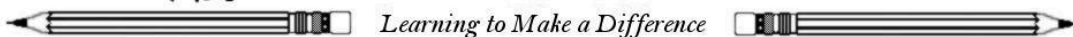


+Blessed Sacrament



School News



February 8, 2024

A Note to Parents

Dear Parents,

Our Open House Night for families interested in Blessed Sacrament School is scheduled for Thursday, February 15th from 6:00 - 7:30. This is always such a magical and happy evening spent with families that wish to be a part of our school community. We are looking forward to meeting so many families! It is always great to see so many new faces and to welcome back some BSS alums, too. Our faculty and staff truly are looking forward to the evening and we are looking forward to welcoming these families to our school community!

We are so blessed to be a part of a community that wants to learn, pray, and grow together. Thank you for your support of Blessed Sacrament School! We appreciate your help in letting others know about our special place that we love called Blessed Sacrament School!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Nicole Kuhlman

Mass Attendance Reminder

Families that attend other churches for Sunday Mass on occasion may find additional copies of the mass attendance slips on the BSS homepage. They are at the bottom of the page and they are called School Agreement Attendance Cards. For your convenience, a template also accompanies today's newsletter. Thank you for your cooperation!

Thank You for Catholic Schools Week!

We had a wonderful Catholic Schools Week celebration last week! Thank you so much to our coordinators, Courtney Bensko, Brittney Dhabalt and Kate Senger, and Abbey Steele for all of their planning and coordination! We are also grateful for all of our volunteers throughout the week. We couldn't have done it without you! Special thanks to Custom Cup (Kendra and Brent Boesdorfer) for providing coffee and treats for the teachers on Friday morning, Ryan Bandy and Papi's Pizza and Pub for providing a staff lunch. Thank you to those who sponsored our student assembly. We are very grateful to the sponsors whose generosity allowed us to bring in the Chicago Boyz Acrobatic Troupe performance. It was a hit and enjoyed by everyone last Thursday!

We had very special guests join us for our Monday assembly from the Illinois National Guard and the Land of Lincoln Honor Flight, including a Vietnam War veteran who

previously participated on an Honor Flight. Through your generous donations, we raised enough to sponsor four veterans on the 2024 Honor Flights to Washington, D.C.

Congratulations to our faculty winners of the Honor Flight contest: Mr. Dahlkamp, Mrs. Newton, Mrs. Christie, and Ms. Rebbe. We are also most grateful for the "tour guides" who lead students K-8 on the "behind the scenes" tours of the church and parish offices: Fr. Jeff, Deacon Tom, Deacon Dave, Madonna Fluckiger, Jane Hartman-Irwin, McKinzie Oshesky, Lisa Sarnowski, and Janet Vespa. This activity was very well-received by the students and teachers, and they learned so many new and interesting facts. Fun fact: Did you know the name of our parish is actually The Memorial Church of the Blessed Sacrament? It was named in honor of the parishioners who gave their lives in World War I. The parish also has a relic of the true cross! Special thanks also to our sixth and eighth grade Girl Scout Troops for delivering donuts to all classrooms on Thursday, the chaperones for Friday's 7th and 8th grade dance, Jenna Davlin and Caitlin Scherer for their coordination of the Bruinettes mini-camp and performance, and AD Mr. Kreiling for ensuring that our athletic contests went off without a hitch in the midst of all of the other activities last week. We are truly blessed to have such a dedicated and generous community of supporters!

Registration for 2024-2025

The Preschool/PreK registration intent forms are due tomorrow, February 9. Next year, we anticipate offering a full-time three year old program, a full-time four year old PreK program, and a five morning option for three year olds and four year olds.

Registration packets for current BSS families will be sent home on Monday, February 12 and are due on Thursday, February 29. Open registration for new families will begin Monday, March 4. Please encourage prospective families interested in BSS to attend our upcoming open house on Thursday, February 15, from 6:00 - 7:30 pm.

BSS Summer Camp!!!

We are excited to announce that BSS will pilot a summer camp program for children entering preschool through students entering third grade for the 2024-2025 school year. This promises to be a fun experience for all involved! Priority will be given to children enrolled in our school for the upcoming school year. Mrs. Laura Horton and Ms. Amanda Malawy will be co-leading the program. The

program will run from June 10-August 2. Please watch for more information in registration packets!

Upcoming PSA Events - Mark Your Calendars!

