

March 1, 2018

+ Blessed Sacrament



School News

Learning to Make a Difference

A Note to Parents

Dear Parents,

We had a wonderful turnout for our open house for prospective families last Thursday evening. It is certainly a testament to the dedication and commitment of all of our school families and faculty and staff. Thank you to those parents who volunteered to serve as tour guides for the evening. After our preschool/pre-k and kindergarten registrations this week, the all-day pre-k program is full with a waiting list. We have 8 openings in our Tuesday/Thursday preschool class and 4 openings in our Monday/ Wednesday/ Friday pre-k class. Presently, there are 53 students registered for kindergarten next year.

Last week we had our neighborhood police officer stop by our school to introduce himself as part of the Springfield Police Department's efforts to help with safety precautions, especially in schools. He is assigned to twelve schools in the city, and you will see his presence not only in our building but also outside (around our grounds, in his car, etc.) on an ongoing basis, not necessarily in response to any specific incident or concerns. Our teachers suggested that the students have an opportunity to meet him, so he was able to be here during our last couple of lunch shifts today. We look forward to seeing him in our building on a regular basis and partnering with him and the police department in keeping the students in all of our schools safe.

Next week our students in grades 1-8 will be completing Iowa Assessments (standardized testing). 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 Wednesday, March 14, so please support your children in completing their regular school work in these final days of the third quarter. Third quarter report cards will go home with students on Wednesday, March 21.

Tomorrow, March 2, is our monthly PSA-sponsored Spirit Day. Students may wear B.S.S. spirit shirts or uniform shirts untucked with jeans or uniform bottoms for a \$1 donation. No other shirts or pants are acceptable. This Spirit Day is covered for any students who pre-paid for Spirit Days.

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.

Enjoy the first weekend of March with your children!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Kathy Wear

Golden Awards

Congratulations to our individual Golden Award winners this week, 8th graders Maria Fulgenzi and Jack Davis and 7th grader Tyler Furkin! Maria and Jack received their awards for going out of their way to show kindness to another student. Tyler received an individual Golden Award for school safety patrol excellence. We are so proud of these students!

Congratulations!!

Congratulations to sixth grader Anthony Fergin, our schoolwide Geography Bee winner, on advancing to the next level of competition! After winning our bee, Anthony took a test to qualify for the state competition, and we just received an email today that he qualified! Anthony will compete in the Illinois State Geography Bee on Friday, April 6, at Illinois State University in Normal. We're very proud of you, Anthony!

Bruins Update

Congratulations to our 5th grade boys' basketball team on the completion of their regular season. Even with a small team, the boys had a good season with lots of fun and improvements. Special thanks to their coaches, Kurt Ingram and Konnor Ingram.

Our 7th and 8th grade girls' volleyball teams are in their regional tournaments now. The 7th grade girls defeated Illini Central Tuesday night and are playing for the regional championship this evening at 6:30 p.m. at Mt. Pulaski Grade School Gym and will face Mt. Pulaski.

Our 8th grade girls' volleyball team starts their regional play this Saturday, March 3, at 9:00 a.m. at Illini Central High School Gym in Mason City. Our Bruins face Delavan. Good luck to both of our volleyball teams!

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 received a ticket request form last week, 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!

Library News

Many of our students recently participated in voting for their choices for book awards. The winners for the Monarch Award, chosen by grades K-3, include the following: 1st place is Moldylocks and the Three Beards; 2nd place goes to Mother Bruce; 3rd place is Red: A Crayon's Story.

The Blue Stem books, voted on by 3rd grade -5th grade, included the following winners: 1st place is Save Me a Seat; 2nd place is Hilo: Book 1; and 3rd place is 11 Birthdays.

The Rebecca Caudill Award winners, voted on by students in 4th - 8th grades, are the following: 1st place is a tie between The Book Scavenger and I Am Princess X, and 3rd place is Roller Girl.

Thanks to our librarians, Mrs. Criscione and Mrs. Allen, for organizing the voting and to our students for reading the books and participating in the awards selection process for our school. We look forward to hearing the results of voting from the entire state.

Last Days of Scholastic Book Fair!

Our spring Scholastic Book Fair, Paws to Read, will be open during the school day through tomorrow, Friday, March 2. The book fair will be open again during the Fish Fry evening! Thank you so much to all who have already supported the school library – and children's love of reading – by making purchases at the book fair. We still have a wonderful selection of books in stock!

First Communion Meeting

A meeting for parents of 2nd graders preparing to receive their First Communion will be held next Wednesday evening, March 7, at 6:30 p.m. in the church. Please mark your calendars.

Registration for 2018-2019

The registration period for the 2018-2019 school year for our current students began Monday, February 26, with registration packets being sent home with current students. Registration forms and fees are due back on Monday, March 12. Thank you for your cooperation!

