

WHAT'S BRUIN?

■ March 2007

Alumni Newsletter

www.bssbruins.org

A Note from the Principal



Mrs. Kathy Wear

Blessed Sacrament School recently celebrated Catholic Schools Week with other schools across the nation. This year's theme was "The Good News in Education," and Blessed Sacrament is definitely a vibrant example of all that is good Catholic education. The tradition of strong academics along with faith development and service to others continues to be an identifying characteristic of our school.

Our students are excelling in all areas of the curriculum. We continue to have many students qualify to take early hour advanced math at the local high schools, and our junior high students have received a record number of awards at the state science and history fairs. Several of our students have earned recognition for their writing skills in various contests, and our student body has received the Missions Spirit Award from the Diocese twice in three years for our service to others. Our students are well prepared when they enter Sacred Heart-Griffin, Ursuline Academy, or the local public schools.

Most important of all, we are blessed with a special sense of community that makes Blessed Sacrament unique. Our students benefit not only from a talented and dedicated faculty but also from supportive parents, parishioners, pastor, and alumni. Our students are learning to make a difference in their lives and the lives of others because of the examples given to them. Thanks for the many ways you support Blessed Sacrament School and continue to pray for us as we fulfill our mission of "Educating Catholic citizens—body, mind, and spirit".



INSIDE

- From the Principal's Office
- Annual Fund
- Catholic Schools Week
- Radio Show
- Belz/Resier/Healy
- Blessed Sacrament Alums Share Memories
- Looking for Alumni
- Pictures

Looking for Lost Bruins

In an effort to make our records more accurate and include more of your classmates in our correspondence, we are looking to update the addresses in our database. We have twice the number of names as addresses so we have a long way to go. If you can help us with addresses for your classmates or family members, please call Kim Hoffmann in the Blessed Sacrament Development Office at 217-522-7534. Likewise, if you received this newsletter at your parents' home and have long since or recently moved out of the nest, please use the enclosed envelope to update us.

Thank You Magic Match Sponsors

- The Blessed Sacrament Men's Club
- Dr. Jim McDermott
- Beth Hudson
- Reid Chiropractic and The Nutrition Center
- The Broeker Family
- Tom & Beth Bayer
- Marty & Denise Vespa
- Anonymous Friends (5)
- Dan Cadigan
- Tom & Tina Saunderson Schmidt
- Jim & Annette McDermott
- Lust Development Group
- The Athlete's Foot, Kevin & Alesha Gamble
- Giffin, Winning, Cohen & Bodewes PC
- The Tracy Family Foundation
- Luers Kids Kloz

AM Springfield Visits Blessed Sacrament School

The morning of January 29, 2007, started early at Blessed Sacrament School. To celebrate the beginning of Catholic Schools Week, the AM Springfield radio show began a live broadcast from the Blessed Sacrament gym starting at 6:00 in the morning. Father Hoefler and the principal, Kathy Wear, were the first Blessed Sacrament celebrities to be interviewed. For three hours Blessed Sacrament School and Catholic education were showcased. Easily handling their interview, two eighth grade students, Brendan Wesp and Joe Stegeman, talked to radio host Sam Madonia about the Blessed Sacrament Scholastic Bowl Team that won third place at the state tournament last year. The boys have high hopes for capturing the state title this year.

As the students filtered in for their school day, they were able to witness the live broadcast. The first day



After his radio interview, Father Dave Hoefler accepts donations for the Holy Family Food Pantry from first graders Alex White, Evan Huffstedler, and Dennis Johnson.

of Catholic Schools Week is designated as "Community Day" so many of the students brought donations for the "Stack the Stage" drive for several local charities. It was a great start to a fun week.

"Educating Catholic Citizens – Body, Mind & Spirit"



Kindergarten angels perform in the Christmas program. Hadley Nyre, Mary Kelly Shevlin, Jacks Hyde.



Sohphia Dietrich and Anthony Cherry as Mary and Joseph in the kindergarten's production of the Christmas Story.

Blessed Sacrament Faculty Takes Volleyball Title, B.S.S. Fans Achieve Three-Peat Spirit Award

The third annual Catholic Schools Week Faculty Volleyball Tournament was held during Catholic Schools Week. The Blessed Sacrament team, featuring MVP Father Dave Hoefler, defeated Christ the King in the final round for the title. The gym at the Sacred Heart-Griffin West Campus was filled and \$3,000 was raised for Mercy Communities.

The school with the highest per capita number of fans won the Spirit Award. For the third year in a row, this year's 513(!) Blessed Sacrament fans made a lot of noise to lead their team to victory.



Sixth grade students experimenting in the science lab.



Eighth grade boys show their support for the eighth grade girls' basketball team.



The eighth grade girls basketball team captured the Sectional title in December.



Joel and Alyssa Henderson enjoy lunch with their dad, Mark Henderson, during the annual Catholic Schools Week parent luncheon.



Second graders sell mums for the missions.

