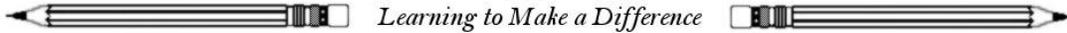


December 14, 2017

+ Blessed Sacrament



School News



Learning to Make a Difference

A Note to Parents

Dear Parents,

It has been wonderful to have so many of our families attend our Christmas programs this week. We know our students have been thrilled to share their songs and plays with you. The first graders' performances on Sunday and the third graders' performances today all spread the joy of the Christmas season. We also are looking forward to our kindergartners' program next Tuesday morning! I extend a special thanks to the teachers and the teaching assistants who make these events so memorable.

Thank you, also, to everyone who supported the Knights of Columbus breakfast to benefit Catholic schools last Sunday. Our second graders did a very nice job of performing under the direction of Mrs. Hartman.

Looking ahead, Wednesday, Dec. 20, will be a Christmas Spirit Day for all students. Students may wear BSS shirts, Christmas shirts, or red or green shirts with jeans as a special treat from the faculty and PSA. There will be no charge for this Christmas Spirit Day. All regular Spirit Day guidelines apply.

Please remember that Wednesday, Dec. 20, is an early dismissal day with students being dismissed at 11:30 a.m. B.A.S.E. will NOT be provided.

As next week is so short, this will be the last newsletter for 2017! On behalf of the faculty and staff, I thank you for all your warm greetings of the season and for your thoughtfulness and generosity to all of us all year long. I hope you and your children are able to share family time to celebrate the birth of Christ and also enjoy a relaxing Christmas vacation!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Kathy Wear

Congratulations!

Congratulations to our all day pre-k teacher Mrs. Emily Erickson and her husband Jon on the birth of their son, Frederick Jamie, on Sunday, December 10. Freddy was 6 lbs., 10.9 oz. and 19.5 inches long. Congratulations, also, to Freddy's grandma, Mrs. Debbie Adams, one of our kindergarten teachers.

Congratulations to Lana and James Shovlin on the birth of their son, Leo Gerard Shovlin, last Thursday, December 7. Leo was 7 lbs., 7 oz. and 19 ¾ inches long. Congratulations, also, to Leo's big sisters, Grace in 2nd grade and Cecelia in Pre-K!

Christmas Service Projects

Each year our students and faculty provide gifts and food for a needy family identified through Catholic Charities.

This year, our school was assigned two families. Our school families generously donated a little over \$1,300 to purchase gifts and gift cards for these families. Additionally, the teachers donated all of the food to provide for their holiday dinners and beyond. We thank you for your generosity in helping those less fortunate families!

The Builders Club is most grateful for the generous candy donations for their Stocking Stuffers project. Last Friday, all of the students took part in assembling over 1,000 stockings to be distributed through Catholic Charities. The Builders Club also assembled an additional 146 stockings for Home Instead Senior Care.

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. 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!

Safety Reminder!

Please remember that students are not to be dropped off in the morning prior to 7:45 a.m. There is no one available to supervise them outside prior to that time, and it is not safe for children to be left unattended on the playground. Any students arriving before 7:45 a.m. will be taken into the before-school care program and assessed the appropriate fee. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping all students safe.

January Hot Lunch Orders

Hot lunch order forms for January accompany today's newsletter. **The forms are due on Monday, Dec. 18.**

Ginger Who???

Get into the spirit of the season by creating a gingerbread man "cookie" decorated as your favorite book character for our school library! The gingerbread man template and instructions are attached to today's newsletter and posted on our school website as well. Please submit all completed cookies to Mrs. Allen or Mrs. Criscione in our library by **tomorrow, Friday, December 15.** They will remain on display into January. Be creative and have fun!

It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like "Scrip-mas"

Done with your shopping? If you still need a few gift cards, send in your Scrip form - we guarantee all purchases made by Friday, December 15, will be filled before Christmas break (even special orders). If you're done shopping, it's time

to buy some gift cards for yourself - see our attached Christmas Scrip Ideas flyer! **The last day for all scrip sales over the holidays is Wednesday, Dec. 20, at 11:30 a.m.**

Scholarship Tax Credit

Last summer, the General Assembly passed the "Invest in Kids Act" that will allow Illinois taxpayers to receive a tax credit for donations to Catholic schools for scholarships administered through an SGO – Scholarship Granting Organization. Empower Illinois (<https://empowerillinois.org>) will be the SGO for the Springfield diocese and will begin accepting applications for scholarships on January 1, 2018. The tax credits for donors will be available first-come, first-serve, beginning on January 2, 2018, and will allow donors to receive a 75 percent credit toward their state income taxes. Donors must establish an account through the Department of Revenue prior to taking advantage of the tax credit. There is a \$100 million cap on the scholarships, and it is likely that corporate donors will be quickly taking advantage of the program. Individual taxpayers are allowed to designate a specific school for their donations. For more information, please visit the above website, and/or contact your tax advisor.

