

November 9, 2017

† Blessed Sacrament



School News

Learning to Make a Difference

A Note to Parents

Dear Parents,

Last week was certainly a very full week! We had a wonderful turnout for our annual Grandparents' Day event. Again, thanks to Lori Dye for organizing the event, to Christy Rutherford for the decorations, and to the parent volunteers who made it a memorable morning for everyone.

Thanks to all of you who attended parent-teacher conferences last Thursday and Friday. We appreciate you working with the teachers to support your children in their academic and faith development. Please feel free to contact the teachers at any time if you have any questions or concerns.

Congratulations to first grader Sophia Crawford and fifth grader Laney Aleman who were recognized at our leadership assembly as the winners of our yellow slip drawing. We're proud of all who earned yellow slips this past week!

Today our seventh graders are gathering with the seventh graders from the other Springfield Catholic elementary schools for a joint retreat. Next Friday, our fifth graders will join the other fifth graders from all of the Catholic grade schools in Springfield for an afternoon of service at Little Flower and St. Joseph's Home. We appreciate these opportunities for our students to grow in their faith as they participate in events with the other Catholic schools.

Tomorrow we will observe Veterans' Day with a morning assembly. We join our nation, especially tomorrow and on Saturday, in thanking veterans and those currently serving our country for their selfless sacrifices for all of us to enjoy the freedoms of our country. **If any students know of a BSS graduate or have a parent or close family member who is currently serving in our armed forces, please share his/her name, branch of the military, and current location of service or deployment by emailing me at wear@bssbruins.org** by 9:00 a.m. tomorrow to have their names read and recognized during our observance.

Tomorrow is also a regularly scheduled PSA Spirit Day, but it will be a modified Spirit Day in observance of Veterans' Day. Students may wear **BSS Spirit Day shirts or red, white, and blue shirts** with jeans or uniform bottoms for a \$1 donation. (If students pre-paid for the year for regular Spirit Days, there is no charge.) Please review the other regular Spirit Day guidelines in the student handbook as they do apply.

Please keep our veterans and current military in your prayers of thanksgiving and gratitude. Also, our second graders will be receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time next Wednesday evening. Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare to receive this sacrament.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Kathy Wear

Bruinettes Camp

Calling all girls in grades K-6 who enjoy dancing and have lots of school spirit! Our annual Bruinettes Camp is coming soon! Practices will be after school, Tuesday (11/14), Thursday (11/16), Friday (11/17), and Monday, November 20. The Bruinettes will perform between the 7th & 8th grade boys' home basketball games on Tuesday, November 21, at approximately 6:45 p.m. The cost to attend the camp is \$30 per child and includes a t-shirt to be worn at the game and a hair ribbon or bandana to be worn for the game. A registration form with a detailed practice schedule is posted on our school website. **Registration deadline is extended to Monday, November 13.** Please contact Taryn Grant at tarynr@hotmail.com with questions.

Lunchroom Notes

We have a small but very faithful group of volunteers to serve hot lunches on Fridays. However, we could use a couple of extra hands! **We especially need help tomorrow, November 10, as three of our five core volunteers are unable to be here.** If anyone is available to help out once or twice a month, it would be greatly appreciated. If you are not able to commit to working specific Fridays, another option is to be placed on a substitute call list. If someone is going to be gone on a certain Friday, that person could call/email/text someone on the sub list to fill in. If you are interested in either option, please call the school office or email Mrs. Burke at burke@bssbruins.org. Thank you for your consideration!

Bruins Update

Congratulations to our girls' 6th grade SCAA basketball team on finishing first in their league during regular season play. We wish both our fifth and sixth grade girls' SCAA basketball teams good luck in their tournament this weekend. The fifth grade girls play at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, and the sixth grade girls play at 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, both at St. Aloysius School's gym. Go, Bruins!

Authors & Illustrators

Congratulations to the following artists who were recognized for their creativity and are our authors and illustrators for November and December. Sixth graders Grayson Hady and Luca Bonansinga are inspired by portraits and biographies, and Tom Humphrey and Virginia Parkes in 4th grade consider collage and comedy genres. Be sure to see and enjoy their talents in our main hallway. Great job!

Spirit Wear Has Arrived!

Spirit Day shirts ordered through PSA have arrived, just in time for tomorrow's Spirit Day, and will be sent home with the students today. The orders have been double

checked, but if you do not receive the correct items, please contact Melanie Verry at tayty081@att.net or at 217-361-5841.

For anyone who missed out on the this order or would like to purchase another item for Christmas, PSA will submit another order before Thanksgiving, which the supplier has guaranteed will be delivered by the Monday before Christmas break. The order form is being emailed home today and is posted on the school website. The order form with payment is due back to school no later than Monday, Nov. 20.

