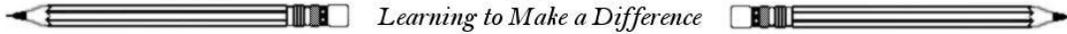


+ Blessed Sacrament



School News



Learning to Make a Difference

May 7, 2020

Dear Parents,

It was wonderful to see so many of you at the school pickup last week! Packets were dispersed for preschool through 2nd grade, along with graduation caps and gowns to our 8th graders. We also collected most of our school library books and sports uniforms (see the related article below).

As we enter the final stretch of our school year, please continue to check your electronic communications from staff frequently. With only one week left of home learning, teachers will be checking on all student progress and will offer support where needed. We actually celebrate national Teacher Appreciation Week in a very different way this year: we thank both the school teaching staff for all they are doing during our unexpected home learning period along with the parents and family members at home who are working in new ways to support the learning of our students. We are truly blessed!

This is not how anyone wanted to end our year together, so we are working on many ways to still celebrate all that we accomplished. As this is a very memorable year, we will reflect on the many memories we have shared, inside and outside of our physical school building. Stay tuned for some special end-of-the-school-year activities! Blessed Sacrament is an amazing community, and we plan to stay strong together through this time.

Happy Mother's Day on Sunday!

Yours in faith,
Mrs. Dawn Kliner

School Library Book & Sport Uniform Return

Thank you to all who returned library books and sports uniforms on April 30! If you were unable to bring those materials to the school at that time, there will be another drop-off period on Tuesday, May 12 from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Labeled bins will be on the school porch for you to return library books and sport uniforms. Please bring the sport uniforms in a bag labeled with the student's name.

Box Top Contest

Thank you for your continued support of Box Tops! Box Tops are Changing! Box Tops is phasing out 'clip' Box Tops and going to a mobile app only. Anyone that uses the new Box Tops app, scans their receipt and gives credit to their student by Friday, May 15th will receive a treat bag at the end of the school year. Please refer to the video <https://youtu.be/qWuXDKejVEg> for directions on how to scan your receipt.

Barnes and Noble Online Book Fair May 4-9

Many people have contacted teachers regarding the need for books at home since the school and public libraries are closed. With the uncertainty of knowing if public libraries will open for the summer or be able to host their summer reading programs, we are coordinating an online book fair through Barnes and Noble this week! This is also a great opportunity for graduation and Mothers' Day gifts!

Curbside pickup at the Springfield Barnes and Noble started Monday!! It will be available 10am-5pm every day of our book fair! If you have any problems online, please call the store during those hours. A bookseller can apply your membership numbers, educator numbers and enter the Bookfair ID for you. There are Bookfair bar codes at their registers now. Please see the attached flyers for information. Happy reading!

Yearbook Photos Needed!

Due to the unexpected school closure, the typical yearbook photos were unable to occur at school. Therefore, the yearbook committee is seeking photos from staff and parents to use in the yearbook. Please send any submissions to Mrs. Kreiling at kreiling@bssbruins.org. We are especially in need of photos from the following events:

- 5th grade girls basketball
- 7th grade girls basketball
- 5th grade boys basketball
- 7th grade boys basketball
- 5th, 6th and 7th grade girls volleyball
- Random photos from any sport seasons
- Scouts
- Choir
- Builders Club
- IMSA
- Scholastic Bowl
- Altar Servers
- History Fair/finalists
- Grandparent's Day
- class parties
- Catholic Schools Week (including parent lunch)
- first day of school
- students working during the home learning period

Join the Blessed Sacrament Team!

If you or someone you know is interested in a teaching opportunity at our school, please visit our website at www.bssbruins.org for the list of 2020-2021 job openings and how to apply!

Uniform Policy and Items Changes for 2020-2021

This year, Dennis Uniform Company informed us that, although they would continue to offer uniform basics online, they would no longer provide logo items for schools. Therefore, we actively began searching for new uniform options for our families. We are grateful to David Saner at Luer's for continuing to partner with our school to provide high-quality uniform pieces and offer our school logo items. We are also pleased to announce that BSS will partner with Land's End Uniforms for uniform basics as well as school logo pieces for the 2020-2021 school year. Additionally, we are working with Primo Designs to make uniform logo pieces, as well as some basic items, available there.

Along with these new vendors, we are excited to announce some changes to our school uniform policy for the 2020-2021 school year! Through input from students, staff, and parents, we tried to simplify the options, minimize the transitions between styles, and increase the longevity of the styles.

Navy and khaki pants/shorts are not required to be purchased at specific retailers but restrictions remain on the style and cut. The complete policy is attached to this newsletter, but please see the highlights below:

Girls (grades 1-4):

- Plaid jumpers- Plaid must be purchased from an approved vendor (Luers Kids Kloz, Lands End, or Dennis Uniforms); navy pants or shorts; white shirts

Girls (grades 5-8):

- Khaki or navy skirts or skorts; khaki or navy pants or shorts; white, navy, green or red shirts with BSS logo

*Due to the change in uniform bottoms allowed for girls, the 2020-2021 school year will be transitional. Girls in grade 5 will be allowed to wear plaid skorts *if they were already purchased*. Girls in grade 8 will be allowed to wear plaid skirts *if they were already purchased*. No new purchases of these items should occur.

