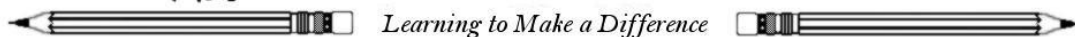


+Blessed Sacrament



School News



December 14, 2023

A Note to Parents

Dear Parents,

"It had taken centuries for God's people to be ready, but now the time had almost come for the best part of God's plan. God himself was going to come. Not to punish his people - but to rescue them. God was getting ready to wipe away every tear from every eye. And the true party was just about to begin."

Throughout the Season of Advent, we work towards preparing our hearts for the celebration and coming of Christ at Christmas. Our students have participated in several service projects during Advent to help others in need. We collected change to give to Heifer International. This organization is working to help end world hunger and poverty around the world by providing livestock to people and communities in need. Our students are also donating various food items to prepare baskets for individuals in our local community that are in need. The students at Blessed Sacrament School are learning about the importance of generosity and how we can experience more joy in giving than receiving.

We have had the opportunity to share our Christmas joy with our families during our Christmas Programs. It is so amazing to have the chance to gather together and share in the magic of Christmas. We thank all of our classroom teachers, classroom aides, and our music teacher that helped prepare our students for their programs. It is such a gift to share these programs with our extended families and friends.

It is my hope and prayer that all of the Blessed Sacrament School family has a joyful and peaceful Christmas. The faculty and staff are so grateful for allowing us the opportunity to watch your children grow as individuals. Your children are truly a gift! We wish all of you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Nicole Kuhlman

Extra Spirit Day Tomorrow!

Students may wear a red, green or Christmas shirt or BSS spirit shirt with jeans or uniform bottoms for \$1 tomorrow, December 15. All proceeds will benefit our school's Advent projects. Thank you for your support!

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>

Health Reminders

The cold and flu season is now very active, and COVID transmission levels are also elevated in our community. Recently, we have had a few reports of positive cases within our school. If your child, or anyone in your household, has an onset of symptoms that may be consistent with COVID, testing is highly encouraged. *If there is a positive result, please notify Michele Hinds-Greenwood in the school office.* It is very contagious and some individuals have a much stronger reaction to the virus than others. As with the flu, we strive to prevent a spread or outbreak among our students and staff. Just a reminder, 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 your cooperation and all your efforts to help us keep everyone healthy for the holidays!

PSA Update

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-ZAzq79twdAGA/viewform?usp=sf_link

BSS Children's Choir Program This Sunday

Our Choir Program is this Sunday, December 17! The students are very excited to present their program with many hymns and songs that they have learned this year. Everyone is invited to join us at 2:00 pm in the church. The program lasts one hour. Hope to see you there!

A few reminders for the choir members: Arrive at the Choir Room on Walnut Street at 1:30, wear festive Sunday clothing (coats and ties for boys, dresses/slacks for girls). The children's choir will sing at 4:30 Mass on Christmas Eve.

BSS 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=Y181ZGM3NDgyOGQxOWU4YWVmMDM4MTQ0OGJlZjQ2ZTUzNjE1MjU3MWM4MTFIYjZlNjZjZGU4ODdjNmJjZjk0NWExQGFyYjZVwLmNhbGVuZGFyLmdvb2dsZS5jb20>

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

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
Hot lunch ordering opens for January

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 -

8:00 a.m. - SHG Zero Hour Final
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

Tuesday, January 9 -

MAP Testing begins grades 1-8

Wednesday, Jan. 10 -

1:30 dismissal - faculty meeting

Friday, Jan. 12 -

PSA spirit day

Report card day!

8:20 am - All school Mass

Monday, Jan. 15 -

No school! MLK, Jr. Day

Saturday, Jan. 20 -

SHG Placement Test for 8th graders

Thursday, Jan. 25 -

1:00 pm - Joint 6th grade school choice event at BSS

Sunday, Jan. 28 - Catholic Schools Week begins!

10:30 am - Youth Mass for CSW

Tuesday, Jan. 30 -

8:20 am - All school Mass