



# +Blessed Sacrament



## School News

 Learning to Make a Difference 

October 17, 2019

Dear Parents,

I can't believe it, but the first quarter ends tomorrow with report cards for students in grades K-8 being sent home next Wednesday, October 23. Parents of preschool students will receive their report cards at conferences. Along with the report cards, you will receive a summary of family service hours submitted during the first quarter.

Today our students participated in the Great ShakeOut by holding our own earthquake drill at 10:17a.m., the same time that schools across the country participated in drills. We continue to practice ways to keep our students safe!

Since our last newsletter, the cross country team finished their regular season. We extend a special thanks to the BSS coach, Mike O'Brien, and all those who assisted the team for their guidance and dedication! Our girls' cross country team took first place at sectionals last weekend, and these girls will compete at the State meet this Saturday: Maggie Fleischli, Grayson Hady, Ali Klinner, Ali Londrigan, Miriam O'Brien, Sophia Cathers, and Caroline Sheehan. Good luck to our Bruins!

I have been completely overwhelmed by the generosity of our community, parish, and school families in preparation for this year's 50th auction! Our volunteers are simply amazing! In addition, the excitement for the Children's Raffle portion of our Annual Auction has been building all week! The drawings will be held tomorrow at a special assembly.

Don't forget that tomorrow, **Friday, Oct. 18, is a 1:30 p.m. early dismissal**, and after-school care at B.A.S.E. is NOT available tomorrow. Parents will have the opportunity to check in for the auction from 1:30-5 p.m. Then, make plans to join us at the 50th Annual Auction this Saturday, Oct. 19! Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with dinner being served at 6:30 p.m., and the live auction begins at approximately 7:15 p.m. Tickets may still be purchased online and dress is casual. I hope to see you there! Have a good weekend!

Yours in faith,  
*Mrs. Dawn Klinner*

### Thank You from Ronald McDonald House

We recently received a note of thanks from the Ronald McDonald House for the soda pop can tabs we collected for them. They appreciate the ongoing support!

### FREE Spirit Day Tomorrow

Friday, October 18, will be a free spirit day in recognition of everyone's hard work and support of our annual auction. Students may wear any official BSS Spirit Day t-shirt with jeans or uniform bottoms. No other types of shorts or pants are acceptable, and all other regular Spirit Day guidelines do apply.

### Lunchroom Volunteers Needed Please!

Thank you to those who responded to our plea for Tuesday and Thursday lunchroom volunteers! We could still use a few more on those days, but are also in need of a few additional volunteers to assist on Fridays. A few of our "Friday regulars" are grandparents who will be out of town at times over the winter months.

Volunteers may share one position (if we have enough folks) by alternating weeks with another volunteer. It is essential that we have enough parents to staff the hot lunch program in order to ensure that food is plated efficiently and distributed to students in a timely manner. Volunteers are asked to arrive by 10:45 and remain through the last lunch shift until 12:30. Assistance is needed with plating the food and checking off students' names as they pick up their hot lunches. We really need three people to assist "behind the counter" on Tuesdays and Thursdays and four-five on Fridays. This is a great opportunity to earn service hours!

Please contact our lunch volunteer coordinator, Jannette Allotey, with questions or to sign up for Tuesdays/Thursdays at [jannette.allotey@gmail.com](mailto:jannette.allotey@gmail.com). Please contact Michele Hinds-Greenwood, our school secretary, to sign up for Fridays at [hinds-greenwood@bssbruins.org](mailto:hinds-greenwood@bssbruins.org). Thank you for your consideration!

### Rediker System Updates

Beginning with the start of the second quarter on Monday, October 21, you will notice a new piece of information in your students' Rediker accounts. The Rediker Discipline System will now be viewable in your PlusPortals account. This is the online version of "pink slips" which will show in Rediker as an "incident." Eventually, the traditional paper copies of the "pink slips" will be phased out. However, in the interim, parents will still receive the paper copies to sign and return to the teachers. Please note that the "incident" in Rediker is the online record of the paper copy for the same date/action (not an additional incident).

### **Social Media Safety and Your Children**

Please join us on Monday evening, October 21, from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria for a presentation by Detective Mike Harth from the Sangamon County Sheriff's Office and representing the Illinois Attorney General's Office. In an era where social media use is prevalent at younger ages and daily life is electronically cataloged, many of us are unaware of just what that means for our children. Detective Harth, who spoke to all fifth through eighth grade students earlier this month, will discuss social media and internet use and safety. He will cover several practical topics, including how to enable and manage phone parental settings, popular social media apps, chatting apps, and dating apps. He will also cover how to enable the privacy settings within these apps. In addition, he will cover age restrictions on social media apps, how to recognize the dating apps, and what to do if you discover that your child is involved in some of these apps. Please come to this important informational evening. **Parents will receive credit for two service hours for attending!**

### **Personal Safety Training**

In compliance with the Diocese of Springfield's Safe Environment program, our students will be trained on personal safety through the Virtus program. This year the students will receive the training through two lessons taught by their religion teachers. The topics of the lessons this year are *Creating/Following Family Rules and Internet Safety*. The lessons will be presented during the month of November. Please check with your child's teacher for specific dates. Permission slips for this training were included in the Fee Night packet. Thanks for your ongoing support in helping us keep our children safe!