Boys (grades 1-4):

- Navy pants or shorts; white or light blue shirts

Boys (grades 5-8):

- Khaki or navy pants or shorts; white, navy, green or red shirts with BSS logo

Girls' and Boys' Shoes grades (K-8): standard athletic/gym shoes that fit snugly. (Moccasins, hiking boots, sandal-like shoes, and tennis shoes with wedge heels or wheels are not acceptable.) Shoelaces must be tied at all times if the shoes were designed for laces.

A complete flyer for Luer's is attached today's newsletter and more information can be found on their website <https://www.luersgroup.com>. The Land's End BSS store is now open online at <http://www.landsend.com/pp/SchoolSearch.html?action=landi ng&selectedSchoolNum=900149618> We hope to have online ordering at Primo in the coming weeks.

Special thanks to Trina Stremsterfer, Amanda and Jeff Hayes, and Doug Smith for researching uniform possibilities and all other parents and students who participated in our surveys!

Mentor Families Needed for 2020-2021 School Year!

We are in need of volunteers to serve as mentor families for new school families next school year. **We primarily need "experienced" BSS families enrolled in our preschool, pre-k, and kindergarten classes.** So far we only have two volunteers signed up! Let's show all of our new families what great ambassadors we are at BSS! We are so grateful to all those families who volunteered as mentors this year, and hope to have many more volunteers for the coming year. This service involves reaching out to the new school family(s) you are assigned to introduce yourself and offer assistance as needed at least on a quarterly basis throughout the school year. You earn four service hours for each family mentored. Please email Mrs. Burke at burke@bssbruins.org if you would be interested in helping in this way and indicate the number of families you are willing to mentor. Thank you!

SchoolKidz School Supply Orders

Once again we will offer the convenience of purchasing complete school supply kits for pre-school through 8th grade students from SchoolKidz. Go online to www.shopltkits.com and enter our school account number which is 10950. That will take you right to Blessed Sacramento's page where you may select the kits you need by grade level.

Kits will be shipped right to your front door by August 9! Please note that for grades 7 and 8, the TI30XA calculator is still required for math class but is NOT included in the kits this year. It is now an optional purchase available through SchoolKidz since many students simply keep their required calculator from 6th grade and do not need to purchase a new one every year. The calculator is required for and remains included in the 6th grade supply kit. **Supply kits are only available by ordering online until June 5,** so do not delay in placing your order!

96th Annual Garden Party

We are so disappointed to cancel this year's Garden Party. As this event approaches its 100th birthday, we thank all of those volunteers who have worked so hard to support this oldest of our parish events. We will definitely be back! In the meantime, we look forward to opportunities to gather as a parish family in the future.

IMSA Fusion Program Leader for 2020-2021

As we conclude another school year, we would like to extend our appreciation to the leaders of our IMSA Fusion programs for another successful year of this engaging STEM program. Thank you to Kim Eck for leading the 5th through 8th grade programs!

If there is anyone with a background in these areas who may be interested in leading/co-leading the IMSA Fusion programs for next school year, please contact Mrs. Burke by May 20. We certainly hope to continue to offer this wonderful enrichment opportunity to our students in the coming year! Thank you for your consideration!

Congratulations to BSS Students at State History Fair

We had several 8th grade students representing BSS at the “virtual” regional history fair. Congratulations to all of the following students on their project boards:

Good: Alaina Roland and MK Christie; Excellent: Annie Mizeur, Caroline Lambert, and Lucy Unal; Superior (these qualified for the state competition which will be judged on May 7th): Joshua Nicholas, Paige Luttrell, and Molly Davis.

Congratulations to the following 8th graders for their reports: Superior: Sophia Stewart(qualified for state competition which will be judged on May 7); Excellent: Lila Ambrose, Anthony Fergin, Maggie Fleischli, Catherine Gardner, Grayson Hady, Grace Klenke, Sophia Njapa, William Pittman, and Rose Unal. We are so proud of all of you!!

BSS Bruins Fall Baseball News

All incoming 6th-8th grade boys may try out for the IESA baseball team for the 2020-2021 school year. The season is fairly short (August 3-October 3) but very busy! Although allowances are made for participation in other BSS sports such as golf, it is very difficult to play another sport during the baseball season. The roster is capped at 18, so there may need to be a selection process depending on how many boys sign up to play. Tryouts will be held August 3-5. **Please email Coach Dave Ficke dave.ficke@lrs.com by May 22 to sign up for tryouts.** Please contact Coach Ficke at 217-622-0721 if you would like more information. Thank you!

