

+ Blessed Sacrament



School News

Learning to Make a Difference

September 3, 2020

Dear Parents,

I cannot believe that we turned the calendars over to September! So much happened in the month of August to prepare for and begin school with in-person instruction, and I am truly grateful for all the extra effort and support from students, staff and parents. We could not do this without you!

This month we will be focusing on the bible verse from Isaiah 58:10 "Feed the hungry and help those in trouble. Then the light will shine out from the darkness." We have ordered our leadership T-shirts, and we look forward to their arrival soon so that everyone may wear them each Monday. While our all-school assemblies are being held virtually this year, we still want to show our school spirit on Mondays and encourage leadership in all our students!

Our Bruins have also been competing in a number of sports this fall with some seasons wrapping up. Members of our golf team participate at sectionals next week: Laney Aleman, Macie Petropoulos, Sophia Cathers, Gigi Gray, Layden Tamblin, Emily Short, Mac Stone, Daniel Hallam, and Gavin Hayes. Congratulations and good luck!

Please have a safe and healthy holiday weekend, and we will see you again on Tuesday!

Yours in faith,
Mrs. Dawn Klinner

Welcome!

We know you will join us in welcoming Ms. Candice Downey to our faculty. Ms. Downey, our new third grade teacher, joins us with over 35 years of experience teaching second through fifth grades in Indiana. She recently relocated to Springfield and looks forward to becoming active in our parish community as well. We are happy to have Ms. Downey!

PSA Spirit Days

Tomorrow we will have our monthly PSA-sponsored Spirit Day. For a \$1 donation, students may wear any official BSS Spirit Day t-shirt, any sports team shirt, or the uniform shirt untucked with jeans, official BSS athletic pants, or uniform shorts, pants, or skirts. (No other shorts are allowed.) If a jersey is worn, a plain white short-sleeved shirt should be worn underneath the jersey. The sports team shirts are not usually included in our regular Spirit Days but are acceptable this week as many families do not yet have a Spirit Day shirt.

Our Spirit Day tomorrow, Friday, Sept. 4, is included for families who already paid the fee.

Health Reminders

Thankfully, we are three weeks into the school year already! As we continue to try streamline our processes regarding absences and required documentation, please note the following:

-IDPH recommends waiting 48 hours *after* symptoms appear before receiving a COVID-19 test. This policy is to hopefully preclude testing too soon and therefore receiving "false negative" results. While we understand some physicians' offices may provide different directives, we do encourage families to take note of the IDPH recommendation.

-When your child is able to return from an absence, please email the required documentation (note from a physician with a diagnosis and a copy of a negative COVID test, as necessary) to Mrs. Greenwood **the day before** the child returns to school if at all possible. That way, we can let you know if anything else is needed prior to your arrival in the morning. You may email Mrs. Greenwood at hinds-greenwood@bssbruins.org. This greatly assists with attendance procedures!

-Students that will be absent 3 or more days due to quarantine/illness/sibling exposure may be placed on the "Temporary Remote Learner" List. This process will be initiated by the office, so please do not email teachers directly with this request. Please speak to Mrs. Greenwood or Mrs. Burke with questions about temporary remote learning. Parents wanting to pick up homework for students that will be absent only two days are asked to call the school office with that request prior to 10:00 a.m. Again, please do not contact the teachers directly to request homework, as teachers are not always able to check their email or messages during the day, and therefore a homework request may be missed. Thank you!

7th and 8th Grade IMSA Fusion Program

The fall semester IMSA program for 7th and 8th graders, Medieval STEM, will begin next Tuesday, September 8. The program runs from 2:30-4:00 in the art room. The fee is \$150. We had more students interested than spaces available this semester, so students who were selected by lottery. **Those selected were notified by an email from Mrs. Burke earlier this week.** All those who expressed an interest but were not chosen at this time are on a waiting list in the event spaces open in the program.

second-place seller will receive a prize of \$50. Please help support our Parent School Association and our school!

Join our Lunchroom Volunteers!

Many hands make light work! At this time, we are seeking volunteers to work the Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday lunches. We rely on volunteers to provide our hot lunches each day, so please consider signing up for even just one day! You may sign up using the following link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0F45ACAC2AAA6-lunch>

We will also need lunchroom volunteers on Fridays beginning tomorrow, September 4! Please email Mrs. Greenwood at hinds-greenwood@bssbruins.org if you are available to help on Fridays so that we may set up a schedule of volunteers for Fridays... even if you're just available one Friday a month!

Arrival & Dismissal Procedures

Please remember that we updated our arrival and dismissal times this week since the processes are moving smoothly! Arrival now occurs from **7:40-8:05**, and the tardy bell rings at 8:05 a.m.

