

February 22, 2018

+ Blessed Sacrament



School News

Learning to Make a Difference

A Note to Parents

Dear Parents,

Our students are preparing for Easter during this season of Lent. Students continue to be recognized for their acts of kindness with purple slips, and our cross in the cafeteria is starting to be filled in with purple. On Tuesday our sixth through eighth graders received the sacrament of Reconciliation, and tomorrow our second through fifth graders will receive that sacrament. Please continue to keep all of us in your prayers during this Lenten season.

PSA will be selling Lenten lunch items tomorrow. The following items will be for sale: popcorn (.50), pretzel with cheese (\$3.00) and nachos with cheese (\$2.00 or \$2.50 with extra cheese). We will not offer walking tacos with meat throughout Lent. Please plan for your children's lunches accordingly.

Looking ahead, our students in grades 1-8 will be completing Iowa Assessments (standardized testing) the week of March 5-9. (In previous years students completed these assessments in September, but the Diocese changed the testing time frame after input from teachers.) Please make sure your children have plenty of rest, have a good breakfast, and are not missing school for appointments during this testing week. Although we will complete make-up testing the week of March 12-16, it is much easier if students do not have to miss their regular classes the next week to finish the testing. Thanks for your cooperation in helping your children to do their best!

The end of the third quarter is the following week on Wednesday, March 14, so please support your children in completing their regular school work, especially as next week will be the last full week of all classes before the quarter ends.

Enjoy the weekend with your children!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Kathy Wear

2018-2019 Tuition Rates

After consultation with the Finance Council and the School Board, the tuition rates for the 2018-2019 school year will remain the same as they are this year. The registration fee will again be \$75 per child. The rates are:

1 child -	\$3,925
2 children -	\$5,975
3+ children -	\$7,925
Non-Parish -	\$5,400 per child

Preschool/pre-K tuition rates for the 2018-2019 school year are as follows:

Tu/Th preschool	\$1,100
MWF pre-K	\$1,400
All-day pre-K	\$3,925

Each year we strive to keep tuition costs manageable for families while at the same time being fiscally responsible. Thanks to the ongoing generosity of our families and parishioners and the success of our fundraising efforts, we are able to do so with no tuition increases for next school year. We are especially grateful to our parish for the subsidy that they provide for every student in our school each year. We are blessed by their support and partnership in providing a strong Catholic education to the children in our parish school.

Men's Club Fish Fry

The next Men's Club Fish Fry is tomorrow, Friday, Feb. 23, from **5:00 to 7:00 p.m.** in the school cafeteria. (See the flyer posted online for food and prices.) Last week, the gym was open **beginning at 5:30 p.m.** as an area for children to play. We had close to 100 children with 10 adult chaperones. **In order for us to continue to offer this opportunity, we are in need of enough parent chaperones each week to provide adequate supervision.** If your child/children used the gym last Friday and will be using the gym tomorrow evening, please consider taking your turn and helping out in this way. You will earn family service hours, too! If you would be available to cover a shift (5:30-6:15 p.m. or 6:15-7:00 p.m.) tomorrow, please call the school office and indicate your availability. **If we do not have enough chaperones, the gym will not be open.** The parking lot and field will remain off limits for children, whether the gym is open or not. The safety of children during the fish fry is our main concern. We appreciate your cooperation and help!

Scholastic Book Fair Is Coming!

Our spring Scholastic Book Fair, *Paws to Read*, will be held February 23 – March 2. We are in need of volunteers to staff the book fair during the school day, February 26 – March 2. We will also have the book fair open on Friday evening, February 23, during the Men's Club Fish Fry and would appreciate volunteers that evening as well. Working the book fair is a great opportunity to help the students, earn service hours, and shop! If you are interested in volunteering to work a shift (or two!) of the book fair, please email librarian Sarah Allen at allen@bssbruins.org. Thank you for your consideration!

Hoops Mania

March Madness is almost upon us! Hoops Mania, a fundraiser centered around the NCAA's March Madness basketball tournament, is in full swing! **Every school family will receive a ticket request form today, and every family is encouraged to participate in this fundraiser. Tickets are \$10 each and every family is asked to sell two tickets.** Of

course, we'll happily provide more! Tickets will be sent home with students as we receive the ticket request forms back in the office. Please return your forms as soon as possible.

How many family members, friends, and co-workers do you know that usually take part in a basketball tournament pool? Please invite them to take part in Hoops Mania this year, which will directly benefit the children of Blessed Sacrament School. **The school keeps \$7 out of every \$10 ticket.** That's a 70% profit margin, which is almost unheard of in fundraising sales. Our school is guaranteed winners out of our pool of tickets!