Tuition Assistance for 2018-2019

The F.A.C.T.S. tuition assistance applications (along with the required supporting documentation) for the 2018-

2019 school year are due March 31. **You may only apply online this year!** Parents may access the link on our website. Families will be notified in mid-May of their assistance. Please contact Laura Horton at 522-7534, ext. 245, with any questions or if you need assistance with the online process.

Lunch Snack Table Reminders

On Tuesdays & Thursdays, students are able to bring money to purchase snacks in addition to their sack lunches or pre-ordered lunches. In recent weeks we have seen increased purchasing of excessive snacks. To help children make sensible choices, snack purchases will be limited to a total of \$1 per student. Thanks for your help and cooperation!

Cub Scout Pack Upcoming Events!

Come join Blessed Sacrament Pack 31 for two fun events! Sunday, March 4, they will host an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast in the school cafeteria after all three Sunday Masses. The menu includes pancakes, sausage, milk, juice, and coffee. The cost is \$7 per person, ages 13 and over, \$5 for ages 5-12, and free for children 4 and under. Please join us for breakfast!

Sunday, March 11, the Cub Scouts will host a fundraiser at Sky Zone from 7-8 p.m. This will be a private event at Sky Zone. Tickets are \$13 and include a pair of sky socks! Tickets will be sold during the pancake breakfast, or you may contact Megan Greco at wooster75@comcast.net to reserve your tickets. Come fly with us!

Girls on the Run

At this time, we have been able to create two teams for our spring session of Girls on the Run! There are 7 spots remaining on the teams. 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.

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.

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.

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.

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!

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. Adult dinners are \$9 and children's dinners are \$4. Cheese pizza is also available. (See the flyer posted online for specific food and prices.) Last week, the gym was open **beginning at 5:30 p.m.** as an area for children to play. **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 in past weeks 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!

Congratulations on Cinderella Performance!

Congratulations to the following B.S.S. students who were in the SYPG production of *Cinderella* at the Hoogland Center this past weekend: Aislyn Grant, Satchel Coady, Harrison Faulkner, Molly Davis, Catherine Gardner, Ariana Collins, and Macklin Metzger. We're proud of our students' involvement in community theatre!

Congratulations to Our Swimmers!

Several of our students competed in the Illini District Championship Meet as part of the SPY swim team. Those who are advancing to the state competition include Macklin Metzger, Avery Wilbern, Ali Londrigan, Miriam O'Brien, Rowan Mizeur, Hailey DuVall, Gigi Giacomini, and Kaelin Kelley. Congratulations to all of our swimmers from B.S.S. and good luck to those advancing to state!

Spotlight on Ice 2018: It's a Classic

The Springfield Figure Skating Club presents their annual Spotlight on Ice show on March 24 and March 25 at the Nelson Center. This year's show, entitled *It's a Classic*, features performances to music from a variety of classic shows. Best wishes to B.S.S. students performing in the show: Lexi Kotner, Lucy and Phoebe DeFrain, and Anna West. Please see the flyer accompanying the newsletter for details.

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 posted online for additional information.

Illinois Bicentennial Springfield Student Essay and Art Contests

Students of all ages across Springfield and Sangamon County are invited to participate in a fun contest with exciting prizes. 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. 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).

Wait Until 8th Smartphone Pledge

Several BSS families have taken the pledge to “Wait Until 8th Grade” to provide a smartphone for their children. To date, 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 posted on our website and check out the website at www.waituntil8th.org for more information.

Update on Empower Illinois Scholarships

The Empower Illinois scholarship application system opened 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.

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!

6th Grade Boys Basketball Tryout for Predators Team

The Central Illinois Predators will hold basketball tryouts for their 6th grade boys’ club team on Friday, March 2. Tryouts will be from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at The Gym. All current 6th grade boys are invited to tryout; the final roster will consist of 10-12 players total. Please contact the coach, Dave Martin, at 341-3499 with questions. There is a flyer being emailed home today and posted on our school website.

Illini Youth Tennis Clinic

This Sunday, March 4, the University of Illinois is hosting a free youth tennis clinic for students 13 years old and younger. See the flyer being emailed home today and posted on the school website for registration information.

Looking Ahead

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 in-service; **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 Mar. 5-9:

Noah Ward Adam Wente Jeffrey Wernsing

Carter Anderson Dylan Anderson Portia Apostol

After School Patrols for the Week of Mar. 5-9:

Joseph Cloyd Chloe Coffey Andrew Dailey

Mass Servers for Mar. 3-4

4:30 p.m. Saturday Eleanor Maloy & Brady Maloy
7:00 a.m. Sunday Luca Bonansinga
8:30 a.m. Sunday Hannah Lambert & Frank Sluga
10:30 a.m. Sunday Jackson Pitz & Taylor Verry

Daily Servers for Mar. 5-9:

8:00 a.m. M & W & Cole Beger
8:20 a.m. Tu. & Cameron Booker
8:00 a.m. Th. & Harrison Faulkner
8:20 a.m. Fri. & Agnes Cross