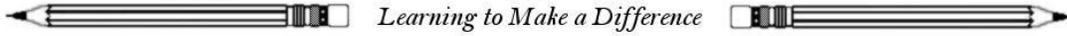


# + Blessed Sacrament



## School News



Learning to Make a Difference

January 7, 2021

Dear Parents,

I hope all of you enjoyed a quiet, relaxing Christmas break with your children. After a nice, long break, we were happy to see all of the students back in our classrooms! It's hard to believe that we started the third quarter this week!

Tomorrow, our students will receive their second quarter report cards. Please encourage them to continue to put forth their best efforts. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

**Please remember that next Wednesday, Jan. 13, is an early dismissal day with students being dismissed at 11:30 a.m. due to a faculty retreat/in-service. B.A.S.E. will NOT be provided, so please make arrangements.**

Also, we are in the process of finalizing plans for Catholic Schools Week, which runs Jan. 31-Feb. 5. Plans will certainly look different this year as we continue to follow restrictions and health guidelines in place, so a separate detailed calendar will be sent home in the upcoming weeks.

On behalf of the entire faculty and staff, I thank you for your generosity to all of us at Christmas. We truly appreciate your cards and gifts, and we extend our special thanks for the monetary gift from PSA, Men's Club, parents, and the Teacher Support Fund. Once again, the teachers and staff were overwhelmed by your generosity. We feel very blessed to be partners with you in the Catholic education of your children, especially through the current challenges, and we wish all of you many blessings in 2021. Happy New Year!!

Yours in faith,  
*Mrs. Dawn Klinner*

### PSA Spirit Day Tomorrow!

Friday, January 8, is a regular PSA spirit day. Students may wear any BSS spirit shirt or uniform shirt untucked with jeans or uniform bottoms. This is included with prepaid spirit days.

### New Area Code Coming!

Please remember that all customers with an Illinois 217 area code must begin dialing the area code and phone number for all local calls starting February 27, 2021. Another area code will be introduced into our area, so 10-digit numbers will be required for dialing. This is a perfect time to practice the full phone numbers of parents with your students!

### 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 can begin applying for next school year on January 13. By statute, scholarship money is allocated on a first come-first served basis for qualified applicants so be sure to apply on January 13. Empower Illinois is the organization that administers donations and scholarships for B.S.S. students. Please visit their website at [empowerillinois.org](http://empowerillinois.org) to find out more about the application process. You may also refer to the newsletter that was distributed in December or contact Kim Hoffmann or Laura Horton in the school office with questions.

### Winter is Here!

As snow, cold temperatures, and gusts of winter wind have arrived, mixed in with milder, sunny days, please remember that students need to be dressed appropriately for lunchtime recess. Typically, students go outdoors for recess unless there is precipitation or the temperature (actual or wind chill) is 20F or below. It is necessary for students to wear winter-weight coats on cold days along with gloves, hats, etc. as it does get quite cold for 20 minutes on the playground. A sweatshirt or light jacket may be sufficient to go from the car into a building, but it is often not enough for recess. For their own safety, students may not be allowed to go outdoors for recess if they are not properly dressed. Thank you for your cooperation with this matter!

### Speaking of Winter, Snow Days Are Still a Possibility

We now often utilize remote attendance and learning for students who are absent due to illness or quarantine. However, should the school need to close due to weather conditions, we may not be able to utilize remote attendance and learning in place of taking a "snow day" on short notice. While we are looking at all options, it may not be feasible for some grade levels, particularly our primary grades, to have a remote learning day on short notice. Thus, it may be an official "snow day." The decision will be made in conjunction with many of the Springfield Catholic schools and will be a consistent decision for all grade levels in attendance at BSS. As always, parents will be notified through our Rediker text messaging and email system of any school cancellations. You may also tune in to WICS Channel 20 and 1240 AM WTAX radio station to learn of any weather-related school closings.

### **Young Authors**

Each year our students participate in a writing activity called Young Authors. The Illinois Young Authors program has a long history. It is a celebration of the written work of children in kindergarten through eighth grades. The purpose of the statewide program, sponsored by the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Language and Literacy Council, is to support classroom teachers in their efforts to encourage and improve students' abilities in writing, reading, listening and sharing, and to recognize the accomplishments of young authors.

Participation is optional for kindergarten through second grade but is a class assignment in grades 3-8. Any students in grades 3-8 will receive one complimentary "bare book" for use in creating the finished manuscripts if required by their teachers. Additional books are for sale in the school office for \$3.50 each. The pages of the books are not printed with lines, but students may write/type their stories on loose paper and then paste them into the book.

Any students in kindergarten through second grade who choose to write books should return them to the school office by March 5. Teachers in grades 3-8 may set an earlier deadline if they so choose. Please see the attached letter, too.

### **A Request for Assistance from the IESA**

While this is not something we would normally share with families, we have been asked to pass along this information from the IESA. The IESA has played an important part in our school athletic programs for several years, as they have for many non-public and public schools throughout Illinois. The ongoing pandemic has had a drastic effect on their financial situation. The cancellation of the volleyball, wrestling, and track and field state championships last school year resulted in a loss of about \$440,000 to their budget, and the status of events for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year remains in doubt. Therefore, the IESA established a GoFundMe page in order for their organization to remain operational and asked if all member schools would please share this information with our school communities. No donations should be sent to the school at all. Rather, those interested may access that page by clicking on this link: <https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/the-campaign-to-save-iesa>

### **Looking Ahead**

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 retreat

No BASE available!

7:00 p.m. EmpowerIL scholarship reservations begin

Monday, Jan. 18 - No school - MLK, Jr. Day

Monday, Jan. 25 - Wear leadership t-shirt

Sunday, Jan. 31 - Friday, Feb. 5 - Catholic Schools Week!