

January 18, 2018

+ Blessed Sacrament



School News

Learning to Make a Difference

A Note to Parents

Dear Parents,

We have had a busy start to the third quarter! On Wednesday, our students received their second quarter report cards from Father Jeff. Please encourage them to continue to put forth their best efforts. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your child's teacher.

Tomorrow, Friday, Jan. 19, will be an extra Spirit Day to benefit our Gardening for Ghana project. Students may wear any B.S.S. spirit shirts with jeans or uniform bottoms for a \$1 donation. All other regular uniform guidelines do apply. **This Spirit Day is not covered by the pre-paid fee, so all students participating need to pay.** This would also be a great day to remember to bring in coins to benefit our partnership with the activity center in Ghana. Father Paul Keela from St. Theresa's Center in Ghana will be here next Wednesday to share photos and information with the students about how their donations will help in Ghana.

Next week our sixth graders and our third graders will be participating in joint events with the other Springfield Catholic grade schools as an early kick-off for Catholic Schools Week. The sixth graders will meet here next Tuesday for a celebration of Catholic education as a part of the National School Choice observation. On Friday our third graders will be at St. Aloysius for a day of learning together.

A detailed calendar for Catholic Schools Week is being sent home today, and reminders for each day are listed in *Looking Ahead* in this newsletter. Although we hope we'll have mild weather that week, we will not change the scheduled activities for Catholic Schools Week even if we have extreme weather conditions and are not in session on a particular day. For example, if we are not in session on Monday, we will still have Faith Appreciation Day on Tuesday, and the Community Awareness Day's activities from Monday will be rescheduled for later in the week or in upcoming weeks. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the school office.

Please note that dismissal on Friday, Feb. 2, is at 11:30 a.m., and no B.A.S.E. is available.

We know this month is filled with lots of requests for donations as well as opportunities to order items. We appreciate any way that you can help us through your ongoing generosity. We hope that our students continue to be active participants in our service projects and learn firsthand the rewards of sharing and giving to others. Thanks for the many blessings that you bring to our school community!

Please keep our March for Life participants in your prayers this weekend. 32 eighth graders and 20 chaperones will participate in the march tomorrow and return to Springfield on Sunday. Have a good weekend!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Kathy Wear

Fr. Jeff's Christmas Gift to the Parish

A parish wide subscription to Formed.Org is the parish Christmas gift this year. Formed has great Catholic movies, video educational programs, recorded audio talks, and e-books. Simply go to www.formed.org and enter the following access code: T83Z9M. You will then be prompted to enter your email address to sign-up. Please be sure to utilize this great family resource throughout 2018.

Bruins Update

Congratulations to our 7th grade boys' basketball team on their consolation championship in the Catholic schools' basketball tournament in Peoria last weekend. They did a great job! Their plaque is on display in the school office.

Good luck to our 7th grade boys' IESA basketball team in their first regional game this Saturday. They play Christ the King at 11:15 a.m. at AC Central High School in Ashland. Go, Bruins!

February Hot Lunch Orders

Hot lunch order forms for the month of February are being sent home today and are **due back by 3:30 p.m. next Tuesday, January 23. Absolutely no late orders will be accepted, so please mark your calendars.** Thank you for your cooperation!

Read-a-thon for Catholic Schools Week

As part of our parish partnership with St. Theresa's Education Center in Ghana, we will be holding a read-a-thon during Catholic Schools Week to raise funds needed to purchase gardening tools to raise their own food. We will hold our read-a-thon on our Community Awareness Day on Monday, Jan. 29. You will be able to sponsor a student by the number of minutes read or by a set dollar amount. There will also be a sign-up in the back of church after upcoming weekend Masses for parishioners without children in the school to participate in this initiative. Information with a sponsorship sheet is being emailed home again today and is posted on the school website. Hard copies of the sponsorship form are also being sent home today. Thank you in advance for your support of this project!

Family Roller Skating Night for Catholic Schools Week

All Blessed Sacrament School families are invited to attend our family roller skating night to celebrate Catholic Schools Week on **Thursday, February 1, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Skateland South.** Since that is Student Appreciation Day, there will be **NO HOMEWORK** that 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, 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!

