

+Blessed Sacrament



School News



November 30, 2023

A Note to Parents

Dear Parents,

During Advent, we prepare to celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ, who dwelled among us and remains present to us through God's grace. "God invites us at Advent to become pilgrims who travel to sacred places, searching to fulfill our holiest longings, preparing to receive our Savior."

Our students will prepare for the coming of Jesus by reflecting on the descendants of Abraham, Jacob, Judah, and Jesse. Students in grades 2 - 8 will be reading about the Jesse Tree symbol over morning announcements. We also encourage our students to think about how they can follow Jesus even more during the season of Advent. These beautiful symbols are then placed onto our Jesse Tree in the school.

We are also encouraging our students to show acts of kindness towards others during these special days of Advent. Students displaying acts of kindness will be given a small star. These stars will be hung up in the school cafeteria. By the end of Advent, we are hoping to make the star of Bethlehem get bigger and brighter to help guide the way for Mary and Joseph.

If there is one thing that we have learned in the past years... We are desperate for Jesus. We cling to him for peace and the truth that he is in control. In the New Testament, you know God kept his promise. Jesus came. Despite our lack of faith... He came. And so here in the darkness, we light our Advent wreaths and our trees. May we all walk closely with Jesus through the darkness. May we be light. May we be hope. May we be Christ.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Nicole Kuhlman

School Picture Retake Day!

Tomorrow, Friday, December 1, is school picture retake day. Please return the original picture packet to school if your child is having a retake. Those students having a retake may be out of uniform for their pictures. Please go online to order in advance. Our order code is **80103X**
<https://inter-state.com/myschoolcode>

Hot Lunch Volunteers Needed!

We are in need of additional volunteers for our hot lunch program on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays for the third quarter. Please follow the link to sign up for volunteer hours.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0C4CACAB22A2F85-46389272-tuesdaythursdayf>

Parking Lot Instructions

You will notice that a significant portion of our parking lot/playground is presently fenced off as a staging area for the church roofing materials. Scaffolding is going up now. **While the staging area is in place on our parking lot, please pay close attention to the parking lot supervisors, as use of various lanes may have to change.** Our morning supervisors and student patrols will direct cars differently, when necessary. Please follow their directions. Thank you for your cooperation to keep everyone safe and our drop off lines moving along!

Blessed Sacrament PSA Update

- **Gingerbread House Building Event** - The PSA is hosting a gingerbread house night for families on Friday, December 8. The event will be held in the cafeteria at 6:00 p.m. The cost is \$5 per house. There will be a Christmas movie playing as well as hot chocolate to sip. Kids are also welcome to eat the candies as they are building if desired, but no other food will be provided. Please follow the link to RSVP for this event, as we will need to plan for the number of gingerbread houses. Please respond by **December 4**.
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfYMLzbIR0fuFGjh-t70NOiAg50AWIK8C_AaehEVeNE6Y48Aw/viewform
 - The PSA is gathering information on various options for potential family events and parents-only events, and everyone's input is welcome! Please follow the link to participate in the survey and share any ideas you may have as well. **Responses will close on December 15.**
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdsB_e_3x0JPTD_V6CRV93ga8JbHPIHCZXmM-ZAq79twdAGA/viewform?usp=sf_link
 - Will You Find the GOLDEN TICKET?!?! Feeling lucky? The PSA is selling candy bars through December 5th. Each candy bar is \$2. If you find a golden ticket, you win ALL ACCESS, UNLIMITED PLAY for up to ten people at Malibu Jack's during a special event on December 9th. You may purchase the candy bars from the school office. See the attached flier for more details.
- SHG Preview Night**

Parents of 7th-8th graders... Wednesday, December 6, is preview night from 6-7:30. We have a fun night planned and we look forward to sharing it with you and your student(s)! There will be personalized tours, an activities/clubs fair, famous SHG cookies, and other activities. Please come and see all SHG has to offer!

Health Reminders

The cold and flu season is now very active! Just a reminder for cold and flu season, any students and staff who have a fever or have thrown up must be symptom free for 24 hours (without fever-reducing medication) before they may return to school. We appreciate all your efforts to help us keep everyone healthy for the holiday season!

Luer's Storewide Christmas Sale

Be sure to include Luer's on your shopping list this weekend! There is 20% off storewide from November 25-December 2. Now is a great time to stick up on any uniform pieces you may need and pick up a few extra items, too. Please see the flier for more details.

A Little Christmas Spirit Courtesy of SHG

Christmas is right around the corner and we would like to invite you to start your Christmas season with us! SHG's Encore and Choir will present their annual Christmas concert on Wednesday, December 13, at 7 pm in the Dominican Hall Performing Arts Auditorium. Please come and join us for a n enjoyable evening of Christmas music. This event is free and open to the public.

The BSS Spring Musical is Beauty and the Beast, Jr.

Audition information for Beauty and the Beast junior is posted outside of the music room. Auditions, for grades 6-8, will be held in the music room Tuesday-Thursday Dec. 12-14. Students must sign up for an audition time by Monday Dec. 11th. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Triphahn

B.S.S. Parent Calendar

Parents are invited to add or sync a digital copy of the school calendar with their own Google Calendars using the link below. This calendar will be updated in real time with events relevant to school families and contains pertinent dates listed in the school handbook, lunch open/close dates, and dates/events that have been scheduled since the calendar was printed. Syncing this calendar to your cell phone will allow easier access to important dates; we hope you take advantage of this resource!

