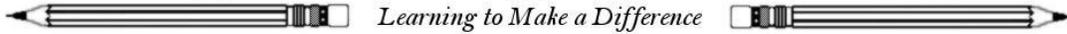


+ Blessed Sacrament



School News



Learning to Make a Difference

November 14, 2019

Dear Parents,

Tomorrow we will have picture retakes and our monthly spirit day since Red Ribbon Week occurred at the beginning of the month. Also, 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. (Teachers will send out specific details for fifth graders.) We appreciate this opportunity for our students to grow in their faith as they participate in service with the other Catholic schools.

Next Wednesday is the midpoint of the second quarter already. Mid-quarter reports will be sent home with all students in grades 2-8. We appreciate you working with the teachers to support your children in their academic and faith development. Please feel free to contact the teachers directly if you have any questions or concerns.

Thanksgiving is just two weeks away, and Christmas is only 41 days away! In this busy time of the year, our school calendar quickly fills up with special events as well. Please be sure to read through the *Looking Ahead* calendar section at the end of the newsletter for all updates. I especially want to draw your attention to an event that has changed from the original calendar. The Knights of Columbus are NO longer holding a breakfast on December 8, so our 2nd graders will NOT be performing that day. However, we will hold our own Christmas performance for the 2nd grade in the cafeteria on Thursday, December 12 at 6:00 p.m. Look for details to be sent by Mrs. Triphahn to our second graders.

Due to Thanksgiving, our next newsletter will go out on December 5th, so I want to share how blessed I am to work with such dedicated teachers and staff members and with such supportive families. Most of all, it's a privilege and a joy each day to have your children at our school. All of you will continue to be included in my prayers of gratitude, especially over the Thanksgiving holiday. On behalf of the entire Blessed Sacrament School faculty and staff, best wishes for a blessed and Happy Thanksgiving to you and your families!

Yours in faith,
Mrs. Dawn Klinner

Directory Correction

Please note that the phone number listed for Bridget West in our school directory is incorrect. The correct number is 312-285-4290. Thank you!

Picture ReTake Day

Picture retake day will occur tomorrow, Friday, November 15 to accommodate the Monday, Wednesday, Friday pre-K class. Any student wishing to have pictures retaken should bring the original picture order to return. Any students who were absent for the first picture day should also have pictures taken tomorrow.

Rediker System Updates

Since the beginning of the second quarter, the Rediker Discipline System is viewable in your PlusPortals account. This is the online version of "pink slips" which will show in Rediker as an "incident." Parents will still receive paper copies to sign and return to the teachers. However, the paper copy may now be on regular white paper printed from the Rediker system. No matter the color of the paper, please continue to have a conversation with your child about the incident and sign and return the notification. Please note that the "incident" in Rediker is the online record of the paper copy for the same date/action (not an additional incident).

Uniform Reminders

Just a reminder that as of November 1, students are no longer allowed to wear uniform shorts to school. Girls must wear non-sheer navy or white tights underneath their jumpers, skirts, and skorts. Tights should NOT have any holes in them! Navy leggings (footless tights) are permitted for girls underneath the jumpers, skirts, and skorts if they are worn with navy socks that cover the ankles.

Student Arrival & Dismissal Safety Reminders

In an effort to keep our students safe, please follow these important reminders when entering & leaving BSS:

- During morning drop-off, please pull all the way forward before letting students out. Then, do NOT let students out of the passenger side of the car if you are still in front of the school sidewalk. Two lanes of cars pull into the school from Glenwood, so it is unsafe for students to exit a car on the passenger side.
- With the recent weather, our drop-off lines have been moving slowly. Please wait to have students exit vehicles until you are safely on the school lot and in a proper place to drop off students. This should not be occurring on the street.

Barnes and Noble Bookfair BEGINS November 25!

The BSS library is hosting a book our annual Barnes and Noble holiday event at the Veterans Parkway store on Monday, November 25, in the evening. The theme is the Polar Express, so be sure to “come aboard” and join us for a fun-filled evening! There will be performances and scavenger hunts. Every student who attends and checks in with one of the librarians will receive a two-book check-out coupon for our school library! **Please use our fair number 12554978 at the register any time that day, including in the Cafe, and the school library gets a percentage of sales. Also, you can use the book fair number online through November 30th, which includes Black Friday!!** The book fair is a great opportunity to start your holiday shopping and support the BSS library at the same time. There is a newly expanded toy section which may come in handy for early Christmas shopping! It's also a good time to pick up some tasty cheesecake (either a slice or whole cheesecake) from the B & N Cafe. Don't forget there is also scrip available to use for your purchases as well. Please join us to kick off the holiday season!

