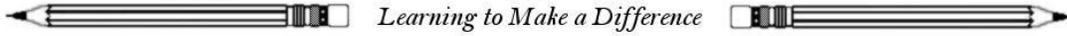


+Blessed Sacrament



School News



Learning to Make a Difference

March 19, 2020

Dear Parents,

THANK YOU for the tremendous support of your students and the school as was evidenced on Monday! Receiving notice five minutes before dismissal on Friday that school buildings would be closed this week was not ideal. However, it allowed students to quickly gather their materials to bring home and wait for instruction. On Monday, the school staff was able to put together instructional materials for each student to use during the home learning period. We had 492 individually labeled packages separated in our cafeteria, and staff prepared for the pickup process. Our 2-hour drive-through process on Monday allowed parents to have packages delivered to their cars along with forgotten materials, medications, and even a way to check out extra library books. All 492 packages were retrieved either in person or taken for delivery by another person. It was amazing!

Teachers are now communicating electronically with their students and parents regarding instruction, and we are so fortunate to have the support at home. After only a few days, our home learning period is going well! During this home learning time, please contact your child's teacher directly if you have any questions. The school office is closed, so we are unable to take phone calls. Mail will be received through the parish office, though.

This is an unprecedented time, and information is changing rapidly. I worry that any information I may publish in this newsletter could quickly become outdated. While keeping track of national and local news, I am also closely monitoring information on the Diocese website and the Illinois State Board of Education website. School administrators are being kept informed through emails, webinars, and virtual meetings. I will convey information to others as necessary.

Take care of your family and know that you are all in my prayers! We plan to see you again on March 31.

Yours in faith,
Mrs. Dawn Kliner



Rediker Accounts

Please make sure to check your Rediker accounts daily during this period of home learning, as teachers are updating information and assignments regularly. Please be certain that students in grades 4-8 check their Rediker accounts as well their Google accounts on a daily basis as well. To access Rediker, go to www.plusportals.com/BSSBruins. Your email address is your username. For students, their Google account/school G-Mail is their username. If you or your child cannot recall the password, please click on the link "can't access account," which appears on the login page. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Burke at burke@bssbruins.org.

Registration for 2020-2021

The registration forms for the 2020-2021 school year were due back on Monday, March 9. **If you have not already done so, please return your registration forms and fee to the school via USPS mail by March 30.** Please note "Registration 2020-2021" on the outside of the envelope. Due to the circumstances, late fees will NOT be assessed at this time. Thank you in advance for your cooperation, as registration forms are needed in order to plan for next year!

Tuition Assistance for 2020-2021

The F.A.C.T.S. tuition assistance applications (along with the required supporting documentation) for the 2020-2021 school year are **due March 31**. You may only apply online this year! Parents may access the link on our school website. Families will be notified by early June of their assistance. Please contact Laura Horton at horton@bssbruins.org with any questions or for assistance with the online process.

2020 Census

April 1 marks the first day that the 2020 Census will be available to complete in all formats — online, by phone, and by mail so that census takers do not have to visit in-person. "Missing just one child in the 2020 Census means missing out on federal funding for that child for the next 10 years," said State Superintendent of Education Dr. Carmen I. Ayala. "Completing the census says, 'I'm here. I count. I matter.'" The 2020 Census is a modern, technology-enabled process. We want to support a safe and complete count in our communities, so please complete the census beginning on April 1!

Congratulations to Art Showcase Participants!

Congratulations to the following students whose work was submitted to the annual Catholic Schools Art Showcase: Kindergarten: LiLi Wallman, first grade: Ellie Majcina, second grade: Cecilia Beyer, third grade: Will Manfredo, fourth grade: Reese Van Zuiden, fifth grade: Annamarie Kren, 6th grade: Virginia Parkes, seventh grade: Nicholas Reed, and eighth grade: Caroline Lambert. Cecilia Beyer and Reese VanZuiden both won first place for their grade levels at the Showcase! We're so proud of everyone's hard work! Special thanks to art teachers Mrs. Mauntel and Mrs. Ficke for all they do to inspire and instruct all of the students in art every day!

Vacation Bible School Planning is Underway!

Vacation Bible School Planning is underway! Please mark your calendars for June 15 to 19, 2020 from 9am to 12pm. All children entering Kindergarten through Fifth Grade are invited to join us for VBS. This year we will also be offering a Preschool Program for preschools age 4 years and 5 years old that have attended Blessed Sacraments Preschool Program. VBS fee will be \$20 for each registered student and must be paid no later than June 8, 2020. Payment will be accepted at <https://smartpay.profitstars.com/express/Blessed%20Sacraments%20ChurchCPP> or may be paid at the parish office by cash or check to BSS VBS.

For all 6th, 7th, 8th graders, high school students, and adults, please plan to come and join us for the week. We will be needing help with artistic planning, decorating, teaching students, helping with snack time, and much more. It is a great way to get your volunteer hours in over the summer!

All participants and helpers must register online at vbspro.events/p/bss2020 Registration will open March 23, 2020 at 8:00am. Any questions? Please email Danielle Landgrebe at Grebes13@gmail.com Thank you!

Spring Picture Day Cancelled

Lifetouch has cancelled our Spring Picture Day event and has started to refund any pre-paid orders from our families. Any family that has pre-ordered a picture package will receive a refund within 10-14 days, and they have emailed families to share this information. Their dedicated Customer Service team is also available to answer any questions families may have about the refund process. Office: 217-793-0079 or email Sara Michael at smichael@lifetouch.com.

BSS Lunch Program Will Reschedule

When school resumes, we will serve the daily lunches that were already ordered for the days of school closure. They will be served on the same day of the week that was ordered (i.e. Pizza Hut on Wednesday). We are also postponing April lunch order access in order to first reschedule meals that were already purchased. We will send out more communication regarding the schedule closer to the time of return.

