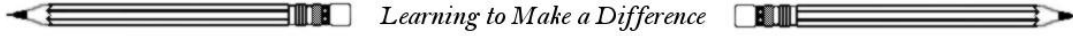


January 11, 2018

+ Blessed Sacrament



School News



Learning to Make a Difference

A Note to Parents

Dear Parents,

This week has been a busy one for both teachers and students as we ended one quarter and began another! Also, we are in the process of finalizing plans for Catholic Schools Week, which runs from Jan. 28 through Feb. 2. A separate detailed calendar will be sent home in the upcoming weeks, but please check the separate articles on different events as well as the *Looking Ahead* section of this newsletter to mark your calendars for some of the main events! Don't forget that we need many parent volunteers to make this a week a success. Please contact the school office if you are able to volunteer to assist on any of the days that week.

Today you are receiving several flyers about our mission project for this month and for Catholic Schools Week. We have a goal of assisting St. Theresa's Education Center in Ghana again this year by raising funds to purchase garden tools for them. Each grade has been assigned a certain number of different types of tools for their goal. Any way you can assist your children to participate actively in earning their donation would be greatly appreciated as we focus on charity as our virtue for the year and on the Bible verse, "Love one another as I love you."

In addition to the donations, we will hold a read-a-thon again this year to benefit the center in Ghana, and part of the proceeds of the sale of Bruins Valentine's Day t-shirts will also go to Ghana. See the flyers for more details! We hope our students will be able to help us reach our goal by participating in one or more of these endeavors!

Next Wednesday our students will receive their second quarter report cards from Father Jeff. Please encourage them to continue to put forth their best efforts. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

We will not be in school next Monday, Jan. 15, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Enjoy the three-day weekend with your children!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Kathy Wear

Welcome!

We extend a warm welcome to a new school family, the Doerflers. Corbin joined Mrs. Klinner's fourth grade class, and Logan joined Mrs. Carter's first grade class last Thursday. Their parents are Jason and Janean. Please add their contact information to your directory: janeandoerfler@yahoo.com and cell numbers 415-0615 (Jason) and 414-5162 (Janean).

Congratulations!

Congratulations to two BSS students who are participating on the Catholic schools' co-op wrestling team,

the Saints. Sixth graders Henry Kinion and Josh McClain both competed last Saturday in the Olympia Invitational Wrestling Tournament. Henry won 2nd place in his weight division, and Josh was moved up to a higher weight class to compete, holding his own with boys older than him. We're proud of both boys! They are excellent athletes and representatives of our school!

Also, congratulations to two of our seventh grade basketball players who received post-season recognition. Hannah Lambert and Rori Hanken were both nominated for a 1A/2A all-star game at AC Central High School. Rori was selected and participated in the game on Dec. 16th. Congratulations to both Hannah & Rori!

January/February Authors/Illustrators

Congratulations to artists/authors Mason Rogers (4th grade), Elizabeth Scott (5th grade), Sophia Njapa (6th grade), and Alaina Roland (6th grade)! These talented students were chosen to create work inspired by the genres of science fiction and sculpture for January and non-fiction and fantasy for February. Be sure to stop and enjoy their creativity in the front hall. Their extra work is appreciated and applauded!!

Family Service Hours

Please remember that all families are required to volunteer for 20 hours of service as part of our school community. If your hours are turned in to the office by **tomorrow, Friday, Jan. 12**, your total number of hours earned to date will be sent home with your child's report card on Jan. 17.

Tuition Reminders

If families chose to pay their tuition in two installments, please remember that the second payment is due next Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2018. If you have any questions, please contact Laura Horton at 522-7534, ext. 245.

SHG Zero Hour Math

Due to the large number of students from our Catholic grade schools attending the March for Life, there will be no classes for zero hour math at SHG next Thursday and Friday, Jan. 18 & 19.

Band Lessons Update

Our joint band program is in the process of finalizing some changes in the band instructors. As a result, students playing woodwind or brass instruments will not begin lessons again until the week of January 22nd. Percussionists are the only band students who will have band lessons this week or next week. Thanks for your patience and understanding as Mrs. O'Hare works to provide the best instruction for our band students.