### **Parent-School Association**

Are you curious about what the PSA does for our school? Looking for a way to become more involved? Enjoy working together with others to organize fun activities and events at our school? Please consider becoming more involved in the Parent-School Association! We are looking for more folks to share new ideas and assist with some of our regular endeavors such as spirit wear orders, Friday lunches, fundraisers, family events, and many more. Please contact Mrs. Burke at [burke@bssbruins.org](mailto:burke@bssbruins.org) if you are interested in learning more about some of the positions available, or have specific ideas to share. *Please plan to attend our PSA meeting on Wednesday, November 6, from 6-7 p.m. in the school cafeteria.* Thank you for your consideration and support!

### **Join the Fun for the 50th Annual Auction this Saturday!**

Our largest fundraiser of the year is just 2 days away, and we need YOU to make it awesome! Tickets are still available for \$35 each on Friday and at the door on Saturday.

We are excited to announce our Fund-a-Project for this year is to provide Chromebooks for the sixth grade class! The projected cost is \$18,200, of which the first \$10,000 is from the generous raffle proceeds donation from Knights of Columbus #364. Any excess funds raised will be applied

towards the future purchase of Chromebooks for fifth grade. We hope to see you there!

### **Mark Your Calendars for the Halloween Trunk or Treat**

The Builders Club is sponsoring a Halloween Trunk or Treat event on Friday, October 25 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. It will be held on our school parking lot. We will have a food truck and Custom Cup coffee on site as well as plenty of candy! It's open to all BSS and parish families. A \$1 admission donation is recommended to support the Missionary Childhood Association. Start planning your costumes for the 6:30 p.m. contest and come enjoy the evening!

### **Extra Spirit Day on October 25 to Support the Super Food Drive Challenge**

This month, our school is participating in the Catholic Charities incredible Food Drive Challenge. We are collecting non-perishable food items for the Holy Family Food Pantry the entire month of October. The fun part is that we are competing against other Catholic schools! **There will be an extra Spirit Day (not included in pre-paid days!) on Friday, October 25 to support the Food Drive! Students may bring in a non-perishable item or \$1 to participate.** There is a great need for the following items: instant mashed potatoes, boxed macaroni and cheese, cake mixes, toilet paper, bars of soap, gravy packets, and boxed stuffing mix. The winning school will receive an ice cream celebration! Monetary donations will be converted to add to our totals. Thank you for your support!

### **Parent-Teacher Conferences in November**

Parent-Teacher conferences will be held on November 7 and November 8. We are excited to announce a new procedure for scheduling parent-teacher conferences this year! All group conferences for grades 5-8 have now been scheduled and parents are receiving those notifications today.

All conferences for teachers in grades PreK-4th grade must be scheduled online through SignUpGenius. This also includes specials, speech, resource, and Title I teachers, along with those desiring an individual conference with a teacher in grades 5-8. Families will receive a separate email next Tuesday, October 22, indicating the system is open along with instructions on how to sign up for conferences. If you are unable to secure a time slot available for you, please contact the teacher to make an appointment outside of our conference days. Thank you for your cooperation!

### **Service Hours Reminder**

A report of recorded service hours will be included in the report cards at the end of the month. The report will include all hours turned in by tomorrow, Friday, Oct. 18. It is very helpful to turn in the hours as you complete them instead of waiting until the end of the year. If you have any questions, please contact Michele in the school office.

### **Service Hour Opportunity - Volunteers Needed for Grandparents' Day**

Grandparents' Day is on Friday, November 8. This year, there will be a special photo backdrop available for snapping family photos with smartphones, courtesy of our 8th Grade Art Club. Volunteers (both adult and 8th graders for service hours) are needed to help with set-up on Thursday, November 7, beginning at 5:15p.m. Adult volunteers are also needed from 8:00-10:30 a.m. on Friday morning, November 8, to assist with serving donuts along, coffee, milk, and fruit, as well as clean-up. Please contact Rachel Pennell at 622-0697 or via email [rpennell@rolandmachinery.com](mailto:rpennell@rolandmachinery.com) to volunteer. You will earn service hours, and this is always such an enjoyable morning!

### **Hy-Vee Reusable Bag Program**

We are so excited to share that BSS has been selected to be a part of the Hy-Vee reusable bag program that supports local non-profits, which is designed to make it easy for customers to contribute to their local community while supporting the environment. For the month of November, each time a reusable bag is purchased at our local Hy-Vee, \$1 will be donated to Blessed Sacrament (unless otherwise directed by the customer). This is a great way to raise awareness, support the environment, and fundraise for our school! Thank you to Hy-Vee for their support!

