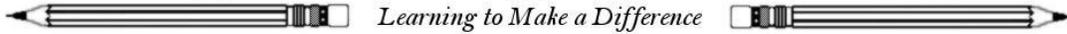


+ Blessed Sacrament



School News



May 9, 2019

A Note to Parents

Dear Parents,

Last Friday we welcomed back the Class of 2015 for our annual alumni breakfast with the B.S.S. Class of 2019. We enjoyed visiting with the seniors and hearing of their plans for the future. We are very proud of their accomplishments and wish them the very best in the years ahead, whether they have chosen college, the armed services, or the workforce. We are grateful that they shared the morning with us and hope they enjoyed their return to B.S.S. as much as we did!

Tuesday evening our kindergartners hosted their mothers at a Mothers' Day Tea. As always, both moms and kindergartners had a wonderful time, and the children's songs were a perfect ending to the evening. Special thanks to Mrs. Jennifer Madiar and Mrs. Kathy Harth, their teachers, and Mrs. Mikki Wareham and Mrs. Jody Winterbauer, their teaching assistants, for making this evening a special memory for all!

This week our eighth graders were out in the community on their annual Days of Discovery field trips, and today they are on their class trip to Chicago. We extend our thanks to all of the agencies that welcomed our eighth graders and provided them with informative experiences this week. Special thanks to the parent volunteers who made these trips possible by planning, driving, and/or chaperoning.

The eighth grade awards ceremony will be held this Saturday, May 11, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in church, followed by a dinner and dance for the eighth graders and their parents in the cafeteria. Graduation Mass for the Class of 2019 will be celebrated next Monday evening, May 13, at 6:00 p.m. We will miss their presence in our school but look forward to following their activities and accomplishments in high school.

While we celebrated Teacher Appreciation Day during Catholic Schools Week, we have felt support again during national Teacher Appreciation Week. Thank you to all who help make our staff feel special! We extend special thanks to Anna Sinnott and all of the parent volunteers who provided lunch for our teachers on a monthly basis throughout the school year. It was always a special treat that was most appreciated!

Speaking of staff, I have a couple of staffing updates to announce. Last weekend, Mrs. Hennessy had her baby girl, Stella. Both mom and daughter are doing well, and we congratulate the whole family! Mrs. Karen Zeigler will be filling in for Mrs. Hennessy for the remainder of the school year. Mrs. Zeigler is a retired German teacher, so your

children may come home with more exposure to new languages! We are also able to announce our new athletic director for the 2019-2020 school year. Ms. Karli Adams will step into the position from her current role as assistant athletic director.

Tomorrow we will hold a special spirit day to support the K-9 Unit's Fur Cops Fund. The SHG Brave Club is hosting this fundraiser in conjunction with our local Catholic schools and will be present to sell special bracelets Friday morning for \$1. Students participating in the spirit day should also bring \$1. Please see the attached flyer for more information.

Please continue to keep our eighth graders in your prayers as they finish their days at our school. We wish all of our graduates many blessings and much happiness in the future! Happy Mother's Day on Sunday! Enjoy the weekend!

Yours in faith,
Mrs. Dawn Kliner

SchoolKidz School Supply Kits Orders

Once again we will offer the convenience of purchasing complete school supply kits for pre-k through 8th grade students from SchoolKidz. Back by popular demand this year is home delivery! Kits will be shipped right to your front door. All orders will again be placed online in the month of May. Please watch for more details and a special SchoolKidz email coming soon. Thank you!

Mentor Families Needed for 2019-2020 School Year!

We are in need of volunteers to serve as mentor families for new school families next school year. We primarily need families enrolled in our preschool through kindergarten classes. We are so grateful to all those families who volunteered as mentors this year, and hope to have many more volunteers for the coming year. This service simply involves reaching out to the new school family(s) you are assigned to introduce yourself and offer assistance as needed. We ask that you continue to reach out at least on a quarterly basis throughout the school year. You earn service hours for each family mentored. All those who volunteer will be contacted with further information in the coming weeks. Please call or email Mrs. Burke at burke@bssbruins.org if you would be interested in helping in this way or if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration of this important service to welcome our new BSS families!

Congratulations to Sr. Ann!

Sr. Ann Smith, who retired from Blessed Sacrament last year as a resource teacher, is celebrating her 70th anniversary as an Ursuline sister! Sr. Ann, who grew up in our parish and graduated from Blessed Sacrament School, was a classroom teacher here for several years and then returned for her "second tour" at BSS as a part-time resource teacher in 2013. Congratulations, Sr. Ann!

