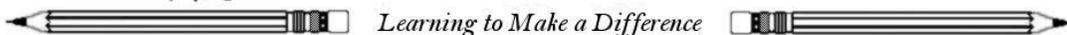


# + Blessed Sacrament



## School News



**December 3, 2020**

Dear Parents,

I hope all of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving Day and break! For most people, it was a quieter holiday than normal, but it still provided time for reflection and gratitude for our many blessings.

For the next few weeks, we will continue to monitor our school and community metrics so that we may best provide for the health and safety of our students and staff. This includes continued communication regarding any cases of COVID-19, and a new case was reported yesterday. As of today, we have 5 active positive cases (not in the same grade levels), only one of which involved close contacts identified at school (see attached letter). We truly appreciate the many ways you are helping to keep us safe: keeping students home when ill, communicating any household illnesses or COVID testing to the office, and following the health protocols in place at the school and in the community. We will remain strong together!

With the liturgical season of Advent beginning last Sunday, our students will now share in our Advent preparations with our virtual Advent wreath ceremony. 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 main hallway. In addition, we are building a bed of straw for the baby Jesus by recognizing individual acts of kindness throughout the school with a piece of straw. It is a special time of year!

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 Kliner*

### **Plus Portals Email System**

Recently, it came to our attention that some parents are not receiving emails from our Plus Portals email system. Please be sure to add [messenger@plusportals.com](mailto:messenger@plusportals.com) to your contact list. Also, please check the "to" address field when you are replying to a message from Plus Portals. You should see that the "to" address field has the teacher's school email address in it. Sometimes, that field populates with "[messenger@plusportals.com](mailto:messenger@plusportals.com)" which is simply a "do not reply" email address and will not go to anyone at the school.

### **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. We truly appreciate your generosity! Special thanks to our librarians, Mrs. Criscione and Mrs. Allen, for coordinating the event!

### **Merry "Scrip"mas!**

Scrip gift cards are available at the parish office - shop our regular inventory any time during regular hours! You can also purchase special-order items until Monday, December 14. Cards ordered by December 14 at noon will come home on Thursday, December 17. Not sure what to buy? See our Christmas Shopping Planner and order forms at [www.bssbruins.org/scrip-program](http://www.bssbruins.org/scrip-program) or in the parish office. Please support our local vendors that provide scrip: **Bella Milano, Custom Cup, Darcy's Pint, Engrained Brewery** and **Luers**. If you own/operate a local dining or retail business and would like to be part of our scrip program, please contact Lisa Sarnowski at [scrip@bssbruins.org](mailto:scrip@bssbruins.org).

### **Full-Time Remote Learning Option for the Second Semester**

As we look ahead to planning for the second semester, we need to determine which students will be enrolled in the full-time remote learning program. We do not anticipate any significant changes to the program from the first semester, which is primarily a parent-led independent study program with lesson plans and materials provided by the teachers. Teachers are available for regularly scheduled support and may adjust certain guidelines or specific requirements for their classes as necessary. We ask that you make a commitment to either remaining with full-time in-person instruction or moving to the full-time remote program. Please email Mrs. Burke at [burke@bssbruins.org](mailto:burke@bssbruins.org) by December 7 with any questions about the full-time remote program or if you intend to enroll in the program for the second semester. Thank you for continuing to partner with Blessed Sacrament School for your child's education!

### **Santa's Secret Shop is Coming (Virtually!) to Our School**

The PSA will be hosting a virtual Santa's Secret Shop December 3-11. This service provides an opportunity for children to choose and purchase small gifts for family and friends. Those gifts will be shipped directly to your home this year! A portion of all sales will support the PSA's programs for our students. Please see the flyer attached to today's newsletter for login information. Thank you for your support!

### PSA Spirit Wear Orders Delivered

The second round of PSA spirit wear orders was distributed to students earlier this week. Due to difficulties with a vendor, a few orders had a missing item. Miles T-Shirts will contact you directly when those items are ready for pickup. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please call Miles T-Shirts at 528-2816.

### 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 or black leggings (footless tights) are permitted for girls underneath the jumpers, skirts, and skorts if they are worn with matching socks that cover the ankles.