- Dads' Time Out - March Madness at WLD Calling all dads! This day is for you. On Friday, March 22nd at 3pm, join other Blessed Sacrament dads at a watch party for the first round of the tournament. No admission fee. Come relax, watch some basketball, and socialize at WLD in Piper Glen. Flyer with additional information is attached.
- Skate Night at Skateland South - Join the PSA for a Family Skate Night at Skateland South on Thursday, March 14th 5:30-7:30pm. The arcade will be open. Admission is \$6 and skate rental is \$4.
- Family Dance - Mark your calendars! The Family Dance will be on Saturday, April 27th 7-9:30 pm.

Get Your Lenten Scrip!

You can't go to the Men's Club Fish Fry for EVERY meal during Lent... We've got Domino's, Papa John's, Papa Murphy's and Pizza Hut gift cards for cheese pizza and Arby's, Burger King, McDonald's, and Wendy's cards for a quick fish sandwich. Noodles & Co serves macaroni and cheese and we've got those cards too!

Health Reminders

The COVID virus as well as influenza, strep throat, and other respiratory viruses are widely circulating at this time in the Springfield community. COVID transmission levels are elevated in our community due in part to the contagiousness of two recent variants (HN.1 and JV.1). Recently, we have had 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 very highly encouraged.** *If there is a positive result, please notify Michele Hinds-Greenwood in the school office.* If your child or anyone in your household has been exposed to someone confirmed COVID-positive, please follow the CDC recommendations to test between 3-5 days after the last exposure unless becoming symptomatic sooner. The current variants are 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 (and please keep in mind that there are few substitute teachers available to cover classes on any day).

Just a reminder, any students and staff who have a fever, have thrown up or had diarrhea must be symptom free for 24 hours (without fever-reducing medication) before they may return to school. Additionally, students should not be sent to school coughing excessively. Students who become ill at school with these symptoms are not to return to school the following day as the 24 hour time period has not passed. We appreciate your cooperation and your efforts to help us keep everyone healthy!

Parent Service Hour Opportunity

BSS will be hosting games in our gym on Saturdays throughout the months of January and February. All money we take in from concessions comes back to our sports' programs. Please follow the link to sign up if interested .

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0D4CA5AB2EA7F49-47147398-bruin>

Winter is Here - Outdoor Recess

Now that we are in the winter months, please keep in mind that students go outdoors for lunch recess unless the temperature or windchill is 20°F or lower. It gets quite cold on the playground for 20 minutes and is often very windy. Please be sure to send appropriate coats, gloves, hats, scarves, etc. for children to wear outdoors. A sweatshirt might be fine to go from the car to the building but it is not enough for recess. Students without weather-appropriate attire may not be able to go outdoors. Thank you for your cooperation.

Speaking of Winter, Snow Days Are Still a Possibility

Should the school need to close due to weather conditions, we may not be able to utilize remote attendance and learning in place of taking a "snow day" on short notice. Thus, it may be an official "snow day." The decision will be made in conjunction with many of the Springfield Catholic schools and will be a consistent decision for all grade levels in attendance at BSS. As always, parents will be notified through our Rediker text messaging and email system of any school cancellations. You may also tune in to WICS Channel 20 and 1240 AM WTAX radio station to learn of any weather-related school closings. Please look and listen for "Springfield Catholic Grade Schools" on the school closing lists.

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>

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!

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.**

Looking Ahead

Friday, Feb. 9

PSA spirit - included with prepaid days
7th grade science fair judging - after school
7:00-9:00 pm - 8th grade dance at SHG

Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 10-11 -

Science Fair open after all Masses

Monday, February 12 -

Pre-Registration form for Preschool/PreK programs for current school families is due today!
Registration packets go home for current families

Tuesday, February 13 -

Mardi Gras!
2:00 pm - Classroom Valentine's Day parties

Wednesday, February 14 - Ash Wednesday

Happy Valentine's Day!
8:20 am - All School Mass for Ash Wednesday
1:30 pm dismissal - Faculty Meeting

Thursday, February 15 -

March hot lunch ordering opens online

6:00-7:30 pm - Open House for prospective families

Friday, February 16 -

5:00-7:00 pm - Men's Club Fish Fry

Monday, February 19 -

No School - Happy President's Day!

Wednesday, February 21 -

Schoolwide Spelling Bee

Friday, February 23 -

No School - Faculty Inservice

5:00-7:00 pm - Men's Club Fish Fry

Monday, February 26 -

Hot lunch ordering closes

Thursday, February 29 - Happy Leap Year!

Registration packets due!

1:30 - 4:00 pm - 8th grade history fair in the cafeteria

Friday, March 1 -

5:00-7:00 pm - Men's Club Fish Fry

Thursday, March 14 -

5:30-7:30 pm - Family Night at Skateland

March 15 - 22 -

Spring Book Fair - it will be open both Friday evenings, March 15 and 22, during the Men's Club Fish Fry, and every school day the week of March 18-22.