



HOME BULLETIN

[www.ebenezerchristianschool.org](http://www.ebenezerchristianschool.org)

September 13, 2021

**New Year:** The 2021-2022 school year is under way! We look forward to working with you and your children as we train them to advance God's Kingdom in the world. Our theme for the school year is "All Creation, Praise God!" and uses Psalm 148 throughout the year. We ask that you please pray regularly for our students, for other parents, and for the faculty and staff.

**Board News & Reminders:**

- If you have not sent a fillable water bottle with your student yet, **please do so soon!** It is much more sanitary to have our students use their own water bottles. The drinking fountains will be remain shut off for use.
- Parents, masks are required while waiting anywhere on campus for your students. Please remind older siblings as well if they are coming to pick up. If you are out of your car heading towards the buildings, please mask up.
- Parking lot congestion: We are appreciative of those parents who are able to bring their children to school to alleviate crowding on buses. This does mean a busier parking lot in the mornings and afternoons. A few reminders, NO parking in or by the bus lanes. If you as the parent need to get out of the car, use a parking space in the lot. Please be very careful when driving through as there is more foot traffic in the parking lot now as well.
- We also have been getting questions about birthday treats. As we did last year, yes, we are allowing birthday treats but following health department guidelines they must be individually packaged. You can bring them to the office where one of the secretaries or Mr. Buss will deliver them to your child's classroom. The teachers also have a list of student allergies so a call to them before purchasing would be appreciated.
- We've already been impacted by COVID this year, both students and staff, and everyone must be doing their part to maintain a healthy campus. Keep potentially sick kids home. Talk to your doctor if your kids' symptoms last more than 24 hours. Get them tested if recommended, or wait the minimum 10 days from symptom onset. The Health & Safety Handbook is being finalized. Parents can request a paper copy if they wish. Please contact Mr. Buss or Rob Dykstra if you have any questions about your student's situation.

**THANK YOU!!!!** A sincere thank you to Karla Roorda and those who spearheaded and spent time working to update the teacher's bathroom in the office! The thoughtfulness, time and energy given in this way is appreciated and not taken for granted.

**Milk Program:** The Milk Program is scheduled to begin today for those students whose forms were turned in. If you have not turned in your milk form to the office....please do so **ASAP!**

**Coupon Books:** Ebenezer Coupon Books are still available! **They are selling at a discounted price of \$5 and are good through the end of the year.** Stop in the office to purchase yours!

**Calendar Sales: Today**, our students, Kindergarten through Eighth grade, will be coming home with information to begin selling the wonderful calendars that have become such a great tradition here at Ebenezer! If any Preschool families would like to be involved with selling calendars contact the office and we will get the information to you. Each month has a beautiful picture of God's creation with appropriate scripture. Each calendar only costs \$8, and they sell quickly! Sales will go for 2 weeks, ending on September 24. Prizes for sales this year are: 1<sup>st</sup> place- \$25; 2<sup>nd</sup> place- \$20; and 3<sup>rd</sup> place- \$15. For more information you can contact this year's calendar sales coordinators Gene and Lillian Van Beek at 360-354-2292.

**Hot Lunch Coordinator:** We are looking for another Hot Lunch coordinator to join the team. Please consider this opportunity to serve our kids in this way. For details or questions call Karla Bright at 360-510-9888.

**Water Bottles:** Remember to send water bottles with your students to school. At this time the drinking fountains are not in use.

**New Parents Breakfast!** Please join us! This Wednesday, September 20, at 9:00a.m., there will be an informational breakfast for new parents. We would love to get a chance to meet you and answer any questions you may have! This will be an informal time to have some breakfast and meet some new and veteran ECS moms. During this time we will highlight different topics such as SCRIP, school cleaning, and answer any questions that you might have about ECS. You are invited to the home of Jenn Apps at 915 E. Grover St. To RSVP, or if you have any questions, please call Jenn Apps at 360-510-8274. Younger children are welcome!

**Permission to Post Reminder:** All parents who send their children to ECS automatically give permission for the school to use pictures of their children for promotional purposes (Eagle Edition, our website and Facebook, promotional flyers, etc.). Parents who *wish not* to have pictures of their children used by the school need to sign a 'Photo/Media Non Release' form.

**If you chose to do this last year, please renew for the new school year.** See Mr. Buss, Mrs. Tjoelker or Mrs. Van Beek in the school office if you have any questions or need a form.

**School Cleaning:** The yearly School Cleaning schedule is being worked on soon. The first School Cleaning night is set for Tuesday, September 28. Those families scheduled for the evening will be contacted. When you receive the new directory, please check the school cleaning schedule for your designated month/date. Thank you to all our parents who come to these cleanings! We appreciate your service to the school!

**Recess Duty Helpers:** Thanks to those who have already signed up to help out in this area. We are still in need of moms or dads or grandmas or grandpas to help out with recess duties. This service is very much appreciated by the teachers as it frees them up to prepare for upcoming classes, or makes them available to students that need extra help.

Time slots that open are as follows:

Mondays, 1:45 - 2:30p.m.

Thursdays, 10:00 - 10:30a.m., 12:00-12:40p.m.

& 1:45 - 2:15p.m.

