

May 3, 2018

+ Blessed Sacrament



School News

Learning to Make a Difference

A Note to Parents

Dear Parents,

We truly are in our busiest time of the year! With only 15 school days until the end of this school year, our calendar is full of field trips and end-of-the year activities. Again, please be sure to check the *Looking Ahead* section of the newsletter for an updated calendar of events each week and look for more information about details of these activities from your children's homeroom teachers.

Last Friday and Saturday evening, many of our sixth, seventh, and eighth graders presented the musical *The Little Mermaid, Jr.*, to large audiences. What a fantastic production! Congratulations to all of the cast members on a job well done! They certainly were dedicated and spent many long hours in practice. We are so grateful to our music teacher, Mrs. Hartman, and to Mrs. Taryn Grant for organizing and directing the production!

On Monday we celebrated an all-school Mass with the May crowning as part of the processional. Our 2nd and 8th graders acted as honor guards for the processional, and representatives from all grade levels carried flowers for Mary's altar. Our kindergarten representatives crowned Mary, and winners of the Marita Child Gospel of Life Essay Contest were announced. (See the related article.) Special thanks to Mrs. Jody Kienzler and our choir for leading us in song at this special Mass and at all of our all-school Masses this year!

Today our first graders presented their spring programs for their families. They did a wonderful job! Special thanks to their teachers and teaching assistants, Mrs. Debbie Carter, Mrs. Nicole Kuhlman, Mrs. Tracy Madonia, and Mrs. Mary Ann Dillman, for their guidance of our young stars!

Tomorrow is our regular PSA-sponsored Spirit Day. Students may wear Blessed Sacrament Spirit Day shirts with jeans or uniform bottoms. All other regular uniform guidelines do apply. This Spirit Day is covered by the yearly pre-paid fee. Students who did not pay the fee should bring a dollar to participate.

Next week our eighth graders will be going on their annual Days of Discovery field trips as well as their class trip to Chicago. Permission slips for the Days of Discovery have been sent home and were due back this week. The class trip permission slip is being sent home with students tomorrow and is due back next Monday, May 7.

If you see Father Jeff, be sure to wish him a happy birthday on Monday! Hope you can join us at the Cinco de Mayo Food Truck Meet-up on Saturday after the 4:30 p.m. Mass! (See related article.) Have a good weekend!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Kathy Wear

Marita Child Memorial Gospel of Life Essay Contest

Congratulations to this year's winners of the Gospel of Life essay contest! The winners were announced at the all-school Mass on May 1, and each winner received a trophy and a check for the amount indicated. The sixth grade winners were 1st place – William Pittman (\$50), 2nd – Ella Faivre (\$25), and 3rd – Luca Bonansinga (\$25). In seventh grade the winners were 1st place – Joe Humphrey (\$75), 2nd – Madi Sweeney (\$50), and 3rd – Lindsay Madonia (\$50). The eighth grade winners were 1st place – Justine Bell (\$100), 2nd – Audrey Frost (\$75), and 3rd – Joey Brown (\$50). Special thanks to Deena & Calvin Bell of the Gospel of Life Committee, to the volunteer judges, and to the religion teachers, Mrs. Mundstock and Mrs. Hollahan, who make this meaningful experience possible for our students!

Thank You!

In connection with our May crowning this week and with May being the month of Mary, all of our students, faculty, and staff received handmade rosaries. Your children may have brought them home or may still have them at school to use during the month of May. These were donated to our school by Rick and LeAnne Vollmann, grandparents of Sophia, Samantha, and Sydney Cathers. Their church group makes the rosaries and generously shared them with our school. We extend our sincere thanks to them and their group!

Congratulations to Our State Science & History Fair Participants!

This past Saturday, April 28, was the State Science Fair at Bradley University. Congratulations to seventh graders Amalia Coderko, Agnes Cross, and Hannah Lambert for receiving gold awards, the highest recognition possible. We're very proud of their hard work and commitment to their science fair projects! Special thanks to their teachers, Mrs. Laura Reiser and Mrs. Mary Ellen Hollahan.

Congratulations to our eighth graders who participated in the Illinois State History Fair today! The following students received superior awards at state for their research papers: Briana Huelsman, Charles Pittman, and Alaric Wortman. In the exhibit category, Carmen Dillman received an excellent award at state, and Quinn Butler, Amelia Curtis, Dani Kraft, and Andrew Reimers received superior awards. Congratulations to all of our 8th graders and special thanks to their teachers, Ms. Angela Alan and Mr. Dan Manfredo.

