

+ Blessed Sacrament

March 2, 2017



School News

Learning to Make a Difference

A Note to Parents

Dear Parents,

On Tuesday our Builders Club held their annual Mardi Gras Carnival to benefit the Missionary Childhood Association. The club members oversaw the games and provided a day of fun and celebration for our students. Thanks to the Builders Club, the parent volunteers, and the club moderators, Mrs. Michele Hinds-Greenwood and Mrs. Pat Pierce, for making the carnival a huge success again this year!

Yesterday our student body began the season of Lent with the celebration of an all-school Mass and the distribution of ashes. Father Scott, with the help of a few eighth graders, also visited the kindergarten through fifth grade classrooms yesterday to present a skit about the meaning of the ashes and Lent. In addition, please see the letter from Father Scott being sent home today. We hope it will provide an opportunity for personal reflection for parents and children alike as we begin the season of Lent.

Tomorrow, March 3, is our monthly PSA-sponsored Spirit Day. Students may wear BSS shirts or uniform shirts untucked with jeans or uniform bottoms for a \$1 donation. No other pants are acceptable. This Spirit Day is covered for any students who pre-paid for Spirit Days.

PSA will be selling Lenten lunch items tomorrow. The following items will be for sale: pretzel with cheese (\$3.00) and nachos with cheese (\$2.00 or \$2.50 with extra cheese). **At this time we are still waiting for the popcorn machine to be repaired, so we anticipate that no popcorn will be sold tomorrow.** Please plan for your children's lunches accordingly.

The Springfield Junior Blues hockey team is hosting Catholic Schools Night tomorrow, Friday, March 3. Catholic school students receive FREE admission with the purchase of an adult ticket at the door. The first 250 fans in attendance will receive a Jr. Blues pennant. The Catholic elementary school with the highest percentage of their enrollment in attendance will receive \$1,000 for their school courtesy of Mid-America Advertising. See the flyer being sent home today for more details.

Good luck to Ava Stone and Elle Richardson who will be representing our school at the local Knights of Columbus Spelling Bee this weekend. The girls will compete at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday in Petersburg.

Our annual celebration of the arts, CultureFest, will be held this 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.

Enjoy the weekend! Hope to see you at CultureFest and the Fine Arts Evening on Sunday!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Kathy Wear

Congratulations

Congratulations to 8th grader Emma Kinion for receiving the Individual Golden Award at our leadership assembly on Monday. Emma sang the national anthem at several of our home sporting events throughout this year. We appreciate her leadership and service to our school!

Bruins Update

Congratulations to fifth grader Josh McClain who participated in the IESA regional wrestling competition this past Saturday. Josh is a member of our Springfield Catholic schools' Saints co-op wrestling team. Congratulations to the entire team on a great season, and special thanks to their coach, Mr. Doug Ludolph.

Congratulations to our 7th grade girls' IESA volleyball team on a great season and a good regional tournament. After winning their first regional game, they played very well in their loss in the second game. Special thanks to their coach, Mrs. Stacey Malone, and their assistant coach, Emily Eades.

Good luck to our 8th grade girls' IESA volleyball team as they play their first regional game this Saturday against Edinburg at approximately 11:00 a.m. at the Mt. Pulaski Grade School Gym. Go, Bruins!

Tomorrow three of our 8th graders, Grace Lambert, Sofia Lewis, and Maddie O'Connor, will be honored with the rest of their teammates as the 8th grade state champions in Class 3A this year. They will be recognized at the IHSA girls' state basketball tournament at Redbird Arena at ISU tomorrow morning.

Congratulations to Science and History Fair Participants!

Kudos to all of our 7th and 8th grade students on their science and history fair projects! The projects on display were quite impressive last weekend, and they should all be proud of their hard work! Congratulations to the following 7th graders whose science fair projects move on to compete at the IJAS Regional Science Fair competition on March 25: Anthony Keldermans, Andrew Reimers, Aili Sluga, Nolan Kelley, Jack

Davis, Joey Scott, Audrey Frost, Dani Kraft, Drew Herman, Charles Pittman, and Justine Bell.

