

Friday, April 3

Faith Lutheran School Coronavirus Information

The Faith school board has been working in tandem with Faith's church council, (the governing body of the congregation), to study the various federal legislative bills recently passed. The goal of this work was to determine how these resources might be used to bring relief and a sense of hope for moving into the future in the midst of a very stressful, chaotic situation.

Although clear, hard facts are still difficult to come by, this leadership group has determined that the available resources do, indeed, offer the opportunity to accomplish the above-stated goal. Therefore, Faith will apply for a federal loan, available through the CARES Act, which will allow eight weeks of financial relief in the form of payroll assistance to church, child care, and school employees as well as other various forms of financial assistance. These loans are available to small businesses and non-profit companies throughout the United States, so much prayer and due diligence by many paid and volunteer members of the Faith community will be required in order to bring the hope of this relief to fruition. Our prayer is that this action will enable us to continue to serve the many families and individuals who make up the entire Faith community.

Governor Inslee's announcement Thursday to extend his *Stay Home, Stay Safe* order to May 4 is a strong indication that he and Chris Reykdal may be contemplating an announcement that schools will not return to classrooms on campuses for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. The one thing we are getting used to is that nothing is for sure and the situation can change within a day or two!

Fall Enrollment

With all that has happened in the last several weeks, it is difficult to know what tomorrow will bring, let alone what next year might hold. However, the God we worship is a God of faithfulness, steadiness, and consistency. He promises us a future that we can count on, though it may seem unclear or tenuous to us at any given moment. In the midst of every Lenten season, it is wise and, even necessary, to realize that Easter is coming! This pandemic will end and life will go on again. Maybe not exactly as it was before this experience, but it will most likely return to what we thought of as "normal" before everything changed.

Starting a new school year is one of those things that will return! Enrollment for the 2020-2021 school year is still open, and we would very much like to serve even more families with the care and dedication we have shown in the midst of this chaos we have experienced in 2019-2020. The Faith staff and faculty have risen to the occasion, not because they are so very different from teachers and employees of other schools, the difference lies in the fact that they don't simply know who they are, but rather WHOSE they are! With the public schools having been mandated to continue teaching curriculum as of late last week, Faith was a solid three weeks ahead of them in responding to the needs of their students. This was

accomplished because Faith staff members wanted to care for the students and families God had placed in their community. Many Faith families have responded to this care with gratitude that words simply cannot express.

If your family feels this way about our community at Faith, please help us get the word out to other families who are looking to belong to such a community. Recognition or praise is not why the faculty or staff act in God's love as they do. Most families who tell friends, neighbors, or complete strangers how Faith has affected their lives are not doing so for a referral credit. However, referral credit is available nonetheless. Please speak to Mr. Neumiller or Mrs. DeGregory in the school office if you don't know how the referral credit works. They would love to make time to explain it to you!

Spring Break

Next week, April 6 – April 10 is still spring break. The Faith school community will not be engaged in learning other than that which will happen as a result of having fun with family. We may live with them every day and night, but there are always things to learn about one another! Enjoy some time away from computer screens (other screens too!!), work packets, and books to just relax for a week!!

Scholarships – Applications, Donations, and This Year's Auction

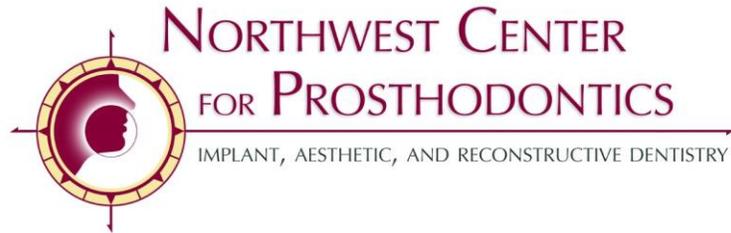
The start of a new school year and enrollment brings the need for financial assistance for some students. The application process is open for those who would like to apply. Application packets are available on our website at <https://www.flschool.org/forms> or in the school office.

This side of heaven, there will always be need for scholarships. Sin and the evil it manifests in God's good creation will be with us until Jesus returns and takes us all home to be with Him forever. However, since Jesus came down to earth once before to free us from the ramifications of sin and death, we are free to war against the powers of darkness in our world. One of the best ways to put that gift of freedom to work is to serve one another's needs. Giving to Faith Lutheran School's scholarship fund offers the opportunity of a lifetime to a student whose family cannot afford this provision on their own. Please consider helping FLS grow a pool of dollars for this fund so that no student will ever be turned away from the opportunity to learn in a Christ-filled, loving environment.