Ursuline Academy Alumni Foundation Scholarships

The Ursuline Academy Alumni Foundation would like to thank all the individuals who applied for the UA Alumni Scholarships this year! There was a great turn out and many outstanding candidates which made it hard to narrow the list to just two recipients per school. We are pleased to announce the winners of the \$600 tuition award for the 2019-2020 school year from Blessed Sacrament are Ileana Stremsterfer and Emma Allen. Congratulations!

Congratulations to BSS Students at State Competitions!

We had several students representing BSS at various state-level events over the past week. Congratulations to all of the following students in their respective events! We are so proud of you!

State Science Fair: There were approximately 950 projects from grades 7-12 this year at the state science fair at SIU, Carbondale. The following 7th graders received gold : Mary Katherine Christie, Anthony Fergin, Callista Huston, Grace Klenke, Caroline Lambert, Annie Mizeur, William Pittman, and Abby Shafer. Molly Davis and Ryder Pezold received silver awards, and Ryan Huddle received a bronze award. Grace Klenke received an award for one of three top Jr. High projects from SIU. In addition, she received \$50.00.

State History Fair: The state history fair was held at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library last Thursday. The following 8th graders received superior awards for their exhibits: Amalia Coderko, Elizabeth Allen, and Lucy Ratcliffe. Amalia received \$50 for the Margaret Anne Petty, Genealogical/Family History Award. Joe Humphrey received an excellent award for his paper.

IESA State Track Meet: There are five BSS athletes that qualify for the state track and field competition this coming weekend. They are: Olivia Redpath 100 and 200 meter dash for 7th grade girls, Hannah Lambert 100 and 200 meter dash for 8th grade girls, Maggie Fleischli 800 and 1600 meter run for 7th grade girls, Kaelin Kelley 400 meter dash for 8th grade girls, and Brannon Kelley 100 meter dash for 8th grade boys. Good luck this weekend!

IMSA Fusion Program for 2019-2020

As we conclude another school year, we would like to extend our appreciation to the leaders of our IMSA Fusion programs for another successful year of this engaging STEM program. Thank you to Kim Eck for leading the 5th and 6th grade program and Tracy Kelly for leading the 7th and 8th grade program! We truly appreciate Tracy Kelley's years of

service leading this program, as she will be moving on along with her children graduating from the 8th grade.

If there is anyone with a background in these areas who may be interested in leading/co-leading the IMSA Fusion programs for next school year, please contact Mrs. Burke at your earliest convenience. We certainly hope to continue to offer this wonderful enrichment opportunity to our students in the coming year! Thank you for your consideration!

Lifetouch Spring Portraits

Spring portrait packages went home with students before Easter break. Families may decide which photos to keep and purchase and which photos to return. If no photos are being purchased, the entire package should be returned to school. Please submit payment of spring photos or return the packets by Friday, May 10. Thank you!

Math Workbooks for Summer Review & Enrichment

Overall, our students are doing an amazing in math. We encourage them to continue practicing math during the summer to retain the concepts that they have learned this year. As a possible resource for review, you may want to look into the Summer Skills Books. There are copies available for all grade levels. A copy of the order form is posted on the school website and can also be accessed at their website, www.summerskills.com.

If you would like to order a review book, you need to mail, call, fax, or order the book online. Do not send any order or payment to school. You need to order your own book as the book will be delivered to your home. Because this book is a review, you should order the math book that corresponds with your child's current grade level. Answer keys and solution keys are provided in the books. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Healy.

BSS Summer Reading Program

Studies have shown that summer reading boosts reading skills. This is a great opportunity for students to read for enjoyment. So we are once again having a Summer Reading Challenge. We are using the Illinois Children's Choice Award lists. There are twenty books on these lists, and we request that students read at least three books. That is only one per month with no accelerated test required! To celebrate, the library will have a popsicle party next fall for those students who meet the challenge. Please see the letter and book lists attached with today's newsletter.

Library Books Due!

All library books are due by Monday, May 20! Please see Mrs. Criscione or Mrs. Allen if you need to pay for lost books or books needing repairs. Soft cover books are \$10 each and hardcover books are \$20 each. End of the year privileges (i.e. Fun Day participation, etc.) may be withheld from students who are not in good standing with their library books. Thank you for your cooperation!

Scrip Gifts for Dads & Grads

School is wrapping up but you can keep earning money off your '19/'20 tuition through June 30, 2019. Purchase scrip cards and we'll keep track of your tuition rebate! Download our flyer to get ideas for Dads & Grads.

Garden Club Leader Needed for 2019-2020!

The Garden Club is looking for a parent leader for the 2019-20 school year. The Garden Club meets once a month for one hour. The club uses the courtyard as its classroom. It is a fun way to volunteer to share your appreciation of plants and agriculture. The club has provided the courtyard space with beautiful color, as well as delicious harvests for our students. Please contact this year's parent leader, Mrs. Julie Roland at j.roland@comcast.net or Mrs. Michelle Townsend, the Garden Club teacher representative, at townsend@bssbruins.org for details.