IMSA FUSION Reminders

With the beginning of the third quarter, new sessions of IMSA FUSION will begin. The 5th and 6th graders will start their new session on Tuesday, Jan. 16. They will continue to meet from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. on Tuesdays. The 7th & 8th graders will begin their new session the same week on Wednesday, Jan. 17. They will continue to meet from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. on Wednesdays. All participants for the second session should have received the needed information, but please remind your children of these starting dates. Thank you!

SHG City Tourney Apparel

SHG is offering our students the opportunity to purchase apparel for the upcoming city tournament. A flyer accompanies this newsletter and is also posted on our school website. **Please note that orders are due tomorrow, Friday, Jan. 12.** Please make checks payable to SHG, but orders with payment may be returned to our school, and the orders will be delivered through our school.

Bruins Valentine's Day T-Shirts

To build on our theme of charity and to benefit our January mission project, an order form for Bruins RED Valentine's Day t-shirts is being sent home today. The shirt may be worn not only on Valentine's Day but also on any Spirit Day. The cost is \$9 for short-sleeve shirts, and \$12 for long-sleeve tees. See the order form for more details. **Order forms with payment are due by Monday, Jan. 22. NO LATE ORDERS, please, as we will be placing the order right away.**

Read-a-thon for Catholic Schools Week

As part of our parish partnership with St. Theresa's Education Center in Ghana, we will be holding a read-a-thon during Catholic Schools Week to raise funds needed to purchase gardening tools to raise their own food. We will hold our read-a-thon on our Community Awareness Day on Monday, Jan. 29. You will be able to sponsor a student by the number of minutes read or by a set dollar amount. There will also be a sign-up in the back of church after upcoming weekend Masses for parishioners without children in the school to participate in this initiative. Information with a sponsorship sheet is being emailed home today and is posted on the school website. Hard copies of the sponsorship form will also be sent home next week. Thank you in advance for your support of this project!

Family Roller Skating Night for Catholic Schools Week

All Blessed Sacrament School families are invited to attend our family roller skating night to celebrate Catholic Schools Week on **Thursday, February 1, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Skateland South.** Since that is Student Appreciation Day, there will be NO HOMEWORK that evening!! The cost is only \$4 per skater, which includes skate rental. The snack bar and arcade games will also be open for purchases. Everyone really enjoyed this event in the past, so please plan to join us again. Please remember that children cannot be dropped off and left unsupervised. There must be an adult responsible for the children at Skateland. Thank you for your cooperation. We hope to see you there!

Catholic Schools Week Teacher Appreciation Luncheon

Volunteers are needed to assist with teacher appreciation lunch on Friday, February 2, at 11:45 a.m. If parents are interested in donating a dish for the luncheon or in assisting with serving, please contact Melissa Coady at mcoady1978@yahoo.com for more information or to volunteer in any capacity. You may receive service hours for donating a dish and/or serving the luncheon.

T.G.I.F. (Third Graders in Faith)

Our third graders will attend a day of fun and learning with other third graders from Springfield Catholic schools on Friday, Jan. 26, at St. Aloysius School. Students will have the opportunity to order a Subway 6-inch turkey & cheese sub sandwich with chips, a cookie, and bottled water. However, students may also choose to bring their own sack lunches. A permission slip and a lunch order form will be sent home next week.

Sixth Graders' National School Choice Assembly

Sixth graders from the Springfield Catholic Schools will gather together for a prayer, reflection, team building activities, and a dance assembly to celebrate National School Choice Day on Tuesday, January 23. The assembly will be held here at Blessed Sacrament from 1:00-2:15 p.m. We look forward to welcoming other schools' sixth graders to celebrate Catholic schools together!

8th Grade Enrollment Sunday & Confirmation

On Enrollment Sunday, which is Sunday, Feb. 25, at the 8:30 a.m. Mass, the eighth graders will sign the Book of Intent to indicate their commitment to prepare for Confirmation. The eighth graders will be confirmed on Wednesday, April 11, at a 7:00 p.m. Mass. If you have not done so already, please mark your calendars with these dates!

Young Authors

Each year our students participate in a writing activity called Young Authors. A letter with some basic information is being emailed and will be posted on our school website. Participation is optional for kindergarten through second grade but is a class assignment in grades 3-8. Some teachers in grades 3-8 may have already shared information with their classes, and some will be sharing their requirements for students in the upcoming weeks.

