



## BALLARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

# NEWSLETTER

May 2020

### Recent Happenings...

Remote Learning has taken off!! As of May 18th, we are officially in Week 5 of Remote Learning. We appreciate all the hard work that the teachers, the parents, and especially the students are doing during this unique time period.

We understand and know this is a difficult time for our students and our families. We want to support not only your child's learning, but YOUR FAMILY as well. The school has many resources connected to and available to families. Please do reach out to your child's teacher if you are in need of any assistance. You can also email Principal, Mr. Blood at [jeron.blood@nilesschools.org](mailto:jeron.blood@nilesschools.org), or Assistant Principal, Mrs. Recker at [stacey.recker@nilesschools.org](mailto:stacey.recker@nilesschools.org).

Ballard has a large, gray drop box stationed outside the front door, as well as a container of lesson plans for families to access 'on demand' during this period of Remote Learning. Please feel free to drop off paperwork that you have for your child's teacher. Don't forget your child's name on the work! You can also stop at any time and pick up a weekly agenda for your child as well.

### Library

All library books need to be returned to the school please!

Your child's teacher will reach out to you if your child still has an outstanding book. The book can be returned to the gray bin that is stationed outside of Ballard Elementary's front door. If you cannot find the book, a book fee will be communicated to you.



### ALL 5th Grade Families!!



### SAVE THE DATE!!

Wed. June 10th, from 6:00-8:00 we will be having a drive-thru celebration at Ballard for each and every 5th grade student. All 5th grade students will receive a gift bag as well.

### Food Service (updated as of April 9, 2020):

Starting Tuesday, April 14, 2020 and continuing through to the end of the school year, serving days for Food Distribution will now be on Tuesdays and Fridays ONLY. On Tuesdays families will get 3 breakfasts & 3 lunches per student. On Fridays families will get 4 breakfasts & 4 lunches per student. Serving sites are as follows: Day sites-Niles High School, 1441 Eagle Street; Oak Manor/Admin, 2120 20th Place and YMCA, Front Street. Day site serving times will be from 11:00am - 12:30pm Evening Sites-Ballard Elementary, 1601 Chicago Road, Evening Serving site times will be from 4:30 - 5:30pm. We will continue using the table system to deliver meals.

## Pathways to Potential Community Resources:

### HOUSING & MORTGAGE RELIEF

Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer has temporarily suspended evictions in Michigan.

**Freddie Mac** -- Offering mortgage relief options for those who are unable to make their mortgage payments due to a decline in income, including forbearance for up to 12 months, waiving penalties and fees, halting foreclosure sales/evictions of borrowers in

**Freddie Mac**-owned homes until May 17, and more. [myhome.freddie.com/own/getting-help-disaster.html](http://myhome.freddie.com/own/getting-help-disaster.html)

**Fannie Mae** - Homeowners who are adversely impacted by this national emergency may request mortgage assistance by contacting their mortgage servicer. Foreclosure sales and evictions of borrowers are suspended for 60 days. Homeowners impacted by this national emergency are eligible for a forbearance plan to reduce or suspend their mortgage payments for up to 12 months. <https://www.fanniemae.com/portal/media/corporate-news/2020/covid-homeowner-assistance-options-7000.html>

### MENTAL HEALTH

Disaster Distress Helpline – 1-800-985-5990 — This 24/7/365 service from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration provides crisis counseling for people going through both natural and human-caused disasters. It's free, multi-lingual and confidential. You can also text TalkWithUs to 66746.

**Food assistance Temporary food assistance (Bridge card)** for eligible low-income families and individuals is available from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Use MI Bridges to apply for assistance, check your eligibility status and manage your account online.

**Need Help Paying Bills** has a list of emergency as well as long-term financial assistance programs. Based on various conditions, households can receive rental assistance, food, free medical care, daycare vouchers, medical care and energy bill assistance among other resources. More than a dozen informal, grassroots networks are operating statewide. Sometimes known as mutual aid groups, they work alongside government agencies and charities and can assist with grocery deliveries, financial assistance, child care and more. Check out the map (right) from Michigan Radio to find a local group to join.

**The State Unemployment Office** will extend benefits to workers who are sick, quarantined or taking care of family members who are ill. First responders in the public health community who became ill or quarantined due to exposure are also eligible. Self-employed workers and independent contractors who don't have access to unemployment insurance will now have access to benefits. Click here to fill out the application online or call 1-866-500-0017.

**Michigan Department of Health and Human Services**  
[www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-71550\\_2941\\_4868--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-71550_2941_4868--,00.html)  
Other statewide resources 2-1-1 — Call 2-1-1 from any phone to be connected to a list of statewide resources for everything from food and diapers to rental assistance and bus fare.

**USBG National Charity Foundation** is offering grant assistance to bartenders and their families.

**Meals on Wheels:** Delivers nutritious meals to vulnerable seniors. You can contact your local provider or donate to the national group here.

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