Dear Parents,

We begin this month with opportunities for faith as we celebrate the feast of St. Blaise with the blessing of throats and with the culmination of Catholic Schools Week. What a privilege for our students to be able to celebrate the customs and traditions of the Church in their daily lives, as well as to attend weekly Mass.

The Lenten season is approaching on winged Pegasus. In her book, St. Therese, the Little Flower of Jesus, acknowledges that she was able to love because Jesus first loved her. May the wisdom of the Little Flower guide our growth in everyday goodness and greater awareness of grace.

Eugene Meister
President

Kathleen Froehlich
Lynn Miller
Principals

SO MUCH SICKNESS

There has been lots of illness throughout the month of January, and we are hopeful that it improves in February. With extended illness comes the concern about homework. A reminder that homework for Seton can be found on JMC. It is by exception only that it is sent daily by the teacher (Handbook p. 2). If you do not find it on JMC, please let me know.

Guidelines about when to return to school after an illness: What we find is fever free without Tylenol or Advil for 24 hours; vomiting/diarrhea free for 24 hours.

On occasion a student is sick and there is no one who is named on the emergency form available to pick up your student. If you are going to be unavailable, please check with your back-up(s) in case of illness.

WINTER WEATHER SAFETY

Just a reminder that as the real winter weather arrives, Prek-6 students are required to wear hats, gloves/mittens, coats, snow pants (Gr. 5-6 have a separate requirement) and boots each day. Wearing them to and from school keeps them warm, increases their safety and helps keep our carpets clean.

Prek-6 students will go outside for recess everyday unless the temperature or wind chill is below 0 degrees.

NEW IMMUNIZATION REQUIRED FOR GRADE 7+

But, Mrs. Froehlich, seventh graders don’t go to Seton. Right. With the immunization change coming for the 2013-2014 school year, this notice will give parents a head’s up about the one-time Tdap booster for students in grades 7 and above, if born on or after September 15, 2000, regardless of the interval since the last Tdap. More will be available as the year progresses.

KINDERGARTEN/PREP/PRESCHOOL/DEN SIGN-UP

Collecting Names: Do you know any child(ren) ready for Prek—Kindergarten? If so, please call the office so a packet may be sent to them. There are also forms on the BGS website.

◊ Students from all faith denominations are welcome at Seton.

KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP

When: Monday, March 4, 2013
Who: AM and PM Prek4 from 8:20—11:00 am in the classroom
Parents from 10:00-11:00 am in the Library/Media Center

Please call the office if you haven’t received a packet.

**NO School: for Den, kindergarten prep, PM preschool or kinder garden on March 4.

GRADE 5 DARE CALENDAR CHANGE

Because Officer Stence and Officer Fisher are not available on March 20, the DARE Graduation has been moved to Monday, March 25 at 7:00 pm in the Rochleau Center.

SAFETY PROCEDURES

Thank you for your cooperation to our new lock down proce-
dure. We appreciate how you are signing in and out at the main office, and that you are wearing a visitor badge.

Standard response protocol is being adopted. The Algona police department and Kossuth County sheriff’s department will be involved in the final review.

ARE YOU SMARTER THAN A SECOND GRADER?

The students in Mrs. Miller’s 2nd grade classroom are busy reading biographies. To coincide with the Catholic Schools Week theme, *Raising the Standard*, the students are matching their knowledge with their parents’- After reading about a famous person, the second graders are compiling a list of questions about the lives of people such as Abraham Lincoln, Rosa Parks, Helen Keller, Martin Luther King Jr., and many more. The students are reading all the different biographies so each student will know the facts concerning these important people. Then the 2nd graders will be taking these questions home to see how many of their parents are smarter than a 2nd grader! *Mrs. Myra Miller*

NEW TUITION ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

The Msgr. Lafferty PSAS forms will be ready soon. They are especially important this year as there is new money available to families who haven’t qualified for Msgr. Lafferty grants in the past.

The Bishop’s Education Fund is new and will provide grants to families who fall 301-400% of the poverty line. It is designed for families registered with a parish who do not qualify for Msgr. Lafferty. In order to receive a grant, the PSAS application must be completed and sent in. Don’t let this grant pass you by.

DRESS CODE REMINDER

Tights—K-12—black and white only. No leggings.

MUSIC KUDOS

**Honor Choir:** Congratulations to the following students who will participate in the ICDA Honor Choir in Mason City on February 25: Bailey Kollasch, Carolyn Hough, Amanda Miller, Jaden Becker, Marcus Plathe, Jordan Hansen and Madison Meister. The students’ teacher is Mrs. Brooke Robinson.

**Honor Band:** Congratulations to the following students who took part in Honor Band: Samantha Darling, Ellayah DeLange, Emma Thul and Sam Vaske.

FOURTH GRADE “TRACKING” ANIMALS

During the month of January, the fourth grade got busy researching what animals do to survive the winter. We drew out given animals and paired students to go to the computer lab and/or use books from the library to see if animals hibernate, migrate, lay eggs and die, or adapt to survive. Upon completion they placed their animals on the appropriate chart in the classroom. Naturalist Billie Willie came to further discuss the concepts. Students were placed into teams and competed among themselves using facts they had acquired. The finale of the unit came when a trip to the ICN room at Bishop Garrigan where we viewed “TRACKS.” This program dealt with identifying tracks commonly found in the snow in Iowa. Throughout this unit the goal was to gain an awareness and appreciation of different species as well as how they adapt to climate changes.