Parent Appreciation Lunch for Catholic Schools Week

Parents are invited to join their children for lunch on Wednesday, January 31, according to the following schedule by last names: O-Z: 11:00-11:30; A-F: 11:30-12:00, and G-N: 12:00-12:30. We are offering a pre-ordered lunch for families, or you may choose to bring your own lunch. Only those families who preorder the hot lunch will be able to have it that day. The regular pizza lunch is NOT available. The cost is \$7 per person, and order forms are coming home today with students. **Please return the completed form along with payment by next Friday, January 26.** We look forward to having you join us for lunch!

Catholic Schools Week Teacher Appreciation Luncheon

Volunteers are needed to assist with teacher appreciation lunch on Friday, February 2, at 11:45 a.m. If parents are interested in donating a dish for the luncheon or in assisting with serving, please contact Melissa Coody at mcoady1978@yahoo.com for more information or to volunteer in any capacity. You may receive service hours for donating a dish and/or serving the luncheon.

BSS Mardi Gras Party

Our adult Mardi Gras Party is back! It will be held in the school cafeteria on 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 is being sent home today. Please e-mail Kim Hoffmann at hoffmann@bssbruins.org for more information. Don't miss this fun evening!

Camp Ondessonk Information

A representative from Camp Ondessonk shared information about their summer camps with our third, fourth, and fifth graders today. Booklets listing their offerings are being sent home today with the third and fourth graders. Additional copies of the booklet are available in the school office for any interested fifth through eighth graders.

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.

Coaches are needed to motivate and inspire as they deliver the GOTR curriculum to program participants. You do not need to be a runner or a female in order to become a coach--just an enthusiastic, positive spirit! All coaches are required to attend Girls on the Run coach training (40 minute online training + 4.5 hour in person training) as well as be CPR certified prior to the start of the season. The time commitment for this role is twice a week (90 minutes each

day) throughout the season as well as attending the end of season community 5k.

The role of the practice partner is to attend lessons to cheer on the girls and to provide extra encouragement and camaraderie throughout the season as well as during the 5k. Practice partners do not need to attend new coach training and do not deliver the lessons. The time commitment for this role is typically one lesson per week (90 minutes) throughout the season as well as attending the end-of-season community 5k.

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. Dates and times of practices are to be determined, but the group will meet two days a week. If you are interested in being a volunteer, please email athletic director Janice Davis at davis@bssbruins.org. Thank you for your consideration!

Cell Phone Reminders

Per our handbook on page 7, "*Students may bring cell phones to school, but they should be turned off and left with the teacher in a secure place during the school day or until the student is off the school grounds.*" Please remind your children that they should not use their personal cell phones while on school grounds, even after school. If they need to use a phone, they may always use the phone in the school office. Thank you for your help!

Tuition & B.A.S.E. Tax Documents

Please be aware that next Thursday, Jan. 25, tuition and B.A.S.E. statements for 2017 for tax purposes will be sent home with the youngest child in the family. Please be looking for these!! If you have any questions, please contact Laura Horton in our school office at 522-7534, ext. 245.

Builders Club Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars for two upcoming Builders Club events! The annual school-wide Mardi Gras celebration will be held on Tuesday, February 13, during the school day. Watch for more details in the coming weeks.

The Builders Club is also making plans to host a dance for Blessed Sacrament 7th and 8th graders. A definite date has not been set yet, so look for that in upcoming newsletters as well!

Bruins Valentine's Day T-Shirts

To build on our theme of charity and to benefit our January mission project, an order form for Bruins RED Valentine's Day t-shirts is being sent home today. The shirt may be worn not only on Valentine's Day but also on any Spirit Day. The cost is \$9 for short-sleeve shirts and \$12 for long-sleeve tees. See the order form for more details. Order forms with payment are due by **Monday, Jan. 22. NO LATE ORDERS**, please, as we will be placing the order right away.

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.**

"Thanks" to everyone who participated in our "Thankful for Scrip" contest. The winner was Mrs. Hartman. She earned \$100 of Scrip Scrip and Blessed Sacrament School's gratitude!

Last Call for Leadership Shirts!

We still need a couple of additional orders to reach our minimum number of shirts needed to reorder leadership shirts. 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, **by tomorrow, Friday, Jan. 19**, if you are interested in purchasing an additional leadership shirt. If we do not have enough orders, checks will be returned to those who previously submitted an order.

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 is being sent home today with the youngest child 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!

