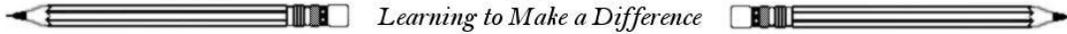


+Blessed Sacrament



School News



February 18, 2021

Dear Parents,

I hope you were able to stay warm and safe on Monday and Tuesday during our snow emergencies! While some bitter cold weather and snow have surrounded us, many traditional events have still occurred. Thank you for the wonderful support for our Valentine's Day celebrations! At this same time, we kicked off registration for next year, so please see the related article.

Our student body began the season of Lent with the celebration of a virtual all-school Mass and the distribution of ashes on Wednesday. Our Men's Club begins their Lenten fish fry events every Friday from 5:00-7:00 p.m. These will be drive-through events this year with food picked up in our main parking lot, and they appreciate your continued support. In addition, we hope you will take an opportunity for personal reflection with your family as we begin the season of Lent.

In case your students weren't able to share these wonderful jokes from Father Jeff with you, we thought you would enjoy seeing his video from Catholic Schools Week: <https://youtu.be/Bwt04rXh1cU>

Yours in faith,
Mrs. Dawn Klinner

Registration for 2021-2022

Registration packets for current school families were sent home this week and are due back on Friday, February 26. Preschool and PreK offerings will remain the same. Registration for the general public begins on Monday, March 1. We have many former BSS families interested in returning this fall, along with new families. While we have maintained restricted capacity limits in classrooms this year, we intend to raise individual classroom capacity limits for next year. Depending upon community restrictions in place, we are unsure if we will go back to pre-pandemic capacities or somewhat lower limits, so registration of our current school families will ensure their enrollment. We will continue to strictly implement all health requirements, which has made for a very successful school year. Thank you for your cooperation!

Smart Watches

Please note that students are not to have "smart" watches on at school. Just like cell phones, they should be turned off and put away or given to the teacher. This applies at BASE as well.

Dismissal Parking

While the streets surrounding the school are very crowded at dismissal each day, the situation has recently been compounded by the snow. With large piles of snow along the curbs and sidewalks (and not going anywhere for awhile!), parking is now even more scarce than before. Many parents of our pre-K, kindergarten and first grade students park along the streets since those children are dismissed beginning at 2:47. However, there simply is not enough room for all cars to park on the streets, thereby creating traffic congestion for the entire neighborhood while leaving the parking lot somewhat empty. In order to ease congestion, please park in the school parking lot if your older children are dismissed in the third alphabetical group or tend to exit the building a bit behind their assigned dismissal group. Likewise, if you are parked on the street for our youngest students, please load your vehicles and leave as promptly as possible in order to free up spaces for more cars as they arrive for older students. Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

March Hot Lunch orders

It's already time for hot lunch orders for the month of March! Please log in to www.ezparentcenter.com to pre-order lunches. Ordering will remain open until Thursday, February 25th. Please send any cash or check payments to school by February 24th so that they can be entered before the cut-off.

*March 2nd will be a make up day for the snow day on 2/16. Students who ordered Cheeseburger Sliders for 2/16 will automatically roll over to this day. If you need to add a lunch for that day, please email lunches@bssbruins.org

Again, we will host some of our locally-owned restaurants for Meals-To-Go to benefit our school's annual fund. Please see attached flyer for more information and note any price changes at the bottom of the ordering screen.

History and Science Fair

Congratulations to our 8th grade students on the completion of their history fair papers and displays and our 7th grade students on the completion of their science fair papers and projects! All of these students put a great deal of creativity, time, and effort into their work and it certainly shows! They should truly be proud of their efforts!

We will showcase all of the students' projects via a virtual history and science fair video link in the coming days, and projects will remain on display in the school next week.

BSS: Supporting Businesses that Support our Community

A group of 7th and 8th grade students, sponsored by Mrs. Reiser, is leading an effort to support Cafe' Moxo. As you may have read, Mark Forinash, the owner of Cafe' Moxo, has generously donated hundreds of meals to anyone in need of a meal over the past several months. In order to support those continuing efforts, as well as this local restaurant, BSS will host a **special spirit day on Friday, February 26**. For a minimum donation of \$1, students may wear a BSS spirit shirt with jeans or uniform bottoms. All donations will go to Cafe' Moxo to assist with their continuing efforts to provide meals for those in need in our community. To add to this student-led initiative, the 7th and 8th graders are providing an **extra recess to the class who raises the most money** for these needed meals. We thank these students for their leadership and service to our community!

