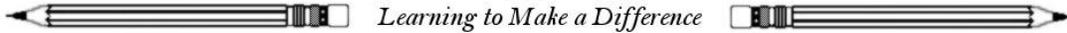


February 2, 2017

+ Blessed Sacrament



School News



Learning to Make a Difference

A Note to Parents

Dear Parents,

We have enjoyed a wonderful celebration of Catholic education throughout the Catholic Schools Week activities this week. On Sunday, Parent Appreciation Day, the parishioners received a flyer expressing our thanks for their continued support of our school. Later that day we had many families join together for roller skating at Skateland South. Thanks to all who participated in this family event!

On Monday we began our week with the Living Rosary for the entire student body. Monday was Community Awareness Day so our students held a read-a-thon in the afternoon. In addition to reading in their classrooms, the students also joined with their buddy classes for more reading activities.

We appreciate the generosity of all who made pledges for the read-a-thon, which will help St. Theresa's Youth Center in Ghana purchase Wi-Fi for increased learning for their youth as well as the opportunity for them to communicate with our students. To date, we have collected \$3,807.91. Also, so far we have collected 570 pairs of shoes to send to Ghana. **If you have not done so already, please send any payments for read-a-thon pledges or any additional shoe donations to the school office by tomorrow, Friday, Feb. 3.** We are so appreciative of the generosity of our school and parish families!

On Tuesday, Faith Appreciation Day, we celebrated an all-school Mass and shared our gratitude with Father Scott, Deacon Dave, and Deacon Tom for their examples of faith and guidance of our students in their faith development. All three received posters signed by all students and a small gift. Father Scott also received booklets with personal letters or drawings from all of the students. We are certainly blessed to have them as the spiritual leaders in our parish and school! Special thanks to Mrs. Deena Bell for organizing the Living Rosary and the Faith Appreciation Day.

On Tuesday morning we also welcomed Chris McBrien, the Magic Storyteller. In addition to entertaining our students, he also shared important messages of good character and leadership.

As always, the students enjoyed eating lunch with their parents or special visitors yesterday on Parent Appreciation Day. We are grateful for the service of the 8th grade parents and students for this large luncheon. It was also nice to see many parents at our parent appreciation reception last night. Congratulations to all of those who won gift cards and to Angie Christie who won the \$500 tuition voucher for the 2017-2018 school year!

Today, Student Appreciation Day, the students enjoyed a hot dog lunch with an ice cream treat, and they had popcorn while they viewed movies in their classrooms in the

afternoon! Thank you so much to the parent volunteers who helped make this a special day for our students.

We are also most grateful to the Parent-School Association for sponsoring the skating event as well as the tuition voucher, the lunch and treats for the students, the Magic Storyteller assembly, and the teacher luncheon. Thanks, too, to Men's Club for their help with the Parent Appreciation Evening. We are so fortunate to have such active and generous organizations in our school and parish!

Tomorrow we will end Catholic Schools Week with Teacher Appreciation Day, and it is also a free modified Spirit Day for teachers and students. (Please see the related article for clothing guidelines.) The faculty will play the 8th graders in volleyball at 10:15 a.m., and our teachers will be guests at a luncheon after the early dismissal. We are truly blessed by your support and thoughtful kindness!

Please note that dismissal tomorrow, Friday, Feb. 3, is at 11:30 a.m., and no B.A.S.E. is available. Also, please see the handbook addendum. It includes policies in place but not stated in our handbook previously. Have a good weekend!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Kathy Wear

Congratulations!

Congratulations to the winners of the Ginny Valdez Essay Contest who were announced at the all-school Mass on Tuesday! The third through fifth graders wrote essays in answer to the question, "What is your favorite beatitude, and how do you live it out?" The winners were as follows: 3rd grade: Rowan Mizeur (1st place), Julia Provenzano (2nd), and Meara Seelbach (3rd); 4th grade: Timmy Nudo (1st), Mac Stone (2nd), and Ileana Stremsterfer (3rd); and 5th grade: Augustine Hyde (1st), Lila Ambrose (2nd), and Sophia Stewart (3rd). Special thanks to all of our students who participated in the contest and to Mrs. Criscione for organizing the essay contest.

Bruins Update

Congratulations to our 8th grade boys' IESA basketball team on winning the regional championship! They defeated A-C Central, 31-28. Way to go, Bruins! They now play for the sectional championship next Wednesday, Feb. 8, at 6:30 p.m. at the Greenfield High School Gym.