Fridays, 1:45 - 2:30p.m.

If any of these times work for you call the office to sign up.

Thank you so much for your consideration.

**Bus and School Safety:** In the upcoming weeks we will be going through bus safety drills as well as other general evacuation drills for school campus. Check with your child to see how it goes!

**Other bus news:**

- No child will be dropped off or transported to another location other than their normal drop off without written parental permission. Please send notes with clear details to the bus drivers and the classroom teacher. Notifying the office as well is helpful too.
- If you have a last-minute change in the travel plans for your child who rides the bus, please notify the bus driver directly. Their phone numbers are listed in the directory or you can call the school office for their phone numbers. We will do our best, but understand that last minute changes may not be accomplished in time. It's a good idea as well to call the school and notify your child's teacher, especially for lower grade children. The more adults who know about changes, the less stressful it is on kids and adults!
- As the bus routes settle in to a pattern there may be slight adjustment to times; your bus drivers will contact you if this happens.
- Route 2: thank you for the patience, those of you on our west route. Covid has slowed that process for testing as well, but we still anticipate having this route up and running soon. Mrs. Roberts will be contacting families on her route with anticipated times for pickup and drop-off for your kids, so when we put that route into action, you'll be well prepared and informed!

Thank you all for your gracious help and understanding as we begin the year!

**Golf Tournament:** We are pleased to announce that the hard work of the Long Range Finance Committee is continuing and they will be hosting the Annual Ebenezer Golf Tournament at Homestead Farms golf course on Friday, September 24. A registration form and information will be on the school's website. (Please note that because of Covid-19 there will be no sack lunch available at registration. Homestead's "Snack Shop" will be open and there will be snacks provided along the course from the committee.)

**Chapel:** Our first in-person chapel of the year will be Wednesday, October 27, at 9:00a.m., in the gym, hosted by the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes. \*Please remember this is an invitation for only parents of the hosting classes.\*

**SCRIP:** All families received a SCRIP information packet the first week of school detailing the SCRIP program. It's a great program that benefits your family's tuition. Orders should be turned in to the office by Wednesday at noon. (please note in the packet specific weeks where there will be no orders filled) Also, don't forget to sign and turn in your SCRIP disclaimer if you wish to have your child take the order home. Additional order forms/disclaimers can be found on the school's website on the parent's page or in the office. Questions contact Swandel Ekema at [scrip@ebenezerchristianschool.org](mailto:scrip@ebenezerchristianschool.org).

**Scrip Now:** Interested in the online version of SCRIP?! ScripNow is the electronic side of ECS's rebate program. It provides savings from national retailers and restaurants through an online program. Request via email the step by step signup process. After getting properly signed up you will be able to take full advantage of the website and do some SHOPPING! If you'd like to receive the tutorial document, please sign up in the office by phone (providing us your name, email address, and phone number) or by email to Kaeli DeVries at [onlinescrip@ebenezerchristianschool.org](mailto:onlinescrip@ebenezerchristianschool.org).

**Medication at school policy:** If your child needs medication in **ANY** form, including simple over the counter medication (ibuprofen, cough drops, etc.) during the school year, you will need to have a 'Parents Authorization for Medication' **AND** a 'Physician's Authorization for Medication' form filled out and given to the office. Both of these forms can be found on the 'Parents' page on the school's website.

Students required to use inhalers or carry emergency injectable medications (i.e. epinephrine), will be considered on an individual basis by the principal and school nurse. A current permission request will be required to be on record.

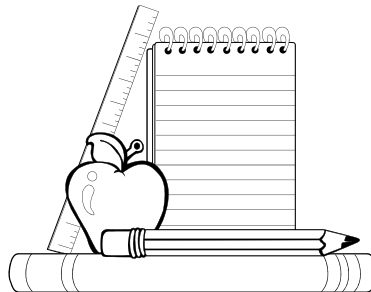
Medications must be delivered to the school by the parent. Medications must be properly labeled with student's name, medication and dosage instructions and be handed to a school staff member and counted if necessary.

**Campus Safety and Health:** A reminder for existing parents and information for new parents, we are asking all visitors to refrain from entering the buildings as much as possible. If you do need to come into the building, check in at the office when coming on campus. This includes those times when you are picking up or dropping off your child for doctor's appointments or bringing a forgotten lunch etc. If you must enter the building, wear your mask and come directly to the office and we will assist you from there. Just dropping something off and leaving? Drop off your item in the office; we will deliver to your child. Please note that before and after school routines with parents on campus will not change and parents do not need to sign in as a visitor, and we encourage parents to social distance outside or wait in their vehicle while waiting for their student. Please feel free to call the office if you have any questions.

**Soccer:** Our soccer season is about to begin with practices beginning today! Thanks to Amy Schouten our Athletic Director and Tanya Thalen our soccer coach for the time and energy given. The game schedule will be published as soon as it is complete. Go Eagles!

**Upcoming Calendar Reminders:**

- September 13: Calendar Sales begin
- September 20: New Parent Breakfast
- September 24: Calendar sales end...
- September 24: ECS Golf Tournament



*“Thus far has the Lord helped us”*

*1 Samuel 7:12*