Elizabeth Ann Seton Award

Do you know a Catholic school teacher who strives for academic excellence with a focus on the Catholic mission? Know a teacher who left a lasting impression on you or your child? Know a teacher who goes above and beyond for his or her students and who lives authentically Catholic? Nominate that teacher for the diocesan wide St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Award! Nominations are due by March 5. Go to dio.org/schools/eas.

Please Help Us Connect with Students' Grandparents

As you may recall, we had a successful virtual grandparents' day in the fall, sending letters and photos to hundreds of our students' grandparents and special friends. However, we would really like to have a way to stay in touch more often and keep them updated about the latest happenings at BSS. Please take a moment to complete the brief Google form to provide grandparents' addresses and email addresses so that we may update our records. <https://forms.gle/pYzeQK3P2QJHLBMw9> Thank you for your help!

Virtual Open House for Prospective Students

In yet another "first" for this year, our annual open house for prospective families is going virtual! Videos for our "Non-Open" House will be posted on the school website on Monday, February 22. We'll showcase "a day in the life of a preschool student" and "a day in the life of a kindergartener." Information packets will also be available in the school office. Please share this information with anyone you know who may be interested in enrolling new preschool, pre-k, or kindergarten students for the 2021-22 school year.

Welcome to our New Preschool Aide

We welcome Mrs. Trina Stremsterfer as the new long-term substitute aide for our preschool classes with Ms. Malawy. Our preschool aide assists the preschool teacher and our 3-year-old students daily. Mrs. Stremsterfer comes to us with prior preschool experience. She and her husband, John, have children in our eighth, sixth, and first grades.

Technology Safety Presentations

Each year, in conjunction with the Illinois Attorney General's Office, Blessed Sacrament School offers technology and online safety training for our students as a part of their overall instruction in computer class. Additionally, we offer parent information sessions whenever possible, as parents are the first and best moderators of their children's online activity and safety. This year, due to Covid-19, all of these presentations will be virtual. We are currently working with Karilyn Orr of the Illinois AG Office. Today, she presented virtual sessions for all the fifth and eighth grade students.

This year they are also extending a free webinar series to parents. Every two weeks until the end of the school year, they will host Parent/Community Webinars. They run in a 9-part series covering different safety topics pertaining to technology and digital safety. They are trying to reach as much of the state as possible, offering them at different dates/times. These are free, and no one is required to fill anything out. The next webinar in the series is "Maintaining a Safe Online Environment," which will be held on February 24 and 25 at 6:30 p.m. This webinar will offer general safety recommendations regarding account creation, privacy settings, image-sharing, parental controls, and more. Please see the attached flyer for more information or use the links below to register for the session of your choice. They hope to provide a library or archived webinars in the future, but that is not available at this time. We encourage parents to take advantage of these presentations!

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

https://ilattorneygeneral.gov.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_7py5HyPVS6CroxZ7531jJ

Thursday, February 25, 2021

https://ilattorneygeneral.gov.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_aAUtwG47SLOCSfIXIm6M0Q

School Picture Class Composite Orders

Class Composites are now available to order through Inter-State Studio! Get yours today at inter-state.com/order. Use Order Code **56740GQ**. These are available until 3/10/2021 at 11:59 pm.

Tuition Assistance for 2021-2022

The F.A.C.T.S. tuition assistance applications (along with the required supporting documentation) for the 2021-2022 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 522-7534, ext. 245, with any questions or for assistance with the online process.

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!

IESA and SCAA Athletic Updates

While many restrictions and safety precautions are in place, the students are truly grateful to be back in sports again! Guidelines include masks being worn at all times, symptom checks upon arrival, rules for equipment sanitization, and social distancing requirements.

