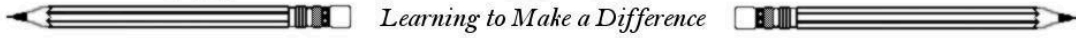


+Blessed Sacrament



School News



March 7, 2024

A Note to Parents

Dear Parents,

Last week, our teachers had the opportunity to spend the day together during our Faculty Retreat. A couple of years ago our guest speaker shared her own experience with prayer. This is a great reminder as we continue our own Lenten journeys.

Our guest speaker, Patty Sneider said, "At the age of 36, I could summarize my prayer life in one word. ENOUGH. I thought, I go to Mass ENOUGH. I thought, we pray with our children at dinner and bedtime every night. We pray ENOUGH. We give ENOUGH to the church. My mom was always saying that I do too much. So, I knew that I did ENOUGH. But I always came back to that word, ENOUGH."

Here are the words of St. Augustine as he explains the word, ENOUGH. "The interior life, like love, is destined to GROW. If you say ENOUGH, you are already dead." There were three religious sisters that came to Patty's parish and they planted different seeds that began to help her prayer life GROW. They taught her to devote 10 minutes in the morning in prayer and to read the daily readings. She learned to see the beauty and the importance of that 10 minutes and her relationship with God started to GROW. She also explained how we can pray with Mary and use the Rosary to pray for people that are in need of prayer. Praying with Mary helped her prayer life GROW. Spending time in adoration and seeing God in the Eucharist changed her perspective and has become a major part of her current prayer life. Lastly, learning about the saints can help us to GROW as followers of God.

Patty ended her talk by reminding us of the Bible story where Mary and Joseph were riding on a donkey to Bethlehem and knocking on the doors asking, "Is there room in the inn?" She said, "I believe that we are the modern innkeepers of the world today. The question is not about if there is room in the inn. The real question is, 'Is there room in your schedule?' Is there room in your schedule to read the daily readings? Is there room in your schedule to pray with Mary? Is there room in your schedule to go to adoration? Is there room in your schedule to go to daily Mass? Is there room in your schedule to pray the rosary? Pick one thing and see what miracles will happen to you." You may see how your own prayer life may not be ENOUGH and learn to be open to a prayer life that can truly GROW.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Nicole Kuhlman

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 last 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.

Service Hour Opportunity - Hot Lunch Volunteers

We are in need of additional volunteers for our hot lunch program on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. 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

Please follow the link to sign up to volunteer!
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805044AAEAA2BA1FC1-48088328-spring>

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.

After releasing our initial plans for summer camp, we had a large number of families inquire about a part-time option. Knowing that this is our first year trying out a summer camp program at BSS, we are devoted to tailoring this program to our families' needs. **We will be adding a half-day option to the summer camp program, and the cost per week will be \$100 per student.** All students enrolled in the summer camp program will be able to arrive beginning at 7:45, the program activities will begin at 8:00 a.m. and pick up for the half-day program will be at 11:30 a.m. The all day option will remain open until 5:30. Activities will be staggered to accommodate different dismissal times beginning at 3:30, for all-day pick up times between 3:30 and 5:30.

The modified registration form is attached. If you already registered for summer and would like to adjust your registration option, please email Laura Horton at horton@bssbruins.org and we will adjust your registration form. We are looking forward to a wonderful summer, and feel so blessed to have this opportunity to serve our families and communities in this capacity. Thank you for your support!

SHG Musical - All Shook Up!

Put on your blue suede shoes and mark your calendars now to attend this year's SHG musical. It's another high energy show featuring some great Elvis Presley songs and plenty of poodle skirts. 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! **There are 18 BSS alums in the show!** Best wishes to our alums: Laney Aleman, Isabela Burke, Elizabeth Darrow, Cady Eck, Grayson Hady, Andrew Hofner, Sophia Gunter, Emma Judd, Noah Jugan, KD Karns, Grace Klenke, Elinor Kovski, Elaina Malone, Elizabeth Scott, Izzy Stewart, Sophia Stewart, Ileana Stremsterfer, and Sarah Triphahn. We are so proud of you!!

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

- SHG t-shirts are being sold to benefit post prom until March 10, and orders are open to students of all the Catholic grade schools. Please follow the link if you would like to pick up a fun SHG spirit shirt. Orders will be delivered directly to BSS!
https://shop.primodesigns.net/shg_prom/shop/home
- Texas Roadhouse Fundraiser - Sunday, March 10-Thursday, March 14 - Take a break from cooking dinner and dine with Texas Roadhouse to benefit SHG. 10% of the total food bill will be donated back to SHG. The offer is valid on dine-in or carry out orders. Please see the flier that accompanies today's newsletter and be sure to show the flier when purchasing your order. Thank you for your support!
- **Post Prom March Madness Squares** \$20 each. Contact Tracy Gathard @ 217/553-5591 or bgathard@yahoo.com to get your squares. Be sure to join in on action and follow along with March Madness to hopefully win!

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!

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!

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, 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 -

1:00 - 2:00 p.m. - Sports Photos

4:00 - Art Showcase at CTK

Wednesday, March 13 -

End of Third Quarter

1:30 dismissal - Faculty Meeting

Thursday, March 14 -

Attorney General Presentation for students in Grades

5 - 8 on Internet Safety

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

Saturday, March 23 -

5:00- 8:00 pm - BSS Athletics March Madness

Fundraiser in BSS gym

Tuesday, March 26 -

Lunch Ordering Closes

Wednesday, March 27 -

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

6:30 pm - Stations of the Cross - Parish welcome to

join us!

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