

Ashbrook Compass



January 14, 2022

Dear Ashbrook Family,

As the county and the country work through what we all hope is the peak of Omicron, I am devoting my intro to this week's Compass to some reminders about COVID protocols and to answer some frequently asked questions. I hope you find this information useful. For more clarity on any of this, please be in touch.

COVID Related FAQs and Info:

Q: Are the Monday/Tuesday PCR tests for students only, or can adults use them too?

A: PCR tests are for students only. That said, you can pick them up on days other than Monday, and drop them off at WVT any time, so if you have a need to test that is out of cycle with our current M/T plan, just let us know. As another resource, WVT is currently doing testing at the Fairgrounds, right around the corner from Ashbrook (find WVT in the barn house) and sign up on lbdash.net or <https://www.bceventcentercorvallis.net/events/2022/drive-covid-pcr-testing>.

Q: How much of a problem is COVID at Ashbrook, currently?

A: Our current numbers can be found [HERE](#). (link removed)

Q: When will Ashbrook go to Distance Learning?

A: We are committed to remaining in person. There is no metric issued by the County (as there was last year) to indicate when schools will go to distance learning. As context, a year ago, once the county went to 151 cases, schools were mandated to go to distance learning. There are currently 1500 cases in Benton County: clearly the County has gotten a lot more relaxed about issuing distance learning mandates. Ashbrook has a plan in place and has the technology to support this plan, should a critical mass of people indicate feeling unsafe, should an absence of adults and availability of subs force our hand, should we reach a tipping point with respect to student absences, or should we receive a mandate from the County.

Q: Why is Ashbrook sticking with the 10-day quarantine when the CDC and the County recently OK'ed a 5-day quarantine?

A: The CDC's shift to the 5-day quarantine was issued in response to workforce shortages. With numbers peaking in the County, common sense dictated that the reduced precautions of a 5-day quarantine were ill advised. This decision came amidst my multiple emails to families regarding positive cases, exposures, and quarantining. Admittedly inspired by a "gut" sense (no, I am not that kind of

doctor), there is a lot of controversy out there about the reduction in quarantine days and even our own COVID advisory committee is split on the question. Rest assured, once things calm down a bit, we will reevaluate the decision.

Q: I know Ashbrook will provide a quick test for my Explorer, but can I get one for a non Ashbrook sibling or an Ashbrook parent?

A: Yes. Just give us a call. This availability of testing will continue until such time that the quick tests become scarce, at which point we will prioritize Ashbrook students.

Q: When Ashbrook asks us to get our child tested and provide the school with proof of a negative result, what test are they expecting?

A: Because of the great variety of home tests and their sensitivities/accuracy, we have been cautioned against taking home quick tests as proof of a negative result. When we ask for you to seek testing for your child on your own, it is our expectation that you will pursue a PCR test and not a home quick test.

Q: What if my child was exposed to someone who has tested positive?

A: Please call the school and let us know. In several instances over the past two weeks, teachers have been told by students in attendance that, “my aunt who lives in our home with us tested positive yesterday.” We will let you know next steps, which are dependent upon whether your child has been fully vaccinated.

Q: Is it true that Benton County recently redefined what it means to be fully vaccinated?

A: Yes, and as a result, Ashbrook is now asking all parents who plan on being in the building on a regular basis, staff, and volunteers, by February 1st, to provide the school with a photocopy of the vaccine record indicating the date of the booster shot.

Q: What are the signs that I should keep my child home?

A: Refer “When Should I keep my Student Home?” for the most current information.

Only through our collective vigilance regarding symptoms, exposure, and positive test results, and compliance with protocols, will we be able to ensure that in person learning will remain a staple part of the Ashbrook student experience!

Be well, Doc

Dr. Christopher A. Schoberl
Head of School

Upcoming Dates:

Jan. 17 -- MLK Day; No School

Jan. 19 -- Zoom Admission Event (see below)

Jan. 26 -- Coffee/Tea with Leadership

Jan. 27 -- Lower School Music Concert (2-2:40 pm*) and Student Council Interest meeting (3:15-4 pm)

Feb. 4 -- MS Movie Night

*The Ashbrook event calendar time of 5 pm is incorrect.

[School Year Event Calendar](#)**[Family Volunteer Opportunities -- 10 opportunities available!](#)**

Zoom Admission Event

An Excellent Education Requires a Solid Foundation: Exploring Early Childhood and Elementary Education at Ashbrook School

Wednesday January 19th, 2022, 6:30-8:00pm on Zoom

Join Ashbrook Head of School Dr. Chris Schoberl and members of the Preschool, Pre-Kindergarten, and Lower School faculty as they address how Ashbrook School early childhood and elementary grades provide students with the foundation necessary for an excellent education. Learn how our teachers build relationships with their students in the younger grades and establish classroom practices as they develop the foundational skills and habits of mind necessary for success in the middle grades and beyond. Finish this meeting with a virtual walking tour of the beautiful Ashbrook campus and a Q and A session to address your thoughts.

