

# Ashbrook Compass



Dear Families,

I am deeply saddened by the events that took place in our nation this week. As an adult, much of the motivation, reaction, and media coverage of events is hard for me to process. I can only imagine what our children are feeling and thinking after seeing news of these events. Some will be concerned, others will be confused, and many will have lots of questions.

We have tried to maintain a safe and productive classroom environment by reinforcing classroom norms and being respectful of ideas, views, life experiences, and values of others. As teachers have worked hard to maintain a stable classroom atmosphere for their students this week, I have also shared resources with them to help support any classroom discussions as students process the events in the news, and as always, I've asked them to let me know if a student is in need of any additional support.

If you are unsure how to discuss recent events with your child, [this National Geographic article](#) from yesterday addresses how to talk to your children about the events of this week or [this article](#) from 2018 about navigating news stories with your child has advice you may appreciate. And don't be afraid to reach out to fellow parents for suggestions. The Ashbrook community is strong, our nation is strong, and we will continue to persevere in 2021.

Rachel Sechler  
Interim Head of School

CHALLENGE – NURTURE – CARE - 2021

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## Next Week:

**Jan 15** -- Middle School 'A Week' schedule

**Jan 15** -- Dr. Martin Luther King Celebration

## Upcoming Dates:

**Jan 18** -- Dr. Martin Luther King Day; No School

**Jan 20** -- Buddy Day

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## Board of Trustees Update

One of the AIS Board objectives over the last two years has been keeping the lines of communication between the board and the AIS community open and transparent. Prior to the onset of the Pandemic we were providing regular updates on the things the Board was contemplating or working on. Since that time most of our work has been focused on supporting AIS in its search for our new Head of School (HOS) and COVID-related matters. At our December 17, 2020 AIS Board Meeting we were able to take stock of the year, move beyond these topics and into other forward-looking topics of interest and concern to our community. Specifically, we discussed:

- Tuition for the 2021-22 school year. Our intent is to come to a decision in January so we can communicate any tuition changes to our families.
- We've started engaging our new HOS, Chris Schoberl, and one of the areas he's looking into is how AIS compares to other schools in the area.
- We talked about content for the annual parent and staff surveys that we hope to launch in the new year.
- We talked about the current Explorers Fund performance. We're at roughly 1/2 of the \$60K match goal.
- We discussed the power of "word of mouth" marketing and the big impact it has when our families are intentional about sharing the positive offerings and experiences at AIS with others in the community. We also looked at working with the front office to set marketing goals for the school in 2021 and 2022.
- We discussed ways to help strengthen and uplift members of the AIS community through purposeful connections, especially during this challenging year.
- Finally, we talked thru our goals for 2021-22 and will look to finalize those in January.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to [board@ashbrookschool.org](mailto:board@ashbrookschool.org). Thank you!

Tze, on behalf of the Board

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## MLK Celebration next Friday

Next Friday, Ashbrook will celebrate noted civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. We will send out a link to a shared folder that will include a video from our guest speaker, a musical performance video from staff, student essay readings on video, informational slides, and other materials.

And remember we have no school on Monday, January 18 in honor of Dr. King.

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## Explorers Fund Update

We are excited to announce that we have raised **50% of the \$60,000** we need to qualify for matching funds from the Board of Trustees and an anonymous donor!

**Thank you to the following donors so far:** Rachel and Mitch Sechler, Kelly Tynon, Michael Holmes, Diane and Greg Hammerstad, Lynette and Evan Gottlieb, Travis and Kara Obermire, Darald and Betty Callahan, Aaron and Christy Rivers, James Starker, Richard & Kathy May, Melora and Jay Halaj, Ron and Susan Stevens, Terrance Blackburne & Gayle Christensen, Chris and Janice Lorenzen, Luiz Bermudez & Sally Byrd, Steve and Dawn Duerksen, Dave and Cecilia Gore, Amy Kwock, Christel Sanders, Marsha Washburn, Elaine Pettigrew, Jeff Hsing & Susan Lai, Arthur Lee & Elizabeth McQuitty, Greg Herman & Thuy Tran, John Teller, Stephanie and Patrick O'Connor, Daniel Lopez-Cevallos & Megan Patton-Lopez, B Bond and Marilyn Starker, Kendra and Brady Callahan, Adam and Anna May, Nancy Savage, Christopher Parrish & Deborah Kurnik, Krista and Matthew Lindberg, Dieter and Corine Wehner, Elizabeth and Jim Richardson, and Spiritopia, LLC.

Watch our Explorers Fund video [HERE](#). Click [HERE](#) to be taken directly to the Explorers Fund page on the Ashbrook website where you can donate via credit card or EFT/ACH. There is a small payment processing fee regardless of how you donate online, but you can avoid those fees by mailing a check directly to the school marked ATTN. Explorers Fund.

And please feel free to share [the link](#) with family and friends who may also want to support Ashbrook. Ashbrook Independent School is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and gifts may be tax deductible.

Thank you!

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## Ashbrook Alumni News

The Willamette Valley Legislative Fellowship was a competitive 11-week fellowship hosted by Representative Dan Rayfield during the 2020 General Election. Students worked on legislative campaigns across the state, developed policy concepts for the upcoming 2021 legislative session, and participated in a unique guest-speaker series with policy and campaign experts. **Of the 19 students chosen this fall from Rayfield's district, 5 were Ashbrook alumni:** Linus O'Brien (9th grade at CHS), Katherine Parrish, Leon Garcia, James Gottlieb (all in 10th grade at CHS) and Tristan McDougall (10th grade at CVHS). An Ashbrook education prepares students for greatness!

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## End-of-Year Contribution Statements

If you donated to Ashbrook in 2020 and need an end-of-year contribution statement for tax purposes, please contact Kelly Tynon at [ktynon@ashbrookschoool.org](mailto:ktynon@ashbrookschoool.org). She can generate a statement and email it to you within the day.

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## Chamber Workshop on "Keeping Children Safe Online"

Ashbrook is a proud member of the Corvallis Chamber of Commerce, and the Chamber offers workshops and trainings to their members. The Zoom-based Brown Bag Workshop on Wednesday, January 20 at 12 noon is "Keeping Children Safe Online."

The description: The COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing have created a "new normal" for many of us whose work, school, and social lives have transitioned to being online. For parents and other adults, this can cause concern for the digital safety of the children in our lives who are spending more time using the internet than ever before.

This training educates and empowers adults to keep children safe in the digital age. It highlights digital trends, online risks, and teaches parents and caregivers how to:

1. Proactively participate in children's internet experience.
2. Communicate effectively with children of all ages regarding online safety.
3. Utilize protective controls to promote safety.

Click [HERE](#) to register for this workshop. You will need to enter your own email address, but if you do not want to use your personal phone and address information, feel free to enter Ashbrook's main number (541-766-8313) and physical address (4045 SW Research Way, Corvallis, 97333).

You may also be interested in the Jan. 27 "Protecting Children from Boundary Violations and Sexual Abuse" and the Feb. 3 "Healthy Touch for Children and Youth" workshops as well.

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## Current COVID Metrics

ODE and OHA advise that schools transition to online learning when cases exceed 100 per 100,000 over a 2-week period. **At this time, Benton County is in the orange category with 179 cases per 100,000 for the 12/20/20 - 1/2/21 time frame.** The Benton County Health Department does not recommend any school to be open for in-person learning at this time.

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](http://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/healthsafety/Documents/Following%20the%20Metrics%20Visual.pdf)