

November 16, 2017

† Blessed Sacrament



School News

Learning to Make a Difference

A Note to Parents

Dear Parents,

Thanksgiving is just a week away, and Christmas is only 39 days away! In this busy time of the year, our school calendar quickly fills up with special events as well. Please be sure to read through the *Looking Ahead* calendar section at the end of the newsletter for all updates.

Congratulations to our second grade students who received the sacrament of First Reconciliation last night. Special thanks to Mrs. Townsend, Ms. Yoho, and Mrs. Kroner for preparing the students so well for this sacrament. Please keep them in your prayers as they deepen their faith through the reception of the sacraments.

Tomorrow our fifth graders will join the other fifth graders from all of the Catholic grade schools in Springfield for an afternoon of service at Little Flower and St. Joseph's Home. (See the related article for specific details for fifth graders.) We appreciate this opportunity for our students to grow in their faith as they participate in service with the other Catholic schools.

Next Tuesday is the midpoint of the second quarter already. Mid-quarter reports will be sent home with all students in grades 2-8. We appreciate you working with the teachers to support your children in their academic and faith development. Please feel free to contact the teachers directly if you have any questions or concerns.

Due to the short week next week, there will not be a weekly newsletter. Any updates will be sent via email on Tuesday. On a personal note, thank you so much for your kind notes, cards, emails and good wishes on Principals' Appreciation Day today. I feel so blessed to work with such dedicated teachers and staff members and with such supportive families. Most of all, it's a privilege and a joy each day to have your children at our school. All of you will continue to be included in my prayers of gratitude, especially over the Thanksgiving holiday. On behalf of the entire Blessed Sacrament School faculty and staff, best wishes for a blessed and Happy Thanksgiving to you and your families!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Kathy Wear

Congratulations!

Congratulations to 4th grader Elizabeth Darrow and 8th grader Dani Kraft who were the winners of our yellow slip drawing at Monday's leadership assembly. Both girls were recognized for being helpful to their teachers and classes.

Bruins Update

Congratulations to our fifth and sixth grade girls' basketball teams on their successful seasons! Both teams

played well in the tournament last weekend, and the sixth grade team placed first in the regular season and won the tournament. Thank you to the fifth grade coaches, Scott Selinger and John Stremsterfer, and the sixth grade coaches, John Fleischli and Bill Fleischli, for their leadership and dedication to the teams.

Good luck to our seventh grade girls' IESA basketball team as they begin regional play this Saturday. Their game is at 11:15 a.m. against Christ the King. The regional games are all held at Little Flower's gym.

Students in grades 5-8 interested in being a member of our co-operative wrestling team are invited to attend a team meeting for parents and student athletes this Sunday, Nov. 19, at 7:00 p.m. in the SHG West Campus cafeteria. Please see the flyer posted on the school website for more information.

Barnes and Noble Book Fair

Our annual Barnes and Noble Book Fair is almost here! It will be held this Monday, November 20, in the evening at the store located on Veterans Parkway. You will also be able to make online purchases from Nov. 20 through Nov. 25, which will count towards our school total. Go to www.BN.COM/bookfairs and **enter our school ID 12271870 at checkout.**

That evening there will be giveaways and a superhero scavenger hunt, and every student who attends and checks in with one of the librarians will be entered to win the Bruins Cave Raffle! In addition, kindergarten and first grade will be performing at the event beginning at 5:30 p.m. (Mrs. Hartman sent home a letter with details last week.)

The book fair is a great opportunity to start (or finish!) your holiday shopping and support the BSS library at the same time. Don't forget there is also scrip available to use for your purchases as well. A flyer is posted on our website. Thank you, in advance, for your support!

It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like "Scripmas"!

Scrip shopping planners are coming home today! Pass these forms around the table on Thanksgiving Day - it's a great time to exchange wish lists. The Scrip Committee will fill your gift cards orders and those of your whole family AND we'll keep track of exactly how much profit your orders earn (and how much your family's orders earn for you). When you get your scrip rebate report next July, you can use those profits to reduce your 18/19 tuition! Christmas shopping planners are also available on the school website.

