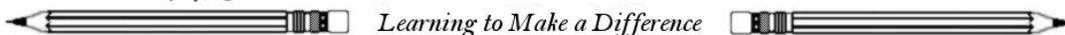


December 1, 2016

+ Blessed Sacrament



School News



Learning to Make a Difference

A Note to Parents

Dear Parents,

I hope all of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving Day and break! With the liturgical season of Advent beginning last Sunday, this week our students began their Advent preparations with our weekly Advent wreath ceremony.

In addition, each morning during Advent, the students also hear about a Jesse Tree symbol, and the symbols are then displayed on our Jesse Tree by the main entrance to the school. This week our students in grades 3-8 received the sacrament of Reconciliation, and tomorrow afternoon the students in grades 2-8 will attend First Friday adoration and benediction at 2:15 p.m. in the church.

Tomorrow is also a regular monthly PSA Spirit Day. Students may wear jeans with any BSS t-shirt, sweatshirt, or jersey for a \$1 donation. This day is included with the pre-paid Spirit Days. Please remember that students must wear a **plain white or plain navy shirt underneath any jersey.** (If students want to wear a long sleeve shirt under a t-shirt, those shirts should also be plain white or plain navy.) Students always have the option of wearing uniform shirts untucked with jeans.

Looking ahead, our students will attend an all-school Mass on Thursday, Dec. 8, for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. As we continue in the Advent season, I hope your family will spend time preparing together for the birth of Christ. I hope this weekend gives you an opportunity for some special family time!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Kathy Wear

Thank You! Thank You!

We appreciate all of the families who supported our annual Barnes and Noble Book Fair last week. It was great to see so many families there throughout the evening. Special thanks to our librarians, Mrs. Criscione and Mrs. Allen, and our Title I Resource teacher, Mrs. Pulliam, for their preparation and coordination of the evening! We are also grateful to Mrs. Hartman for leading the kindergarten and first grade classes in holiday songs.

Congratulations to the seven students who won the scavenger hunts at Barnes and Noble that evening: Katie Riedell, Isabela Burke, William Pittman, Lindsay Madonia, Taylor Verry, Luke Harvey, and Ethan Short. They each received a prize from Barnes and Noble.

We also congratulate the winners of the library's Turkey in Disguise contest: Caroline Lambert, Avery Wilbern, Isabella Resendez, and Lucy Anne Schmadeke.

Kudos to Our Leaders

Before Thanksgiving break, on Nov. 18, third grader Colin Watson served as the Principal for the Day, a prize that

he won in the Children's Raffle. Colin did an excellent job of helping Mrs. Wear with her duties and visiting the classrooms. He definitely is a leader of our school!

Congratulations to eighth grader Grace Lambert, who won the individual Gold Award for October. Grace was recognized for your service to Builders Club and especially for her design of the club's t-shirt this year. We're proud of Grace for her leadership!

Christmas Stocking Stuffers

Please help supply candy for the Builders Club's annual Christmas Stocking Stuffers project. This is a school-wide service project, which benefits Catholic Charities Christmas programs. Students are being asked to bring in specific candies, depending upon their grade level, to insure a variety for our stockings. The list is available on the school website, www.bssbruins.org, and a flyer was sent home last week. **Please send in donations by Tuesday, December 6.**

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 tomorrow, Friday, December 2.** Thank you in advance for your generous support!

Bruinettes Camp

Thank you so much to Taryn Grant for coordinating our annual Bruinettes Camp this week! We have lots of talented girls who are really enjoying the dance camp. We're grateful to the girls for sharing their school spirit. There will be one final rehearsal for all Bruinettes on Monday, December 5, from 3:00-4:00 p.m. They will perform Tuesday, December 6, between the 7th and 8th grade IESA boys' basketball games against Lincoln Carroll Catholic at approximately 6:45 p.m. Come out and cheer for both of our teams along with our talented Bruinettes!

Morning Arrival Reminders

Just a friendly reminder, when dropping off your children in the morning, please proceed through the designated drop-off lane for children to exit their cars. The patrol students and teachers on duty will be happy to provide assistance for younger children. Please do not park in the designated parking areas and allow your children to walk alone to the crosswalk area. It is dangerous for the children to walk unaccompanied in this area, as cars may be pulling in and out of the parking spaces and not see the children behind

the cars. Thank you for your cooperation with safety procedures!

