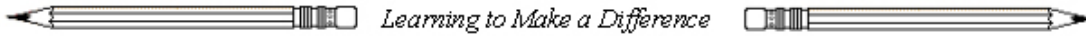


December 8, 2011

+ Blessed Sacrament



School News



Learning to Make a Difference

A Note to Parents

Dear Parents,

We continued to prepare for Christmas this week with our Advent wreath ceremony on Monday and the daily hanging of symbols on the Jesse tree. Today our students attended an all-school Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, and the Marita Child Gospel of Life Essay Contest winners were announced at the Mass. (See the related article for the results of the essay contest.)

On Monday I also had my second principal for the day. Gabby Stone, a first grader, did a great job of helping with my daily duties and visiting the classrooms. It was a perfect time of the year to visit classrooms as we were able to catch a sneak preview of many of our lower grades' Christmas programs. Thanks, Gabby, for all of your help! You were a wonderful principal for the day!

Please check the *Looking Ahead* section for additional activities scheduled for the next weeks. Tuesday, Dec. 20, is our last school day before Christmas vacation. A couple of Christmas programs are scheduled for that morning, and the Christmas parties will be held in the classrooms in the afternoon. Students will be dismissed for Christmas break at 1:30 p.m. **B.A.S.E. will be provided on Tuesday, Dec. 20. (Information about B.A.S.E. was incorrectly listed last week in the *Looking Ahead* section.)**

Also, check the PSA newsletter for their weekly update. In addition to the information provided in the newsletter, PSA will be sponsoring two additional Spirit Days this month so that students will have a chance to wear their new Spirit Day shirts and sweatshirts and will have a holiday treat of two more days of more casual dress. For a \$1 donation, students may wear BSS t-shirts, sweatshirts, or jerseys with jeans tomorrow, Friday, Dec. 9, and next Friday, Dec. 16. As always, students may also wear uniform shirts untucked with jeans.

Don't forget the breakfast buffet at the Knights of Columbus Hall this Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to noon to benefit tuition assistance at our local Catholic schools. Have a good weekend!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Kathy Wear

Athletic Update

Congratulations to our fifth and sixth grade girls' SCAA basketball teams on their great seasons! They finished their league play with tournaments this past weekend. Additional congratulations to the sixth grade girls on their third place finish in the junior high league tournament. Also, special thanks to their coaches, Chris Stone, Don Moles, and Rick Pohlman (fifth grade) and Matt Swenney and Scott Eades (sixth grade) for their dedication to their teams and their guidance of our girls.

Also, uniform orders are due tomorrow for any fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth grade girls playing volleyball this year. Please remember that all students must have turned in permission slips, fees, and copies of physicals in order to practice with any school team.

Gospel of Life Essay Contest

For the Marita Child Gospel of Life Essay Contest this year, our students wrote essays on the theme of "I became me when . . ." Congratulations to our students for their winning essays:

- 6th grade: 1st place – Jack Cooper (\$50 prize)
2nd place – Elise Antonacci (\$25)
3rd place – Will Moran (\$25)
- 7th grade: 1st place – Charlie Costa (\$75)
2nd place – Preston Njapa Njeuha (\$50)
3rd place – Annie Wheeler (\$50)
- 8th grade: 1st place – Anna Benoit (\$100)
2nd place – Emily Scheufele (\$75)
3rd place – Isabel Garcia (\$50)

Special thanks to the Gospel of Life Committee for sponsoring the contest to promote respect for life, to all the volunteers who acted as judges, to the teachers who guided the students in their writings, and to all the students who showed their respect for life through their essays

Mission Project Reminders

Tomorrow, Friday, Dec. 9, is the last day to donate candy for the stockings for Catholic Charities and to send in monetary donations for the Sponsor-a-Family project. Also, the kindergarten food drive ends tomorrow, and we are still collecting new or gently used sheets, blankets, and towels for the St. Martin de Porres Center. Thank you for your continued generosity to those in need!

Preschool Survey

Surveys about our preschool are being sent home electronically today. The School Board encourages parents who have had children in our preschool program or will have children of preschool age in the next few years to complete a survey. There is a general parish survey and specific surveys for current preschool and kindergarten parents. The results of these surveys will help us in making decisions regarding our offerings of preschool classes in the future. You may print out a survey and return the completed form to the school office, or you may use the following link to complete a similar survey online: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NCC25S3>. We would appreciate completion of the survey by Friday, Jan. 6.

Cub Scout Pancake Breakfast

Blessed Sacrament's Cub Scout Pack 31 is sponsoring a pancake breakfast next Sunday, Dec. 18, from

7:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Order forms for tickets are being sent home today. Return the form with payment by next Wednesday, Dec. 14, and your tickets will be sent home with your child next Friday, Dec. 16. Tickets will also be available at the door. Join them for a good breakfast and support the pack in all they provide for our students in the Scouting program!

