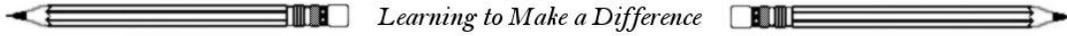


August 25, 2016

# + Blessed Sacrament



## School News



### A Note to Parents

Dear Parents,

We have had a wonderful start to the school year and have been blessed with beautiful weather, too. We hope your children are as excited about the new school year as we are! Please be sure to read a letter from our pastor, Fr. Jeff Grant, which accompanies today's newsletter and is posted on our website.

Tomorrow, Friday, Aug. 26, we will celebrate our first all-school Mass. As always, parents are invited to join us at the 8:20 a.m. Mass. Students in grades 2-5 attend weekly Mass on Tuesdays, and students in grades 6-8 will attend weekly Mass on Fridays. We usually have all-school Masses once a month, and students in grades 2-8 will attend First Friday adoration and benediction several times during the year.

Tomorrow we will also have our first Spirit Day of the year. For a \$1 donation, students may wear any official BSS Spirit Day t-shirt, any sports team shirt, or the uniform shirt untucked with jeans or uniform shorts, pants, or skirts. (No other shorts are allowed.) If a jersey is worn, a plain white short-sleeved shirt should be worn underneath the jersey. The sports team shirts are not usually included in our regular Spirit Days but are acceptable this week as many families do not yet have a Spirit Day shirt.

Again this year, families had the option of paying for the regular monthly Spirit Days in advance on Fee Night. Our Spirit Day tomorrow, Friday, Aug. 26, and the one next Friday, Sept. 2, are included for families who already paid the fee on Fee Night. All those who did not opt to pay for Spirit Days in advance must send in \$1 per student in order for their child to participate. **PSA will also be giving families the opportunity to purchase a different style of shirt for Spirit Days with two order forms going home today.** (See the related article for more details.) These are not required purchases, but they are fun shirts to promote school spirit! **Orders are due back to school with payment by next Friday, Sept. 2.**

Special thanks to all of you for the outpouring of support for Madison Michel, one of our sixth graders whose father passed away unexpectedly last week. Please continue to keep Madison and her family in your prayers. Thanks for all you do to support our school! Enjoy your weekend!

*Sincerely,  
Mrs. Kathy Wear*

### Welcome!

We extend a warm welcome to our kindergarten, pre-kindergarten students and our preschoolers who began their official school year this week. We also welcome all of our new students in various grades: first grader Max Schempp,

second grader Taylor Roach, third grader Adriana Nation, fifth grader Anthony Fergin, sixth graders Amalia Coderko and Michael Krikorian, and seventh grader Xander Eberding. In addition, we know you will join us in welcoming the newest members of our faculty and staff. They include Mrs. Mary Ann Dillman and Mrs. Tracy Madonia, our first grade teaching assistants, and Mr. Dan Manfredi, who is an eighth grade homeroom teacher and teaches eighth grade English and literature and sixth grade English. We are happy to have all of them among the newest members of our school!

### Hot Lunch News

Hot lunches will begin Monday, August 29, for those who preordered their lunches for the month of September. We are pleased to have Fritz's serving our Tuesday and Thursday hot lunches once again this year, and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents are coordinating with HyVee to provide the lunch items on Monday and Wednesday.

Our ever-popular Friday hot lunches will return again this year, coordinated by Anne Short on behalf of the PSA. The items will include walking tacos, nachos, popcorn, and pretzels. A menu listing items available and prices will be sent home next week. Students are to bring the necessary amount of money needed for their Friday lunch if they choose to purchase items. We are still counting on our Friday hot lunch volunteers to assist us again this year, and new volunteers are always welcome. If interested, please come to the cafeteria at 10:45 on Fridays. We appreciate all of our hot lunch volunteers' time and dedication!

### Band Meeting

There will be an informational meeting this Sunday, August 28, for all parents and students interested in participating in the Springfield Catholic Elementary Schools' Band this year. The meeting is at 2:00 p.m. in the choral room at Sacred Heart-Griffin. There will be demonstrations of various instruments as well as the opportunity to rent instruments, meet with band instructors, and purchase supplies. Melissa Blankestyn is the band director, and students will continue to have weekly lessons at our school. A flyer is posted on our school's website. Come and find out how you can be a part of this exciting opportunity!

### PSA Spirit Wear Order Forms

PSA is sending home two order forms today for BSS shirts and sweatshirts. (Color copies of the forms are posted on our school website.) **The shirts and sweatshirts on both forms are not uniform items that may be worn on regular school days.** However, they are perfect for our Spirit Days and to support our school's athletic teams!

