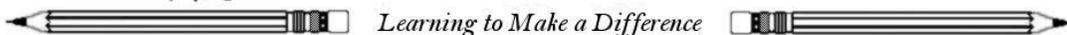


+Blessed Sacrament



School News



Learning to Make a Difference

October 1, 2020

Dear Parents,

As explained in an email earlier this week, we have begun our annual safety drills. These procedures are modified according to guidance from our local law enforcement and fire departments in order to maintain the current health requirements, and they will continue into next week. We encourage parents to have conversations with their students about emergency situations and safe responses in addition to the drills at school.

Since our last newsletter, the Bruins softball and baseball teams finished their seasons, and we congratulate them on their successes! We extend special thanks to Dave Ficke and all those who assisted the softball and baseball teams for their guidance and dedication! Our cross country team is in its final weeks, so we continue to wish good luck to all our Bruins!

This newsletter is full of many updates and new events, so please read each section carefully. We are so grateful for all of your support as we continue our in-person instruction amid a global pandemic. It is no small feat, and it shows what a truly tremendous community we have!

Yours in faith,
Mrs. Dawn Kliner

Faculty Health Update

Please continue to pray for two of our faculty members, resource teachers Jane Seelbach and Stacy Mundstock. Ms. Seelbach has been hospitalized for treatment of a severe infection. She is now recovering at a rehabilitation facility and very anxious to return to school, hopefully at the end of October. Mrs. Mundstock underwent emergency surgery last Saturday and continues to recover in the hospital. She, too, looks forward to returning to her classes. If you would like to send cards to the teachers, please send them to the school office and we will make sure they are delivered to Ms. Seelbach and Mrs. Mundstock. We look forward to when they are both able to rejoin our faculty!

PSA Spirit Day

Tomorrow, Friday, October 2, is a regular PSA spirit day. This is included in the prepaid spirit days, or students may bring \$1 to wear a BSS spirit shirt with jeans or uniform bottoms. Other sports jerseys are not allowed anymore since our new BSS spirit wear items were already distributed.

We Love Recess!

(but there are some health reminders needed)

We are into the seventh week of school! So far, our health and safety protocols are working very well! At times, we do find that the students understandably need reminders when they are in less-structured settings such as recess. They are really enjoying their time outside and we have been blessed with beautiful weather recently! Per the IDPH/ISBE guidelines, "Face coverings are not required outside if social distance is maintained (if individuals remain 6 feet apart from each other)." However, there are some activities students want to play that do not always allow them to remain six feet apart. Therefore, there may be times when individuals will be asked to put their masks on outside when distancing is not being maintained. This is simply done in an effort to keep everyone safe while still allowing students to participate in fun activities of their choice with friends. Please remind your children to comply immediately if asked to do so by a supervisor.

Please also remind your children that, again per IDPH/ISBE guidelines, "Staff and students should abstain from physical contact, including, but not limited to, handshakes, high fives, hugs, etc." While we know this is hard on everyone, and on occasion someone may forget for an instant, we do need to follow this guideline to keep everyone as healthy and safe as possible. Thank you for your ongoing cooperation and support!

4th Annual Catholic Charities Food Drive Challenge

This month, our school is participating in the Catholic Charities incredible Pack the Pantry Food Drive Challenge. We are collecting non-perishable food items for the Holy Family Food Pantry the entire month of October. The fun part is that we are competing against other Catholic schools! This year, the total number of items will be counted (as opposed to pounds of food collected), and students are encouraged to bring in the following items: instant mashed potatoes, boxed macaroni and cheese, cake mixes, toilet paper, bars of soap, gravy packets, and boxed stuffing mix. The winning school will receive treats from Peases and Mel-O-Cream!! Monetary donations will also be accepted this year (for the purchase of perishable items such as meat and dairy), and will be converted to add to our totals.

In addition, since we are unable to gather for assemblies as a school this year, we are adding an individual challenge. The classroom that brings in the most items during the food drive will win a free spirit day for the entire class. Thank you for your support!

A Note About Weekly School Masses

We are so grateful that our 2nd-8th grade students have the opportunity to attend weekly Mass with their classes, as this is so important for the students' faith development and "living" their faith in their parish. Recently, we have had some parents joining the students for Mass in the afternoon. While we understand and support the desire to attend Mass and be with your children as they do so, unfortunately we are not able to accommodate family members or other visitors in the church during school Masses. These need to remain closed to the public. We have to follow the capacity and distance regulations, and maintain the health protocols throughout the entire school day, which extend to school Masses. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation!

