

October 13, 2016

+ Blessed Sacrament



School News

Learning to Make a Difference

A Note to Parents

Dear Parents,

I hope everyone was able to take advantage of the beautiful weather last weekend and enjoy some fun fall activities with your family! Although this has been a short week, it's certainly been busy as we prepare to wrap up the first quarter of the school year next Wednesday, October 19.

Tuesday we had our official fire drill with the Springfield Fire Department present, and our students did an excellent job of moving quickly and quietly out of the building. Next Thursday our students will participate in the Great ShakeOut by holding our own earthquake drill at 10:20 a.m., the same time that schools across the country will also be participating in drills.

Looking ahead, report cards for grades K-8 will go home on Wednesday, Oct. 26, and parent-teacher conferences will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 2, and Thursday, Nov. 3. Forms to schedule conference times are available on our school website. Please note that there are separate forms for preschool through fourth grade, for fifth grade, and for sixth through eighth grade. These forms are due back in the school office by **tomorrow, Friday, Oct. 14**, to allow time for the completion of schedules. Your scheduled times will be sent home with report cards on October 26. If you have any questions about the conference forms, please do not hesitate to call the school office. Enjoy the weekend!

*Sincerely,
Mrs. Kathy Wear*

Bruins News

Congratulations to our cross country runners who competed at the sectional meet in East St. Louis last Saturday! There were a lot of personal best times from our boys' and girls' teams. Our boys' team did qualify for the state meet with Nathaniel Bell receiving a medal for his fifth place finish. The boys run in the state meet at 11:45 a.m. this Saturday at Maxwell Park in Normal. We'll honor our state qualifiers at a pep rally tomorrow at 2:30 p.m. in the gym.

News from Father Jeff

We received another email from Father Jeff this week, and he said that he continues to keep our faculty and staff, students, and families in his prayers. He shared, "The experience here is eye-opening. The homes that people live in are little more than huts. They go to centers to get food rations, water, etc. . . . The meals are often cooked on fires at the edge of the road. They consist of what the World Food Program provides. Items include rice, beans, potatoes, and a white corn meal that is kind of like mush. There are some vegetables in the market. The roads are also an issue. They are dusty and very, very rough. When Jesus talks about

shaking the dust from your feet, this would be a 21st century example where you can still do that."

He said that the JRS (Jesuit Refugee Services) works to educate all children through secondary school. He said that in many ways the kids there are very much like our students as "they like to play soccer. They like to get your attention and they like to smile." He added, "One has to remember that not all these refugees were poor before they got here. Many were successful in business and professions but had to flee impossible and/or unsafe conditions. They are looking for a future for their children."

He added that he is adjusting to the living conditions and the language and age differences. Although most understand English, the majority speak a native language among themselves. (Swahili is the language Kenyans use.) He ended by saying, "I realize that I will be here only six months and then go home. Others here do not know how long they will be here. I am by far the lucky one." Please continue to keep Father Jeff and the refugees in your prayers.

Lifetouch School Pictures

School picture day is tomorrow, Friday, October 14. Students may be out of uniform but must follow non-uniform guidelines. The student handbook states, "*Students must be dressed neatly, modestly and in good taste. No cutoffs, shorts (unless permission is given by the principal), ripped or torn clothing, tight fitting shirts or pants, sweatpants, sleeveless shirts, midriff tops, spaghetti straps, biker shorts or short shorts are allowed. Clothes may not contain offensive wording or messages. Not all fashions are suitable for Blessed Sacrament School. Uniform guidelines about makeup, shoes, socks, and jewelry still apply on non-uniform days.*"

We will allow students to wear different shoes tomorrow for their photos, but students should bring gym shoes to change into for the rest of the day, especially for PE and recess.

You may simplify picture day by ordering in advance online at www.mylifetouch.com. There is no need to send cash or flyer back to school when you order online; you may pay securely online, and there are more options to choose from as well. Our school's picture day ID code is **AH216145Y0**. Lifetouch flyers were sent home last week if you would prefer to return the flyer with payment tomorrow.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parent/teacher conferences will be held Wednesday and Thursday, November 2 and 3. Conference forms were sent home last week and are due back tomorrow, Friday, Oct. 14. There is an early dismissal at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 2, with conferences available from 2:30 to 8:00 p.m. There is an early dismissal on Thursday, Nov. 3 (following

Grandparents' Day at approximately 11:30 a.m.), with conferences available from noon to 5:00 p.m. After-school care through BASE is **not available** either day!