The form from Miles T-Shirts has 20 options. #1-5 feature a starburst tie-dyed pattern while #6 & 7 have a tie-dyed marble pattern. #15 & 16 include a paw print in the lower corner of the tie-dyed shirt. Note that #4-5 and #17-20 are long-sleeve shirts. #12-14 are hooded sweatshirts. (More detailed examples of the different types of tie-dyed patterns are available for viewing in the school office and will be on display at our Parent Back-to-School Night next Tuesday evening.)

The other order form from Under Dog Tees features five designs that are available in short-sleeve and long-sleeve t-shirts as well as hooded sweatshirts. These designs each feature a silver glitter accent and are offered in the background color shown.

You may order from one or both forms, but only one check is needed for your total order. The checks should be made payable to Blessed Sacrament School and are due back to school by Friday, Sept. 2. You can show your school spirit and support PSA at the same time!

### **Engrade, Online Behavior Reports & Class Dojo**

Once again, we are utilizing EngradePro for online grade access for parents and students K-8. All teachers will have grades updated every Monday by 5:00 p.m. although some may choose to update grades throughout the week. Parents will also be able to view assignments, check attendance, and also communicate with the teachers through the Engrade message system. *If you communicate with the teachers through Engrade, please indicate that you are the parent as the student and parent communication goes through the same account, and it is sometimes difficult for the teachers to determine who is writing the message.*

Returning students and their families may use the same Engrade password and log in information that you had last year. All new students and their families should have received an e-mail earlier this week with their username and password. Both are case-sensitive. Please contact the office if you did not receive this information or have difficulty accessing your account from last year. We are able to reset your password if necessary. We appreciate your understanding and patience as we work out any problems and make any necessary adjustments in the upcoming weeks.

Again this year, grades 4-8 will also utilize Engrade for tracking behavior reports. Each child has a specific class labeled behavior. Parents and students will be able to see if a child received a pink slip by accessing that particular page. The behavior page will be updated by the homeroom teachers daily by 3:30 p.m. Please note that pink slips, with details of any infractions, will still come home with the child for a parent signature and must be returned the next day.

Students in the all-day Pre-K through grade 3 are using a program entitled Class Dojo for online behavior reports. This format, which is more appropriate for younger students, allows parents to view their children's behavior reports online in real time. There is a strong emphasis on reinforcing positive behavior with this program, although it will also show areas that need improvement. The teachers will incorporate this system to fit within their individual classroom management systems. By the end of next week, all parents in

those grades should receive information about how to log on to your child's Dojo account.

### **Back to School Night**

**Mark your calendars for our annual Parent Back-to-School Night next Tuesday, August 30. The event will begin at 6:30 p.m. and end at 7:30 p.m.** This year there will not be a general meeting to begin the evening. Upon arrival parents may proceed directly to the classrooms to visit the rooms and meet the teachers. The teachers will give short presentations for parents at 6:30, 6:50, and 7:10 p.m. We hope this time frame with repeated presentations will allow parents to visit different classrooms if they have more than one child or if they want to hear from the various teachers in grades 5-8, which are departmentalized, or from the teachers of our specials classes.

The Scholastic Book Fair will also be open that evening, and several organizations will have information available at tables in the cafeteria. PSA will have more information about their spirit wear on display. There will also be a sign-up in the cafeteria for an extra Spirit Day for classes with the highest percentage of parents in attendance as well as entries for a drawing for scrip cards for parents. This is a great way to become familiar with the BSS community! Hope to see you there!

### **Scholastic Book Fair Is Coming!**

The Scholastic Book Fair will be at Blessed Sacrament School for over a week, August 30-September 6. The fair will be open during Back-to-School Night on Tuesday, August 30, and after all Masses the weekend of Sept. 4 & 5. Classes will visit the book fair during their library periods, August 31-September 6.

Working the book fair is a great opportunity to help the students, earn service hours, and shop! We greatly appreciate those who responded to our request for volunteers earlier this week. There are still some open volunteer positions. If you are interested in volunteering to help, please email librarian Sarah Allen at [allen@bssbruins.org](mailto:allen@bssbruins.org).

Families will be able to pre-order the latest book in the Wimpy Kid series, Diary of a Wimpy Kid Double Down. It is scheduled to go on sale on November 1. However, you may pre-order it from our Scholastic Book Fair for the special price of \$8.99. The order form is posted on our school's website and will be available throughout the book fair. The profit from this fair benefits the school library, so we appreciate your help in making this a success!

### **Seventh and Eighth Grade Spanish Elective**

Due to scheduling constraints, Spanish will be offered as an elective for interested seventh and eighth grade students. The class will meet during their study hall from 2:30 – 3:00 once a week. The eighth graders will meet on Thursdays, and the seventh graders will meet on Fridays. An informational sign-up sheet is being sent home with them today and is due back on Monday, August 29. Each class will be limited to 30 students on a first come-first serve basis. The classes will begin next week.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Meeting

At least one parent of each eighth grader is asked to attend a meeting next Wednesday, Aug. 31, at 6:30 p.m. in the gym. Eighth grade activities as well as related committees and fundraising will be discussed. Please plan to attend as all parents are required to be involved!

