

Ashbrook Compass



In the photo below, you'll see our staff gathered together for our final staff meeting of the 2020 year. It was nice to see everyone all at once, something we rarely are able to do these days. Everyone listened reflectively as I shared with them the following graph that illustrates the progression a community follows after a crisis. We are heading into the lowest emotional level of the progression as people are becoming increasingly tired of distancing, mask wearing, sanitizing, celebrating holidays in ways we never imagined, and missing closeness with loved ones. It is more important than ever that we take care of ourselves right now and find ways to experience joy. We are sending the same message to our families and students. *Find small ways to practice self-care every day.* We must nurture ourselves and each other during these times by practicing daily wellness efforts as we continue as a community through this challenging pandemic.

I would love to hear how your family is finding ways to experience joy during this season!

Rachel Sechler
Interim Head of School



Figure 1. Reactions and Behavioral Symptoms in Disasters



Adapted from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

Next week:

December 7 -- First day of Winter Term

December 11 -- Middle School 'B Week' schedule

Upcoming Dates:

December 15 -- Buddy Day

December 16 -- MS Virtual concert

December 18 -- Middle School 'A Week' schedule

Dec 21-Jan 1 -- Winter Break

Mrs. Jensen is honored with Outstanding Volunteer Award

Mrs. Jensen is being awarded Benton County 4-H's 2019-2020 Outstanding Volunteer Award for the Wildlife Stewards Program at Ashbrook!

One of the committee members said, "Mrs. Jensen has been so positive and supportive of the program and getting youth connected to the outdoors and nature. She is joining a distinguished list of teachers and volunteers who go above and beyond to connect youth with the wonders of the natural world."

Mrs. Jensen's 4th grade class were part of the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network, or CoCoRaHS. It's a network of volunteer weather observers in the United States, Canada, and the Bahamas that take daily readings of precipitation and report them to a central data store over the internet. They also observed and recorded data for Nature's Notebook as Oregon Citizen Scientists, focusing on milkweed to help support monarch butterflies.

Congratulations Mrs. Jensen!

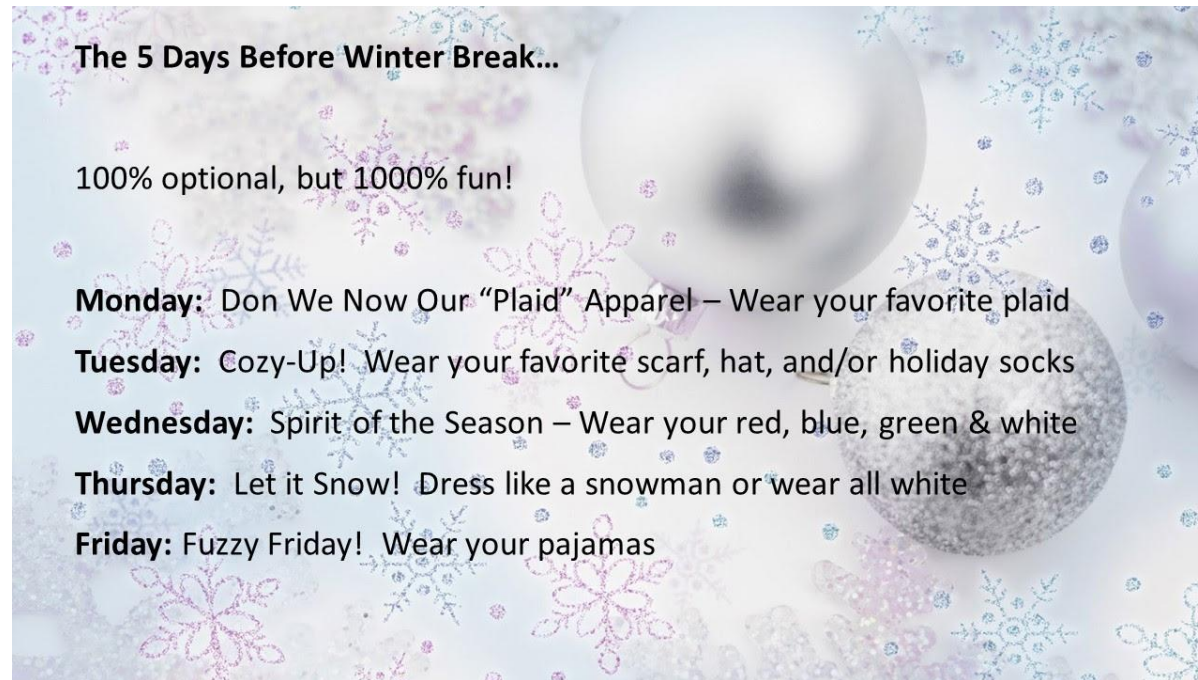
Please support the 2020-2021 Explorers Fund

