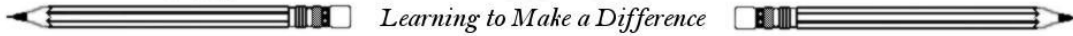


+ Blessed Sacrament



School News



Learning to Make a Difference

December 13, 2018

A Note to Parents

Dear Parents,

It has been wonderful to have so many of our families attend our Christmas programs recently. 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 the programs of our kindergartners and PreK students next week! 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.

Congratulations to all the girls' basketball teams on their successful seasons, and a special congratulations to our players chosen for the Central Illinois All Star Game this Saturday, Dec. 15: Maggie Fleischli, Callie Huston, and Rori Hanken! Our Bruins continue to be active amid the boys' basketball, girls' volleyball, and wrestling seasons that have begun. We are proud of all of our Bruins!

Looking ahead, we will host two more spirit days. See the related article about our extra spirit day to raise funds for the Taylorville tornado relief. Then, following a very successful PSA fundraising season, we announced at our assembly this week that on Friday, Dec. 21, we will hold 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 Friday, Dec. 21, is an early dismissal day with students being dismissed at 11:30 a.m. B.A.S.E. will NOT be provided.

This will be the last newsletter for 2018! 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!

Yours in faith,
Mrs. Dawn Kliner

Congratulations Bruinettes!

Congratulations to our Bruinettes on their great performance Monday evening between the basketball games. Their hard work and practice really paid off! We really appreciate Mrs. Taryn Grant's and Ms. Shannon Miller-Bellini's direction of this group and Mrs. Kim Hoffmann's organization of the camp and performance.

Spirit day to Benefit Taylorville Tornado Assistance

We will have a special spirit day tomorrow, Friday, December 14, to benefit the Taylorville Food Bank. Presently, the food bank has plenty of non-perishable items on hand. However, they are in need of funds to purchase additional items while the clean-up continues in the coming months. This spirit day is NOT included with the prepaid days. Everyone is asked to donate a minimum of \$1 to participate. Thank you!

Lunch Reminders

Recently, we have had several students coming to school without lunches. We are not able to serve hot lunches to students who have not pre-ordered them. Likewise, students are not able to take items from the snack table unless they pay for them. Students are often very good about sharing with one another, but we do not expect students to give up a portion of the lunch their parents intended for them. There are some items available in the office for an "emergency" so that no one goes hungry (peanut butter or cheese and crackers, granola bars, applesauce, etc.), but our supplies are depleting quickly! Students may ask to phone a parent for a lunch; however, they often miss part of their lunch or recess while doing so. We know mornings can get very hectic, so please plan ahead when possible to ensure your child has a good lunch. Thank you for your attention to this matter!

January Hot Lunch Orders

The online ordering portal for January hot lunches will open on December 17 and will remain open until January 3. However, if you choose to pay by cash or check, or need to add funds to your students' accounts, please be sure to send the money to the school office by December 20. Thank you!

December Box Tops Collection

Completed Box Top sheets are due tomorrow, Friday, December 14. 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.

Assistance Needed with Teachers' Monthly Luncheons

A volunteer is needed to assist with coordinating the monthly lunches for staff on the first Wednesday of each month. It would be ideal to have someone who is available on those Wednesday afternoons once a month. The coordinators schedule the donations of lunch items and coordinate the set-up and clean-up for the staff lunches. If interested, please contact Anna Sinnott 698-6480 or sinnott2001@att.net. Volunteers do receive service hours!

Thank you for Supporting the PSA Fundraiser!

Thank you to all who supported our PSA fall fundraiser in one way or another! 105 families participated and sold \$14,407, generating a profit of \$5,500 for our PSA! Congratulations to our top sellers: Olivia Fanning for total sales and Drake Thomas for the highest number of items sold. All funds raised by the PSA go directly back to support the school and activities for our students. Thank you so much!

SHG Placement Test

The SHG Placement Test will be offered on Saturday, January 12, 2019, at 8:30 a.m. Doors open at 8:00 a.m. Becky Jones, Tuition Manager, and Sr. Katherine O'Connor, President, will be available to answer parents' questions at 8:30 a.m. in the Choral Room. Please contact our Registrar at 217-787-1595 ext. 126 if you are unable to take the test. Students will need to bring #2 Pencils and \$10 testing fee. No calculators will be allowed. Pre-registration online is required by Friday January 11. Use the following link to register: <http://bit.ly/SHGPlacementTest2019>.

