

WHAT'S BRUIN?

■ Summer 2008

Alumni Newsletter

www.bssbruins.org

Blessed Sacrament Unity Run

The first ever Blessed Sacrament Unity Run was held on Saturday, April 12. Cold and rainy weather did not deter the nearly 100 walkers and runners who participated in the 3.3-mile event. Runners, as well as walkers and little ones in strollers, enjoyed the course and were cheered on by our friends and neighbors on Glenwood and Walnut Street. Prizes were given for the most students participating from one class at B.S.S., the participant from the furthest distance, the oldest and youngest alum, and (of course) the adult and student winners.

The Springfield Police Department provided personnel to block traffic and ensure the safety of our runners. Event Chairpersons, Janice Langfelder Davis and Karen Senger, both teachers at Blessed Sacrament, provided hot dogs, drinks and snacks to quench thirsts and satisfy appetites. Cafeteria tables were set up in the gym to allow alumni and parishioners an opportunity to socialize. Each participant received a tee shirt sponsored by seven businesses with ties to Blessed Sacrament School. We're so grateful for all of the support we received to make the Unity Run such an awesome event.



The youngest alumni participating included Jacob Wear from the BSS Class of 2003, and Olivia Gay and Anne Cumming, both from the BSS Class of 2004.

Next year's event will include a health fair and activities for all ages, so mark your calendars and gather your family and/or classmates for the 2nd Annual Unity Run.

The event was such a success that plans are underway to organize next year's Unity Run. The run is tentatively scheduled for the Saturday morning of Mother's Day weekend. More details will follow.

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Annual Fund Update

Thank You, Alumni! As the final numbers are being tallied, the Annual Fund total for the fiscal year totals just over \$80,000, an increase of \$30,000 over last year. Over 100 new contributors were recorded. Most classes were represented, but the classes with the most Annual Fund contributors included the Classes of 1947, 1949, 1954, and 1962. Way to go! An Annual Report, listing all contributors, will be published in the fall. We are very grateful for all that you do to support Blessed Sacrament School.

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.

Blessed Sacrament Unity Run



The youngest participants of the Unity Run.



Mrs. Marty Mosley acted as the official starter at the event. Many alumni remember Mrs. Mosley for teaching them the preposition song. She also is a former parent at the school and a parishioner active in numerous parish ministries.

Glenwood neighbors
Fritzi Belz and Kerry
Ingram cheer on the
Unity Runners!



New Copper Sculpture Dedicated

A beautiful new copper sculpture adorns the courtyard garden at Blessed Sacrament School. The sculpture is the creation of the 7th grade art and science classes working together with their teachers, Mrs. Ruth Ficke and Mrs. Marilyn Harris, and volunteer, Terry Rossi. The awesome project began in art classes with pictures drawn by each student to show symbols that they felt visually describe God's spirit in nature. Using copper as the medium the students cut and soldered the pieces together with the expert help of Terry Rossi. Mr. Rossi taught the students a variety of techniques to work with copper in the Blessed Sacrament science laboratory. The sculpture further beautifies the Children's Courtyard Garden, which is used throughout the year for a number of science-related projects. The garden also serves as a memorial to several Blessed Sacrament students.



Father David Hoefler leads a dedication of the 7th grade sculpture with students and faculty on May 27, 2008.

84th Annual Garden Party



A huge crowd enjoyed this year's Garden Party on June 18. Pictured above is the ever-popular, all-time favorite, Ring the Stick game. All Blessed Sacrament families probably have one or two of these sticks stashed in their basements!

Blessed Sacrament School Receives P.E. Grant

On June 21, Director of Development Kim Hoffmann accepted a \$500 grant for the physical education department from the Team AthletiCare Fund of Springfield. The Team AthletiCare Fund is a partnership between AthletiCare and The Friends of St. John's Hospital established to help area schools enhance their physical education and related programs. The funds will be used at Blessed Sacrament to paint a colorful map of the United States on the playground where students will be able to play and create games that will keep them active while supplementing their geography skills. The grant will also provide funding for strength training equipment for the upper grades.

