

+Blessed Sacrament



School News



Learning to Make a Difference

October 15, 2020

Dear Parents,

I can't believe it, but the first quarter ends tomorrow with report cards for students in grades K-8 being sent home next Wednesday, October 21. Parents of preschool students will receive their report cards at conferences. Along with the report cards, you will receive a summary of family service hours submitted during the first quarter, so remember that each family is required to serve 10 hours this school year.

Today our students participated in the Great ShakeOut by holding our own earthquake drill at 10:15 a.m., the same time that schools across the country participated in drills. We continue to practice ways to keep our students safe!

Since our last newsletter, the cross country team finished their regular season. We extend a special thanks to the BSS coach, Mike O'Brien, and all those who assisted the team for their guidance and dedication! Ten representatives from the boys' and girls' teams run tomorrow at the sectional competition. Good luck to our Bruins!

I have been completely amazed by the generosity of our community, parish, and school families in preparation for this year's 51st auction! The excitement for the Children's Raffle portion of our Annual Auction has been building all week, and the drawings will be revealed tomorrow through a special video.

Don't forget that tomorrow, **Friday, Oct. 16, is a 1:30 p.m. early dismissal**, and after-school care at B.A.S.E. is **NOT available** tomorrow. We then hope you will make plans to join us at the 51st Annual Auction this Saturday, Oct. 17! The event begins outside at 5:30 p.m. with appetizers, and the live auction begins at approximately 6:30 p.m. Dress is casual with all participants wearing masks and social distancing. I hope to see you there! Have a good weekend!

Yours in faith,
Mrs. Dawn Kliner

The 51st Annual Auction is Here!

Auction Go Time! **Tomorrow, Friday, will be an extra spirit day for \$1 to go towards the auction.** Also, there are only a couple more days to purchase your Golden Ticket to win one of four awesome live auction items, \$1,100, or \$1,500 tuition for next year. \$50 raffle tickets for the Honda Accord are selling briskly! The Silent Auction will be open until 8:00 on Saturday night with 100 items. A scaled-down Live Auction will take place on Saturday night and guidelines for attendance are attached. Thanks to all of you for your support of this important fundraiser for B.S.S.

COVID-19 Update

Early this week, we received word of our first confirmed case of a student with COVID-19. The student was last in our building on October 9 and had no symptoms at that time. The student was tested as a result of being exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual outside of the school building and not related to school-sponsored activities. Upon learning this information, we immediately began working closely with the Sangamon County Department of Public Health to conduct contact tracing within our school. In fact, the SCDPH complimented our school on our established protocols, as there were only four individuals identified as close contacts within our school environment. Per SCDPH protocols, students seated closest to a positive individual are to follow the quarantine procedures. They immediately began a 14-day quarantine period and were placed in the temporary remote learner program. All families affected were contacted and a letter was sent to the grade level impacted. A copy of this letter for the school is attached. None of our staff members were identified as close contacts.

Please be assured that we continue to follow our established health and safety protocols, daily health screenings, and everyone wears face coverings. We ask for your continued cooperation with daily health screenings. **Please DO NOT send students to school when they or anyone in your immediate family displays any symptoms, is planning to be tested, or is awaiting test results.** We also ask that parents remain vigilant when children are participating in non-school sponsored activities such as athletics, dance, gymnastics, etc. and any social events. Please ensure that proper health and safety protocols are being followed at these activities so that your children, our students, are not unnecessarily exposed or become classified as a "close contact" requiring quarantine outside of school. Thank you for your ongoing cooperation as we work together to keep our school safe and open for in-person learning!

4th Annual Catholic Charities Food Drive Challenge

We continue to collect non-perishable food items for Catholic Charities Incredible Pack the Pantry Food Drive Challenge to benefit the Holy Family Food Pantry. The fun part is that we are competing against other Catholic schools. As of early this week, Blessed Sacrament School is in second place! Let's keep those donations coming!

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, 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!

Grandparents' Day 2020 - Envelopes Needed!!

We ask that every family (not every student) please send in a pre-addressed business/letter-size envelope (4.5" x 9") for each set of grandparents (number needed per family) with the youngest child in each family by **tomorrow, 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 send 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

The Box Tops Collection form is due back on Friday, October 23. All students who return the form will receive a little treat for Halloween. Thank you for your support!

School Pictures on October 20th!

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**. Please check the handbook for non-uniform guidelines and send a change of shoes or clothing with your child if needed after photos.

All orders are being taken online this year. Please refer to the flyer you received last week or the one that is emailed with today's newsletter. Students will be able to remove their masks for individual pictures. However, proper distancing will be maintained at all times and photographers and those waiting in line will be masked.

Due to the impacts of the COVID pandemic, Inter-State Studio is unable to offer class composite photos with the fall picture packages. However, they plan to make available an ordering option in January for a class composite.

