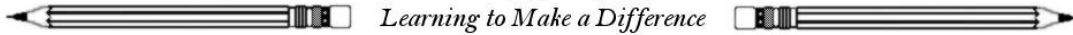


November 10, 2016

† Blessed Sacrament



School News



Learning to Make a Difference

A Note to Parents

Dear Parents,

Thanks to all of you who attended parent-teacher conferences last Wednesday and Thursday. We appreciate you working with the teachers to support your children in their academic and faith development. Please feel free to contact the teachers at any time if you have any questions or concerns.

Today our seventh graders are gathering with the seventh graders from the other Springfield Catholic elementary schools for a joint retreat. Next Friday, our fifth graders will join the other fifth graders from all of the Catholic grade schools in Springfield for an afternoon of service at Little Flower and St. Joseph's Home. We appreciate these opportunities for our students to grow in their faith as they participate in events with the other Catholic schools.

Tomorrow we will observe Veterans' Day with a morning assembly featuring a helicopter pilot who served in the Marines and also flew for former President George W. Bush. In the afternoon the SHG band will perform patriotic music for our students. We would also like to include a closing prayer for those who are currently serving in our military. **If any students know of a BSS graduate or have a parent or close family member who is currently serving in our armed forces, please let us know his/her name, branch of the military, and current location of service or deployment by sending a note to the school office or by emailing me at wear@bssbruins.org.** We join our nation, especially tomorrow, in thanking veterans and those currently serving our country for their selfless sacrifices for all of us to enjoy the freedoms of our country.

Tomorrow is also a regularly scheduled PSA Spirit Day, but it will be a modified Spirit Day in observance of Veterans' Day. Students may wear BSS Spirit Day shirts or red, white, and blue shirts with jeans or uniform bottoms for a \$1 donation. (If students pre-paid for the year for regular Spirit Days, there is no charge.) Please review the other regular Spirit Day guidelines in the student handbook as they do apply.

Good luck to our seventh and eighth grade students who will participate in the Catholic Schools' Speech Meet on Saturday at Blessed Sacrament. Special thanks to Mrs. Hollahan for organizing and guiding our speech students again this year and to all of our volunteer judges for the meet!

Also, good luck to our students who will participate in the Catholic Schools' Band Concert for Veterans' Day this Sunday at 3:00 p.m. at SHG. The concert is always a very impressive patriotic tribute to our veterans and current service men and women. Please keep our veterans and current military in your prayers of thanksgiving and gratitude as you enjoy your weekend!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Kathy Wear

School Safety Reminder

We ask parents' cooperation in not letting anyone (including delivery drivers) into the school building through any of the school doors. We know that it is a natural instinct to open a door or hold a door for someone as they approach an entrance. However, we do ask that only school personnel (or those volunteers specifically designated by the school) let others into the building, including delivery drivers, vendors, and all visitors. If someone approaches a door other than the main entrance by the school office, please direct them to use the main entrance doors. We appreciate your cooperation in keeping our building secure.

Bruins Update

Congratulations to our SCAA girls' basketball teams on completing their successful seasons! The fifth and sixth grade teams placed first and second, respectively, in the regular season, and the fifth graders were the champions of the league tournament. Special thanks to their coaches, Bill Fleischli and John Fleischli for the fifth graders and Scott Eades for the sixth graders. We look forward to watching them in additional exciting basketball games next year!

December Hot Lunch Form

The hot lunch order form for December is being sent home today. The forms with payment are due next **Thursday, Nov. 17**. Please remember that late orders will not be accepted. Thank you!

Fourth Grade Service Project for St. Martin's

The fourth grade is coordinating a project to benefit the Saint Martin de Porres Center. They are asking for each grade to donate a particular item as Saint Martin de Porres is in great need of these items. Please bring your contributions to school by Friday, November 18. Each grade is asked to bring the following: Preschool – bars of soap; Kindergarten – shampoo; First Grade – toothbrushes; Second Grade – toothpaste; Third Grade – soups (family size preferred); Fourth Grade – canned chili; Fifth Grade – canned pastas; Sixth Grade – canned beef stew; Seventh Grade – minute rice; Eighth Grade – canned tuna or canned chicken. Thank you for your help and cooperation!