Wrapping Paper Orders

Wrapping paper and other items from PSA's fundraiser through Charleston Wrap have also arrived! The orders are being sent home today with the students. Again, please contact Melanie Verry at tayty081@att.net or at 217-361-5841 if you have any problems with your order. Thanks for your support of PSA through this fundraiser!

Barnes and Noble Book Fair and Cheesecake Pre-orders

Mark your calendars now for our annual Barnes and Noble Book Fair. It will be held on Monday, November 20, in the evening at the store located on Veterans Parkway. You will also be able to make online purchases from Nov. 20 through Nov. 25, which will count towards our school total. Go to www.BN.COM/bookfairs and enter our school ID of **12271870** at checkout. In addition, kindergarten and first grade will be performing that evening, beginning at 5:30 p.m. (Mrs. Hartman will be sending home a letter with details.)

Earlier this week you received a special email regarding pre-orders for Cheesecake Factory. The order form accompanied that email and is also posted online. **Orders are due on Monday, November 13 by 9:00 a.m., and anything pre-ordered will be ready for pick up on Monday, November 20 during our book fair.** These items would make a delicious addition to your holiday celebrations or a gift for someone special.

The book fair is a great opportunity to start (or finish!) your holiday shopping and support the BSS library at the same time. Don't forget there is also scrip available to use for your purchases as well. A flyer with the voucher number accompanies this newsletter and is posted on our website. Thank you, in advance, for your support!

Morning Drop Off Reminder

Just a reminder that there are two lanes of traffic entering our parking lot from Glenwood Street in the mornings. The left lane proceeds straight to the drop-off line while the other lane turns into the parking area for those who are parking to walk their children up to the building. If you happen to be in the drop-off lane and, due to a back-up or slow traffic, let your children out along the sidewalk in front of the school (rather than in the designated drop-off area), please make sure they exit onto the sidewalk, out of the driver's side of the car. Please **DO NOT** let them exit from the passenger side of the car in this location only, as other cars are pulling through the second lane of traffic into the parking area. Thank you for helping us to insure all students' safety and to avoid any fender benders in our parking lot.

Thankful for Scrip?

B.S.S. Scrip is sponsoring a "Thankful for Scrip" promotion during the month of November. Purchase any scrip card from our "Thanksgiving Scrip Checklist" and you are automatically entered in a drawing. The winner receives \$100 of ScripScrip!! The checklist is posted on our school website. For questions about this wonderful opportunity, email scrip@bssbruins.org.

5th Grade Joint Service Day

During the afternoon of Friday, Nov. 17, our fifth graders will join fifth graders from the other Springfield Catholic schools at Little Flower to complete an art project and then rake leaves and visit residents at St. Joseph's Home. In addition to a rake to use (labeled with the student's name), students are also being asked to bring a small gift of either hand/body lotion, puzzle books, or a small bag of candy bars to donate to the residents of St. Joseph's Home. Permission slips are being sent home with students today.

Pastor's Annual Party

Father Jeff invites our parents (adults only, please) to attend the Pastor's Annual Party to be held on Sunday, Nov. 19, from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Get your holiday season off to a festive start! Visit with other parents and parishioners while enjoying cocktails and hors d'oeuvres.

Volunteers are needed after school on Friday, Nov. 17, at 3:15 p.m. to help with set-up for the Pastor's Annual Party. Please call Kim Hoffmann at 522-7534, ext. 206, if you can help. This is a good opportunity to earn service hours!

Lifetouch Picture Retakes

Lifetouch will be here for school picture retakes on Thursday, November 16. Students who are having their pictures retaken or were absent on the original picture day in October may be out of uniform that day. All non-uniform day guidelines apply. Students having their pictures retaken must return their original picture packet that day.

Vision and Hearing Rescreenings

Students for whom a rescreening was indicated or for those who were absent in the required screening grades in September will have their screenings on Tuesday, Nov. 14.

Boy Scout Troop 31 Poinsettia Sale

Just in time for Christmas! Blessed Sacrament Boy Scout Troop 31 is taking orders through November 15th for beautiful red or white poinsettias grown by Shelby County Community Services, the same greenhouse that grows the 5th grade mums! They are \$10 each and will be available for pick up on Friday, Dec. 1, after school. There will be a limited number for sale after Masses on Dec. 2nd & 3rd, but don't miss out . . . ask a Boy Scout! Contact Jennifer Wentz at jandj62@comcast.net for more information. Thank you!

Open Gym for Men's Basketball

The gym is open every Thursday evening at 9:00 p.m. for pickup men's basketball for any interested B.S.S. dads. Please enter the gym through the side door. If you have any questions, please contact John Stremsterfer at

johnstrem74@gmail.com. They're hoping to get some "fresh recruits" to join them!

