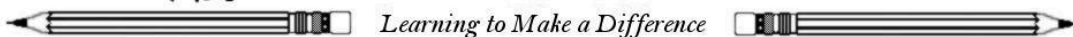


+Blessed Sacrament



School News



Learning to Make a Difference

February 22, 2024

A Note to Parents

Dear Parents,

We are now in the holy season of Lent. It is a time to reflect on how you are turning away from sin and remaining faithful to the teachings of Jesus. I find myself thinking about these questions, "Am I conscious enough about the things happening in my life right now that I notice them when they happen? Or am I too busy to be present in the moment?" Many times we become anxious or afraid when we fail to notice how faithful God is every moment in our lives. We begin to think that we're in charge and we're responsible and we have to make sure that all the ends are taken care of. "Noticing the faithfulness of God every day and every moment allows us to trust God more deeply and to engage with life more faithfully."

We have asked our students to turn towards Jesus during this Lenten season. Our students are focusing on Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving. Throughout Lent, our students will be able to attend Stations of the Cross and be involved in other activities that encourage almsgiving and service. Ask your child how they are being faithful to God every day and how they are serving Him.

We hope that we are all more present and aware of the awesome presence of God in our own lives each and every day. Will you choose to be present to those moments or will you let them pass by unnoticed? By being present to those moments, we are saying "YES!" to God.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Nicole Kuhlman

Registration for 2024-2025

Registration packets for current BSS families were sent home on Monday, February 12 and are due on Thursday, February 29. Please return your packets promptly so that we may have the necessary information for planning for the 2024-25 school year. Open registration for new families will begin on Monday, March 4.

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. A registration form for the BSS Summer Camp was included with the BSS registration packet. Please contact Laura Horton at horton@bssbruins.org or contact the school office for more information. We look forward to lots of summer fun together!

All Families - Please Complete the School Income Survey!

The Private School Income Survey form was not included in registration packets as we had not received it. A hard copy on pink paper was sent home with all families earlier this week. All families are asked to complete this annual form and return it to the school office by February 29. You may place this survey in a separate sealed envelope addressed to Mrs. Burke if you prefer.

Blessed Sacrament School is very fortunate to be able to participate in three federally funded education programs, Title I, Title II, and Title IV which provide substantial, direct benefits to our students and teachers. Together, these funds total nearly \$85,000 which is used to provide for a full time resource teacher, professional development for teachers, and equipment and materials for our fine arts and science departments.

Annually, the Illinois State Board of Education requests that all public and non-public schools collect the information on the attached form to assist with determining schools' eligibility for these state and federal benefits programs. Our school's eligibility (and even individual student's eligibility) for the benefits under these federal programs cannot be determined without this information, and our school may lose significant funding if we do not collect this data.

We will hold the information you provide as private and confidential to the extent required by law. We only share general socioeconomic status data with the federal programs to help them evaluate, fund, audit, or determine our benefits for their programs.

Congratulations to Seventh Grade Science Fair Participants!

Congratulations to all of our seventh graders on a successful science fair! Their hard work and dedication was exemplified in their science fair projects. Special thanks to Mrs. Reiser and Mrs. Christie for all of their guidance and efforts! Good luck to the six students advancing to the regional

science fair on March 16th at Lincoln Land Community College.

- Annaliese O. tested to see how different paint colors reduced thermal temperatures thus reducing carbon emissions if used to paint the rooftops of tall buildings in large cities.
- Lily H. tested to see how banana water works as an organic fertilizer using soybean plants.
- Matthew V. tested different boat designs and how much weight they would hold while staying buoyant.
- Thane W. tested samples of mud/water and sediment from a river, lake and pond to see which one produced the most electricity using Winogradsky columns.
- Greta B. tested to see whether children's eyes or adults' eyes adjust to light the fastest.
- Jersee J. tested to see which organic fertilizers grow the healthiest soybean plants. She also created her own organic fertilizer to test.

Congratulations, Spelling Bee Contestants!

Last week our students in grades 4 - 8 participated in classroom spelling bees. The winners from each of the homerooms moved on to participate in the School Spelling Bee. This was held on Wednesday, February 21st. Congratulations to our students that made it to the final rounds of the School Spelling Bee. Congratulations to Joseph B. (First Place), Carys C. (Second Place), and Auri W. (Third Place)! We are proud of all of our students that participated in the Spelling Bee. Way to go!

Good luck to our Students!

Did you know that some of our students have been participating in Chess Club? Our students have been participating in this club with students from Little Flower School. They have been learning strategies and techniques that are allowing them to play the game well. We are so happy to announce that two of our students will be participating in the State Chess Competition in Peoria this weekend. Congratulations to William M. and Matthew V. for their hard work and we wish them all the best as they represent Blessed Sacrament School during this competition. Good luck, Bruins!

Service Hour Opportunity - Hot Lunch Volunteers

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/70A0C4CACAB22A2F85-43586686-class>

Scholastic Book Fair is back March 15-22!

Book fair will be open during both Friday evening fish fries and classes will visit during the week as follows:

- Monday - 6 Keller, 1 Dahlkamp, K2 Londigran, PK4
- Tuesday - 6 Healy, 2 Ambrose, 3 Larson
- Wednesday - 5 Ketchum, 5 Kraft, 3 Newton, PK3

- Thursday - 4 Watson, 2 Phillips, 1 Dean
- Friday - 4 Kreiling, K1 Hill

Book Fair is in need of volunteers throughout the week and volunteers can sign up to help here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805044AAEAA2BA1FC1-48088328-spring>

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. Thank you for your cooperation!

