

March 30, 2017

+ Blessed Sacrament



School News

Learning to Make a Difference

A Note to Parents

Dear Parents,

Especially today, the Bible verse from Ecclesiastes 3:1, "There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens", seems most fitting. On Sunday we received the devastating news that Mrs. Lisa Bloome, our fourth grade teacher, died unexpectedly. We continue to mourn the loss of our beloved teacher, colleague, and friend, but we have faith in God's plan for her and us as we face the days ahead.

We feel blessed to have had Mrs. Bloome's kindness, compassion, positive spirit, and strong example of faith in our school community for the past nine years. She definitely touched so many students' lives and made a difference in all of our lives!

We want to thank you so much for your prayers and offers to help whenever and however needed. The support that we have received from everyone in our school community has been overwhelming and much appreciated. We have also received prayers and support from the other Springfield Catholic schools and several parochial schools in the city.

We are also so grateful that Father Jeff, Father Scott, and Mrs. Rini Christofilakos-Soler, our counselor, have been available all week to support our students, especially our fourth graders in Mrs. Bloome's homeroom. Also, we are blessed that Mrs. Lora Kraft, our fourth grade aide, will be assuming the substitute teacher role for the class. We know she will provide the consistency and care that our fourth graders need at this time.

Please remember that our school will not be in session tomorrow in respect and memory of Mrs. Bloome and so that our faculty, staff, students, and families have the opportunity to attend the funeral at 10:00 a.m. tomorrow, March 31, at St. Joseph the Worker Church in Chatham. The visitation is this evening from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Staab Polk Memorial Home in Chatham.

Today the Ecclesiastes verse also seemed fitting as we received news that Mrs. Hennessy had her baby! Her son, Jack, was born yesterday, March 29, at 6:08 p.m. He weighed 9 lbs., 4 oz. and was 22 inches long. His big sister Olivia is thrilled with him. Congratulations to Mrs. Hennessy and her husband Dave! We look forward to meeting Jack in person sometime soon! Mrs. Hennessy will be on maternity leave for the remainder of the school year, and Mrs. Kris Cavanagh will be our substitute teacher for Spanish.

Congratulations to our eighth graders who were confirmed last night by Bishop Paprocki. It was a wonderful ceremony, and Bishop Paprocki challenged the students to continue to grow in their faith and use the gifts of the Holy Spirit to answer God's call in their own lives. We are grateful to all of the parents who partner with us in the faith

development of their children. Special thanks to Mrs. Hollahan for her preparation of our students for this sacrament and for the assistance of Mrs. Keller, Mr. Manfredo, Mrs. Senger, and Mr. Hollahan, especially with the Confirmation retreat that was held last Friday at St. Joseph the Worker Church in Chatham.

Don't forget that our Men's Club will host their fish fry in the school cafeteria tomorrow evening. They will be serving food from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. Please see the related article and the flyer posted on the school website for more details.

Please continue to keep Mrs. Bloome and her husband Lee and their extended family in your prayers as well as our faculty, staff, and students. Again, thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Kathy Wear

Regional Science Fair

Several of our seventh graders participated in the IJAS Regional Science Fair on March 25 at LLCC and were very successful! We will have seven students advancing to the state science fair competition on May 6th: Joey Scott, Jack Davis, Justine Bell, Charles Pittman, Andrew Reimers, Anthony Keldermans, and Nolan Kelley.

Additionally, Joey Scott, Justine Bell, and Jack Davis all received the Broadcam Masters Award for projects in the top fourteen projects at the regional science fair. Joey Scott received an award from the U.S. Air Force for outstanding science fair project, too. He also received the Office of Naval Research Naval Science Award for exceptional work in science and engineering.

We extend our appreciation to their teachers, Mrs. Laura Reiser and Mrs. Mary Ellen Hollahan, for guiding them throughout this project as well as to their parents for their ongoing assistance. Good luck to our state qualifiers at the State Science Fair!

Tuition Assistance for 2017-2018

The F.A.C.T.S. tuition assistance applications (along with the required supporting documentation) for the 2017-2018 school year are **due tomorrow, March 31**. You may apply online by accessing the link on our website or request a paper copy of the application from Sharon Schraeder. Families will be notified in mid-May of their assistance. Please contact Sharon Schraeder at 522-7534, ext. 245, with any questions.