Physical & Eye Examination Reminders

Please remember that all school physicals are due in the office prior to October 15. All children entering kindergarten and sixth grade must have their school physical forms and updated immunization records on file in the school office. Also, kindergartners and any students new to Illinois schools need to submit proof of an eye exam by October 15. Please contact Michele at 522-7534, ext. 201, with questions.

Uniform Reminders

Monday, Oct. 31, will be the last day that students will be allowed to wear shorts until next spring. Also, girls in grades 5-8 are required to wear tights under their skirts/**skorts** starting on **Tuesday, Nov. 1**. *Please remember skirts/skorts must not be shorter than two inches above the knee. There are several that need to be lengthened!* This might also be a good time to check on sweatshirts and sweaters for your children. Please review the uniform section in the **student handbook (p. 25-27)** for more specific details. Please note that students in grades 6-8 must purchase their uniform pants and shorts from Luers or Dennis Uniform Company.

Protecting God's Children Trainings

We have several volunteer opportunities coming up, but please remember that all volunteers at the school need to attend a session of Protecting God's Children training. There are a few upcoming training sessions, as follows:

Thursday, Oct. 20, at 6:30 p.m. at Little Flower (529-1606)

Thursday, Nov. 10, at 6:30 p.m. at St. Joseph the Worker in Chatham (482-3772)

Please call the locations of the trainings in advance to register.

Personal Safety Training

In compliance with the Diocese of Springfield's Safe Environment program, our students will be trained on personal safety through the Virtus program. This year the students will receive the training through two lessons taught by their religion teachers. The topics of the lessons this year are *Touching Safety Rules* and *Understanding Safe Friends, Safe Adults, and Safe Touching Rules*. The lessons will be presented during the weeks of October 17 and October 24. Please check with your child's teacher for specific dates. Permission slips for this training were included in the Fee Night packet.

We are also work with the Prairie Center Against Sexual Assault Agency to schedule additional personal safety training for our preschool through fifth grade students, as our teachers feel they have always been a valuable resource. Unfortunately, they are unable to provide training for grades 6-8 this year due to changes in personnel. Their educator, Cindy Murphy, will present information to the lower grade students on Tuesday and Thursday, January 10 and 12, 2017. Thanks for your ongoing support in helping us keep our children safe!

33 Days of Merciful Love

Starting this Monday, Oct. 17, you are invited to join a parish group for a 6 week program to read Father Michael Gaitley's latest book *33 Days to Merciful Love*. Over the course of 6 weeks, the group will meet to watch Father Michael's inspiring videos on Merciful Love and discuss the weekly readings. This easy-to-read, do-it-yourself retreat is a perfect way to end the Year of Mercy. The group will meet on Mondays from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the parish music room each week. To order the book, to join the group, or to just find out more info, please contact Bridget Heffernan at 630-313-2097.

ILMEA District Band

Congratulations to eighth graders Maggie Allen, flute, and Reilly Mohn, clarinet, for their selection to the Illinois Music Education Association's District IV Junior High School Festival Band. They will be performing with the top junior high school musicians from Central Illinois on November 5 in a concert at Western Illinois University.

Congratulations to seventh grader Brigid Wilhite, tenor sax, for her selection to the ILMEA District IV Junior High School Jazz Festival. She will be performing with the top junior high school jazz musicians from Central Illinois on November 19 in a concert at Rochester High School.

We're proud of our students' accomplishments in band and extend special thanks to their instructors, Melissa Blankestyn, Robert Rake, and Stuart Foster. We look forward to welcoming the SHG Band and our Springfield Catholic Elementary Schools' Advanced Band to our school on November 11 for a Veterans' Day concert.

March for Life

Students and chaperones attending the March for Life trip, sponsored by the Diocesan Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry, will leave for Washington, D.C., on Wednesday, Jan. 25, and will return on Sunday, Jan. 29, with the actual march taking place on Friday, Jan. 27. Information about the March for Life is being sent home with our eighth graders today. Please note that the interest form must be returned to the school office by Monday, Oct. 24.

Turkey in Disguise Contest

The school library is sponsoring a Turkey in Disguise Contest to celebrate the amazing characters in books in our library. A "turkey template" is being sent home electronically today, and students are encouraged to decorate one to look like a character from a favorite book. Be creative in decorating your turkey in disguise as a book character and submit it from Oct. 24 through Nov. 1 to the librarians with the contest form, also being sent home electronically today. Please check with Mrs. Criscione or Mrs. Allen in the library if you have any questions. The "turkeys in disguise" entries will be on display during Grandparents' Day for students to show their special guests!

Clothe the Naked

October begins the "Clothe the Naked" work of mercy for our parish for the Year of Mercy. New and gently

used coats and jackets for all ages will be collected by the parish to be donated to the St. Martin de Porres Center. Collection boxes will be in the vestibules of church during the entire month of October. Thank you, in advance, for your generosity!

