

FLS Updates – May 29, 2020

Balance - #DoesAnyoneElseFeelMotionSick??

I remember trying to ride a bike for the first time without training wheels. It felt weird. It felt scary! It felt down-right unsafe!!! Balance is a tricky concept. How do you explain it? Until you have the hang of it, it's even trickier as a skill. The odd thing is, once you do master it, you never really think about it again. . . for possibly the rest of your life! Once you "get it", you "get it" and then you pretty much take it for granted from that point on. I guess there are the occasional times when you think about it like on carnival rides or your first experience on an airplane or riding a bike without training wheels, but, for the most part, balance is a concept we pretty much learn and then move on with life.

Unless, of course, your world gets rocked by a coronavirus pandemic! Balance needs to be learned again when everything you know about how to maintain an even keel while navigating life in this world gets shaken to the core. I don't believe this is over-stating the fact. Many things are different for us now and most of them will never return to how they once were. We are all working to find our balance in this new course for our lives.

I have worked very closely with the FLS School Board for many weeks now to find some semblance of balance; for the sustainability of the school, but also to care for and support all of you, the families of Faith. It has been difficult. The trouble with balance is you need to have a solid point of reference before you can get a feel for how to make it work. The pandemic we have all been experiencing has not been helpful for providing any point of reference what-so-ever. In fact, it continues to shake us to our core as it creates an environment for unknowns.

Fortunately for us, God is the surest of foundations. Unlike us, He cannot be "tipped" or made to waver in any way. Human beings can be thrown off by the slightest breeze or distraction, but He is as solid now as He has ever been or ever will be. This is the solid foundation from which the school board desires to offer what balance it can to all of you.

We have worked with many families this year who have been financially impacted by the pandemic. While there is inequity in this approach, the unknowns regarding the sustainability of the school have not allowed for any other way for us to proceed. However, the start of a new school year provides an opportunity to offer a small gesture of mercy, grace, and hope; to offer some solid-footing in the midst of being "rocked". The policy of non-refundable registration fees in the enrollment process will be waived for the 2020-2021 school year. Enrolling your student(s) at Faith will not mean you are "out" any money should you need to decide on an alternate educational choice for your student. I really don't know how much this adjustment will impact your financial situations, but I do know that if it offers even the slightest feeling of stability, like a couple of small shaky wheels on either side of the back wheel of a bike, then it's something we want to provide to each and every one of our families.

God's Peace!
Mr. Neumiller

In other news

A Task Force has been created to discuss and work through the multifaceted process to safely return to school on our campus!

The goal for this group of staff, faculty and parents is to identify new procedures and processes to ensure the safety and well-being for every person in our community while continuing the quality educational experience for which Faith is so well known - - - ***ON CAMPUS!*** This task force will work to ensure that every possible issue is dealt with according to best practices information provided by health care and science experts. The hope is that, short of a mandate from government officials, we will be able to work through every scenario to find and implement a solution.

Please pray for this group of dedicated volunteers!!

Funding needed

Every year, Faith Lutheran School (FLS) holds an auction to raise money to support our Christian education program. Part of the night's program is Bid for Kids. That is a time when attendees raise their bid numbers to donate to the FLS scholarship fund. This year, since the auction was canceled, we are unable to hold the Bid for Kids, but the need for scholarship is still there—possibly even greater than in previous years. If God is leading you, and you are in a financial position to make a donation to our scholarship fund, there are three ways to make a donation: 1) write a check made out to FLS with *scholarship* in the memo line and mail it to Faith Lutheran School, 7075 Pacific Ave SE, Lacey, WA 98503, or 2) click this [link](#) or go to the FLS website at www.flsschool.org and click on the **Donate** link on the menu bar, or 3) sponsor a student – make a monthly donation from September through June.



Your Giving Changes Lives, Forever.

When you give, you are putting God first in your life and allowing God to work through you to help raise up families and followers of Jesus Christ!

FLS - Shoe Drive

Thank you to all of our Faith families for your support of our shoe drive! Because the school and church closed one month into the shoe drive, we will continue to collect shoes over the summer and officially restart the shoe drive in October. Some of you are using this time to clean out your closets to find those gently worn shoes, slippers, boots, flip flops, etc. that no longer fit or are just not your style anymore. It is so fun to find a bag of shoes dropped off at the door or to see a bin that has been filled up with donations!! If you have a Facebook page or other social media account, share our shoe drive with your family and friends. Let's see if we can't get close to 7,500 pair of shoes by the time we start school again in the fall.

Faith Lutheran School Coronavirus updates (Please note new items are in red font.)

- FLS office hours will be Monday – Friday; 9:00am to 1:00pm until further notice.
- **The Faith Lutheran Youth Rummage Sale has gone virtual.**
Keep an eye on our Facebook page for great deals:

<https://www.facebook.com/Virtual-Rummage-Sale-102236671502848/>

Donations for this event can be made in the church office Monday - Friday, 11:00am – 4:00pm

- **Families experiencing financial hardship during this unprecedented school closure due to loss of income, please contact Mr. Neumiller.**

Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) / Department of Health (DOH) Updates

Information from the OSPI stakeholders meeting held Wednesday, May 13 on how to reopen schools:

The seven scenarios below are based on three potential virus patterns suggested by the Department of Health. These patterns are:

1. A spike in Sept/Oct that would close everything down once again.
2. A rolling high and low all year, which would have schools closing and opening throughout the year.
3. A ‘slow burn’ which is what we are experiencing now. New virus infections and the resulting deaths not slowing down dramatically; no clear drop in the curve from the peak of the spread.

A list of options for what an “open” school might look like next year given the possible health concerns that may exist at that time:

(These are examples for consideration.)

1. Traditional on-site, face-to-face school
2. Split or rotating schedules
3. Split or rotating schedules with distance learning
4. Phased in opening WITHOUT distance learning
5. Phased in opening WITH distance learning
6. Continuous Learning 1.0

Definition:

“Establishing and maintaining connections with students and families to provide learning materials and supports using a variety of modalities (e.g., email, phone, printed learning materials, and available online platforms).

7. Continuous Learning 2.0
Better planning for use of available resources, social distancing demands, and adaptations required by state health or other government officials.

General Coronavirus Resources

- [WA State Department of Health - Coronavirus webpage](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control - Coronavirus webpage](#)
- [CDC - Resources for Home webpage](#)
- [Article - "The Risks - Know Them - Avoid Them"](#)