Congratulations to the following 8th graders whose projects move on to the Regional Illinois History Fair on March 18: Sophie Reimers, Sofia Lowis, Meredith Kelley, Ava Stone, Ava Giacomini, Grace Lambert, Colin Brockhouse, Sam Antonacci, Isabella Elias, and Maggie Allen. Also, congratulations to the 8th graders whose research papers will compete in the Regional Illinois History Fair: Clare Cavanagh, Augusto Elias, Isabella Elias, Sophia Elias, Emma Kinion, Grace Lambert, Sofia Lowis, Sophie Reimers, Nick Schlosser, and Ava Stone.

Again, special thanks to their teachers, Mrs. Laura Reiser, Mrs. Mary Ellen Hollahan, Ms. Angela Alan, and Mrs. Dan Manfredo, for their guidance and support of their students. Good luck to our students in the next level of competition!

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 tomorrow, 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.

Registration for 2017-2018

The registration period for the 2017-2018 school year for our current students began yesterday, Wednesday, March 1, with registration packets being sent home with current students. Registration forms and fees are due back on Monday, March 13. Thank you for your cooperation!

Hoops Mania

March Madness is almost upon us! Hoops Mania, a fundraiser centered around the NCAA's March Madness basketball tournament, is in full swing! Every school family will receive 3 tickets this week, and we ask that every family participate in this fundraiser. Our goal is to sell 1,000 tickets at \$10 each. (Of course, we'll happily sell more!) Our school is guaranteed winners out of our pool of tickets! **We'll raise \$7,000 for the school if we're able to meet our goal of 1,000 tickets, as the school keeps \$7 out of every \$10 ticket.** That's a 70% profit margin, which is almost unheard of in fundraising sales.

If successful, the PSA will continue to use Hoops Mania as our sole fundraiser next school year, receiving a greater profit margin than we did with previous sales fundraisers – and it's quite a bit easier! How many family members, friends, and co-workers do you know that usually take part in a basketball tournament pool? Please invite them to take part in Hoops Mania this year, which will directly benefit the children of Blessed Sacrament School. For only \$10, the ticket holder also receives access to download digital music from CharityStudio. **Extra tickets are available in the school office, and all ticket stubs and money are due in the school office by Wednesday, March 15th.** Please don't wait until the last minute to get in on the action! We're really counting on all of our families to make this a success!

Library News

Many of our students recently participated in voting for their choices for book awards. The winners for the Monarch Award, chosen by grades K-3, include the following: 1st place (by over 70 votes) is Princess in Black by Shannon Hale; 2nd place goes to Trapped by Robert Burleigh; 3rd place is a tie between Wolfie the Bunny and Winnie: The True Story of the Bear Who Inspired Winnie the Pooh.

The Blue Stem books, voted on by 3rd grade -5th grade, included the following winners: 1st place is a tie between El Deafo and Genius Files; 2nd place is War That Saved My Life; and 3rd place is Tuck Everlasting.

The Rebecca Caudill Award winners, voted on by students in 4th – 8th grades, are the following: 1st place is Fish in a Tree; 2nd place is a tie between Echo and A Time to Dance; and 3rd place is The Crossover.

Thanks to our librarians, Mrs. Criscione and Mrs. Allen, for organizing the voting and to our students for reading the books and participating in the awards selection process for our school. We look forward to hearing the results of voting from the entire state.

Extra Spirit Days

Please note that we have added an extra Spirit Day to our calendar on Friday March 31, to benefit The Hope Institute. This is the 60th anniversary of The Hope Institute and their services to the children with developmental disabilities and their families. The Springfield Catholic schools are supporting this valuable resource in our community by having a dress down day on March 31. Students must bring \$1 to participate, as this day is NOT covered with the prepaid spirit day fee. Thank you in advance for your support of this day!

In addition, our students and faculty received an extra Spirit Day from PSA at our leadership assembly this week. To kick off the PSA Hoops Mania fundraiser, teacher and student representatives participated in a free throw contest. With each group doing a great job, an extra Spirit Day has been added for faculty and students on Monday, April 3. That evening will be the final game of the NCAA basketball tournament, so students will be able to wear BSS Spirit Day shirts or their favorite team's jersey with jeans to school that day without a charge. Thanks to PSA for sponsoring this day for our faculty and students!

