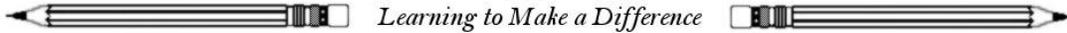


December 7, 2017

+ Blessed Sacrament



School News



Learning to Make a Difference

A Note to Parents

Dear Parents,

Next week is the final full week of school in 2017! These days before Christmas break are filled with many preparations for Christmas as well as several celebrations of this holy season. We continue to observe Advent by hanging the Jesse tree symbols and lighting the candles of the Advent wreath, and tomorrow we will celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception with an all-school Mass at 8:20 a.m. We appreciate your help in continuing to keep Christ as the focus during this Advent season.

Congratulations to the seventh and eighth graders who participated in the Catholic schools' speech meet last Saturday. They did very well! Special thanks to Mrs. Hollahan for overseeing and organizing our speech meet participants this year.

In preparation for the speech meet, students previously presented their speeches in different classrooms, and at our leadership assembly this past Monday, one of our 7th graders, Carter Etheridge, presented his speech to the entire school. With the help of members of the Jubilate Choir, Carter used the song "We Are the World, We Are the Children" as his introduction and encouraged our student body to make the world a better place. Great job, Carter!

Several of our grades have been busy preparing programs for their parents. Our second graders will sing at the Knights of Columbus breakfast on Sunday morning, and our first graders will present Christmas songs and plays at their programs on Sunday afternoon. Our third graders are presenting their Christmas musical to their families next Thursday. Our kindergarten classes present their Christmas program on Dec. 20. Please be sure to check the schedule in the **Looking Ahead** section in this newsletter for specific times.

Wednesday, Dec. 20, will be a Christmas Spirit Day for all students. Students may wear BSS shirts, Christmas shirts, or red or green shirts with jeans as a special treat from the faculty and PSA. There will be no charge for this Christmas Spirit Day. All regular Spirit Day guidelines apply.

Please remember that Wednesday, Dec. 20, is an early dismissal day with students being dismissed at 11:30 a.m., and B.A.S.E. will NOT be provided.

As we move through the Advent season, I hope your family will spend time preparing together for the birth of Christ. I hope this weekend gives you an opportunity for some special family time!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Kathy Wear

Safety Reminder!

Please remember that students are not to be dropped off in the morning prior to 7:45 a.m. There is no one available to supervise them outside prior to that time, and it is not safe for children to be left unattended on the playground. Any students arriving before 7:45 a.m. will be taken into the before-school care program and assessed the appropriate fee. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping all students safe.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to our individual Golden Award winners this week, Abby Shafer and Josh Mauney. Abby was very helpful in assisting with the Bruinettes' practices and performances, and Josh was recognized for seeing a need and always being willing to help others without being asked. Congratulations also to this week's winners of the yellow slip drawing, Hailey Sobieski and Hailie Creviston, and to all of our students who have recently earned yellow slips.

Eighth Grade Artists

We extend special thanks to 8th grader Nolan Kelley who stepped in to be one of our illustrators for our current Author and Illustrator display when another student was absent. Nolan did a fantastic drawing! Be sure to check out this artistic display in our main hallway through December!

Congratulations to Gus Beard, our newest 8th grade Art Club artist whose work is being displayed at Custom Cup Coffee Shop. His creative, thoughtful eye, especially for photography, is worth a trip to see and enjoy! Great job, Gus, and thank you to Custom Cup for another opportunity to display our students' artwork!

January Hot Lunch Orders

Hot lunch order forms for January will be sent home next week. The forms will be due back on **Monday, Dec. 18.**

March for Life Reminders

Just a reminder for 8th graders and their parents that all March for Life balances must be paid in full by Friday, December 15. Reminders with the balance due are being sent home with participants today. Please send the balance due to the school office. Copies of all medical cards and insurance information are also due at that time. Thank you for your cooperation!

Ginger Who???

Get into the spirit of the season by creating a gingerbread man "cookie" decorated as your favorite book character for our school library! The gingerbread man template and instructions are attached to today's newsletter and posted on our school website as well. Please submit all

completed cookies to Mrs. Allen or Mrs. Criscione in our library by Friday, December 15. They will remain on display into January. Be creative and have fun!

Scrip Gifts

It's not too soon to think about teacher gifts and stocking stuffers. We have a limited supply of special cards - Barnes & Noble \$5 cards, Panera \$5 Cards, Starbucks \$5 cards and Target \$10 cards. Check out our stocking stuffer order form on the website!

