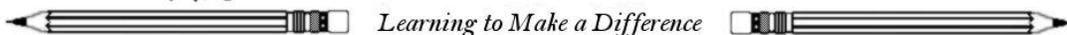


February 1, 2018

+ Blessed Sacrament



School News



Learning to Make a Difference

A Note to Parents

Dear Parents,

We have enjoyed a wonderful celebration of Catholic education throughout the Catholic Schools Week activities this week. On Monday, Community Awareness Day, our students participated in a read-a-thon in the afternoon. In addition to reading in their classrooms, the students also joined with their buddy classes for more reading activities.

We appreciate the generosity of all who made pledges for the read-a-thon, which will help our "Gardening for Ghana" project for St. Theresa's Youth Center in Ghana. To date, we have collected \$4,972.55. We are also grateful for all of the donations received for Valentine's treats for St. John's Children's Hospital. **If you have not done so already, please send any payments for read-a-thon pledges or any additional donations for St. John's Children's Hospital to the school office by tomorrow, Friday, Feb. 2.** We are so appreciative of the generosity of our school and parish families!

On Tuesday, Faith Appreciation Day, we shared our gratitude with Father Jeff, Deacon Dave, Deacon Tom, and Deacon Adam for their examples of faith and their guidance of our students in their faith development. They all received tokens of appreciation from the students when they delivered donuts to their classrooms, and they were the guests of honor at a luncheon hosted by the teachers. We ended the day with our annual Living Rosary. Special thanks to Mrs. Deena Bell for organizing the Living Rosary again this year.

On Wednesday, we celebrated with an all school Mass. As always, the students enjoyed eating lunch with their parents or special visitors yesterday on Parent Appreciation Day. We are grateful for the service of the 8th grade parents and students for this large luncheon. It was also nice to see many parents at our parent appreciation reception last night. Congratulations to all of those who won gift cards and to Paul Watson who won the \$500 tuition voucher for the 2018-2019 school year!

Today, Student Appreciation Day, the students enjoyed movies in the morning and a hot dog lunch with an ice cream treat and attended our special assembly, Ned's Kindness Adventure, in the afternoon! Thank you so much to the parent volunteers who helped make this a special day for our students.

We are also most grateful to the Parent-School Association for sponsoring the skating event this evening as well as the tuition voucher, the lunch and treats for the students, and the teacher luncheon. Thanks, too, to Men's Club for their help with the Parent Appreciation Evening. We are so fortunate to have such active and generous organizations in our school and parish!

Tomorrow we will end Catholic Schools Week with Teacher Appreciation Day, and it is also a free modified Spirit

Day for teachers and students. (Please see the related article for clothing guidelines. **Note the change to acceptable pants for tomorrow.**) The faculty will play the 8th graders in volleyball at 10:15 a.m., and our teachers will be guests at a luncheon after the early dismissal. We are truly blessed by your support and thoughtful kindness!

Please note that dismissal tomorrow, Friday, Feb. 2, is at 11:30 a.m., and no B.A.S.E. is available. Have a good weekend!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Kathy Wear

Dress Code Update for Teacher Appreciation Day

Tomorrow, Friday, Feb. 3, is a modified Spirit Day. Students may wear B.S.S. shirts or sports teams' athletic jerseys/shirts with jeans or uniform pants. **No other types of pants, including leggings, sweatpants, and athletic pants, are acceptable.** This is a change from the original Catholic Schools Week flyer. When in doubt, it is a good idea to bring an alternate piece of clothing, or the student will have to call home for a change of clothing. Thanks for your cooperation!

