

† Blessed Sacrament



School News

Learning to Make a Difference

February 6, 2020

Dear Parents,

We enjoyed a wonderful celebration of Catholic Schools Week, beginning with amazing performances, artwork, and Young Author creations at Culturefest that included the 6th grade wax museum, 4th grade recorder concert, and the Chorister choir performance. We appreciate all the leadership provided by Mrs. Triphahn, Mrs. Ficke, Mrs. Mauntel, Mrs. Keller, and Mrs. Hartman-Irwin. There were many events throughout the week that culminated in cheering on the staff and 8th graders as they faced each other in volleyball. Thank you, again, for all that you do to support Catholic education at Blessed Sacrament. We couldn't do it without you! A special thanks to Marin Lowder and Rejeana Meado for all they did to coordinate the week for us.

It's hard to believe that we're already halfway through the third quarter! Mid-quarter progress reports were sent home yesterday with all students in grades 2-8, and we also used the report emailing system through Rediker for the first time. For the fourth quarter, we intend to only email progress reports and no longer print them since grades are always accessible online. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the progress report, please contact your child's teacher.

Also coming up is registration for the 2020-2021 school year. Please see the related articles reviewing the process.

Congratulations to our 7th and 8th grade boys basketball teams on a terrific season, which recently finished in the regional tournament. A special thanks to the coaches and parents for their support of our programs! We also continue to cheer on all our Bruins in their activities: Scholastic Bowl, wrestling, volleyball, and basketball!

Good luck to our 7th graders who are presenting their science fair projects tomorrow after school. The science and history fair projects will be on display in our school cafeteria this weekend, and school families and parishioners will have a chance to view them after the 4:30 Mass on Saturday and after the 8:30 and 10:30 Masses on Sunday. We're proud of our students' efforts and extend our thanks to their teachers and parents for their support throughout the process.

I hope you stop by and enjoy their papers and projects. Have a good weekend!

Yours in faith,
Mrs. Dawn Klinner

Thank You for Catholic Schools Week!

We had a wonderful Catholic Schools Week last week! We are so grateful to Rejeana Meado and Marin Lowder for all of their creativity and planning, along with all of the volunteers who assisted each day! The students prepared 250 blessing bags for the homeless and 25 people from the BSS community signed up to donate blood during the blood drive. Our school will receive a donation of \$481 from our spirit night at Chick-Fil-A. We enjoyed the enthusiasm of our students who participated in the dress up days and activities, and we are so grateful to all of the parents who support Catholic education at BSS all year long!

The Diocese of Springfield created a video for Catholic Schools Week that includes a lot of footage from BSS. Enjoy! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sbgkn8iSmjk>

Spirit Day Tomorrow!

Friday, February 7, is a regular PSA spirit day. This is included with prepaid days. Students may wear any BSS spirit shirt or uniform shirt untucked with jeans, BSS athletic pants, or uniform bottoms. A \$1 donation is required if not prepaid.

Free Valentine's Day Spirit Day

Students will have a free spirit day for Valentine's Day next Friday, February 14. Students may wear a red, pink, or Valentine's Day shirt with jeans, BSS athletic pants, or uniform bottoms for no charge. Happy Valentine's Day!

Builders Club Valentine's Day Sale

The Builders Club is selling scented cookie-shaped erasers for Valentine's Day on a pre-order basis only. Please see the order sheet that came home for details!

Open House for Prospective Families

On Tuesday, Feb. 18, we will host an open house for prospective families from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Please invite anyone who might be interested in learning more about Blessed Sacrament School!

Box Tops for Education

We recently received a check for \$1,067.50 from the Box Tops for Education program! A new collection sheet was sent home this week. All students who return it by February 12 will receive a special treat for Valentine's Day. Please keep collecting and submitting box tops. They really add up!

Preschool/Pre-K & Kindergarten Registration Intent Letters for 2020-2021

Again this year, parents of current preschool/preK students have the opportunity to indicate their preferences for kindergarten or preschool/pre-K for their family before registration begins. Likewise, current families in K-8 in our school also have the opportunity to indicate their intent for preschool/pre-K or kindergarten for their younger children via an intent letter. The intent letters accompany today's newsletter and were sent home with students earlier in the week. **Please return the intent letter to the school office by Friday, February 14.** Parents who return an intent form by Friday, February 14, will not need to go through the registration process for their preschool/preK and kindergarten students on February 24.