Barnes & Noble Book Fair Hosted by Pre-K Students

Mrs. Stauffer's and Miss Emily's Pre-K classes will host a spring book fair at Barnes and Noble on Tuesday, April

11. Mrs. Stauffer's Pre-K-1 class will perform songs at 6:00 p.m. Miss Emily will read aloud to the students in the children's area after their performance, and then Pre-K-2 will perform at 6:45 p.m. The winners of the character drawing contest (see separate article below) will be announced at 7:00 p.m. We also hope to have some of our *Seussical* characters on hand for the evening!

Additionally, families will have the opportunity to pre-order Cheesecake Factory cheesecakes from the Café, which will also count towards our school's book fair totals. The cheesecakes would make a great addition to your Easter celebrations. Please see the order form accompanying today's newsletter for details. **Orders are due Monday, April 3.**

Families are able to make purchases anytime April 11 in-store or online for our book fair. **Our book fair ID number is 12122404.** Online orders will also be accepted throughout the following week for our book fair, using the ID number provided above. Please plan to join us!

Modified Spirit Day

PSA is sponsoring a modified Spirit Day on Monday, April 3, as part of their March Madness fundraiser as the NCAA basketball championship game will be played that evening. Students may wear B.S.S. Spirit Day shirts or their favorite sports team shirts or jerseys with jeans or uniform bottoms, including uniform shorts. No other pants are acceptable, and all other regular uniform guidelines do apply. There is no charge for students to participate. Show your team spirit next Monday!

Uniform Reminders

Just a reminder that, as of April 1, students may once again wear uniform shorts, and skirts may be worn without opaque tights. However, skirts/skorts are not to be more than two inches above the knee. Shorts must be uniform shorts (no cargo shorts) and should not be shorter than approximately two inches above the knee. Please refer to the dress code section of the parent/student handbook (page 25-27) for further information. Thank you for your cooperation!

“Oh, the Characters You'll Create!” Drawing Contest

Our librarians and art teachers are sponsoring an art contest open to all of our students. Students entering the contest will create their own Dr. Seuss-inspired character according to the directions on the flyer that was sent home last week. The contest entries are due by Monday, April 10, to Mrs. Ficke, and the contest winners will be announced at the Barnes & Noble event on Tuesday, April 11. All entries will be on display at school during April.

Half Marathon Anyone?!

Last week our students began the annual running contest at school. Any student who chooses may get a tracking card during P.E. or recess. The goal is to complete 13 miles (a half marathon!) at his/her own pace by April 13. The students have to complete 19 laps of the gym or 14 laps of the playground in order to complete one mile. Please talk with your child and encourage them to pick up a tracking card if they are interested in working toward this goal.

Lifetouch Spring Portraits

Photo packets from our Spring Portrait Day were sent home with all students last week. If you want to purchase any photos, please return the form with payment and any remaining photos to the school office by Friday, April 7. If you are not interested in purchasing any photos, please return the entire packet to school tomorrow. We appreciate Lifetouch's donation back to our school for hosting a photo day in the spring, regardless of the amount of packets purchased.

Spring into Box Tops

There is a box tops collection sheet being sent home today with everyone. All students who return a completed collection sheet by next Friday, April 7, will receive a special treat bag before Easter. Thank you for your ongoing support of this program!

Builders Club Lenten Project

The Builders Club is sponsoring a Lenten project to benefit The Matthew Project, which provides needed items and services for homeless students in District 186. The Builders Club is requesting that each grade bring a certain personal hygiene or food item, as listed on the flyer posted on the school website. There is a particular need for socks and undergarments. Donations are due by Friday, April 7. Thank you, in advance, for helping needy children in our community.

Men's Club Fish Fry

The Men's Club will host a fish fry tomorrow, Friday, March 31, 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 **if there are enough chaperones available.** 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!

Collection at Fish Fries

Boy Scout Troop 31 and Cub Scout Pack 31 will be collecting personal hygiene items for St. Martin De Porres Center during all the fish fries this year. They will be accepting toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, conditioner, towels, washcloths etc. Thanks, in advance, for your generosity!

Garden Club News

The next Garden Club meeting will be held **Tuesday, April 11. Please note this is a new date.** 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.

Golf Team Meeting

Mark your calendars for Monday, April 10, if your child is interested in joining the school's golf team. The meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the school cafeteria, and all parents of current 4th through 7th graders interested in being on the golf team should attend. The interested students are also invited to attend the meeting. If your child is definitely signing up for the golf team, please also bring your child's completed physical form and a check for the \$75 athletic fee. Practice will begin Mondays in May at Brookhills Golf Course from 4:00-5:30 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact Sandy Etheridge at 836-9196 or Michelle Calucchia at 493-7633.

