

† Blessed Sacrament



School News

Learning to Make a Difference

December 5, 2019

Dear Parents,

I hope all of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving Day and break! With the liturgical season of Advent beginning last Sunday, our students will now share in our Advent preparations with our weekly Advent wreath ceremony that started on Monday, Dec. 2. In addition, each morning during Advent, the students will also hear about a Jesse Tree symbol, and the symbols will then be displayed on our Jesse Tree in the cafeteria. We especially thank the Tureskis/Horton family for making us a new Jesse Tree and ornaments! This week our students in grades 3-8 also received the sacrament of Reconciliation. It is a special time of year!

Good luck to our 7th and 8th graders who will be performing their speeches at the Springfield Catholic Speech Meet this Saturday, beginning at 9:00 a.m., at St. Agnes School. Also, special thanks to Ms. Seelbach for overseeing and organizing our speech students this year!

Since our last newsletter, some of our Bruins teams finished their seasons. Our 5th and 6th grade girls basketball teams ended up facing off against each other in the championship game with 6th grade taking the title. Our 7th grade girls basketball team finished their season during the regional tournament. All three teams had successful seasons, and we thank the coaches, parents, and players for all their dedication! Good luck to our 8th grade girls basketball team as they play in the regional championship tonight. We also congratulate the following players selected for the Central Illinois All Star Basketball Game: Maggie Fleischli, Callie Huston, and Norah Long! We are so proud of all our Bruins!

As we move through the Advent season, I hope your family will spend time preparing together for the birth of Christ. I hope this weekend gives you an opportunity for some special family time!

Yours in faith,
Mrs. Dawn Klinner

Barnes and Noble Book Fair Thank You! Thank You!

We appreciate all of the families who supported our annual Barnes and Noble Book Fair last week. It was great to see so many families there throughout the evening. Special thanks to our librarians, Mrs. Criscione and Mrs. Allen, for their preparation and coordination of the evening! We are also grateful to Mrs. Triphah for leading the kindergarten and first-grade classes in holiday songs.

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>

Thank you, Sacred-Heart Griffin High School!

The Springfield Catholic grade schools each received \$1,000 recently from SHG to assist in providing a high-quality Catholic education to our students. We are so grateful that they shared the proceeds of their successful raffle with us!

SHG Preview Night

On Thursday, December 5, from 6:00- 7:30 p.m., you're invited to come and see what life is like at SHG, meet teachers and students, and check out our beautiful school in a self-guided or personal tour! This event is free and open to 5th-8th grade students, transfer students, and their parents or guardians who are interested in learning more about what makes Sacred Heart-Griffin a great school for students to learn and grow.

For more information or to set up a Shadow Day, contact Amanda Mandeville, Director of Enrollment Management and Communications, at mandeville@shg.org or 217-787-9732.

All Aboard The BSS 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!

Luer's Uniform Sale

Luer's is having a storewide 20% off sale November 29-December 7. Now is a good time to stock up on uniform options for the colder months ahead. All dance and gymnastics apparel, selected shoes, and Melissa and Doug toys are also on sale just in time for the holidays.

Auditions for Junior High Musical

All junior high students are invited to audition for parts in the spring musical, *Annie Jr.*, to be presented on April 3 & 4. Auditions for 7th & 8th graders will be held Monday, Dec. 16 (2:30-4:30 p.m.), Tuesday, Dec. 17 (2:30-3:30 p.m.), and Wednesday, Dec. 18 (2:30-4:30 p.m.). Sixth graders will be auditioning for ensemble parts only on Thursday, Dec. 19 (2:30-4:00 p.m.). A sign-up sheet for students is posted outside the music room. Please contact Mrs. Triphahn if you have any questions. After parts are assigned, there will be a meeting for all students involved, and additional information will be provided. We look forward to seeing our junior high musical this spring!

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!

Builders Club Stocking Stuffer Project

A letter went home on Tuesday about the annual Builders Club school-wide service project to assemble Christmas stockings to be distributed to the needy through Catholic Charities. Our goal is to assemble 1,000 stockings full of treats! Each grade level is asked to bring in one or two packages of the candy assigned to their grade level by Wednesday, December 11. All students will help with the assembly on Friday, December 13. There is a flyer accompanying today's newsletter and posted online with the list of requested candies. Thank you for your support!

