

November 17, 2016

+ Blessed Sacrament



School News

 *Learning to Make a Difference* 

A Note to Parents

Dear Parents,

This past week has been filled with many special assemblies and events. Last Friday we observed Veterans' Day in several ways. That day or earlier in the week, our students wrote letters to those currently serving in our armed forces. The letters were heartfelt and most appreciative of the sacrifices our military makes for all of us. In addition, in the morning, Craig Rush, a retired Marine helicopter pilot who also flew for President Bush, talked to several of our classes. They enjoyed his stories about his service and his family, and he left them with the message of the importance of having big dreams and working hard to reach them.

In the afternoon the SHG band performed patriotic music, and we ended the assembly with recognition and prayers for our current servicemen and women. We are so grateful for our graduates and family members who are serving our country at this time in addition to all of the veterans of our military branches. Special thanks to Mrs. Evans, Ms. Williamson, and Mrs. Hollahan for organizing our Veterans' Day observances. Please continue to keep veterans and current members of our armed forces in your prayers.

On Saturday Blessed Sacrament hosted the speech meet for the Springfield Catholic schools. Congratulations to our seventh and eighth grade students on their hard work in preparation for the meet and for their successful performances! 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!

On Monday, we had another special assembly. Tom Holland of the Shuffle Kings and Mike Rapier, board president of the Illinois Central Blues Club, performed for our students. They shared information and examples of blues, and our students definitely enjoyed their music. Special thanks to Michael Goza, a Blessed Sacrament parishioner, for arranging for our school to be part of the Blues in the Schools program with this assembly.

Last night was an exciting evening for our second grade families. Congratulations to our second grade students on receiving the sacrament of First Reconciliation! Special thanks to all of their parents, to Father Scott, and to their teachers, Mrs. Townsend, Ms. Horn, and Mrs. Kroner, for preparing the children to receive this sacrament. Please continue to keep them in your prayers as they grow in their faith and prepare for First Communion.

Today we were excited to welcome to our school Kengo Omori, a student from Ashikaga City, Japan, who is part of the winners' delegation of the 14th Gettysburg Speech Contest. The family of Alaric Wortman, a seventh grader, is serving as his host family, so Kengo joined Alaric for the school day. We were honored to be visited by members of the Sisters Cities delegation, too. Several of our BSS graduates

have traveled to Japan in between their eighth grade year and first year of high school. We appreciate the Sisters Cities Association providing this opportunity for cultural exchange for so many young students!

Tomorrow 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. (See the related article for specific details for fifth graders.) We appreciate this opportunity for our students to grow in their faith as they participate in service with the other Catholic schools.

Tomorrow is also the midpoint of the second quarter already. Mid-quarter reports will be sent home with all students in grades 2-8. We appreciate you working with the teachers to support your children in their academic and faith development. Please feel free to contact the teachers directly if you have any questions or concerns.

Due to the short week next week, there will not be a weekly newsletter. Any updates will be sent via email on Tuesday. On behalf of the entire Blessed Sacrament School faculty and staff, best wishes for a blessed and Happy Thanksgiving!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Kathy Wear

Builders Club Needs Your Votes!

This month the Builders Club organization is holding a national contest for Builders Club t-shirt designs. Our school's Builders Club's t-shirt was designed by Grace Lambert, our Builders Club Treasurer. The winner of the national contest will be determined by the number of online votes.

Voting ends tomorrow, Friday, Nov. 18. Please vote daily for our t-shirt design at <http://bit.ly/2fzeBSM> or at <http://wyng.com/campaign/818479/entry/6905091>. You may vote once each day, per device!! We are only 25 votes behind the leader at this point. If our t-shirt design is the winner, our Builders Club will receive a \$100 shopping spree that will allow the club to purchase items for their upcoming service projects. They'd appreciate your help through your online votes!!

Bruins Update

Good luck to our 7th & 8th grade girls' IESA basketball teams in their last home game against Grant Middle School this afternoon, beginning at **4:30 p.m.** (Note the **change in game time.**) Our 8th grade players will be recognized between games.

Good luck to the 7th girls' IESA basketball team as they begin their regional tournament. They play at 11:15 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 19, against Springfield Lincoln in Williamsville.

Good luck to our boys' 7th & 8th grade boys' IESA basketball teams in their home games against the Quincy Crusaders tomorrow evening, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Also, good luck to our junior high boys' SCAA basketball team in their game against Christ the King this Saturday at 9:00 a.m. in our school gym. Go, Bruins!