Time to Double-Check Uniforms

As we are rapidly approaching the mid-point of the school year, now is a good time to check uniforms over Christmas vacation. Please check the length of girls' skirts/skorts/jumpers as well as if new tights or leggings are needed for the coming months. Please also check the boys' pants to determine if new ones are needed for the remainder of the winter months. We want to keep our students looking sharp and in compliance with the uniform guidelines. We appreciate your assistance with this!

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 a family of four. Our school families generously donated 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.

Everything You Wanted to Know about the Parish but Were Afraid to Ask!

Sign up for church emails and texts at www.flocknote.com/bsps to receive updates about parish events. You can also text blessed1725 to the number 84576. It's free and provides interesting information to keep you connected to the rest of the flock!

Merry "Scrip"mas!

Scrip gift cards are still available - shop our regular inventory any time during regular school hours! You can also purchase special-order items until Monday, December 17. Special order items will come home on Thursday, December 20. Not sure what to buy? See our Scrip Shopping Planner on the website.

Builders Club Ringing Bells for the Salvation Army

Members of the Builders Club volunteered to ring the bells for the Salvation Army next Tuesday, December 18, from 4-8 p.m. They will be located in the Montvale Schnucks. Please stop by if you happen to be in the area!

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. 23, through Monday, January 7, when the next eligibility check is completed and goes into effect.

Fundamental Basketball Camp for 3rd - 5th Graders

3rd-5th graders are invited to attend the Little Flower School/Watts Winter Fundamental Basketball camp for beginner and intermediate players on January 3 and 4. There are two sessions to choose from. Registration, waiver and the fee are due by Wednesday, December 19th. Please see the flyer and waiver emailed with today's newsletter and posted on our website for more information.

Looking Ahead

Friday, Dec. 14 -

Extra spirit day to benefit Taylorville tornado relief efforts (not included in prepaid days) minimum donation of \$1 to participate

Sunday, Dec. 16 -

Mother/Son Brunch following 10:30 Mass (tickets purchased ahead of time)

Monday, Dec. 17 -

8:15 a.m. - Leadership assembly (wear t-shirts)

Tuesday, Dec. 18 -

9:30 a.m. - All day pre-k Christmas program

Wednesday, Dec. 19 -
9:30 a.m. - Kindergarten Christmas program

Friday, Dec. 21 -
Free Christmas spirit day!
Classroom Christmas parties
11:30 a.m. - dismissal; NO BASE available!!

Monday, January 7, 2019 -
Classes resume!

Wednesday, Jan. 9 -
End of 2nd quarter

Friday, Jan. 11 -
Regular PSA spirit day (included in prepaid days)

Saturday, Jan. 12 -
SHG Freshman Placement Exam

Monday, Jan. 14 -
8:15 a.m. - Leadership assembly (wear t-shirts)

Tuesday, Jan. 15 -
Report cards

Wednesday, Jan. 16 -
1:30 dismissal - faculty meeting; BASE available

Monday, Jan. 21 -
No school - MLK, Jr. Day

Monday, Jan. 28 -
8:15 a.m. - Leadership assembly (wear t-shirts)

Sunday, Jan. 27-Friday, Feb. 1 -
Catholic Schools Week (more details to come)

Monday, Jan. 28 -
8:15 a.m. - Leadership assembly (wear t-shirts)

Wednesday, Jan. 30 -
Parent lunch with students
4:30 - 7:30 p.m. - Chick-fil-A BSS Spirit Night at
the restaurant - a portion of sales during this time
(must present CFA flyer) will benefit our PSA!
Please join us for dinner!

Thursday, Jan. 31 -
5:30-7:30 p.m. - Family Roller Skating Night at
Skateland; \$4 per skater (skates included)

Friday, Feb. 1 -
11:30 a.m. dismissal - **No BASE available!**
7:00 p.m. - Builders Club dance for BSS 7th &
8th-grade students in the cafeteria