Golden Award

Congratulations to third grader Grant Apostol on receiving April's individual Golden Award. Grant was recognized for his determination, dedication, and perseverance

in running the Sweet 16 race. He is an incredible example of a goal-oriented student and one that demonstrates that if you put your heart and mind to a difficult task, you can achieve it! We're proud of you, Grant!

Celebrate Cinco de Mayo at Blessed Sacrament!

The parish is hosting a food truck meet-up in our parking lot on Saturday, May 5, immediately after the 4:30 Mass and ending at 9:00 p.m. There will be a variety of food and drink vendors that will satisfy everyone's taste buds. Kids' activities will be provided by Lincoln Memorial Garden and the Springfield Art Association from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. The all-Blessed Sacrament parishioner band, 4th and Monroe (Trina Madonia, Chad DeFrain, Brent Boesdorfer, John Fluckiger, and Mike Christie), will be live for their debut public performance at 7:00 p.m. We hope to see you at church and then at this fun celebration!

Box Tops in Bloom!

A collection sheet for a new contest, Box Tops in Bloom, was sent home last week. Students should return the sheet with box tops by **tomorrow, Friday, May 4th**. Those students who return a sheet will receive a treat bag, and the classroom that returns the most box tops will receive a classroom prize.

Kindergarten Screening

Our kindergarten teachers will be screening students who will be entering our school for the first time as kindergartners. The screenings will be held on Thursday, May 10, and in the afternoon on Friday, May 11. Parents of incoming kindergarten are being called to scheduled specific screening times. **Our current preschool/preK students who will be entering kindergarten next school year will not be screened unless requested by their current teacher.**

Fun Day Raffle

Fun Day will be celebrated on our last day of school, Thursday, May 24. More details will follow, but PSA has 32 baskets of sweet treats (candy, Gatorade, etc.) that will part of a raffle that day. Tickets are 25 cents each, and an order form is being sent home tomorrow. The baskets will be on display the week of May 14-18, and tickets must be purchased by Monday, May 21. Join the fun!!

Library Update

Thanks to all who supported our library by attending the Barnes and Noble event this past Monday! Students who participated in a scavenger hunt had a chance to win gift cards. Congratulations to Izzy Stewart who won the Barnes & Noble gift card and to Harper Caton who won the Scheels gift card. In case you still want to support the library, Barnes and Noble has a new "buy online, pick up in the store" program. You can pay online pricing, indicate that our book fair should be credited with the sale, and pick up your order at our local store. Orders are usually ready within an hour. Check out the eligible books, which include *Out of My Mind*. If you have any questions, please contact Lori Criscione or Sarah Allen, our school librarians.

Illinois Proud Penny Drive

Our school joined other schools across Sangamon County in April to collect pennies to purchase a Lincoln document as a gift from our students as part of our state's bicentennial celebration. We received good news yesterday that our schools raised \$18,031, which surpassed the goal of \$15,000. The extra money will be put toward the preservation and eventual display of the Lincoln artifact when it arrives in Springfield. Thanks for your generosity in supporting this joint effort!

Vacation Bible School Registration

Vacation Bible School dates are Monday, June 18-Friday, June 22, for students entering into K-5th grades from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. each morning at B.S.S. Students entering grades 6th-8th and high school students are also needed to volunteer as leaders. This is also an excellent time for parents who'd like to earn all 20 service hours at once to have an opportunity to volunteer to help. Childcare is available for little ones of parent volunteers. This is an amazing week spent with friends praising God and having a blast. For more information or to join our team as a parent volunteer, contact Morgan Ambrose at 741-3831 or at morganfaithambrose@yahoo.com. Registration is now open for students and volunteers with a link to online payment at vbspro.events/p/blessedsacrament.

Mother's Day Is May 13! Looking for Gift Ideas?

- The glamorous Mom would love Ulta scrip (4%) or Bath & Body (7%)
- Barnes & Noble (8%) scrip for her next Book Club purchase
- Bed Bath and Beyond scrip (8%) for the gourmet Mom
- A gorgeous robe at Talbots (13%) for the Mom who needs pampering
- Is Mom out-of-state? Send her a gift from Amazon (2.5%)

Boy Scouts' Pancake Breakfast

Blessed Sacrament Boy Scout Troop 31 will be having a "Short Stacks for a Tall Cause" fundraiser this Saturday, May 5th, at the west side Applebee's. Pancakes and bacon will be served from 8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. Cost is \$5 per person and tickets are available at the door. Proceeds from this fundraiser will go to offset the cost of summer camp and a backpacking trip through the Adirondack Mountains this July.

