



Bethany Lutheran School

Long Beach, CA

# BEAR FACTS

Issue 1: August 29, 2023

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! We've been praying for our students and families these past weeks of preparation, and now it's time to launch our amazing journey together.

As I told the students in chapel this morning, my personal tradition is to share a special Scripture with students and families as we begin the year. It's one that has given me strength and encouragement when facing big tasks (like a new school year!):

"Don't be frightened by the size of the task, be strong and courageous and get to work. For the Lord my God is with you, He will not forsake you, He will see to it that everything is finished correctly." 1 Chronicles 28:20

God bless you, Bethany families, and God bless our school year together!

*Dr. Mary Fink, Principal*



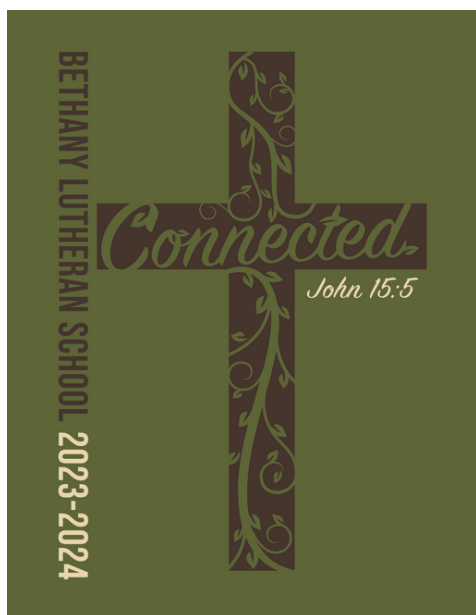
Need lunch?

Sign up for ChoiceLunch using our code:  
bethany

The **Bear Facts** is our weekly school newsletter. We will email it every Tuesday, post on our website and app AND text you a link so you can read it on your phone! (Can you tell we REALLY want you to read it every week??)

## COMING UP

- **Aug. 29**-First Day of School, minimum day, out at noon
- **Aug. 30**-Classes begin at 8:30 for ALL students, K-8.
- **Sept 4**-Labor Day-No school
- **Sept. 5**-7th Grade Catalina meeting-6:00
- **Sept. 6**-New-to-Bethany Parent Zoom-6:30
- **Sept. 7**-8th Grade Launch Party
- **Sept. 12**-6th Grade Camp Meeting-6:00
- **Sept. 13**-5th Grade Astrocamp Meeting-6:00
- **Sept. 15**-School Photo Day!
- **Sept. 15**-PTL Movie Night-7:00 PM
- **Sept. 19**-8th Grade DC/NY Meeting-6:00
- **Sept. 18-22**-7th Grade Catalina Camp
- **Sept. 30**-Arts and Crafts Boutique



Our school theme this year reminds us that Jesus says: "I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5

## New Friday Dress Code

We are implementing a change to the school dress code: there will no longer be "free dress" on the first Friday of the month.

However, students may wear jeans (or jean shorts or skirts) and Bethany theme/spirit shirts on all Fridays.

Please note that jeans must be in good repair and must have pockets: no rips/tears or frayed hems and no "jeggings." Shorts and skirts must be fingertip length.

Teachers may choose to offer "free dress" as a class incentive on occasion at their discretion.

## Camp/Outdoor Ed Meetings

Parents, please plan to attend the mandatory information meetings for these events:

7th Grade: Sept. 5, 6:00 Room 205

6th Grade: Sept. 12, 6:00 Room 204

5th Grade: Sept. 13, 6:00 Room 222

8th Grade: Sept. 19, 6:00 Room 203

## New for 2023-2024

### New Faces!

- We have 39 new students, including our 24 Kindergarteners!
- We have a NEW fifth grade teacher, Mrs. Heidi Leicht!
- We have a NEW 8th grade homeroom/middle school history teacher, Mr. Ruiz.
- We have a NEW choir director and music minister, Mr. Freeman.

### NEW curriculum materials:

- We have a new spelling curriculum for Grades 3-8.
- We have a new Spiritual Formation curriculum for Grades 5-8.