Congratulations to B.S.S. Retirees

Blessed Sacrament School bid a fond farewell to three teachers who retired in May after many years of service. Staff and students will miss seeing Mrs. Peggy Dunlap, Mrs. Mary Louise (M.L.) Dawson, and Mrs. Dianne Sullivan on a daily basis.

Mrs. Dunlap taught kindergarten and first grade during her twenty-seven years of teaching at Blessed Sacrament. A B.S.S. graduate, Mrs. Dunlap made the early years of school special and rewarding for her students.

Mrs. Sullivan taught fourth grade at Blessed Sacrament for ten years. She was instrumental not only in our fourth graders' academic development but also for helping them grow in their faith.

Mrs. Dawson in ending her career at the school after teaching third, fourth, and fifth grades for twenty-eight years. Many students return to visit Mrs. Dawson, recalling their memories of favorite times in her classroom.

We honor these teachers for their dedication to Catholic education, and particularly for their service to Blessed Sacrament School. We wish them well and hope that they enjoy a well-deserved retirement. And maybe, just maybe, we'll see them back next year as substitute teachers!



Thanks to the dedicated faculty and staff of Blessed Sacrament School for another great year!

Blessed Sacrament Grandparents Club

A club for grandparents was formed in 2007 to keep our students' grandparents and special friends involved and informed about events happening at B.S.S. With 70-plus members now, the grandparents receive a newsletter and invitations to volunteer at the school. A highlight of the year for the students is Grandparents Day, celebrated in the spring, where the students have an opportunity to show their grandparents or special friends around the school, have refreshments and attend a Mass in their honor.

B.S.S. students Jack Healy, Danny Cavanagh, Sarah Miller, Mary Helen Healy, Kate Healy and Joe Miller surrounded by grandparents Mrs. Sandy Cavanagh, Mrs. Helen Healy, and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Miller on Grandparents Day.



Senior/8th Grade Breakfast

An always popular May event at Blessed Sacrament is the breakfast honoring both the eighth grade graduates and our alumni high school graduates.

Memories are shared as students gather from various high schools to relive their grade school days and review their 8th grade video. In the picture at right, some of the seniors join B.S.S. principal, Kathy Wear, to lead the morning prayer and announcements over the public address system.



Blessed Sacrament Alumni Inducted into N.H.S.



Blessed Sacrament alumni pose for a photo after their induction into National Honor Society at Sacred Heart-Griffin. Pictured are: (front row) Katie Dresser, Shanthi Narla, Lily Criscone, (back row) Mary Sheehan, Sarah Kenney, Cara Workman, Matt Stegeman, and Grant Bitzer.

Want to memorialize those Blessed Sacrament days?

New landscaping this fall will include a bricked area between the church and school with bricks for purchase that can be personalized. More information will follow, but in the meantime call Kim Hoffmann in the Development Office (217-522-7534) with questions.

School Tackles Maintenance and Restoration Projects

A picture tells a thousand words, as you can tell from the photo of the work on the window lintels at Blessed Sacrament School. Founded in 1925, the symptoms of age are taking their toll on our beautiful building and must now be addressed.

Father David Hoefler, Pastor of Blessed Sacrament, recently asked parishioners for \$350,000 for projects to repair and restore the original structure of the school. Generous donors have responded and many of the jobs will be tackled this summer. Included in the project are replacing all of the steel lintels over the windows, tuck pointing and masonry cleaning. The school is also in dire need of plumbing upgrades and completion of roof replace-

ment. Six of the classroom floors will be replaced this summer.

Some projects have been completed. A new chiller has been installed on top of the building with new structural steel framing to support the unit. The gym received a new coat of paint over spring break,

thanks to volunteers Todd and Stacey Boll. A new boiler and electronic control system to more effectively and efficiently heat the classrooms will be in place by the time school starts in the fall.

While upgrades are necessary, maintaining the architectural beauty of the school that graduated its first class in 1926, remains a priority. It is essential that future generations of Blessed Sacrament students are able to receive a quality Catholic education in the same fine tradition that their predecessors did.



A kindergarten classroom under renovation.

Blessed Sacrament School
748 West Laurel
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Upcoming Blessed Sacrament Events

- **Parish Garage Sale**
July 19, 2008
- **39th Annual Auction**
September 27, 2008
- **Wine Tasting**
November 16, 2008

Please Join Us!