One "Bare Book" for use in creating the finished manuscripts for the Young Authors program will be provided and delivered to all third through seventh graders, and any K-2 students submitting a Young Authors book may pick up one in the school office. Additional books will be available for purchase at a cost of \$3.00 each. The pages of the books are *not* printed with lines, but students may write/type their stories on loose paper and then paste them into the book.

Any students in kindergarten through second grade who choose to write books should return them to the school office by Thursday, March 1. Teachers in grades 3-8 will set their own deadlines for their required books, which may be earlier. Once again, all the manuscripts will be on display at CultureFest, which is scheduled for Sunday, March 18.

Catholic Schools Appeal

We recently received a check in the amount of \$17,762 as our portion of the Annual Catholic Schools Appeal for 2017. The Catholic Schools Appeal is distributed among the Springfield Catholic Schools following a specific formula: 3/5 of the money is divided equally among the eight schools and 2/5 of the money is divided according to enrollment. We are most grateful for this ongoing support!

Box Tops News

Thanks to all of our families who continue to collect box tops for our school! In December we received a check from Box Tops for Education for \$1,649.80. We are so appreciative of all who take the time to save box tops as the funding from them does make a real difference in what we can do as a school. Keep collecting! Look for a Valentine's Day collection sheet coming in February!

Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest

K of C Council #364 is sponsoring their annual free throw contest on Saturday, February 3, at Christ the King School gym. The contest is open to all students, ages 9-14 years. There is no cost to enter. Registration begins at 2:00 p.m., and the contest begins at 2:30 p.m. More information may be found on our school website and is being e-mailed with today's newsletter. You may also contact Mike Stead at mstead.1@att.net or at 217-415-6207.

Warm Clothing for Recess

With the colder weather upon us, we wanted to remind parents that students do go out for recess unless the temperature or wind chill is 20 degrees or below or it is inclement weather. Although a light jacket or sweatshirt may be sufficient to go from the car to our building, the students do need warmer outerwear for 20 minutes of recess time. It can be extremely windy out there! Thanks for your help in guiding your students to dress appropriately for the weather!

New Year's Resolutions and Scrip

Whether you've resolved to eat low-carb, low-fat or low-calorie in 2018, you still need to eat. And you still need to buy groceries. If you shop at Schnucks, make sure you shop with a Schnucks eScrip card - simply hand it to the cashier and B.S.S. magically receives money. If you shop at County Market, Sam's Club, Shop and Save or Target, don't forget to buy Scrip cards EVERY month. If you've never bought scrip or need a Schnucks eScrip card, send an email to scrip@bssbruins.org, and we'll set you up.

Also, please note that special orders for scrip cards will now be placed on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. for pick up on Thursdays. We hope the change will make placing special orders easier for our families!

Gift of Giving Program

The Gift of Giving Program provides students in some of our public schools and at St. Patrick's School the opportunity to choose two presents to give to family members at Christmas. This past December our 8th graders helped at St. Patrick's School on the day the students chose gifts. Not only were they helpful, but they also enjoyed assisting the students. Our preschool teaching assistant, Mrs. Margie

Homeier, oversaw the program at St. Patrick's only this year and will do so again next year. She could use our help in saving new or gently used wrapping items for next year. Please see the list posted on the school website. A list of gift items needed for next year is also included for you to keep in mind throughout the year. A box is located in our main hallway for any donations of wrapping items now. Thanks for your help!

IESA Music Solo/Ensemble Contest

Blessed Sacrament School will provide an opportunity for those interested to participate in the IESA's solo/ensemble music contest. The contest will be held on Saturday, March 17, 2018, at Jacksonville Middle School (**note the corrected location**). Parents are responsible for transporting their own child(ren) to and from the event. The cost is \$10 per individual student entry, and students may enter one or more of the following categories: vocal solo, vocal ensemble (2-8 singers together), piano solo, or vocal choir (6-16 members). While the school is not organizing any specific choirs or musical pieces, any students who currently take private vocal lessons may be eligible to enter under Blessed Sacrament School. The registration fee, along with a copy of the musical selection(s) being performed, is due by Friday, Jan. 26, 2018, to Mrs. Hartman. You may email our music teacher Mrs. Hartman for more information at Hartman@bssbruins.org.

