



† Blessed Sacrament



School News

 Learning to Make a Difference 

January 23, 2020

Dear Parents,

This is an exciting time of year, including our upcoming celebration of Catholic Schools Week. Thirty-six eighth graders and 18 chaperones left for the March for Life in Washington, D.C. on Wednesday. Their pilgrimage includes many amazing experiences as well as the impact that the march and the overall trip can have on their lives. We are grateful that so many of our students were able to attend, and we appreciate the generous sponsorship from parishioners who made this trip affordable for so many.

Good luck to our 7th and 8th grade boys' IESA basketball teams as they head into their regional tournaments, and good luck to all our Bruins teams who are mid-season: volleyball, SCAA basketball, wrestling, and Scholastic Bowl.

A detailed calendar for Catholic Schools Week is attached and reminders for each day are listed in *Looking Ahead* in this newsletter. Although we hope we'll have mild weather next week, we will not change the scheduled activities for Catholic Schools Week even if we have extreme weather conditions and are not in session on a particular day. For example, if we are not in session on Monday, we will still have Faith Appreciation Day on Tuesday, and the Community Awareness Day's activities from Monday will be rescheduled for later in the week or in upcoming weeks. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the school office.

Please note that dismissal on Friday, Jan. 31, is at 11:30 a.m., and no B.A.S.E. is available.

We look forward to kicking off Catholic Schools Week with our CultureFest on Sunday from 9:00-noon (see attached schedule) and then our Fine Arts Night at 6:00 p.m. We welcome all of you to our Parent Appreciation Day lunch on Wednesday, Jan. 29, and we hope many of you will also join us that evening from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Chic-fil-A for a spirit night!

This afternoon, sixth graders from all the Springfield Catholic schools joined together at CTK for a celebration of Catholic education as a part of the National School Choice Day. As we celebrate school choice, we are reminded of the gift of Catholic education that you have chosen to give your children. Thank you for the many ways that you support our school in our partnership to provide the best possible education in both academics and faith development. Have a good weekend!

Yours in faith,
Mrs. Dawn Klinner

Special Spirit Day Tomorrow!

Friday, January 24, is a special PSA spirit day to support the renovation of HSHS St. John's Childrens' Hospital Healing Garden. This project is being led by BSS family Trevor and Amy Wallner, whose daughters Lucy and Elle are in third and first grades respectively. Students may wear any BSS spirit shirt or uniform shirt untucked with jeans or uniform bottoms for a minimum \$1 donation.

Restricted Access to Parking Lot on Monday

We are looking forward to welcoming various first responders to our school Monday afternoon for Community Appreciation Day. There will be representatives and vehicles from police, fire, and also an AirEvac Lifeteam helicopter on our parking lot. **Therefore, no cars will be able to enter or exit our parking lot/playground from 11:15 a.m. until 2:45 p.m.** Please note these times, as parking will only be available on the street during this time frame. Thank you for your cooperation!

Teacher Appreciation Notes

With our approaching Teacher Appreciation Day on January 31, we would like to collect notes of appreciation from students for their teachers to be dispersed at a later date. Please help your child(ren) compose a brief note or card with the teacher's name on it, and deliver it to the office before Friday, January 31. This is not meant to be anything extensive, but collectively we will show our tremendous gratitude for all our teachers do. Please remember not only your child(ren)'s homeroom teacher, but the specials teachers and any resource teachers. We want them all to know we care! These notes should NOT be given directly to the teachers, though. We would like to collect them in the office. Thank you!

Catholic Schools Week - Volunteers Needed!

Our annual Catholic Schools Week celebration is just around the corner! 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 Chick-fil-A family night on Wednesday, January 29, and family roller skating 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 family lunch on Wednesday, January 29 (volunteers for the parent lunch will be able to eat with their families during their specified time period) and the student lunch on Thursday, January 30.

Please follow the link below to SignUp Genius to sign up!
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080945ABAB28A4FB6-catholic> It's a fun way to earn service hours!

Save the Date! Builders Club 7th and 8th grade Dance

The Builders Club will host a winter dance for Blessed Sacraments' seventh and eighth grade students on Friday, January 31, from 7-9 p.m. in the school cafeteria. A permission form will be sent home next week. Admission is \$5 per student, which will benefit the wildfires in Australia through the St. Vincent DePaul Society. Concessions will be available for purchases. Come join the fun!

Catholic Schools Week Community Blood Drive

We 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

All-City Food Drive Items Due Tomorrow!