Thank You from Operation Gratitude

Letters were written by our students to veterans and servicemen in November in observance of Veterans' Day. Our letters were sent to Illinois Veterans' Homes and to Operation Gratitude, a nationwide non-profit group that sends gratitude care packages to servicemen and veterans. We recently received thank you notes from Operation Gratitude and state veterans' homes. We are proud that our students are making a difference in others' lives!

Warm Clothing for Recess

With the colder weather upon us, we wanted to remind parents that students do go out for recess unless the temperature or wind chill is 20 degrees or below. Although a light jacket or sweatshirt may be sufficient to go from the car to our building, the students do need warmer outerwear for 20 minutes of recess time. It can be extremely windy out there! Thanks for your help in guiding your students to dress appropriately for the weather!

T.G.I.F. (Third Graders in Faith)

Our third graders will attend a day of fun and learning with other third graders from Springfield Catholic schools on Friday, Jan. 26, at St. Aloysius School. Students will have the opportunity to order a Subway 6-inch turkey & cheese sub sandwich with chips, a cookie, and bottled water. However, students may also choose to bring their own sack lunches. A permission slip and a lunch order form were sent home this week.

Sixth Graders' National School Choice Assembly

Sixth graders from the Springfield Catholic Schools will gather together for a prayer, reflection, team building activities, and a dance assembly to celebrate National School Choice Day on Tuesday, January 23. The assembly will be held here at Blessed Sacrament from 1:00-2:15 p.m. We look forward to welcoming other schools' sixth graders to celebrate Catholic schools together!

Tuition Reminders

If families chose to pay their tuition in two installments, please remember that the second payment was due Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2018. If you have any questions, please contact Laura Horton at 522-7534, ext. 245.

Young Authors

Each year our students participate in a writing activity called Young Authors. A letter with some basic information is posted on our school website. Participation is optional for kindergarten through second grade but is a class assignment in grades 3-8. Some teachers in grades 3-8 may have already shared information with their classes, and some will be sharing their requirements for students in the upcoming weeks.

One "Bare Book" for use in creating the finished manuscripts for the Young Authors program will be provided and delivered to all third through seventh graders, and any K-2 students submitting a Young Authors book may pick up one in the school office. Additional books will be available for purchase at a cost of \$3.00 each. The pages of the books are *not* printed with lines, but students may write/type their stories on loose paper and then paste them into the book.

Any students in kindergarten through second grade who choose to write books should return them to the school office by Thursday, March 1. Teachers in grades 3-8 will set their own deadlines for their required books, which may be earlier. Once again, all the manuscripts will be on display at CultureFest, which is scheduled for Sunday, March 18.

8th Grade Enrollment Sunday & Confirmation

On Enrollment Sunday, which is Sunday, Feb. 25, at the 8:30 a.m. Mass, the eighth graders will sign the Book of Intent to indicate their commitment to prepare for Confirmation. The eighth graders will be confirmed on Wednesday, April 11, at a 7:00 p.m. Mass. If you have not done so already, please mark your calendars with these dates!

The True Adventures of Aladdin

The Springfield Theatre Center is presenting *The True Adventures of Aladdin* February 9-18 at the Hoogland Center. Best wishes to our BSS students appearing in this production: Amelia Curtis, Carmen Dillman, Brigid Wilhite, and Tadhg Wilhite.

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.

Why SHG?

Join them for an informational meeting about what Sacred Heart-Griffin High School has to offer on Monday, January 29th from 6-7 p.m. in the SHG East Campus Auditorium. Hear from past parents, current parents, and faculty members about the value of a Catholic secondary education and why they choose to invest in continuing their child's education at Sacred Heart-Griffin.

Crusaders for Life Event

St. Katharine Drexel Parish is hosting the Crusaders for Life, a Pro Life Youth Group from St. John Cantius in Chicago. They are coming to Springfield for a March and ProLife Rally at the State Capitol on Sunday, January 28th. There will be a Mass at 10:00 a.m. that Sunday at Sacred Heart Church, 12th and Lawrence, and then the march to the Capitol will begin at 12:30pm from Sacred Heart Church. Father James Isaacson, SJC, Pastor of St. Katharine Drexel, invites you to join them for Mass and the march and rally to follow.

Gift of Giving Program

Don't forget to save and donate new or gently used wrapping items for next year's Gift of Giving Program. Please see the list posted on the school website. A list of gift items needed for next year is also included for you to keep in mind throughout the year. A box is located in our main hallway for any donations of items now. Thanks for your help!

