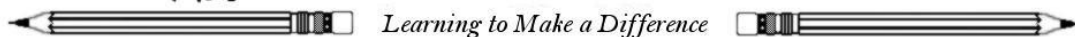


+Blessed Sacrament



School News



Learning to Make a Difference

September 21, 2023

A Note to Parents

Dear Parents,

As we enter the beautiful season of fall, I cannot help to stop and thank God for all of the blessings in my own life. Each and every morning, I begin my day with prayer. It helps center me and reminds me of what my focus needs to be everyday. In those quiet moments, I reflect on the people in my life and all of the happiness that they bring to me. I always include my Blessed Sacrament School family in my prayers of gratitude. I am SO blessed to be a part of a community that strives to work together to help others.

During the month of October, Blessed Sacrament School is working together with Catholic Charities to help the needy in our community. We are trying to fill grocery carts with canned goods and other non-perishable food items. Catholic Charities is asking for boxed macaroni and cheese, gravy mix, boxed stuffing mix, instant mashed potatoes, boxed cake mix, peanut butter, bars of soap and other non-perishable items. Help us share our blessings with those most in need.

Our Blessed Sacrament School parents, parishioners, and friends are invited to help show support for our school at the 54th Annual Auction. The Annual Auction will be held on Saturday, October 14th. The evening will begin with music, the Men's Club bar, light appetizers, and the beginning of the Silent Auction. Happy Hour will begin at 5:30 and the Live Auction will begin at 7:30 p.m. I cannot begin to express how grateful we are to all of the individuals that are working tirelessly to make this special event possible. The Annual Auction benefits each and every child in our building. We are blessed to have such a supportive and generous community that shares their blessings with our school. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you there!

Thomas D. Willhite once said, "How do you say 'Thank You' for sunshine or health? How do you say 'Thank You' for clear days or gentle rains? How do you say 'Thank You' for joy or love? You say it by sharing what you have. You say it by making the world a better place in which to live." Thank you for your generosity and for being one of my greatest blessings!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Nicole Kuhlman

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!

Illinois Times "Best of" Voting for BSS!

If you weren't aware, the Illinois Times is holding its "Best of Springfield" voting right now. Currently Blessed Sacrament is in the running for Best Private School (under the category "Kids Stuff") and Father Jeff is in the running for the Best Clergy person (under the category "Civic & Community"). In order to vote, people must supply an email address. In case BSS wanted to promote it to parents here is the link.

[https://www.illinoistimes.com/springfield/bestofspringfield/Pa ge#//](https://www.illinoistimes.com/springfield/bestofspringfield/Pa ge#/)

Safety Drills

Today we practiced the hard lockdown procedures and we watched for the effectiveness of these procedures. Teachers explained the safety procedures with their students before the drill took place. We will be practicing our safety procedures throughout the coming weeks and will have a couple other practice drills, so we are able to see the course of action of all our staff in securing the safety of students and visitors (like our lunchroom workers). During the hard lockdown procedures, the building was found to be secured and everyone followed the procedures wonderfully. The Blessed Sacrament School safety team was very pleased with our students and staff and their response to a potentially threatening situation. Please discuss this with your children today to reinforce the importance of safety within our schools. They all did great!

After Hours Responses from Teachers

Please be aware that, while our teachers are extremely dedicated to the success of each and every child in their classes, they do not always have the opportunity to check emails or Class Dojo messages (prek-grade 3) throughout the school day. Be assured that they will check messages and respond as soon as possible. However, any messages sent after 4 pm may not receive a response until the next school day. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