Math Workbooks for Summer Review & Enrichment

Overall, our students are doing an amazing job in math. We encourage them to continue practicing math during the summer to retain the concepts that they have learned this year. As a possible resource for review, you may want to look into the Summer Skills Books. There are copies available for all grade levels. A copy of the order form is posted on the school website and can also be accessed at their website, www.summerskills.com.

If you would like to order a review book, you need to mail, call, fax, or order the book online. Do not send any order or payment to school. You need to order your own book as the book will be delivered to your home. Because this book is a review, you should order the math book that corresponds with your child’s current grade level. Answer keys and solution keys are provided in the books. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Healy.

Online Protecting God’s Children Class Available

The Protecting God’s Children class is required to volunteer for the school, and now is a great time to attend! The class is being offered online through our Diocese. Interested individuals should contact Michele Hinds-Greenwood at hinds-greenwood@bssbruins.org to receive information about registering. The PGC class is only required once, so become certified now and be able to volunteer in the school, on field trips, and much more for your child(ren)’s entire career!

Quarantine Quarter Run

BSS is continuing to promote a spring P.E./Recess Running Contest. We are not Quarantine Quitters, we are Quarantine Conquerors! The challenge is to run or walk 25K, which is equivalent to 15.5 miles. Please see the attached flyer to enter the contest. Congratulations to our top finishers so far: Ali Londrigan 1st place, Karigan Books 2nd place, and Natalie Jacobs 3rd place. Keep running, and let Mrs. Davis know when you have finished!

SHG Notes

Sacred Heart- Griffin’s summer classes and camps have been canceled due to the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions. Likewise, a make-up date for the zero-hour algebra entrance exam for incoming eighth graders has not yet been rescheduled. We will notify all eighth grade families once a new date has been set by SHG.

Hy-Vee Reusable Bag Program

We are excited to share that BSS has been selected to be a part of the Hy-Vee reusable bag program that supports local non-profits while supporting the environment. For the month of May, Blessed Sacrament School will receive a \$1 donation from each purchase of the \$2.50 Red, “My Heart” Reusable Bag at Hy-Vee 2115 South Macarthur Blvd., Springfield IL.

Reusable bags from home are currently banned for reuse while shopping at Hy-Vee but Red, “My Heart” Bags are still available for purchase in stores. This is a great way to raise awareness, support the environment, and fundraise for our school! Thank you to Hy-Vee for their support!

Vacation Bible School: UPDATE

Due to the current circumstances and Shelter in Place order, VBS is on hold for now. We will have more information available after the first week of May, so please stay tuned!!!! The online web page for registering will be on hold until then also. Any questions? Please email Danielle Landgrebe at Grebes13@gmail.com Thank you!

Reminder: Procedures for Grading

During the home learning period, the question of grading practices has been raised, especially since the Illinois State Board of Education published guidelines for all public school districts. While private schools do not fall under those recommendations, we would like to share some general guidelines since remote learning will continue for the remainder of this school year.

Credit will be given for completed work that will be calculated into fourth quarter grades. However, we will follow the public guideline that student work during the suspension of in-person instruction will not negatively impact a student’s grades or academic standing. The grading emphasis is on continued learning, and students may have the opportunity to re-do assignments as necessary. Students may receive an “E” (incomplete/excused) for fourth quarter on any assignments

and subjects in which there is not sufficient evidence that a student has completed the necessary assignments to the best of his or her ability under the present circumstances.

Teachers are working diligently to prepare students for the next grade level despite the circumstances, and we appreciate the tremendous amount of effort our students are exhibiting. Final grades will be calculated with first, second, and third quarter grades, along with any completed work during fourth quarter and the home learning period.

Our 4th grade teacher, Mrs. Watson, stated it best, "Let's reframe our thinking of home-schooling to home-learning. In no way should your house become a school, and in no way should your role as parent change to the role of teacher. All we are trying to do during this unprecedented time is continue the learning. However that looks in your home, go with it!" While our teachers will continue to provide instruction and educational opportunities, we are fully aware that this will work differently for each family, and we know that everyone is doing the best they can during these stressful times. Please communicate with teachers, Mrs. Klinner, and Mrs. Burke regarding your situation and any needs. We want to support you!

Looking Ahead

May 4-9 - Online book fair with Barnes and Noble

May 7 - Happy birthday, Father Jeff! Cards may be dropped off in the rectory entrance.

May 13 - 8th grade Awards Night presentation emailed home

May 14 - Last day of home learning for ALL students!

-11:00 a.m. All-School Mass live streamed! (link found on school website: www.bssbruins.org)

May 21 & 22 - Drop-off school materials and pick-up personal belongings. Times will be assigned by last name (schedule coming soon!)

May 22 - Baseball tryout sign up emails due to Coach Ficke

June 5 - Last day to preorder SchoolKidz school supply kits online