Leadership T-Shirts

We have had some inquiries about purchasing additional leadership t-shirts. We are able to order additional shirts if we have a minimum order of 10. Shirts are \$7 each and are available in Youth XS-L and Adult S-3X sizes. Please contact Michele Greenwood at 522-7534, ext. 201, if you are interested in purchasing an additional leadership shirt. If we have enough interest, we will place an order as soon as possible.

December Box Tops Collection Contest

A box tops collection sheet was sent home last week with every student. The completed sheets are due tomorrow, 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 Makeup Placement Test for 8th Grade Students

All area eighth graders are invited to Sacred Heart-Griffin on Saturday, January 6, from 8:30 until 11:00 a.m. for the placement test makeup 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. **Pre-registration for the makeup test is required. Please contact Stephanie Phillips at 787-1595 ext. 126, or at phillips@shg.org to register.**

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.

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.

UIS Winter Baseball Camps

UIS is hosting several winter baseball camps for players ages 5-12 years. If you missed the December camp, there are additional camps in January and February. A flyer with the schedule and complete information is posted on our school website.

Camps and Events in the Community...

Mini O'Beirne Crisis Nursery's annual Children's Holiday Store is open every day from December 2nd – December 23 at 1748 Wabash (next to Planet Fitness). Please see the flyer posted on our website for specific hours and details. All items are between \$1 and \$15.

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.

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. 15 –

Box Tops Christmas sheets due!

Gingerbread characters for the library 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

1:00 p.m. – Practice for altar servers for Christmas Masses

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
 6:00 p.m. – 7th & 8th grade boys' IESA basketball home games vs. Christ the King

Friday, Jan. 5 –
 PSA Spirit Day (included in prepaid days)
 8:20 a.m. – All-school Mass

Monday, Jan. 8 –
 8:20 a.m. – Leadership assembly (wear t-shirts)
 6:00 p.m. – 7th & 8th grade boys' IESA basketball home games vs. Calvary Academy

Tuesday, Jan. 9 –
 End of 2nd Quarter!
 4:30 p.m. – 7th & 8th grade boys' IESA basketball home games vs. Lincoln Magnet/Ball Charter

Wednesday, Jan. 10 –
 1:30 p.m. – Early dismissal for faculty meeting; after-school care at B.A.S.E. available

Monday, Jan. 15 –
 No school – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Wednesday, Jan. 17 –
 Report Card Day!
 8th graders leave for March for Life Trip

Monday, Jan. 22 –
 8:20 a.m. – Leadership assembly (wear t-shirts)

Tuesday, Jan. 23 –
 Joint Springfield Catholic schools' 6th grade event for National School Choice at Blessed Sacrament School

Thursday, Jan. 25 –
 5:00 p.m. – 6th-8th grade girls' volleyball home games vs. Springfield Christian

Friday, Jan. 26 –
 TGIF event for all Springfield Catholic schools' 3rd graders at St. Aloysius School

Sunday, Jan. 28 –
 Catholic Schools Week begins!

Monday, Jan. 29 –
 8:20 a.m. – Leadership assembly (wear t-shirts)
 6:00 p.m. – 7th & 8th grade girls' volleyball home games vs. Rochester

Wednesday, Jan. 31 –
 8:20 a.m. – All-school Mass

Thursday, Feb. 1 –
 6:00 p.m. – 7th & 8th grade girls' volleyball home games vs. Calvary Academy

Friday, Feb. 2 –
 11:30 a.m. dismissal – No B.A.S.E. available!

Please Remember!

Before School Patrols for the Week of Dec. 18-20:

Addison Schneller	Ethan Short	Gabriella Stone
Madi Sweeney	Riley VanZuiden	
Taylor Verry	Blake White	

After School Patrols for the Week of Dec. 18-20:

Noah Ward	Adam Wentz	Jeffrey Wernsing
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Before School Patrols for the Week of Jan. 4-5:

Elizabeth Allen	Cameron Booker	Connor Brown
Joseph Cloyd	Chloe Coffey	Andrew Dailey

After School Patrols for the Week of Jan. 4-5:

Carter Anderson	Dylan Anderson	Portia Apostol
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Mass Servers for Dec. 16 & 17:

4:30 p.m. Saturday	Mitch Dye
7:00 a.m. Sunday	Brady Maloy
8:30 a.m. Sunday	Henry Kinion, Ethan Short & Eamon Mahoney
10:30 a.m. Sunday	Agnes Cross, Andrew Dailey & Grace Minder

Daily Servers for Dec. 18-22:

8:00 a.m. M & W &	Madeline Landgrebe & Emily Leefers
8:20 a.m. Tu.	
8:00 a.m. Th. &	Caroline Lambert & Hannah Lambert
8:20 a.m. Fri.	

Mass Servers for Dec. 23 & 24:

4:30 p.m. Saturday	no current BSS students
7:00 a.m. Sunday	Jeffrey Wernsing
8:30 a.m. Sunday	Finn Loken & Taylor Verry
10:30 a.m. Sunday	Annie Mizour

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Servers:

Please see the separate schedule from the parish office.

Daily Servers for Dec. 26-29:

8:00 a.m. M & W &	Maddie McKay & Olivia Redpath
8:20 a.m. Tu.	
8:00 a.m. Th. &	Jackson Pitz & Frank Sluga
8:20 a.m. Fri.	