Upcoming Service Hour Opportunities

- Grandparents' Day is Friday, October 6. Volunteers (both adult and 8th graders for service hours) are needed to help with **set-up on Thursday, October 5, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Adult volunteers are also needed from 7:30-10:30 a.m. on Friday morning, October 6**, to assist with serving refreshments as well as clean-up. Please contact the school office to volunteer. You will earn service hours, and this is always such an enjoyable morning!
- PSA Teacher Luncheons: Each month our teachers and staff look forward to a special potluck lunch provided by our fantastic PSA and school parents! Each month, a theme will be picked and sent out to those involved via Sign up Genius. We hope that you will take a moment and sign up to bring a dish for our staff to enjoy on one or more of these highly anticipated dates! Please follow the Sign-Up Genius link.
<https://m.signupgenius.com/#/showSignUp/30E0F45ACAC2AAAFB6-welcome>. Please contact Dawn Reyhan with any questions at cateccc6@gmail.com.
- The annual auction is Saturday, October 14. Whether you're a Blessed Sacrament veteran or new to the parish/school, you can help with anything listed, no experience required. Ticket purchases are encouraged and appreciated for all those planning to volunteer on the night of the Auction. Go to <https://signup.com/go/ouYpjpa> to sign up, and contact Megan DeFrain with questions at (217) 971-8726.
- Do you have Christmas spirit? Blessed Sacrament Parish is looking for a few "angels" to help coordinate the annual Angel Tree Project. No experience necessary and training will be provided. Please contact the parish office at 217-528-7521.

Hot Lunch News and Volunteers Needed

Hot lunch ordering is now open for the month of October and will remain open until Tuesday, September 26!

All hot lunches are pre ordered for the following month. You will receive an email when the ordering window opens and may access the online order form at www.ezparentcenter.com. We are not able to reopen the ordering window once it closes, so please be aware of the deadlines. Funds may be added to your student's account by sending in a check to the school office (designated for hot lunches) or online through the secure link on the lunch website. We are pleased to have lunches from the following vendors this year: Jimmy John's on Monday, Taco Gringo on Tuesday, Pizza Hut on Wednesday, Cafe Moxo on Thursday, and DJ Cafe on Friday. Please remember that Monday/Wednesday hot lunches continue to benefit the 8th-grade class and **Thursday** hot lunches continue to benefit the PSA.

We also need volunteers in our lunchroom everyday. Please follow this link to sign up for the first quarter.

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

unchroom#/ We appreciate the time and dedication of all of our hot lunch volunteers!

Grandparents' Day is Friday, October 6!

All students are welcome to invite their grandparents or special friends to join us Friday, October 6, to tour the school, enjoy refreshments, and celebrate Mass together. There will be a photo booth available in the gym near the north library entrance for family photos taken with grandparents' cameras or cell phones.

Please be aware that normal student drop-off will still occur in the main parking lot from 7:45-8:05. **Parking for grandparents will not be available on the lot until AFTER 8:15 a.m. in order to accommodate morning drop-off.**

Please relay that information to grandparents! Grandparents may enter the building through both entrances on Laurel Street and the main school entrance off of the parking lot.

In order for the teachers to have time to take attendance, our guests will be asked to wait in the cafeteria or gym until 8:25 a.m. when the older siblings will go to the youngest sibling's classroom to meet the guests. An announcement will be made at that time for grandparents to proceed to the classrooms of their youngest grandchild. **Mass will be celebrated at 9:45 a.m. and the students will be dismissed from Mass for the remainder of the day.** They do not need to return to the school and may leave with their guests. BASE is not available that day.

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 have an exciting year ahead, filled with many activities and events. 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.

Our first PSA meeting this year is Thursday, October 5, at 5:30 pm. We hope to fill the following PSA leadership positions at that time: vice president, recording secretary, corresponding secretary, and treasurer. Hope to see you there!

PSA Wrapping Paper Sales

We have currently raised a decent profit to benefit the students at BSS through our current Charleston Wrap fundraising campaign but we have yet to reach our goal! PLEASE, IF YOU HAVE NOT STARTED ON THIS YET, CLICK ON THE LINK AND REGISTER YOUR STUDENT: WWW.REGISTERCW.COM

Once registered, please take the time to look through the participant dashboard and use the tools available to share your student's shopping link with your friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers. Every order benefits our organization. We would greatly appreciate a total team effort in this endeavor! Our deadline is 09/25/2023. So how about it??? Thanks to you ALL!

PSA Night at Bomke's Patch

Please see the flier accompanying today's newsletter that provides information about the PSA BSS Family Day at Bomke's Patch on October 21st. BSS families will receive a discounted admission with this flier (printed or screenshot). Bomke's Patch has tons of activities for family fun, including: pumpkin picking, corn maze, playground, foam machine, pumpkin cannon, food, drinks, and more!

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!

