

February 9, 2017

+ Blessed Sacrament



School News

 Learning to Make a Difference 

A Note to Parents

Dear Parents,

On Monday, our school went through the state accreditation process and the Diocesan educational review/recognition process. These processes are typically scheduled every five to seven years and provide an opportunity to evaluate our total school program and building, from the office files to the exit signs to classroom instruction. There were representatives from the Diocesan office as well as from the state's Regional Office of Education here throughout the day. Additionally, four principals were asked to join the evaluation team to conduct the classroom observations. We are grateful to Sr. Joan Sorge (principal of St. Agnes), Pam Fahey (principal of Christ the King), Kim Sepich (principal of Chatham Elementary), and Cathy Robertson (principal of St. Mary's in Taylorville) for taking time out of their busy schedules to assist our school. There are countless hours of preparation that go on behind the scenes in advance of the on-site visit, but it was well worth it. The evaluation process went very well, and everyone seemed genuinely impressed with our overall school program. We will receive a full report in the coming weeks and will share the results through the newsletter.

We appreciate the generosity of all who made pledges for the read-a-thon, which will help St. Theresa's Youth Center in Ghana install internet service for increased learning for their youth as well as the opportunity for them to communicate with our students. To date, we have collected \$4,246.41, which far surpasses our goal! Also, we collected 800 pairs of shoes (twice our goal!) to send to Ghana. Special thanks to our first graders and Ms. Vespa for organizing the shoe drive. We are so appreciative of the generosity of our school and parish families!

Today mid-quarter progress reports are being sent home with all students in grades 2-8. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your child's teacher.

Tomorrow is a regular PSA Spirit Day, which is included with the prepaid days. Students may wear any BSS spirit shirt with jeans or uniform bottoms. Students who did not prepay must bring \$1 to participate.

Have a good weekend!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Kathy Wear

Bruins Update

Congratulations to our 8th grade boys' IESA basketball team on winning the sectional championship! They defeated Greenfield, 43-26. They qualified for the state tournament with that win and play their first game on Saturday, Feb. 11, at 2:30 p.m. at Mt. Pulaski High School gym. With a win, they would play another game at 6:30 p.m.

that same day. We'll honor the team at a pep rally tomorrow at 2:30 p.m. in our gym. Go, Bruins!

Congratulations to our 8th grade volleyball team on placing second in the Franklin Middle School tournament last Saturday. Also, congratulations to our junior high boys' SCAA basketball team on a good game last Saturday and a good season. Special thanks to their coaches, Tom Faivre and Doug Mauntel, for their dedication and guidance of the team.

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!

Box Tops for Education

A box tops collection sheet went home last week with every student for our February collection event. Every student who returns a completed by tomorrow, 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!

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:

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|---------------|-------------------|
| 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.

Registration for 2017-2018

The registration period for the 2017-2018 school year 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 have had the opportunity to indicate their preferences for kindergarten or preschool/pre-K this week. **Please note that the intent letters are due back to the school office by today Thursday, February 9.** (See the next article for details.)

Preschool/Pre-K & Kindergarten Intent Letters

Again this year, parents of current preschool/pre-K students have the opportunity to indicate their preferences for kindergarten or preschool/pre-K for their family before registration begins. Likewise, current families in K-8 in our school also have the opportunity to indicate their intent for preschool/pre-K or kindergarten for their other children via an intent letter. The intent letters were sent home with preschool/pre-K students as well as emailed to all current parents with the newsletter last week. Parents who return an intent form **by today, Thursday, Feb. 9**, will not need to go through the registration process on Feb. 27 and/or Feb. 28.

Dress Code/Make-up Reminder

Per our student handbook on page 27, make-up is not allowed. Recently we have seen an increase in the violation of this uniform guideline. Please remind your children that wearing make-up will result in the student being sent to the office to remove the make-up and receiving a blue slip for a dress code violation. Per our handbook, "Two warning slips will result in a pink slip in the PBIS program. Excessive dress code violations may result in immediate pink slips." We appreciate your support in helping our students follow the stated dress code.

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!

Please Join Us for a Parent Education Evening Wednesday, February 15

We are pleased to welcome Lori Benson-Adams, a national educational intervention specialist, to Blessed Sacrament School next Wednesday and Thursday, February 15 and 16. She will be working closely over the course of those two days with all of our teachers and will also offer a parent session for your benefit. Ms. Benson-Adams has 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 specializes in providing a whole-brain, practical view of intervening with a wide variety of learning, social, and behavioral challenges. She also provides general study tips that will be helpful to a wide range of learners, regardless of their age of concerns, and their parents. **She will have the parent session from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. A complete handout will be provided to all parents who attend the event.** She will also be available for a question and answer period as time permits. Please plan to join us for this educational and worthwhile evening! Thank you!

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

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!

Looking Ahead

Thursday, Feb. 9 –

Letters on intent for 2017-2018 preschool, PreK & kindergarten due today from all current families!

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)
Annual bus drill for all grades

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

Wednesday, Feb. 15 –

6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. – Parent presentation by Lori
Benson-Adams in the cafeteria. Please plan to attend!

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

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 –

**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. 13 -17:

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|-----------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Xander Eberding | Seth Faivre | Audrey Frost |
| Nadia Giacomini | Bryce Johnson | Daniel Katalinich |

After School Patrols for the Week of Feb. 13 - 17:

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|-----------------|--------------|----------------|
| Charles Pittman | Anna Riedell | Jaynanne Roate |
|-----------------|--------------|----------------|

Mass Servers for Feb. 11 & 12: (only BSS students)

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|---------------------------|---|
| 4:30 p.m. Saturday | Cameron Booker, Quinn Butler & Seth Faivre |
| 7:00 a.m. Sunday | Jack Ozyurt |
| 8:30 a.m. Sunday | no current BSS students |
| 10:30 a.m. Sunday | Ava Giacomini |

Daily Servers for Feb. 13 - 17:

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| 8:00 a.m. M & W & | Spencer Wood |
| 8:20 a.m. Tu. | & Maddie O'Connor |
| 8:00 a.m. Th. & | William DeSalle |
| 8:20 a.m. Fri. | & Sam DeSalle |