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you to everyone who supported the two recent Technology Committee Fundraiser Meals! We made $1227.56 at the December 21st meal and turned around and made $1261.38 at the January 18th meal…totaling $2488.94!! WOW! Big changes are happening with technology at BGS, and we will continue to make changes as funding allows. Your support is instrumental. Also, remember that you can support technology ANYTIME by purchasing COFFEE or COFFEE MUGS through Molly Buscher. Just email mollybuscher@gmail.com to inquire or place an order.

COUNSELOR’S CORNER

**When Toddlers Hit** *(Love and Logic)*
Before I became a parent, I believed that my children would always solve their problems with words rather than fists. Then I became a parent…and my kids hit me…and they hit each other. Take heart. Practically all young children experiment with being aggressive—even when raised in loving, nonviolent homes. Our job as parents is to help them learn more peaceful ways of managing conflict. Listed below are a few tips:

- **Apply the "Uh Oh Song."** When your toddler hits, sing “Uh Oh,” and carry them to their room, a safe highchair, a playpen, or stroller. If you are unfamiliar with this technique study our book, *Love and Logic Magic for Early Childhood.*

- ** Pretend to be calm.** The "Uh Oh Song" provides a practical strategy for replacing anger, lectures, threats, or spanking. Remember: The calmer you can look, the less likely your child will get hooked on seeing your face turn red.

- **Teach problem-solving.** When your child is calm, role-play more appropriate strategies for dealing with frustration, anger, or conflict. Give them some possible options: “Some kids decide to say 'I'm mad!' rather than hitting. Some kids decide to color with crayons when they get mad. Some kids decide to go in their room and yell at the mirror." This type of teaching doesn't work quickly…but as they grow older, they will begin to learn that doing such things can help them stay out of trouble.

- **Do your best to keep them fed and rested.** Hungry toddlers misbehave. Do so tired ones. Too frequently, small children suffer because their parents or daycare providers expect them to cope with unrealistically busy schedules.

Let them see you getting upset AND see you handling it well. There is nothing more powerful than backing our words with actions. What makes this attainable is remembering to take good care of ourselves so that we're not so likely to "lose it" in front of the kids.

PSAS FORMS FOR MSGR LAFFERTY COMING SOON
Kindergarten Prep:  Kindergarten Prep has been participating in mass. I must say they have been doing a great job! We are working on standing nice and tall and kneeling without lying on the pew in front of us. They are also trying their hardest to listen for the Our Father and the Sign of the Cross. Keep up the good work!

Kindergarten: Mrs. Lind’s kindergarten has been studying and practicing good manners. The words “please” and “thank you” are being heard more in our classroom. We are even trying to use them in the lunchroom, hallways and beyond. We learned that being thankful is one of the kinds of prayer. We designed a thank you note to send to a person who gave us a gift or visited us at Christmas time. Some of us wrote to grandpa & grandma, others wrote to cousins, aunts & uncles, even Santa got a few notes.

Grade 1:  “What do you want to be when you grow up?” is a question we often ask children. Children know about the careers their parents are engaged in and many others. We have introduced your students to the vocations in the religious life. We used the Knights of Columbus magazine, “Columbia” because there are pictures and brief summaries on the back cover of men and women who have answered God’s call to the priesthood or other religious orders. If you are a member of the Knights, please share this part of your magazine each month with your child. We also use “Vocation Dolls” Fr. Juan and Sister Clara which come with books to share with students. The dolls are fun for students to see as we read. Praying to God about what he wants them to be when they grow up is important. Let us all remember to pray for vocations and pray each child will grow to know God’s plan for their life.

Grade 2:  In second grade knowing that we want to treat others the same way we want others to treat us, we are learning to accept other classmate’s differences. Accepting each other for who we are, helps us to grow closer together as responsible friends and closer to Jesus!

Grade 3: In the month of January the third grade class learned about vocations. The students learned about the different type of vocations, single and married life, the priesthood and religious life. They also learned about how the amount of priest and sisters have changed in recent years. Some students started to think about what God might be calling them to do. Are there any future priest or sisters among us? We also pray for an increase to the religious vocations.

Grade 4: The fourth graders began the new year with the Growing In Love series. Covered topics are The Gift of Life, Called to Love, The Love of Jesus, Being Responsible, Rules for Living, Vocations and Friendships. Students continue to learn about Jesus, ourselves and others.

Grade 5 & 6 Fifth and Sixth graders took time this month to reflect upon the life of Martin Luther King Jr. We discussed Dr. King’s message of equality, tolerance, and non-violence. They were able to see through Dr. King’s speeches and actions the importance of treating all people with respect. What a great example of following the Golden Rule!

During the month of January, 5th graders have been learning about Martin Luther King, Jr. The students read a biography about him. We also watched his “I Have a Dream” speech. The students talked about how African Americans were treated and how Martin Luther King, Jr. worked to bring about peace and justice for all. We also discussed what this means for us today and some ways we can be like him and work for peace and justice in our world. “Love is the key to the problems of the world.” Martin Luther King, Jr.

Specials: This month, the students learned about Johnny Appleseed--the man behind the prayer that we have all sung. He is an excellent example of how we can live out our faith; he went across the Midwest, planting apple trees and sharing the Gospel. Through his actions, he showed God's love to others and his faith that the Lord would provide. He is an excellent example of how we should live our lives--trusting the Lord to give us what we need, and showing care and concern for all.