



November 10, 2011

+ Blessed Sacrament



School News

 *Learning to Make a Difference* 

A Note to Parents

Dear Parents,

Thanks to all of you who attended parent-teacher conferences last week. We appreciate your support and look forward to continuing to work with you as partners in your children's education. If you were unable to attend your conference, please contact the teachers(s) to reschedule.

On Monday I hosted my first principal for the day of this school year. Brian Haugh, a third grader, was the Children's Raffle winner, and he did an excellent job as principal. He enjoyed visiting the various classrooms, making announcements, and helping with office duties. He even typed part of this newsletter! Great job, Brian!

Also, on Monday, we welcomed Mrs. Tina Morehead as a new fifth grade teacher. We recently learned that Mrs. Valdez does not anticipate returning to the fifth grade classroom this year, but we are blessed that Mrs. Morehead will be able to finish the year as our fifth graders' religion, science, and math teacher. We extend our sincere thanks to Mrs. Sarah Nelson for the many weeks she served as Mrs. Valdez's substitute teacher. She did an excellent job of providing quality education for our students, and we know Mrs. Morehead will continue that excellence. Please continue to keep Mrs. Valdez in your prayers.

This month we are focusing on the character trait of citizenship, and our eighth graders introduced the trait to our student body with another effective character education assembly yesterday afternoon. This month our students will have several opportunities to serve their community, whether the community is school, city, country, or world.

Tomorrow we will observe Veterans' Day with an all-school assembly in the morning to honor veterans and those currently serving in the armed forces. Our second and seventh graders will raise the flag outside the entrance to the school, and then our students will assemble in the cafeteria for a brief observance to remind us of the many lives cut short due to their sacrifices for our country and as a reminder of the many freedoms our service men and women protect for all citizens of the United States.

Looking ahead, next Wednesday, Nov. 16, we have an early dismissal day at 1:30 p.m. for our monthly faculty meeting. That same evening at 6:30 p.m., our second graders will receive their First Reconciliation. Please keep our second graders in your prayers as they continue their preparation for this most important sacrament.

Don't forget that we are hosting an eighth grade basketball tournament, the Bruins Catholic Classic, this weekend. The tournament will begin tomorrow evening at 5:30 p.m. with a ceremony honoring our veterans. Our BSS Bruins play St. Joseph-Pekin at 6:00 p.m. Friday evening and Our Lady of Lourdes-Decatur at 9:00 a.m. Saturday morning. Go to our school website for a complete tournament schedule.

Have a good weekend and join us in continuing to pray for our military and in thanking God for our blessings as citizens of the United States of America!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Kathy Wear

November Mission Project

The sixth graders are collecting food for the Senior Center. The food drive will run through Tuesday, Nov. 22. Thanks for your generosity to their mission project!

SHG Preview Night & Special Thanks

Next Thursday, Nov. 17, SHG is hosting a Preview Night for interested seventh and eighth graders and their parents. The doors open at 6:30 p.m. A short presentation will be given at 7:00 p.m., and then families are welcome to tour the school.

We also extend our thanks to SHG for the generous check of \$1,000 that they shared with each Catholic grade school as part of the profits of their Mega Raffle. We appreciate their continued support of our work in the Catholic grade schools.

Morning Arrival

In the past week we have received two reports of close calls of students almost being hit due to cars going out of the drop-off lines in the morning to pass other cars. We ask that all cars pull up all the way before dropping off students so that more cars are within the drop-off area. Also, we prefer that you do not drop off students along the sidewalks without patrols and ask that you never pass other cars. We need everyone's help for the arrival procedure to run quickly and smoothly, but please remember that a few extra minutes are definitely worth safety for all of our students. Thanks for your cooperation!

Handbook Agreement Forms

Additional handbook agreement forms were sent home last week to those families who had not returned the signed forms. Please return the forms to the school office as soon as possible as we are required to keep all forms on file.

Hot Dog & Pizza Lunch Orders

New order forms for hot dog lunches on Mondays and pizza lunches on Wednesdays are being sent home today. The forms are due back with payment by Friday, Nov. 18.

Barnes & Noble Event

The library is hosting a fundraiser at Barnes and Noble on Monday, Nov. 21, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Purchases of books and other items made that evening will benefit our school library. Look for a flyer with more details next week!

Pastor's Annual Party

Father Jeff invites our parents (adults only, please) to attend the Pastor's Annual Party to be held on Sunday, Nov. 20, from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Get your holiday season off to a festive start! Visit with other parents and parishioners while enjoying cocktails and hors d'oeuvres.

Joint Activities with Catholic Grade Schools

On Tuesday, Nov. 15, our fifth graders will join fifth graders from the other schools at Little Flower for a Joint Service Day for St. Joseph's Home. Permission slips were sent home this week and are due back tomorrow, Friday, Nov. 11, so that chaperones and rides can be arranged. See the permission slip for complete details.