This annual food drive culminates at the high school Boys Basketball City Tournament this weekend, Jan. 23-25. This amazing city-wide initiative to help feed the hungry in our community began 13 years ago with the 4 high schools as a way to come together to make a difference in Springfield, and it has grown since that time to include every school in the city (parochial and public, elementary and high school). The collection of non-perishable food and monetary donations reached \$14,000 last year, and these donations greatly impact St. Martin de Porres and its ability to provide food for the less fortunate. St. Martin's is run solely by volunteers and all food donations are given to the people it serves, and every dollar donated goes directly to purchase food at a discounted cost from the Food Bank. The organizing group realizes that each school is pulled in many directions for donations of all kinds. They are asking us to consider helping all the schools in Springfield as we join together to feed the hungry by collecting non-perishable food items and/or monetary donations. This Friday afternoon, SHG students will come to pick up our donations and deliver them to the BOS Convention Center. Thanks for your consideration and your generosity shown in many ways.

SHG Makeup Placement Test

The makeup date for the 8th Grade Placement Test will be Saturday, February 1, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. Doors open at 8:00 a.m. 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 31. Use the following link to register: <http://bit.ly/SHGPlacement2020>. If you have any questions, please contact Amanda Mandeville at 217-787-9732 ext. 155 or mandeville@shg.org.

Blessed Sacrament CRHP (Christ Renews His Parish)

Blessed Sacrament would like to invite the men who have children in our school to participate in the upcoming men's CRHP retreat. It will be held at the Villa Maria on Lake Springfield beginning on February 15th at 8AM and finishes at approximately 3PM on the 16th. This is a relaxing and rewarding time that will benefit both you and your family. It will help you, and thus your family, know Jesus better and deepen your faith. To register just go online to: bsps.org and then click on Faith Formation, next click on Men's CRHP, fill out the information and submit.

Early Dismissal Reminder

Friday, January 31 is an early dismissal at 11:30 a.m. with NO BASE available. On early release days, many of our students patronize local restaurants and entertainment facilities. Please remind your students that they represent our school as they go out into the community. We hope that everyone sees the wonderfully respectful and polite students that we know they are!

IMSA Fusion Spring Program

The spring semester of the IMSA Fusion program for 5th and 6th grade students began this Tuesday, January 21, from 2:30-4:00 p.m. If your child is enrolled in the program, please send your semester fee payment to the school office by January 27. There is still a waiting list for this semester. Please contact Mrs. Burke with any questions.

Invest in Kids Scholarship Program

Passed in 2017 by the Illinois General Assembly, this program provides scholarships to private schools for families with financial need. Families began applying for next school year on January 15. By statute, scholarship money is allocated on a first come-first served basis for qualified applicants so be sure to get your applications submitted. Empower Illinois is the organization that administers donations and scholarships for B.S.S. students. Please visit their website at empowerillinois.org to find out more about the application process.

Geography Bee Winners

Congratulations to the winners of our schoolwide Geography Bee! Anthony Fergin (eighth grade) was the champion, Jack Madiar (seventh grade) was first runner-up, and Ariana Collins (seventh grade) placed third. Other classroom winners included Ryan Huddle (eighth grade), Colin Watson and Will Pennell (sixth grade). We are proud of all of the contestants!! Special thanks to Mrs. Keller for organizing the Geography Bee at our school!

Year-End Tax Documents

All school families will receive their year-end tax documents from Mrs. Horton soon. Electronic copies will be sent tomorrow, and paper copies will come home next week. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Horton at horton@bssbruins.org or at extension 245.

Congratulations, Young Authors!

Congratulations to our Young Authors contest winners for this year! All students in grades 3-8 are required to participate, and all of the students' books were well written and creatively illustrated. The grade level winners are as follows: Gr. K-2: 1st place: Cecilia Beyer, 2nd place: Tyler Smith, and 3rd place (tie): Cora Stremsterfer & Liliana Humphrey; Gr. 3-4: 1st place: Evie Bailey, 2nd place: Pano Soler, and 3rd place: Damien Njapa Njeuha; Gr. 5-6: 1st place: Elaina Malone, 2nd place: Virginia Parkes, and 3rd place: Tom Humphrey; and Gr. 7-8: 1st place: Paige Luttrell, 2nd place: Ileana Stremsterfer, and 3rd place: Caroline Sheehan. A complete listing of all the classroom winners, along with the grade-level division winners for each category, accompanies today's newsletter. The classroom winners and grade-level division winners each will receive a prize. We are proud of all our students' literary creations!

2020 KC Council #364 Free Throw Contest

The annual K of C free throw contest will be held on Saturday, February 1, 2020, at Christ the King School Gym. The contest is open to all boys and girls ages 9 thru 14, grades 4-8. There is no cost to enter. Please contact Mike Stead (Free Throw Contest Coordinator KC Council #364) at mstead.1@att.net or (217) 415-6207 if you have any questions, or need additional information. Flyers are posted on our school website as well.

