

+ Blessed Sacrament



School News

Learning to Make a Difference

December 19, 2019

Dear Parents,

Advent is such a beautiful time, and it has been wonderful to have so many of our families attend our Christmas programs recently. We know our students have been thrilled to share their songs and plays with you. I extend a special thanks to the teachers and the teaching assistants who make these events so memorable.

Last Friday, I had wonderful extra help with fourth grader Samuel Hallam as my Principal-for-the-Day. He was a professional in all aspects of his "job", and I'm sure he will be a great leader in his future chosen profession. Kudos to you, Samuel!

Our Bruins continue to be active amid the boys' basketball, girls' volleyball, and wrestling seasons that have begun. Good luck to our 8th grade girls basketball team as they finish the state tournament tonight with the game to determine third place. We are so proud of all our Bruins!

Please remember that tomorrow, Dec. 20, is an early dismissal day with students being dismissed at 11:30 a.m. B.A.S.E. will NOT be provided. Friday is also the end of the second quarter, and report cards will be distributed at the end of our first week back in January.

This will be the last newsletter for 2019! On behalf of the faculty and staff, I thank you for all your warm greetings of the season and for your thoughtfulness and generosity to all of us all year long. I hope you and your children are able to share family time to celebrate the birth of Christ and also enjoy a relaxing Christmas vacation. We will see you on January 6, 2020!

Yours in faith,
Mrs. Dawn Klinner

Free Christmas Spirit Day!!

Tomorrow, Friday, December 20, is a free Christmas spirit day! Students may wear red, green, or an appropriate Christmas shirt or BSS spirit shirt with jeans for no charge.

Welcome to Blessed Sacrament School!

We would like to extend a warm welcome to some new students who have joined our school since the beginning of the year. Elise Tomton is in the sixth grade and her twin sisters, Lucy and Claire, are in the second grade. We also welcomed Serguiz Cabal to second grade just last week!

Thank You! Thank You!

Thank you to all of the families who supported our PSA events last week, the Santa Secret Shop and the Polar Express movie night! It was neat to see so many students taking their time to carefully select gifts for family and friends last week. It was so sweet to see how many little ones enjoyed the BSS Polar Express with their families on Friday evening, including the special visitors! We are so grateful to Marin Lowder and ReJeana Meado for organizing the Santa shop and to Teschlyn Woods and Janet Vespa for planning the wonderful movie night activities!

PreSchool Survey

In order to continue providing a high quality, Catholic education to our Blessed Sacrament families, we are gathering input into the needs for preschool/preK offerings for the 2020-2021 school year. All school families with a child between the ages of 3-5 by September 1, 2020, who are interested in utilizing our preschool/preK programs next year are encouraged to complete the brief survey found at the link below. Surveys should be completed by December 20, 2019, and can be found at <https://forms.gle/S6itUhtLoGQDJw4g9>

Congratulations to Speech Meet Participants!

Congratulations to our seventh and eighth grade students who participated in the parochial school speech meet last Saturday morning at St. Agnes School. There were 40 seventh grade and 3 eighth grade students representing our school, and they earned an impressive 31 first place and 12 second place ribbons! We're so proud of their hard work and how well they represented our school! Special thanks to Ms. Seelbach for coordinating our speech meet students.

SHG Placement Test

The SHG Placement Test will be offered on Saturday, January 11, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. Doors open at 8:00 a.m. Sr. Katherine O'Connor, President, will be available to answer parents' questions at 8:30 a.m. in the Choral Room. Students will need to bring #2 pencils and the \$10 testing fee. No calculators will be allowed. Pre-registration online is required by Friday, January 10. Use the following link to register: <http://bit.ly/SHGPlacement2020>. Please contact Amanda Mandeville at 217-787-9732 ext. 155 or mandeville@shg.org if you are unable to take the test.

January Hot Lunch Orders

The online ordering portal for January hot lunches is now open and will remain open until January 2. However, if you choose to pay by cash or check, or need to add funds to your students' accounts, please be sure to send the money to the school office by December 20. Thank you!

Catholic Schools Week

Our annual Catholic Schools Week celebration is just around the corner after Christmas break! The week will kick off with our annual CultureFest celebration on Sunday, January 26, from 9 a.m. - noon. Our parent coordinators, ReJeana Meado and Marin Lowder, have several exciting activities lined up for that week, including BSS family hour at SkyZone on Tuesday, January 28, Chick-fil-A night on Wednesday, January 29, and family rollerskating night on Thursday, January 30. The parent appreciation lunch will be on Wednesday, January 29.

Many volunteers are needed for each day that week, especially to assist with the lunch on Wednesday, January 29 and the student lunch on Thursday, January 30. Please contact ReJeana Meado at rejeanameado@yahoo.com or Marin Lowder at marin.lowder@gmail.com to volunteer. It's a fun way to earn service hours!

We do have a new component to our Community Day activities on Monday, January 27. We will be hosting a blood drive in support of the Central Illinois Community Blood Center. Their Bloodmobile vehicle will be on our parking lot from 2:00-5:30 p.m. on Monday, January 27. Adults able to donate blood may sign up for an appointment online now using this link: https://www.bloodcenterimpact.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/92474

Please watch for more details on all Catholic Schools Week events in early January!