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

Registration for 2020-2021

We will have registration for new preschool and kindergarten families, with parents registering their children in person on Monday, February 24, beginning at 7:30 a.m. Parents of all current preschool/pre-K and current K-8 families have the opportunity to indicate their preferences for kindergarten or preschool/pre-K via intent letters. (See the next article above for details.)

The registration period for first through eighth grades for the 2020-2021 school year begins on February 24, with registration packets being sent home with current students. Registration forms are due back on Monday, March 9. Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

Teacher Retirements

As spring approaches, we want to recognize and honor a couple of our teachers who will be retiring at the conclusion of the 2019-2020 school year: Mrs. Lisa Belz and Mrs. Kathy Harth. Both have dedicated many years to Blessed Sacrament and will continue to be a part of our community as they begin their new adventures. We will treasure these last months with them in their current roles!

We will begin to advertise these openings in the near future. Due to the possibility of internal transfers, we will post the vacancies with a broader scope to encompass more flexibility from our applicants. Stay tuned!

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!

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.

February Registration Meetings for 8th Graders

The registration meetings for incoming freshmen will be held on Tuesday, February 18th and/or Thursday, February 20th at 6:00 in the Auditorium at SHG's East Campus. No pre-registration is required. This is for 8th graders who have taken the Placement Test and their parents to come view their testing results and go over classes with our guidance counselors for next school year. If you have any questions, please contact Amanda Mandeville at 787-9732 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.

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 if interested in applying.

Mardi Gras Fun

Please join the Blessed Sacrament community for a Mardi Gras Party for adults on Saturday, February 22 from 7:00 until 10:00 p.m. There will be fabulous live music again provided by Soul Experience, and David Senger and his crew will be cooking up some delicious Cajun gumbo and muffalettas. The bar, as always, will be sponsored by our own Blessed Sacrament Men's Club. Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door. An order form for tickets should come home with your youngest today! Get your tickets and let the good times roll! Sponsorships are available for \$500 and come with 20 tickets and advertising opportunities. Here's one now - thank you sponsors as of today - Scot and Sarah Jacobs, Ed and Megan Peck, and Mike and Kim Hoffmann.

Nominate a Teacher for a St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Award

The Diocese of Springfield would like to recognize the hard work and dedication of our Catholic school teachers. You are encouraged to nominate educators who strive for academic excellence with a focus and commitment to the Catholic mission. Submit a narrative of the teacher you wish to nominate by February 28 at www.dio.org/schools/eas.

Vaping Presentation for Parents

Mark your calendars for a vaping presentation for parents of all ages on Wednesday February 12th at 5:30 p.m. in the Auditorium at SHG's East Campus. Dr. McDowell and Dr. Reedy will present on the topics of history of vaping, the different devices that are used, the epidemic of lung injury caused by vaping, and how to quit if you are vaping. See flier attached.

Year-End Tax Documents

All school families received their year-end tax documents from Mrs. Horton soon. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Horton at horton@bssbruins.org or call.

SHG Night at the KC Raffle!

Save the Date for SHG Night at the KC Raffle on Thursday, February 13th. We will have a 50/50 drawing, door prizes, and Mostaccioli tickets for sale! The Knights of Columbus is located at 2200 Meadowbrook Road. Doors open at 4:00 and the KC Raffle Drawing will take place at 7:00! For more information, go to <http://bit.ly/KCRaffleFB>. See flier attached!

Girls on the Run Begins March 3rd

Registration is open February 12-28 for 3rd and 4th grade girls interested in participating in the Girls on the Run Spring 2020 program. The fee is \$150 and scholarships and payment plans are available. You may learn more and register at www.GOTRcentralillinois.org.

Volunteers are needed to help with practices on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4-5:30. 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 Jimenez 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.



Augie and Charlie (1st grade)

Looking Ahead

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 -

Preschool Valentine's party in AM
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