Please forward this to families you know who would benefit from an Ashbrook education.

Thank You for supporting the Explorers Fund!

As of today, we have collected over \$25,000 in donations, so we are more than halfway to meeting the combined match goal of \$45,000 from the Board of Trustees and our anonymous donor!

Thank you to the following donors so far: Anonymous, Marsha and Edgar Washburn, Tsuyoshi Yamashita & Zhuqing Zhang, Amy Kwock, Lexie Elliott, Diane and Greg Hammerstad, Ron and Soozie Stevens, Nicholas and Megan Dahl, Xin Wang & Bo Sun, Russell and Becky Weaver, Dave and Cecilia Gore, the Gottlieb Family, Kelly Tynon, Elaine Pettigrew, John Teller & Amy Tykeson, Rachel and Mitch Sechler, The Burand family, Barbara Balen, Christopher Parrish & Deborah Kurnik, The Vets family, Aaron and Christy Rivers,

Brittney and Jesse Bryant, Terrance Blackburne & Gayle Christensen, Fumiko Yamashita, Carol Alley, Adam and Anna May, Krista and Matthew Lindberg, Lori Tully & Chris Beatty, Lyle and Donna Ulrich, Richard and Kathy May, Jason and Kathleen Lin, Kerry Watkins & John Matthews, Jeff Hsing & Susan Lai, and Tze-Yiu Yong & Debby Tao.

Giving through our website is the easiest way to donate. Click [HERE](#) to be taken directly to the Explorers Fund page where you can donate via a credit card or EFT/ACH and please 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. (Tax ID #93-1131186)

Staffing Update

After 25 years at Ashbrook, we will be saying "Happy Retirement" to Ms. Kimberly Olbrich in June.

I am retiring after completing my contract for the 21-22 school year.

It has been my pleasure to serve as the Theatre Arts Specialist here at Ashbrook. I have had the privilege of growing and evolving with the school and it's community of students, families, and staff since I was hired in 1997. I look back on a deeply gratifying teaching and directing experience filled with more transformative and inspiring moments than I could name.

I look forward to expanding my passion for storytelling and connection beyond Ashbrook's walls when I retire. Writing, acting, and traveling with family and friends are at the top of my heart's bucket list.

I've enjoyed staying in touch with students, families and colleagues in all of our unique life journeys over the years, and look forward to nurturing connection with the Ashbrook community after retirement.

With warmth and gratitude, Ms. Kimberly Olbrich

We are looking forward to her last spring play with Ashbrook before she starts checking off items on her bucket list!

Mathcounts team chosen

Congratulations to Kai, Arlo, Natalie, Chris, Anna, Alison, Yin Kay, and Keira on making Ashbrook's 2022 Mathcounts team! These mathletes will be working hard practicing competition math leading up to representing Ashbrook at the Chapter Competition on Feb 17, 2022.

Explorer Leadership at Corvallis High School and UNICEF Coin Drive

This from past Ashbrook teacher Lynette Gottlieb, who now teaches at Silverton HS: “Just in convo with my freshman Liam tonight and he said he had his first meeting for student govt today at CHS... . He shared that all 4 grade levels have co-presidents from AIS: gr 9= Liam Gottlieb , gr 10= Pablo Garcia, gr 11= Leon Garcia, gr 12 = Janessa Minta.”

Clearly, the Explorer experience had a profound impact on these students in helping them realize their leadership potential. Way to go Liam, Pablo, Leon and Janessa!.

Speaking of Janessa, no sooner had I received this email from Lynette, then Janessa walked into my office, totally by coincidence, to pitch a joint CHS/Ashbrook fundraiser called the coin challenge. Starting on Tuesday, 1/18, the CHS/Ashbrook Coin Challenge invites students to fill containers with coins from home, competing to see who can collect the most change (measured by the level the coins reach, not amount of money), by February 2nd. Janessa proposed a friendly competition between Ashbrook’s LS and the MS, and she provided the containers to collect the coins.

Parents are encouraged to send their children to school with that spare change that you can shake out of the couch cushions or that’s spilling out of that jar on the counter. All money collected will be donated to UNICEF.