### Also NEW:

- Mrs. Evans and Miss Einspahr's classrooms have new LED lighting and ceiling panels.
- We have new (and bright!) laser projectors in every classroom.
- We have a new projection screen and a new roof in the gym.
- We have a new poster printer for campus and classrooms signs/teaching tools.

## Meet the Staff

K- Mrs. Kendell Blake  
1st- Mrs. Lori Lange  
2nd - Miss Stefanie Hinrichs  
3rd - Mrs. Shannon Morgensen  
4th - Miss Samantha Root  
5th - Mrs. Heidi Leicht  
MS History- Mr. Matthew Ruiz  
MS Math- Miss Abby Einspahr  
MS English- Mrs. Carrie Evans  
MS Science- Mr. Paul Brege  
MS Spanish- Maestra Hernandez  
K Aide- Mrs. Christi Koehlinger  
1st Aides- Mrs. Sandi Skiles  
                    Mrs. Michelle Fischer  
2nd Aide- Mrs. Diana Orr  
3rd-5th Aide- Mrs. Shelly Donham  
Workroom- Mrs. Jen DiCecca  
Student Success-Mrs. Jill Moorman  
                    Mrs. Connie Kritzer  
Math Int. - Mrs. Sarah O'Conner  
Art Teacher- Miss Jessica Dueker  
Music Teacher- Mr. Kevin Bowers  
PE Teacher/Children's Minister-  
                    Mrs. Alissa Brege  
Custodian- Mr. Steven Lee  
School Secretary-Mrs. Kim Yoshiyama  
Admissions - Mrs. Sara Cerulle  
Events/HR- Mrs. Kathy Tucker  
Scrip Coord.- Mrs. Ruth Lopez  
Financial Admin-Mrs. Maraley Shaeffer  
EDC Director- Ms. Carlota Brown  
EDC Staff-Michelle Fischer, Marvella  
Soltero, Samantha Sanchez  
Pastor- Rev. Kevin Kritzer  
Pastor- Rev. Kyle Blake  
DCE/Youth -Mrs. Kayleigh Lopez  
DCE/Care- Mr. Karl Fink  
Principal- Dr. Mary Fink



## School Photos

School pictures are scheduled for Friday, Sept. 15. Please avoid out-of-school appointments that day. We do have a make-up day for absent students, but they will not be in the class photo.

Your picture package is pre-paid with your registration fee. You may also order additional prints.

Students should be in uniform dress for photos.



## Welcome!

**New-to-Bethany Parent Orientation** is scheduled for **Wednesday, Sept. 6 at 6:30 PM** by Zoom. (We will email you the link later.) This informational meeting IS REQUIRED and it is important that one or both parents attend. You will receive your electronic copy of our Parent Handbook, meet members of the staff and Bethany community and hear about many of the happenings here on the Bethany campus.

We're looking forward to seeing you!



# RaiseRight™

Formerly ShopWithScrip

The school year is upon us! Welcome Back Bethany Bears! Now is the time to ramp up your **tuition rebate earnings!** If you are currently using Scrip, be sure to make the settings in your Scrip account allow for emails so you can get the latest information on daily flash bonuses and other special deals. If you are a RaiseRight app user be sure to check the app daily for those bonuses and deals.

Never miss an opportunity to make your rebate the best it can be! If you haven't been using Scrip, I encourage you to get started today! RaiseRight.com or the RaiseRight app.

Call or email me with any questions you may have or to get the enrollment code.

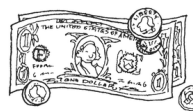
Happy to help!

Ruth Lopez, Scrip Coordinator  
rlopez@bethanylutheran.org  
562-420-7783 ext. 58

## FISH Hours

FISH stands for "Families Involved in Service Hours." Each Bethany family is required to give 5 hours of service each year. (Many of our families serve many more than 5 hours!) You can serve at events, drive for a trip/sport, bring in classroom supplies, assist your child's teacher and so much more.

You can log your FISH hours from the Bethany website OR from Gradelink. We'll send you a "FISHing Report" each quarter to let you know how many hours you've served.



