Greetings everyone,

I hope everyone had a pleasant summer and is enjoying the start of the new academic year. For those of you who drove past the school you would have seen a flurry of construction activity readying it for the return of our students. Of particular note are improvements made to expand and modernize the cafeteria, which would make Ma proud, and my old freshman homeroom (room 22), which has been converted into new administrative offices. Other improvements include the creation of music, art and media (what we used to call a library) rooms and renovation of the old chemistry lab.

The Alumni Association ended last year on a high note welcoming close to 100 alumni and their families to see the old elementary and high school space before renovations began. This year our meetings will be held every other month on the second Wednesday evening at 7:00 PM. We will continue to post meeting dates and minutes on the alumni tab of the school website http://www.stcps.org/alumni.cfm.

Please join us on Wednesday, November 12 when our agenda will include:

- Fund raising
- Plan for follow up event to the June open house
- Communication and outreach plans to keep alumni engaged and informed

Coming up on November 3 is the second annual Alumni Association Mass of Remembrance for deceased alumni at 9:00 am in St. Columbkille Church. Please consider joining us.

I want to share sad news about the passing of Fr. Carney Gavin in August. Fr. Gavin was ordained in 1965 and spent his entire career ministering to the St. Columbkille community. During this time his passion was also "academic research dedicated to understanding and preserving the cultural heritage of the Middle East while promoting peace among the region’s prevalent faiths through this shared history.” His reach extended across the river where a faculty colleague of mine at Harvard published a personal tribute to him in his academic blog. His loss will be greatly felt by the St. Columbkille community.

I wish you all the best in this upcoming year and hope to see you at a future event. As always please feel free to reach out to me direct at timothy_doyle@harvard.edu.

Best regards,

Tim Doyle

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Alumni Association Officers 2014 - 2015 Academic Year

President
Timothy Doyle '80
tdoyle@seas.harvard.edu

Vice President
Jerry Mee ’76E
jme@suffolk.edu

Treasurer
Maureen McGrail ’69
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Secretary
Jim Jacobs ’49
jgml@comcast.net

Immediate Past President
C0lleen Salmon ’83
colleen_salmon@yahoo.com

Chair, Advancement Council
Jack Keating ’63
jkpk@comcast.net

Chair, Communications
John Izzo ’80E
john@communitygrantsonline.com

Chair, Reunions & Events
Louise Russell ’73
ouissey@comcast.net
Message from Head of School Bill Gartside

Dear Alumni,

Welcome back to school! The first phase of renovations to the old high school building is complete and I am thrilled to invite you all to come by and see results. This summer we created two science labs, a music room, an art room, and a media center/library. We renovated nine classrooms in the former high school building. In addition, we expanded and modernized the old cafeteria, which now seats close to 100 students. These new spaces enable us to meet growing demand for enrollment and provide our students quality instruction in rooms specifically designed for their subject matter. It is truly exciting and will have a positive, lasting effect on the education of St. Col’s current students.

A second phase of renovations in 2015 is in planning stages. They will include a new school roof, renovations to the gymnasium, improvements to the parking lot and school entrance, and field turf for an outdoor play area.

This fall we embark on a fundraising campaign to fund these long-overdue improvements and I am counting on you, the alumni community, for support. Only you can fulfill your responsibility to the next generation by making the Saint Columbkille experience available to them as it was to you. The alumni community has a special relationship with today’s students and is uniquely positioned to show leadership and commitment to our families and the community at large.

Please visit the school’s Facebook page to view the new space and see the learning environment of today’s students. I can be reached directly at wgartside@stcps.org. I look forward to greeting you at school this fall.

Sincerely,

William Gartside, Ed.D

Head of School
Rev. Gene Sullivan, ‘49E, Honored with Distinguished Alumni Award


Eugene Sullivan was born in Brighton on May 3, 1936; his parents, the late Jeremiah and Mary Sullivan, raised their family in St. Columbkille Parish. Gene completed elementary school at St. Columbkille School (1949) under the watchful eye of the Sisters of St. Joseph. He went across the city to Boston College High School (1953) and returned to the easier commute at Boston College graduating in the class of 1957. He received an M. Ed. from Boston State College in 1958 and for the next five years taught in the Woburn Public Schools.

Father Sullivan went on to serve at St. Joseph Parish in Holbrook, St. Mary’s in Walpole and St. Patrick, Roxbury. During this time, he obtained the CAES from Boston University and a D. Ed. in 1981 from his alma mater, Boston College. In 1976, Father Sullivan was named Superintendent of Schools of the archdiocese, and held the position for eleven years. He was then named pastor of St. Peter Parish in Dorchester and almost a decade later, of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Weymouth. Father Sullivan remained in Weymouth for eighteen years until his retirement on July 1, 2013.

Never really “retiring” either in personality or activity, Father Sullivan is now senior priest in residence at Sacred Heart Parish, Roslindale. Fr. Sullivan is a long-time supporter of St. Col’s School and is a familiar sight in Brighton, returning often to St. Columbkille Church for funerals, weddings and other celebrations.

