November 20, 2020

Dear BTW staff and families,

First of all, let me state how very proud I am of our Class of 2021 and their showing at this week’s College Showcase. I am incredibly grateful to our faculty and staff members who worked tirelessly to provide a rich and meaningful experience for our seniors. This is truly an exceptional and resilient class!

Our Green Team (Environmental Club) has made it a part of their mission to be on the forefront of inclusive and anti-racist environmental education. With this in mind, the Green Team has created an online document with links that discuss Indigenous People, Environmental Racism, Climate Change and Racism, and Climate Justice. They have designed short segments for each day of the break, and I highly encourage you to click on the link below. A huge “thank you” to Presidents Cleo Chaney and Alondra Zamora and Vice President Elize Berle for their work on this!

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1RKKEi0V41R6v_wWxuPYyUFhY0e72ZZ7Lrof2DYPzk/edit#heading=h.dw2dac9r7xzm

As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, it is important that we continue to focus on our number one priority – health and safety. This week, the Texas Department of State Health Services reported the highest single-day count of new COVID-19 cases since this pandemic began. We must push past the COVID fatigue we are all feeling and take an aggressive approach to preventing the spread of COVID-19 in our communities.

I know that this is a special time of year, and we normally enjoy a wonderful holiday season together. However, the CDC and epidemiologists have been clear in their guidance regarding gatherings. The more people who gather together and the longer that interaction lasts, the higher the risk of spreading COVID-19. Please heed the advice of these medical professionals and limit your interactions to those you live with – let’s all do our part to keep ourselves and each other safe, especially as we head into the month of December.

As students return from the break, please remember to keep your student at home if any of the following scenarios apply:

- Your student or a household member is positive for COVID-19.
- Your student or a household member is waiting for COVID-19 test results.
- Your student is experiencing symptoms that could be COVID-19
- In the last 14 days, your student has been in close-contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

Please remember that your choices can have a deep impact beyond your own health. Be smart. Be vigilant. Be kind to one another.

I wish all of you a healthy and happy Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,

Scott M. Rudes, PhD
Principal