The **IESA** seasons are as follows:

- Boys basketball (gr 7-8): Now through March 12
- Girls volleyball (gr 7-8): Now through March 19
- Girls basketball (gr 7-8): March 8 through May 9
- Track & Field (gr 5-8): March 1 through June 12
- Scholastic Bowl (gr 6-8): Now
- Wrestling (gr 5-8): April 5 through May 30

The **SCAA** seasons are as follows:

- Girls basketball (gr 5-6) games Feb. 27-March 27
BSS hosts the 5 weekends
- Boys basketball (gr 5-6) games March 27-May 8
SAS hosts 5th grade
CTK hosts 6th grade
- Girls volleyball (gr 5-6) games April 17-May 15
LF hosts

Please note that no spectators will be allowed at any Springfield Catholic elementary schools. Our players' safety is our top priority, and we are grateful that we are able to resume sports this year, even under these heightened restrictions.

We are still in need of a coach for track. If you are interested in coaching or have any questions regarding the IESA or SCAA sports, please contact our athletic director, Karli Adams, at adamsathletics@bssbruins.org.

Girls on the Run - Coordinator Needed

Blessed Sacrament School is in need of a coordinator to lead the Girls on the Run program this spring. The program begins the week of March 15, and practices are typically held twice a week after school for 75 minutes, days and times depending upon coach availability. Virtual meetings are also an option due to Covid-19 this year. Volunteers must have completed Protecting God's Children and will receive service hours. You may learn more at www.GOTRcentralillinois.org or by emailing our P.E. teacher, Mrs. Davis, at davis@bssbruins.org.

Scrip Can (sort of) Help Organize Your Home!

Have you noticed that a clean house can instantly put you in a good mood? It gives you a sense of accomplishment and makes you feel in control. Once your house is de-cluttered, you'll want to keep it that way! Shop **Amazon**, **Lowes** and **Target** for storage containers, hangers, shelves, shoe racks—anything you need to help your home stay clutter-free. Scrip gift cards are available at the school office during regular school hours.

Online School Directory Reminder!

As we transitioned to the online school directory this year, we have found that fewer families activated their information for the directory than in the past, and many families would like that information. BSS has activated the online staff and parent directories in the Rediker Plus Portals system for easy access to needed contact information instead of a printed school directory. Each parent needs to actively give permission for their contact information to be visible to the Blessed Sacrament community, though, so we would like you to start the process now! Please follow the directions on the attached flyer to activate your contact information.

Looking Ahead

Friday, Feb. 19 -

Monthly PSA spirit day

5:00-7:00 p.m. Men's Club fish fry - drive-thru only!

Monday, Feb. 22 -

Virtual Open House for prospective families

Friday, Feb. 26 -

Registration from current families due!

Extra spirit day for \$1 to benefit meals for our community from Cafe' Moxo

5:00-7:00 p.m. Men's Club fish fry - drive-thru only!

Monday, Mar. 1 -

Registration opens to the public

Wednesday, Mar. 3 -

School Spelling Bee Gr 4-8

Friday, Mar. 5 -

Monthly PSA spirit day

End of the 3rd Quarter

Young Author submissions due for grades K-2

5:00-7:00 p.m. Men's Club fish fry - drive-thru only!

Wednesday, Mar. 10 -

Report cards sent home

1:30 p.m. dismissal for faculty meeting

Friday, Mar. 12 -

8th grade Confirmation retreat

5:00-7:00 p.m. Men's Club fish fry - drive-thru only!

Sunday, Mar. 14 - 8M Confirmation

Monday, Mar. 15 - Late fees begin for registration

Wednesday, Mar. 17 -

Free modified spirit day for St. Patrick's day!

Friday, Mar. 19 -

5:00-7:00 p.m. Men's Club fish fry - drive-thru only!

Sunday, Mar. 21 - 8S Confirmation

Tuesday, Mar. 23 - 4th grade attends virtual Mission Mass

Friday, Mar. 26 -

5:00-7:00 p.m. Men's Club fish fry - drive-thru only!

Thursday, Apr. 1 -

1:30 p.m. dismissal for Holy Thursday

Friday, Apr. 2 -

3:00 p.m. Living Stations by the 7th grade

Friday, Apr. 2-Apr. 9 - Easter break!