Upcoming PSA Events - Mark Your Calendars!

- **Family 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 and snack bar will be open to purchase snacks and even dinner. Admission is \$6 and skate rental is \$4.
- **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. Flier with additional information is attached.
- **Easter Egg Hunt** - Sunday March 31, after the 10:30 am Mass in the school field. Free for all children!
- **Family Dance** - Mark your calendars! The Family Dance will be on Saturday, April 27th 7-9:30 pm.

SHG News and Happenings

- **Raising Cane's Fundraiser for Post Prom:** Today, February 22, from 10 am-10 pm. Please mention the SHG fundraiser when ordering and 15% of the total will go towards SHG's post prom fundraising.
- **SHG Trivia Night:** Don't miss The Best Trivia Night in Town! SHG will host a Trivia Night THIS Saturday, February 24th in their East campus gymnasium. Tables are \$200 (\$20 per person - up to 10 people per table). Visit weareshg.org/CycloneMadness2024 to purchase a table TODAY or call our Advancement office at 217.787.9732 to purchase one over the phone.
- **SHG Musical - All Shook Up!** Put on your blue suede shoes and mark your calendars now to attend his year's SHG musical. It's another high energy show featuring some great Elvis Presley songs. Shows are at 7:30 pm on Fridays and Saturdays, March 15-16 and 22-23 and Sundays at 2:00 on March 17 and 24. You won't want to miss it!
- **The SHG Online Auction** is LIVE! From amazing trips to bucket list experiences and everything in between, there is something for everyone! Visit weareshg.org/2024CycloneMadnessOnlineAuction

to view. The auction closes at 10pm THIS Saturday, February 24th. Happy Bidding!

Spring Track Season is Approaching

Track is open to students in 6th-8th grades. The sign-up deadline is March 1. We are planning on starting practice March 4. Practices will be held at SHG track 4:30-5:45 unless otherwise stated. All communications are done through Team Snap. Please contact Coach Marin Lowder at marin.lowder@gmail.com for more information.

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!

BSS Summer Camp!!!

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St. Patrick's Blarney Bash

Let's paint the town green!!! St. Patrick Catholic School is hosting the Blarney Bash party and live auction on Friday, March 15, 2024. The "best pre-party for St. Patrick's Day in town" will be held at the LRS Hangar at Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport from 5:30-8:00. Tickets are \$40/person, \$60/couple and \$400 for a reserved table of 8. Reservations can be made online at www.st-patrick.org or by calling (217) 523-7670.

BSS 2nd Annual March Madness

Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 23 for our March Madness event. There will be a series of short 15-20 minute basketball games held between grade levels (preschool/kindergarten, 1 and 2, 3 and 4, etc.). The event begins at 6:00 pm and the last game begins at 7:50. Admission is just \$1 for everyone. Please contact AD Jeff Kreiling at kreilingathletics@bssbruins.org with any questions. More information is coming soon!

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!

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!

Learn to Skate Academy at Nelson Center

Come and learn how to ice skate at the Nelson Center with the Learn to Skate Academy. The program runs on Saturday mornings from February 24-April 6. Please see the flier accompanying today's newsletter for details or call Eric Henderson at 217-753-2800 ext. 2001.

The Springfield Southwest Baseball Association

Registration is now open for softball. Attached is a flier with information on the opportunity to register and play this summer. This is for students ages 6-12 (1st grade through 7th grade). If you have any questions, please feel free to call Kelli Gordon at (217-741-8713) or e-mail kgordon@feldman-wasser.com.

Springfield Youth Football

Our flag football league is open to kids currently in grades K-8th. The cost is \$75. Kids can sign up and be placed on a team, or if kids want to register together with friends, and a parent wants to step up and coach, all they have to do is request that parent as their coach during registration. We can combine grades to make a team if that helps, ex: k-1, 1-2, 7-8 etc. Please see the flier that accompanies today's newsletter for more information or call 217-341-8205.

Looking Ahead

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

Friday, March 1 -

No School - Faculty Retreat

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

Sunday, March 3 -

History Day! Come join us for the Living Wax

Museum and view the History Fair Projects from 12:00 - 1:30 in the school cafeteria and gym

Monday, March 4 -

Open Registration Day for New Families for the 2024 - 2025 School Year - 7:30 a.m.

Thursday, March 7 -

School Newsletter

Friday, March 8 -

PSA Spirit Day

Men's Club Fish Fry

Saturday, March 9 -

SHG zero hour math exam

Sunday, March 10 -

Daylight Savings Time Begins!

Tuesday, March 12 -

4:00 - Art Showcase at CTK

Wednesday, March 13 -

End of Third Quarter

1:30 dismissal - faculty meeting

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.

Friday March 15 - Sunday, March 17 -

SHG musical: All Shook Up!

Tuesday, March 19 -

8:20 am - All School Mass

Report Card Day

Tuesday, March 21 -

School Newsletter Day

Friday, March 22 -

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

Tuesday, March 26 -

Lunch Ordering Closes

Wednesday, March 27 -

Third Graders in Faith Retreat at SHG - 12:45 p.m.

Thursday, March 28 - Holy Thursday

11:30 a.m. Dismissal

No BASE available!

Friday, March 29 - Good Friday

No School

Friday, March 29 - Sunday, April 7 - Happy Easter! No School

Monday, April 8 -

Classes Resume