Please check the boys' pants to determine if new ones are needed for the remainder of the winter months.

Also keep in mind other dress code regulations listed on page 27 of the parent/student handbook. Make-up is not permitted. Hairstyles must not obstruct the face in any way, bangs are to be above the eyebrows, and boys' hair must not be longer than the top of their shirt collar. We want to keep our students looking sharp and in compliance with the uniform guidelines. We appreciate your assistance!

### Box Tops for Education Collection

Students are bringing home a Box Tops collection form today. Completed forms are due Friday, December 11. Everyone who returns a completed collection sheet will receive a small Christmas treat. Thank you for your support!

### January Hot Lunch Orders

The online order form for January hot lunches will be open from Monday, December 7- Tuesday, December 15. Please remember to send money to Laura Horton in the school office in advance if you would like it loaded on to your child's lunch account. Also, be sure to check out the options for Dinner -To -Go on the January lunch order form. We will offer pre-ordered dinners to go on January 13, 20 and 27. Everyone needs a night off from cooking!

### Are You Ready to be a Cyclone?

Although we can't have our traditional Preview Night or Placement Test this year, SHG is still gearing up for the 2021-2022 school year! If you are an 8th grader or transfer student interested in attending SHG, visit [shg.org/Admissions](http://shg.org/Admissions) starting **Monday, December 7th** to fill out a registration inquiry form. We will mail you a registration information packet from there! If you have questions or would like to set up an individual tour (*after school hours*), contact Amanda Mandeville, Director of Enrollment Management and Communications, at [mandeville@shg.org](mailto:mandeville@shg.org) or 787-9732 ext. 155. We look forward to welcoming a new class of Cyclones!

### 12 Days of Giving

Due to COVID, some of our normal ways of spreading Christmas cheer are not available this year. (We are not stuffing stockings or helping with the program at St. Pat's.) However, we have a lot to celebrate, so we are establishing a purpose along with our celebrations. This year, the students and staff of BSS may participate in 12 Days of Giving. We want to support our mission partnership with St. Theresa's Youth Development Center in Wa, Ghana this holiday season.

Each school day in December, a different grade level will be assigned to have an extra spirit day with Christmas attire. On that day, only the assigned grade level may wear Christmas shirts and socks with uniform bottoms or jeans for a minimum donation of \$1. To demonstrate the spirit of the mission, we encourage students to use their own money or earn the money through an extra job at home. Who will show the most Christmas spirit in your class? Remaining days:

Monday, December 7-- 1st grade  
Tuesday, December 8-- 2nd grade  
Wednesday, December 9-- 3rd grade  
Thursday, December 10-- 4th grade  
Friday, December 11-- 5th grade  
Monday, December 14-- 6th grade  
Tuesday, December 15-- 7th grade  
Wednesday, December 16-- 8th grade  
Thursday, December 17-- Staff

### Looking Ahead

Tuesday, Dec. 1- Friday, Dec. 18 -  
MAP testing period for grades 2-8  
Friday, Dec. 4 - PSA Spirit Day (included in prepaid days)  
Monday, Dec. 7 - Wear leadership t-shirts  
Deadline to enroll in full-time remote program for the second semester  
Wednesday, Dec. 9 - 1:30 p.m. dismissal - faculty meeting  
Friday, December 11 -  
Last day for Santa's Secret Shop Online orders!  
Friday, Dec. 18 -  
Free Christmas spirit day for everyone!  
End of 2nd quarter!  
11:30 a.m. dismissal - NO BASE!  
December 18-January 3 - Christmas vacation  
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!  
Monday, Jan. 4 - Classes resume  
Wear leadership t-shirts  
Friday, Jan. 8 -  
Report Cards!  
PSA Spirit Day (included in pre-paid days)  
Monday, Jan. 11 - Wear leadership t-shirts  
Wednesday, Jan. 13 -  
11:30 a.m. dismissal - faculty inservice  
No BASE available!  
Monday, Jan. 18 - No school - MLK, Jr. Day  
Monday, Jan. 25 - Wear leadership t-shirt  
Sunday, Jan. 31 - Friday, Feb. 5 - Catholic Schools Week!