Garden Beautification

Please help keep the garden looking nice by weeding, watering and caring for the school garden once a month on Saturday mornings this spring and summer. We will be there from 9:30-11:00 on May 18, June 22, and July 20. Students, parents, and parishioners welcome, and you may come for part or all of the time frames indicated. Volunteers may enter through the BASE door (if the door is closed, text or call 217-899-7800). Be sure to wear sunscreen and hats, and refreshments will be provided. There will be a sign-in for service hours. Email questions to Julie at j.roland@comcast.net.

St. Mother Teresa Inspirational Art Contest

The students received information at a previous leadership assembly about the installation of our parish's special St. Teresa statue that will take place on September 8. Leading up to that special event, K-8 students have the opportunity to participate in an inspirational art contest this spring. All students who submit an entry will have their work on display during the dedication reception on September 8. The winning entry will be featured on the program cover. All entries must include a photo of St. Teresa and one of her inspirational quotes. All entries are due by May 20.

Coaches' Applications

Applications for coaching a Blessed Sacrament athletic team for the 2019-2020 school year are now available online through our school website. The applications will be available through May 17th. The application process is open to all interested individuals who have the necessary background and skills; it is not necessary to be a parent of a student involved in our athletic programs. Also, please remember that completing an application does not guarantee a coaching position as there may be more individuals interested in coaching than positions available. Anyone who is chosen to coach must have attended the Protecting God's Children training and completed a background check as well as an online coaches' certification course and an online concussion

certification course, as required by SCAA and IESA, before team practices begin.

If you have previously submitted an application and would like to be considered for next year, please email Mrs. Davis at davis@bssbruins.org and ask that your application be resubmitted. In the email, please specify the grade level, sport, and any contact information that may have changed from the previous application. Please contact Mrs. Davis at 522-7534, ext. 205, if you have specific questions regarding this process. Thank you!

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 an objection to the dental examination on religious grounds.

Annual Garden Party

Our annual parish Garden Party is coming up on Wednesday, June 12! There are many fun activities planned again this year. A volunteer sheet is being sent home to each family today and is also available on the school website. Please return the volunteer form by May 26. Thank you!

Box Tops Collection

We will have one final Box Tops collection this year. A collection form is being sent home today and is due by May 16. All those who return a form will receive a treat!

Vacation Bible School Planning is Underway!

Please join us Monday, June 17, 2019, through June 21, 2019, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at Blessed Sacrament School. This year's theme is "Life is Wild, God is Good." Students in grades K-5 may be registered at <https://vbspro.events/p/80f720>. We are looking for adult and student volunteers entering 6th grade and up. Questions? Please email Danielle Davis Landgrebe at Grebes13@gmail.com or call/text 217-899-1278. Thank you!

Service Hours Reminder

Service hours for this school year may be earned through May 31, 2019. 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, 2017, in order for families to be allowed to complete registration for the 2017-2018 school year.

Join us for Mass!

Mrs. Kuhlman and her sister's family invite you to attend Mass at Blessed Sacrament: Saturdays at 4:30 p.m. and Sundays at 7:00, 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.



Mrs. Kuhlman--1st Grade Teacher

Looking Ahead

Friday, May 10 -

Extra \$1 spirit day to support K-9 unit funds!
First grade Spring Programs
8th grade graduation practice & noon dismissal

Saturday, May 11 -

6:00 p.m. - 8th grade awards and dance

Sunday, May 12 - Happy Mothers' Day!

Monday, May 13 -

Leadership assembly (wear t-shirts)
2nd gr field trip downtown
6:00 p.m. - 8th Grade graduation Mass

Wednesday, May 15 -

6:30 p.m. - 7th gr parent meeting in cafeteria

Thursday, May 16 - 1st grade trip to St. Louis

Friday, May 17 - 7th grade leadership day

Monday, May 20 -

4th grade field trip to Lincoln sites in Springfield
3rd grade trip to Washington Park

Tuesday, May 21 -

Last day for Tu/Th preschool
5th/6th grade IMSA field trip

Wednesday, May 22 -

Last day for MWF & all-day pre-k
Last day for kindergarten

Thursday, May 23 -

Screening appointments for incoming K students not enrolled in BSS pre-k programs
1st grade trip to Washington Park

Friday, May 24 - Last day of school!!! Report Cards

All school Mass
Fun Day activities from 9:30-1:15
PSA provides lunch for everyone

1:30 - Dismissal!! Happy Summer!! No BASE!