For only \$10, the ticket holder also receives access to download digital music from CharityStudio. **Extra tickets are available in the school office, and all ticket stubs and money are due in the school office by Wednesday, March 14th.** Please don't wait until the last minute to get in on the action! We're really counting on all of our families to make this a success!

Custom Cup Artwork

For the month of March, be sure to check out our school's 4th – 8th grade 2018 Catholic Grade School Art Showcase winners on display at Custom Cup Coffee. Winning artwork by Julia Provenzano, Ileana Stremsterfer, Mary Katherine Christie, Hannah Lambert, and Justine Bell can be enjoyed while you get a delicious treat. Thank you to Custom Cup and congratulations, artists! We're proud of you!

Registration for 2018-2019

The registration period for the 2018-2019 school year begins on Monday, February 26, with registration packets being sent home with current students. Registration forms are due back on Monday, March 12. We will have registration for new preschool and kindergarten families, with preschool and pre-K parents registering their children in person on Monday, Feb. 26, beginning at 7:00 a.m., and new families with kindergarten students registering them in person on Tuesday, Feb. 27, beginning at 7:00 a.m. Parents of all current preschool/pre-K and current K-8 families have the opportunity to indicate their preferences for kindergarten or preschool/pre-K **by tomorrow**. (See the next article for details.)

Preschool/Pre-K & Kindergarten Intent Letters

Again this year, parents of current preschool/preK students have the opportunity to indicate their preferences for kindergarten or preschool/pre-K for their family before registration begins. Likewise, current families in K-8 in our school also have the opportunity to indicate their intent for preschool/pre-K or kindergarten for their other children via an intent letter. The intent letters were sent home with preschool/pre-K students as well as emailed to all current parents last week and are posted on our website. **Parents who return an intent form by Friday, February 23, will not need to go through the walk-in registration process for their preschool/preK and kindergarten students on Feb. 26 and/or Feb. 27.**

Girls on the Run

At this time, we have a full team with 5 on a waiting list. If the number of girls on the waiting list reaches 8 or more, we may have a second team. If there are any 3rd-5th grade girls still wanting to sign up, please to do so by March 1. People interested in coaching or being practice partners **MUST** register with GOTR as well. Thus far, we only have one practice partner registered. We could use a few more, especially if we have enough girls for a second team! The practice sessions will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m., beginning in March and ending in May. If you are interested in your daughter participating, please go to www.gotrcentralillinois.org/registration to sign up. If you have any questions or are interested in being a volunteer, please email our GOTR coach Mary Tuttle at tuttles1@yahoo.com.

Track Meeting

There will be a meeting for all students interested in participating in track and their parents on Wednesday, February 28, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria.

Builders Club Dance

Due to excessive illnesses, the Builders Club dance previously scheduled for March 3rd is cancelled. It will be rescheduled! Please watch for a new date soon.

Garden Club

The Garden Club would like to extend an invitation to attend an upcoming presentation, "Coming Together for Community Gardens." It will be held on March 24 from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Inn at 835. The presentation will discuss what we can do for our community gardens and what community gardens can do for people. They will also be teaching about gardening and basic gardening skills.

The Garden Club has moved its monthly meetings to the second Tuesday of each month. **The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 13, from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the art room.** The additional meeting dates for the rest of the year include April 10, and May 8. Students in grades 2-8 are still welcome to join by attending an upcoming meeting!

Take a Scripation!

Planning a trip for Easter Break? We have car rental certificates (Avis, Budget) and hotel gift cards (Hilton, Best Western, Comfort Inn, Embassy Suites, Hotels.com). Flying? We have American, Delta and Southwest. Driving? We have Exxon, Marathon and Shell. Email us at scrip@bssbruins.org for a personalized Scrip travel plan!

Illnesses

Like many other schools and businesses, we have had an increase in illnesses and absences. We appreciate your help in not sending your children back to school too soon after a fever or other illness. We are taking extra precautions and cleaning measures to help prevent the spread of germs and illnesses. We are promoting the increased use of hand sanitizer in each classroom, and our custodial staff is increasing their use of a disinfecting mist that is rated to be effective in killing the influenza viruses.

Wait Until 8th Smartphone Pledge

Did you know the first smartphones were released in 2007? Did you know children are spending an average of 6-9 hours a day “plugged in” and on media? To that end, it was recently brought to our attention that several BSS families have taken the pledge to “Wait Until 8th Grade” to provide a smartphone for their children. This week, we received word that almost a dozen B.S.S. families, representing four grade levels, have signed the Wait Until 8th pledge.

