

# + Blessed Sacrament



## School News

 Learning to Make a Difference 

September 5, 2019

### A Note to Parents

Dear Parents,

It was great to see so many of you at our Parent Back-to-School Night. We hope the evening provided you with additional information regarding Rediker as well as an opportunity to meet your child's teacher and learn about the best way to communicate with each other. We appreciate your partnership in making this a successful and rewarding year!

Congratulations to the classes that won an extra Spirit Day for having the highest percentage of parent attendance at our Back-to-School Night. The winning homerooms include Mrs. Erwin's first grade and Mrs. Eck's sixth grade. A date for the extra Spirit Days will be coordinated by the teachers.

This month we will be focusing on the Beatitude, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." We have ordered our leadership T-shirts, and we look forward to their arrival soon so that everyone may wear them each Monday. Again this year, each class has been partnered with a buddy class of a different age level within the school. Beginning next week, our students will be sitting with their buddies at all leadership assemblies and all-school Masses. It is a great opportunity to foster positive relationships between our students and empower them all as leaders.

Our Bruins have also been competing in a number of sports this fall with some seasons wrapping up. Members of our golf team participated at sectionals: Gigi Gray, Macie Petropoulos, Layden Tamblin, Laney Aleman, Julian Valenti, and Alio Giacomini. These students move on to represent us at state on Sept. 14: Laney Aleman, Macie Petropoulos, and Julian Valenti. The school will hold a special golf pep rally on Friday, Sept. 13 at 2:30 p.m. Congratulations and good luck!

**Please remember that this year we would like to have photos of school families at Mass for the newsletters, so please send your family photos taken in our church to [klinner@bssbruins.org](mailto:klinner@bssbruins.org).**

Yours in faith,  
*Mrs. Dawn Klinner*

### PSA Wrapping Paper Sales Fundraiser

PSA's biggest fundraiser of the year is underway! The sale runs through Monday, Sept. 9. Everyone who participates will receive a small prize. In addition, the top seller will receive a prize of \$100, and the second-place seller will receive a prize of \$50. Please help support our PSA and our school!

### PSA Spirit Days

Tomorrow we will have a PSA-sponsored Spirit Day. For a \$1 donation, students may wear any official BSS Spirit Day t-shirt, any sports team shirt, or the uniform shirt untucked with jeans or uniform shorts, pants, or skirts. (No other shorts are allowed.) If a jersey is worn, a plain white short-sleeved shirt should be worn underneath the jersey. The sports team shirts are not usually included in our regular Spirit Days but are acceptable again this week as many families do not yet have a Spirit Day shirt.

Our Spirit Day tomorrow, Friday, Sept. 6, is included for families who already paid the fee on Fee Night. All those who did not opt to pay for Spirit Days in advance must send in \$1 per student in order for their child to participate.

### Box Tops Winner

Congratulations to our winner from the Box Tops drawing at Fee Night: the Gasperin family! They won \$50 off tuition! Thank you to all who participated, and please continue to support our school with Box Tops throughout the year.

### Digital Safety Presentation for Parents

Christ the King is hosting an important digital safety presentation for parents on Thursday, September 12, from 6-7:30 in the CTK parish center. Digital safety, including appropriate internet, online gaming, and social media usage, is an increasingly critical topic for families today. Children often have rather unlimited access to these means of communication even though they do not fully understand their proper use or the (often long-term) consequences of misuse. Christine Feller from the Illinois Attorney General's Office will present a program for parents dealing with a variety of these issues. It is open to parents of all Catholic schools. BSS parents who attend will receive credit for two service hours, so be sure to sign in when you arrive at CTK. Please see the flyer accompanying today's newsletter for more information. We hope you join us as we work together to promote a better digital environment and appropriate use of social media and the internet amongst our families and students.

### Builders Club Meeting

The first Builders Club meeting of the year will be held next Thursday, September 12, at 2:30 in the cafeteria. This is open to any 7th and 8th graders interested in joining this service organization. Please contact Mrs. Greenwood in the school office with any questions.

### **Fall Scholastic Book Fair Coming Soon!**

Our annual fall book fair is coming September 23-27, and we are in need of volunteers for this event, which runs from 8:00-2:45 on school days. This is always such a fun event to benefit our library, and a great way to earn service hours. If you are interested in volunteering in this capacity, please contact our librarians, Mrs. Lori Criscione at [criscione@bssbruins.org](mailto:criscione@bssbruins.org) or Mrs. Sarah Allen at [allen@bssbruins.org](mailto:allen@bssbruins.org). Thank you for your consideration!

