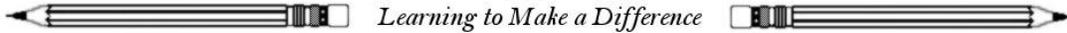


January 12, 2017

+ Blessed Sacrament



School News



Learning to Make a Difference

A Note to Parents

Dear Parents,

This week has been a busy one for both teachers and students! A lot of planning is taking place this week in anticipation of Catholic Schools Week from Jan. 29 through Feb. 3, and we are in the process of finalizing plans. Our PSA (Parent/School Association) Board is meeting next Wednesday, Jan. 18, at 4:00 p.m. in the office conference room. Anyone interested in helping with the plans for Catholic Schools Week is welcome to attend! If you are interested but unable to attend, please feel free to call or email me.

A separate detailed calendar for Catholic Schools Week will be sent home in the upcoming weeks, but also check the *Looking Ahead* section of this newsletter to mark your calendars for some of the main events! Don't forget that we need many parent volunteers to make this a week a success. Please contact Mrs. Burke if you are able to volunteer to assist on any of the days that week.

Tomorrow our students will receive their second quarter report cards from Father Scott. Please continue to encourage them to keep working hard for their teachers. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

We have several flyers related to upcoming events listed in this newsletter. All flyers will be emailed home tomorrow, and hard copies of several will be sent home tomorrow with report cards.

We will not be in school next Monday, Jan. 16, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Enjoy the three-day weekend with your children!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Kathy Weav

Engrade Assignment Calendar Access

On Tuesday of this week, an email update was sent to all families regarding several families' inability to correctly access their students' assignments posted on the Engrade calendars. 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 "known issue" to Engrade that occurred when they recently began upgrading some of their software and program features, and it is being addressed. The teachers presently have a couple of different options for posting assignments going forward, and we will work toward all teachers being able to post all assignments in a consistent manner as the issue is resolved with Engrade in the coming week. This issue does not affect the ability to view students' classes and grades. Please contact your child's teacher directly if you have questions about

assignments. Please contact Mrs. Burke if you have questions about the Engrade program. Thank you for your cooperation!

Thank You from Catholic Charities

The school received a very nice thank you letter from Catholic Charities on behalf of St. John's Breadline for the 1,000 candy bags we delivered to them through our annual Stocking Stuffers project in December. They were distributed to the hundreds of children served by Catholic Charities. We appreciate the Builders Club leading this annual service project under the direction of Michele Hinds-Greenwood and Pat Pierce.

Kudos to Our Students!

At our leadership assembly on Monday afternoon, Golden Awards were distributed to several homerooms/grades for their display of leadership and good character during the previous month. The individual Golden Awards were given to A.J., Isabella, and Sophia Elias for their service to the church and school at the all-school Mass on Monday morning. With literally only a notice of minutes, they led the congregation in the acapella singing of the communion hymn and did a wonderful job! Thanks to them for sharing their talents in leading our students and parishioners in prayer through music!

Kudos, too, to several of our third grade boys who participated in an exhibition basketball game during halftime of the UIS-Quincy University men's basketball game last Saturday for the UIS Kids' Day. They were excellent representatives of our school as student athletes!

Box Tops News

Thanks to all of our families who continue to collect box tops for our school! In December we received a check from Box Tops for Education for \$1,768.60. We are so appreciative of all who take the time to save box tops as the funding from them do make a real difference in what we can do as a school. Keep collecting! Look for a Valentine's Day collection sheet coming in February!

BSS Shoe Drive to Benefit Children in Ghana

Our first grade classes are leading a shoe drive to benefit the children who attend St. Theresa's Youth Center in Ghana, as many of them do not have suitable shoes, if any. The first graders challenge the school to donate 400 pairs of gently used or new shoes by January 31st! Acceptable shoes are sneakers, sandals, and tennis shoes. Please tie the laces together or rubber band the pair of shoes together. First graders will pick up shoes outside of each classroom door from January 13-January 31. Thank you in advance for your support of this project!

Read-a-thon for Catholic Schools Week

As part of our parish partnership St. Theresa's Youth Development Center in Ghana, we will be holding a read-a-thon during Catholic Schools Week to raise the \$3,200 needed to establish internet service to the St. Theresa's Center in Ghana. Not only will this benefit the children at the center, but it will also help us develop a closer connection between our students and their children. To raise this money, we would only need \$6.50 per child in PreK through 8th grade!

