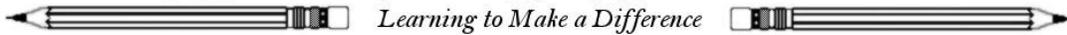


February 16, 2017

+ Blessed Sacrament



School News



Learning to Make a Difference

A Note to Parents

Dear Parents,

It's been another busy week at school! On Sunday our eighth graders signed the Book of Intent at the 8:30 a.m. Mass to proclaim publicly their commitment to prepare for Confirmation. They will receive the sacrament of Confirmation at a 7:00 p.m. Mass on Wednesday, March 29. Special thanks to Mrs. Hollahan, their religion teacher, for guiding their Confirmation preparation. Please keep our students in your prayers as they continue their studies and preparations for this sacrament.

Monday evening we hosted our open house for prospective families and were very pleased with the turnout. Thank you to our parents who served as tour guides and to all of you for sharing the news of our open house with others. If you know someone who might be interested in our school for next year, please encourage them to call the office for more information and/or to schedule a tour.

Yesterday and today we welcomed Lori Benson-Adams, a national educational intervention specialist, to Blessed Sacrament School. She has worked closely over the course of these two days with all of our teachers and also offered a parent session last night. With over 30 years of experience working in both public and private schools with children and teens who have a variety of learning challenges, including ADHD, autism, and dyslexia, she provided information to our teachers about a whole-brain, practical view of intervening with a wide variety of learning, social, and behavioral challenges. Last night she also provided general study tips that will be helpful to a wide range of learners and their parents. We appreciate Ms. Benson-Adams sharing her expertise with our school community so that we may better meet the needs of all learners.

Tomorrow most of the regular lunch items will be available for purchase, but **no popcorn will be sold this Friday, Feb. 17, as the popcorn machine is broken.** Please plan for lunches accordingly.

School will not be in session on Monday, Feb. 20, in observance of Presidents' Day. Enjoy the three-day weekend with your children!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Kathy Wear

Bruins Update

Congratulations to our 8th grade boys' IESA basketball team on a great season! Although they lost in their state tournament game, they played very well in an extremely close game. We're proud of all they accomplished as a team this year and of how well they represented our school through their character and teamwork. Special thanks to their coaches,

Young Brockhouse and Duane Dye!

March Hot Lunch Order Form

The order forms for March hot lunches are being sent home today and posted on our school website. They are due back next Tuesday, February 21. Please note that we will make up the hot lunches that were canceled on Monday, December 19, on Monday, March 6. As you may recall, school was canceled on December 19 due to ice. Therefore, those students who ordered a hot lunch on that day will receive their lunch on March 6. An email will be sent next week to all those families who have a lunch due from December 19. Thank you!

Geography Bee

Congratulations to eighth grader Ava Giacomini, the winner of our schoolwide geography bee, and to sixth grader Jaynane Roate and eighth grader Miles Roland who finished second and third, respectively. Ava will complete a test for the next level of the geography bee competition. Congratulations to all of the students who competed as winners of their homeroom geography bee. Special thanks to Ms. Alan for organizing our school's geography bee.

Kudos to Our Art Students

Congratulations to Ava Giacomini, Emma Kinion, Sofia Lewis, and Ava Stone! These four talented eighth graders in Art Club have artwork being displayed at Springfield's Custom Cup Coffee Shop downtown! Come and enjoy these artists' creativity . . . and a great cup of coffee, too! Good work, girls!

Fine Arts Evening Tryouts

We will hold our annual Fine Arts Evening at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 5, to showcase the musical talents of our students. Musicians, dancers, and singers who are interested in participating must currently be taking lessons and must come to the tryout on Wednesday, Feb. 22, at 3:00 p.m. in the art room. A form is being sent home today for any interested students to complete and return to Mrs. Ficke before the tryouts. We look forward to enjoying our students' talents!