Good luck to all of our Bruins! Our 7th & 8th grade boys' SCAA basketball team has their final league game at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday in our gym. Also, our 8th grade volleyball team is in the Franklin Middle School tournament on Saturday. Our two 5th & two 6th grade boys' basketball teams play at 9:00 and 10:00 a.m. this Saturday with the 5th grade playing at Christ the King and 6th playing at St. Agnes.

Free Modified Spirit Day Tomorrow

Tomorrow, Friday, Feb. 3, students and teachers will have a free modified Spirit Day. They may wear any BSS Spirit Day shirt or any athletic jersey/shirt of their favorite sports team with jeans, uniform pants, or athletic pants.

Please note that tight-fitting pants, including yoga pants and leggings, and sweatpants are not acceptable. Also, per our handbook, "Uniform guidelines about makeup, shoes, socks, and jewelry still apply on Spirit Days." Please remember that boots are not acceptable for wear throughout the school day. We appreciate your cooperation in following the guidelines so that students will not have to call home for replacement clothing items.

Illnesses and Attendance

Recently, we have had 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!

Box Tops for Education

A box tops collection sheet is going home today with every student for our February collection event. Every student who returns a completed form on or before next Friday, February 10, will receive a small Valentine's Day treat bag. Keep collecting box tops!

Open House for Prospective Families

Monday, Feb. 13, we will be hosting an open house for prospective families from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Please invite anyone who might be interested in learning more about Blessed Sacrament School!

Preschool/PreK & Kindergarten Intent Letters

Again this year, parents of current preschool/preK1 students will have the opportunity to indicate their preferences for kindergarten or preschool/preK for their family before registration begins. Likewise, current families in our school will also have the opportunity to indicate their intent for preschool/preK or kindergarten via an intent letter. The intent letters will be sent home with preschool/PreK students as well as emailed to all current parents with this newsletter. Parents who return an intent form **by next Thursday, Feb. 9**, will not need to call the school on call-in dates at the end of February in addition to returning the form.

Dismissal Reminders

Please remind your children who leave as walkers that they must stay on the sidewalks and not walk through the grass. We are proud of the school grounds provided for us through the generosity of our parish, and we want our students to be good stewards of our school property. Thanks for your help in reminding them of this responsibility!

Scout Sunday

The Blessed Sacrament Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts will be celebrating Scout Sunday at the 8:30 a.m. Mass this weekend. Please join them in the cafeteria for donuts after the Sunday Masses.

Field Trip Reminder

We appreciate the generosity of our parents who drive for field trips. Please remember that all cars must go directly to the field trip location and return directly to school, as stated on our permission slips. Thanks for your cooperation!

Update on Engrade Assignment Calendar Access

As you may recall, we were notified two weeks ago that Engrade was having difficulties with one of the functions on the students' assignment calendar feature of their website. Specifically, there were reports that not all assignments are showing up on the one general calendar and that "unauthorized access" errors are received when a parent or student clicks on a specific assignment. This is a software "glitch" that occurred nationwide when they upgraded their platform for 2017. Engrade technicians continue to work through this issue and are "very close" to resolving it. They have provided a few different interim options for teachers to post their assignments, so you should now be able to access the majority of students' assignments on the calendars. This issue does not affect the ability to view students' classes and grades. If you are still having difficulty with a particular teacher's assignments, please contact the teacher(s) directly to make them aware of the difficulty. Please contact Mrs. Burke if you have further questions about the Engrade program or need to have your account or password reset. Thank you for your cooperation!

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 being sent home today for more details. Online registration begins next Wednesday, Feb. 8, at www.GOTRcentralillinois.org.

Thank You Note

This week we received a thank you note from the students and staff of Matheny-Withrow Elementary School for our families' donations of school uniforms to their school. They truly appreciate the kindness and thoughtfulness of all who were able to fill this need in our community!

SHG Student of the Month

SHG junior and BSS alumna, Mary Helen Healy, was named Student of the Month for the month of February. Mary Helen has been involved in student council, volleyball, recycling club, W.Y.S.E., and Fellowship of Christian Athletes, to name a few. Mary Helen notes she enjoys visiting

a Dominican Sister at the Motherhouse and is "extremely grateful for all of the friendships and memories I have made at SHG." Congratulations to Mary Helen!

Volta: Animal Kingdom

This evening, Friday, Feb. 3, the Hoogland Center for the Arts is hosting *Volta: Animal Kingdom* at two **free** performances at 6:00 and 8:00 p.m. This one-of-a-kind event showcases some of Springfield's best youth artists performing a fusion of animal-themed poetry, music, and dance. From eagles to jaguars, cows to owls, Volta brings the animal kingdom, fierce and funny, alive on stage. Each performance is an hour in length and is appropriate for all ages. It is a fun way to see poetry through music and dance. Make plans to attend!