IESA Music Solo/Ensemble Contest

Blessed Sacrament School will provide an opportunity for those interested to participate in the IESA's solo/ensemble music contest. The contest will be held on Saturday, March 17, 2018, at Jacksonville Our Saviour. Parents are responsible for transporting their own child(ren) to and from the event. The cost is \$10 per individual student entry, and students may enter one or more of the following categories: vocal solo, vocal ensemble (2-8 singers together), piano solo, or vocal choir (6-16 members). While the school is not organizing any specific choirs or musical pieces, any students who currently take private vocal lessons may be eligible to enter under Blessed Sacrament School. The registration fee, along with a copy of the musical selection(s) being performed, is due by Friday, Jan. 26, 2018, to Mrs. Hartman. You may email our music teacher Mrs. Hartman for more information at Hartman@bssbruins.org.

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

Friday, Jan. 19 –

Extra Spirit Day to benefit Gardening for Ghana project - \$1 minimum donation to participate Orders for additional leadership t-shirts due!

No 0-hour math class for 8th graders at SHG

Monday, Jan. 22 –

Orders for Bruins Valentine shirts due! No late orders can be accepted!

8:20 a.m. –All school Mass; wear leadership t-shirts

Tuesday, Jan. 23 –

February hot lunch orders due by 3:30 p.m.! No late orders will be accepted.

1:00 p.m. - Joint Catholic schools' 6th grade event for School Choice at Blessed Sacrament School

Thursday, Jan. 25 –

2:15 p.m. – School Geography Bee in the cafeteria

5:00 p.m. – 6th-8th grade girls' home volleyball games vs. Springfield Christian

Friday, Jan. 26 –

Hot lunch order for CSW Parent Appreciation Lunch due today!!

TGIF event for all Catholic School 3rd graders at St. Aloysius School

Sunday, Jan. 28 – **Parish Appreciation Day**

Catholic Schools Week Begins!

Joint Catholic Schools Art Showcase display in the school's main hallway all week

Monday, Jan. 29 – **Community Awareness Day**

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

1:00 – 2:00 – Read-a-thon in all homerooms

2:00-2:45 – Class buddy reading activities

6:00 p.m. – 7th & 8th grade girls' home volleyball games vs. Rochester

6:00-7:00 p.m. – *Why SHG?* Presentation in SHG's East Campus Auditorium

Tuesday, Jan. 30 – **Faith Appreciation Day**

Donuts will be delivered to all classrooms by Fr. Jeff and the deacons.

Living Rosary led by 8th grade

Wednesday, Jan. 31 – **Parent Appreciation Day**

8:20 a.m. – All-school Mass

Parents are invited to join their children for lunch according to the following schedule:

Last names: O-Z: 11:00-11:30

A-F: 11:30-12:00

G-N: 12:00-12:30

6:00-7:30 p.m. – Parent Appreciation reception in the cafeteria; drawing for \$500 tuition voucher at 7:00

Thursday, Feb. 1 – **Student Appreciation Day**

Hot dog lunch provided for students by PSA

1:45 p.m. – Ned's Kindness Adventure assembly

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, read-a-thon, St. John's Hospital) due!

10:15 a.m. – Faculty vs. 8th grade volleyball game

11:30 a.m. dismissal – **No BASE available!**

11:45a.m. – Teacher Appreciation Luncheon

Saturday, Feb. 3 –

7:00-10:00 p.m. – B.S.S. Adult Mardi Gras Party in the school cafeteria; tickets (\$20 per person before event or \$25at the door) available in the school office

Please Remember!

Before School Patrols for the Week of Jan. 22-26:

Kalvin King	Emily Leefers	Finn Loken
Lennon Long	Lindsay Madonia	Carly Martin

After School Patrols for the Week of Jan. 22-26:

Bill Hollahan	Brannon Kelley	Elloit Kren
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Mass Servers for Jan. 20 & 21

4:30 p.m. Saturday	Aiden Mauntel, Charlie & William Pittman
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7:00 a.m. Sunday	no current BSS students
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8:30 a.m. Sunday	Audrey Frost & Grace Klenke
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10:30 a.m. Sunday	Mike & Bill Hollahan
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Daily Servers for Jan. 22-26:

8:00 a.m. M & W &	Sam DeSalle
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8:20 a.m. Tu.	& Will DeSalle
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8:00 a.m. Th. &	Sophia Njapa
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8:20 a.m. Fri.	& Alaina Roland
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