



BSS Press



August, 2009

A Newsletter of Blessed Sacrament School And Early Childhood Center

Creating an Educated Community to Serve Christ and One Another

Leslie George Memorial Scholarship Run

"Runners — take your mark, get set, go!" Blessed Sacrament students heard these words before the Annual Leslie George Memorial Scholarship Run held on May 1st, 2009. The annual school fundraiser honors Leslie George and emphasizes the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. Leslie George graduated from BSS in 1995. She then graduated from Bishop Ireton High School and attended James Madison University until her valiant struggles with an eating disorder took her wonderful life on September 29, 2000.

BSS conducts several fundraisers each year to augment the Leslie George Memorial Scholarship Fund. The 2008 Leslie George Memorial Scholarship Run kicked off with a student assembly to promote the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Pete Broody, a friend of Leslie George, an alum of BSS, and a former BSS physical education teacher, candidly spoke to the students about Leslie and her struggle with eating disorders. His message remained clear and strong: "Accept Yourself and Accept Others." Mrs. Sally George, Leslie's mother, also addressed the crowd of students to thank them for remembering Leslie and to remind them of how important it is to love and care for each other. Students then ran or walked for one full hour in the parking lot. Pledges in the amount of \$2,630 were raised by the students. A donation of \$1,000 was contributed to A.N.A.D., an organization devoted to helping those affected by eating disorders, in Leslie's memory. Blessed Sacrament also hosted the annual Leslie George Memorial Scholarship Fund Benefit Dinner at Mango Mike's on Duke Street. Mike Anderson, owner and operator of the restaurant, had all three of his daughters graduate from BSS. Our community raised \$830 during this event.

Each year the staff at Blessed Sacrament nominates a 7th grade student to receive the Leslie George Scholarship. This scholarship is applied toward the tuition. Belen Rogers was awarded this special honor in 2009, recognizing her strong work ethic, her kindness to classmates, and her polite demeanor throughout her time at Blessed Sacrament.



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You Are Invited...SAVE THE DATE!

Please join us to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of Blessed Sacrament School!

What? Picnic dinner to celebration the 60th Anniversary of Blessed Sacrament School.

When? Sunday, September 13th from 6-8 pm.

Where? Blessed Sacrament Courtyard (between the church and the school)

We Hope to See You!

Parent Involvement

The Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) at BSS consists of a hard-working and dedicated group of parents. These parents volunteer their time and service to promote the school.

The PTO President, Joe Ferrara, outlined several key priorities for this upcoming school year.

- Develop new fundraising strategies
- Continue to make plans for the playground/field/pond enhancement project
- Continue to develop a more active alumni community
- Continue to provide a robust volunteer base for school activities
- Continue to serve as a liaison between the school administration and the family community

Annual Fundraisers the PTO Sponsors.

- **Fall Festival:** A family-friendly event that includes fun games, delicious food, and handmade craft sales. The festival raised **\$15,403.25**.
- **Valentine Gala & Auction:** The Auction Committee organized this successful fundraiser in February. The theme of *That's Amore* included a fantastic evening of mingling with friends, eating savory food, and bidding on donated auction items. The gala raised **\$52,603.63**.
- **Golf Tournament:** The 4th Annual Blessed Sacrament Golf Tournament raised **\$2,368.13**. The proceeds were given to the endowment fund that benefits BSS.
- *Thank you parents, alumni, and parishioners!*

Middle School Science Program! BSS boasts an inquiry-based science curriculum centered on analysis and investigation. In **6th grade** students explore earth science throughout the year. A trip to Luray Caverns encourages the students to identify rocks and minerals in a real-life setting. The dissection of squid and frogs plays an exciting role in the **7th grade** life science curriculum. These science labs help the students identify components of organisms in the environment. The 7th graders also spend several months conducting a controlled experiment for the annual science fair. This independent project allows them to utilize scientific reasoning to answer a question of their choice. Students in **8th grade** explore elements of physical science including changes in matter and energy.



Luray Caverns Field Trip



7th Graders Dissect a Squid



BSS Science Fair



Chesapeake Bay Field Trip

Colonial Day! Every year the **4th graders** at BSS spend a day immersed in their social studies curriculum. After learning from their textbooks, they 'live out' life as early immigrants. The students select a job and create a workspace. This year the occupations included silversmiths, blacksmiths, candle-makers, bakers, teachers, and militia members. Throughout the day, other grades visit the colonial village the 4th graders created. This interdisciplinary approach to hands-on learning helps the students engage in historical and critical thought.