Grandparents' Day 2020 - Help Needed!!

Unfortunately, like so many other events, the current pandemic does not allow us to hold our much-loved annual grandparents' day celebration. However, we still wanted to provide an opportunity for the students to connect with their grandparents, introduce their teachers, and "show" their classrooms. We have come up with a creative way to do so but we will need the help of all of our families!

The students will prepare a special mailing for their grandparents in school during the month of October. **We ask that every family (not every student) please send in a pre-addressed business-size envelope for each set of grandparents (two sets per family) with the youngest child in each family by Friday, October 16.** Please make sure the address is clearly printed in ink on the front of the envelope, and print the names of all BSS children in the immediate family in a corner on the back of the envelope. Items from all children in one family will be placed together in the envelope. We plan to mail the envelopes the week of November 2. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this project! Please contact Mrs. Burke at burke@bssbruins.org with any questions or if you would like to volunteer your assistance with this project.

A New Way to Track Box Tops for Education

Now when families use the Box Tops app to scan their store receipt, they can "Give Credit" to an individual, classroom or grade level. To "Give Credit" make sure you have the latest version of the Box Tops app, scan your receipt, then tap the star icon to enter your "Give credit" memo. You may also send in your grocery receipts to the school office and Mrs. Greenwood, our Box Tops coordinator, will scan the receipts for you! Box Tops really add up - to the tune of \$63,386 for Blessed Sacrament School since the inception of the Box Tops program several years ago. Please help us continue to build on our success and send in those receipts as well as the traditional box tops. A collection form is coming home today with all students and will be due back on Friday, October 23. All students who return the form will receive a little treat for Halloween. Thank you for supporting this program!

Grades 5-8 Assignment Postings in Rediker

As our student database, Rediker Plus Portals becomes our online "assignment notebook" for our upper grades. While students are still provided a physical assignment notebook/agenda and are expected to use it, parents shared feedback during our survey this summer that a consistent method of posting assignments in Rediker was desired. There are multiple ways for teachers to post assignments within the system, but they have decided on a method that posts assignments to both the "calendar" and the "coursework" sections in Rediker. If you are unsure where to look for assignments when in your Rediker Plus Portals account, please contact your student's teacher. We appreciate your partnership in your child's education!

We Need Lunchroom Volunteers!

Many hands make light work! At this time, we are seeking volunteers to work the Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday lunches. We rely on volunteers to provide our hot lunches each day, so please consider signing up for even just one day! You may sign up for Tuesdays and Thursdays using the following link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0F45ACAC2AAAFB6-lunch> Please email Mrs. Greenwood at hinds-greenwood@bssbruins.org if you are available to help on Fridays so that we may set up a schedule of volunteers!

October 15 Deadline for School Physicals

Please remember that Thursday, October 15, is the last day to turn in school physicals. All students in preschool, kindergarten and sixth grade must have a completed written exam by a physician and updated immunization record on file in the school office by October 15, or s/he will be asked to remain out of school until it is completed. Eye exams are also due that day for students in kindergarten and any students new to the state of Illinois. Thank you for your cooperation with the health policies!

Halloween Information

With health and safety guidelines in place, our first holiday celebration will look a little different this year. Unfortunately, we are not able to hold events that involve visitors, so there will not be a Halloween parade with costumes this year. We will have a modified spirit day on October 30 that includes black and orange or Halloween shirts along with jeans or uniform bottoms.

In addition, each classroom will hold a small celebration with just students and staff. Due to restrictions on visitors, we are not establishing room parents this year. We are also being very budget-conscious under current circumstances, so teachers may reach out to parents for volunteers to supply a small treat and drink for students during their celebrations on the 30th. Please look for individual communication from homeroom teachers closer to October 30, and we thank you for all your wonderful support!

Parent- Teacher Conferences in November

Parent -Teacher conferences will be held on November 5 and November 6. **There will NOT be students in attendance on either day!** Once again, we will utilize an online scheduling system through SignUpGenius for all individual conferences. In order to accommodate the largest number of families, group conferences will be scheduled for all students in grades 5-8. A group conference in 5th grade consists of both 5th-grade teachers. A group conference in 6th-8th grades consists of all or most of the core teachers (math, literature, English, religion, science, history).

