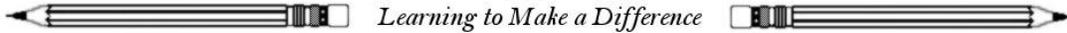


January 5, 2017

+ Blessed Sacrament



School News



Learning to Make a Difference

A Note to Parents

Dear Parents,

I hope all of you enjoyed a relaxing Christmas break with your children. It's hard to believe we'll be wrapping up the second quarter of the school year this Friday!

Coming back to school after a long break is always hard, but yesterday I had wonderful extra help with sixth grader Madailein McKay as my Principal for the Day. She was a professional in all aspects of her "job", and I'm sure she will be a great leader in her future chosen profession. Kudos to you, Maddie!

Tomorrow morning we will celebrate together at an all-school Mass at 8:20 a.m. Although the Feast of the Epiphany is officially celebrated on Sunday, Father Scott will focus on the Epiphany with the children. As always, you are welcome to join us!

Tomorrow, Friday, January 6, is also a regular Spirit Day, included in the pre-paid Spirit Days from the beginning of the school year. Otherwise, for a \$1 donation, students may wear any BSS jerseys (with a plain white or navy shirt underneath), t-shirts, or sweatshirts with jeans. Students may also wear uniform shirts untucked with jeans. PSA will also have their regular lunch items for sale tomorrow.

On behalf of the entire faculty and staff, again, I thank you for your generosity to all of us at Christmas. We truly appreciated your cards and gifts, and we extend our special thanks for the monetary gift from PSA, Men's Club, parents, and the Teacher Support Fund. Once again, the teachers and staff were overwhelmed by your generosity. We feel very blessed to be partners with you in the Catholic education of your children, and we wish all of you many blessings in 2017. Happy New Year!!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Kathy Wear

8th Grade Enrollment Sunday & Confirmation

On Enrollment Sunday, on Sunday, Feb. 12, at the 8:30 a.m. Mass, the eighth graders will sign the Book of Intent to indicate their commitment to prepare for Confirmation. The eighth graders will be confirmed on Wednesday, March 29, at a 7:00 p.m. Mass. Please mark your calendars with those dates!

SHG Make-up Placement Test

A make-up placement exam for eighth graders who will be entering Sacred Heart-Griffin next year will be held **this Saturday, Jan. 7, at 8:00 a.m.** at their East Campus. Students will need to bring two #2 pencils and the \$10 exam fee, and calculators are allowed. Please enter through the circle drive entrance at 1200 W. Washington. No pre-

registration is necessary. However, any questions should be directed to Stephanie Phillips in the Guidance Office at 787-1595.

Auditions for 8th Grade Musical

All junior high students are invited to audition for parts in the spring musical, *Seussical, Jr.*, to be presented on April 28 & 29. (Sixth graders will be auditioning for ensemble parts only.) Auditions will be held next Tuesday, Jan. 10 (3:00-5:00 p.m.), Wednesday, Jan. 11 (1:30-4:00 p.m.), Thursday, Jan. 12 (3:00-4:30 p.m.), and Friday, Jan. 13 (3:00-4:00 p.m.). A sign-up sheet for students is posted on the bulletin board across from the music room. After parts are assigned, there will be a meeting for all students involved, and additional information will be provided. We look forward to seeing our junior high musical this spring!

Family Service Hours

Please remember that all families are required to volunteer for 20 hours of service as part of our school community. If your hours are turned in to the office by **Monday, Jan. 9**, your total number of hours earned to date will be sent home with your child's report card on Jan. 13.

Reminders for IMSA FUSION Students

With the beginning of the third quarter, there will be a couple of changes to the meeting days and locations for our IMSA FUSION programs. Although all participants should have been informed of these changes, we wanted to remind you that the 7th & 8th grade program will now meet on Tuesdays from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. in room 10. The 5th & 6th grade programs will continue to meet on Tuesdays from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m., but they will be meeting in the Spanish room, beginning next week. Please remind your children of these changes. Thank you!