December Hot Lunch Order Forms

Hot lunch order forms for December are being sent home today. The form is also posted on the school website. Forms with payment are due back by **next Tuesday, Nov. 21.**

Garden Club Reminders

Garden Club's next meeting is Tuesday, Dec. 5th.

The club is still open to new members and has extended the grade levels to include second through eighth grade. If you want to join, feel free to attend the next meeting. Garden Club will continue to meet the first Tuesday of each month from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m., with the exception of January, and in April the club will meet on the second Tuesday of April due to Easter break. In cold weather, the Garden Club will meet in the art room. Mark your calendars for their meeting dates: December 5th, NO January meeting, February 6th, March 6th, April 10th (due to Easter break), and May 1st.

March for Life Registration & Deposit Due!

We have had an overwhelming response with 36 students and 20 parents interested in participating in the March for Life trip. That number of participants will completely fill a bus for our school! Don't forget that the registration papers and deposit of \$100 per person are due **next Tuesday, Nov. 21.** Also, please note that any requests for semi-private or private lodging must be submitted by that date, also. Special thanks to the Gospel of Life Committee, the 8th grade class, and an anonymous donor whose generous financial support make this trip available to our students at a reduced cost.

Dismissal Reminder

Per the dismissal guidelines included in the Fee Night packets, cars should be in place on our school parking lot by 2:55 p.m. The chain across the driveway off Glenwood will be put in place at that time so that no cars are moving when the students are dismissed at 3:00 p.m. Please keep that time in mind as you schedule your pick-up plans. Thanks for your cooperation in keeping all of our students safe.

Joint Activities with Catholic Grade Schools

Tomorrow afternoon, Friday, Nov. 17, our fifth graders will join fifth graders from the other Springfield Catholic schools at Little Flower to complete an art project and then rake leaves and visit residents at St. Joseph's Home. In addition to a rake to use (labeled with the student's name), students are also being asked to bring a small gift of either hand/body lotion, puzzle books, or a small bag of candy bars to donate to the residents of St. Joseph's Home. Permission slips were sent home with students last week. We appreciate all of the parent drivers and chaperones!

Spirit Wear Order for Christmas

Spirit Day shirts ordered through PSA were sent home with the students last week. If you do not receive the correct items, please contact Melanie Verry at tavyty081@att.net or at 217-361-5841. For anyone who missed out on this order or would like to purchase another item for Christmas, PSA will submit another order before Thanksgiving, which the supplier has guaranteed will be delivered by the Monday before Christmas break. The order form is posted on the school website. The order form with payment is due back to school no later than Monday, Nov. 20.

Pastor's Annual Party

Father Jeff invites our parents (adults only, please) to attend the Pastor's Annual Party to be held on Sunday, Nov. 19, from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Get your holiday season off to a festive start! Visit with other parents and parishioners while enjoying cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. Please see the flyer being sent home today.

Volunteers are needed after school on Friday, Nov. 17, at 3:15 p.m. to help with set-up for the Pastor's Annual Party. Please call Kim Hoffmann at 522-7534, ext. 206, if you can help. This is a good opportunity to earn service hours!

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. See the flyer being sent home today. Thank you, in advance, for your generous support!

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/Principal, 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.

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](tel: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](tel: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 Scout Troop 31 Poinsettia Sale

Just in time for Christmas! Blessed Sacrament Boy Scout Troop 31 took orders through November 15th for

beautiful red or white poinsettias grown by Shelby County Community Services, the same greenhouse that grows the 5th grade mums! They were \$10 each and will be available for pick up on Friday, Dec. 1, after school. There will be a limited number for sale after Masses on Dec. 2nd & 3rd. Contact Jennifer Wentz at jandj62@comcast.net for more information. Thank you!

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.