First, the office will schedule all group conferences for students in grades 5-8. Students in grades 5-8 received a paper form on which parents will indicate their availability. **The paper forms for grades 5-8 are due tomorrow, Friday, Oct. 2!** Parents will receive notification of their scheduled group conference day and time by Thursday, October 15.

Once all group conferences for grades 5-8 have been scheduled and those time slots marked as unavailable in SignUpGenius, online scheduling will begin for individual conferences. **Online scheduling will be opened at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, October 19. Please wait for an email with a link from the school before attempting to log on to SignUp Genius.** All conferences for teachers in grades Preschool-4th grade must be scheduled online through SignUpGenius! This also includes specials, resource, and Title I teachers, along with those desiring an individual conference with a teacher in grades 5-8. If you are unable to secure a time slot available for you, please contact the teacher to make an appointment outside of our conference days.

Books & Bundts Reading Program

We all know that “Reading Makes Life Sweeter”, and there is a new self-managed youth reader program called Books & Bundts to reward students for time spent reading! Nothing Bundt Cakes has designed their simple program and materials to track the reading at home and reward the reader in our bakery. (Forms are attached.)

Who: Preschool through elementary

What: Bundtlets (small Bundt Cakes) rewarded based on number of minutes read and tracked

When: Beginning October 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Kristen and Theo Spilman at Nothing Bundt Cakes Springfield, IL; springfield-il@nothingbundtcakes.com 217-210-7450.

Ukulele Band

Mrs. Hartman-Irwin invites any interested students in grades 4-8 to join a new ukulele band beginning on October 6. The group will meet from 3-4 p.m. on Tuesdays in the choir room. There is only room for 10 students. Please email Mrs. Hartman-Irwin for more information or to register at hartman@bsps.org. Parents may also call/text 217-503-8821 with questions as well. Thank you!

Luer’s Uniform Additions

Luer’s now offers dri-fit uniform polo shirts with the BSS logo that may be worn as a part of our school uniform for students in grades 1-8.

Note from Lifetouch Photography

Some parents received emails from Lifetouch recently that indicated a date for fall school pictures that is incorrect. Lifetouch apologizes and states that they have cancelled the dates in their database, but the automated system still generated emails to those with personal accounts through Lifetouch. Parents are encouraged to unsubscribe from Lifetouch emails.

Blessed Sacrament is using **Inter-State Studio** this year for all school photos. **Our fall picture date is listed on the school calendar for Tuesday, October 20**, so look for more information then.

Dismissal Reminder

Our dismissal procedures continue to run smoothly, but there is one area that needs assistance now. Students are dismissed in three ways: BASE students go to the cafeteria, walkers go out the Laurel Street doors, and car riders go out the side BASE door to the parking lot (this is to keep students from passing through the cafeteria unless they are headed to BASE.) A 7th-grade patrol officer stands outside at the BASE door to make sure that students only exit there to go to the parking lot as car riders. However, we are noticing that parents are meeting their children at the BASE door to then walk towards Laurel. If you are parked along Laurel to pick up your students, please have them exit the building as a walker through the Laurel doors and NOT go out as a car rider. The car riders should only go to the school parking lot and meet their rides there. This will help keep our procedures running smoothly and ensure the safety of our students.

SHG Mega Raffle Tickets on Sale Now!

Tickets are now on sale for the 26th annual Mega-Raffle. SHG’s Raffle will include 50 total cash prizes, including a grand prize of \$100,000 cash, a second prize of \$10,000 cash, and a third prize of \$3,000 cash. If you buy your ticket before Early Bird on Oct. 9, you will have 20 extra chances to win \$500. Only 4,200 tickets are available at \$100 each. The Final Drawing is Oct. 30. All proceeds from the Raffle benefit the school’s operating budget. In addition, each of the Springfield area Catholic grade schools will receive \$1,000. Tickets can be purchased online at www.shg.org or call 787-9732.

NEW this fall!! SHG'S VIRTUAL ALUMNI SERIES

Featuring some of our very own alumni giving their expertise on various aspects of the pandemic: the history and science behind it, the social/emotional and psychological components, and ways to deal with the physical/mental stress of it all.

- **October series: Lessons with the Lavins - Wednesday, October 7th at 7pm**

Ever wish you could have participated in one of Mr. Lavin's famous lectures? Or wish you could go back again? Now's your chance! Join Mr. Tom Lavin and his daughter, Bridget Lavin, Ph.D., as they explore the history of the Pandemic of 1918 and how it compares and contrasts to today's pandemic...the history and science behind it all.