Santa's Secret Shop is Coming to Our School

The PSA will be hosting a Santa's Secret Shop this year from December 11-13. This service provides an opportunity for children to choose and purchase small gifts for family and friends. All students will have an opportunity to shop during the school day on December 12 and 13. The Shop will also be open during the Polar Express Movie Night on December 13. A portion of all sales will support the PSA's programs for our students, specifically the family movie night and Catholic Schools Week activities. Please see the flyer and envelope being sent home today with every student for more information. Thank you for your support!

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.

Christmas Scrip!

Scrip Christmas Gift Card Order Forms are available online. Please consider purchasing Scrip gift cards for as many of your Christmas purchases as possible. You can give the cards as gifts or purchase them ahead of time when you shop for gifts at participating stores. Either way, you'll save time and energy and the potential revenue for Blessed Sacrament school is enormous. Return your completed form to the school office with payment and the gift cards will be available the following week. All forms must be turned in by Monday, December 16th to guarantee Christmas delivery. Each gift card purchase raises funds for Blessed Sacrament School. Download the Christmas Order Form and a Shopping Planner at www.bssbruins.org/scrip-program. Contact scrip@bssbruins.org for more information.

Box Tops for Education Collection

Students are bringing home a Box Tops collection form today. Completed forms are due Friday, December 13. Everyone who returns a completed collection sheet will receive a small Christmas treat. Thank you for your support!

Students Performing in *The Nutcracker*

The Springfield Ballet Company's 45th annual production of *The Nutcracker* will be held at Sangamon Auditorium on December 14-15. It features elaborate scenery, colorful costumes, exquisite dancing, and beautiful music. The production features a cast of 141, including Company dancers, local actors, young dancers from the community and professional guest artists. Five BSS students are performing in the show: Molly Davis, Catherine Gardner, Aislyn Grant (as Clara), Izzy Stewart, and Kaden Wareham. Shows are at 2 pm and 7 pm on Saturday, December 14th and again at 2 pm on Sunday, December 15th.

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.

Illinois Tax Credit Scholarship Program

Are you interested in helping B.S.S. students with financial need while qualifying for a 75% Illinois income tax credit for yourself under the Invest in Kids Act? Please join us for an informational meeting on Wednesday, December 11 at 6:30 in the school conference room to see how you can help provide scholarships to needy students and benefit from the 75% Illinois tax credit. The Men's Club will be sponsoring the event and providing drinks and snacks. Step by step instructions will be provided for participating in this beneficial program for B.S.S.. For questions or more information, call Kim Hoffmann at 522-7534 or reach out via email at hoffmann@bssbruins.org.

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.

Families to Light Advent Candles at Mass

Would your family like to light an Advent candle at Mass? Sign up for one of the Masses during Advent (December 8, 15 and 22 are the remaining Sundays) through Sign-up Genius. You need to arrive at Mass ten minutes early and check in with the priest. Process in, light the candle and return to your seat for Mass. The link to sign up is <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040c4dadab2ba1fe3-advant> or go to the link at the right on our homepage at www.bssbruins.org.

Holly Fair and Bake Sale

St. Anthony Greek Orthodox Church is hosting their annual Holly Fair and Bake Sale on Saturday, December 7, from 10 am - 3 pm. Greek pastries and food will be available to eat in or carry out. Please see the flyer accompanying today's newsletter for more information.

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 O'Brien 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.



Miriam (7th grade), Jude (5th grade), and Tess (3rd grade)

Looking Ahead

Thursday, Dec. 5 -
6:00 - 7:30 p.m. - SHG Open House
Friday, Dec. 6 -
PSA Spirit Day (included in prepaid days)
7th/8th grade IMSA field trip
8th grade IESA Scholar Attitude applications due
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 -
Jubilate choir performances in PM
1:30 p.m. - early dismissal for faculty meeting
6:30 p.m. - IL tax credit scholarship program meeting
Thursday, Dec. 12 -
All school Mass
3:00-4:00 Garden club meeting
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)
Musical auditions after school
Tuesday, Dec. 17 -
3rd gr. Christmas programs at 10:00 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.
Musical auditions after school
Wednesday, Dec. 18 -
PK1 & PK2 Christmas programs at 9:30 a.m. & 2:00 p.m.
Musical auditions after school
Thursday, Dec. 19 -
Kindergarten Christmas program at 9:30 a.m.
Friday, Dec. 20 -
Classroom Christmas parties
11:30 a.m. Dismissal (NO BASE)
Monday, Jan. 6 - Classes Resume