PSA Spirit Day Wear

Spirit wear ordered from PSA should be arriving soon. A wide variety of options were offered, and over 400 items were ordered by our families, so completing the order is taking a little longer than expected. We are adding an extra Spirit Day on Friday, Oct. 21, to benefit the Knights of Columbus and their work with the religious education of special needs children and adults, so we hope these ordered items will be ready for our students to wear then. Thanks for your patience and understanding!

Service Hours Reminder

A report of recorded service hours will be included in the report cards at the end of the month. The report will include all hours turned in by Friday, Oct. 17. It is very helpful to turn in the hours as you complete them instead of waiting until the end of the year. If you have any questions, please contact Michele in the school office.

Volunteers Needed for Grandparents' Day

Grandparents' Day on Thursday, Nov. 3, is less than a month away! If you are available to help with set-up in the late afternoon/evening of Wednesday, Nov. 2, or with serving on the morning of Thursday, Nov. 3, please contact Lori Dye at 652-3269 or at dyprnc@comcast.net. You will earn service hours, and this is always such a fun morning!

October Box Tops Contest

A collection sheet was sent home previously for our October Box Tops contest. Each student who returns a completed sheet will receive a treat bag, and the class that collects the most box tops over the entire month of October will win a class prize. All collection sheets are due back to the office by Friday, Oct. 28.

Halloween at the Executive Mansion

Students in Pre-K through fifth grade are invited to trick or treat at the Executive Mansion from 2-4 p.m. on Sunday, October 30, 2016. Please enter through the Fourth Street gate for Halloween treats. A flyer is posted on our school website for more information.

Looking Ahead

Friday, Oct. 14 –

Parent-teacher conference forms due!

Physicals & eye examination forms due!

Lifetouch school picture day (non-uniform day)

2:30 p.m. – Pep rally for state cross country team

Sunday, Oct. 16 –

1:00-6:00 p.m. - Eagle Scout collection of basic necessities at Walmart in Parkway Point

Monday, Oct. 17 –

Service hour forms due for inclusion on 1st quarter report!

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

Wednesday, Oct. 19 –

End of first quarter!

Thursday, Oct. 20 –

10:20 a.m. – Earthquake drill

6th grade field trip to Challenger Learning Center

Friday, Oct. 21 –

Extra Spirit Day (not covered by pre-paid fee)

Monday, Oct. 24 –

March for Life interest forms from 8th graders due!

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

Tuesday, Oct. 25 –

5th grade field trip to Funks Grove Rock Museum
(note the change of date)

Wednesday, Oct. 26 –

Report Card Day!

Thursday, Oct. 27 –

Starting at 4:00 p.m. - Team photos for co-op teams (cross country, softball & 7th & 8th grade girls' basketball) at St. Agnes

Friday, Oct. 28 –

Box tops collection sheets due!

Monday, Oct. 31 – Happy Halloween!!

1:30 p.m. – Costume parade for Pre-k-fourth grade in the gym; classroom parties to follow

Tuesday, Nov. 1 –

8:20 a.m. – All-school Mass

Wednesday, Nov. 2 –

1:30 p.m. – Early dismissal; **no B.A.S.E.**

2:30-8:00 p.m. – Parent-teacher conferences

Thursday, Nov. 3 –

Grandparents' Day with Mass at 9:30 a.m.; students dismissed after Mass; **no B.A.S.E.**

12:00-5:00 p.m. – Parent-teacher conferences

Friday, Nov. 4 –

No school for students; teachers will be attending the DAEC (Diocesan Adult Enrichment Conference)

Please Remember!

Before School Patrols for the Week of Oct. 17 - 21:

Emma Grace Pezold

Andrew Reimers Aili Sluga

Jackson Stewart

Chip Weihmeir Brigid Wilhite

Spencer Wood

After School Patrols for the Week of Oct. 17 - 21:

Joey Scott

Teddy Thornberry

Alaric Wortman

Mass Servers for Oct. 15 & 16: (only BSS students listed)

4:30 p.m. Saturday

Noah Jugan, Nathaniel Bell & Jonah Parkes

7:00 a.m. Sunday

Noah Ward

8:30 a.m. Sunday

Blake White, Miles Roland & Madailein McKay

10:30 a.m. Sunday

Jeffrey Wernsing & Luke Portz

Daily Servers for Oct. 17 - 21:

8:00 a.m. M & W &

Brady Maloy

8:20 a.m. Tu.

& Jack Fleischli

8:00 a.m. Th. &

Charles Pittman

8:20 a.m. Fri.

& Jack Ozyurt