

August 24, 2017

+ Blessed Sacrament



School News

Learning to Make a Difference

A Note to Parents

Dear Parents,

We have had a wonderful start to the school year and have been blessed with beautiful weather, too. We hope your children are as excited about the new school year as we are!

On Monday, our first day of attendance, we had the added excitement of viewing the solar eclipse. It was quite an amazing experience, and we are so happy that our students were able to participate and that many parents joined us for the event. We extend a special thanks to B.S.S. grandparents, Dan and Peggy Cadigan, for generously donating the funds to provide the solar eclipse glasses for our students, faculty, and staff.

Tomorrow, Friday, Aug. 25, we will celebrate our first all-school Mass. As always, parents are invited to join us at the 8:20 a.m. Mass. Students in grades 2-5 will attend weekly Mass on Wednesdays this year, and students in grades 6-8 will attend weekly Mass on Fridays. We usually have all-school Masses once a month, and students in grades 2-8 attend First Friday adoration several times during the year.

Tomorrow we will also have our first PSA-sponsored Spirit Day of the year. For a \$1 donation, students may wear any official BSS Spirit Day t-shirt, any sports team shirt, or the uniform shirt untucked with jeans or uniform shorts, pants, or skirts. (No other shorts are allowed.) If a jersey is worn, a plain white short-sleeved shirt should be worn underneath the jersey. The sports team shirts are not usually included in our regular Spirit Days but are acceptable this week as many families do not yet have a Spirit Day shirt.

Again this year, families had the option of paying for the regular monthly Spirit Days in advance on Fee Night. Our Spirit Day tomorrow, Friday, Aug. 25, and the one next Friday, Sept. 1, are included for families who already paid the fee on Fee Night. All those who did not opt to pay for Spirit Days in advance must send in \$1 per student in order for their child to participate. **PSA will also be giving families the opportunity to purchase a different style of shirt for Spirit Days with order forms coming home soon.** These are not required purchases, but they are fun shirts to promote school spirit!

Thanks for all you do to support our school! Enjoy your weekend!

*Sincerely,
Mrs. Kathy Wear*

Welcome!

We extend a warm welcome to our kindergarten, pre-kindergarten students, and preschoolers who began or will begin their official school year this week. We also welcome all of our new students in the various other grades: first graders Frankie Bollero, Ella Fields, Jack Schwoerer, and

Caleb West, second graders Eva Bonnett, Annaliese Hofner, Grace Shovlin, and Lilly Zurawski, third graders Lizzy Hermanek and Anna West, fourth graders Rori Foley and Andrew Hofner, fifth grader Julia Rolens, sixth graders Jonny Albrecht and Ryan Huddle, and eighth grader Kennedy Schempp.

In addition, we know you will join us in welcoming the newest members of our faculty and staff. They include Mrs. Nicole Kuhlman, first grade teacher, Ms. Makinzie Yoho, second grade teacher, and Mrs. Dawn Klinner, fourth grade teacher, as well as Mrs. Molly Fleischli as a preschool aide in Mrs. Stauffer's class. We also welcome Mrs. Lisa Sarnowski as our parish financial manager, Mr. Ed VonDeBur as our new maintenance manager, and Mrs. Laura Horton as our new school financial manager. We are happy to have all of them among the newest members of our school community!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The 48th Annual Fall Festival Dinner and Auction for Blessed Sacrament School is coming soon on Saturday, September 30. Save the date! Check out the *All Things Auction* flyer being sent home today with the youngest child. The links for ticket registration and volunteer opportunities are included as well as information about sponsorships, advertisements, raffles, the dinner, and much more!! Be a part of this fun event and support the school at the same time!

Hot Lunch News

Hot lunches will begin Monday, August 28, for those who preordered their lunches for August and September. We are pleased to have Fritz's serving our Tuesday and Thursday hot lunches once again this year, and the 8th grade parents are coordinating with Jimmy John's and Pizza Hut to provide the lunch items on Monday and Wednesday.

Our ever-popular Friday hot lunches will return again this year, coordinated by Anne Short on behalf of the PSA. The items will include walking tacos, nachos, popcorn, and pretzels. A menu listing available items and their prices will be sent home next week. Students are to bring the necessary amount of money needed for their Friday lunch if they choose to purchase items. We are still counting on our Friday hot lunch volunteers to assist us again this year, and new volunteers are always welcome. If interested, please come to the cafeteria at 10:45 on Fridays. We appreciate all of our hot lunch volunteers' time and dedication!