December Box Tops Collection Contest

A box tops collection sheet is being sent home today with every student. The completed sheets are due on Friday, December 16. 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.

Scrip Deadline for Christmas Orders

Don't miss the opportunity to order scrip gift cards to help with your holiday shopping and preparations. Monday, Dec. 12, is the last day to place a special order for scrip cards and receive the cards through school before Christmas. The last day for all scrip sales over the holidays is Tuesday, Dec. 20, at 11:30 a.m.

K of C Breakfast to Benefit Catholic Schools

Please mark your calendars to attend the Knights of Columbus breakfast buffet Sunday, Dec. 11, from 8:00 a.m. to noon. The breakfast will be held at the K of C building at 2200 Meadowbrook Road. The cost is \$10 per adult and \$5 per child (ages 6-12). There will also be a 50/50 drawing. Proceeds will go towards tuition assistance for our Catholic schools in Springfield. In addition, our second grade students will be singing from 11:00 to 11:30 a.m. at the breakfast. Please plan to attend and support our schools!

Thank You Notes

The school recently received a letter of gratitude from the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs for all of the letters students recently wrote to our veterans in observance of Veterans' Day. The Illinois Veterans' Home in Quincy was the recipient of the letters, and residents "genuinely appreciated the generosity and thoughtfulness."

The school also received a check from Lifetouch National Portrait Studio for \$1,142 for our participation in their fall school photograph program. We are grateful for their generosity!

December Art Display

The December art display is up at Custom Cup Coffee! Enjoy a treat and see the great talent of our featured 8th grade artists Maggie Allen, Grace Lambert, and Jonah Parkes. We are so proud of them and their extra work in making their display. Congratulations on your great work!

Elementary School Band Concert

Please join the catholic Elementary School Band and the Sacred Heart-Griffin High School Band for their Christmas concert on Wednesday, December 7, at 7 p.m. in SHG's Dominican Hall Theatre. It will be an evening of music to celebrate Christmas! The admission charge for this show is a new hat, pair of gloves, socks, or scarf to be donated to those in need this Christmas season.

SHG Placement Test for 8th Grade Students

The placement test will be held on Saturday, December 10, from 8:30 a.m. to 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 West Washington and bring two #2 pencils and a \$10 testing fee. Calculators are allowed. There will be a parent meeting at 8:30a.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 787-1595 ext. 126 or e-mail phillips@shg.org.

SHG Choral Christmas Show

The Choral Department of Sacred Heart-Griffin High School will present their annual Christmas Show, "Christmas Memories," on Tuesday, December 13, at 7:00 p.m. in SHG's Dominican Hall Theatre. Tickets do not need to be purchased; however, a free-will offering will be accepted at the show.

Advent by Candlelight

This annual event sponsored by the Women's Club is Thursday, Dec. 8, in the school cafeteria. Tickets are \$15 each and must be purchased in advance. A flyer with more information and a form to order tickets was sent home previously and is posted on the school website

Advent Taize Prayer

This prayer service will be held on Monday, December 12, at 7:00 p.m. A Taize prayer is an ecumenical service involving beautiful instrumental and chanted music in a prayerful candlelit atmosphere. With an emphasis on peace and healing, this peaceful hour will inspire your Advent prayer and practices. Please come and join the group and bring a can of food for the food pantry.

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. 19, through Monday, January 9, when the next eligibility check is completed and goes into effect.

Upcoming Performances

Good luck to several of our Blessed Sacrament students who are a part of upcoming theatre and dance productions in the community! We hope you will be able to attend these performances.

Tomorrow, Friday, Dec. 2, through Sunday, Dec. 4, the Springfield Theatre Center is presenting *The Music Man, Jr.* at the Hoogland Center. The cast is made up entirely of children from the ages of 6 to 16, including our students, James Osborne, Elizabeth Scott, Aili Sluga, Frank Sluga, Gwen Sluga, Lucy Unal, and Rose Unal. Performances are at 7:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets are \$12 each and can be purchased at the door or at www.hctfa.org.

The Springfield Ballet Company's performance of *The Nutcracker* will be their 42nd annual production featuring

elaborate new scenery, colorful new costumes, exquisite dancing, and beautiful music. Shows are at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 10, and at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 11. Blessed Sacrament students in the performance include Molly Davis, Emma Faulkner, Maggie Fleischli, Audrey Frost, Catherine Gardner, Aislyn Grant, Madeline Landgrebe, and Madailein McKay. Good luck to all of our students in their performances!