Thank You from the Gift of Giving

We received a special thank you from Margie Homeier with the Gift of Giving Program. "The response to the collection drive was fabulous and greatly appreciated!" At this time, they do not need any more stuffed animals but could use some scissors and scotch tape. You are also welcome to drop off any items for males, including: playing cards, tools, cologne, money clips, sports items, and sports books. Please contact Mrs. Homeier directly through Mrs. Stauffer's Tuesday/Thursday preschool classroom with any donations.

SHG Zero Hour Math Class

SHG will continue to offer its zero hour algebra program for qualifying eighth grade students in the 2017-2018

school year. The applications, which are due May 1, are being sent home with all of the 7th grade students today. Completed applications must be sent to your child's current math teacher for verification prior to being submitted to SHG. Therefore, please submit the application to your current math teacher on or before April 24. Thank you.

Men's Club Fish Fry

The Men's Club Fish Fry will begin next Friday, March 10, from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria. A flyer is posted on the school website with available food items and prices. The gym will be open beginning at 5:30 p.m. as an area for children to play. We ask that students wear tennis shoes if they are going to play in the gym. If they wear other shoes, they will have to take them off. Therefore, children must wear socks. The gym will be supervised by adults, and parents are asked to sign their children in and out of the gym. A parent or a chaperone must be present at the fish fry for a child to be in the gym. With the availability of the gym, children will not be allowed to play on the parking lot or in the field.

We do need enough adult chaperones to supervise children in the gym. If you are interested in supervising during a shift, 5:15 to 6:30 p.m. or 6:15 to 7:30 p.m., please call Ruth Hanken at 652-1742. Again, the parking lot and field will remain off limits for children, whether the gym is open or not. The safety of children during the fish fry is our main concern. We appreciate your cooperation and help!

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.

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 next 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.

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.

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 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 is 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!

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.

Sacred Relics of the Saints: Treasures of the Church

The Diocese of Springfield in Illinois will host at The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception a teaching and exposition of Sacred Relics on Thursday, March 23, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. Father Carlos Martins of the Companions of the Cross will be here with his very special ministry to teach about these holy objects. He will bring with him over 150 relics, some as old as 2000 years.

Among the treasures will be relics of St. Maria Goretti, St. Therese of Lisieux (the "Little Flower"), St. Francis of Assisi, St. Anthony of Padua, St. Thomas Aquinas, and St. Faustina Kowalska. In addition, there will also be present a portion of the veil of Our Lady, as well as one of the largest remaining pieces of the True Cross in the world. Those in attendance will be able to examine and venerate each relic. In the Church's history many miracles and healings have been worked in the presence of relics, and many have been healed through this ministry.

Please do not miss this opportunity. You are encouraged to bring your articles of devotion (such as rosaries, holy cards, etc.) and pictures of ill friends/family members, which you will be able to touch to the reliquaries as a means of intercession.

Looking Ahead

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 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 B.A.S.E. 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!

Hoops Mania tickets and money due back!

11:30 a.m. dismissal – Faculty in-service at Christ the King; **no B.A.S.E. 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 –

8th grade Confirmation retreat at St. Joseph in Chatham

5:00-7:30 p.m. – Men's Club Fish Fry

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

Monday, April 3 –

Free modified Spirit Day for March Madness Fundraiser

Please Remember!

Before School Patrols for the Week of March 6-10:

Jackson Stewart Chip Weihmeir Bridgid Wilhite
Eddie Ambrose Gus Beard Emma Brennan

After School Patrols for the Week of March 6-10:

Griffin Cook Julia Danna Teddy Dietrich

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

4:30 p.m. Saturday Spencer Wood
7:00 a.m. Sunday Jaynanne Roate
8:30 a.m. Sunday Blake White, Noah Ward & Miles Roland
10:30 a.m. Sunday Jeff Wernsing, Jonah Parkes & Luke Portz

Daily Servers for March 6-10:

8:00 a.m. M & W & Jack Ozyurt
8:20 a.m. Tu. & Seth Faivre
8:00 a.m. Th. & Andrew Dailey
8:20 a.m. Fri. & Addison Eades