

† Blessed Sacrament



School News



January 10, 2019

A Note to Parents

Dear Parents,

I hope all of you enjoyed a relaxing Christmas break with your children. After a nice, long break, we were happy to see all of the students back in our classrooms! It's hard to believe that we started third quarter today!

Also, we are in the process of finalizing plans for Catholic Schools Week, which runs from Jan. 27 through Feb. 1. A separate detailed calendar will be sent home in the upcoming weeks, but please check the separate articles on different events as well as the *Looking Ahead* section of this newsletter to mark your calendars for some of the main events! Don't forget that we need many parent volunteers to make this a week a success. Please contact the school office if you are able to volunteer to assist on any of the days that week.

Tomorrow, Friday, January 11, is a regular Spirit Day, included in the prepaid Spirit Days from the beginning of the school year. Otherwise, for a \$1 donation, students may wear any B.S.S./Spirit Day t-shirts, sweatshirts, or jerseys (with a plain white or navy shirt underneath jerseys) with jeans. Students may also wear uniform shirts untucked with jeans.

Next Tuesday our students will receive their second quarter report cards from Father Jeff. Please encourage them to continue to put forth their best efforts. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

On behalf of the entire faculty and staff, I thank you for your generosity to all of us at Christmas. We truly appreciate your cards and gifts, and we extend our special thanks for the monetary gift from PSA, Men's Club, parents, and the Teacher Support Fund. Once again, the teachers and staff were overwhelmed by your generosity. We feel very blessed to be partners with you in the Catholic education of your children, and we wish all of you many blessings in 2019. Happy New Year!!

Yours in faith,
Mrs. Dawn Kliner

Builders Club Dance

The Builders Club will host a dance for Blessed Sacrament 7th and 8th graders on Friday, February 1. The dance will be from 7-9 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Please contact Mrs. Greenwood via email with any questions. Watch for more information coming soon!

Prairie Farms Milk Shortage at Lunch

Prior to Christmas break, we periodically experienced "milk shortages" at lunchtime. We have been in contact with management at Prairie Farms, and they truly regret the situation and are working to correct delivery issues to ensure this does not continue. However, Blessed Sacrament does not control the ordering, as Prairie Farms is responsible for delivering the products and reordering as they inventory remaining products at each delivery. We understand the frustration of parents and students, and students will get credit for the full number of milk cartons for their milk tickets.

Catholic Schools Week - Volunteers Needed!

We are planning a variety of fun activities to celebrate Catholic Schools Week. As always, many hands make light work! We are in need to a few extra parent volunteers to assist with activities that week. We particularly need volunteers on Thursday, January 31, from 10:15 - 3:00 to assist with lunch and special snacks for Student Appreciation Day. We need assistance earlier in the week as well, either Monday or Tuesday afternoon, depending upon the final schedule of activities. We will also need someone to pick up a Sam's Club order, likely on Tuesday, January 29. If you are available for a couple of hours to join the fun (and earn service hours), please email Mrs. Burke with the days and times you are available. You will be contacted in the coming weeks to confirm your participation. Thank you for your consideration!

SHG Placement Test

The SHG Placement Test will be offered this 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 tomorrow, Friday, January 11. Use the following link to register: <http://bit.ly/SHGPlacementTest2019>.

Sixth Graders' National School Choice Assembly

Sixth graders from the Springfield Catholic Schools will gather together for an annual assembly to celebrate National School Choice Day on Thursday, January 24. The assembly will be held here at Blessed Sacrament from 1:00-2:30 p.m.

IMSA FUSION Reminders

With the beginning of the third quarter, new sessions of the IMSA FUSION will begin next week. **The 5th and 6th graders will start their new session on Tuesday, Jan. 15.** They will continue to meet from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. on Tuesdays. **The 7th & 8th graders will begin their new session on Monday, Jan. 14.** They will continue to meet from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. on Mondays. All participants for the second session should have received the needed information, but please remind your children of these starting dates. Also, any outstanding IMSA fees should be sent to Mrs. Burke's attention by Monday, January 14. Thank you!

Family Roller-skating Night for Catholic Schools Week

All Blessed Sacrament School families are invited to attend our family roller-skating night to celebrate Catholic Schools Week on Thursday, January 31, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Skateland South. Since that is Student Appreciation Day, there will be NO HOMEWORK that evening!! :) The cost is only \$4 per skater, which includes skate rental. The snack bar and arcade games will also be open for purchases. Everyone really enjoyed this event in the past, so please plan to join us again. Please remember that children cannot be dropped off and left unsupervised. There must be an adult responsible for the children at Skateland. Thank you for your cooperation. We hope to see you there!