Catholic Schools' Art Showcase

Blessed Sacrament is the host school this year for the annual Catholic Schools' Art Showcase. You will find wonderful artwork from all of the Catholic schools on display in the main hallway. Congratulations to our school entries: Kindergarten: Rudy Cicci, 1st grade: Pano Soler, 2nd grade: Lola King, 3rd grade: Katelyn Kienzler, 4th grade: Julia Provenzano, 5th grade: Ileana Stremsterfer, 6th grade: Mary Katherine Christie, 7th grade: Hannah Lambert, and 8th grade: Justine Bell. Special congratulations to Lola King, Julia Provenzano, and Hannah Lambert who all received first place awards for their respective grade levels among all schools. We're proud of all of our artists! The closing ceremony is February 8 at 4:30 p.m. in our school gym.

Bruins Update

Congratulations to our 8th grade boys' IESA basketball team on a good season! Although they lost in the regional semifinal game Monday evening, we are proud of their efforts over the season. Special thanks to their head coach, Kurt Ingram, and the assistant coaches, Duane Dye, Konnor Ingram, and Jack O'Connor, for their guidance and dedication to the team.

Family Roller Skating Night for Catholic Schools Week Tonight!

All Blessed Sacrament School families are invited to attend our family roller skating event tonight, **Thursday, February 1, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Skateland South.** Since

this is Student Appreciation Day, there is **NO HOMEWORK this evening!!** The cost is only \$4 per skater, which includes skate rental. The snack bar and arcade games will also be open for purchases. Everyone really enjoyed this event in the past, so please plan to join us again. Please remember that children cannot be dropped off and left unsupervised. There must be an adult responsible for the children at Skateland. Thank you for your cooperation. We hope to see you there!

Catholic Schools Week Service Projects

We have focused on our Gardening for Ghana January service project in addition to collecting small Valentine's Day gifts for St. John's Children's Hospital all week. The read-a-thon to benefit Gardening for Ghana was very successful on Monday.

Additionally, our students are providing small Valentine's Day gifts for the children at St. John's Children's Hospital. The gifts will also be distributed to children who must make routine visits to the hospital for ongoing treatment, such as our own first grader Lucy Wallner.

We are asking that children in each grade level donate the items listed on the flyer posted on our school website so that we are able to assemble gift packages. Please note that all items must be NEW due to infection control protocols. These gifts will be delivered to St. John's Children's Hospital the first week of February, to be distributed throughout the month.

All funds and donations are due Friday, February 2.
Thank you for your support of these service projects!

Ned's Kindness Adventure Assembly

The students all enjoyed Ned's Kindness Adventure Assembly today. This assembly promoted a positive and caring school climate. Through storytelling, music, and interactive videos of Kenya, students discovered that it's our differences that make new experiences and new friendships so great. There is no cost to schools for this program. Rather, they utilize a "pay it forward" model. After the program, schools agree to make Kenyan jewelry and other handcrafted items available for optional purchase. The items will be for sale at school daily through Thursday, February 8. There are flyers with more information being emailed with today's newsletter and posted on our website.

Box Tops for Education

A box tops collection sheet is going home today with every student for our February collection event. Every student who returns a completed by Friday, February 9, will receive a small Valentine's Day treat bag. Keep collecting box tops!

More Tax Information

If you attended our annual auction this past fall, you received a receipt for money spent. Additional copies of those receipts are being emailed to parents today in case the form is needed for any tax deductions. If you have any questions, please contact Laura Horton at 522-7534, ext. 245.

Builders Club Student Mardi Gras

The Builders Club will host their annual Mardi Gras Carnival for students on Tuesday, February 13. Ticket order

forms are being sent home today and are due back on Friday, February 9. All proceeds benefit the missions.

Scout Sunday

B.S.S. Cub Scout Pack 31 and Boy Scout Troop 31 will be celebrating Scout Sunday at the 8:30a.m. Mass this weekend. Please join them for coffee and donuts after all the Sunday Masses in the cafeteria.

Regional History Fair Judges Needed!