Parent-School Association Update

It was wonderful to have some parents stepping up with new ideas at last Wednesday's PSA meeting! A new family event grew out of the discussion at that meeting. Please see the related article on our Polar Express Family Movie Night. There will also be a Secret Santa Shop that evening. Watch for more details in the coming weeks, but mark your calendar now!

We are so grateful to Melissa Coady and Anne Short, who have led our PSA activities for several years! Their dedication and leadership is inspiring! However, we are now in the process of transitioning the leadership of some PSA activities to new volunteers. Going forward, these individuals will be “learning the ropes” and oversee the following activities: Catholic Schools Week: Marin Lowder and Regina Meado, Fundraising: Megan Peck, Movie Night: Janet Vespa and Teschlyn Woods, and Spirit Wear: Nina Gasperin and Sara Vanderwal. **We are still in need of a person to coordinate the Friday lunch volunteer schedule.** You do not need to be available to work all Friday lunches, rather just schedule the weekly volunteers and verify a small supply inventory on a monthly basis. Please contact Mrs. Burke if you are interested.

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! Contact Mrs. Burke at burke@bssbruins.org if you are interested in learning more about some of the positions available or have specific ideas to share. Thank you for your consideration and support!

Winter is (Apparently) Here!

As snow, cold temperatures, and gusts of winter wind have already arrived, just a reminder that students need to be

dressed appropriately for lunchtime recess. Typically, students go outdoors for recess unless the temperature (actual or wind chill) is below 20F or there is precipitation. It is necessary for students to wear winter-weight coats along with gloves, hats, etc. as it does get quite cold for 20 minutes on the playground. A sweatshirt or light jacket may be sufficient to go from the car into a building, but it is often not enough for recess. For their own safety, students may not be allowed to go outdoors for recess if they are not properly dressed. Thank you for your cooperation with this matter!

Lincoln Memorial Garden Winter Adventure

Enjoy the great outdoors with your kids on Sunday, December 1 from 1:00 - 3:00. Parents and kids will be able to hike, create a craft, enjoy a snack, and enjoy fellowship with fellow Blessed Sacrament families. The event is sponsored by Lincoln Memorial Garden and Chad and Megan DeFrain. An order form went home today with students; proceeds will be added to Auction revenue.

Pastor's Annual Party

Father Jeff invites our parents (adults only, please) to attend the Pastor's Annual Party to be held on Sunday, November 24, 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 may be needed after school on Friday, Nov. 22, or Saturday, Nov. 23., to help with set-up for the Pastor's Annual Party. Please call Kim Hoffmann at 522-7534, ext. 206, if you are interested in helping. This is a good opportunity to earn service hours!

All Aboard The Polar Express!

Mark your calendars for Friday, December 13 for a family movie night. The event will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the cafeteria and include special snacks and activities as well as the movie. There will also be a Secret Santa Shop open for students to purchase small gifts for family members if interested. Watch for more details in the coming weeks. Special thanks to Janet Vespa and Tesch Woods for leading this new initiative for our school!

Catholic Charities Sponsor-a-Family

Each year Blessed Sacrament School participates in a program sponsored by Catholic Charities to benefit needy families in the Springfield community at Christmas. This year, we are providing gifts and food for a family of twelve. To provide gifts for the children, each student is asked to bring a minimum donation of \$3.00. Gifts will then be purchased from the funds collected. Additionally, the faculty will provide food baskets for Christmas dinner for the family. Please send your donation in an envelope marked “Catholic Charities” to the school office by Tuesday, November 26. Thank you!

Donations for the Gift of Giving Program

Each year, the Gift of Giving Program provides students at St. Patrick's School the opportunity to choose and wrap three gifts for their loved ones for Christmas. BSS eighth graders assist the St. Pat's students one morning in December by helping them "shop", wrap, and tag the gifts. They also assist with the set-up and clean-up. The St. Pat's students are always so grateful for this opportunity!

Presently, they are collecting small gift items and used gift bags, tissue paper, bows, ribbons, or half-used rolls of wrapping paper in order to "stock the shelves." There is a container inside our school entry way to collect the items, and a list of other donations needed is also posted on our website. Donations will be accepted through November 26.

Can We Scout You In?

Blessed Sacrament Church's Cub Scout Pack 31 is ready for a new season of family fun with a focus on faith, citizenship, fitness, and character development. The best time to join is now! Interested and current Scouts in Kindergarten - Fifth Grade and their families are invited to join us Friday, November 15th at 7:30p at the Springfield Gymnastics Center to learn more about this meritorious organization and plans for this year. Cost for access to the open gym is \$6 per child with copy of the attached flyer. Siblings 5 to 14 years are welcome as well. For questions or more information text or call Pack Committee Chair, Melinda Osborn, at 299-5033.