Scrip Deadline for Christmas Orders

Don't miss the opportunity to order scrip gift cards to help with your holiday shopping and preparations. Monday, Dec. 11, is the last day to place a special order for scrip cards and receive the cards through school before Christmas. The last day for all scrip sales over the holidays is Wednesday, Dec. 20, at 11:30 a.m.

Leadership T-Shirts

We have had some inquiries about purchasing additional leadership t-shirts. We are able to order additional shirts if we have a minimum order of 10. Shirts are \$7 each and are available in Youth XS-L and Adult S-3X sizes. Please contact Michele Greenwood at 522-7534, ext. 201, if you are interested in purchasing an additional leadership shirt. If we have enough interest, we will place an order as soon as possible.

Scholastic Bowl Reminder

Sixth through eighth grade students who plan to participate in Scholastic Bowl are asked to return their permission slips to school office as soon as possible. Please contact moderator Mrs. Sarah Allen with any questions at allen@bssbruins.org. Thank you for your cooperation!

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 tomorrow, Friday, December 8.** Thank you in advance for your generous support!

December Box Tops Collection Contest

A box tops collection sheet was sent home last week with every student. The completed sheets are due on Friday, December 15. Every student who returns a sheet will receive a Christmas treat before vacation, and the class with the most box tops will receive a special treat as well.

SHG Placement Test for 8th Grade Students

All area eighth graders are invited to Sacred Heart-Griffin on Saturday, December 9, from 8:30 until 11:00 a.m. for the placement test for incoming freshmen. Doors open at 8:00 a.m. Students should enter through the circle drive entrance at 1200 W. Washington St. and bring two #2 pencils

and a \$10 testing fee. Calculators are allowed. There will be a parent meeting at 8:30 a.m. in the Choral Room where Tuition Manager, Becky Jones, and President, Sr. Katherine O'Connor, will be available to answer questions. For more information, call Stephanie Phillips at 787-1595, ext. 126, or e-mail phillips@shg.org. 8th graders received informational postcards today regarding the placement test and upcoming events for registration for next year.

K of C Breakfast to Benefit Catholic Schools

Please mark your calendars to attend the Knights of Columbus breakfast buffet on Sunday, Dec. 10, from 8:00 a.m. to noon. The breakfast will be held at the K of C building at 2200 Meadowbrook Road. The cost is \$10 per adult and \$5 per child (ages 6-12). There will also be a 50/50 drawing. Proceeds will go towards tuition assistance for all of our Catholic schools in Springfield. Please see the flyer posted on the school website.

In addition, our second grade students will be singing from **10:45 to 11:10 a.m.** at the breakfast. **(Please note that the performance time has changed to 15 minutes earlier than previously scheduled.)** We hope many of you will plan to attend and support our schools by eating breakfast there!

Christmas Band Concert

Please join the Sacred Heart-Griffin High School and the Springfield Catholic Elementary School Bands to celebrate the Christmas season with music! The Christmas concert will be held in the Dominican Hall Theater on Saturday, December 9th, at 3:00 p.m. A donation of new hats, gloves, scarves, or socks for the homeless will be taken as admission. Parent volunteers will also provide post-concert refreshments. Thank you for supporting the SHG and Springfield Catholic Schools band programs!

Upcoming Performances

Good luck to several of our Blessed Sacrament students who are participating in the Springfield Ballet Company's performance of *The Nutcracker*. This will be their 43rd annual production featuring elaborate new scenery, colorful new costumes, exquisite dancing, and beautiful music. Shows are at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 9, and at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 10. Blessed Sacrament students in the performance include Molly Davis, Emma Faulkner, Audrey Frost, Catherine Gardner, Aislyn Grant, Madeline Landgrebe, Madailein McKay, Izzy Stewart, and Sophia Stewart. Good luck to all of our students!

SHG Choral Christmas Show

SHG's Christmas Choral Show will take place on Wednesday December 13th at 7:00 p.m. in the SHG Theater. The event is free and open to the public. Come and listen to the sounds of the season from the students at Sacred Heart-Griffin!