- **November series: Dialogues with the Docs - Wednesday, November 18th at 7pm**

Feeling overloaded and overwhelmed? You're not alone! Zoom in with us as Dr. Bill Moredock and Jenna Reid Yates, Ph.D. discuss the social, emotional and psychological effects the pandemic is having on our students, parents and families and ways you can deal with it.

- **December series: Go with THE FLOW Midwest Yoga - Wednesday, December 2nd -7pm**

Need a break? A way to re-energize and reinvigorate yourself? Here's your chance! Bev Hopkins (owner & instructor) and Ashley Krstulovich (instructor) of The Flow Midwest Yoga will demonstrate ways to combat the physical/mental stresses of dealing with the pandemic especially as we head into the holiday season.

Join us via ZOOM for these exciting and informative talks. Call the Advancement Office at 217-787-9732 to reserve your spot and for more information. Hope you will ZOOM with us!

Looking Ahead

Thursday, Oct. 1 -

Catholic Charities food drive kickoff!

Friday, Oct. 2 -

PSA spirit day (included with prepaid days)
Gr 5-8 P/T conference forms due!

Monday, Oct. 5 -

Leadership slideshow (wear t-shirt)

Tuesday, Oct. 6 -

Ukulele band begins for gr. 4-8

Monday, Oct. 12 -

No school - Columbus Day

Wednesday, Oct. 14 -

1:30 p.m. - dismissal for faculty meeting

Thursday, Oct. 15 -

Great Shakeout (earthquake drill)

Friday, Oct. 16 -

End of 1st quarter!

Pre-addressed envelopes due for the Grandparents' Day mailing!

1:30 p.m. dismissal - NO BASE available!!

Saturday, Oct. 17 -

51st Parish/School Auction

Monday, Oct. 19 -

Leadership slideshow (wear t-shirts)
2:00 p.m. - Link for P/T conference signup sent out

Tuesday, Oct. 20 -

School picture day (non-uniform day)

Wednesday, Oct. 21 -

Report cards distributed
6:30 p.m. - First Reconciliation meeting for 2nd grade parents

Sunday, Oct. 25 -

1:00 - 3W Confirmation and First Communion

Monday, Oct. 26 -

Leadership slideshow (wear t-shirts)

Thursday, Oct. 29 -

Catholic Charities food drive ends

Friday, October 30 -

Free modified spirit day: black/orange or Halloween shirts with jeans or uniform bottoms
Individual classroom celebrations

Saturday, October 31 -

Happy Halloween!

51st Annual BSS Auction - October 17th! Our biggest fundraising event of the year is rapidly approaching. We are grateful for all of the support we are receiving from parents, grandparents, parishioners and friends of the school. Our sponsorships just surpassed \$30,000, which is extremely wonderful news in a challenging year. We are grateful!

Auction Raffle Tickets! Go to the BSS website and click the Auction link for the following raffles:

- \$100 Golden Tickets for a chance to win one of 4 preselected auction items: a week in Hilton Head or a week in Bonita Springs, \$1,300 of Gourmet Bunn beef, \$100 per month of HyVee groceries for a year, \$1,500 for B.S.S. tuition, or \$1,100 cash. We only sell 100 of these and you need not be present to win. They're available online or you can go to the school office window.
- \$50 Chances to win a 2009 Honda Accord from Roberts Auto are available online or at the school office window. The car will be parked across the street from the church this week.
- \$25 Tickets to Win the "Wheelbarrow of Booze" – Self-explanatory.
- \$5 Raffle Tickets for prizes of \$1,000, \$600, and \$400 are available at the entrances to the church or online. Completed stubs and checks/cash may be turned in at school.

Auction Volunteers – We will need volunteers during the week of, and the night of, the Auction! Please sign up for a shift at <https://signup.com/go/DOsLERC>. Clean-up shifts qualify for double service hours! If you have any questions about the sign-up or the shifts, contact Volunteer Coordinator, Janet Vespa at Irishvespa@sbcglobal.net. There are service hour opportunities for those who do not want to be on-site at school – email Kim Hoffmann at Hoffmann@bssbruins.org for more information.

Silent Auction – On October 7, we will begin the silent auction online and you will receive a link to bid. If you are donating a silent auction basket or service or gift card, please bring it to school as soon as possible so it may be included.