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0?cid=Y181ZGM3NDgyOGQxOWU4YWVmMDM4MTQ0OGJlZjQ2ZTUzNjE1MjU3MWM4MTFIYjZlNjZjZGU4ODdjNmJjZjk0NWExQGdyb3VwLmNhbGVuZGFyLmdvb2dsZS5jb20>

BSS Promotes Good Sportsmanship

Good sportsmanship can be defined as playing a game fairly while respecting the rules, officials, coaches, opponents, and teammates. When athletes and fans treat

everyone with respect, competition thrives and they are also able to gain the respect of others and benefit from the support of everyone.

All of our students are aware of the importance of showing respect and good sportsmanship. There are a few key rules to remember and remind your children about in regards to sportsmanship. First, we want our athletes and fans to celebrate successes and support them when they struggle. Second, respect the competition whether you win or lose. Next, appreciate and respect all coaches, referees, and officials. Lastly, be respectful towards all athletes, coaching staff, officials and fans. Our students are expected to follow these rules and will have consequences if extreme unsportsmanlike behavior occurs. We also ask that parents, coaches, and fans set a good example for their children by displaying good sportsmanship and abiding by these same rules. Thank you for your cooperation!

After School Walkers Crossing Laurel Street

Unfortunately, we continue to have parents and grandparents walking their students between the cars on Laurel Street after school, which then causes traffic to stop suddenly. Please be certain to always use the crosswalks when crossing the streets, and reinforce this to your children. There are crossing guards at both intersections on Laurel (Glenwood and Walnut). We want to keep our students and families safe and also not disrupt the flow of traffic on Laurel Street. Thank you for your cooperation!

Change of Dismissal Notifications

Please **DO NOT** send notices of a change in dismissal plans directly to teachers via emails or Class Dojo (PK-grade 3) during the school day, as those messages may be missed during the course of a busy day. If it is necessary to change dismissal plans for a child due to unexpected circumstances, parents must call the school office prior to 2:40 p.m. The office will notify the teacher and the student of the new dismissal plans. Thank you for your cooperation!

Requirements for Volunteering at School

Any individual volunteering in any capacity in our parish or school must attend a training course through CMG (Protecting God's Children) and have a background check. Once you have completed 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.

The Diocese of Springfield will be using CMG Connect for Protecting God's Children training and is used for tracking background checks. If you need to complete the training, go to <https://springfieldil.cmgconnect.org> to sign in and create an account. After logging in, you will need to select your role at the school (volunteer, coach, etc.). This will then provide you with the training and requirements that you will need to complete. **Please contact Michele**

Hinds-Greenwood at hinds-greenwood@bssbruins.org if you are needing further assistance.

Interested in Substituting in our School?

Blessed Sacrament is now accepting applications for substitute teachers and aides for the 2023-24 school year. A high school diploma is required to substitute for a classroom aide, and a bachelor's degree is required to substitute for a teacher. Contact the school office if you are interested in applying to be a substitute for this school year.

Looking Ahead

Friday, Dec. 1 -

Picture retake day
PSA spirit day (included in pre-paid days)
2:15 - Adoration for grades 2-8

Saturday, Dec. 2 -

9:00-12:00 - 7th grade speech meet at St. Aloysius
12:00 -7:00 - Merry Christmas Market and Holly Fair
4:30 p.m. - Youth Family Mass; Cookies and photos with Santa Claus following Mass in the school cafeteria

Sunday, Dec. 3 -

1:00 p.m. - First Solemn Communion Mass for third graders at Blessed Sacrament Church

Monday, Dec. 4 -

8:15 a.m. - Leadership assembly

Wednesday, Dec. 6 -

6:00 -7:30 pm - SHG Preview Night for 7th and 8th grade students and their families

Friday, Dec. 8 -

8:20 a.m. - All school Mass - Please join us!

Sunday, Dec. 10 -

1:00 p.m. - First Grade Christmas Program

Tuesday, Dec. 12 -

6:00 p.m. - Mrs. Larson's 3rd grade Christmas program
7:00 p.m. - Mrs. Newton's 3rd grade Christmas program

Wednesday, Dec. 13 -

1:30 p.m. dismissal; BASE available
7:00 p.m. - SHG's Christmas Concert

Thursday, Dec. 14 -

10:00-1:30 - 7th and 8th grade IMSA field trip
6:30 - Band Concert

Friday, Dec. 15 -

9:00 am - Kindergarten Christmas program
6:30 pm- PSA Christmas activity in the cafeteria
Lunch ordering opens

Monday, Dec. 18 -

9:00 a.m. - Ms. Malawy's preschool Christmas program
10:00 a.m. - Mrs. Kenzel's preschool Christmas program

Tuesday, Dec. 19 -

9:15 a.m. - PreK Christmas program

6:00 p.m. - Mrs. Ambrose 2nd grade Christmas program

7:00 p.m. - Mrs. Phillips 2nd grade Christmas program

Wednesday, Dec. 20 -

End of second quarter
Classroom Christmas parties

11:30 dismissal - No BASE available!!

December 21 - January 7 - Christmas vacation!

Monday, Jan. 8 -

Classes Resume