SHG Student of the Month

Congratulations to Ruthie Kinion, a Blessed Sacrament graduate and current sophomore at SHG, on her selection as one of SHG's students of the month for December. Ruthie is a member of the Golden Angel poms squad and the Sophomore Class Council. She also serves as a

Student Ambassador and participates in the SHG German Club and the Our Lady of Nazareth Club. Ruthie noted that there are many service and extracurricular opportunities for students at SHG. "By being involved in the SHG community, I have made friendships and grown as a student. My favorite part about SHG is that I am learning in a safe, friendly, and welcoming environment, and I am very blessed to receive an education here. There is room for everyone's individuality at Sacred Heart Griffin, where it has the opportunity to grow. I think SHG is a great community filled with wonderful people, and where there is a place for everyone."

Athletic Eligibility

Please remind your children participating in BSS sports to work hard to maintain good grades and behavior, especially over the next few weeks. If a student becomes academically ineligible on the last grade check before Christmas break, the student will be ineligible to participate in any practices or games beginning Monday, Dec. 18, through Monday, January 8, when the next eligibility check is completed and goes into effect.

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. All entries must arrive in the Office for the Missions by Jan. 15, 2018. Entry forms are available on our website.

Catholic School Pee Wee Basketball League

Please see the information posted on our school website for information about a peewee basketball league hosted by Cathedral and St. Aloysius Schools. The league is open to students from pre-k through fourth grade and begins in January. Registration is due by December 14.

Camps and Events in the Community...

Mini O'Beirne Crisis Nursery's annual Children's Holiday Store is open every day from December 2nd – December 23 at 1748 Wabash (next to Planet Fitness). Please see the flyer posted on our website for specific hours and details. All items are between \$1 and \$15.

The Little Gym is hosting Holiday Camps for children ages 3-8 years old. The schedule and contact information is posted on our school website.

UIS is hosting several winter baseball camps for players ages 5-12 years. A flyer with the schedule and complete information is posted on our school website.

State Fair Mega Passes are now on sale for a discounted price of \$60 through December 31. More information may be found online.

Looking Ahead

Thursday, Dec. 7 –
6:00 p.m. - 7th & 8th grade IESA boys' home basketball games vs. Mt. Pulaski

Friday, Dec. 8 –

Donations for Sponsor-a-Family due!

8:20 a.m. – All-school Mass

After Mass - Builders Club/all students stuffing stockings for Catholic Charities

Saturday, Dec. 9 –

8:30-11:00 a.m. - SHG placement exam for 8th graders

Sunday, Dec. 10 –

8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. - K of C breakfast to benefit Catholic schools (**2nd grade sings at 10:45 a.m. during the breakfast—please note the earlier time**)

1:00 p.m. – Mrs. Carter's first grade Christmas program in the cafeteria

3:00 p.m. – Mrs. Kuhlman's first grade Christmas program in the cafeteria

Monday, Dec. 11 –

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

Wednesday, Dec. 13 –

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

Thursday, Dec. 14 –

10:00 a.m. – Mrs. Senger's third grade Christmas program in the cafeteria

1:30 p.m. – Ms. Williamson's third grade Christmas program in the cafeteria

Friday, Dec. 15 –

Box Tops Christmas sheets due!

Monday, Dec. 18 –

January hot lunch order forms due! (forms will go home next week)

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

6:00 p.m. – 7th & 8th grade IESA boys' home basketball games vs. St. Agnes

Tuesday, Dec. 19 –

9:30 a.m. – Kindergarten Christmas program in the cafeteria

Wednesday, Dec. 20 –

Classroom Christmas parties

11:30 a.m. dismissal – NO B.A.S.E. today!!

Thursday, Dec. 21- Wednesday, Jan. 3

No school – Christmas vacation

Thursday, Jan. 4 – Classes resume

Please Remember!

Before School Patrols for the Week of Dec. 11-15:

Hannah Lambert Peyton Leahy Brady Maloy

Ellen O'Brien Jackson Pitz Aria Rogers

After School Patrols for the Week of Dec. 4-8:

Madailein McKay Lucy Ratcliffe Jacob Ridder

Mass Servers for Dec. 9 & 10:

4:30 p.m. Saturday Seth Faivre & Nathan Jugan

7:00 a.m. Sunday Alio Giacomini

8:30 a.m. Sunday Audrey Frost, Luke Harvey & Ethan Keller

10:30 a.m. Sunday Addison Eades, Tyler Furkin & Anthony Keldermans

Daily Servers for Dec. 11-15:

8:00 a.m. M & W & Lennon Long

8:20 a.m. Tu. & Spencer Wood

8:00 a.m. Th. & Mike Hollahan

8:20 a.m. Fri. & Augustine Hyde