Mardi Gras Carnival Tickets Order Form

On Tuesday, Feb. 28, our Builders Club is sponsoring a Mardi Gras Carnival to benefit the Missionary Childhood Association. All of the students will be attending the carnival during the school day with their classes. Today an order form is being sent home with all students to purchase tickets for the carnival. The order form with payment is due back to school by next Friday, Feb. 24.

Garden Club News

The Garden Club will begin meeting again in March! The meetings will be the first Tuesday of each month with the first upcoming meeting being held on Tuesday, March 7, after school. The club will continue to meet on the first Tuesdays through the summer, with the exception of July 4, which will be rescheduled for a different day in July.

SHG Seeking Applicants for Alumni Scholarship

The alumni of Sacred Heart Academy, Cathedral, Griffin, and Sacred Heart-Griffin are dedicated to helping those students who might otherwise not be able to afford a Catholic education. Eligibility requirements are as follows:

- The students must be a Catholic registered in a parish.
- Financial need as indicated on completed FACTS Grant & Aid application form ([filing deadline is March 15th](#))
- Average grades as well as the principal's recommendation
- Student profile or essay.

Only forms that have been completed and signed by the principal, parent and student will be considered. A copy of the application may be found at www.shg.org/admissions. If you have any questions, feel free to call Sacred Heart-Griffin at 787-1595.

Registration for 2017-2018

The registration period for the 2017-2018 school year for our current students begins on Wednesday, March 1, with registration packets being sent home with current students. Registration forms are due back on Monday, March 13.

We will have registration for new preschool and kindergarten families, with preschool and pre-K parents registering their children in person on Monday, Feb. 27, beginning at 8:30 a.m., and new families with kindergarten students registering them in person on Tuesday, Feb. 28, beginning at 8:30 a.m. Parents of all current preschool/pre-K and current K-8 families had the opportunity to indicate their preferences for kindergarten or preschool/pre-K earlier.

2017-2018 Tuition Rates

After consultation with the Finance Council and the School Board, the tuition rates for the 2017-2018 school year are as follows:

1 child -	\$3,925
2 children -	\$5,975
3+ children -	\$7,625
Non-Parish -	\$5,400 per child

Preschool/pre-K tuition rates for the 2017-2018 school year are as follows:

Tu/Th preschool	\$1,100
MWF pre-K	\$1,400
All-day pre-K	\$3,925

The registration fee will again be \$75 per child.

Each year we strive to keep tuition costs manageable for families while at the same time being fiscally responsible. Thanks to the ongoing generosity of our families and parishioners and the success of our fundraising efforts, we are

able to do so with minimal tuition increases for next school year. We are especially grateful to our parish for the subsidy that they provide for every student in our school each year. We are blessed by their support and partnership in providing a strong Catholic education to the children in our parish school.

Illnesses and Attendance

We continue to have several students ill with either a stomach virus or strep throat. In order to provide the healthiest environment possible for all of our students and staff, we ask that parents please closely monitor ill students. Per our school policy, students are to be kept home until they are fever-free (without Tylenol or ibuprofen) for 24 hours. Likewise, similar guidelines apply if a child has been actively vomiting or experiencing other stomach virus symptoms. Oftentimes, if a child is sent home ill from school for one of these reasons, we do not anticipate they will be well enough to return the following day. Thank you for your cooperation!

Thinking Putty

Many students have been bringing "thinking putty" to school and explaining that it is promoted by the manufacturer as a stress reliever. However, we have found that it is more of a distraction than a help to the students. As a result, students will not be allowed to have the "thinking putty" out at any time during the school day unless we have a note from a professional (doctor, counselor, etc.) indicating the need for it. Thanks for your understanding and cooperation!

Scholastic Book Fair Is Coming!