This program does not preclude families from providing their children a basic phone that only allows phone calls and text messaging (without data plans) for necessary communication within families, etc. They encourage families to wait until 8th grade in order to promote less reliance on smartphones, more interpersonal interaction, and safer, more responsible use by teens. Please look over the information being emailed and posted on our website today, and check out the website at www.waituntil8th.org for more information.

Fine Arts Evening Tryouts

CultureFest and Fine Arts Evening are a little over a month away, and tryout time is here for musicians, dancers, and singers who are currently taking lessons. Tryouts will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 28, at 3:00 p.m. in the art room. Please return the form posted on our school website to be part of the tryouts! Students with school-related conflicts should contact Mrs. Hartman to schedule an alternate tryout time.

Update on Empower Illinois Scholarships

The Empower Illinois scholarship application system will open on Tuesday, February 27, at 7:00 p.m. The system has been enhanced to make it easier for families and to manage the demand expected for tax credit scholarships to private schools throughout Illinois. The new application will be available through the Empower Illinois website. It will be a two-step process: **Reserve:** On Feb. 27 at 7:00 p.m. families will complete a brief online form containing name and contact information, child name and preferred school. *This will time stamp your application for the first-come, first-served scholarships.* **Apply:** After reserving your place in line, families will be emailed a unique link and use their reservation code to complete the application. *Applications will be sent on a rolling basis, over the course of a few weeks.* After receiving the application email, families will have 3 days to complete the application and submit all required documents. The goal with this two-step process is to make it easier for families and provide more time to complete applications.

Spring Photo Day

Thursday, March 15, is our Spring Photo Day. Students may be out of uniform for the photos that day but **must follow the non-uniform guidelines in the student handbook.** Photos do not have to be pre-ordered for this day, but a flyer will be sent home in the coming weeks with information about the backgrounds. If you have a preference of backgrounds, return the Selection Form with your child on Spring Photo Day. Later, Lifetouch will send home a packet of the photos to all parents; you may return all photos or purchase what you want and return the rest. Lifetouch generously makes a donation to the school for our

participation in Spring Photo Day, whether or not the parents buy any photos.

Women’s Club Movin’ in March

Our Blessed Sacrament Women’s Club invites all women of the parish to join them on Tuesday nights in March in the school gym from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. for a variety of free exercise programs led by our own B.S.S. physical education teacher, Janice Davis. Each night a 30-minute workout will be followed by a fun physical activity. Please see the flyer being emailed today and posted online for additional information.

Central Illinois Softball League

The Central Illinois Softball League is a non-profit organization dedicated to all girls softball. It begins with 5-6 year olds in teeball and goes through 9-10 year olds with 11 inch softball. Games will be scheduled regularly in local parks from April to June, with no off weeks. They will host a clinic for players and coaches at the beginning of the season. You may visit www.centralillinoisrecsoftball.com to register. You may also contact Sean Moser at 414-7758 with questions.

Illinois Bicentennial Springfield Student Essay and Art Contests Kickoff

Let the essay and art contests begin! Students of all ages across Springfield and Sangamon County are invited to participate in a fun contest with exciting prizes, including cash, merchandise and being in the New Golden Book of Springfield. There will be first, second and third place winners for each contest from grades K-12. Different topics are available for different age levels and can be found at <http://www.il200springfield.org/>

Some topics include “When My Family Arrived in Springfield,” grades K-12, and Killibrew Imagining Future of Medicine Contest, grades 7-12, sponsored by Sangamon County Medical Society. Students are also invited to participate in a special bicentennial essay contest that asks students to research the natural environment of the area.

Entries are being accepted now through March 2, 2018. All entries must be mailed or delivered to the [Springfield Art Association](http://www.springfieldartassociation.org), 700 N. 4th Street, Springfield, IL 62702, postmarked by March 2nd, 2018, to be considered. There will be cash and merchandise prizes awarded to the winners. The contests are supported by the City of Springfield, HSHS St. John’s Children’s Hospital, and Barnes and Noble. Winners will be announced and notified in April. The award ceremony will be held on April 26th at the Dove Medical Center. Winners will be selected within 30 days of the contest deadline date, March 2nd, and notified by email or phone. Return of prize or prize notification as undeliverable will result in disqualification and an alternate winner may be selected. More details can be found at <http://www.il200springfield.org/rules--regulations.html> For more information contact Rochelle Arjmand, Publicity Chair, at [217-553-8115](tel:217-553-8115).

FORMED Online Community

If you missed Father Jeff’s gift to the parish at Christmas, you can still be part of this opportunity. The parish has provided the availability of FORMED, an online service

for accessing thousands of Catholic videos, audios and ebooks on demand anytime, anywhere! Also, once you have signed up, don't forget to download the free iOS or Android app to put FORMED at your fingertips. We hope you will enjoy this incredible gift and please spread the word to others. To sign up for FREE, just visit here: <https://bsps.formed.org>.