2012 Prayer Calendar

This will be Father Jeff's first year to receive the parish's gift of a calendar of daily prayers for him. A sign-up will be held this weekend after all the Masses. You may also call Kathy Harth at 744-9263 to sign up. What a perfect gift for Father! Consider being a part of the daily prayers for our pastor!

Additional Site for School Closings

In addition to the sites listed in last week's newsletter for information about school closings due to inclement weather, we have learned that parents may also check the television station website for earlier notices of school closings. Go to www.wics.com and click on *School Closings* on the top left side of the website. We hope this gives you another option to learn of any school closings as soon as possible.

Scrip Deadline for Christmas Orders

Although we keep many scrip gift cards on hand, we have had an increase in sales due to the holidays and may not have all of our normal scrip cards in stock. **Monday, Dec. 12, is the last day to place a special order for scrip cards and receive the cards through school before Christmas.** The school office will sell scrip until 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 20, and the rectory office will sell scrip from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 21, and Thursday, Dec. 22. Don't be disappointed! Buy scrip early! See the flyer being sent home today with some scrip gift ideas!

Looking Ahead

Friday, Dec. 9 –

Donations of candy for Builders Club stockings due!

Monetary donations for the Catholic Charities Sponsor-a-Family due!

Volleyball uniform order forms due!

Last day for kindergarten food drive!

No 8:20 a.m. Mass for grades 6-8

Saturday, Dec. 10 –

8:30-11:00 a.m. - SHG placement test for 8th graders

Sunday, Dec. 11 –

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – K of C breakfast to benefit tuition assistance for Springfield Catholic schools

1:00 p.m. - First grade (Mrs. Carter's homeroom)

Christmas program in the cafeteria

3:00 p.m. - First grade (Mrs. Bayer's homeroom)

Christmas program in the cafeteria

Art Club field trip to *The Nutcracker*

Monday, Dec. 12 –

8:15 a.m. – Advent wreath ceremony in the cafeteria

6:15 p.m. – 7th & 8th grade boys' IESA home

basketball game vs. South Fork Kincaid

Tuesday, Dec. 13 –

Latin enrichment class after school

5:30-7:30 p.m. – Annual Fund Kick-off Reception in the cafeteria (\$50 per person; RSVP to Kim Hoffmann at 522-7534, ext. 206, or at hoffmann@bssbruins.org)

7:00 p.m. - Catholic Schools Band Concert at SHG (6:00 p.m. performance of intermediate band only)

Wednesday, Dec. 14 –

1:30 p.m. – Early dismissal for monthly faculty meeting; B.A.S.E. provided

Thursday, Dec. 15 –

10:00 a.m. - Third grade play (Mrs. Williamson's class) in the classroom

1:30 p.m. - Third grade play (Mrs. Anfield's class) in the classroom

Friday, Dec. 16 –

10:00 a.m. - Third grade play (Mrs. Anfield's class) in the classroom

1:30 p.m. - Third grade play (Mrs. Williamson's class) in the classroom

7:00-9:00 p.m. - Junior high dance at St. Aloysius

Sunday, Dec. 18 –

7:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. – Cub Scout Pancake Breakfast in the school cafeteria

Monday, Dec. 19 -

8:15 a.m. – Advent wreath ceremony in the cafeteria

9:30 a.m. - Kindergarten Christmas program in the cafeteria

10:15 a.m. - Preschool (MWF class) Christmas program in the classroom

Tuesday, Dec. 20 -

8:30 a.m. – All-day preschool Christmas program in the classroom

10:00 a.m. - Preschool (Tu/Th class) Christmas program in the classroom

afternoon - Classroom Christmas parties

1:30 p.m. dismissal for Christmas break; **B.A.S.E. provided**

Wednesday, Dec. 21 – Tuesday, Jan. 3 –

Christmas Break

Please Remember!

Before School Patrols for the Week of Dec. 12 - 16:

Maddie Andres

Meredith Beger

Charlie Costa

Olivia Doll

After School Patrols for the Week of Dec. 12 - 16:

Elsie Andres

Jack Boll

Lilly Coady

Isabella Giacomini

Mass Servers for Dec. 10 & 11:

(only BSS students listed)

4:30 p.m. Saturday

Elise Antonacci, Lilly Coady & Sydney Compton

7:00 a.m. Sunday

Isabel Cross

8:30 a.m. Sunday

Catie Eck

10:30 a.m. Sunday

Michael Dailey

Brady Malone

Daily Servers for Dec. 12 - 16:

8:00 a.m. M & W &

Riley Hinds &

8:20 a.m. Tu.

Grace Portz

8:00 a.m. Th. &

Abby Pohlman &

8:20 a.m. Fri.

Clara Munyer