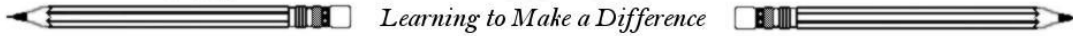


+Blessed Sacrament



School News



Learning to Make a Difference

October 31, 2019

Dear Parents,

It has been an exciting couple of weeks since our last newsletter! The auction had a fantastic turnout, and we are all so appreciative for the volunteers who helped plan and execute the evening along with all those who supported the event. We are ordering the Chromebooks for the 5th and 6th grades through the Fund-A-Project and other donors, so thank you!

Just before the auction, I hosted my second Principal-for-a-Day from the 2018 auction winners. Principal Jack Madiar wonderfully led the faculty and students last week with leadership skills that are sure to take him far in life!

This week, we have been celebrating Red Ribbon Week with encouraging messages and themes about making healthy choices for our bodies and being kind to others. Also today our school is filled with all kinds of Halloween spirit, so thank you to all the room parents and volunteers who are helping to celebrate with our students! We will then follow All Hallows Eve with our all-school Mass tomorrow to celebrate All Saints Day. Third graders from around the city will join together at BSS tomorrow afternoon for their special event called Third Graders in Faith. We are happy to share our school for such a neat reason!

Thank you for all your support of the Catholic Schools Food Drive--our entryway is full of food to be picked up tomorrow, and I loved seeing the humility in the students as they gave so generously.

Veterans' Day is around the corner, and we will have students wear red, white, and blue shirts with uniform bottoms on Monday, Nov. 11 as we honor all our veterans.

We will also see many of you next week for parent-teacher conferences. Have a happy and safe Halloween!

Yours in faith,
Mrs. Dawn Klinner

Thank You for Your Support of the Trunk or Treat!

The Builders Club is grateful for the enthusiastic support of the Trunk or Treat last Friday evening! We had a wonderful turnout and raised over \$530 for the missions. We appreciate so many families who decorated their trunks and all of the little "characters" who came to collect the goodies. We definitely plan to make this an annual event. Kudos to Michele Hinds-Greenwood, Pat Pierce, and all of the Builders Club members who worked to make this such a fun family event!

Rediker System Emails and Email Response Time

Recently, we have experienced a few difficulties sending emails through the Rediker system. You may have received emails with no text content and with question marks interspersed throughout the text. These have been valid emails generated from the office computers, and we are working to resolve this technical issue. We apologize for any confusion!

Also, please note that, while parents and students are welcome to email teachers at any time with questions or concerns, teachers may not have the opportunity to check their email or respond after 3:15 p.m. Therefore, please allow 24 hours to receive a response to an email. As always, if there is a very urgent matter, please phone the school office for assistance in addition to ending an email. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation!

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. 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.

Specials Classes' Newsletters

Have you ever received the answer "not much" or "I don't remember" when you have asked your child about what they did in their special class at school that day? Now, we have an answer for that! At the beginning of each quarter, newsletters from the art, computers, music, and physical education departments will accompany a Thursday newsletter. The first issues are being sent home today. Please be sure to catch up on all of the wonderful activities for our students in these important classes every day!

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!

Grandparents' Day is Friday, November 8!

All students are welcome to invite their grandparents or special friends to join us next Friday, November 8 to tour the school, enjoy refreshments, and celebrate Mass together. There will be a photo booth available in the gym near the north library entrance for family photos taken with grandparents' cameras or cell phones.

Please be aware that normal student drop-off will still occur in the main parking lot from 7:45-8:05. Parking for grandparents will not be available on the lot until AFTER 8:05 a.m. in order to accommodate morning drop-off. Grandparents may enter the building through both entrances on Laurel Street and the main school entrance off of the parking lot.

In order for the teachers to have time to take attendance, our **guests will be asked to wait in the cafeteria or gym until 8:15 a.m.** when the older siblings will go to the youngest sibling's classroom to meet the guests. An announcement will be made at that time for grandparents to proceed to the classrooms of their youngest grandchild. Mass will be celebrated at 9:45 a.m., and the students will be dismissed from Mass for the remainder of the day. They do not need to return to the school and may leave with their guests. BASE is not available that day. Special thanks to Rachel Pennell and Tulin Ozyurt for coordinating this event!

Sponsor- a Book in the Library on Grandparents' Day

Be sure to bring your grandparents into the library next Friday morning to look around! Grandparents may also opt to purchase a new book for the library at that time, in their grandchildren's honor. The cost is \$10 for a paperback book or \$20 for a hardback book. The grandchildren will have the honor of being the first student(s) to check out the book!

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 to volunteer. You will earn service hours, and this is always such an enjoyable morning!

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>

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. **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!!** There is a newly expanded toy section which may come in handy for early Christmas shopping! Please join us to kick off the holiday season!

Parent- Teacher Conferences Next Week!

Just a reminder that parent-teacher conferences are scheduled for next Thursday and Friday, November 7 and 8. Students have an early dismissal each day with NO BASE, so plan accordingly. Please let the teacher know in advance if you are unable to keep your scheduled appointment. Thank you for your consideration! We look forward to seeing everyone!

Parent-School Association Meeting On November 6

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 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!

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 this Saturday, November 2, at 10:00 a.m. Helpers should come to the 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 or 217-899-7800.

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!

BSS Spirit Wear

There will be a second opportunity to order spirit wear in 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.

Ansar Shrine Circus Tickets

The annual Ansar Shrine Circus is November 8-10 at the Bank of Springfield Center downtown. Free tickets for children in grades pre-k - grade 6 are being sent home today.

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.

Little Flower School Holiday Craft Bazaar

Little Flower is hosting their 38th annual holiday craft bazaar on November 9-10 in the parish center. There are over 55 vendors, a kid’s craft table, concessions, and a delicious bake sale. Please see the flyer emailed with today’s newsletter for more information.

Join us for Mass!

The Wentz 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.



Allison (7th grade)

Looking Ahead

- Friday, Nov. 1 -
Modified Spirit Day for Red Ribbon Week! - wear a BSS spirit shirt or a team shirt/jersey of your choice with jeans or uniform bottoms
All school Mass for All Saints Day
Third Graders in Faith at BSS
- Saturday, Nov. 2 -
10:00 a.m. - Garden Club clean-up
- Sunday, Nov. 3 -
Daylight Savings Time Ends! Set your clocks back!
- Monday, November 4 -
Leadership assembly (wear t-shirts)
- Wednesday, Nov. 6 -
6:00 p.m. - Parent-School Association meeting in the cafeteria - please plan to attend!
- Thursday, Nov. 7 -
11:30 a.m. - dismissal - No BASE available!
12:30 - 8:00 p.m. - Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Friday, Nov. 8 - Grandparents’ Day!
8:15 a.m. - arrival for grandparents
9:45 a.m. - Mass
Dismissal is immediately following Mass; No BASE!
12:00 - 5:00 p.m. - Parent - Teacher Conferences
- Monday, Nov. 11 -
Students may wear red, white, and blue shirts with uniform bottoms to honor our Veterans.
Leadership assembly
- Wednesday, Nov. 13 -
1:30 p.m. - dismissal for faculty meeting
- Thursday, Nov. 14 -
3:00 p.m. - Garden Club meeting
- Friday, Nov. 15 -
Lifetouch picture re-take day
5th graders service day at Little Flower
- Monday, Nov. 18 -
Leadership assembly (wear t-shirts)
- Wednesday, Nov. 20 -
6:30 p.m. - First Reconciliation for 2nd graders
- Sunday, Nov. 24 -
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!!