

November 30, 2017

+ Blessed Sacrament



School News

Learning to Make a Difference

A Note to Parents

Dear Parents,

I hope all of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving Day and break! With the liturgical season of Advent beginning this coming Sunday, our students will share in our Advent preparations with our weekly Advent wreath ceremony starting Monday, Dec. 4.

In addition, each morning during Advent, the students will also hear about a Jesse Tree symbol, and the symbols will then be displayed on our Jesse Tree by the main entrance to the school. Next week our students in grades 3-8 will receive the sacrament of Reconciliation.

Tomorrow is a regular monthly PSA Spirit Day. Students may wear jeans with any BSS t-shirt, sweatshirt, or jersey for a \$1 donation. This day is included with the pre-paid Spirit Days. Please remember that students must wear a **plain white or plain navy shirt underneath any sleeveless jersey.** (If students want to wear a long sleeve shirt under a t-shirt, those shirts should also be plain white or plain navy.) Students always have the option of wearing uniform shirts untucked with jeans.

Good luck to our 7th and 8th graders who will be performing their speeches at the Springfield Catholic Speech Meet this Saturday, beginning at 9:00 a.m., at Little Flower School. Also, special thanks to Mrs. Hollahan for overseeing and organizing our speech students this year!

Looking ahead, our students will attend an all-school Mass on Friday, Dec. 8, for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. As we move through the Advent season, I hope your family will spend time preparing together for the birth of Christ. I hope this weekend gives you an opportunity for some special family time!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Kathy Wear

Congratulations!

Congratulations to our Bruinettes on their great performance last Tuesday between the boys' basketball games. Their hard work and practice really paid off! We really appreciate Mrs. Taryn Grant's direction of this group and Mrs. Kim Hoffman's organization of the camp and performance.

Congratulations to our 7th and 8th grade girls' IESA basketball teams on their good seasons. Although both teams lost in regional play, they played excellent games and showed great improvement throughout their seasons. Special thanks to 7th grade coaches Scott Eades and Tracey Kelley and 8th grade coaches Karli Adams and Laura Brenneisen!

Corrections to School Directory

Please make the following corrections to our school's directory. The correct email address for Amanda Paz (Luka in kindergarten) is amandapaz80@yahoo.com. The correct phone number for Lana Shovlin (Grace in 2nd grade) is 757-339-6077. We apologize for the errors and any inconvenience!

Barnes and Noble Book Fair Thank You! Thank You!

We appreciate all of the families who supported our annual Barnes and Noble Book Fair last week. It was great to see so many families there throughout the evening. Congratulations to first grader Orlaith Mahoney on winning the raffle for the Bruins Cave and also to sixth grader Ethan Keller and third grader Aayla Horton for winning the drawing to be the first two students to check out the new *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*. Special thanks to our librarians, Mrs. Criscione and Mrs. Allen, for their preparation and coordination of the evening! We are also grateful to Mrs. Hartman for leading the kindergarten and first grade classes in holiday songs.

Scrip Gifts

It's not too soon to think about teacher gifts and stocking stuffers. We have a limited supply of special cards - Barnes & Noble \$5 cards, Panera \$5 Cards, Starbucks \$5 cards and Target \$10 cards. Check out our stocking stuffer order form on the website!

Sponsor - a - Family

Each Christmas, BSS sponsors one family through Catholic Charities. The goal of this program is to provide a complete Christmas for a family who may not otherwise be able to afford one. The faculty and staff donate all the food items to provide a complete Christmas dinner for the family. We ask that each student donate a minimum of \$3 towards the purchase of the gifts for the children. **Please send in your child's donation by Friday, December 8.** Thank you in advance for your generous support!

Christmas Stocking Stuffers

Please help supply candy for the Builders Club's annual Christmas Stocking Stuffers project. This is a school-wide service project, which benefits Catholic Charities' Christmas programs. Students are being asked to bring in specific candies, depending upon their grade level, to insure a variety for our stockings. The list is available on the school website, www.bssbruins.org, and a flyer was sent home earlier this week. **Please send in donations by Tuesday, Dec. 5.**

December Box Tops Collection Contest

A box tops collection sheet is being sent home today with every student. The completed sheets are due on Friday, December 15. Every student who returns a sheet will receive a Christmas treat before vacation, and the class with the most box tops will receive a special treat as well.

