

January 25, 2018

+ Blessed Sacrament



School News

Learning to Make a Difference

A Note to Parents

Dear Parents,

This has been yet another busy week, and we're gearing up for an even busier one next week when we celebrate Catholic Schools Week. Several of our eighth graders and their parent chaperones returned from the March for Life in Washington, D.C. last Sunday morning. They had a wonderful trip, and we have enjoyed hearing about their experiences as well as the impact that the march and the trip had on their lives. We are grateful that so many of our students were able to attend, and we appreciate the generous sponsorship from parishioners who made this trip affordable for so many.

This past Tuesday morning we had a special visitor, Father Paul Kala. Father Paul is a Diocesan priest, originally from Ghana, who is overseeing the efforts at the St. Theresa's Youth Center in Ghana to help the families become more self-sufficient by raising crops. Father shared photos of the center and the students who come there in the afternoons for lunch and additional schooling. Among those were photos of the children riding bicycles and wearing leadership t-shirts that we have donated to them in past years.

Father Paul also explained that their lunches usually consist of some type of rice and black-eyed peas, which would be one crop that they would be raising. He also shared that many of the children asked him to take pictures of them to share with their "brothers and sisters" in America. We hope Father's visit helped our students to understand the importance of sharing our blessings with those across the world. Thanks for your ongoing generosity for our Gardening for Ghana project!

This past Tuesday afternoon, sixth graders from all the Springfield Catholic schools joined together here at Blessed Sacrament for a celebration of Catholic education as a part of the National School Choice Day. Tomorrow, our third graders will be at St. Aloysius School for a day of learning together with all of the other Catholic school third graders. Both of these events are early kick-off gatherings for our upcoming Catholic Schools Week.

A detailed calendar for Catholic Schools Week was sent home last week and is posted on our website, and reminders for each day are listed in *Looking Ahead* in this newsletter. Although we hope we'll have mild weather next 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 look forward to welcoming all of you to our Parent Appreciation Day lunch on Wednesday, Jan. 31, and we hope many of you will also join us that evening from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria for our Parent Appreciation Evening! **Don't forget that lunch order forms for next Wednesday are due tomorrow if you choose to order a lunch from school.**

As we celebrated the National School Choice Day this week, we were reminded of the gift of Catholic education that you have chosen to give your children. Thank you for the many ways that you support our school in our partnership to provide the best possible education in both academics and faith development. Have a good weekend!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Kathy Wear

Geography Bee Winners

Congratulations to the winners of our schoolwide Geography Bee! Anthony Fergin (sixth grade) was the champion, and Nathan Jugan (eighth grade) was first runner-up, and Frank Sluga (sixth grade) placed third. Other classroom winners included Dylan Anderson and Joseph Cloyd (seventh grade) and Jaynanne Roate (eighth grade). Noah Jugan (sixth grade) was also a qualifier for the bee but was absent. We are proud of all of the contestants!! Special thanks to Ms. Alan for organizing the Geography Bee at our school!

Bruins Update

Congratulations to our 7th grade boys' IESA basketball team on a good season. Although they lost in the regional tournament last Saturday, we are proud of their efforts and improvement over the season. Special thanks to their head coach, Scott Eades, and their assistant, Brian Maloy, for their guidance and dedication to the team.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Meara Seelbach, one of our fourth graders, who won 1st place in the State of Illinois County Fair Talent Contest. The competition was held on January 20th at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield, IL. She competed against 30 other Illinois County Fair winners in the Junior Division. Meara danced in a contemporary trio for her talent. Great job, Meara!

Catholic Schools Week Service Projects

We will continue to focus on our Gardening for Ghana January service project in addition to collecting small Vakentine's Day gifts for St. John's Children's Hospital. 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. The read-a-thon will take place from 1:00 – 2:45 p.m. Monday afternoon.

Additionally, our students will provide 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 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.

Information about both of these projects was sent home last week and is being emailed again today. It is also posted on our website. All funds and donations are due Friday, February 2. Thank you, in advance, for your support of these service projects!

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 tomorrow, Friday, January 26. We look forward to having you join us for lunch!

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!

Ned's Kindness Adventure Assembly

Ned's Kindness Adventure Assembly will visit our school for Student Appreciation Day during Catholic Schools Week. This assembly is a live, 45-minute assembly which promotes a positive and caring school climate. Through storytelling, music, and interactive videos of Kenya, students discover that it's our differences that make 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.

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 Coady 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.