Update on Lucy Wallner & Health Reminders

As many of you know, one of our first graders, Lucy Wallner, was diagnosed with leukemia this past May. Lucy had very positive results from her first round of treatments, but she is still receiving chemotherapy, which causes her to have a

lower immune system. This means Lucy can catch illnesses very easily, and a simple fever may result in an emergency room visit or a hospital stay for her. Due to her treatment plan, Lucy will be in attendance at school through September and then, hopefully, will return in April for the last two months of school.

To help Lucy and all of our students stay healthy, please remember that students should not be sent to school until they are **fever free for 24 hours**. If students have flu symptoms late at night or early in the morning, we advise that students should stay home. Also, with many illnesses, including strep throat and scarlet fever, students should not return to school until 24 hours after the time the antibiotic treatment started. Please let the office know if your child has been diagnosed or has been around any siblings or family members with chicken pox/shingles or measles as these also are very dangerous for Lucy. Please continue to keep Lucy and her family in your prayers. Thanks for your help in making sure all of our students have a healthy school year!

Band Meeting

Students in grades 4-8 will be able to participate in our Springfield Catholic Elementary Schools' Band this year. Theresa O'Hare is the new band director, and students will continue to have weekly lessons at our school. Ms. O'Hare will visit our school on Friday, Sept. 8, to share information about the band program with our 4th and 5th graders and any interested students in grades 6-8. On Sunday, September 17, there will be an informational meeting for parents and students from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the Sacred Heart-Griffin band room. The meeting will include a demonstration of various instruments as well as the opportunity to rent instruments, meet with band instructors, and purchase supplies. Representatives from Boyd's Music will be there. Mark your calendar to attend and find out how you can be a part of this exciting opportunity!

Engrade, Online Behavior Reports & Class Dojo

Once again, we are utilizing EngradePro for online grade access for parents and students in K-8. All teachers will have grades updated every Monday by 5:00 p.m. although some may choose to update grades throughout the week. Parents will also be able to view assignments, check attendance, and also communicate with the teachers through the Engrade message system. There is now an app available for both IOS and Android operating systems. *If you communicate with the teachers through Engrade, please indicate that you are the parent as the student and parent communication goes through the same account, and it is sometimes difficult for the teachers to determine who is writing the message.*

Returning students and their families may use the same Engrade password and log-in information that you had last year. All new students and their families should receive an e-mail no later than tomorrow with their usernames and passwords. Both are case-sensitive. Please contact Mrs. Burke if you do not receive this information or have difficulty accessing your account from last year. We are able to reset your password if necessary. We appreciate your

understanding and patience as we work out any problems and make any necessary adjustments in the upcoming weeks.

Again this year, grades 4-8 will also utilize Engrade for tracking behavior reports. Each child has a specific class labeled behavior. Parents and students will be able to see if a child received a pink slip by accessing that particular page. The behavior page will be updated by the homeroom teachers daily by 3:30 p.m. Please note that pink slips, with details of any infractions, will still come home with the child for a parent signature and must be returned the next day.

Students in the all-day Pre-K through grade 3 are using a program entitled Class Dojo for online behavior reports. This format, which is more appropriate for younger students, allows parents to view their children's behavior reports online in real time. There is a strong emphasis on reinforcing positive behavior with this program, although it will also show areas that need improvement. The teachers will incorporate this system to fit within their individual classroom management systems. By the end of next week, all parents in those grades should receive information about how to log on to your child's Dojo account.

Back to School Night

Mark your calendars for our annual Parent Back-to-School Night next Wednesday, August 30. The event will begin at 6:30 p.m. and end at 7:30 p.m. This year there will not be a general meeting to begin the evening. Upon arrival parents may proceed directly to the classrooms to visit the rooms and meet the teachers. The teachers will give short presentations for parents at 6:30, 6:50, and 7:10 p.m. We hope this time frame with repeated presentations will allow parents to visit different classrooms if they have more than one child or if they want to hear from the various teachers in grades 5-8, which are departmentalized, or from the teachers of our specials classes.

The Scholastic Book Fair will also be open that evening, and several organizations will have information available at tables in the cafeteria. PSA will have more information about their spirit wear as well as information about the upcoming wrapping paper and cooking items fundraiser. There will also be a sign-up in the cafeteria for an extra Spirit Day for classes with the highest percentage of parents in attendance as well as entries for a drawing for scrip cards for parents. This is a great way to become familiar with the BSS community! Hope to see you there!

Scholastic Book Fair Is Coming!

The Scholastic Book Fair will be at Blessed Sacrament School for a week, August 30-September 6. The fair will be open during Back-to-School Night on Wednesday, August 30, and after all Masses the weekend of Sept. 2 & 3. Classes will visit the book fair during their library periods, August 31-September 6.