Our spring Scholastic Book Fair, *It's S'more Fun with Books*, will be held March 10-17. We are presently looking for someone to chair or co-chair this event for our school. We also are in need of volunteers to staff the book fair after all the weekend Masses on March 11 and 12 and during the school day March 13-17. We may also have the book fair open on Friday evening, March 10, during the Men's Club Fish Fry if we have volunteers available. Working the book fair is a great opportunity to help the students, earn service hours, and shop! If you are interested in co-chairing the book fair, please contact Mrs. Burke. If you are interested in volunteering to work a shift (or two!) of the book fair, please email librarians Sarah Allen at allen@bssbruins.org and Lori Criscione at criscione@bssbruins.org. Thank you for your consideration!

Boy Scouts/Applebee's Pancake Breakfast

Blessed Sacrament Boy Scout Troop 31 will be selling tickets after Masses this weekend for a pancake breakfast fundraiser at Applebee's on Saturday, Feb. 18, from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. Tickets are \$5 per person and include pancakes, bacon, and a drink. Proceeds will go towards the purchase of new scouting equipment, including tents. See the flyer being sent home today.

Girls on the Run Registration

Our spring Girls on the Run program will be held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:30 to 4:45 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament. The ten-week program begins on March 6th and is open to girls in 3rd through 5th grade. Since 5th graders have

the option to participate in cross country and track through our school, we will be accepting 3rd and 4th grade registrations first. After those registrations, we will allow 5th graders to participate if there are enough openings. See the flyer posted on our website for more details. Online registration began Wednesday, Feb. 8, at www.GOTRcentralillinois.org.

Daily Servers for Feb. 20-24:

8:00 a.m. M & W &	Maddie Landgrebe
8:20 a.m. Tu.	& Grace Minder
8:00 a.m. Th. &	Carter Etheridge
8:20 a.m. Fri.	& Tyler Furkin

Looking Ahead

Thursday, Feb. 16 –
6:00 p.m. – 7th & 8th grade girls' home volleyball games vs. Petersburg Porta

Friday, Feb. 17 -
3rd grade field trip to Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum
2nd grade field trip to *Junie B* performance at UIS

Monday, Feb. 20 –
No school – Presidents' Day

Tuesday, Feb. 21 –
March hot lunch order forms due!

Wednesday, Feb. 22 –
3:00 p.m. – Fine Arts Evening tryouts in the art room
6:00 p.m. – 7th & 8th grade girls' home volleyball games vs. St. Agnes; recognition of 8th grade volleyball players between games

Friday, Feb. 24 –
Mardi Gras ticket order form due!
Set-up for science & history fair in the moorning
7th grade science fair judging after school

Saturday & Sunday, Feb. 25 & 26 –
Science & history fair open house after all Masses

Monday, Feb. 27 –
8:30 a.m. - Preschool/Pre-K registration for new families begins---must register in person!
2:30 p.m. – Leadership Assembly (wear t-shirts)

Tuesday, Feb. 28 –
8:30 a.m. – Kindergarten registration for new families begins---must register in person!
Builders' Club Mardi Gras Student Carnival

Wednesday, March 1 –
Registration packets for current families go home
8:20 a.m. – All-school Mass – Ash Wednesday

Friday, March 3 –
Regular PSA Spirit Day (covered by pre-paid fee)
2:15 p.m. – First Friday adoration & benediction for grades 2-8

Please Remember!

Before School Patrols for the Week of Feb. 20-24:

Anthony Keldermans	Dani Kraft	Gryphon Kirchgesner
Madeline Landgrebe	Spencer Wood	Aidan Mauntel

After School Patrols for the Week of Feb. 20-24:

Joey Scott	Teddy Thornberry	Alaric Wortman
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Mass Servers for Feb. 18 & 19: (only BSS students)

4:30 p.m. Saturday	Nathaniel Bell & Sophie & Andrew Reimers
7:00 a.m. Sunday	Addison Eades
8:30 a.m. Sunday	Audrey Frost
10:30 a.m. Sunday	Elliott Kren & Emily Leefers