2018 Home Expo Lego Contest

There will be a Lego contest on Saturday and Sunday, February 24 and 25, at the 2018 Home Expo. There is no fee to participate, and there are two age categories. An informational flyer accompanies this newsletter and will be posted on our school website.

Track & Field Workouts

We recently received information about track and field workouts sponsored by Illinois United Sports, which runs indoor meets during the winter and competes throughout the Midwest in the summer outdoor season for a chance to qualify for AAU Junior Olympics. They are offering training sessions for all middle school athletes who plan on running track at their respective schools. Interested students may register on their website. See the flyer posted on our school website for more information.

Looking Ahead

Friday, Jan. 12 –

Family service hours due to be included with 2nd quarter report cards!

Orders for SHG City Tourney apparel due!

3:00-4:00 p.m. – 6th grade auditions for the musical
6:00 p.m. – 7th & 8th grade girls' home volleyball games vs. Decatur Robinson

Monday, Jan. 15 –

No school – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Wednesday, Jan. 17 –

Report Card Day!

5:00 p.m. - 8th graders leave for March for Life Trip

Thursday, Feb. 18 & Friday, Feb. 19

No 0-hour math classes for 8th graders at SHG

Monday, Jan. 22 –

Orders for Bruins Valentine's Day shirts due! – NO LATE ORDERS

8:20 a.m. – All school Mass; wear leadership t-shirts

Tuesday, Jan. 23 –

1:00 p.m. - Joint Catholic schools' 6th grade event for National School Choice at Blessed Sacrament School

Thursday, Jan. 25 –

2:15 p.m. – School Geography Bee in the cafeteria
5:00 p.m. – 6th-8th grade girls' home volleyball games vs. Springfield Christian

Friday, Jan. 26 –

TGIF event for all Catholic schools' 3rd graders at St. Aloysius School

Sunday, Jan. 28 – **Parish Appreciation Day**

Catholic Schools Week Begins!

Monday, Jan. 29 – **Community Awareness Day**

8:20 a.m. – Leadership assembly (wear t-shirts)

1:00 – 2:00 – Read-a-thon in all homerooms

2:00-2:45 – Class buddy reading activities

6:00 p.m. – 7th & 8th grade girls' home volleyball games vs. Rochester

Tuesday, Jan. 30 – **Faith Appreciation Day**

Donuts will be delivered to all classrooms by Fr. Jeff and the deacons

Living rosary led by 8th grade

Wednesday, Jan. 31 – **Parent Appreciation Day**

8:20 a.m. – All-school Mass

Parents are invited to join their children for lunch according to the following schedule:

Last names: O-Z: 11:00-11:30

A-F: 11:30-12:00

G-N: 12:00-12:30

6:00-7:30 p.m. – Parent Appreciation reception in the cafeteria; drawing for \$500 tuition voucher at 7:00

Thursday, Feb. 1 – **Student Appreciation Day**

Hot dog lunch provided for students by PSA

1:45 p.m. – Ned's Kindness Adventure assembly

5:30-7:30 p.m. – Family Roller Skating Night at Skateland South - \$4 per skater

6:00 p.m. – 7th & 8th grade girls' home volleyball games vs. Calvary Academy

Friday, Feb. 2 – **Teacher Appreciation Day**

All read-a-thon donations due!

10:15 a.m. – Faculty vs. 8th grade volleyball game

11:30 a.m. dismissal – No B.A.S.E. available!

11:45a.m. – Teacher Appreciation Luncheon

Please Remember!

Before School Patrols for the Week of Jan. 15-19:

Rachel Evans Tyler Furkin Kevin Gonzalez

Madelyn Hughes Joe Humphrey Kaelin Kelley

After School Patrols for the Week of Jan. 15-19:

Jack Fleischli Gigi Giacomini Rori Hanken

Mass Servers for Jan. 13 & 14:

4:30 p.m. Saturday Emily Leefers, Madailein McKay
 & Liam Noonan

7:00 a.m. Sunday no current BSS students

8:30 a.m. Sunday

10:30 a.m. Sunday

Caroline & Hannah Lambert

Grace Minder, Olivia Redpath &

Jack Ozyurt

Daily Servers for Jan. 15-19:

8:00 a.m. M & W &

8:20 a.m. Tu.

8:00 a.m. Th. &

8:20 a.m. Fri.

Andrew Dailey

& Addison Eades

Henry Kinion

& Eamon Mahoney