Share the Word Volunteers Needed!

Service Hours Available!

Share the Word is a children's liturgy for kids in 1st through 4th grade; it's held every week throughout the school year during the Sunday 10:30am Mass. Share the Word provides an opportunity for kids to hear and discuss the weekly scripture readings at a level appropriate for their understanding. We are in need of more volunteers to keep this important program going and growing! It is a great opportunity to provide a valuable service to the parish (and earn service hours!) while deepening your own understanding of scripture in a fun and interactive way! There are only a few sessions left this spring, but we'd love to get more volunteers lined up for next year. You can still earn service hours for this year if you'd like to come observe Share the Word on May

6th, 13th, or 20th to see if it's something you'd be interested in! If you'd like more information or you want to volunteer, please contact Patti Naylor at 618-292-0678 or pnaylor@thelittlegym.com or Cheryl Bertaina at 217-206-0863 or cherylbertaina@gmail.com!

Mentor Families Needed

We are very appreciative of our families who served as mentors for new families this year. Once again, we are looking for volunteers to serve as mentors for families entering our school community in the fall. We would like to match up families with children in the same grade levels as much as possible, as these pairings seem to be the most beneficial to the new families.

We'll have several new families in the preschool and kindergarten classes, as well as some in other grades.

Therefore, we are making a special plea to those families who will have children in preschool/preK and particularly the kindergarten classes to assist us with this endeavor.

Please call or email Mrs. Burke at burke@bssbruins.org by Friday, May 4, if you would be interested in helping in this way or if you have any questions. You earn service hours for each family mentored! Thank you for your consideration of this important service!

Academic Placement for 2018-2019 School Year

Please be assured that great care is taken when developing class lists each year. Due to the complexity of this process, the school *does not accept* requests to be in a class with a specific teacher. However, if you feel it would be helpful to provide any insights regarding your child and his/her specific academic needs, please submit a letter to Mrs. Wear by **tomorrow, Friday, May 4.**

Dental Exam Reminder

Please remember that all students in kindergarten, second grade, and sixth grade are required to present proof of having been examined by a dentist before May 15 of the school year. (Dentist offices have the official form that needs to be submitted.) If a child in grade K, 2 or 6 fails to present proof by May 15, then the school may hold the child's report card until one of the following occurs: 1. The child presents proof of a completed dental examination within 18 months prior to the deadline; 2. The child presents proof that a dental examination will take place within 60 days after May 15; or 3. The parents obtain a waiver from the Department of Public Health or provide objection to the dental examination on religious grounds.

Service Hours Reminder

Service hours for this school year may be earned through May 31, 2018. Several opportunities are available as listed in this newsletter or on our school website. Please call the school office if you need assistance in finding service opportunities. Statements will be mailed in early June, and families will be billed for any hours not completed. All accounts must be current by July 31, 2018, in order for families to be allowed to complete registration for the 2018-2019 school year.

Handbook Calendar Addition

We recently noticed that the handbook calendar omitted the dismissal time for the last day of school on Thursday, May 24. Students will be dismissed early that day at 1:30 p.m. Please note that after-school care at B.A.S.E. is not available that day. We appreciate you marking your calendars with this addition.

Saddle Up and Save the Date!

The 49th Annual Blessed Sacrament Auction, "Boots and Bow Ties," will be held Saturday, October 20, 2018, at 5:30 p.m. in the B.S.S. Gym. Corral your friends for the biggest adults-only event of the year! Auction co-chairs are Kristen Luttrell and Jennifer Madiar. Any ideas or questions? Email Kristen and Jen at bssauction2018@gmail.com or contact Kim Hoffmann, B.S.S. Development Director, at 522-7534, ext. 206. 'LIKE' Blessed Sacrament School on Facebook to see all the latest updates!

Youth Basketball Camp at Blessed Sacrament

One of our parents, Scott Eades, who has been involved in coaching at our school, is running a youth basketball camp from 1:00-3:30 p.m. the week of June 4-7 at Blessed Sacrament School. Boys and girls going into grades 5-8 in the fall of 2018 are eligible to attend. The cost is \$65 per camper with a \$10 discount for additional members of the same immediate family. For further information, please contact Scott Eades at 217-414-3518 or at seades2@comcast.net.