### **Box Tops for Education Collection**

An October Box Tops collection sheet is being sent home today and completed sheets are due by Friday, October 25. Everyone who completes a form will receive a Halloween treat! Now when families use the Box Tops app to scan their store receipt, they can "Give Credit" to an individual, classroom or grade level. To "Give Credit" make sure you have the latest version of the Box Tops app, scan your receipt, then tap the star icon to enter your "Give credit" memo. You may also send in your grocery receipts to the school office and Mrs. Greenwood, our Box Tops coordinator, will scan the receipts for you! Please send in those receipts as well as traditional box tops. Thank you!

### **Extra Halloween Spirit Day and Halloween Parade**

Thursday, Oct. 31, we will have an extra modified Spirit Day for our students for Halloween. For no charge, the students may wear an appropriate Halloween or orange or black shirt (for Halloween) or any B.S.S. Spirit Day t-shirt or sweatshirt with jeans or uniform bottoms. All other regular Spirit Day guidelines, including those regarding make-up, fingernail polish, hair, and shoes, still apply.

The annual Halloween parade for students in Pre-K through fourth grade will take place at 1:45 p.m. on Halloween. Our upper grade students will be sitting on the upper bleachers or around the perimeter of the gym, and parents are encouraged to join them in either location to view the parade. Students in grades PreK-4 will be allowed to change into costumes for the parade. We ask that the Halloween costumes be appropriate for our school setting.

After the parade, all the students will return to their classrooms for Halloween parties and K-4 students may remain in their costumes for the parties.

### **Morning Drop-Off Time and Before Care Reminder**

Recently, we have had some students dropped off before 7:45 a.m. and waiting outside. There is no staff supervision before 7:45 a.m., and therefore this is not a safe situation for the children. **Please remember that all students dropped off at school prior to 7:45 a.m. will be brought into the Before Care Program, and parents are responsible for paying the associated fees.** Please refer to the B.A.S.E. handbook online if you have any questions. Thank you for your cooperation!

### **Scrip Scene**

It's only October but it's time to think about Christmas outfits! We've got scrip gift cards for American Eagle, Gap/Old Navy and T.J. Maxx in stock and we can special order Children's Place, J. Crew, Land's End, L.L. Bean, and Men's Wearhouse. Clothing stores have HUGE rebates - your purchases earn even MORE money for Blessed Sacrament School. Download a scrip form or email [scrip@bssbruins.org](mailto:scrip@bssbruins.org) with questions.

### **BSS Spirit Wear**

There will be a second opportunity to order spirit wear in late October or early November, with items arriving prior to Thanksgiving. Spirit wear makes a great holiday gift for family members. Watch for more information at that time.

### **Picture ReTake Day**

Picture retake day has been moved to Friday, November 15 to accommodate the Monday, Wednesday, Friday pre-K class. Please note this on your calendars.

### **Garden Club**

Students in grades 2-8 are invited to join the Garden Club! The club meets once a month from 3:00-4:00 p.m. in our courtyard garden to help maintain the area along with learning about plant health and different types of produce. Here are the dates for this fall: Nov. 14, Dec. 12.

### **Garden Fall Clean-up Day**

There will be a special day for a fall clean-up of our school garden. Anyone may participate, so please plan to join us on October 26 at 10:00 a.m. Helpers should come to BASE door, and service hours will be given for participating. If you plan to come, please email, text or call Julie Roland at [j.roland@comcast.net](mailto:j.roland@comcast.net) or 217-899-7800.

### Join us for Mass!

The Watson family invites 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. Watson (4th grade teacher), Colin (6th grade), Sophie (3rd grade), and Bowen (PreK)

### Looking Ahead

Friday, Oct. 18 -

End of 1st quarter!

12:30 p.m. - Children's Raffle assembly in gym

1:30 p.m. dismissal - NO BASE available!!

Saturday, Oct. 19 -

50th Parish/School Auction

Monday, Oct. 21 -

Leadership assembly (wear t-shirts)

**6:00-7:00 p.m. - Speaker from the Attorney General's Office on Technology and Internet Safety**

Tuesday, Oct. 22 - 6th grade trip to the Challenger

Wednesday, Oct. 23 -

Report cards distributed

6:30 p.m. - First Reconciliation meeting for 2nd grade parents

Friday, Oct. 25 -

**Extra Spirit Day to Support the Food Drive** - bring a non-perishable food item or \$1 to participate (not included in pre-paid days)

**5:30-7:30 p.m. - Trunk or Treat!**

Monday, Oct. 28 -

Leadership assembly (wear t-shirts)

Wednesday, Oct. 30 -

11:00 a.m. - Diocesan Mission Mass at Cathedral

Thursday, Oct. 31 - Happy Halloween!

Free Spirit Day for Halloween!

Preschool/PreK parties in AM

1:45 p.m. - PreK-4th grade costume parade

Classroom parties to follow for grades K-8