to arrive at the EDC tables, not run out into traffic to meet their car.
- * No students may meet their car by the gates to the lunch table or the breezeway by the gym.
- * Students may meet their cars along Arbor Road.
- * Parents may also meet students in Freedom Square.
- * Students who have not been picked up by 3:30 will be checked into EDC.
- * Students in after-school sports may wait quietly in Hensley Square.



Come join Cub Scouts!

Boys in first through fifth grades are invited to Cub Scout Pack 75's first pack meeting of the school year on Friday, September 12th. Hot dog dinner at 6:30 PM; meeting at 7:00 PM in the Gym.

Hey Moms! Before you completely fill up your fall schedule with all those "good" things, consider the "best" thing that you can do for your children ... **PRAY!**

Moms In Touch International (MITI) is an interdenominational organization of mothers meeting one hour each week to pray for their children and the schools they attend. There are groups in all 50 states and over 120 countries. Bethany's group meets on *Wednesday* mornings 8:45 – 9:45, with free child care available. For more information contact Connie Kritzer 562-431-3189 or busybeachmom@msn.com.

Junior Jazzercise-Join the Music, Fun and Friends

We move to the music of hit songs for an aerobic workout. Learn how to keep track of your heart rate. Games, education, and **Prizes!!**

Water/healthy snacks provided

\$10/class (**part of your fee is donated back to Bethany**)

Come to the Parish Lounge, wear supportive shoes
First 4 week session: Sept. 9-30
Join anytime, ages 8 and up
Tuesdays 3:30-4:30

Hosted by Christine Iradj,
bodymoves@earthlink.net
(562) 756-7066

We were unable to keep our in-school Spanish program this year, but we are pleased to partner with *Conversa* to offer after-school Spanish classes to students in Grades K-6. Please refer to the flyer in your Family Classroom Visit packet for more information.



Do you have some old beach chairs (the kind you keep in a bag) that need a new home? We could use some here at Bethany...just drop them by the school office. Thanks!