Donations Needed for Auction Gift Baskets

The 54th Annual Auction is coming up on October 14th, at 5:30pm. We need your help! We are looking for donations to fill our classroom gift baskets for the Silent Auction. Each homeroom has a fun theme, be creative! Themed gift cards are always a great option for the baskets as well. We will collect all items by September 15th and arrange the baskets in the office. If you are looking for service hours, this is a great opportunity! Please label each donation with the homeroom teacher's name. You can drop items off in the office or send them with your student.

Dress Code and Uniform Reminders

Please note that regular uniform shorts are required. Cargo shorts and golf shorts/dri-fit shorts are not allowed. Girls skirts/skorts are not to be shorter than two inches above the knee. Students may not have extreme hairstyles (i.e. haircuts or using styling products to form spiked or "mohawk" hairstyles, hair color, etc.). Hair must also be neatly trimmed, no unusual haircuts (boys - to the top of shirt collar and traditional haircuts), bangs above the eyebrow, face unobscured. Girls are not permitted to wear makeup. Please refer to the Parent/Student Handbook for more information.

Rediker Online Access

New school families received an email inviting you to join Rediker, our online student information system.

Hopefully, you have taken the opportunity to activate your account. If you have not already done so, we ask that all school families complete this process as soon as possible since Rediker is a significant means of communication between home and school this year. There is a PlusPortals app available for both IOS and Android operating systems. Please note that it typically takes about a half-day for the system to sync the app once you have activated your account through your web browser.

Families have access to daily homework assignments, grades, announcements, attendance, behavior incidents, and much more. Parents are also able to communicate with teachers through the Rediker program's email messaging system. Teachers will have all grades updated by 5:00 p.m. every Monday, although many choose to update throughout the week as work, tests, etc. are graded.

Back to Scrip

Start a new school year resolution to buy more scrip (or start buying scrip for the first time)! Scrip gift cards work just like any gift card but Blessed Sacrament School earns money with every card purchased. We keep track of your purchases and each year we either reduce your B.S.S. tuition or offer you a rebate toward purchasing MORE gift cards. Give it a try! Gift cards are available to purchase in the school office during regular school hours or simply send in the scrip order form at www.bssbruins.org/scrip-program.

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.

Tuesday, Oct. 31 -

Happy Halloween! Classroom parties at 2 pm

BSS Bruins Coaches

Please remember that **ALL** volunteers (coaches, assistants, etc.) that work with our athletic teams must complete Protecting God's Children training through CMG Connect and have a background check. **Please contact Michele Hinds-Greenwood about completing PGC.**

Looking Ahead

Monday, Sept. 25 -

8:15 - Leadership assembly

Charleston Wrapping Paper Fundraiser Closes Today

Monday, Oct. 2 -

8:15 - Leadership assembly

Wednesday, Oct. 4 -

11:00 am - Diocesan Mission Mass

Thursday, Oct. 5 -

5:30-6:30 pm - PSA meeting in the cafeteria

Friday, Oct. 6 -

Grandparents' Day

8:30 am - Arrival for grandparents

9:45 am - Mass followed by dismissal

No BASE available!!

SHG Grade School Night at the football game!

Monday, Oct. 9 -

No school - Columbus Day

Wednesday, Oct. 11 -

1:30 dismissal - faculty meeting

Thursday, Oct. 12 -

Vision and Hearing Screening

Friday, Oct. 13 -

Auction Spirit Day

1:30 dismissal - **No BASE!**

Saturday, Oct. 14 -

5:30 pm - Annual Parish/School Auction

Wednesday, Oct 18 -

End of the first quarter

Friday, Oct. 20 -

PSA Spirit Day

Saturday, Oct. 21 -

BSS Family Day at Bomke's Pumpkin Patch

Monday, Oct. 23 -

8:15 - Leadership assembly

Tuesday, Oct. 24 -

School picture day - non-uniform day

Report Card Day!

Wednesday, Oct. 25 -

6:00 p.m. - First Reconciliation parent meeting in church for second grade parents

Friday, Oct. 27 -

2:15 - adoration for grades 2-8

Sunday, Oct. 29 -

Halloween Trunk or Treat

Monday, Oct. 30 -

8:15 - Leadership assembly