Working the book fair is a great opportunity to help the students, earn service hours, and shop! We are still in need of some volunteers throughout the school days as well as after Masses that weekend. If you are interested in volunteering, please email librarian Sarah Allen at allen@bssbruins.org. The profit from this fair benefits the

school library, so we appreciate your help in making this a success!

Seventh and Eighth Grade Spanish Elective

Due to scheduling constraints, Spanish will again be offered as an elective for interested seventh and eighth grade students. The classes will meet during their study hall from 2:30 – 3:00 p.m. once a week. The eighth graders will meet on Thursdays, and the seventh graders will meet on Fridays. An informational sign-up sheet is being sent home with them today and is due back on Monday, August 28. Each class will be limited to 30 students on a first come-first serve basis. The classes will begin next week.

General Mills Box Tops for Education

Once again, BSS will continue to collect box tops throughout the school year. Congratulations to the Barnard family who won the Fee Night box tops drawing and earned \$50 off this year's tuition!

New this year is a free and easy way to earn box tops in addition to the ones you clip. You may now download the app, select the offers you want, buy the products and scan your grocery receipt to earn even more box tops. Get the details at www.BTFE.com/bonusapp. You may also go to the website to learn more about online promotions and bonus box tops codes.

Fee Night Scrip Contest Winners!

All families that purchased \$100 of scrip at Fee Night were eligible for a drawing for scrip prizes. Congratulations to Pam and Kris Smith who won \$50 of scrip!! Five other families also won free scrip gifts (Cook, Hager, Kniery, Riedell and Wilbern). Check out the next article for more ways to utilize scrip!

Back to School = Back to Scrip

Scrip is easy to purchase! Complete the scrip order form on the school website, attach a check and send it with your child to school. The completed order will be delivered through your child's classroom or may be picked in the school office.

If you still need uniforms, we have Luers scrip. If you need MORE school supplies for assignments at home, we have cards for Sam's Club, Target and Walmart. If the back-to-school routine calls for a special treat...pick up scrip for ice cream at Baskin Robbins, Coldstone or Dairy Queen or take the whole family out for dinner – we have MANY different options for dining out!

8th Grade Parent Meeting

At least one parent of each eighth grader is asked to attend a meeting next Wednesday, Aug. 30, before the open house at 6:00 p.m. in the gym. Eighth grade activities as well as related committees and fundraising will be discussed. Please plan to attend as all parents are required to be involved!

Requirements for Volunteering at School

Effective July 1, 2012, any individual volunteering in any capacity in our parish or school must attend a training of Protecting God's Children and have a background check.

Once you have attended the training, you never have to attend another session. However, if your background check was completed more than five years ago, it must be completed again. (The forms for the background check were included in the Fee Night packet.) Very soon we will be starting to ask for chaperones for field trips and volunteers for our lunches. To volunteer, you must meet these requirements.

There are usually several sessions scheduled for dates and locations in Springfield or within close proximity. Please check for an updated schedule on the Diocesan website, www.dio.org. Check upcoming newsletters for a session at Blessed Sacrament.

Leadership T-Shirts

This year all students are being provided with a t-shirt with a logo of *Holy Spirit Power* to go along with our super heroes theme. The shirt will also include the Bible verse "Love one another as I love you" as we focus on the virtue of charity. Our leadership assemblies will be held on Mondays mornings this year. **Once the t-shirts arrive, students should wear their leadership t-shirts every Monday even if we do not have an assembly on a Monday.** These shirts may also be worn on Spirit Days, which are typically the first Friday of the month.

Arrival & Dismissal Procedures

We know the first week back to school is somewhat unusual as many parents are parking and walking their children into the building. We appreciate all of you following the directions of the teachers and the student patrols as we direct cars for our arrival and dismissal procedures this year. We ask anyone who wants to park and walk their child(ren) into the school to park in the spaces closer to the field and, if possible, park so that you do not have to back out into the drop-off lane. All other cars should proceed to the next lane of traffic to drop off students. (Cars dropping off students can also enter from Walnut into the additional drop-off lane.)

For dismissal procedures, please refer to the back of the diagram in your Fee Night packet for parking directions. **Please remember to park facing east in the lot, facing Walnut Street, with the exception of those cars backed into the places in the lot adjacent to the Walnut Street sidewalk.** We ask that you pull all the way forward into the first space available so that we may accommodate the maximum number of cars and avoid cars having to back into spaces as much as possible. The first whistle indicates that everyone should go to their cars to prepare for dismissal. The next series of three whistles indicates that dismissal is beginning. **Cars should leave the parking lot only after being directed to do so by the patrols.** Students who are late leaving the school building will be asked to wait until all cars have been dismissed so that they are not trying to walk through moving traffic. We appreciate your help in keeping our students safe!