Dental Exam Reminder

Please remember that all students in kindergarten, second grade, and sixth grade are required to present proof of having been examined by a dentist before May 15 of the school year. (Dentist offices have the official form that needs to be submitted.) If a child in grade K, 2 or 6 fails to present proof by May 15, then the school may hold the child's report card until one of the following occurs: 1. The child presents proof of a completed dental examination within 18 months prior to the deadline; 2. The child presents proof that a dental examination will take place within 60 days after May 15; or 3. The parents obtain a waiver from the Department of Public Health or provide objection to the exam on religious grounds.

Service Hours Requirements & Waiver Request

Please refer to the Family Service Hours flyer in your registration packet regarding the process to apply for a waiver for inability to complete the service hours. Please note that **a request for a waiver must be submitted in writing by April 15. No late submissions are accepted! Thank you!**

Hockey with Bishop Paprocki

Bishop Paprocki will once again participate in the Hockey with (Bishop) Paprocki fundraiser for Catholic Charities Legal Services on Wednesday, April 19. This fun event will be held at the Nelson Center beginning at 7 p.m. Admission is \$5 at the door. There is a flyer posted on our school's website. Please come and show your support!

Catholic Athletes for Christ Springboard Event

The diocese will host the annual Catholic Athletes for Christ (aka CAC) Springboard Event to honor our high school senior athletes from each of our diocese's 7 high schools. The event will be held on **April 9th at 2:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart-Griffin, Springfield West Campus gym. This is open to ALL of our schools in the diocese for ALL students, staff and their families, free of charge, to enable everyone to see how we honor our Catholic senior high school athletes. The keynote speaker is former U of I women's basketball head**

coach **Theresa Grentz**. Special guest will be **Dan Duddy**, currently a CAC Chapter Coordinator and Board member. See the flyer being emailed today for more details. **Please RSVP to our school office by Monday, April 3, if you plan to attend!**

Looking Ahead

Friday, March 31 –

No school to allow faculty and families to attend Mrs. Bloome's funeral
5:00-7:30 p.m. – Men's Club Fish Fry

Monday, April 3 -

Free modified Spirit Day for March Madness Fundraiser

Barnes & Noble cheesecake orders due today!

Friday, April 7 –

Donations for Builders Club Lenten project due! Box tops collection sheet due!

Lifetouch photo packets/payments due!

Regular PSA Spirit Day (covered by pre-paid fee)
2:15 p.m. – First Friday adoration & benediction for grades 2-8

5:00-7:30 p.m. – Men's Club Fish Fry

Monday, April 10 –

Drawing contest entries due!

7:00 p.m. – Golf team meeting in the cafeteria

Tuesday, April 11 –

3:00-4:00 p.m. – Garden Club meeting

6:00 p.m. – Barnes & Noble Pre-K Book Fair event at the store; Dr. Seuss theme; see related article!

Wednesday, April 12 –

9:00 & 9:45 a.m. – Living Stations performances for students

1:30 p.m. – Early dismissal for faculty meeting; after-school care at B.A.S.E. available

Thursday, April 13 –

1:30 p.m. – Early dismissal for Easter vacation; after-school care at B.A.S.E. available

Friday, April 14 –

Good Friday

3:00 p.m. – 7th graders' Living Stations for the parish

Friday, April 14 – Friday, April 21 –

No school for Easter vacation

Please Remember!

Before School Patrols for the Week of April 3-7:

Joey Scott	Teddy Thornberry	Alaric Wortman
Justine Bell	Joey Brown	Quinn Butler

After School Patrols for the Week of April 3-7:

Anthony Keldermans	Gryphon Kirchgessner	Dani Kraft
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Mass Servers for April 1 & 2: (only BSS students)
4:30 p.m. Saturday Addison Eades & Carter Etheridge
7:00 a.m. Sunday no current BSS student
8:30 a.m. Sunday no current BSS student
10:30 a.m. Sunday Bill Hollahan & Elliott Kren

Daily Servers for April 3-7:

8:00 a.m. M & W &	Nathan Jugan
8:20 a.m. Tu.	& Aidan Mauntel
8:00 a.m. Th. &	Sam DeSalle
8:20 a.m. Fri.	& Will DeSalle