Time to Double-Check Uniforms

As we are rapidly approaching the mid-point of the school year, now is a good time to check uniforms over Christmas vacation. Please check the length of girls' skirts/skorts/jumpers as well as if new tights or leggings are needed for the coming months. 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.

Please also check the boys' pants to determine if new ones are needed for the remainder of the winter months. We want to keep our students looking sharp and in compliance with the uniform guidelines. We appreciate your assistance!

Parent-School Association Update

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.

Athletic Eligibility

We have lots of athletic teams beginning their seasons, and it is a busy time of year with school work and holiday events. However, it is very important for students to stay focused on their school work. Please remind your children participating in BSS sports to work hard to maintain good grades and behavior, especially over the next few weeks. If a student becomes academically ineligible on the last grade check before Christmas break, the student will be ineligible to participate in any practices or games beginning Monday, Dec. 23, through Sunday, January 12, when the next eligibility check is completed and goes into effect.

Young Authors

Each year our students participate in a writing activity called Young Authors. The Illinois Young Authors program has a long history. It is a celebration of the written work of children in kindergarten through eighth grades. The purpose of the statewide program, sponsored by the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Language and Literacy Council, is to support classroom teachers in their efforts to encourage and improve students' abilities in writing, reading, listening and sharing, and to recognize the accomplishments of young authors.

Participation is optional for kindergarten through second grade but is a class assignment in grades 3-8. All students in grades 3-8 will receive one complimentary "bare book" for use in creating the finished manuscripts. Additional books are for sale in the school office for \$3.50 each. The pages of the books are not printed with lines, but students may write/type their stories on loose paper and then paste them into the book.

Any students in kindergarten through second grade who choose to write books should return them to the school office by January 10. Teachers in grades 3-8 may set an earlier deadline if they so choose. Once again, all the manuscripts will be on display at CultureFest, which is scheduled for Sunday, January 26.

Girls on the Run Volunteers Needed!

Our 3rd and 4th grade Girls on the Run Spring 2020 program will be needing volunteers to help with practices. The days and times of the practices will depend on the availability of the volunteers, so it may be 4:00-5:30 or something similar. You will receive service hours for being a volunteer. Volunteers must have completed Protecting God's Children. If you have any questions, please email Mary Tuttle, GOTR Coach. Her email is tuttles1@yahoo.com.

SHG JUNIOR POMS CAMP 2020

The SHG Golden Angel Poms will be hosting a Junior Poms Camp on Saturday, January 4th from 10am-1pm at the SHG East Campus. Campers will also be performing with the Golden Angels during halftime of the SHG Boys Basketball game that night. All Pre-K-8th Graders are invited to register! Email jugan@shg.org to receive a registration form or visit the SHG Facebook page. GO CYCS!

Walk-ins are welcome the day of camp, but pre-registration by Friday, December 20th is required to guarantee a t-shirt

Join us for Mass!

The Christie 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.



Mary Katherine (8th grade), John (7th grade), Matthew (5th grade), Thomas (2nd grade), Mrs. Christie (7th grade teacher)

Looking Ahead

Friday, Dec. 20 -

Classroom Christmas parties

11:30 a.m. Dismissal (NO BASE)

Monday, Jan. 6 - Classes Resume

Wednesday, Jan. 8 -

3:00-5:00 p.m. - Bruinettes practice

Thursday, Jan. 9 -

3:00-5:00 p.m. - Bruinettes practice

Friday, Jan. 10 -

PSA spirit day (included with prepaid days)

Report Cards!

3:00-5:00 p.m. - Bruinettes practice

Monday, Jan. 13 -

Leadership assembly (wear t-shirts)

Wednesday, Jan. 15 -

11:30 a.m. - dismissal for faculty inservice;

No BASE available!!

Monday, Jan. 20 -

No school! MLK, Jr. Day

Wednesday, Jan. 22 -

All-school Mass

8th graders leave for March for Life

Thursday, Jan. 23 -

6th grade School Choice event at CTK

Sunday, Jan. 26-Friday, Jan. 31 -

Catholic Schools Week (more details to come)

Sunday, Jan. 26 -

8th graders return from March for Life

9:00 - noon - CultureFest

6:00 p.m. - Fine Arts Night

Monday, Jan. 27 -

Leadership assembly (wear t-shirts)

Tuesday, Jan. 28 -

All- school Mass

6:00-7:00 p.m. - Family Night at SkyZone \$10 per jumper includes SkySocks.

Wednesday, Jan. 29 -

Parent lunch with students

4:30 - 7:30 p.m. - Chick-fil-A BSS Spirit Night at

the restaurant - a portion of sales during this time

(must present CFA flyer) will benefit our PSA!

Please join us for dinner!

Thursday, Jan. 30 -

5:30-7:30 p.m. - Family Roller Skating Night at Skateland; \$5 per skater (skates included)

Friday, Jan. 31 -

11:30 a.m. dismissal - **No BASE available!**

7:00 p.m. - Builders Club dance for BSS 7th & 8th-grade students in the cafeteria