Public Schools' Free Meal Program Open to All Students

During this time period of mandated school closures, any student under the age of 18 may go to the public schools to receive a free breakfast/lunch, if needed. No identification will be required. The following is a list of sites for Springfield District 186. Please also refer to their website www.sps186.org for further information. Drive up, Grab-and-Go Main sites are open 8:30 AM to 10 AM. The schools will not be open, but curbside service will be available to pick up meals:
Lanphier High School - Behind school in east parking lot
Southeast High School - West parking lot behind school
Springfield High School- Commons parking lot at Washington & Parker
Franklin Middle School - Behind school in west driveway
In addition to the four main sites (see above), food will be distributed from First Student Buses in these locations:
Washington Middle School, Wilcox Elementary School, Feitshans Elementary School, Ridgely Elementary School, and Jefferson Middle School.

Service Hours Requirements & Waiver Request

Statements with the number of family service hours earned to date were included with the students' third-quarter report cards. If parents have completed the required number of service hours (20) for the year, they did not receive a statement. Please contact Michele Greenwood at hinds-greenwood@bssbruins.org if you have any questions. Please refer to the Family Service Hours flyer in your registration packet regarding the process to apply for a waiver for inability to complete the service hours. Please note that a request for a waiver must be submitted in writing by April 15. No late submissions are accepted! Thank you!

Health Screening Information

We appreciate the information below that was shared with us by a BSS parent in the medical profession. Please note this is a rapidly changing situation, so please check with your provider or IDPH for the most up-to-date information.

If you have respiratory symptoms (runny nose, cough, body aches, fever) you can call your doctor's office FIRST. Respiratory screening clinics have opened in Springfield. One is Memorial's ExpressCare at 2950 S. Sixth Street (217-558-4019). This is a drive-through clinic. Healthcare providers are stationed outside the clinic to screen patients and determine the appropriate level of care. A second clinic is HSHS Priority Care at 1836 S. Macarthur Blvd. (217-321-9326). This is not a drive-through clinic.

Each of these clinics will provide COVID-19 testing for those patients who meet the guidelines set by the Illinois Department of Public Health. If you call the screening center, they will take your name and DOB and pre-register you. Your name will be added to a list of patients. The nurse will then phone you back and ask questions about your symptoms. The nurse will direct those needed to the drive-thru testing clinic if they think it's necessary. They are able to test for strep and influenza. If you meet certain criteria, they will

determine if you need to be tested for COVID-19. Be sure to ask about insurance or fees when you call. It's possible that, due to "emergency times," there may not be a fee.

Blessed Sacrament Parish COVID-19 Update

Here is what Blessed Sacrament is doing to allow you to practice your faith as fully as possible during this crisis:

- First of all, there will be no public masses until further notice. Everyone has a dispensation from the weekly obligation to attend Mass. There will be no daily Masses for the public starting immediately. Beginning this weekend, Mass at Blessed Sacrament can be viewed online - go to our website at www.bsps.org and click on Mass. We will tape the Saturday evening Mass "Sine Populo" (without people) and it will be available on Sunday morning. You can make a spiritual communion. You can also call the parish for all other spiritual and sacramental needs.
- The parish is not closed - questions can be directed to the parish office at 217-528-7521. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 AM to 4 PM.
- Adoration Chapel will remain open and you are encouraged to come and pray. The public hours will remain 5 AM to 10 PM. Please remember that the Chapel is for private prayer. We ask that you not pray out loud or in a way that distracts another person trying to pray privately.
- Holy water is available in the dispenser in the chapel. Please bring your own container to take it home. If you are taking large amounts, please see one of the priests to have them bless your water.
- Parish Penance Services have been cancelled, but we will be offering confessions in the confessional off the chapel, every day, Monday through Friday, from noon to 1 PM. This is in addition to confessions on Saturdays at 3 PM. Confessionals are being sanitized daily.
- Visit the parish website at www.bsps.org. This is the best way to know what is going on in the parish. The parish depends on your stewardship and generosity in order to bring sacraments and spiritual services to you. With everything severely curtailed, our finances have suffered. Please remember to mail in your contribution or donate online through the secure link on the parish website. This will help us meet our obligations. Call the parish office to sign up for ACH (automatic contributions).
- Many parishioners are also suffering financially from this crisis. A donation to H.O.P.E. (Helping Our People in Emergencies), formerly known as St. Vincent de Paul, will let our parish reach out to them.
- Scrip gift cards will be handled through the parish office while the school is closed.

Dental Exam Reminder

Please remember that all students in kindergarten, 2nd grade, and 6th grade are required to present proof of having been examined by a dentist before May 15 of the school year. (Dentist offices have the official form that needs to be submitted.) If a child in grade K, 2 or 6 fails to present proof by May 15, then the school may hold the child's report card until one of the following occurs: 1. The child presents proof of a completed dental examination within 18 months prior to the deadline; 2. The child presents proof that a dental examination will take place within 60 days after May 15; or 3. The parents obtain a waiver from the Department of Public Health or provide objection on religious grounds.

"Hearts for Healthcare" Spread the LOVE.

Our healthcare organizations have received a lot of support already during this health crisis in our community and some have asked what they can do to further support us. One thing that could make a strong impact is if residents could consider printing out the 8.5" X 11" heart that we've attached to this update and place it on their front doors or in their front windows. As our healthcare workers drive into work each morning or evening, they will see these hearts on their way into the hospitals, the clinics and the health department. Please ask residents to print out, display and then share on social media with the hashtag, #heartsforhealthcare.

Looking Ahead

March 19 - First day of Spring!!

March 31 - FACTS online applications for 2020-2021 tuition assistance due today!!

April 12 - Happy Easter!!