Eighth Grade Confirmation Dates

We recently received word that our 8th grade Confirmation Mass will take place on Wednesday, April 11, at 7:00 p.m. Therefore, Enrollment Sunday, in preparation for Confirmation, will be at the 8:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, February 25. Eighth grade families are asked to mark their calendars for these two important dates.

March for Life for Eighth Graders

Students and chaperones attending the March for Life trip, sponsored by the Diocesan Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry, will leave for Washington, D.C., on Wednesday, Jan. 17, and will return on Sunday, Jan. 21, with the actual march taking place on Friday, Jan. 19. Information about the March for Life was distributed to our eighth graders this past week. Please note that the interest form must be returned to the school office by **tomorrow, Friday, Nov. 10**.

SHG Fall Musical Concert

Please join the SHG Music Department for their Fall Concert & Musical Reveal tonight, Thursday, November 9 at 7 p.m. in the Dominican Hall Theatre. Students in Encore and Mixed Chorus will perform under the direction of Mr. Damien Kaplan and Ms. Zoey Zara. Following the performance, the Spring 2018 musical will be announced and refreshments will be offered. Admission is free, and a giving opportunity will be available that evening.

Community Days Booklets

Our student service organization, Builders Club, is selling Community Days booklets to benefit the Missionary Childhood Association. These booklets contain over \$500 in coupons that can be used at Bergner's through this Saturday, Nov. 11. The booklets, available in the office, cost \$5 each, and Builders Club keeps 100% of each sale as their profit.

Advent by Candlelight

Women of our parish and their friends are invited to an evening of fellowship and reflection at Advent by Candlelight. This event will take place on Tuesday, Dec. 5th, and tickets are \$15 per person and must be purchased in advance. A nationally known speaker, Mary Lenaburg, will lead an Advent reflection after hors d'oeuvres and a dessert buffet. In addition, our own Jubilate Choir will perform. Tickets can be purchased at our school and parish offices and after Masses. Space is limited, and the event may sell out soon. See the flyer posted on our school website for details.

In the Community...

Tolton: From Slave to Priest is a professional Catholic theater production based on the life of Fr. Augustus Tolton. It will be presented at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Saturday, November 11, at 7:30 p.m. The program is suitable for ages 10 and up, and there is a free-will offering accepted at the door. For more information, please see the information on our website or call the Cathedral parish office at 522-3342.

State Fair Mega Passes

Looking forward to next year's Illinois State Fair already? State Fair Mega Passes are now on sale for a discounted price of \$60 through December 31. They make a great Christmas stocking stuffer! More information may be found on the flyer and order form posted on our school website.

Looking Ahead

Friday, Nov. 10 –
8th grade March for Life interest forms due!
PSA modified Spirit Day (included in pre-paid days)
Veterans' Day observation

Monday, Nov. 13 –
8:20 a.m. - Leadership assembly (wear t-shirts)

Tuesday, Nov. 14 –
Vision and hearing re-screenings

Wednesday, Nov. 15 –
4:00 p.m. – 7th & 8th grade boys' IESA home basketball games vs. Washington Middle School
6:30 p.m. - First Reconciliation for 2nd graders

Thursday, Nov. 16 –
Lifetouch Picture Re-takes (non-uniform day for those having school pictures taken)

Friday, Nov. 17 –
5th grade joint service afternoon at Little Flower & St. Joseph's Home

Monday, Nov. 20 –
PSA Spirit Day shirts order forms due!
8:20 a.m. - Leadership assembly (wear t-shirts)
5:30 p.m. – Kindergarten & first grade perform at Barnes & Noble Book Fair event at the store
6:00 p.m. – 7th & 8th grade boys' IESA home basketball games vs. Springfield Christian

Tuesday, Nov. 21 –
Mid-quarter progress reports go home
6:00 p.m. – 7th & 8th grade boys' IESA home basketball games vs. Little Flower; Bruinettes camp members perform between games

Wednesday, Nov. 22 – Friday, Nov. 24 –
No School! Happy Thanksgiving!

Please Remember!

Before School Patrols for the Week of Nov. 13-17:

Ellen O'Brien Jackson Pitz Aria Rogers
Addison Schneller Ethan Short Gabriella Stone

After School Patrols for the Week of Nov. 13-17:

Rachel Evans Tyler Furkin Kevin Gonzalez

Mass Servers for Nov. 11 & 12:

4:30 p.m. Saturday Maddie McKay, Liam Noonan & Sophia Njapa

7:00 a.m. Sunday no current BSS students

8:30 a.m. Sunday Audrey Frost

10:30 a.m. Sunday Jackson Pitz, Grace Klenke & Jack Feischli

Daily Servers for Nov. 13-17

8:00 a.m. M & W & Agnes Cross

8:20 a.m. Tu. & Andrew Dailey

8:00 a.m. Th. & Luke Harvey

8:20 a.m. Fri. & Ethan Keller