The annual Explorers Fund letter was mailed yesterday to all current families, alumni families, and friends of Ashbrook with addresses on file. We are truly excited that the Board of Trustees will match the first \$40,000 in donations (twice the amount they matched last year!) and an anonymous donor will match an additional \$20,000, but we need your help raising the initial \$60,000 in order to qualify for those gifts!

Giving through our website is even easier this year. Click [HERE](#) to be taken directly to the Explorers Fund page where you can donate using either a credit card or EFT/ACH. You will receive an immediate confirmation of your gift as well as an email receipt. You also have the option to set up a recurring gift if you would prefer to donate monthly, quarterly, or semiannually. And please feel free to share the link with family and friends who may also want to support Ashbrook.

Thank you for supporting Ashbrook!

*Ashbrook Independent School is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. (Tax ID #93-1131186) Your gift may be tax deductible.



COVID Update and Survey Results

ODE and OHA require that schools transition to online learning when cases exceed 100 per 100,000. The Benton County Health Department does not recommend any school to be open for in-person learning at this time.

Weeks of 11/01-11/14 = 157 cases per 100,000

Weeks of 11/08-11/21 = 206 cases per 100,000

Week of 11/15-11/28 = 185 cases per 100,000

Week of 11/22-12/5 = TBD, last week had over 70 cases alone

All classes for grades K-8 are currently learning online.

As we plan for the future transition of bringing our 4th-8th grade students back to campus for in-person learning, we gathered feedback from families regarding comfort level to help us understand how many students we would have return to the building. 77% of students would return if the case rate in our county drops below 50 cases per 100,000 population, but if the case rate remains above 50 cases, only 49% of students would return. Additionally, 75% of families agreed to waiting until after the New Year to determine a further transition plan.

Snow Day Alerts via Text, E-mail, and Social Media

The days are getting colder, and there is a chance of a "frozen mix" this Sunday. Even with online learning, there are days teachers may not be able to reach the school. If we decide to close for inclement weather, you will not receive a FlashAlert notification. We will send out notifications via text message and email, and we will post a notice on Instagram and Facebook. If you need to update your cell phone number, please log into MSP. Your number must be in the Cell Phone field to receive text messages.



We're Fundraising with See's Candies!
Help us earn money for our school and make the holidays even sweeter.

See's CANDIES.

Last Day to Order through the See's Candy Fundraiser!

Orders are placed on our Ashbrook PTO Yum-raising website and are shipped directly to you or your gift recipients. Shipping for orders over \$65 is free, orders less than \$65 ship for a small fee. Proceeds go to the Ashbrook PTO to benefit our entire school.

Order today! https://www.yumraising.com/secure/ashbrookis_ashbrook_pto61/candy?h=KRI_LIN2514&c=ot9280

The Vina Moses Giving Tree

Don't forget--the 5th and 6th graders have teamed up to support, advertise, and communicate with others about The Vina Moses Giving Tree. Please visit the Giving Tree website: <https://www.vinamoses.org/giving-tree>

If you need help navigating how to pledge a gift, Miss Kelley created [THIS VIDEO](#).

Current Metrics

Benton County is still in the orange category. Metrics are released every Monday. For a complete guide to the current metrics, please visit

www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/healthsafety/Documents/Following%20the%20Metrics%20Visual.pdf