Class of 1979 Well Represented in Sixth Grade

Blessed Sacrament sixth graders are under the tutelage of three graduates of the Blessed Sacrament Class of 1979. Lisa (Becker) Belz, Ann (Cavanagh) Healy, and Laura (Senger) Reiser are the homeroom teachers for the sixth graders. Ann Healy teaches science, math and English, while Lisa Belz and Laura Reiser share responsibility for teaching computers to the kindergarten through eighth grade. None of the three could have pictured back in their elementary school days that they would someday be teachers at their alma mater, let alone teaching together. Coincidentally, all three teachers have three children each who are students at the school. And yes, a couple of their sixth grade students have parents from the Class of 1979!



Laura Reiser, Ann Healy and Lisa Belz being interviewed on AM Springfield during Catholic Schools Week.

First Annual School Support Fund Drive Established

The first Annual School Support Fund drive to support the operational budget of the school and to fund physical improvements to the building was established at the beginning of the fiscal year last July. As the costs of Catholic education continue to increase, the effort to raise additional funds becomes even more important as we try to contain tuition costs for our parents.

The goal for the first year is \$50,000, and as of mid-February the total had reached in excess of \$46,000. Over 60 contributors identified themselves as alumni, representing 17 different states. Many of you have already contributed, and we are so grateful. If you would like to make a gift, a donor envelope is enclosed in this newsletter. Please help us meet our goal.

Blessed Sacrament Students Help Missions

Through monthly projects for the missions, Blessed Sacrament students raised in excess of \$14,000 during the 2005-2006 school year to help those in need. A variety of creative projects were undertaken by the various grades. Included were mum sales in September, caramel apple sales in October, a Halloween carnival, a Mardi Gras carnival, and Lenten envelopes.

The school supported Catholic Charities in December by adopting a family for Christmas. The seventh graders conducted a "Souper" Bowl food drive in January. We are very proud of the students' efforts and appreciate the support of their teachers and parents to help others in need.

Blessed Sacrament Alums Share Memories

A recent survey of the earliest graduates of Blessed Sacrament School demonstrates the value that they place on their elementary education and its impact on their futures. Many wrote of life-long friendships that began at Blessed Sacrament School. There were numerous expressions of gratitude and respect for the Ursuline sisters who taught all classes at the school. Like today's students, they enjoyed athletic teams and musical programs, and sometimes they got into a little trouble!

Some of the old traditions would surprise our students at Blessed Sacrament today. A peek down Alumni Hall at school shows eighth grade graduation pictures with the girls all wearing identical dresses. The dresses were an eighth grade sewing project for the girls. Most of the students walked home for lunch. The courtyard became the setting for a roller skating party one year.

Thanks to the alumni who responded to the survey. Below are some of the wonderful memories that past students shared.

■ **Robert Everding (Class of '37)** recalled riding to Lake Springfield for the eighth grade picnic in the back of a dump truck with Sister Lyola (sic) riding along.

■ **Rev. George C. Bernard, C.S.C. (Class of '35)** wrote of the excellent training he received from the Ursuline sisters in the four "Rs" – reading, 'riting, 'rithmatic and religion. (Father Bernard was ordained to the priesthood in 1949 and currently is retired and residing in Portland, Oregon.)

■ **Patricia Dagon Natterman (Class of '35)** received a \$20 gold piece for having the highest average in the school and recalled Monsignor Tarrent going to school each day after 8:00 Mass to watch the children march into school.

■ **Dorothy Corbett (Class of '35)** still has her blue and gold graduation ribbons and her Blessed Sacrament diploma.

■ **G. Howard Christine (Class of '33)** recalls the names of every nun he had in every grade and enjoyed playing football in the backyard before the convent was built.

■ **Christine A. Meyer (Class of '40)** often received two pennies to spend for candy at Mac's Grocery Store on the way back to school after lunch.



The Class of '26, the first graduating class of B.S.S.



In Memoriam — Miss Marita Child

On Saturday, March 4, Blessed Sacrament Church was filled with teachers, parents, students and parishioners for the funeral of Marita Child, a fourth grade teacher at Blessed Sacrament School. Her sudden illness and death were a shock to our entire community, and we continue to mourn the loss of a dedicated teacher and friend.

Miss Child was devoted to Catholic education. Over the years she taught preschool, fourth grade, junior high religion, social studies and literature, and K-8 computer classes. Whether she was sharing her love of books with students or helping students and teachers use technology, she loved teaching.

Not only did Miss Child prepare students academically, but she also instilled the importance of the Catholic faith with each student. Her faith was a living example for our students to follow. Miss Child was also a lector and Eucharistic minister, a member of local prayer groups and our church restoration committee, a volunteer for Habitat for Humanity, and a strong supporter of our school mission projects.

Students will long remember her smiling face and her sense of humor. Parents and teachers will remember her great concern for each student and her willingness to accept the differences in each person. We have all been touched by Miss Child's teaching and faith, and we will miss her. We continue to pray that she is enjoying the rewards of eternal life.

**Blessed Sacrament School
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