We will hold our read-a-thon on our Community Awareness Day on Monday, Jan. 30. You will be able to sponsor a student by the number of minutes read or by a set dollar amount. There will also be a sign-up in the back of church after Masses on an upcoming weekend for parishioners without children in the school to participate in this initiative. Information and a sponsorship sheet will be sent home tomorrow with each child. Payments of pledges are due back to the school by Friday, Feb. 3. Thank you in advance for your support of this project!

T.G.I.F. (Third Graders in Faith)

Our third graders will attend a day of fun and learning with other third graders from Springfield Catholic schools on Friday, Jan. 27, at Little Flower School. **Lunch order forms are going home tomorrow with the third graders and are due back Friday, Jan. 20.** (If your child would prefer to bring a sack lunch for T.G.I.F., please still return the form and indicate that on the form.) A permission slip with more details will also be sent home tomorrow.

Sixth Graders' National School Choice Assembly

Sixth graders from the Springfield Catholic Schools will gather together for an assembly of prayer and dance to celebrate National School Choice Day on Tuesday, January 24. The assembly will be held in Christ the King's gym from 1:00-2:15 p.m. Permission slips with more details will be going home tomorrow. All sixth graders are asked to bring donations for Harvard Park School's Bag of Blessings, which provides food to students who have no food in their homes over the weekends. B.S.S. sixth graders are asked to bring macaroni and cheese, cereal, canned ravioli/pasta, and goldfish crackers for this event. A flyer with these details also will be sent home with the sixth graders tomorrow.

Young Authors

Each year our students participate in a writing activity called Young Authors. A letter is being sent home tomorrow with some basic information. Participation is optional for kindergarten through second grade but is a class assignment in grades 3-8. Some teachers in grades 3-8 may have already shared information with their classes, and some will be sharing their requirements for students in the upcoming weeks.

"Bare Books" for use in creating the finished manuscripts for the Young Authors program are for sale in the school office for \$3.00 each. The pages of the books are *not* printed with lines, but students may write/type their stories on loose paper and then paste them into the book.

Any students in kindergarten through second grade who choose to write books should return them to the school

office by Tuesday, February 21. Teachers in grades 3-8 will set their own deadlines for their required books, which may be earlier. Once again, all the manuscripts will be on display at CultureFest, which is scheduled for Sunday, March 5.

Family Roller Skating Night for Catholic Schools Week

All Blessed Sacrament School families are invited to attend our family roller skating night to kick off Catholic Schools Week on Sunday, January 29, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at Skateland South. The cost is only \$4 per skater, which includes skate rental! The snack bar and arcade games will also be open for purchases. Everyone really enjoyed this event last year, so please plan to join us again. Please remember, children cannot be dropped off and left unsupervised. There must be an adult responsible for the children at Skateland. Thank you for your cooperation. We hope to see you there!

Catholic Schools Week Teacher Appreciation Luncheon

Volunteers are needed to assist with teacher appreciation lunch on Friday, February 3, at 11:30 a.m. Parents are asked to donate dishes for the luncheon, and some are also needed to assist with serving. Please contact Melissa Coady at mcoady1978@yahoo.com for more information or to volunteer in any capacity.

SHG 8th Grade Dance

SHG will host a dance for the Class of 2021 on 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 can be found at www.shg.org. Admission is free, but you are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item for St. Martin de Porres. This event is for 8th graders ONLY!

Warm Clothing for Recess

With the colder weather finally arriving, we wanted to remind parents that students do go out for recess unless the temperature or wind chill is below 20 degrees. Although a light jacket might be sufficient to go from the car to our building, the students do need warmer outerwear for 20 minutes of recess time. Thanks for your help!

Gift of Giving Program

The Gift of Giving Program provides students in some of our public schools and at St. Patrick's School the opportunity to choose two presents to give to family members at Christmas. Next year our preschool teaching assistant, Mrs. Margie Homeier, will oversee the program **at St. Patrick's only**. She could use our help in saving new or gently used wrapping items **for next year**. Please see the list posted on the school website. A list of gift items needed for next is also included for you to keep in mind throughout the year. A box is located in our main hallway for any donations of wrapping items now. Thanks for any help you can provide!