Dress Code Reminders for Catholic Schools Week

To celebrate Catholic Schools Week next week, students will have the opportunity to wear different clothing. The dress code for next week is as follows:

Monday, Jan. 29 – Comfy Casual Day (Students may wear jeans, sweatpants, athletic pants, and leggings with appropriate tops. Pants with words written on back are not appropriate, and tops should not be tight-fitting. Tops worn with leggings should be longer in length.)

Tuesday, Jan. 30- Regular Uniform Day with the addition of silly socks or tights

Wednesday, Jan. 31 – Regular Uniform Day

Thursday, Feb. 1 – Non-uniform Day (Please refer to page 27 in the student handbook for all guidelines; sweatpants and similar pants are not acceptable.)

Friday, Feb. 3 – Modified Spirit Day (Students may wear BSS shirts or sports teams' athletic jerseys/shirts with jeans, uniform pants, or athletic pants. No other types of pants, including leggings, are acceptable.)

If you have questions about appropriate clothing for each day, please check with the office or the teachers. When in doubt, it is a good idea to bring an alternate piece of clothing. Thanks for your cooperation in making this a fun week for the students!

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 will allow parents at Blessed Sacrament to apply for need-based scholarships beginning on Wednesday, January 31, 2018, starting at noon. 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 are posted on our school website

and also are being sent and emailed home today. SHG is opening up their computer lab to anyone who wants to apply and will have staff on site to help families through the process on January 31.

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.

Dennis Uniform Sale

Dennis Uniform Company is having a 15% off sale and free shipping on orders over \$75 through today, January 28. Please see the flyer posted on our website.

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.

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.

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.**

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 was sent home last week. Tickets will also be available for sale during the Parent Appreciation Day lunch or 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, staff).

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. A tentative practice schedule is set for Tuesday/Thursday, 3:30-5:00 p.m., ORr Monday/Wednesday, 3:15-3:45 p.m. If you are interested in being a volunteer, please email athletic director Janice Davis at davis@bssbruins.org. Thank you for your consideration!

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

Please be aware that tuition and B.A.S.E. statements for 2017 for tax purposes will be sent home today 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.

Young Authors

If any students need additional Bare Books for their Young Authors books, they can be purchased at a cost of \$3.00 each in the school office. 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. All the manuscripts will be on display at CultureFest, which is scheduled for Sunday, March 18.

Why Choose 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.

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 are being sent home with the eighth graders today. We do also 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!

Camp Ondessonk Information

A representative from Camp Ondessonk shared information about their summer camps with our third, fourth, and fifth graders last week. 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.

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.

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!

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 Middle School. The registration fee, along with a copy of the musical selection(s) being performed, is due tomorrow, Friday, Jan. 26, 2018, to Mrs. Hartman. You may email our music teacher

Mrs. Hartman for more information at Hartman@bssbruins.org.

SYPG Musical Theatre Audition Workshop

The Springfield Youth Performance Group (SYPG), an organization spotlighting young talent in the Springfield area, is excited to announce a new musical theatre audition workshop for children. The workshop will help children prepare for upcoming auditions for summer musical theatre productions. Children ages 7-13 years are welcome to attend this free workshop that will teach them basic things they need to know, including acting, singing, and dancing tips. The workshop will be held Sunday, January 28, from 3-4 p.m. at the Hoogland Center for the Arts. For more information, please email sypg@comcast.net.

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

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!

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

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

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.

2:15 p.m. - 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!**

11:45 a.m. – Teacher Appreciation Luncheon

Saturday, Feb. 3 –

7:00-10:00 p.m. – B.S.S. Adult Mardi Gras Party in the school cafeteria

Please Remember!

Before School Patrols for the Week of Jan. 29 – Feb. 2:

Madailein McKay

Lucy Ratcliffe

Jacob Ridder

Noah Ward

Adam Went

Jeffrey Wernsing

After School Patrols for the Week of Jan. 29 – Feb. 2:

Hannah Lambert

Peyton Leahy

Brady Maloy

Mass Servers for Jan. 27 & 28

4:30 p.m. Saturday

Nathan Jugan & Jaynanne Roate

7:00 a.m. Sunday

no current BSS students

8:30 a.m. Sunday

Lennon O'Brien & Ellen O'Brien

10:30 a.m. Sunday

Abby Shafer

Daily Servers for Jan. 29-Feb. 2:

8:00 a.m. M & W &

Tyler Furkin

8:20 a.m. Tu.

& Finn Loken

8:00 a.m. Th. &

Luca Bonansinga

8:20 a.m. Fri.

& Seth Faivre