Christmas Greetings!

It's not too soon to order your Christmas cards. We sell \$25 Shutterfly gift cards - just type in the code on the card when you check out at the Shutterfly website. To order, send an email to scrip@bssbruins.org or use the Scrip order form on the website <https://www.bssbruins.org/scrip-program>

Books on Stage Performance

BSS student Arianna Collins is performing in the upcoming Books on Stage performance presented by the Springfield Youth Performance Group on November 23, at 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. and November 24, at 3 p.m. at Hoogland Center for the Arts. This hour-long child-friendly show is a great introduction to the performing arts for young children.

See beloved children's literature brought to life through music and movement with works from favorite authors. Watch as your favorite characters leap off the page and onto the stage!

Prior to the show, there will be free, interactive activities for the children outside of Theatre Three. General admission tickets are only \$8 and may be purchased at the Hoogland Center for the Arts box office or are available in advance by calling 217-523-2787 or by ordering online at www.hcfta.org. Please call Taryn Grant with any questions at 553-4475.

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!

Great Monday Morning Group!

Perhaps this is a great opportunity that "just fits you." A group of parishioners meets on Monday mornings at 9:15 a.m. to learn and deepen their faith through understanding and reflection. We view a DVD by top-notch speakers (approx. 50-60 min.) on a topic of our faith and then discuss it. It is a relaxed atmosphere with light refreshments. We end at 11:00 a.m. (some may have to leave earlier). It is an opportunity to be with fantastic people and view DVDs about our wonderful faith! We meet in the Rectory Basement meeting room. Enter the rectory door on Walnut and come down the stairs. Contact Deacon Dave with any questions at 528-7521 (office) or 971-4483 (cell). We look forward to you joining us!

Advent by Candlelight servers needed

Hey 7th and 8th graders! Need community service hours? We need you! The Blessed Sacrament Women's Club is asking 7th and 8th graders to help serve drinks at the annual Advent by Candlelight evening. The event is held Sunday, December 8th in the school cafeteria and gymnasium. Students are needed from 3:30 PM to 6 PM. Help out your Parish! For questions and to volunteer, contact Sally Petrone at 217.341.9088 or Sallyannpetrone@gmail.com. Thank you!

Join us for Mass!

The Rogers 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.



Mason (6th grade), Deon (4th grade), DaVontae (3rd grade), and Jade (1st grade)

Looking Ahead

- Friday, Nov. 15 -
 - Lifetouch picture re-take day
 - PSA Spirit Day (included in prepaid days)
 - 5th graders service day at Little Flower
- Monday, Nov. 18 -
 - Leadership assembly (wear t-shirts)

Wednesday, Nov. 20 -
Mid-quarter progress reports go home
6:30 p.m. - First Reconciliation for 2nd graders

Sunday, Nov. 24 -
5:30 p.m. - Pastor's Annual Appreciation Party

Monday, Nov. 25 -
Leadership assembly (wear t-shirts)
Barnes and Noble Book Fair tonight at the store!!

Wednesday - Friday, Nov, 27-30 -
No School! Happy Thanksgiving!!

Monday, Dec. 2 -
Leadership assembly (wear t-shirts)

Tuesday, Dec. 3 -
Penance service for grades 6-8

Wednesday, Dec. 4 -
Penance service for grades 3-5

Thursday, Dec. 5 -
6:00 - 7:30 p.m. - SHG Open House

Friday, Dec. 6 -
PSA Spirit Day (included in prepaid days)
7:45 a.m.
First Friday Benediction for gr. 2-8

Saturday, Dec. 7 -
9:00-11:00 a.m. - Speech Meet at St. Agnes for 7th
and 8th grade students

Sunday, Dec. 8 -
Advent by Candlelight in the cafeteria

Monday, Dec. 9 -
Leadership assembly (wear t-shirts)

Wednesday, Dec. 11 -
1:30 p.m. - early dismissal for faculty meeting

Thursday, Dec. 12 -
All school Mass
6:00 p.m. Second grade Christmas program

Friday, Dec. 13 -
6:00 p.m. - Polar Express family movie night

Sunday, Dec. 15 -
First grade Christmas programs at 1:00 & 3:00 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 16 -
Leadership assembly (wear t-shirts)

Tuesday, Dec. 17 -
Third grade Christmas programs at 10:00 a.m. & 1:30
p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 18 -
PK1 & PK2 Christmas programs at 9:30 a.m. & 2:00
p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 19 -
Kindergarten Christmas program at 9:30 a.m.

Friday, Dec. 20 -
11:30 a.m. Dismissal (NO BASE)

Monday, Jan. 6 -
Classes resume