Red Ribbon Week 2020

This year's Red Ribbon Week theme is 'Be Happy. Be Brave. Be Drug Free.' and will be celebrated October 26-30. Please see the attached flyer for the daily messages and special attire to help us celebrate this important message.

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 free 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!

Along those lines, the CDC recently published Halloween guidelines. In the interest of helping kids stay healthy through all of the upcoming holidays, we are sharing the link to the information:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html>

Parent- Teacher Conferences in November

Today, Parent -Teacher conference forms will be sent home with students in grades 5-8. Group conferences have been scheduled for students in those grade levels. A group conference in 6th-8th grades consists of all or most of the core teachers (math, literature, English, religion, science, history). Please let the office know right away if there is an issue!

Now that 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 (Mrs. Hendrickson), 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. Please remember that conferences will be held on November 5 and November 6 and **students will NOT be in attendance on either day!**

Congratulations to our Third Grade Teachers!

Congratulations to our third grade teachers, Ms. Williamson and Ms. Downey! They were both nominated for radio station 101.9 FM's Teacher of the Month recognition for October! Voting is open through October 20th, so please log on to capitolwolf.com and vote for our wonderful teachers! Maybe there can be a tie for teacher of the month?!

Speaking of Third Grade...

The upcoming Confirmation/First Communion Masses will be live-streamed on the parish website the same way as the regular weekend Masses.

Thank You!

Thank you to the BSS Girl Scout Cadette Troop for recently weeding all of the landscaping from the rectory to the area around the St. Mother Teresa statue. It looks great and their service is appreciated!

Picking up your child for an appointment during the day?

If you are picking your child up for an appointment during the school day, please call the school office or come up to the window when you arrive, and we will send your child out to you. If the child's appointment is near the end of the day, please arrange to pick your child up at 2:30, if possible, to avoid our parking lot dismissal which begins at 2:45. If picking up for an appointment after 2:30, please park on the street and walk up to the window, as cars are not able to leave the parking lot during the time students are leaving the building from 2:45-3:00 p.m.

November Hot Lunch Orders

The link to order hot lunches for the month of November will be live on Monday, October 19. You may log on to www.ezschoolapps.com to order. Please remember that if you would like to add money to your student's lunch account, you may send in a check to Mrs. Horton in the school office prior to placing your order online.

Smencils for Sale

We have a very limited number of Halloween "smencils" available this year. They are \$1.00 each and available on a first come-first serve basis. Please watch for a flyer and order form on October 19. Please contact Mrs. Greenwood in the school office with questions. All money raised is for the missions.

Diocesan Be Not Afraid Video

Congratulations to Izzy Stewart for her participation in the diocesan Be Not Afraid video! The Diocese of Springfield in Illinois posted on their social media pages a student from each of our Catholic schools singing a small part of the song, "Be Not Afraid." This video is part of the diocese's Be Not Afraid theme, which was launched a few weeks ago. The schools appear in alphabetical order by city, and the video can be found here:

<https://www.facebook.com/diospringfield>. For those who don't have a Facebook page but would like to see the video, please use the following link:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RPIM8eXFVnI&t=3s>

Personal Safety Training

In compliance with the Diocese of Springfield's Safe Environment program, our students will be trained on personal safety through the Virtus program. This year the students will receive the training through two lessons taught by their religion teachers. The topics of the lessons this year are *The Touching Rules and Identifying Safe and Unsafe Friends*. The lessons will be presented in the next two weeks, so please check with your child's teacher for specific dates. Permission

slips for this training were included in the Fee Night packet. Thanks for your ongoing support in helping us keep our children safe!

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.

- **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.

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

Want a night off from cooking and dishes??

Help support St. Pat's on Thursday, November 12th from 4:30-6:30 and pick up a delicious meal from Nelson's Catering at Shg's West Campus. Dinner includes a grilled 1/2 chicken, green beans, mashed potatoes & gravy, and comes with roll & butter. Tickets are \$10 and are available at nelsonscatering.com/st-patricks-school or by sending a check payable to St. Patrick School, 1800 S. Grand Ave. East, Springfield, IL 62703. Orders must be placed by 12:00 PM, November 6th.

Looking Ahead

Thursday, Oct. 15 - Great Shakeout (earthquake drill)

Friday, Oct. 16 -

\$1 Extra Spirit Day for the auction!

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 for grades K-8

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

Sunday, Oct. 25 -

1:00 p.m. - 3W Confirmation and First Communion

Monday, Oct. 26 -

Leadership slideshow (wear t-shirts)

Red Ribbon Week begins (see flyer)

Tuesday, Oct. 27 - Wear red shirts for Red Ribbon Week

Wednesday, Oct. 28 -

Wear superhero shirts for Red Ribbon Week

Thursday, Oct. 29 - Wear sports shirts for Red Ribbon Week

Friday, October 30 -

Catholic Charities food drive ends

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

Individual classroom celebrations

Saturday, October 31 - Happy Halloween!

Sunday, Nov. 1 -

Daylight Savings Time ends! Fall back one hour!