

# † Blessed Sacrament



## School News

*Learning to Make a Difference*

**February 4, 2021**

Dear Parents,

It's hard to believe that we're already halfway through the third quarter! Mid-quarter progress reports were emailed home yesterday with all students in grades 3-8. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the progress report, please contact your child's teacher.

Coming up is registration for the 2021-2022 school year. Please see the related articles reviewing the process. We were also able to begin our indoor sports seasons after guidelines were adjusted, so you may want to see the related article about sports, too.

The main message for today is true appreciation for all those who support our Catholic school and the education we are able to provide! We enjoyed a wonderful celebration of Catholic Schools Week with our theme of Let the Games Begin! While operating under current health restrictions, we were still able to have many creative and enjoyable activities. Thank you, again, for all that you do to support Catholic education at Blessed Sacrament. We couldn't do it without you! A special thanks to Marin Lowder and Rejeana Meado for all they did to coordinate this amazing week for us!

Please enjoy this video for Catholic Schools Week from all the schools in our diocese:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ARwIAwWqe0>

Yours in faith,  
*Mrs. Dawn Kliner*

### **Girl Scout and Art Club Garden Renovation Project**

The 8th grade Girl Scout troop is partnering with the 8th grade Art Club to renovate the school's courtyard garden this spring. In addition to a major clean-up, they will be refurbishing and painting the benches and adding new plants and decorative features. The students are all donating their time and talent to make this a welcoming place for all students and teachers. In order to cover the cost of the materials, the Girl Scout troop has established an online cookie booth. If you are craving your annual supply of Girl Scout Cookies, please consider purchasing through the link below to support this BSS troop, as all of the profits will go toward the school garden project.

<https://app.abcsmartcookies.com/#/virtual-booth-landing/fdb05a29-8c23-eb11-9fb3-0003ff502ee1> Your cookie order will be available for pick-up at the main entrance of the school on Thursday February 11 or 18 from 3:15-4:30 p.m. Orders must be placed by noon on Wednesday, February 10 or 17. Thank you in advance for supporting this school service project!

### **Registration for 2021-2022**

In order to assist with the planning process for next year, registration for current school families will begin early this year. The registration period for preschool through eighth grade for the 2021-2022 school year begins on February 16, with registration packets being sent home with current students. Preschool and PreK offerings will remain the same, which will be explained in the packets. Registration forms are due back on Friday, February 26.

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, which makes timely registration of our current families very important. 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 in advance for your cooperation!

### **Thank You for a Wonderful Catholic Schools Week!**

Thank you to all of the volunteers who assisted our PSA coordinators, Marin Lowder and Rejeana Meado, with all of our activities this week. The students and staff really enjoyed everything! As part of our Faith and Community Appreciation Days, the school created a video that was shared with both hospitals, St. Joseph's Home and the Dominican Motherhouse to thank all of the healthcare workers for their service during the pandemic. Here is a link to the video:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/4390owdjdju3st60/Welco%20to%20BSS%202021.mp4?dl=0>

### **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](http://dio.org/schools/eas).

### **IESA and SCAA Athletic Updates**

Just after our last newsletter, the state of Illinois was allowed to resume sports based on new guidelines aligned to a region's phase. IESA immediately began its seasons for girls volleyball and boys basketball, so many of our 7th and 8th graders took to the court this last week. The 7th and 8th grade volleyball teams each competed in their first matches this week, and the 7th and 8th grade boys basketball teams will have their first games next week.

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. Blessed Sacrament is not able to allow spectators due to the limited space in our bleachers and not enough distance from the spectators to the participants. Instead, we are live streaming the games for spectators at home with a huge thanks to Ethan Short!

The **IESA** seasons for the remainder of the year 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

The **SCAA** league intends to begin after the IESA seasons are well underway and the leaders have a chance to meet and set up guidelines. Right now the hope is to still include shortened seasons for 5th/6th grade volleyball and 5th/6th grade boys and girls basketball. The seasons may overlap slightly, and our gym time is sure to be filled with various practices soon! Permission slips may come home in the near future so that we may begin as soon as the league opens. Stay tuned for more information later this month!

### **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.

### **Preschool Aide Position**

It was announced to preschool parents earlier this week that our preschool aide position has become open, and we are looking for a long-term sub for the remainder of the school year. Any interested individuals should email Mrs. Klinner at [klinner@bssbruins.org](mailto:klinner@bssbruins.org). Our preschool aide assists the preschool teacher and our 3-year-old students daily from 7:30-11:00 a.m.

### **Free Valentine's Day Spirit Day**

Students will have a free spirit day for Valentine's Day next Friday, February 12. Students may wear a red, pink, or Valentine's Day shirt with jeans, BSS athletic pants, or uniform bottoms for no charge. Happy Valentine's Day!

### **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!

### **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.

### **Valentine's Day Box Tops Collection**

All students received a Box Tops for Education collection form today. All completed forms returned on or before Thursday, February 11, will receive a treat!

### **8th Grade & Transfer Student Parents!**

Are you considering SHG for your student? Enrolling your student at SHG and want to gather more information? Curious about what SHG is all about? If you fall into any of these groups, then this Zoom is for you! Join us on *Monday, February 8 OR Wednesday, February 10 from 7-7:30 p.m.* You will have the opportunity to meet SHG Principal, Mrs. Kara Rapacz, watch our new welcome video, hear from SHG parents and students, learn about financial assistance opportunities, and have your questions answered by our Guidance staff. As a BONUS for attending, there will be a drawing for a *full uniform set from Luers!* Use the following zoom link: <https://bit.ly/parentzoommtg> Questions? Call or email Jen Bettis, Director of Advancement, at 217-787-9732 or [bettis@shg.org](mailto:bettis@shg.org).

### **SHG Tuition Drawing**

As we plan ahead for the 2021-2022 school year at Sacred Heart-Griffin, here's a little something to add to the excitement: *A chance to win \$2,000 off tuition!* This year, there will be a drawing for FOUR - \$2,000 tuition waivers (one for each grade). You are **ONLY** eligible to be in the drawing if you register your student/s at SHG **ON OR BEFORE TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2021**. As always, we encourage early registration as it's first come, first served for class selections. For more information, please contact Amanda Mandeville at 787-1595 ext. 155 or [mandeville@shg.org](mailto:mandeville@shg.org).

### **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.

### **Year-End Tax Documents**

All school families received their year-end tax documents from Mrs. Horton soon. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Horton at [horton@bssbruins.org](mailto:horton@bssbruins.org) or call.

### **Looking Ahead**

Friday, Feb. 5 - Teacher Appreciation Day

**The Game of Life (after BSS) - dress as your future career**

- Krispy Kreme donuts & hot chocolate provided for students' breakfast
- No homework! Teachers need a break, too!
- 11:30 a.m. dismissal - BASE is NOT available!

Monday, Feb. 8 - Wear leadership t-shirts

Wednesday, Feb. 10 -

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

Friday, Feb. 12 -

Free modified spirit day for Valentine's Day!

Classroom Valentine's Day celebrations

Monday, Feb. 15 - No school for Presidents' Day!

Tuesday, Feb. 16 -

Registration begins for current families

Wednesday, Feb. 17 - Ash Wednesday

Friday, Feb. 19 - Monthly PSA spirit day

Monday, Feb. 22 -

Virtual Open House for prospective families

Friday, Feb. 26 -

Registration from current families due

Men's Club fish fry - drive-thru/carry out only!