Starting Student Government at Ashbrook

Speaking of student government, Doc recently posted a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside Ms. Washburn’s classroom. If your child wants to find out more about what student government is and how s/he might be involved, please encourage them to sign up and show up (pizza to be served): Thursday, 1/27, 3:15-4:00 in the comfy seating area on the Commons.

Welcome new Ashbrook family!

Please welcome our new Preschool student Sterling and his parents, Alexis and Dylan. Thank you for joining the Ashbrook community!

Summer Programs Development

Do you have ideas for possible summer programs that would be great for Ashbrook to host? Take a look at this parent preview (this is a brainstorming document the staff is using to imagine possibilities) and if anything inspires, please reach out to Doc. (link removed)

Middle School Movie Night Feb. 4

We are adding in a movie night for students in grades 5-8 on February 4th. Pizza will be provided at 5:30, and the movie will start at 6. Stay tuned in to next week's compass to see which movie will be playing! Email Miss Kelley or Mrs. Weber with any questions.

New Family Referral Stipend from Doc Schoberl

There is nothing better than word of mouth advertising, especially in the nonprofit world of independent schools. If you find yourself in a conversation about Ashbrook, feel free to use my "top ten reasons to brag about Ashbrook" doc for ideas, [HERE](#). For an entire page of talking points, click [HERE](#). And if we end up enrolling a new Explorer family you refer to our school, you will earn a \$100 referral stipend.

Rube Goldberg Ashbrook Challenge February 12

Spectators are welcome to watch our Rube Goldberg Machine Challenge! For a reminder of what a Rube Goldberg Machine Challenge is (and to learn who our marvelous sponsors are!), click [HERE](#).

As mentioned above, Ashbrook is fielding not one but TWO Rube Goldberg Machine Challenge teams! Eight teams from area schools (public, private, parochial, and home schools were invited) will join our teams in a fun competition to see who can create the most complex simple machine. This machine will be determined by our most significant sponsor, HP, and could be any one of the following:

1. Build a machine to turn the page in a book.
 2. Build a machine to water a plant.
 3. Build a machine to squeeze hand sanitizer onto a tissue.
 4. Build a machine to deposit an empty water bottle in a recycling bin.
 5. Build a machine to squeeze toothpaste onto a toothbrush.
-

MLK Assembly today



Congratulations to our winners!

Art Winner: Vivienne, 2nd grade

Writing Winners:

PreK-Grade 2 Division: Nima

Grades 3-4 Division: Maya, Honorable Mention: Anna

Grades 5-8 Division: Beka, Honorable Mention: Yin Yan

Upcoming Parent Connection Night

Although we had hoped to schedule another PCN in January, our current COVID numbers have us exercising caution and postponing the event until February. Keep an eye out for more information soon!

Ashbrook School Tag Sale Fundraiser

Keep the April 2 Ashbrook Tag Sale in mind as you are contemplating spring cleaning. And if you need a little help decluttering, [here's an article](#) Doc recommends.

Starting Friday January 28, and every Friday after that, Ashbrook parent Michelle Ryan will be by the main doors during morning drop-off to collect your gently used donated items for the tag sale. If you can't make it between 7:30 and 8:30 am or you need us to do a pick up, we can arrange another time.

We will accept books, tools, sporting equipment, toys, record albums, electronic equipment, crafts, plants, antiques, bicycles, car parts, hobby items and more. Please no clothing or child safety items (car seats, cribs, etc).

May 14 Gala Dinner

Our goal for this event is to invite a renowned EXPLORER to address parents in attendance. Do you know a person who can be considered an actual or metaphorical explorer? If so, please reach out to Doc and let him know.

COVID News

The pediatric Medical Director of Samaritan Hospital says the following about masks: *Of utmost importance is adherence and fit. Cloth masks that are poor fitting and single layered are the least helpful. By wearing multiple layers and ensuring proper fit, we believe that there is reduced risk of viral spread. For the next few weeks as we experience a sharp increase in case count, asking parents to check fit and ensure that masks have multiple layers (or double up), are good steps to take.*

Please visit the [Benton County COVID-19 website](#) for upcoming vaccination and testing events.

Ashbrook has enrolled in Oregon Health Authority's COVID-19 Screening Program for K-12 students. This weekly testing program is entirely optional. You can pick-up a barcoded test kit on Monday mornings from the orange bucket just outside the front door, test your child that night or Tuesday morning, and return the test Tuesday morning. You will receive confidential results in 1-2 days. For more details, click [HERE](#).

With the arrival of the Omicron variant, it is highly recommended that you test your children on a regular basis. Please take advantage of this opportunity to mitigate the possible spread, which is especially important during the winter months when we are more likely to share indoor air than during the warmer months.