SHG Alumni Scholarship Applications for 8th Graders

Applications for Sacred Heart-Griffin's alumni scholarship are now available. SHG enclosed an application in every freshman registration packet, and copies were sent home with the eighth graders previously. We do have extras available upon request in our school office. The completed application is due to Mrs. Wear by Wednesday, March 21, as the school portion has to be completed and submitted to SHG by March 28. No late applications are accepted!

Hockey with Bishop Paprocki

You're invited to a hockey game at the Nelson Center at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 28, featuring Blackhawks alum Grant "Granny" Mulvey and Bishop Paprocki. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for children, ages 5-13, and can be purchased online at cc.dio.org or at the door. A coupon for a free child's ticket with the purchase of an adult ticket was sent home last week. Following the game, those in attendance can bring their own skates or rent skates for time on the ice with Bishop Paprocki. All proceeds will benefit Catholic Charities Legal Services. See the flyer posted on our school website.

Looking Ahead

Friday, Feb. 23 –

Intent letters for preschool/prek/kindergarten due from current families to hold spots!

9:30 a.m. – Reconciliation for grades 2-5 (**change of date from handbook calendar**)

12:00 p.m. - 3rd grade field trip to Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum

5:00-7:00 p.m. – Men's Club Fish Fry

Scholastic Book Fair open during the Fish Fry

Sunday, Feb. 25 –

8:30 a.m. – Enrollment Sunday Mass for Confirmation candidates

Monday, Feb. 26 – Friday, March 2 –

Scholastic Book Fair open during the school day

Monday, Feb. 26 –

7:00 a.m. – Walk-in registration for new preschool/prek families

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

Tuesday, Feb. 27 –

7:00 a.m. – Walk-in registration for new kindergarten families

Wednesday, Feb. 28 –

3:00 p.m. – Tryouts for Fine Arts Evening in the art room

6:00-7:00 p.m. – Track meeting in the cafeteria

Thursday, March 1 –

Young Authors books due from students in grades K-2!

Friday, March 2 –

Regular PSA Spirit Day (covered by pre-paid fee)

2:15 p.m. – First Friday adoration for grades 2-8

5:00-7:00 p.m. – Men's Club Fish Fry

Monday, Mar. 5 - Friday, Mar. 8 –

Iowa Assessment Standardized Testing all week for grades 1-8

Tuesday, Mar. 6 –

7:00-8:00 p.m. – Women's Group in the gym

Wednesday, Mar. 7 –

6:30 p.m. – First Communion parent meeting for 2nd grade parents in church

Friday, Mar. 9 –

5:00-7:00 p.m. – Men's Club Fish Fry

Sunday, Mar. 11 –

Girl Scout Sunday – refreshments after Mass

Monday, Mar. 12 –

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

Wednesday, Mar. 14 –

End of 3rd quarter!

11:30 a.m. dismissal – faculty inservice; **no B.A.S.E. available!**

Thursday, Mar. 15 –

Lifetouch Spring Photo Day (non-uniform day)

Friday, Mar. 16 –

NO Men's Club Fish Fry!!!

Sunday, Mar. 18 –

9:30 – noon – CultureFest

6:00 p.m. – Fine Arts Evening

Monday, Mar. 19 –

8:20 a.m. – All-school Mass for Feast of St. Joseph

Wednesday, Mar. 21 –

Report Card Day!

Friday, Mar. 23 –

5:00-7:00 p.m. - Men's Club Fish Fry

Monday, Mar. 26 –

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

Wednesday, Mar. 28 –

Living Stations of the Cross performed for students

Thursday, Mar. 29 –

Holy Thursday

1:30 p.m. – Early dismissal for Easter vacation

Please Remember!

Before School Patrols for the Week of Feb. 26 – March 2:

Lennon Long Lindsay Madonia Carly Martin

Maddie McKay Lucy Ratcliffe Jacob Ridder

After School Patrols for the Week of Feb. 26 – March 2:

Elizabeth Allen Cameron Booker Connor Brown

Mass Servers for Feb. 24 & 25

4:30 p.m. Saturday Mitch Dye & Alio Giacomini

7:00 a.m. Sunday Eamon Mahoney

8:30 a.m. Sunday Blake White

10:30 a.m. Sunday Sam & William DeSalle

Daily Servers for Feb. 26 – Mar. 2:

8:00 a.m. M & W & Ellen O'Brien

8:20 a.m. Tu. & Jackson Pitz

8:00 a.m. Th. & Ava DeSalle

8:20 a.m. Fri. & Sam & Will DeSalle