Teacher Spotlight: Mrs. Bonnie Porter—28 Years of Service to BSS

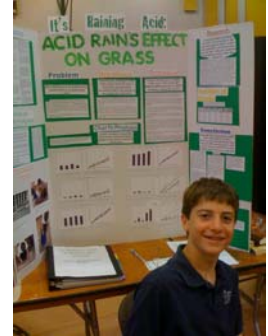
As BSS prepares for the 60th Anniversary Celebration, few remaining teachers can claim teaching at the school for more than twenty years. The exception is Mrs. Bonnie Porter, who continues her vocation as a teacher after 28 years. She consistently demonstrates her mission to Catholic education through the example she sets for her students. She humbly states, "When I think of Blessed Sacrament School, the word 'family' is the first to come to mind. I have taught at Blessed Sacrament for 28 years, and throughout that entire time I have always felt the love and support of the Blessed Sacrament community. No matter the need, no matter the situation, loving arms surround you, support you, and pray for you just as any family would do. The school provides students with a wonderful education, but love, integrity, and concern for others is the heart of the Blessed Sacrament Family. How fortunate I am to have been included in that community." How fortunate BSS is to have such a wonderful dedicated teacher! Thank you, Mrs. Porter!



Mrs. Bonnie Porter, Kindergarten Teacher at BSS.

Student Spotlight: Aidan Fielding Wins 1st Place at Diocesan Science Fair

Aidan Fielding, a 7th grader at Blessed Sacrament, won first place in the Environmental Category at the Diocesan Science Fair on April 25, 2009. His project, *Acid Rain's Effect on Grass*, identified the cause and effect of acid rain on our environment. Over thirty schools participated in the competition held at Paul VI High School. Congratulations!



Aidan Fielding, 7th Grade Student.

Alumni Spotlight: Kevin O'Keefe Sets College Baseball Record

Kevin O'Keefe, a 2004 graduate of BSS, attends Moravian College in Bethlehem, PA and plays baseball for the Greyhounds. After an outstanding freshman season as first baseman, Kevin earned a high ranking in the final NCAA Division III statistics release of the 2009 season. As one of the best batters on his team, he was 16th in the nation for runs batted in (RBIs) per game and he set a school record 59 RBIs this spring. Way to go, Kevin!



Kevin O'Keefe, 2004 BSS Graduate.

Wanted: Blessed Sacrament School Alumni

We want to hear from all BSS Alumni! Whether you have won an award, been accepted to or are graduating from college, have a new job, or are getting married, we would love to hear about it! Please send all news and photos to shurd@jets.org or schoolinfo@blessedsacramentcc.org. Please also either complete the form below and mail it to the school office or complete the on-line version on the school website, blessedsacramentcc.org/school, and click on the alumni link. We look forward to hearing from you soon!

NAME

GRADUATION YEAR

ADDRESS

E-MAIL ADDRESS



BLESSED SACRAMENT SCHOOL & EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

Blue Ribbon School of Academic Excellence

1417 West Braddock Road
Alexandria, Virginia 22302

www.blessedsacramentcc.org/school

BSS Alumni News!

- * **Sandra Wunderlich Neilson**, class of 1958, is retired from the Medical Field and has lived in Richmond, VA for the past 43 years. She has 2 grown children : A daughter, Juli Donnelly Dance and a son, Dr. John R. Donnelly. She is also the proud grandmother of Joshua Dance.
- * **John Broadbent**, works for the Library of Congress, and remains active at Blessed Sacrament Parish.
- * **Kevin Tallec Marston**, class of 1991, is a graduate student at De Montfort University in Leicester, England. He is a PhD candidate at the International Centre for Sport History and Culture and he recently was married in August.
- * **Miriam Marston**, BSS class of 1995, completed her undergraduate work at William and Mary and worked in Oxford, England for several years. Upon returning to the United States, she worked for the Archdiocese of Boston for two years. Currently, she attends Boston College while working towards a Masters in Pastoral Ministry. She is a composer and pianist with a lovely voice. Her music is available to download on iTunes.



Students in the Drama Club at BSS present *Seussical The Musical*, a musical based on the books of Dr. Seuss.

COME VISIT US!

BSS Open House Schedule

October 7, 2009—9:00 am
November 18, 2009—9:00 am
January 6, 2010—9:00 am
February 10, 2010—9:00 am
May 5, 2010—9:00 am

All visitors will have the opportunity to meet the principal and the Early Childhood Center director. A presentation will be given and questions will be answered. Visitors will have a guided tour throughout the school.