SHG Placement Test for 8th Grade Students

All area eighth graders are invited to Sacred Heart-Griffin on Saturday, December 9, from 8:30 until 11:00 a.m. for the placement test for incoming freshmen. Doors open at 8:00 a.m. Students should enter through the circle drive entrance at 1200 W. Washington St. and bring two #2 pencils and a \$10 testing fee. Calculators are allowed. There will be a parent meeting at 8:30 a.m. in the Choral Room where Tuition Manager, Becky Jones, and President, Sr. Katherine O'Connor, will be available to answer questions. For more information, call Stephanie Phillips at 787-1595, ext. 126, or e-mail phillips@shg.org. 8th graders received informational postcards today regarding the placement test and upcoming events for registration for next year.

Thank You Received

We recently received a thank you note from the Illinois Veteran's Home for all of the cards and notes our students sent to them for Veterans' Day. They truly appreciated our thoughtfulness.

Garden Club Reminder

Don't forget that the next meeting of our Garden Club is on Tuesday, Dec. 5, from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. **Students in grades 2-8 are still invited to join the club and participate in the fun learning!** New members interested in the club should attend the Dec. 5th meeting.

Saints Wrestling Team

Once again there will be an IESA Catholic School co-op wrestling team for fifth through eighth grade boys. The first practice was Monday, November 27. However, you may still contact head coach Doug Ludolph at 816-3931 with any questions or if interested.

Athletic Eligibility

We have lots of athletic teams beginning their seasons, and it is a busy time of year with school work and holiday events. However, it is very important for students to stay focused on their school work. Please remind your children participating in BSS sports to work hard to maintain good grades and behavior, especially over the next few weeks. If a student becomes academically ineligible on the last grade check before Christmas break, the student will be ineligible to participate in any practices or games beginning Monday, Dec. 18, through Monday, January 8, when the next eligibility check is completed and goes into effect.

Missionary Childhood Association Art Contest

MCA is sponsoring its annual art contest, and entries must be submitted to the Office for the Missions, 1615 W. Washington, Springfield, IL 62702. Entries will be judged on the diocesan level and local winners announced. The top three

entries from each grade level (K-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8) will be sent to the national MCA office in New York for judging. All entries must arrive in the Office for the Missions by Jan. 15, 2018. Entry forms are available on our website.

K of C Breakfast to Benefit Catholic Schools

Please mark your calendars to attend the Knights of Columbus breakfast buffet on Sunday, Dec. 10, from 8:00 a.m. to noon. The breakfast will be held at the K of C building at 2200 Meadowbrook Road. The cost is \$10 per adult and \$5 per child (ages 6-12). There will also be a 50/50 drawing. Proceeds will go towards tuition assistance for all of our Catholic schools in Springfield. Please see the flyer being sent home today for more details.

In addition, our second grade students will be singing from **10:45 to 11:10 a.m.** at the breakfast. **(Please note that the performance time has changed to 15 minutes earlier than previously scheduled.)** We hope many of you will plan to attend and support our schools by eating breakfast there!

Advent by Candlelight, December 5th

All of the tickets for Advent by Candlelight have officially SOLD OUT! Does your student need service hours? If you know of an 8th grader (BSS or PSR) or SHG student who's interested in helping serve hot drinks that night, we need eight servers from 6-8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 5. Male volunteers should wear dark pants, a white shirt, and a tie; girl volunteers should wear a dark skirt, a white shirt, and dark tights. Interested volunteers should contact Sally Petrone at 217-341-9088 or at sallyannpetrone@gmail.com.

If you're planning on attending Advent by Candlelight and would like to make a dessert, please contact Sheri Dhabalt at 217-414-1472 with your email address and what you'd like to bake. BSS doors will open at 5:45 p.m. for the event and it will end around 8:30 p.m. Thank you, HSHS St. John's Hospital, for helping the Blessed Sacrament Women's Club sponsor this special night of Advent celebration.

Boy Scouts' Poinsettia Sale & Donut Sunday

Blessed Sacrament Boy Scout Troop 31 will be selling poinsettias after Masses this weekend and would like to invite everyone to the cafeteria after Masses on Sunday for coffee and donuts.

Holly Fair

St. Anthony Greek Orthodox Church at 1600 S. Glenwood is hosting its Annual Holly Fair & Bake Sale this Saturday, Dec. 2, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Greek pastries and food will be available to eat in or take out. See the flyer posted on the school website for more details.

Live Performance

Tolton: From Slave to Priest is a professional Catholic theater production based on the life of Fr. Augustus Tolton. If you missed the powerful performance in November at the Cathedral, you are invited to attend a performance this Saturday, Dec. 2, at 6:30 p.m. in the Dominican Hall/Auditorium at the Sacred Heart-Griffin East Campus, 1200 W. Washington Street. The program is suitable for ages

10 and up, and a free-will offering will be accepted at the door. For more information, please see the informational flyer on our website or call the Dominican Sisters of Springfield at 787-0481.