## Blessed Sacrament Choir Sign-Up

Students in third-fifth grades have the opportunity to join the Blessed Sacrament Chorister Choir this year. The choir is open to all interested students in those grade levels. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 3:00-4:15 p.m. at the rectory, beginning September 7. The choir sings every Tuesday for the grades 2-5 Mass and for the 4:30 p.m. Saturday Mass on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of every month. Please see the informational letter accompanying today's newsletter. You may contact director Jody Kienzler for more information at [jkienzler@bsps.org](mailto:jkienzler@bsps.org) or 528-7541, ext. 111.

## Requirements for Volunteering at School

Effective July 1, 2012, any individual volunteering in any capacity in our parish or school must attend a training of Protecting God's Children and have a background check. Once you have attended the training, you never have to attend another session. However, if your background check was completed more than five years ago, it must be completed again. (The forms for the background check were included in the Fee Night packet.) Very soon we will be starting to ask for chaperones for field trips and volunteers for our lunches. To volunteer, you must meet these requirements.

*For your convenience, we will be holding a session of Protecting God's Children on Tuesday, September 6th. It will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria.* Please call the school office at 522-7534 to register for the training so that enough materials are available for those in attendance. In addition, sessions are scheduled for other dates and locations in Springfield or within close proximity. Please check for an updated schedule on the Diocesan website, [www.dio.org](http://www.dio.org).

## Leadership T-Shirts

This year all students are being provided with a t-shirt with our school's theme of *Walk Worthy*. Our leadership assemblies will be held on Mondays again this year, although the times will vary. **Once the t-shirts arrive, which should be by the end of next week, students should wear their leadership t-shirts every Monday even if we do not have an assembly on a Monday.** These shirts may also be worn on Spirit Days, which are typically the first Friday of the month. As mentioned earlier in this newsletter, PSA is sending home order forms today for different styles of shirts for Spirit Days.

## Arrival & Dismissal Procedures

We know the first week back to school is somewhat unusual as many parents are parking and walking their children into the building. We appreciate all of you following the directions of the teachers and the student patrols as we direct cars for our arrival and dismissal procedures this year. We ask anyone who wants to park and walk their child(ren) into the school to park in the spaces closer to the field and, if possible, park so that you do not have to back out into the

drop-off lane. All other cars should proceed to the next lane of traffic to drop off students. (Cars dropping off students can also enter from Walnut into the other drop-off lane.)

For dismissal procedures, please refer to the back of the diagram in your orientation packet for parking directions. **Please remember to park facing east in the lot, facing Walnut Street, with the exception of those cars backed into the places in the lot adjacent to the Walnut Street sidewalk.** We ask that you pull all the way forward into the first space available so that we may accommodate the maximum number of cars and avoid cars having to back into spaces as much as possible. The first whistle indicates that everyone should go to their cars to prepare for dismissal. The next series of three whistles indicates that dismissal is beginning. **Cars should leave the parking lot only after being directed to do so by the patrols.** Students who are late leaving the school building will be asked to wait until all cars have been dismissed so that they are not trying to walk through moving traffic. We appreciate your help in keeping our students safe!

## Punctuality

Our school, along with the other Catholic grade schools in Springfield, has seen an increase in the number of students tardy over the past years. We ask for your help in making sure your children arrive on time for school each day. A few minutes may not seem like it would make a lot of difference, but they may miss important announcements in those minutes, and it often sets the tone for your child's entire day. All students need to be in their classrooms by the time the 8:05 bell rings, or any late students will be marked as tardy. (More details about our tardy policy are available in the student handbook on page 4 under *Attendance*.)

When you plan your arrival at school, please remember that it takes several minutes from the time your child leaves your car until he/she arrives in the classroom. Please don't forget to pull up all of the way when you drop off your children so that our arrival process moves as quickly as possible with the maximum number of cars in the parking lot drop-off area at all times. (We will take into consideration inclement weather that may adversely affect our arrival process.) We appreciate your help in making this a successful year for all of our students!

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The 47th Annual Fall Festival Dinner and Auction for Blessed Sacrament School is coming soon on Saturday, October 1. Save the date! Registration will open soon. Please be sure to read the *All Things Auction* newsletter that is being sent with today's newsletter

## Garden Club

Our garden looks beautiful, thanks to a core group of volunteers who watered the garden throughout the summer. Special thanks to Julie Roland and Michelle Townsend who lead our Garden Club activities. This year, the Garden Club will meet after school on the first Tuesday of every month, April – November. Interested students will have the opportunity to sign-up at school next week. A flyer is posted on our website.