Bruinettes Camp

Calling all girls in grades K-6 who enjoy dancing and have lots of school spirit! Our annual Bruinettes Camp is coming soon! Practices will be after school, Tuesday-Thursday, Nov. 29-Dec. 1, and Monday, Dec. 5. The Bruinettes will perform between the 7th & 8th grade boys' home basketball games on Tuesday, December 6, at approximately 6:45 p.m. The cost to attend the camp is \$30 per child and includes a t-shirt to be worn at the game and a

hair ribbon to be worn for the game. A registration form with a detailed practice schedule accompanies this newsletter and is posted on our school website. **Registrations are due back by Tuesday, November 22.** Please contact Taryn Grant at tarynr@hotmail.com if you have any questions.

Parent Survey

As we continue to strive to provide the best Catholic education possible for our students, we value the input that we receive from our families. Although you are welcome to contact our administration and faculty at any time, today we are sending home a parent survey as another opportunity for feedback. Please complete the survey and return it to the school office or email it to Hoffmann@bssbruins.org. We appreciate you taking the time to help us continue to maintain our high standards and strive for excellence.

Barnes and Noble Book Fair

Mark your calendars now for our annual Barnes and Noble Book Fair. It will be held on Monday, November 21, in the evening at the store located on Veterans Parkway. You will also be able to make online purchases from Nov. 21 through Nov. 26, which will count towards our school total. The book fair ID number to use for online purchases is **12013561**. This is a great opportunity to start (or finish!) your holiday shopping and support BSS at the same time. Don't forget there is also scrip available to use for your purchases as well. This is always an enjoyable evening! A flyer with a voucher is being sent home today and will be posted on our school website.

Lifetouch School Photos

Photo packages were sent home two weeks ago for students who pre-ordered photos from Lifetouch. Any students who were not photographed on Oct. 14 will have their photos taken on Tuesday, Nov. 29. Also, any students who would like to have their pictures retaken should return their photo package to the school office by Nov. 28. (Photos cannot be retaken only for a change of clothing or hair.) Only those students having photos taken that day may be out of uniform.

Girls on the Run

Volunteers are needed for the spring 2017 Girls on the Run Program at Blessed Sacrament School. Girls in 3rd through 5th grades may participate. If you are interested in being a volunteer, please email athletic director Janice Davis at davis@bssbruins.org. Volunteers will receive service hours. The tentative new coaches' training dates are February 11th and 20th. We need one more coach and four practice partners. The season will take place March 6th through May 15th. The community 5K will be held Saturday, May 20th. Thank you for your consideration!

Joint Activity with Catholic Grade Schools

During the afternoon of Friday, Nov. 18, our fifth graders will join fifth graders from the other Springfield Catholic schools at Little Flower to complete an art project and then rake leaves and visit residents at St. Joseph's Home. In addition to a rake to use (labeled with the student's name), students are also being asked to bring a small gift of either hand/body lotion, puzzle books, or a small bag of candy bars

to donate to the residents of St. Joseph's Home. Permission slips were sent home with the students this week.

Eighth Grade Enrollment Sunday for Confirmation

The eighth grade Confirmation class will have Enrollment Sunday on Sunday, February 12, 2017, at the 8:30 a.m. Mass. Please mark your calendars now! (At this point, we have not received word about a date for Confirmation.)

Pastor's Annual Party

Father Scott and Father Jeff invite our parents (adults only, please) to attend the Pastor's Annual Party to be held on Sunday, Nov. 20, from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Get your holiday season off to a festive start! Visit with other parents and parishioners while enjoying cocktails and hors d'oeuvres.

Volunteers are needed after school on Friday, Nov. 18, at 3:15 p.m. to help with set-up for the Pastor's Annual Party. Please call Kim Hoffmann at 522-7534, ext. 206, if you can help. This is a good opportunity to earn service hours!

Catholic School Pee Wee Basketball League

Please see the information posted on our school website for information about a pee wee basketball league hosted by Cathedral and St. Aloysius Schools. The league is open to students from preschool through fourth grade.

Lunchroom Notes

We have noticed quite a bit of food being wasted in the lunchroom each day. In some instances, entire hot lunches, sandwiches, fruit, and other cold lunch items are simply thrown away. Please talk with your children about this, as we all need to remember how many people are less fortunate and would be most grateful to have so much good food to eat. Perhaps talking with your children about what they really will eat and have time to eat may also prevent some of the waste.

We also ask your cooperation in reminding the children to use their manners in the cafeteria. In other words, use their indoor voices, be respectful, and pick up all of their own trash to throw away at the end of each shift, including what they may have dropped on the floor. With everyone's cooperation, we can have very pleasant lunch shifts for all.