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 preschool through fourth grade. Additional sign-up dates at St. Aloysius School have been added. They include Dec. 6 (6:00-7:30 p.m.), Dec. 7 (5:00-6:30 p.m.), Dec. 8 (6:30-7:30 p.m.), Dec. 12 (5:00-6:30 p.m.), Dec. 14 (5:00-7:00 p.m.), and Dec. 15 (6:00-7:00 p.m.). Practices begin Jan. 6, and games begin Jan. 21, so don't miss these opportunities to register for the leagues!

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 at the diocesan level, and then the top three winners at each grade level will be sent to the national MCA office for judging. All entries must arrive in the Office for the Missions by Jan. 15, 2017, and any entries received by Dec. 13, 2016, will have the chance to appear as the cover design for the Christmas edition of *The Catholic Times* newspaper. Entry forms and guidelines are available on our school website.

Looking Ahead

Friday, Dec. 2 –

Sponsor-a-Family donations due!

PSA Spirit Day (included in prepaid Spirit Days)
2:15 p.m. – First Friday Benediction (gr. 2-8)

Monday, Dec. 5 –

8:20 a.m. – Leadership assembly (wear t-shirts)

Tuesday, Dec. 6 –

Candy for stockings due!

6:45 p.m. – Bruinettes perform between the 7th and 8th grade boys' IESA basketball games

7:00 p.m. – Parish Advent Penance Service in church

Wednesday, Dec. 7 –

7:00 p.m. – Band concert at SHG

Thursday, Dec. 8 –

8:20 a.m. – All-school Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception

5:45 p.m. – Women's Club Advent by Candlelight in the cafeteria

Saturday, Dec. 10 –

8:30 a.m. – SHG placement exam

Sunday, Dec. 11 –

K of C breakfast to benefit Catholic Schools – 2nd graders perform with Mrs. Hartman at 11:00 a.m.

1:00 p.m. – Mrs. Carter's 1st grade Christmas program

3:00 p.m. – Ms. Vespa's 1st grade Christmas program

Monday, Dec. 12 –

Last day to special order scrip gift cards!

8:20 a.m. – Leadership assembly (wear t-shirts)

Wednesday, Dec. 14 –

9:30 a.m. – All-day Pre-K Christmas program

12:00 p.m. – 4th & 5th grade choir members' field trip to St. John's Hospital

1:30 p.m. – Early dismissal for faculty meeting;

B.A.S.E. available

Thursday, Dec. 15 –

10:00 a.m. – Mrs. Senger's 3rd grade program

1:30 p.m. – Ms. Williamson's 3rd grade program

Friday, Dec. 16 –

Christmas box tops collection sheets due!

9:30 a.m. – Kindergarten Christmas program

11:00 a.m. – 6th-8th grade choir members' field trip to lunch and the Dominican Motherhouse (4th & 5th grade choir members will eat lunch at school and meet at the Motherhouse at 1:00)

Tuesday, Dec. 20 –

8:00-11:30 a.m. – **Last chance to purchase in-stock scrip gift cards!**

11:30 a.m. – dismissal for Christmas vacation; **No B.A.S.E. available!**

Please Remember!

Before School Patrols for the Week of Dec. 5-9:

Mary Claire Gardner	Lucy Harvey	Drew Herman
Briana Huelsman	Nathan Jugan	Nolan Kelley

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

Peter Mokoff	Liam Noonan	Jack Ozyurt
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Mass Servers for Dec. 3 & 4: (only BSS students listed)

4:30 p.m. Saturday	Cameron Booker & Carter Etheridge
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7:00 a.m. Sunday	Emily Leefers
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8:30 a.m. Sunday	Addy Eades & Michael Krikorian
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10:30 a.m. Sunday	Elliott Kren
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Daily Servers for Dec. 5-9:

8:00 a.m. M & W &	Quinn Butler
8:20 a.m. Tu.	& Mitch Dye

8:00 a.m. Th. &	Andrew Dailey
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8:20 a.m. Fri.	& Jack Fleischli
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(also Michael Krikorian at **8:20 a.m. on Th. Dec. 8**)

Wed., Dec. 7 - 5:30 p.m. Vigil Mass: Bill Hollahan