Preschool/PreK 2020-2021

Thank you to all our current school families who completed the preschool survey before Christmas break! Based on the results, BSS will offer the following options for preschool/PreK next school year:

- One classroom for 3-year-olds, offering 5 spots for Tues/Thurs mornings only and 15 spots for M-F mornings (5 mornings total)
- Two classrooms for 4 and 5-year-olds, offering 5 spots in each room for M-F mornings and 15 spots in each room for M-F all day

Open registration for PreK/K will begin on Feb. 24 at 7:30 a.m., and all current school families will receive and submit registration prior to that date.

Recess Chess Club

2nd through 8th graders are invited to join the chess club that will meet on Mondays during recess in the library. Students must have a basic knowledge of how to play chess, and it is sure to be good fun! Students should sign up in advance with Mrs. Davis or Mrs. Criscione. Each recess is limited to 14 students.

SHG Trivia 2020

Join us for SHG's 7th Annual Trivia Night on Friday, February 7th at 7:00pm at West Campus. Doors open at 5:30pm. \$20/person - \$200 for table of 10. Cash prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place tables. Cash bar and bring your own food. Contact reavy@shg.org or call 787-9732 to reserve your table!

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. In the past, the practices have been twice a week between the 3:30-5:00 time. You will receive service hours for being a volunteer. More information is listed below. 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.

Join us for Mass!

The Bertain 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.



Anna (4th grade) and Joseph (6th grade)

Looking Ahead

Thursday, Jan. 23 -

6th grade School Choice event at CTK
(NO Garden Club meeting!)

Friday, Jan. 24-

\$1 Extra spirit day for the HSHS Healing Garden

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

Catholic Schools Week

Sunday, Jan. 26 - Parish Appreciation Day!

8th graders return from March for Life

9:00 - noon - CultureFest

6:00 p.m. - Fine Arts Night

Monday, Jan. 27 - Community Appreciation Day!

Dress Like a Tourist Day!

Leadership assembly with guest speaker Julie Becker from Helping the Homeless

2:00-5:30 p.m. Blood Drive in parking lot

Tuesday, Jan. 28 - Faith Appreciation Day!

Dress Like You're 101 (for the 101st day of school!)

8:20 a.m. - All- school Mass

Wednesday, Jan. 29 - Parent Appreciation Day!

Get Red Carpet Ready and Dress Your Best! (no jeans and no athletic pants)

Parent lunch with students according to the following schedule: Last names A-F: 11:00-11:30, Last names G-N: 11:30-12:00, Last names O-Z: 12:00-12:30

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 - Student Appreciation Day!

Represent your Favorite Country - bring out the swag of your favorite flag! (non-uniform day; spirit wear is also acceptable)

PSA is providing a taco bar lunch for all students free of charge; ice cream sundae bar in the afternoon

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

Friday, Jan. 31 - Staff Appreciation Day!

Dress Country Club or Country Western!

Donuts & hot chocolate provided for students' breakfast

10:15 a.m. - Faculty vs. 8th grade volleyball game

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

7:00 - 9:00 p.m. - Builders Club dance for BSS 7th & 8th grade students in the cafeteria

Saturday, Feb. 1 - SHG makeup placement test

Sunday, Feb. 2 - 8:30 a.m. Enrollment Mass for 8th graders

Monday, Feb. 3 - Friday, Feb. 7 -

ACRE standardized religion tests for gr. 5 & 8

Monday, Feb. 3 - Leadership assembly (wear t-shirts)

Wednesday, Feb. 5 - Mid-quarter reports

Friday, Feb. 7 -

PSA spirit day (included with pre-paid days)

First Friday Benediction for grades 2-8

7th-grade science fair - judging after school

Saturday, Feb. 8 - Sunday, Feb. 9 -

Science and History Fair open after all Masses

Monday, Feb. 10 - Leadership assembly (wear t-shirts)

Wednesday, Feb. 12 -

1:30 p.m. dismissal - faculty meeting

5:30 p.m. - Vaping presentation for parents at SHG

Thursday, Feb. 13 -

3:00-4:00 p.m. Garden Club meeting

Friday, Feb. 14 - Happy Valentine's Day

Classroom parties in the afternoon (PreK in AM)

Monday, Feb. 17 - No school - Presidents' Day

Tuesday, Feb. 18 -

6:00-7:30 p.m. - Open house for prospective families

Feb. 18 and 20 - SHG Freshman registration for 2020-2021

Saturday, Feb. 22 - Mardi Gras event for adults

Monday, Feb. 24 -

7:30 a.m. - PreK/Kindergarten registration begins

Leadership assembly (wear t-shirts)

Tuesday, Feb. 25 - Mardi Gras carnival for students

Wednesday, Feb. 26 - Ash Wednesday

All-School Mass

Friday, Feb. 28 - Men's Club fish fry