Choir Opportunities

There will be a Chorister Church Choir directed by Mrs. Jody Kienzler this semester. The age group for this choir is 3rd-5th grades. The choir will be rehearsing on the Saturday that they sing at Mass, which will generally be the 4th Saturday

of the month. The very first rehearsal will be Saturday, Sept. 23, from 3:15-4:15 p.m. in the church music room. At the conclusion of the rehearsal, the choir will sing at the 4:30 p.m. Mass. The faithful from this choir will be chosen to sing in the Jubilate Choir next year. Please call the church office, 528-7521, if you have questions or want to register. Hope you'll be able to join them in September!

Garden Club

Our garden looks beautiful, thanks to a core group of volunteers who watered the garden throughout the summer. Special thanks to Julie Roland and Michelle Townsend who lead our Garden Club activities. This year, the Garden Club will meet after school on the first Tuesday of every month, September – November and March – May. Interested students will have the opportunity to sign-up at school next week.

Looking Ahead

Thursday, Aug. 24 –
7:00 p.m. – Meeting in the cafeteria for parents and students interested in girls' basketball

Friday, Aug. 25 –
First day of school for MWF PreK
PSA Spirit Day -\$1 donation (covered by pre-paid fee)
8:20 a.m. all-school Mass

Monday, Aug. 28 –
Hot lunches begin for those who pre-ordered
8:30 a.m. – Leadership assembly in cafeteria

Wednesday, Aug. 30 –
8:20 a.m. weekly Mass begins for grades 2-5
6:00 p.m. – 8th grade parent meeting in the gym
6:30-7:30 p.m. – **Parent Open House**; Scholastic Book Fair open during this evening

Thursday, Aug. 31 – Wednesday, Sept. 6 -
Scholastic Book Fair open for students

Friday, Sept. 1 –
PSA Spirit Day - \$1 donation (covered by pre-paid fee)
8:20 a.m. weekly Mass begins for grades 6-8
2:15 p.m. – First Friday adoration (grades 2-8)

Saturday, Sept. 2 & Sunday, Sept. 3 –
Scholastic Book Fair open after Masses

Monday, Sept. 4 –
No school in observance of Labor Day

Tuesday, Sept. 5 –
1:45 p.m. - Starter Strings presentation for grades 3-5
3:00-4:00 p.m. – Garden Club meeting

Wednesday, Sept. 6 –
Scholastic Book Fair closes at end of day

Friday, Sept. 8 –
8:20 a.m. – All-school Mass
1:00 p.m. – Band assembly for grades 4 & 5 & interested students in grades 6-8

Monday, Sept. 11
8:20 a.m. – Leadership assembly (wear t-shirt)

Wednesday, Sept. 13 –
1:30 p.m. dismissal for faculty meeting;
BASE available!

Monday, Sept. 18 –
8:20 a.m. – Leadership assembly (wear t-shirts)
Mid-quarter progress reports for grades 2-8

Tuesday, Sept. 19 –
Vision and hearing screenings

Wednesday, Sept. 20 –
8:30 a.m. - Windy City Players performance for Pre-K-4th grade

Friday, Sept. 22 –
Vision/hearing screenings for MWF Pre-K and re-screenings

Monday, Sept. 25 –
8:20 a.m. – Leadership assembly (wear t-shirts)

Friday, Sept. 29 –
Children's Auction Raffle drawings
Coleman's Cozy Dog Auction Lunch
1:30 p.m. dismissal – No BASE available!

Saturday, Sept. 30 –
5:30 p.m. - Annual Parish/School Auction

Please Remember!

Before School Patrols for the Week of Aug. 28 – Sept. 1:

Xuah Dinh Addison Eades Carter Etheridge
Rachel Evans Tyler Furkin Kevin Gonzalez

After School Patrols for the Week of Aug. 28– Sept. 1:

Joseph Cloyd Chloe Coffey Andrew Dailey

Mass Servers for Aug. 26 & 27:

(only BSS students listed)

4:30 p.m. Saturday	Ethan Keller, Cameron Booker & Brady Maloy
7:00 a.m. Sunday	(no current BSS students)
8:30 a.m. Sunday	Andrew Reimers
10:30 a.m. Sunday	(no current BSS students)

Daily Servers for Aug. 28- Sept. 1:

8:00 a.m. M & W &	Ben Wilson
8:20 a.m. Tu.	& Maddie McKay
8:00 a.m. Th. &	Blake White
8:20 a.m. Fri.	& Spencer Wood