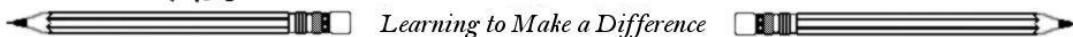


# +Blessed Sacrament



## School News



November 9, 2023

### A Note to Parents

Dear Parents,

Have you noticed the beauty of fall all around us? It really is simply beautiful. Fall brings me such a feeling of gratitude for the many blessings in my life and it makes me stop and truly appreciate everything around me.

Next Friday is the midpoint of the second quarter already. Mid-quarter reports will be emailed to grade 3 - 8 parents. We appreciate you working with the teachers to support your children in their academic and faith development. Please feel free to contact the teachers directly if you have any questions or concerns.

Thanksgiving is just two weeks away, and Christmas is only 46 days away! In this busy time of the year, our school calendar quickly fills up with special events as well. Please be sure to read through the *Looking Ahead* calendar section at the end of the newsletter for all updates. I especially want to draw your attention to all of the different Christmas Programs that are scheduled. Look for details to be sent by the classroom teachers for more details and information.

I am so blessed and grateful for our Blessed Sacrament School family. I am so blessed to work with such dedicated teachers, staff members, and families. Most of all, it's a privilege and a joy each day to have your children at our school. All of you will continue to be included in my prayers of gratitude, especially over the Thanksgiving holiday. On behalf of the entire Blessed Sacrament School faculty and staff, best wishes for a blessed and Happy Thanksgiving to you and your families!

Sincerely,  
**Mrs. Nicole Kuhlman**

### Afternoon with the Arts

All families and friends of the Blessed Sacrament are invited to attend Afternoon with the Arts on Sunday, November 12th from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. There will be performances, cookie decorating, forts for reading in the library, Boy Scout flag ceremony to honor veterans, and art work to view throughout the building. There will even be a book signing from a local author and parishioner. Thank you to Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Criscione, Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Ficke, Mrs. Healy, Mrs. Mauntel, and Mrs. Triphahn for all of their time, dedication, and efforts into making this special event a success! Thank you to all of the additional volunteers, parents, staff members, and students for their help in

celebrating our love of the arts! We look forward to seeing you there!

### Barnes & Noble Book Fair Is Coming Soon!

Our annual holiday Barnes & Noble Book Fair is just around the corner! It will run from Monday, November 20 - Saturday, November 25. Customers may shop in the store or order online for curbside pick-up on Monday, November 20. You may then order online from Tuesday, November 22-Saturday, November 25 and have purchases shipped to your home. This is a great opportunity to fulfill Christmas gift lists while benefiting our BSS library. Please watch for the Book Fair ID number coming soon!

### 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=Y181ZGM3NDgyOGQxOWU4YWVmMDM4MTQ0OGJJZjQ2ZTUzNjE1MjU3MWM4MTE1YjZlNjZjZGU4ODdjNmJjZjk0NWExOGdyb3VwLmNhbGVuZGFyLmdvb2dsZS5jb20>

### Welcome to the Blessed Sacrament Parent School Association!

Every parent is automatically part of the PSA and encouraged to be involved this school year. We are currently working on exciting projects for the upcoming months. The PSA President is Abbey Steele, who is the mother of three BSS students. Please contact Abbey if you wish to learn more about how you can volunteer: [psa@bssbruins.org](mailto:psa@bssbruins.org). Our next PSA meeting will be held at the school on Thursday, November 16th, at 5:30 pm. Hope to see you there!

### Uniform Reminders

As of November 1, **shorts are no longer allowed** for boys and girls. **All girls** must wear plain navy, white, or black non-sheer tights or full length leggings with matching socks under their uniform jumpers, skirts, and skorts. Tights should NOT have any holes in them! Also, remember that belts must

be worn with pants and boys' hair must be neatly trimmed above the collar, with no hair obscuring the face.

### **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](mailto: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, Nov. 10 -

PSA Spirit Day (included in prepaid days)

Saturday, Nov. 11 - Happy Veterans' Day

Sunday, Nov. 12 -

1:00 - 3:00 - Afternoon with the Arts

Wednesday, Nov. 15 -

6:30 pm - First Reconciliation for second grade

Lunch ordering opens

Friday, Nov. 17 -

Mid-quarter reports

Sunday, Nov. 19 -

5:30 pm - Pastor's Annual Party

Monday, Nov. 20 -

Barnes and Noble Book Fair (evening events at the store); Book Fair continues online all week

Wednesday, Nov. 22 - Friday, Nov. 24 -

No School - Happy Thanksgiving

Sunday, Nov. 26 -

Lunch ordering closes

Tuesday, Nov. 28 -

Confirmation and First Communion at the Cathedral for third grade

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

9:00 -7:00 - Merry Christmas Market and Holly Fair

4:30 p.m. - 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

Friday, Dec. 8 -

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

Sunday, Dec. 10 -

1:00- First Grade Christmas Program

Tuesday, Dec. 12 -

6:00. - Mrs. Larson's 3rd grade Christmas program

7:00 - Mrs. Newton's 3rd grade Christmas program

Wednesday, Dec. 13 -

1:30 p.m. dismissal; BASE available

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 - Ms. Malawy's preschool Christmas program

10:00 - Mrs. Kenzel's preschool Christmas program

Tuesday, Dec. 19 -

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

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

Wednesday, Dec. 20 -

End of second quarter

10:00 - PreK Christmas program

Classroom Christmas parties

**11:30 dismissal - No BASE available!!**

December 21 - January 8 - Christmas vacation!