Our eighth graders participate in the Regional History Fair, and we are required to provide judges for the event. The fair is being held on Saturday, March 10, 2018, in Springfield. Volunteer judges would need to arrive by 9:00 a.m. for an orientation and would begin judging at 10:00 a.m. The judging should be finished by noon, and lunch will be provided. You can also earn family service hours for judging! No previous experience is required! Please contact Ms. Alan at alan@bssbruins.org if you are interested in volunteering or have any questions. Thanks for your consideration!

B.S.S. Scholarship Opportunity/Illinois' Invest in Kids

Last fall, the General Assembly initiated the Illinois Invest in Kids scholarship program. This legislation allows parents at Blessed Sacrament to apply for need-based scholarships. It began yesterday at noon, but the site went down due to a technological failure caused by more than 24,000 families visiting the application site within the first few minutes of its availability. As a result the application process has been suspended until further notice. Empower Illinois has shared that they will provide schools with advance notice of when the student application will relaunch. Again, the funds will be available on a first come/first serve basis. We encourage any families who currently receive financial aid to consider applying.

A flyer with this information as well as a memo from Sacred Heart-Griffin staff that explains the process for application in more detail is posted on our school website. We do have parishioners who are making donations for the program (which will allow a 75% Illinois tax credit for the donor) so we know that we will have a pool of funds available. Scholarships and donations for our school are being administered by Empower Illinois (<https://empowerillinois.org/>). Visit their website for more information or contact Kim Hoffmann in the Development Office at 522-7534, ext. 206.

Protecting God's Children Training Session

We will be hosting another Protecting God's Children training session on Wednesday, Feb. 7, at 5:15 p.m. in the school cafeteria. All volunteers in our school and parish are required to attend a training once and complete the background check information. If you plan to volunteer for any classroom parties or attend any upcoming field trips, please take advantage of this opportunity to attend this training at our school to meet the volunteer requirements. Please call the school office to register for the training so that enough materials are available that evening.

Another Scrip Contest!!

Introducing our "Countdown to Cupid" contest! Purchase any of the scrip cards listed on our flyer or any other special order scrip card. Available selections and denominations for special order scrip are listed on the second page of the scrip order forms. Your purchase from each listed merchant will count as one entry. The drawing winner will receive an EXTRA Valentine---\$25 of Scrip Scrip! **Please order by Tuesday, February 6th, in order to receive them before Valentine's Day.**

How to Special Order Scrip

First Option: Download the scrip order form on the school website. The second page is a list of Special Order items - complete the form, send it to school with your payment, and your scrip will arrive the following week.

Second Option: Go to www.shopwithscrip.com and choose "Shop". Choose from 782 different merchants! Simply place them in your online shopping cart and check out. The school scrip committee will add your chosen items to the weekly order, and they will arrive the following week.

If you have never registered at ShopwithScrip, you will need our Enrollment Code to get started. Please send us an email at scrip@bssbruins.org and we'll email you the Enrollment Code.

BSS Mardi Gras Party

Our adult Mardi Gras Party is back! It will be held in the school cafeteria this Saturday, February 3, from 7:00 until 10:00 p.m. Live music by Black Magic Johnson, Cajun fare by David Senger, and beverages by the B.S.S. Men's Club are included in the per person ticket price (adults only). Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door. An order form for tickets was sent home previously. Tickets will also be available for sale at any time in the school office. Please e-mail Kim Hoffmann at hoffmann@bssbruins.org for more information. Don't miss this fun evening!

Girls on the Run

Volunteers are needed for the spring 2018 Girls on the Run Program at Blessed Sacrament School. Girls in 3rd through 5th grades may participate, and online registration for girls will open on Feb. 14. Mary Tuttle will be one of the coaches, but we need one more coach and four practice partners (parents, grandparents or staff).

Volunteers will receive service hours for helping in one of these positions. The new coaches' training dates are usually in February, and the season will take place from March through May 2018. The community 5K will be held after the season in May. The practice sessions will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m., beginning in March and ending in May. If you are interested in being a volunteer, please email athletic director Janice Davis at davis@bssbruins.org. Thank you for your consideration!