Other than individual donations, the annual FLS Auction is a major avenue of raising funds for scholarships. Unfortunately, the coronavirus pandemic has caused the cancellation of this event for 2020. This, of course, makes donations even more vital if students who need financial support are going to have the ability to attend Faith. We will be holding an online auction, but, at its best, it will be difficult to match the level of support that a full-blown gala usually provides. We ask for your prayers as the fallout of this global phenomenon continues to find ways to impact our lives.

We would like to extend a *very special thank you* to our auction sponsors for partnering with us to provide a quality Christian education.

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Faith Lutheran School Information Recap

- Spring Break –April 6-10; **FLS Office closed for the week.**
- Annual FLS Auction (scheduled for May 16) is canceled – it will be converted to an online auction.
 - ◆ **Drawing Winners.** Thank you to everyone who made a donation. Your support is truly appreciated and especially meaningful this year. Donations are still being accepted. The winners of the drawing for the two \$25 Winco gift certificates are:
 - Karen Wakefield (A'sher, 1st grade)
 - Katie Acklam (Claudia, kindergarten; Samuel, 3rd grade)
 - ◆ **Scholarship Donations.** The auction is where we raise most of our money for our scholarship fund. If you are in a financial position to support the school by making a donation for our scholarship fund, please mail a check to the school (7075 Pacific Ave SE, Lacey, WA 98503) or go to the school website and click on Donate on the menu bar. **Checks are preferred**, because we receive 100% of the funds (we don't have to pay credit card processing fees). If writing a check, make it payable to FLS and write *Scholarship Fund* in the memo line. Your donation is needed and appreciated more than ever this year!
- Enrollment for the 2020-2021 school year is open. Forms can be found online or in the school office. Invite new students and families to join us!
- Scholarship applications are available on the school website at: <https://www.flschool.org/forms>

- Families **experiencing financial hardship** during this unprecedented school closure due to loss of income, please **contact Mr. Neumiller** at c.neumiller@faithcampus.org.
- **Faith Lutheran Childcare remains open** for now and has room for drop-in services. Please **contact the director, Julie Miller**, if this is a need for your family.
 - ◆ Email: j.miller@faithcampus.org
 - ◆ Child Care phone #: [360-491-1118](tel:360-491-1118)
- If you have questions regarding your bill, please contact Jenn Bache at j.bache@faithcampus.org.
- Shoe Drive fundraiser: we are continuing to collect shoes and they may be dropped off in the designated bins outside the school office, church office, or childcare. However, the main effort is being postponed until next fall. *Please* keep collecting shoes and telling family, friends, and neighbors. This is a wonderful opportunity to raise money for the school without costing our families any money—just a little time cleaning out closets.

Washington State Superintendent of Public Instruction - Coronavirus updates:

- Public schools are working to move into virtual/remote instruction sometime in April.
- Childcare centers may continue to operate, and childcare workers are still designated as “essential workers.” This service may continue to be offered to families who require this care.
- Schools and preschools are still authorized to create packets of educational materials for pick up during the governor’s now extended *Stay Home, Stay Safe* order. Social distancing *of at least six feet* must be maintained during scheduled pick-up times.
- There is continued concern regarding the spread of this virus, so no decision has yet been made by the state regarding the length of the present school closure to or beyond April 24. Chris Reykdal, the WA State Superintendent of Public Instruction, will not be the person making this decision, but he has requested that state officials give advance notice to schools if the closure is extended.

General Coronavirus Resources:

- [A Parent's Guide to Discuss Coronavirus with Children](#)
- [Washington State COVID-19 Information Website](#)
- [Letter to the community regarding COVID-19 - from Diana Yu, Acting Health Officer, Thurston County](#)
- [WA State Department of Health - Coronavirus webpage](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control - Coronavirus webpage](#)
- [CDC - Resources for Home webpage](#)
- [Washington Post Article - Why outbreaks like coronavirus spread exponentially, and how to "flatten the curve"](#)

Thank you for hanging in there till the very end! Have a great spring break!!

Craig Neumiller
Principal