At this week’s coffee, our teachers asked the parents “What are your hopes and dreams for your children?” I loved the responses that parents shared: they want their children to be happy, well-adjusted and confident. They do not want their children to be consumed by anxiety. And yet, they are worried that their children are fragile. Our teachers talked about the necessity for our students to understand that they will make mistakes. And they work hard each day to model what they have learned through the Responsive Classroom program to help our students become socially and emotionally well adjusted.

For children to be truly happy, well-adjusted and confident, they have to feel good about themselves, have reasonable expectations and be resilient. Giving children positive feedback is always helpful, but sometimes we forget to tell them when they are being good. Refraining from putting too much pressure on a child is also good practice. Teaching resiliency is much more difficult; I know I struggled with this while raising my own children. Children have to experience pain and hurt in a controlled environment to help them understand that they can handle adversity. Some of us become too overprotective while others live by the school of hard knocks. I recall my sainted mother often saying, “What does not kill you will make you stronger; get over it.” As parents, we must find the proper balance.

There are simple things that we can do. We can try to frame things positively when children need correction. For example, instead of saying “your room is a mess, pick it up!” (with an elevated tone of voice), you could calmly say, “please show me what a neat room looks like.” Instead of “don’t run,” you can say “please walk.” We should get the message across, firmly, without a great deal of emotion. When addressing a student, our teachers make sure that the student is looking them in the eye. They try their best not to raise their voices or quicken their speech, which can communicate anxiety. When we “yell” at children, their minds focus on how they disappointed us and not on analyzing how they could do better. Children must understand that they will make mistakes; there is a way to fix them and grow from the experience.

During recess and in physical education class, our teachers closely monitor the behavior of the students and ensure that they adhere to the rules: 1. Stay on your feet. 2. Keep your hands to yourself. 3. Play by the rules. All children at our school know that this is the expectation for play. When children play in non-organized arena, they spontaneously come together and learn a great deal about rule-making and negotiation. But, when I walk to my car each afternoon, I scan the field and more times than I would like, children are tackling each other and rolling on the field while parents are engaged in social interactions with other parents. I encourage the children to play and I encourage the parents to socialize. Let’s please keep a watchful eye without getting too involved.
Parenting and teaching are not easy. It is good for us and for our children when, once in a while, we think about the hopes and dreams we have for them. They are precious.

Sincerely,

William Gartside
Head of School

News & Updates

Loyola Leaders Chosen for September

Grade 6 student Rhys Crawford and grade 8 student Camille Boursiquot are the first Loyola students to receive the honor of "Loyola Leaders of the Month" (LLM), a new program implemented to promote self-awareness, practice the Jesuit philosophy, and develop a greater sense of community among the middle school community.

Second Graders making exchanges in math stations! Math games make learning even more fun!

These puzzles are no match for the students in K1B!

Grade 8 Trip to the McMullen Museum of Art at Boston College

Recently 8th grade art class took a walking field trip to the McMullen Museum of Art at Boston College. We explored and interacted with the works of contemporary artist Carrie Mae Weems. Wenms' work integrates activism, racial equality and social justice. We were particularly interested in how Weems uses photography and text to send a message. The subjects of her work are sometimes difficult, yet very important and relevant to our 8th graders. After looking at and discussing the exhibition, students were able to create their own piece of
We had such a great time at the McMullen Museum of Art and can't wait to return.

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**Grandparents’ & Special Elders’ Day**

On Friday, October 5, Saint Columbkille Partnership School hosted its annual Grandparents’ & Special Elders’ Day. More than 200 grandparents and special elders came from across the country (and even Italy!) to experience our school.

Click here for the full article.

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**The Dancing Chickens of Ventura Fabian Return to Boston!**

On Tuesday, October 30 wood carver and painter Ventura Fabian will be visiting Saint Columbkille students to show and create his beautiful animal carvings. After school there will be a sale for families to purchase his wood carvings. Visit his website to learn more!

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Fifth grade dissected owl pellets during science class!

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**STCPS Basketball Program**
**Grades 1 - 6**
**Registration Now Open!**
At the Challenger Learning Center, grade 6 students had to use teamwork, communication, and problem-solving skills to successfully plan a mission to Mars!

The program is open to students in grades 1 - 6. No experience is necessary – just a willingness to learn, a desire to have fun!! The season will begin in mid November with practices or games until March. Students are required to attend practices and games. Cost to participate is $20 for returning players who will wear their uniform from last year, $40 for new or returning players who need a new uniform. We are also looking for parents to help coach at each grade level.

Click here to register your child for the basketball program.

Trunk or Treat
Saturday, October 27
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Want to be a part of the fun? We are looking for 25 families to volunteer to decorate the trunk of their car in a theme you choose. You can to keep it simple or showcase your creativity.

Want to come but not sure about decorating your car? We are going to need lots of trick or treaters and lots of candy. We need every family attending to drop off a bag of wrapped candy to the office between now and Friday, October 26. On October 27, put on your costumes and head on over to the school for some fun!

The rain date is on Sunday, October 28.

Calendar Of Events

Friday, October 19
- NO SCHOOL - Teacher Professional Development Day

Monday, October 29
- Family to Family Meeting - 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Tuesday, October 30
- Picture retake day
- Grade 4 Morning Coffee - 8:00 am
Wednesday, October 24
- High School Fair - 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Friday, October 26
- Spirit Day - Multiple Sclerosis

Saturday, October 27
- Trunk or Treat - 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Thursday, November 1
- All Saints’ Day Mass - 9:00 am

Friday, November 2
- Early Release - 1:15 pm

The Boston College Neighborhood has many great community events and opportunities. Click here to read more: Boston College Neighborhood Center Newsletter

Around the Neighborhood

Junior Celtics
Youth Development League (click the photo for more information)

Learn to Skate
Warriors
Allston-Brighton

Learn to Skate Allston-Brighton

Jr. Celtic’s Youth Development League