## CHAPEL OFFERING

Typically we take a weekly offering during our chapel services that is used to support a charity. These offerings teach our students the importance of using our financial blessings to make a difference in the lives of others.

Our end of August and September offerings will go to disaster relief efforts in Maui, following their tragic fires this summer. Our partners in ministry at Emmanuel Lutheran Church and School there on Maui are currently helping those who were displaced. Please click on this link to watch a video or read more about how they are helping: <https://www.cnh-lcms.org/maui-disaster-relief-efforts>

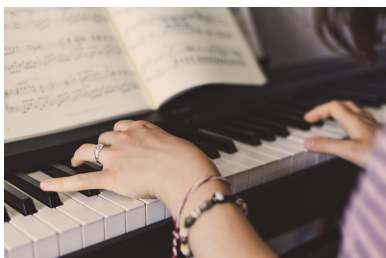
Chapel offerings are entirely voluntary, but we encourage you to support this worthy aid organization!

## Middle School Corner

Middle School Parents, here's the contact information for the middle school team. Please file this copy of the Bear Facts someplace safe or snap a picture of this information. Thanks!

- Dr. Mary Fink, Principal: Advanced Hand Bells (mfink@bethanylutheran.org)
- Mr. Matt Ruiz: History 6/7/8, Spiritual Formation 8 (mruiz@bethanylutheran.org)
- Ms. Abby Einspahr: Math 6/ 7/8, Spiritual Formation 6/7, Phys. Ed./Health (aeinspahr@bethanylutheran.org)
- Mrs. Carrie Evans: English 6/7/8, Literature 6/7/8, Phys. Ed./Health (cevens@bethanylutheran.org)
- Mr. Paul Brege: Science 6/7/8, 7th Blue Math, Technology Assistant (pbrege@bethanylutheran.org)
- Mrs. Sarah O'Conner: Math Intervention Specialist, 6 Gold Math (soconner@bethanylutheran.org)
- Maestra Mara Hernandez: Spanish 6/7/8 (mhernandez@bethanylutheran.org)
- Mr. Noah Freeman: Troubadour Choir 6/7/8 (nfreeman@bethanylutheran.org)
- Mr. Kevin Bowers: Chimes 6 (kbowers@bethanylutheran.org)
- Ms. Jessica Dueker : Art (jdueker@bethanylutheran.org)
- Mrs. Alissa Brege : Student Council Advisor (abrege@bethanylutheran.org)
- Advisory Team Leaders : Mr. Ruiz, Ms. Einspahr, Mrs. Evans,  
Mr. Brege, Mrs. Moorman





## Music Academy

Bethany's Music Academy provides extra-curricular music instruction to students in Grades 2-8 after school, M-F between 3:15 and 6:30 PM.

We have Christian instructors who are professionals in their field and offer lessons in piano (Grades 2 and up) and trumpet (4th grade and up.)

Tuition is \$300 per semester plus a \$25 registration fee which covers 12 lessons each semester.

Brochures and enrollment forms are available in the school office. Enrollment forms are due September 8.

## Student Council

Congrats to our Student Leaders  
for 2023-2024!

President: Hailey Peralta  
Vice President: Reenie Long  
Secretary: Ben Evans  
Spirit Coord.: Jacob Murdock  
Servant Leadership: Hailey Avila

## PTL

Parents, you are all members of the Parent Teacher League, our amazing group of parent leaders/volunteers and an important part of making Bethany such a special place.

We'll need your help to pull off our events in the year ahead (and it's a great way to earn FISH hours!) Please [click this link](#) and let us know where you'd like to plug in!

Our first PTL meeting of the school year will be on Sept. 26. Watch for more details in the weeks to come!

## Did you know?

We have students from Valley Christian High School's "Christian Service" class who visit our campus once a week throughout the year. Their role is to be on the playground with our K-2 students and teachers, engaging students in games and conversation while demonstrating a Christ-like demeanor and attitude.

We LOVED our Valley Christian friends last year, and we're looking forward to meeting Chloe, Joey, Bella, Grant, and Chris this year!