Also, on Tuesday, Nov. 15, our seventh graders will join the other schools' seventh graders for a retreat led by Rich Curran, the former Diocesan Youth Director from Green Bay, Wisconsin. The event will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Meadowbrook Road. Permission slips were sent home this week and are due back tomorrow, Friday, Nov. 11.

Sports Photos Schedule

Lifetouch photos for the fall sports team will be taken in the gym on Tuesday, Nov. 15, according to the following schedule:

- 3:30 p.m. – Girls' Softball
- 3:45 p.m. – Boys' Baseball
- 4:00 p.m. – 5th Gr. Girls' Basketball (Mr. Stone)
- 4:15 p.m. – IESA 8th Gr. Boys' Basketball
- 4:30 p.m. – 6th Gr. Girls' Basketball
- 4:45 p.m. – 5th Gr. Girls' Basketball (Mr. Moles)
- 5:00 p.m. – Cross Country
- 5:15 p.m. – IESA 7th Gr. Girls' Basketball
- 5:30 p.m. – IESA 8th Gr. Girls' Basketball
- 5:45 p.m. – SCAA 7th & 8th Gr. Boys' Basketball
- 6:00 p.m. – IESA 7th Gr. Boys' Basketball

Players should be dressed in their team uniforms for the photos. Order forms will be available, if needed.

Box Tops Update

Mrs. Harth's kindergarten class and Mrs. Taylor's fifth grade class each won their respective Box Tops leagues and are now competing against each other for the World Series championship, which will be decided tomorrow, Friday, Nov. 11. The winning classroom will receive a class party.

New! Online Giving Option!

You may now use a link on the school website to give to the school and church! We have worked with Town & Country Bank to provide a safe, convenient way for school families, parish members and alumni to contribute to the church and school. Currently, it is set up to accept donations for general church contributions, the School Annual Fund, and the Building Fund. Funds will be withdrawn from your designated checking account as a one-time contribution, or you may set up recurring contributions. At this time we are not offering credit card use.

Many of our families have been contributing using automatic withdrawals from their bank accounts that we first offered several years ago. (These will continue unless we are

notified by those families of a change.) These automatic deposits in our account each week and each month have helped the parish financially with regular contributions, regardless of whether families are on vacation or away from the parish for a week.

We hope many of our families and our alumni will take advantage of this convenient option. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Sharon Schraeder or Kim Hoffmann in the school office.

Looking Ahead

Friday, Nov. 11 –

5th & 7th grade permission slips due!

Junior high dance at St. Joseph School

8th grade boys' basketball tournament at BSS

Saturday, Nov. 12 –

8th grade boys' basketball tournament at BSS

Monday, Nov. 14 –

8th grade March for Life interest forms due!

6:15 p.m. – Last 7th & 8th grade girls' home

basketball game vs. Jacksonville Our Saviour

Tuesday, Nov. 15 –

5th grade Joint Service Day at Little Flower

7th grade Joint Retreat Day at Knights of Columbus

Lifetouch fall team sports photos after school

Wednesday, Nov. 16 –

1:30 dismissal for faculty meeting; B.A.S.E. provided

6:30 p.m. – First Reconciliation for second graders

Friday, Nov. 18 –

Hot dog & pizza lunch order forms due!

Saturday, Nov. 19 –

9:00 a.m. - Joint Speech Meet at St. Joseph School

(No Parent Night planned due to schedule conflicts)

Monday, Nov. 21 –

Midquarter – Progress reports will be mailed home

6:15 p.m. - 7th & 8th grade boys' home basketball

game vs. Springfield Christian

5:00-8:00 p.m. - Barnes & Noble event

Wednesday, Nov. 23 – Friday, Nov. 25 –

No school for Thanksgiving break

Please Remember!

Before School Patrols for the Week of Nov. 14 - 18:

Mary Kroner

Clara Munyer

Preston Njapa Njeuha

Jack O Connor

After School Patrols for the Week of Nov. 14 - 18:

Alex Mauntel

Sean McGinty

Michael Oh

Marisa Patten

Mass Servers for Nov. 12 & 13:

(only BSS students listed)

4:30 p.m. Saturday

Connor Rutherford

Sara Rotherham

7:00 a.m. Sunday

Marisa Patten

8:30 a.m. Sunday

Alex White & Alyssa Swenny

10:30 a.m. Sunday

Louis Criscione, Billy Wilhite &

Preston Njapa Njeuha

Daily Servers for Nov. 14 - 18:

8:00 a.m. M – W &

Hannah Ketchum &

8:20 a.m. Tu.

Taylor Loftus

8:00 a.m. Th, &

Joey Kolis &

8:20 a.m. Fri.

Ben Scheufele