

December 8, 2016

# + Blessed Sacrament



## School News

 Learning to Make a Difference 

### A Note to Parents

Dear Parents,

Our final days before Christmas break are filled with many preparations for Christmas as well as several celebrations of this holy season. We continue to observe Advent by lighting the candles of the Advent wreath, and we celebrated an all-school Mass today for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. We appreciate your help in continuing to keep Christ as the focus during this Advent season.

Special thanks to Taryn Grant and Kim Hoffmann for coordinating our Bruinettes this past week! The 93 girls did a great job at their performance on Tuesday evening between the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys' IESA basketball games. We are grateful for their hard work and school spirit!

Several of our grades have been busy preparing programs for their parents. Our second graders will sing at the Knights of Columbus breakfast on Sunday morning, and our first graders will present Christmas songs and plays at their programs on Sunday afternoon. Our third graders are presenting their Christmas musical to their families next Thursday. Our all-day preK will have a program on Wednesday, and our kindergarten classes present their Christmas program on Friday. Please be sure to check the schedule in the **Looking Ahead** section in this newsletter for specific dates and times.

Tuesday, Dec. 20, will be 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 Tuesday, Dec. 20, is an early dismissal day with students being dismissed at 11:30 a.m., and B.A.S.E. will NOT be provided.**

I hope you find some quiet family time this weekend in your preparations for Christmas!

Sincerely,  
*Mrs. Kathy Wear*

### January Hot Lunch Orders

Hot lunch order forms for January were being sent home today, but an error on the form resulted in the need to reprint them, so the forms will be sent home with all students tomorrow. The forms will be due back next Thursday, December 15.

### Bruins Update

Congratulations to our 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls' IESA basketball team on their sectional championship last night! The girls won 33-32 over Pleasant Plains to advance to the state tournament at Metamora High School this Saturday. Their first game will be at 2:30 p.m., and with a win, they will

play that evening at 6:30 p.m. We will recognize the team with a pep rally tomorrow morning at 8:20 a.m.

### Nativity Drawing Contest

Congratulations to all of the 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> graders who participated in the Nativity Drawing Contest. It was a difficult decision, but the following students' drawings were chosen as the winners: 1<sup>st</sup> place – Lindsay Madonia (6<sup>th</sup> grade), 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Riley VanZuiden (6<sup>th</sup> grade), and 3<sup>rd</sup> place – Luca Bonansinga (5<sup>th</sup> grade). These three nativities will be on display by the Jesse Tree in the entrance hallway, and the winners received prizes from Mrs. Ficke for sharing their artistic talents!

### 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.

### Kudos to Our Choirs!

Our Jubilate Choir is sharing their gift of music this season with field trips to St. John's Hospital and the Dominican Motherhouse next week. In addition, this choir will provide entertainment by sharing Advent songs at the Women's Group Advent by Candlelight event tonight. As always, we know that they will be exceptional! They also enhance our Masses with their music on a regular basis. Special thanks to the choir members for sharing their talents with all of us and to Mrs. Jody Kienzler for directing them and developing their God-given gifts.

### 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!

### **Traffic Safety Reminders**

We truly appreciate your efforts to make sure your children arrive on time each morning, but please keep in mind that we also want to make sure all children arrive safely. We have received reports of cars of our families excessively speeding down Glenwood from Outer Park to the school. That not only puts other vehicles but also any walkers in danger. Neighbors have requested a police presence in the morning to help monitor this problem. We appreciate your cooperation in keeping all of our students safe!

### **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](mailto: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.

### **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. 9, through Sunday, Dec. 11, 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](http://www.hctfa.org).

The Springfield Ballet Company's performance of *The Nutcracker* will be their 42<sup>nd</sup> 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!

### **Advent Taize Prayer**

This prayer service will be held on Monday, December 12, at 7:00 p.m. in Blessed Sacrament Church. 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.

### **Catholic School Pee Wee Basketball League**

Please see the information posted on our school website for information about a pee-wee 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**

Thursday, Dec. 8 –

5:45 p.m. – Doors open for Women's Club Advent by Candlelight in the cafeteria; program begins at 7:00 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 9 –

8:20 a.m. – Pep rally for 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls' IESA basketball team

Builders Club & student body stuffing stockings for St. John's Breadline

Saturday, Dec. 10 –

8:30 a.m. - SHG placement exam

2:30 p.m. – 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls' IESA basketball team's state tournament game at Metamora High School (With a win, they play again at 6:30 p.m.)

Sunday, Dec. 11 –

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

1:00p.m. – Mrs. Carter's 1<sup>st</sup> grade Christmas program

3:00 p.m. – Ms. Vespa’s 1<sup>st</sup> 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. – 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> 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 –

**Hot lunch orders due for January!**

10:00 a.m. – Mrs. Senger’s 3<sup>rd</sup> grade program

1:30 p.m. – Ms. Williamson’s 3<sup>rd</sup> grade program

Friday, Dec. 16 –

**Christmas box tops collection sheets due!**

9:30 a.m. – Kindergarten Christmas program

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

6:00 p.m. – 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys’ IESA basketball home games vs. Decatur Robertson

Tuesday, Dec. 20 –

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

11:30 a.m. – Early dismissal for Christmas vacation;

**No B.A.S.E. available!**

Wednesday, Jan. 4 –

Classes resume after Christmas break

Friday, Jan. 6 –

PSA Spirit Day (included with prepaid days)

8:20 a.m. – All-school Mass

End of second quarter

Monday, Jan. 9 –

2:30 p.m. – Leadership assembly (wear t-shirts)

Wednesday, Jan. 11 –

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

BASE available

4:00 p.m. – 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys’ IESA home basketball games vs. Franklin Middle School

Friday, Jan. 13 –

Report Card Day!

Monday, Jan. 16 –

No school in observance of MLK, Jr. Day

Monday, Jan. 23 –

No leadership assembly (wear t-shirts)

8:20 a.m. – All school Mass

Tuesday, Jan. 24 –

6<sup>th</sup> grade to CTK for National School Choice Event

Wednesday, Jan. 25 –

State Accreditation and Diocesan Recognition Visit

March for Life bus leaves in the evening

Friday, Jan. 27 –

TGIF event for third graders at Little Flower School

Sunday, Jan. 29 – Friday, Feb. 3 –

Catholic Schools Week!

**Please Remember!**

**Before School Patrols for the Week of Dec. 12-16:**

Josh Klenke	Cooper Koowalewski	Jack Leahy
Josh Mauney	Grace Minder	Ambz Negro

**After School Patrols for the Week of Dec. 12-16:**

Emma Grace Pezold	Andrew Reimers	Aili Sluga
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**Mass Servers for Dec. 10 & 11: (only BSS students listed)**

<b>4:30 p.m. Saturday</b>	Lily Klaves
<b>7:00 a.m. Sunday</b>	no current BSS students
<b>8:30 a.m. Sunday</b>	Grace & Hannah Lambert
<b>10:30 a.m. Sunday</b>	Jackson Pitz, Jack Lamar & Maddie McKay

**Daily Servers for Dec. 12-16:**

<b>8:00 a.m. M &amp; W &amp;</b>	Seth Faivre
<b>8:20 a.m. Tu.</b>	& Audrey Frost
<b>8:00 a.m. Th. &amp;</b>	Sam & Will
<b>8:20 a.m. Fri.</b>	DeSalle