Cathedral School Farewell Reception

You are invited to join the Cathedral School family on Sunday, May 6, following the 10:00 a.m. Mass for a farewell reception to Cathedral School. The school will be open for all to walk through as they prepare to close the doors. Old photographs will be on display, and refreshments will be provided. All are welcome to attend! Please RSVP by emailing Jordan Thomas, the Cathedral's development director, at jthomas@cathedral.dio.org or call the parish office at 522-3342.

Additional Community Flyers

The Little Gym offers classes in motor skills development, gymnastics, dance, and sports skills. They are currently enrolling for summer classes and camps; enrollment for classes during the 2018-2019 school year starts on May 7th! See the attached flyer, also posted on the school website, for details on their class and camp offerings!

Sylvan Learning offers summer programs, including tutoring, reading and math programs, and STEM activities. See the flyer posted online for more details.

Theatre in the Park is producing Disney's *The Little Mermaid, Jr.* this summer. The show, sponsored by Athens State Bank, will be June 22-24 and June 28-30 and features a cast of 61 students, ages 4-17, from Springfield, Chatham, Pleasant Plains, Jacksonville, Athens, Rochester Riverton, Petersburg and New Berlin. See the flyer posted on the school website for more information.

Looking Ahead

Friday, May 4 –

Box tops collection sheets due!

Regular PSA Spirit Day (covered by pre-paid fee)

10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. – 8th grade Art Club field trip to Washington Park

2:15 p.m. – First Friday adoration for grades 2-8

Saturday, May 5 –

5:30–9:00 p.m. – Cinco de Mayo Food Truck Meet-up on school parking lot

Monday, May 7 – Wednesday, May 9 –

8th grade Days of Discovery field trips in the community

Monday, May 7 –

Happy Birthday, Father Jeff!

8th grade class trip permission slips due!

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

Tuesday, May 8 –

7:30 a.m. – Alumni Breakfast honoring the B.S.S.

Classes of 2014 & 2018

3:00 p.m. – Garden Club meeting

7:00 p.m. – Kindergarten Mothers' Tea in the cafeteria

Wednesday, May 9 –

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

Thursday, May 10 –

5:15 a.m.-11:00 p.m. - 8th grade class trip to Chicago

Friday, May 11-

7:50 a.m.-3:30 p.m. - 4th grade class trip to St. Louis

8th grade graduation practice after Mass; dismissal of students for the day after lunch

Sunday, May 13 –

Happy Mother's Day!

5:00 p.m. – Awards Ceremony for 8th graders in church followed by dinner and dance with parents in the cafeteria

Monday, May 14 –

8th graders not in attendance

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

6:00 p.m. (corrected time)–8th grade graduation Mass

Tuesday, May 15 –

Dental exams for required grades due!

Wednesday, May 16 –

8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. – 7th & 8th grade IMSA FUSION field trip to Abraham Lincoln Capital City Airport

10:00 a.m. – MWF Pre-K walk to Baskin Robbins

Thursday, May 17 –

10:00 a.m. – Tu/Th Pre-K walk to Baskin Robbins

10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. – 3rd grade walk to Washington Park & Baskin Robbins

1:00 p.m. – 6th grade walk to Baskin Robbins

Friday, May 18 –

1st grade field trip to St. Louis Zoo

7th Grade Leadership Day – Walk to Washington Park & lunch at Pie's the Limit

12:00 p.m. – All-day Pre-K walk to Baskin Robbins

12:30 p.m. – 4th grade walk to Baskin Robbins

Please Remember!

Before School Patrols for the Week of May 7-11:

Addison Schneller

Ethan Short

Gabby Stone

Riley VanZuiden

Blake White

Taylor Verry

Madi Sweeney

After School Patrols for the Week of May 7-11:

Jeffrey Wernsing

Adam Wentz

Noah Ward

Mass Servers for May 5 & 6:

4:30 p.m. Saturday

Aidan Mauntel & William & Charlie Pittman

7:00 a.m. Sunday

no current BSS students

8:30 a.m. Sunday

Miriam & Ellen O'Brien

10:30 a.m. Sunday

Jackson Pitz, Leo Havey & Ava Moore

Daily Servers for May 7-11:

8:00 a.m. M & W &

Max Stanley

8:20 a.m. Tu.

& Agnes Cross

8:00 a.m. Th. &

Seth Faivre

8:20 a.m. Fri.

& Jack Fleischli