Missionary Childhood Association Collection Boxes

Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) collection boxes were sent home previously with all students. The MCA helps children worldwide come to know God and assists them in their daily lives. Please return the full collection boxes to the school office sometime during the second quarter. Thank you for supporting the missions!

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. Entries will be judged at the diocesan level, and then the top three winners at each grade level will be sent to the national MCA office for judging. All entries must arrive in the Office for the Missions by Jan. 15, 2017, and any entries received by Dec. 13, 2016, will have the chance to appear as the cover design for the

Christmas edition of *The Catholic Times* newspaper. Entry forms and guidelines are available on our school website.

SHG Preview Night 2016 Tonight!

Tonight, Thursday, Nov. 10, at 6:30 p.m., Sacred Heart-Griffin will open their doors to students and parents interested to TAKE A LOOK INSIDE SHG's community. You'll take a campus tour, visit classrooms, meet teachers and students, and discover how SHG will help your student succeed both academically and socially. This event is free and open to 5th-8th grade students and their parents or guardians interested in learning more about what makes Sacred Heart-Griffin a great school for students to learn and grow.

Veterans' Day Band Concert

You are invited to join the SHG and Springfield Catholic Elementary School Bands for an afternoon of music in honor of our military veterans. The concert will be held on Sunday, November 13, at 3:00 p.m. in the Sacred Heart-Griffin Theatre. A reception will follow.

Parish Prayer Service

On Thursday, Nov. 17, Blessed Sacrament Church will hold a prayer service for parents of all faiths who have lost a child through a miscarriage, stillbirth or abortion. You are invited to join together for this service.

Looking Ahead

Thursday, Nov. 10 –

6:30 p.m. - SHG Preview Night

Friday, Nov. 11 –

Modified PSA Spirit Day – included in pre-paid Spirit Days

9:30 a.m. – Veterans' Day assembly

2:15 p.m. – SHG Band performance for Veterans' Day

Saturday, Nov. 12 –

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. - Catholic Schools' Speech Meet at Blessed Sacrament

Sunday, Nov. 13 –

3:00 p.m. - Band concert at SHG

Monday, Nov. 14 –

8:20 a.m. – Leadership assembly (wear t-shirt)

5th & 6th grade IMSA FUSION field trip to Peoria

Wednesday, Nov. 16 –

8:45 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. – 4th grade field trip to Titanic exhibit in Peoria

6:30 p.m. – First Reconciliation for second graders

Thursday, Nov. 17 –

December hot lunch order forms due!

4:00 p.m. - 7th & 8th grade girls' home basketball games vs. Grant Middle School

Friday, Nov. 18 –

Food donations for St. Martin de Porres Center due!

Mid-quarter reports go home!

11:45 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. - Fifth Grade Joint Service Day with other Catholic schools at Little Flower/St. Joseph's Home

Monday, Nov. 21 –

5:30 p.m. - Barnes and Noble Book Fair begins with performances by kindergartners and first graders (see flyer with voucher for more information)

Tuesday, Nov. 22 –

Bruinettes Camp registrations due today!

Regular 3:00 p.m. dismissal for Thanksgiving break; B.A.S.E available

Wednesday, Nov. 23 – Friday, Nov. 25 –

No school – Thanksgiving vacation!

Tuesday, Nov. 29 –

Lifetouch Picture re-take day!

9:30 a.m. - Reconciliation for grades 6-8

Wednesday, Nov. 30 –

9:30 a.m. – Reconciliation for grades 3-5

Please Remember!

Before School Patrols for the Week of Nov. 14-18:

Josh Mauney Grace Minder Ambz Negro

Charles Pittman Anna Riedell Jaynanne Roate

After School Patrols for the Week of Nov. 14-18:

Nadia Giacomini Bryce Johnson Daniel Katalinich

Mass Servers for Nov. 12 & 13: (only BSS students listed)

4:30 p.m. Saturday Mitch Dye & Nathaniel Bell

7:00 a.m. Sunday Lennon Long

8:30 a.m. Sunday Agnes Cross & Audrey Frost

10:30 a.m. Sunday Will and Sam DeSalle

Daily Servers for Nov. 14-18:

8:00 a.m. M & W & Nathan Jugan

8:20 a.m. Tu. & Anthony Keldermans

8:00 a.m. Th. & Ellen O'Brien

8:20 a.m. Fri. & Madelein McKay