For dismissal, cars should park in the main parking lot from 2:30-2:46. (The chain will not be removed until 2:30 due to outdoor PE classes, so please do not arrive earlier.) The surrounding streets are becoming very congested at dismissal, but please refrain from parking in front of our neighbors' driveways or blocking any of the entrances to our parking lot. We have several parking spaces open in the lot so please park in the lot, particularly if your children are in one of the last two groups to be dismissed each day.

Parents should remain in or near their vehicles and not congregate while waiting for students. We also ask that face coverings are worn during the dismissal times, even when outdoors. The following dismissal times will occur:

- 2:47 PreK and K
- 2:51 Grades 1 and 2
- 2:54 Students with last names A-F
- 2:57 Students with last names G-N
- 3:00 Students with last names O-Z
- 3:03 Cars in the main parking lot will be dismissed

On 1:30 early dismissal days like next Wednesday, the following dismissal schedule will occur:

- 1:18 PreK and K
- 1:21 Grades 1 and 2
- 1:24 Students with last names A-F
- 1:27 Students with last names G-N
- 1:30 Students with last names O-Z
- 1:33 Cars in the main parking lot will be dismissed

PSA Wrapping Paper Sales

PSA's biggest fundraiser of the year began this week! Informational packets went home with students and the sales will run from Monday, August 31- Monday, September 14. Everyone who participates will receive a small prize. In addition, the top seller will receive a prize of \$100, and the

Rediker Online Access

Parents who have not activated their Rediker Plus Portals account received an email inviting you to join Rediker, our online student information system. Hopefully, you have taken the opportunity to activate your account. If you have not already done so, we ask that all school families complete this process as soon as possible since Rediker is a significant means of communication between home and school this year. There is a PlusPortals app available for both IOS and Android operating systems. Please note that it typically takes about a half-day for the system to sync the app once you have activated your account through your web browser. We appreciate your support of our communication system!

Back to Scrip

Start a new school year resolution to buy more scrip (or start buying scrip for the first time)! Scrip gift cards work just like any gift card but Blessed Sacrament School earns money with every card purchased. We keep track of your purchases, and each year we either reduce your B.S.S. tuition or offer you a rebate toward purchasing MORE gift cards. Give it a try! Gift cards are available to purchase in the school office during regular school hours or simply send in the scrip order form (it's on the website!)

Requirements for Volunteering at School

Any individual volunteering in any capacity in our parish or school must attend a training of Protecting God's Children and have a background check. Once you have attended the training, you never have to attend another session. However, if your background check was completed more than five years ago, it must be completed again. (The forms for the background check were included in the Orientation Night packet.) To volunteer in any capacity, you must meet these requirements.

Please contact Michele Hinds-Greenwood about taking the PGC course online this year. There may be some in-person sessions scheduled for dates and locations in Springfield or within close proximity. Please check for an updated schedule on the Diocesan website, www.dio.org.

New Standardized Testing

This year, the Diocesan Office of Schools made the decision to replace the standardized Iowa Assessments with the MAP Tests from NWEA. The MAP tests are computerized exams in math and reading. They are given to students in grades 2-8 three times a year to measure growth in math and reading skills. However, only the spring scores are submitted to the Diocesan Office of Schools annually. Students began testing this week with grades 2, 3, 7, and 8 finishing both tests. The other grades will begin or finish testing next week. Makeup testing will occur for all absences at a later time. Once testing is completed, we will look forward to the second round in December to see the growth in our students!

Cub Scout Pack 31 Activity

Cub Scout Pack 31 invites students in first through fifth grade to join a family activity at Southwind Park on September 12. Please see the flyer attached to today's newsletter.

Art Spectacular at the Carillon

The annual Fall Art Spectacular will be held at the Carillon on Saturday and Sunday, September 12 and 13. There are stringent Phase 4 COVID-19 guidelines in place, so they cannot have some of the usual "extras" this year, such as demos, silent auction, kids' art sale, and musicians. However, they do have several artists lined up who are more than ready to finally have a show! Please see the flyer attached to today's newsletter for more information.

Looking Ahead

Friday, Sept. 4 -

PSA Spirit Day for \$1 (covered by prepaid days)

Monday, Sept. 7 -

No school in observance of Labor Day

Wednesday, Sept. 9 -

1:30 p.m. dismissal for faculty meeting;

BASE available!

Thursday, Sept. 10 -

Band begins for grades 6-8

Weekend of Sept. 12-13 -

Parish flu shot clinic after Masses

Monday, Sept. 14 -

Leadership slideshow (wear t-shirts)

PSA wrapping paper sales end

Wednesday, Sept. 16 -

Mid-quarter progress reports

6:30 p.m. - 3rd grade parent meeting about

Confirmation/Communion in church

Monday, Sept. 21 -

Leadership slideshow (wear t-shirts)

Fall Scholastic Book Fair begins (all week)

Monday, Sept. 28 -

Leadership slideshow (wear t-shirts)

Tuesday, Sept. 29 -

4th grade Mission Mass live-streamed from the Cathedral