SHG Alumni Scholarship Applications for 8th Graders

Applications for Sacred Heart-Griffin's alumni scholarship are now available. SHG enclosed an application in every freshman registration packet, and we do have extras available upon request in our school office. The completed application is due to Mrs. Wear by Friday, March 10, as the school portion has to be completed and submitted to SHG by March 15. No late applications are accepted!

SHG 8th Grade Dance

SHG will host a dance for the Class of 2021 this Saturday, February 4, 7-9 p.m. in the East Campus Commons. Come dance the night away at SHG and meet fellow future Cyclones! There will be a D.J., photo booth, snacks, and even prizes! Attendees must bring their school ID and signed permission slip, which was mailed to students and can also be found at www.shg.org. Admission is free, but you are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item for the St. Martin de Porres Center. This event is for 8th graders ONLY!

Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest

K of C Council #364 is sponsoring their annual free throw contest on Saturday, February 4, at Christ the King School gym. The contest is open to all students, ages 9-14 years. There is no cost to enter. Registration begins at 2:00 p.m., and the contest begins at 2:30 p.m. More information may be found on our school website. You may also contact Mike Stead at mstead.1@att.net or at 217-415-6207.

Looking Ahead

Friday, Feb. 3 –

Last day to donate shoes for the shoe drive!

Payment of pledges for read-a-thon due!

Teacher Appreciation Day

Dress Code: Modified Spirit Day

10:15 a.m. – Faculty vs. 8th grade volleyball game

11:30 a.m. early dismissal; **no B.A.S.E. available!**

Saturday, Feb. 4 –

2:00 p.m. – K of C Free Throw Contest at Christ the King gym

7:00-9:00 p.m. - 8th grade dance at SHG

Sunday, Feb. 5 –

8:30 a.m. – Scout Sunday; donuts after Masses

Wednesday, Feb. 8 –

4:30 p.m. – 7th & 8th grade girls' home volleyball games vs. Jefferson Middle School

6:30 p.m. – 8th grade boys' sectionals at Greenfield High School Gym

Thursday, Feb. 9 –

Letters on intent for 2017-2018 preschool, PreK & kindergarten due!

Mid-quarter reports will be sent home

2:15 p.m. – Schoolwide Geography Bee

Friday, Feb. 10 –

Box tops collection sheets due!

Regular PSA Spirit Day (covered by pre-paid fee)

Sunday, Feb. 12 –

8:30 a.m. – Enrollment Sunday Mass for 8th grade Confirmation candidates

Monday, Feb. 13 –

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

6:00-7:30 p.m. – Open house for prospective families

Tuesday, Feb. 14 – Happy Valentine's Day!

Classroom parties in the afternoon

4:30 p.m. – 7th & 8th grade girls' home volleyball games vs. Lincoln Magnet School

Thursday, Feb. 16 –

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

Monday, Feb. 20 –

No school – Presidents' Day

Wednesday, Feb. 22 –

6:00 p.m. – 7th & 8th grade girls' home volleyball games vs. St. Agnes

Friday, Feb. 24 –

7th grade science fair judging after school

Saturday & Sunday, Feb. 25 & 26 –

Science & history fair open house after all Masses

Monday, Feb. 27 –

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

Tuesday, Feb. 28 –

Builders' Club Mardi Gras Student Carnival

Please Remember!

Before School Patrols for the Week of Feb. 6 -10:

| | | |
|---------------|------------|--------------|
| Eddie Ambrose | Gus Beard | Emma Brennan |
| Amelia Curtis | Jack Davis | Mitch Dye |

After School Patrols for the Week of Feb. 6 - 10:

| | | |
|-------------|--------------|------------|
| Josh Mauney | Grace Minder | Ambz Negro |
|-------------|--------------|------------|

Mass Servers for Feb. 4 & 5: (only BSS students)

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 4:30 p.m. Saturday | Nathan Jugan |
| 7:00 a.m. Sunday | Agnes Cross |
| 8:30 a.m. Sunday | Boy Scouts |
| 10:30 a.m. Sunday | Andrew Dailey & Bill Hollahan |

Daily Servers for Feb. 6 - 10:

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| 8:00 a.m. M & W & | Aidan Mauntel |
| 8:20 a.m. Tu. | & Liam Noonan |
| 8:00 a.m. Th. & | Jack Fleischli |
| 8:20 a.m. Fri. | & Finn Loken |