SHG Alumni Scholarship Applications for 8th Graders

Applications for Sacred Heart-Griffin's alumni scholarship are now available. SHG enclosed an application in every freshman registration packet, and copies were sent home with the eighth graders this week. We do have extras available upon request in our school office. The completed

application is due to Mrs. Wear by Wednesday, March 21, as the school portion has to be completed and submitted to SHG by March 28. No late applications are accepted!

SHG Trivia Night

SHG's 5th Annual "Not Your Average" Trivia Night is **Friday, February 2nd**, at West Campus. This year's theme is GAME NIGHT (think board games, TV game shows, video games, card games, etc.). Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and trivia will start at 7:00 p.m. There will be cash prizes for 1st and 2nd place trivia team winners, "best dressed table", and tons of other prizes. Bring your own food and enjoy the cash bar while competing in exciting trivia rounds AND other game competitions throughout the night. Tables are \$200/table or \$20/person (10 person tables) with proceeds going toward the scholarship fund. Tables must be reserved in advance by calling [217-787-9732](tel:217-787-9732) or reavy@shg.org.

1st Annual Alumni and Friends Volleyball Tournament

Join us for our 1st Annual Alumni and Friends Volleyball Tournament on Sunday, February 11th, at West Campus! Check in will begin at 11:30 a.m. with games starting at 12:00 p.m. Teams must be co-ed and submitted by Sunday, February 4th, to ensure your spot. Submit team name and players to reavy@shg.org. Cost is \$10 per player to participate. Be a part of the 1st winning team to claim the traveling trophy and bragging rights for the year. Celebrate your team's success or lack thereof at Cousin Eddie's following the tournament!

SHG 2018 Alumni Hall of Fame

Have someone deserving in mind? Get your nomination in today! Guidelines for nominations are as follows: The person nominated must have graduated from Sacred Heart Academy, Cathedral Boys High School, Griffin High School or SHG a minimum of 25 years ago. Nominee should be an individual who has distinguished him/herself by sharing their time and talent for the benefit of others and/or one who has excelled through their contributions to society beyond the scope of their chosen profession. Click on the link below to download a nomination form. Please submit the form to the Advancement/Alumni Office, 1200 W. Washington St, Springfield, IL 62702 or email to reavy@shg.org. They will be accepting nominations through March 15, 2018.

Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP)

As our children grow in faith, so can we! Our parish offers a free weekend retreat that provides an opportunity for spiritual renewal, growth, and fellowship. The Men's CRHP will February 24 & 25, and the Women's CRHP will be April 28 & 29. A card was sent home previously that you may fill out and turn in with your envelope during the Sunday collection, or you may visit the church website and sign up there. Information is also included in the church bulletin. They hope to see you there!

Midstate Gymnastics Presents Trivia Night!

Looking for something fun and different to do on a Saturday night? Join Midstate Gymnastics for a Trivia Night on Saturday, Feb. 3, from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. at the

VFW, 2211 Old Jacksonville Road! Cash prizes will be awarded to the top 3 teams. But don't worry if you are not awesome at trivia; you can still win some extra pocket money by playing Dead or Alive and Heads and Tails games between rounds! They will also have great raffle baskets and a wine pull. There's something for everyone! Tickets are \$15/person or \$120 per table of eight. Gather your friends, get a table and enjoy a fun night out! See attached flyer for registration.

Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest

K of C Council #364 is sponsoring their annual free throw contest on Saturday, February 3, at Christ the King School gym. The contest is open to all students, ages 9-14 years. There is no cost to enter. Registration begins at 2:00 p.m., and the contest begins at 2:30 p.m. More information may be found on our school website and is being e-mailed with today's newsletter. You may also contact Mike Stead at mstead.1@att.net or at 217-415-6207.