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 and guidelines are available on our school website.

In the Community...

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, Nov. 17 –
12:00-2:00 p.m. - 5th grade joint service afternoon at Little Flower & St. Joseph's Home

Sunday, Nov. 19 –
5:30-8:00 p.m. – Pastor's Annual Party (adults only)

Monday, Nov. 20 –
PSA spirit wear orders due!
8:20 a.m. - Leadership assembly (wear t-shirts)
6:00 p.m. – 7th & 8th grade boys' IESA home basketball games vs. Springfield Christian
Barnes & Noble Book Fair event at the store in the evening

Tuesday, Nov. 21 –
December hot lunch order forms due!
8th grade March for Life registration & deposits due!
Mid-quarter progress reports go home
6:00 p.m. – 7th & 8th grade boys' IESA home basketball games vs. Little Flower; Bruinettes camp members perform between games

Wednesday, Nov. 22 – Friday, Nov. 24 –
No School! Happy Thanksgiving!

Monday, Nov. 27 –
No leadership assembly but please wear t-shirts

Tuesday, Nov. 28 –
4:00 p.m. – 7th & 8th grade boys' IESA home basketball games vs. Jefferson Middle School

Friday, Dec. 1 –
PSA Spirit Day (included in pre-paid days)
2:15 p.m. – First Friday Benediction gr. 2-8

Saturday, Dec. 2 –
9:00 a.m. - Speech meet at Little Flower

Monday, Dec. 4 –
8:20 a.m. – Leadership assembly (wear t-shirts)
6:00 p.m. – 7th & 8th grade boys' IESA home basketball games vs. New Berlin

Tuesday, Dec. 5 –
Reconciliation for grades 6-8
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 3-5

Thursday, Dec. 7 –
6:00 p.m. – 7th & 8th grade boys' IESA 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)

Saturday, Dec. 9 –
8:30-11:00 a.m. - SHG placement exam

Sunday, Dec. 10 –
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. - K of C breakfast to benefit Catholic schools (2nd grade sings at 11:00 a.m. during the breakfast)
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

Monday, Dec. 18 –
8:20 a.m. – Leadership assembly (wear t-shirts)
6:00 p.m. – 7th & 8th grade boys' IESA 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 Nov. 20-21:

Madi Sweeney Riley VanZuiden Taylor Verry
Blake White Elizabeth Allen Cameron Booker
Connor Brown

After School Patrols for the Week of Nov. 20-21:

Madelyn Hughes Joe Humphrey Kaelin Kelley

Before School Patrols for the Week of Nov. 27 – Dec. 1:

Joseph Cloyd Chloe Coffey Andrew Dailey
Sam DeSalle Will DeSalle Emma Faulkner

After School Patrols for the Week of Nov. 27-Dec. 1:

Kalvin King Emily Leefers Finn Loken

Mass Servers for Nov. 18 & 19:

4:30 p.m. Saturday Seth Faivre & Alaina Roland
7:00 a.m. Sunday no current BSS students
8:30 a.m. Sunday Hannah & Caroline Lambert
10:30 a.m. Sunday Jack Ozyurt & Olivia Redpath

Daily Servers for Nov. 20-24

8:00 a.m. M & W & William DeSalle
8:20 a.m. Tu. & Sam DeSalle
8:00 a.m. Th. & Alio Giacomini
8:20 a.m. Fri. & William Pittman

Mass Servers for Nov. 25 & 26:

4:30 p.m. Saturday Jaynanne Roate & Joey Scott
7:00 a.m. Sunday Ellen O'Brien
8:30 a.m. Sunday Carter Etheridge & Augustine
Hyde
10:30 a.m. Sunday Mike & Bill Hollahan

Daily Servers for Nov. 27 – Dec. 1

8:00 a.m. M & W & Tyler Furkin
8:20 a.m. Tu. & Brady Maloy
8:00 a.m. Th. & Abby Shafer
8:20 a.m. Fri. & Ethan Short