Christmas Stocking Stuffers

Please help supply candy for the Builders Club's annual Christmas Stocking Stuffers project. This is a school-wide service project, which benefits Catholic Charities Christmas programs. Students are being asked to bring in specific candies, depending upon their grade level, to insure a variety for our stockings. The list is available on the school website, www.bssbruins.org, and a flyer is being sent home today.

Sponsor – a – Family

Each Christmas, BSS sponsors one family through Catholic Charities. The goal of this program is to provide a complete Christmas for a family who may not otherwise be able to afford one. The faculty and staff donate all the food items to provide a complete Christmas dinner for the family. We ask that each student donate a minimum of \$3 towards the purchase of the gifts for the children. Please send in your child's donation by Friday, December 2. Thank you in advance for your generous support!

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 **tomorrow, 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!

Barnes and Noble Book Fair on this Monday!

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 posted on our school website.

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, we sent home a parent survey last week 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.

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

Tomorrow afternoon, 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 last week.

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. **See the flyer being sent home today.**

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!

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.

Parish Prayer Service

This evening, Thursday, Nov. 17, at 7:00 p.m. 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.

Advent by Candlelight

This annual event sponsored by the Women's Club is Thursday, Dec. 8, in the school cafeteria. Tickets are \$15 each and must be purchased in advance. A flyer with more information and a form to order tickets is being sent home today and is posted on the school website.

Looking Ahead

Thursday, Nov. 17 –

December hot lunch order forms due!

4:30 p.m. - 7th & 8th grade girls' home basketball games vs. Grant Middle School

Friday, Nov. 18 –

Food donations for St. Martin de Porres due!

Mid-quarter reports go home!
11:45 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. - Fifth Grade Joint Service Day at Little Flower/St. Joseph's Home
6:00 p.m. – 7th & 8th grade boys' home basketball

Monday, Nov. 21 –

5:30 p.m. - Barnes and Noble Book Fair begins

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!

Monday, Nov. 28 –

Wear leadership t-shirts

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

Friday, Dec. 2 –

PSA Spirit Day (included in prepaid Spirit Days)
2:15 p.m. – First Friday Benediction (gr. 2-8)

Monday, Dec. 5 –

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

Tuesday, Dec. 6 –

6:45 p.m. – Bruinettes perform between the 7th and 8th grade boys' IESA basketball games

Thursday, Dec. 8 –

8:20 a.m. – All-school Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception
Women's Club Advent by Candlelight

Saturday, Dec. 10 –

8:30 a.m. - SHG placement exam

Sunday, Dec. 11 –

K of C breakfast to benefit Catholic Schools – 2nd graders perform with Mrs. Hartman at 11:00 a.m.
1:00p.m. – Mrs. Carter's 1st grade Christmas program
3:00 p.m. – Ms. Vespa's 1st grade Christmas program

Monday, Dec. 12 –

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

Wednesday, Dec. 14 –

9:30 a.m. – All-day Pre-K Christmas program
1:30 p.m. – Early dismissal for faculty meeting;
B.A.S.E. available

Thursday, Dec. 15 –

10:00 a.m. – Mrs. Senger's 3rd grade program
1:30 p.m. – Ms. Williamson's 3rd grade program

Friday, Dec. 16 –

9:30 a.m. – Kindergarten Christmas program

Tuesday, Dec. 20 –

11:30 a.m. – dismissal for Christmas vacation; **No B.A.S.E. available!**

Please Remember!

Before School Patrols for the Week of Nov. 21-25:

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

After School Patrols for the Week of Nov. 21-25:

Anthony Keldermans	Gryphon Kirchesner
Danielle Kraft	

Mass Servers for Nov. 19 & 20: (only BSS students listed)

4:30 p.m. Saturday	Seth Faivre & Quinn Butler
7:00 a.m. Sunday	no current BSS students
8:30 a.m. Sunday	no current BSS students
10:30 a.m. Sunday	Jeffrey Wernsing, Ava Giacomini & Brady Maloy

Daily Servers for Nov. 21-25:

8:00 a.m. M & W &	Addie Eades
8:20 a.m. Tu.	& Elliott Kren
8:00 a.m. Th. &	volunteers
8:20 a.m. Fri.	

Mass Servers for Nov. 26 & 27

4:30 p.m. Saturday	Teddy Thornberry & Tyler Furkin
7:00 a.m. Sunday	no current BSS students
8:30 a.m. Sunday	Jack Ozyurt, Charles Pittman & Anthony Keldermans
10:30 a.m. Sunday	Liam Noonan & Brady Maloy

Daily Servers for Nov. 28-Dec. 2:

8:00 a.m. M & W &	Blake White
8:20 a.m. Tu.	& Michael Krikorian
8:00 a.m. Th. &	Agnes Cross
8:20 a.m. Fri.	& Ariana Antonacci