

Good Afternoon,

Sometimes, a vacation week comes at just the right time. For me personally, that is certainly the case this year! Over these next four months, I know that I will have a lot of opportunities to express my gratitude to all of you for your support over these past 8 years. Right now, however, I want you to know that this move to Buffalo comes with a real mix of emotions. BSS has been a special home for my family and me, and it has been a real joy being part of this community with all of you.

As I stood up on the altar at yesterday's Ash Wednesday prayer service, and looked out at the students, teachers, parents and community members gathered there, I was overwhelmed with a deep sense of gratitude for all that we have created together at BSS. This is a truly unique school community, and it will continue to flourish from many years to come. You can expect to hear more about the new principal search process in the days ahead. I have no doubt that the process will yield an outstanding candidate to lead BSS forward.

I have a lot more that I want to say, but for now, let's just stick with the updates...

(1) **Casual Day - Friday, February 16:** Tomorrow will be a casual day for all students. The money collected will go to support the Lymphoma Society, in honor of a special child who the students heard about at morning assembly this morning. Your generosity is appreciated.

(2) **Parish Collaborative Lenten Mission w/ Mother Olga:** All school families are welcome to join the parish collaborative during their Lenten Mission this year. This year's Mission will be led by Mother Olga of the Sacred Heart. Mother Olga visited our school a few years ago. She is truly a living saint! During the three day mission, Mother Olga will share with participants her deep spirituality, her passion for God, and her compassion for all of humanity. The Mission will take place in the evening on Sunday, February 25, Monday, February 26 and Tuesday, February 27 here in the parish collaborative. See the collaborative website ([www.matt13catholic.org](http://www.matt13catholic.org)) for more details.

(3) **Box Tops Volunteer Opportunity:** The PC is looking for volunteers to help with the monthly Box Tops sorting and counting on **Thursday** morning 3/1 at 8:15. If you are interested, please follow this signup genius link: [www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0F44A9AD22A5FF2-monthly7](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0F44A9AD22A5FF2-monthly7)

**Box Tops for Education:** It may seem like we just did this but with vacation being next week, this is an early reminder to please send in any Box Tops for Education that you have collected by **Thursday 3/1 (the week after vacation)**. Homeroom teachers are being asked to send them in to the office first thing that morning. We are seeing many with an expiration date of 3/1/18 so please send in what you have collected with your children so that they do not expire. Watch for your student's baggies to be sent back home and please continue collecting! Contact [lynnebong@verizon.net](mailto:lynnebong@verizon.net) with any questions.

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Finally, please take a look at the attached packet, which was put together by the Spiritual Life Committee of our Parent Collaborative. The packet contains many resources to help make this

Lenten season more meaningful and prayerful for you and for your families. We hope that you find it to be helpful during these 40 days of Lent.

Have a wonderful vacation week.

Jim