### **Seventh and Eighth Grade IMSA Fusion Program**

The first session of the 7th and 8th grade IMSA Fusion program will take place on Tuesday, September 10, from 2:30-4:00 in the science lab. Parents received an email last week with details. Please contact Mrs. Burke if you have any questions or did not receive the email.

### **Volunteers Make the Annual Auction AWESOME!**

The 50th Annual Blessed Sacrament Auction is the biggest fundraiser of the year, and we need your help to make it AMAZING! There is no experience necessary. Earn service hours and have FUN by signing up today at <http://signup.com/go/BSSauction> or contact Megan DeFrain at (217) 971-8726. Thank you!

### **Rediker Online Access**

It was wonderful to have so many families join us for our informational presentation on Rediker at our back-to-school night last week! Hopefully, you have taken the opportunity to activate your account. If you have not already done so, we ask that all school families complete this process as soon as possible since Rediker will be a significant means of communication between home and school this year. There is a PlusPortals app available for both IOS and Android operating systems. Please note that it typically takes about a half-day for the system to sync the app once you have activated your account through your web browser.

Families will have access to daily homework assignments, grades, announcements, attendance, behavior incidents, and much more. Parents are also able to communicate with teachers through the Rediker program's email messaging system.

Please contact Mrs. Klinner or Mrs. Burke with any questions. We appreciate your understanding and patience as we continue to get the system up and running this year!

### **Support B.S.S. at Bites on the Blvd.**

The MacArthur Boulevard Association will sponsor their next Bites on the Blvd. event on Tuesday evening, September 10, from 5:00 until 9:00. The event, with numerous food trucks and drink vendors, is held on the west side MacArthur Blvd. between South Grand and Laurel. Donation buckets will be circulated throughout the evening to benefit the MAGIC Match program. Whether or not you choose to drop anything in the buckets, skip the kitchen duties and join in the B.S.S. family fun!

### **Health Reminders**

With school just beginning, we want to make sure all of our students stay healthy and can participate fully in their education. Please remember that students are not to be sent to school until they are ***symptom-free for 24 hours from fever, vomiting, or diarrhea*** without the use of medication. If students have flu symptoms late at night or early in the morning, we advise that students stay home. Also, with many illnesses, including strep throat and scarlet fever, students should not return to school until 24 hours after the time the antibiotic treatment started. Please let the office know if your child has been diagnosed or has been around any siblings or family members with chicken pox/shingles or measles as these also are very dangerous for some of our students. Thanks for your help in making sure all of our students have a healthy school year!

### **September SCRIPtacular**

Two ways to reduce tuition this month! Purchase \$300 at one time (regular cards AND/OR virtual ScripNow) and receive a free lunch (or coffee)! First 20 shoppers to purchase \$300 of scrip after September 7 can select a \$5 Panera card or \$5 Starbucks card.

Didn't earn a scrip rebate last year? Haven't gotten in the scrip habit yet this fall? Place your first scrip order of the school year between September 7 - September 30 and we'll give you a \$2 Baskin Robbins certificate to get you started on next year's rebate. The attached form allows you to indicate which prize you'd like to receive.

### **Arrival & Dismissal Procedures**

We appreciate all of you following the directions of the teachers and the student patrols as we direct cars for our arrival and dismissal procedures this year. Please remember that it is against the law to be on a cell phone while driving in the vicinity of the school. For the safety of all children, please refrain from talking on your cell phone while driving on or adjacent to our school grounds.

We ask anyone who wants to park and walk their child(ren) into the school to park in the spaces closer to the field and, if possible, park so that you do not have to back out into the drop-off lane. Please pull forward so that other cars may park behind your car, to accommodate the maximum number of cars in that area. All other cars should proceed to the next lane of traffic to drop off students. (Cars dropping off students can also enter from Walnut.)

For dismissal, please remember to park facing east in the lot, facing Walnut Street, with the exception of those cars backed into the places in the lot adjacent to the Walnut Street sidewalk. We ask that you pull all the way forward into the first space available so that we may accommodate the maximum number of cars and avoid cars having to back into spaces as much as possible. The first whistle indicates that everyone should go to their cars to prepare for dismissal. The next series of three whistles indicates that dismissal is beginning. Cars should leave the parking lot only after being directed to do so by the patrols. We appreciate your help!

### County Market Max Cards

Max Card Dollars for Education is designed to aid our local schools in the difficult task of fundraising, simply by shopping with the Max Card! Customers register their Max Card each year to support a local school and at the end of the program, spending is tallied and rewards are given to schools with the most Max Card spending. Sign up between July 27 - December 31, 2019, using the information below. Spending accumulates August 1 through December 31, 2019.