IESA Music Solo/Ensemble Contest

Blessed Sacrament School will provide an opportunity for those interested to participate in the IESA's

solo/ensemble music contest. The contest will be held on Saturday, March 18, 2017, at Jacksonville Our Saviour. Parents are responsible for transporting their own child(ren) to and from the event. The cost is \$10 per individual student entry, and students may enter one or more of the following categories: vocal solo, vocal ensemble (2-8 singers together), piano solo, or vocal choir (6-16 members). While the school is not organizing any specific choirs or musical pieces, any students who currently take private vocal lessons may be eligible to enter under Blessed Sacrament School. The registration fee, along with a copy of the musical selection(s) being performed, is due by Friday, Jan. 27, 2017, to Mrs. Hartman. You may email our music teacher Mrs. Hartman for more information at Hartman@bssbruins.org.

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. All entries must arrive in the Office for the Missions by Jan. 15, 2017. Entry forms and guidelines are available on our school website.

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 and is being e-mailed with today's newsletter. You may also contact Mike Stead at mstead.1@att.net or at 217-415-6207.

K of C Council #16126 is also sponsoring a free throw contest. That one will be held on Sunday, January 22, at St. Aloysius School gym. For more information on this contest, please contact Patrick Kelleher at kelleherbp@gmail.com. **Students may only participate in one of the two free throw contests.**

Looking Ahead

Friday, Jan. 13 –
Report Card Day!
3:00-4:00 p.m. – Last day of auditions for musical

Monday, Jan. 16 –
No school in observance of MLK, Jr. Day

Wednesday, Jan. 18
4:00 p.m. – PSA Board meeting for planning for Catholic Schools Week – parents are invited to attend!

Friday, Jan. 20 –
Lunch order forms for TGIF for 3rd graders due!

Sunday, Jan. 22 –
K of C Free Throw Contest at St. Aloysius gym

Monday, Jan. 23 –
No leadership assembly (wear t-shirts)
8:20 a.m. – All-school Mass

Tuesday, Jan. 24 –
6th graders at National School Choice Event at Christ the King in the afternoon

Wednesday, Jan. 25 –
Participating 8th graders depart for March for Life trip

Thursday, Jan. 26 –
Accreditation/Educational Review Day

Friday, Jan. 27 –
3rd graders at Little Flower for TGIF (Third Graders in Faith) all day

Sunday, Jan. 29 – Friday, Feb. 3 –
Catholic Schools Week (more details to follow!)

Sunday, Jan. 29 –
Parish Appreciation Day
4:30-6:30 p.m. - Family Roller skating at Skateland South;
\$4 per skater includes skate rental!!

Monday, Jan. 30 –
Community Awareness Day
Read-a-thon to benefit the St. Teresa's Center in Ghana

Tuesday, Jan. 31 –
Last collection day for 1st grade shoe drive!
Faith Appreciation Day
8:20 a.m. all-school Mass
Living rosary in the afternoon

Wednesday, Feb. 1 –
Parent Appreciation Day (lunch with parents)

Thursday, Feb. 2 –
Student Appreciation Day

Friday, Feb. 3 –
Teacher Appreciation Day
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. 12 –
8:30 a.m. – Enrollment Sunday Mass for 8th grade Confirmation candidates

Please Remember!

Before School Patrols for the Week of Jan. 16-20:

Nadia Giacomini Bryce Johnson Daniel Katalinich
Dani Kraft Anthony Keldermans Gryphon Kirchgesser

After School Patrols for the Week of Jan. 16-20:

Mary Gardner Lucy Harvey Drew Herman

Mass Servers for Jan. 14 & 15: (only BSS students)

4:30 p.m. Saturday Carter Eheridge and Teddy Thornberry
7:00 a.m. Sunday Jack Fleischli
8:30 a.m. Sunday Miles Roland
10:30 a.m. Sunday Will and Sam DeSalle

Daily Servers for Jan. 16-20:

8:00 a.m. M & W & Nathan Jugan
8:20 a.m. Tu. & Caleb Rutherford
8:00 a.m. Th. & Madailein McKay
8:20 a.m. Fri. & Elliott Kren