Young Authors

Each year our students participate in a writing activity called Young Authors. The Illinois Young Authors program has a long history. It is a celebration of the written work of children in kindergarten through eighth grades. The purpose of the statewide program, sponsored by the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Language and Literacy Council, is to support classroom teachers in their efforts to encourage and improve students' abilities in writing, reading, listening and sharing, and to recognize the accomplishments of young authors.

A letter was sent home prior to Christmas break with some basic information. Participation is optional for kindergarten through second grade but is a class assignment in grades 3-8. Some teachers in grades 3-8 may have already shared information with their classes, and some will be sharing their requirements for students this week.

All students in grades 3-8 will receive one complimentary "bare book" for use in creating the finished manuscripts. Additional books are for sale in the school office for \$3.50 each. The pages of the books are *not* printed with lines, but students may write/type their stories on loose paper and then paste them into the book.

Any students in kindergarten through second grade who choose to write books should return them to the school office by February 7. Teachers in grades 3-8 may set an earlier deadline if they so choose. Once again, all the manuscripts will be on display at CultureFest, which is scheduled for Sunday, February 24.

Outdoor Recess

As we are now into the colder months of the year, please remember to dress students appropriately for outdoor recess. As a general rule, students go outdoors for recess unless the temperature or wind chill is 20F or below. Occasionally, students are not able to go outside due to noon-time precipitation, pavement conditions (too wet/slick/excessive standing water, etc.), or excessive winds. Otherwise, students should be prepared with proper clothing for cold outdoor temperatures and wind, including gloves, hats, etc. Thank you for your cooperation with this matter!

Time to Double-Check Uniforms

As we reached the midpoint of the school year, now is a good time to check uniforms. 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!

Box Tops Really Pay Off!

We received a check in the amount of \$1,516.30 in December from the Box Tops for Education program! This is such a help for our school. Thank you to all of the families who continue to save box tops, and watch for another collection coming soon. Special thanks Mrs. Greenwood for coordinating this program for our school!

Scrip for a Long Winter Weekend

Going somewhere for the three-day MLK weekend? Stock up on gas cards and restaurant scrip. Staying around here? You'll probably end up at the movie theaters one of those afternoons – buy AMC scrip and don't forget Chipotle, Buffalo Wild Wings, Panera, Chili's, Red Robin or Fridays for that before or after the movies lunch break.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to two of our students who were selected for roles in the upcoming Springfield Theatre Center production of *Junie B. Jones The Musical, Jr.* Seventh-grader Grace Klenke has the title role of Junie B Jones and fifth-grader Izzy Stewart has the role of Bobbi Jean Piper. Good luck, girls!

Thank you from the Gift of Giving Program

We recently received a thank you letter from Margie Homier with the Gift of Giving Program. The program is very grateful for our 8th grade students who volunteered with the program at St. Patrick's School in December. The students helped St. Pat's students shop, wrap, and tag gifts for loved ones. The students were most thankful for this opportunity!

Presently, they are collecting used gift bags, tissue paper, bows, ribbon, or half-used rolls of wrapping paper in order to "stock the shelves" for next year. There is a red container inside our school entry way to collect the items, and

a list of other donations needed is also posted on our website.
Donations will be accepted through Friday, January 18.

Walnut Street Safety Improvement Project

The City of Springfield will hold an informational meeting concerning the proposed Walnut Street Safety Improvement project for Walnut Street from South Grand Avenue to Capitol Avenue. The meeting will be held on February 7, 2019. It will be open from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Laurel United Methodist Church, 631 S. Grand Ave.

There will be no formal presentation. Displays, including typical sections of roadways, paint pavement marking plans, and aerial mapping will be available for viewing during the entire time. Representatives from the City of Springfield Office of Public Works and Knight Engineers and Architects will be available to answer questions and discuss the plan. Those who attend will be encouraged to complete a comment form or provide a verbal comment. For more information about this hearing, please contact Nate Bottom with the City of Springfield Office of Public Works Engineering, 300 South 7th Street, Room 203, Springfield, IL 62701; 217.789.2255 ext. 5223 or Jeff Antonacci with Knight Engineers and Architects at 217.615.4215.

Looking Ahead

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

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