Catholic School Pee Wee Basketball League

Please see the information posted on our school website for information about a peewee basketball league hosted by Cathedral and St. Aloysius Schools. The league is open to students from pre-k through fourth grade and begins in January. Registration is due by December 14.

Smart Apps for Kids

Smart Apps for Kids is a website that compiles a list of various apps available for children in a variety of age and interest categories. They also highlight different apps on "free app Fridays," when some apps may be downloaded for free. The website is www.smartappsforkids.com.

Camps and Events in the Community...

The Little Gym is hosting Holiday Camps for children ages 3-8 years old. The schedule and contact information is posted on our school website.

UIS is hosting several winter baseball camps for players ages 5-12 years. A flyer with the schedule and complete information is posted on our school website. Looking forward to next year's state fair already?

State Fair Mega Passes are now on sale for a discounted price of \$60 through December 31. They make a great Christmas stocking stuffer! More information may be found online.

Looking Ahead

Friday, Dec. 1 –

PSA Spirit Day (included in prepaid days)

2:15 p.m. – First Friday Benediction for gr. 2-8

Saturday, Dec. 2 –

9:00 a.m. – Speech meet at Little Flower

Sunday, Dec. 3 –

Boy Scouts' Donut Sunday in the cafeteria & poinsettias available for purchase after Masses

Monday, Dec. 4 –

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

6:00 p.m. – 7th & 8th grade IESA boys' home basketball games vs. New Berlin

Tuesday, Dec. 5 –

Candy donations for stockings due!

Reconciliation for **grades 3-5 (grade level change)**

3:00-4:00 p.m. – Garden Club meeting

5:30 p.m. – Women's Club Advent by Candlelight in the cafeteria

Wednesday, Dec. 6 –

Reconciliation for **grades 6-8 (grade level change)**

Thursday, Dec. 7 –

6:00 p.m. – 7th & 8th grade IESA boys' home basketball games vs. Mt. Pulaski

Friday, Dec. 8 –

Donations for Sponsor-a-Family due!

8:20 a.m. – All-school Mass (Feast of the Immaculate Conception)

After Mass – Builders Club/all students stuffing stockings for Catholic Charities

Saturday, Dec. 9 –

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

Sunday, Dec. 10 –

8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. – K of C breakfast to benefit Catholic schools (**2nd grade sings at 10:45 a.m. during the breakfast—please note the earlier time**)

1:00 p.m. – Mrs. Carter's first grade Christmas program in the cafeteria

3:00 p.m. – Mrs. Kuhlman's first grade Christmas program in the cafeteria

Monday, Dec. 11 –

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

Wednesday, Dec. 13 –

1:30 p.m. – Early dismissal for faculty meeting; after-school care at B.A.S.E. available

Thursday, Dec. 14 –

10:00 a.m. – Mrs. Senger's third grade Christmas program in the cafeteria

1:30 p.m. – Ms. Williamson's third grade Christmas program in the cafeteria

Friday, Dec. 15 –

Box Tops Christmas sheets due!

Monday, Dec. 18 –

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

6:00 p.m. – 7th & 8th grade IESA boys' home basketball games vs. St. Agnes

Tuesday, Dec. 19 –

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

Wednesday, Dec. 20 –

Classroom Christmas parties

11:30 a.m. dismissal – NO B.A.S.E. today!!

Thursday, Dec. 21- Wednesday, Jan. 3

No school – Christmas vacation

Thursday, Jan. 4 –

Classes resume

Please Remember!

Before School Patrols for the Week of Dec. 4-8:

Jack Fleischli Gigi Giacomini Rori Hanken

Bill Hollahan Brannon Kelley Elliott Kren

After School Patrols for the Week of Dec. 4-8:

Lennon Long Giovanni Luparell

Lindsay Madonia Carly Martin

Mass Servers for Dec. 2 & 3:

4:30 p.m. Saturday Cameron Booker

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

8:30 a.m. Sunday Quinn Butler & Liam Egizii

10:30 a.m. Sunday Will and Sam DeSalle

Daily Servers for Dec. 4-8:

8:00 a.m. M & W & Bill Hollahan

8:20 a.m. Tu. & Elliott Kren

8:00 a.m. Th. & Jack Fleischli

8:20 a.m. Fri. & Grace Klenke