Looking Ahead

Thursday, Feb. 1 -

5:30-7:30 p.m. – Family Roller Skating Night at Skateland South - \$4 per skater
6:00 p.m. – 7th & 8th grade girls' home volleyball games vs. Calvary Academy

Friday, Feb. 2 – **Teacher Appreciation Day**

All donations (Gardening for Ghana donations, read-a-thon pledges, items for St. John's Hospital) due!

10:15 a.m. – Faculty vs. 8th grade volleyball game
11:30 a.m. dismissal – **No B.A.S.E. available!**
11:45 a.m. – Teacher Appreciation Luncheon

Saturday, Feb. 3 –

2:00 p.m. – Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest at Christ the King gym
7:00-10:00 p.m. – B.S.S. Adult Mardi Gras Party in the school cafeteria

Sunday, Feb. 4 –

Scout Sunday – Coffee and donuts in the cafeteria after Masses

Monday, Feb. 5 –

8:20 a.m. – Leadership assembly (wear t-shirts)
ACRE standardized religion assessments for grades 5 & 8 this week in religion classes
6:00 p.m. – 7th & 8th grade girls' home volleyball games vs. St. Aloysius; 8th grade players will be recognized between games

Tuesday, Feb. 6 –

Special orders for scrip for Valentine's Day due!
4:30 p.m. – 7th & 8th grade girls' home volleyball games vs. Christ the King; **8th grade will play the first game**

Wednesday, Feb. 7 –

5:15 p.m. – Protecting God's Children training in the cafeteria; call school office to register

Thursday, Feb. 8 –

4:30 p.m. – Closing ceremony for Catholic Schools' Art Showcase in the gym

Friday, Feb. 9 –

Box tops collection sheets due!
Mardi Gras ticket order forms due!

PSA Spirit Day (covered with prepaid Spirit Days)

Mid-quarter progress reports go home
7th grade science fair judging after school

Saturday, Feb. 10 & Sunday, Feb. 11 –

Science & History Fair open after all Masses

Monday, Feb. 12 –

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

Tuesday, Feb. 13 –

Builders Club Mardi Gras Carnival for students during the school day

Valentine's Day parties in the afternoon

Wednesday, Feb. 14 –

8:20 a.m. – All-school Mass for Ash Wednesday

1:30 p.m. – Early dismissal for faculty meeting;

B.A.S.E. available

Friday, Feb. 16 –

5:00 – 7:30 p.m. - Men's Club Fish Fry

Monday, Feb. 19 –

No school – Presidents' Day

Tuesday, Feb. 20 –

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

3:30 p.m. – Home Scholastic Bowl meet

Thursday, Feb. 22 –

6:00-7:30 p.m. – Open house for prospective families

Friday, Feb. 23 –

9:30 a.m. – Reconciliation for grades 2-5 (**change of date from handbook calendar**)

5:00-7:30 p.m. – Men's Club Fish Fry

Scholastic Book Fair open during the Fish Fry

Sunday, Feb. 25 –

8:30 a.m. – Enrollment Sunday Mass for Confirmation candidates

Monday, Feb. 28 –

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

Please Remember!

Before School Patrols for the Week of Feb. 5-9:

Carter Anderson Dylan Anderson Portia Apostol
Nick Calucchia Amalia Coderko Agnes Cross

After School Patrols for the Week of Feb. 5-9:

Ellen O'Brien Jackson Pitz Aria Rogers

Mass Servers for Feb. 3 & 4

4:30 p.m. Saturday	Spencer Wood & Quinn Butler
7:00 a.m. Sunday	no current BSS students
8:30 a.m. Sunday	Boy Scouts & Cub Scouts
10:30 a.m. Sunday	Agnes Cross, Liam Egizii & Tyler Furkin

Daily Servers for Feb. 5-9:

8:00 a.m. M & W &	Bill Hollahan
8:20 a.m. Tu.	& Elliott Kren
8:00 a.m. Th. &	Luke Harvey
8:20 a.m. Fri.	& Augustine Hyde