Personal Safety Training

In October our students in grades K-8 received personal safety training through our teachers' use of the *Virtus* program, as required by the Diocese. We have found over the past years that the personal safety training provided by PCASA (Prairie Center Against Sexual Assault) is a good reinforcement for our students. Next Tuesday, Jan. 10, and Thursday, Jan. 12, a PCASA trainer will provide age-appropriate lessons to our students in grades PreK-5. The permission slips that parents signed at the beginning of the year cover this training, also.

Collections of Clothing Items

At this time of year, you may be finding that your children are outgrowing some clothing. If you are planning on

donating any gently used uniform-type clothing, we have received a request from some of our parents to meet a need at a local public school, Matheny-Withrow. Students there are in need of short or long-sleeved polo/collared shirts in any solid color as well as blue, black, or khaki pants. They are also in need of solid-colored sweaters and solid-colored crewneck sweatshirts. These clothing items are needed for both boys and girls and in any child's sizes (S-XL/6-16). If you are able to donate any items, please send them to the school office, and our parents will deliver them to the school. Any help would be appreciated! Thanks, in advance, for your generosity to those in need in our community!

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 19 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.

Read-a-thon for Catholic Schools Week

As part of our parish partnership with the parish center in Ghana, we will be holding a read-a-thon during Catholic Schools Week to raise \$2,000 needed to provide wifi communication for the center in Ghana. Not only will this benefit them, but it will also help us develop a closer connection between our students and their children. 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. Look for details in upcoming newsletters!

UIS Basketball Kids Day

UIS basketball is sponsoring a kids' day for their home game versus Quincy on Saturday afternoon, January 7, 2017. The game will be held at TRAC Arena, and we have some free student tickets available in the school office on a first come, first serve basis. If you are interested in tickets for your children, please contact the school office, or have your child stop by the office for one.

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. 6 –

PSA Spirit Day (included with prepaid days)
8:20 a.m. – All-school Mass
End of second quarter

Saturday, Jan. 7 –

8:00 a.m. – SHG make-up placement test
1:00 & 3:00 p.m. – UIS basketball games for Kids Day

Monday, Jan. 9 –

Family service hours due to be included in 3rd quarter report cards!
2:30 p.m. – Leadership assembly (wear t-shirts)

Tuesday, Jan. 10 –

3:00-5:00 p.m. – Auditions for musical
4:15 p.m. – 7th & 8th grade girls' volleyball home games vs. Franklin Middle School

Wednesday, Jan. 11 –

1:30 p.m. – Early dismissal for faculty meeting;
BASE available
1:30-4:00 p.m. – Auditions for musical

4:00 p.m. – 7th & 8th grade boys' IESA basketball home games vs. Franklin Middle School

Thursday, Jan. 12 –
3:00-4:30 p.m. – Auditions for musical
4:00 p.m. – 7th & 8th grade girls' IESA volleyball home games vs. Washington Middle School

Friday, Jan. 13 –
Report Card Day!
3:00-4:00 p.m. – Auditions for musical

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

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

Monday, Jan. 30 –
Community Awareness Day

Tuesday, Jan. 31 –
Faith Appreciation Day

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

8:30 a.m. Sunday Lauren Smith, Ethan Short & Lennon Long

10:30 a.m. Sunday Noah Ward & Caleb Rutherford

Daily Servers for Jan. 9-13:

8:00 a.m. M & W & Charles Pittman
8:20 a.m. Tu. & Luke Portz
8:00 a.m. Th. & Ellen O'Brien
8:20 a.m. Fri. & Michal Krikorian

Please Remember!

Before School Patrols for the Week of Jan. 9-13:

Amelia Curtis Jack Davis Mitch Dye
Xander Eberding Seth Faivre Audrey Frost

After School Patrols for the Week of Jan. 9-13:

Carmen Dillman Maria Fulgenzi Jack Gaffney

Mass Servers for Jan. 7 & 8: (only BSS students)

4:30 p.m. Saturday Nathaniel Bell & Joey Scott
7:00 a.m. Sunday Tyler Furkin