### SHG Freshman Volleyball Tournament

SHG is hosting a freshman volleyball tournament on September 10 and is looking for 8<sup>th</sup> grade volleyball players to work as line judges, scorers, timekeepers, and Libero trackers. They will earn service hours for working. If interested, please contact Andrea Petrilli at [apetrilli@troxellins.com](mailto:apetrilli@troxellins.com).

### SHG Needs Swim Coach

Sacred Heart-Griffin High School is currently seeking a coach for their swim team. Interested parties should contact Athletic Director Ken Leonard at [leonard@shg.org](mailto:leonard@shg.org) or by calling 787-1595, ext. 171.

### SHG Junior Poms Camp

The SHG Golden Angels Poms Camp is being held this Saturday, Aug. 27, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the SHG East Campus. Check-in for the camp opens at 8:00 a.m. that day. Campers will perform at halftime of the SHG football game on Friday, Sept. 2. Fee is \$40 per camper and includes a t-shirt. See the flyer posted on the school website for more details and for registration information. Walk-ins are welcome the day of the camp.

### Looking Ahead

Friday, Aug. 26 –  
PSA Spirit Day -\$1 donation (covered by pre-paid fee)  
8:20 a.m. all-school Mass

Sunday, Aug. 28 –  
2:00 p.m. – Band meeting for interested parents & students at SHG

Monday, Aug. 29 –  
Hot lunches begin for those who pre-ordered  
2:30 p.m. – Leadership assembly in cafeteria

Tuesday, Aug. 30 –  
6:30-7:30 p.m. – **Parent Open House**; Scholastic Book Fair open during this evening

Wednesday, Aug. 31 – Tuesday, Sept. 2 -  
Scholastic Book Fair open for students

Wednesday, Aug. 31 -  
6:30 p.m. – Mandatory 8<sup>th</sup> grade parent meeting in the gym

Friday, Sept. 2 –  
**PSA order forms for spirit wear due!**  
PSA Spirit Day - \$1 donation (covered by pre-paid fee)  
8:20 a.m. weekly Mass begins for grades 6-8  
2:15 p.m. – First Friday adoration & benediction (grades 2-8)

Monday, Sept. 5 –  
No school in observance of Labor Day

Tuesday, Sept. 6 –  
Scholastic Book Fair closes at end of day  
3:00-4:00 p.m. – Garden Club meeting  
5:30 p.m. – Protecting God's Children session in the cafeteria (please call the school office to RSVP in advance)

Friday, Sept. 9 –  
8:20 a.m. – All school Mass

Author Lisa Hendley visits with grades 1-3 in the library

Monday, Sept. 12-Friday, Sept. 16 –  
Iowa Standardized Testing all week for grades 2-8

Monday, Sept. 12  
No leadership assembly (wear t-shirts)

Wednesday, Sept. 14 –  
11:30 a.m. dismissal for all-day PreK – 8; teachers' regional meeting; **no BASE available!**

Friday, Sept. 16 –  
Mid-quarter reports

Monday, Sept. 19 –  
8:20 a.m. – Leadership assembly (wear t-shirts)

Wednesday, Sept. 21 –  
Windy City Players performance of *Sleeping Beauty* for Pre-K-fourth grade

Monday, Sept. 26 –  
2:30 p.m. – Leadership assembly (wear t-shirts)

Tuesday, Sept. 27 –  
Vision and hearing screenings

Friday, Sept. 30 –  
Vision/hearing screenings for MWF Pre-K  
Coleman's Cozy Dog Auction Lunch  
**1:30 p.m. dismissal – No BASE available!**

### Please Remember!

#### Before School Patrols for the Week of Aug. 29 – Sept. 2:

Alex Eberding	Seth Faivre	Audrey Frost
Nadia Giacomini	Bryce Johnson	Daniel Katalinich

#### After School Patrols for the Week of Aug. 29– Sept. 2:

Griffin Cook	Julia Danna	Teddy Dietrich
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#### Mass Servers for Aug. 27 & 28:

(only BSS students listed)

<b>4:30 p.m. Saturday</b>	Anthony Keldermans
<b>7:00 a.m. Sunday</b>	(no current BSS students)
<b>8:30 a.m. Sunday</b>	Ethan Short
<b>10:30 a.m. Sunday</b>	Jack Lamar

#### Daily Servers for Aug. 29- Sept. 4:

<b>8:00 a.m. M &amp; W &amp;</b>	Tyler Furkin
<b>8:20 a.m. Tu.</b>	& Ava Giacomini
<b>8:00 a.m. Th. &amp;</b>	Addison Eades
<b>8:20 a.m. Fri.</b>	& Mary Clare Mizeur