1. Sign up your Max Card in-store or at [mycountymarket.com/save/promotions/max-dollars-education-sign/](http://mycountymarket.com/save/promotions/max-dollars-education-sign/)
2. Register your card to “**IL, Springfield - Blessed Sacrament School ORG#19034**” (This is the correct number; it was listed incorrectly in our orientation packet. We regret the error.)

Don't forget to scan your Max Card on every purchase, because every dollar counts!

### 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:

Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 14, Dec. 12

### Requirements for Volunteering at School

Effective July 1, 2012, any individual volunteering in any capacity in our parish or school must attend a training of Protecting God's Children and have a background check. Once you have attended the training, you never have to attend another session. However, if your background check was completed more than five years ago, it must be completed again. (The forms for the background check were included in the Fee Night packet.) Very soon we will be starting to ask for chaperones for field trips and volunteers for our lunches. To volunteer, you must meet these requirements. This includes all volunteers working with our athletic teams.

**Blessed Sacrament will be hold a PGC training session on Monday, September 16, at 5:30 pm in the school cafeteria. Please call the school office to let us know if you plan to attend.** There are usually several other sessions scheduled for dates and locations in Springfield or within close proximity. Please check for an updated schedule on the Diocesan website, [www.dio.org](http://www.dio.org).

### Interested in Substituting in our School?

Blessed Sacrament is now accepting applications for substitute teachers and aides for the 2019-20 school year. A high school diploma is required to substitute for a classroom aide, and a bachelor's degree is required to substitute for a teacher. Contact the school office if you are interested in applying to be a substitute for the entire 2019-20 school year.

**FYI: The Chorister Choir for gr 2-4 is FULL! Thank you to those students who are registered to participate.**

### School Safety Reminders

During September and October, we often practice our school safety drills (bus evacuation, fire evacuation, intruder, and earthquake). We will be working with law enforcement in the near future for many of our safety drills. Please don't be alarmed if you see emergency vehicles on site and you are unable to reach our office staff by phone. We will send out communication to parents immediately following any drills with emergency personnel so that you are aware.

Also, in order to maintain a safe environment for our students, we require all visitors to enter through the main doors, sign in and out through the main office, and wear a visitor's badge/sticker while in the building. Only students will be allowed to enter the building through the BASE doors and the main entrance doors directly into the hallways (Parents of Preschool and PreK students should follow the directions from the teacher). All parents/visitors will be directed to the office to sign in and obtain a sticker. Parents are asked not to hold the doors open to let others into our building. Please assist us by directing anyone to the main doors of the school office. All visitors should then sign out in the office before leaving. Thank you for your support and cooperation!

### Looking Ahead

Friday, Sept. 6 –

PSA Spirit Day: \$1 donation (pre-paid fees apply)  
Weekly Mass begins for grades 5-8  
First Friday Benediction for grades 2-8

Monday, Sept. 9 -

Leadership assembly

Tuesday, Sept. 10 -

2:30 - 4:00 - 7th and 8th grade IMSA Fusion Program meets in the science lab  
5:00-8:30 p.m. - Bites on the Boulevard to benefit BSS (Macarthur Boulevard Association)

Wednesday, Sept. 11 –

Penance service for 3rd graders  
1:30 p.m. dismissal for faculty meeting;  
BASE available!

Thursday, Sept. 12 -

2:30 p.m. - Builders Club meeting for 7th & 8th graders in the cafeteria during study hall  
3:00-4:00 p.m. - Garden Club  
6:00 - 7:30 p.m. - Parent presentation on digital safety at Christ the King parish center

Friday, Sept. 13 -

Pep assembly for golf team

Saturday, Sept. 14 -

6:30 p.m. - Communion and Confirmation for 3rd graders with last names A-L

Monday, Sept. 16 –

Leadership assembly (wear t-shirts)  
5:30 p.m. - Protecting God's Children in the cafeteria

Wednesday, Sept. 18 - Mid-quarter reports go home

Saturday, Sept. 21 –

6:30 p.m. - Communion and Confirmation for 3rd graders with last names M-Z and PSR

Monday, Sept. 23 –

Leadership assembly (wear t-shirts)

Fall Scholastic Book Fair begins (all week)

Wednesday, Sept. 25 -

6:00 p.m. - Informational meeting for 7th grade  
parents regarding the science fair in the science lab

Thursday, Sept. 26 - 5th grade trip to Funk's Grove

Friday, Sept. 27 -

All school Mass

Saturday, Sept. 28-Sunday, Sept. 29 - flu shots after all  
Masses

Monday, Sept. 30 -

Leadership assembly (wear t-shirts)

\*\*The 8th grade Confirmation Mass has been set by the  
Bishop: Wednesday, March 11, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.