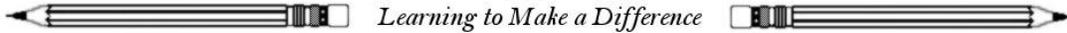


February 23, 2017

+ Blessed Sacrament



School News



Learning to Make a Difference

A Note to Parents

Dear Parents,

We continue to have busy weeks in these winter months. Our third graders visited the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum last Friday. In addition to learning so much and enjoying the exhibits, our students were wonderful representatives of our school. Last week our second graders also had a field trip to UIS to see a performance of *Junie B.* They enjoyed the show and also represented our school well. Special thanks to the parent chaperones who made these trips possible.

Tomorrow our seventh and eighth graders will be setting up their projects for our science and history fair, which will be open for viewing after all Masses this weekend. We are looking forward to seeing their final research papers and projects and are so proud of our students for all of the energy and effort they put into their papers and projects. Special thanks to their teachers, Mrs. Laura Reiser, Mrs. Mary Ellen Hollahan, Ms. Angela Alan, and Mr. Dan Manfredo, for all of their guidance. We also appreciate all of the parent support, encouragement, and cooperation with these assignments. We couldn't do it without you!

Tomorrow we are welcoming Patrick Ryan, a storyteller from England who is also a Springfield native. He has made several visits to our school over the years to share his art of storytelling, and it is always a fun and educational assembly for our students.

Tomorrow our students will be eating lunch in their classrooms due to the science and history fair set-up, but they will be able to go to the cafeteria to purchase most of the regular Friday lunch items. **Once again, no popcorn will be sold this Friday, Feb. 24, as the popcorn machine is broken.** Please plan for your children's lunches accordingly.

Enjoy the weekend with your children! Hope to see you after the Masses this weekend at the science and history fair!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Kathy Wear

Congratulations!

Our annual school-wide spelling bee was held on Wednesday this week. We appreciate Mrs. Patty Bucklin coordinating this effort as well as Mrs. Karen Senger's assistance. Kudos to all spelling bee participants, who each won their classroom spelling bees: 4th graders Ali Klinner and Elle Richardson, 5th graders Mike Hollahan and Alio Giacomini, 6th graders Brannon Kelley and Kaelin Kelley, 7th graders Griffin Cook and Liam Noonan, and 8th graders Clare Cavanagh and Ava Stone. Congratulations to the winner, Ava Stone, and also to Elle Richardson and Clare Cavanagh, who placed second and third, respectively. All three students are

eligible to advance to the Knights of Columbus Regional Spelling Bee on Saturday, March 4, at 2:00 p.m. in Petersburg.

Bruins Update

Good luck to our 7th grade girls' IESA volleyball team in their regional tournament, beginning next week. Our team plays Edinburg on Monday, Feb. 27, at 5:00 p.m. at Mt. Pulaski Grade School Gym. Go, Bruins!

Parent Meeting on Bullying

Please mark your calendars now for an important educational meeting regarding bullying. The Springfield Catholic elementary schools and Sacred Heart-Griffin High School are sponsoring a seminar on school bullying survival and prevention. **The meeting will be held the evening of March 15, at St. Agnes School from 6:30-8:00 p.m., and parents are strongly encouraged to attend.** The presenter is *New York Times* bestselling author and anti-bullying activist Jodee Blanco. The workshop will include specific, practical advice on how to intervene if a child is the victim, bully or bystander, from the rare point of view of someone who's actually lived through it and has now dedicated her life to helping others.

Ms. Blanco will present age-appropriate information to all of the students in the Catholic schools over the course of three days, March 13-15. Furthermore, she will work with all of the Catholic elementary school teachers at an in-service the afternoon of March 15. Ms. Blanco will work with the BSS students on Tuesday morning, March 14.

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. An order form was sent home with all students to purchase tickets for the carnival and is available on our website. [The order form with payment is due back to school tomorrow, Friday, Feb. 24.](#) Students may purchase tickets the day of the carnival, but they will have to wait in line to do so.

Next Tuesday the students may choose to be out of uniform for four Mardi Gras Carnival tickets. (This is not covered by the yearly pre-paid fee.) We encourage the students to wear the Mardi Gras colors of green, gold, and purple, and please remember that the non-uniform dress code guidelines found in the student handbook on page 27 do apply.

Blessed Sacrament Pride of the Parish Art Exhibit

To kick off our CultureFest weekend, we are once again hosting an art exhibit featuring talented artists from our parish. The exhibit and wine and cheese reception will be

held on Friday, March 3, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the gym. There is no charge for admission, but donations will be accepted to benefit the B.S.S. Annual Fund.

CultureFest & Fin Arts Evening

Our annual celebration of the arts, CultureFest, will be held next Sunday, March 5, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. In addition to enjoying the displays of our students' artwork, you will be able to view the students' Young Authors books and have the opportunity to sponsor a book for our school library. At 9:30 a.m. our sixth graders will present their Living Wax Museum in the gym, and at 10:00 a.m. our fourth graders will perform their recorder concert.

Join us at **6:00 p.m.** (not 6:30 p.m., as listed in the handbook calendar) for our annual Fine Arts Evening showcasing our musicians, singers, and dancers. The performance will be held in the school cafeteria.

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.

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.

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!

Spring Photo Day

Thursday, March 9, is our Spring Photo Day. Students may be out of uniform for the photos that day but **must follow the non-uniform guidelines in the student handbook.** Photos do not have to be pre-ordered for this day, but a flyer will be sent home this week with information about

the backgrounds. If you have a preference of backgrounds, return the Selection Form with your child on Spring Photo Day. Later, Lifetouch will send home a packet of the photos to all parents; you may return all photos or purchase what you want and return the rest. Lifetouch generously makes a donation to the school for our participation in Spring Photo Day, whether or not the parents buy any photos.

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!

Women's Club Movin' in March

Our Blessed Sacrament Women's Club invites all women of the parish to join them on Wednesday nights in March in the school gym from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. for a variety of free exercise programs. The flyer being emailed home today and posted on the school website describes the specific exercise for each Wednesday evening in March. Workouts will be for all ages and all levels of fitness. Come out and join other women in the parish for evenings of fun and fitness!

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.

Indoor Archery Championship

The Illinois S3DA indoor archery championship will be held this Saturday, February 25, at Springfield Archery located on Recreation Drive. The archers range from 3rd grade through high school seniors and competition begins at 10 a.m. This program can be great for many of the students that do not fit into the general "ball" sports, contact sports, or team sports. Many of these students find success since it is repetitive, self-driven, and process oriented. You may contact Kim Rigney with questions at 341-7601 or go to the website www.s3da.org. There is a flyer with more information posted on our website.

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. All applications may be sent to garvey@shg.org or by mail to SHG Advancement Office c/o Ellie Garvey, 1200 W. Washington St. Springfield, IL. 62702. If you have any questions, feel free to call Sacred Heart-Griffin at 787-1595.

Looking Ahead

Friday, Feb. 24 –

Mardi Gras ticket order form due!

Set-up for science & history fair in the morning
8:30 & 9:30 a.m. – Patrick Ryan assemblies in the gym
7th grade science fair judging after school

Saturday & Sunday, Feb. 25 & 26 –

Science & history fair open house after all Masses

Monday, Feb. 27 –

March Madness Fundraiser kick-off!

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
5:30-7:30 p.m. – Blessed Sacrament Pride of the Parish Art Exhibit in the gym

Sunday, March 5 –

CultureFest after all Masses
6:00 p.m. – Fine Arts Evening in the cafeteria

Tuesday, March 7 –

3:00-4:00 p.m. – Garden Club meeting

Wednesday, March 8 –

1:30 p.m. – Early dismissal for faculty meeting; after care at BASE available

Thursday, March 9 -

Lifetouch Spring Photos (non-uniform day)

Friday, March 10 –

Scholastic Book Fair opens

5:00-7:30 p.m. – Men's Club Fish Fry

Sunday, March 12 –

Daylight Savings Time begins!

Monday, March 13 –

End of Third Quarter

Registration packets for 2017-18 due today!
Scholastic Book Fair open daily through Friday, March 17!

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

Wednesday, March 15 –

Fr. Jeff returns!

11:30 a.m. dismissal – Faculty in-service at Christ the King; No BASE available!

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. – Jodee Blanco, speaker on bullying, for all parents (students grades K and up also welcome to attend) at St. Agnes School

Friday, March 17 –

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

8:20 a.m. – All-school Mass

5:00-7:30 p.m. – Men's Club Fish Fry

Monday, March 20 –

Report Card Day!

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

Tuesday, March 21 -

Reconciliation for grades 6-8

Wednesday, March 22 –

Reconciliation for grades 2-5

6:30 p.m. – First Communion meeting for 2nd grade parents in church

Friday, March 24 –

5:00-7:30 p.m. – Men's Club Fish Fry

8th grade Confirmation retreat at St. Joseph in Chatham

Monday, March 27 –

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

Wednesday, March 29 –

7:00 p.m. – Confirmation Mass

Friday, March 31 –

Extra Spirit Day to benefit Hope School (not covered by pre-paid fee)

5:00-7:30 p.m. – Men's Club Fish Fry

Please Remember!

Before School Patrols for the Week of Feb. 27- March 3:

Peter Mokoff Liam Noonan Jack Ozyurt

Emma Grace Pezold Andrew Reimers Aili Sluga

After School Patrols for the Week of Feb. 27-March 3

Justine Bell Joey Brown Quinn Butler

Mass Servers for Feb. 25 & 26: (only BSS students)

4:30 p.m. Saturday Mitch Dye & Mary Clare Mizour

7:00 a.m. Sunday no current BSS students

8:30 a.m. Sunday Ellen O'Brien & Michael Krikorian

10:30 a.m. Sunday Jack Lamar, Madailein McKay & Charles Pittman

Daily Servers for Feb. 27 – March 3:

8:00 a.m. M & W & Nathaniel Bell

8:20 a.m. Tu. & Brady Maloy

8:00 a.m. Th. & Madailein McKay

8:20 a.m. Fri. & Ellen O'Brien