Saint Columbkille Partnership School Fast Facts

• We serve children from age three though grade eight

• Enrollment for the 2014-2015 school year is 380 students

• 70% of our students come from Allston-Brighton

• 40% of our students receive financial assistance for tuition

• The majority of students who apply to Boston Exam schools are accepted

• 100% of teachers have received or are working toward a master’s degree, primarily from Boston College

• Our extended day program offers more than 20 clubs and activities ranging from basketball to dance, drama to digital media, and engineering to running
Remembering Mary (Ward) Boyle, ’57

The Saint Columbkille School community has lost one of its most beloved and faithful members. Mary (Ward) Boyle died on May 26, 2014. Mary and her husband, John, of 50 years attended St. Columbkille School for 12 years, where they were well educated by the Sisters of St. Joseph. They were both proud members of the high school class of 1957. Mary loved the fact that the only picture in John’s wallet was that of their prom held right here in the school hall. Her presence will be missed as their class celebrates their 57th this fall.

Mary and John had five children, who followed in their parents’ footsteps to St. Columbkille Elementary School. When her children were in the school, Mary was very active as a member of the Home and School Association, organizing fundraising activities and “fun” raising events for parents and students. John also served on the school board. Mary continued her involvement when she became the school secretary (14 years) as well as the school crossing guard. Mary welcomed so many families to the school with her radiant smile. Mrs. Boyle was like a second mother to hundreds of children and a good and loyal friend to faculty and staff. There were many sad faces when she retired after all her years of service to St. Cols.

Mrs. Boyle came home to be buried from her beloved parish on May 31, 2014. A church full of family, friends, classmates and former students gathered to pay tribute, to say thank you and to show their love. Mary touched the hearts of many throughout her life. May 31st was a day to remember a special woman who was wife, mum, nana, sister, aunt, Mary and Mrs. Boyle.

A fond farewell to Rev. Carney E. Gavin

The Saint Columbkille school and parish community bid a sad farewell to Fr. Carney Gavin in August.

For all his priestly life, which began in 1965, he ministered to the people of St. Columbkille Parish and his numerous friends. Father Gavin was so highly respected that many families requested him to celebrate at family occasions – baptisms, weddings and funerals.

He was also well-known to St. Columbkille School children. When Father Gavin moved his office to the school, he would visit the classrooms and relate his adventures as an archeologist. Often times he would arrive with royalty visiting from some distant European or Middle Eastern principality that he had met during one of his many archeological digs.

Father Gavin’s stories, homilies, and hearty laughter, will long be remembered by the hundreds of lives he touched.

IN MEMORIUM

The following are names of alumni who the Alumni Association has learned have passed away recently. We apologize for any admissions and would be glad to include names in the next issue of SPIRIT. Please feel free to contact either Jim Jacobs ’49, Alumni Association Secretary, or Mary Battles ’66 at 617.254.3110,

1936 Olive C. (Mitchell) Russell
1941 Anna P. (Donnellan) Lovell
1941 Phyllis M. (Hiatt) Smith
1950 Ann A. (Cunningham) Flaherty
1957 Mary V. (Ward) Boyle
1957 Concetta M. Francis
1957 Mary P. (Gough) Sweeney
1959 James T. Reynolds
1959 Thomas J. Reilly
1963 Janice M. (O’Farrell) McCarthy
1964 Patricia A. Finn
1964 Phyllis (Contigiani) Grant
Class of 1953 Celebrates 60th Anniversary of Graduation

The class of 1953 celebrated its sixtieth anniversary at the new Stockyard Restaurant last fall. Jim Tobin, class president, and a few members of his class formed a committee and the planning came together very smoothly. Sixty-five classmates and friends were in attendance for this happy occasion. There was a lot catching up to do and remembering their days in the "Halls of Columb."

The graduates enjoyed the get-together so much that another reunion is already in the early planning stages.

50th Anniversary Festivities bring the Class of 1963 Back to School

Organized by Bill Goode, Paul Hanley, Mike Harney, Jack Keating, Donna Mauchan, Danice McCaffrey, Fran McCaffrey, Ann Marie Murphy and Paul Shanley, the Class of 1963 enjoyed two days of festivities last October. More than 60 people visited the school on Friday afternoon where they had a tour and update on school news by Bill Gartside, Head of School. The gymnasium and cafeteria, largely unchanged, were popular stops on the tour. Donna Mauchan Girard voiced a sentiment felt by many in her class, "I am so glad that the school is not just surviving but thriving!"

Together, the Class of 1963 donated $2,820 to St. Col's which included 18 gifts from individual donors as well as proceeds remaining from the evening reception at the Norfolk Country Club. Reunion Class gifts, which help provide tuition assistance to families in need, are critical to the continued success of Saint Columbkille School.

Calling all graduates of Classes of 1965, 1975 and 1990!

It's your reunion year for 50th, 40th and 25th respectively, and the Alumni Association can help you organize your event. Contact Louise Russell '73 at ouisey@comcast.net or Kathrine Cecere, Director of Institutional Advancement at school at kcecer@stcps.org.
Upcoming Events

OCTOBER 22, 2014
Home and School Restaurant Fundraiser
Joyful Garden
1234 Soldier's Field Road, Allston MA 02134
11:30 to 9:00 PM

OCTOBER 23, 2014
Open House for Prospective Students
6:30 PM at St. Columbkille School

NOVEMBER 3, 2014
2nd Annual Alumni Association Mass of Remembrance
9:00 am at St. Columbkille Church

NOVEMBER 12, 2014
Alumni Association Meeting
7 PM at St. Columbkille Partnership School

DECEMBER 6, 2014
Annual Home & School
Christmas Bazaar
10:00 to 4:00 PM at Saint Columbkille Partnership School

Your Gift is Important
Alumni support is a key ingredient of our success. Your gift demonstrates appreciation for your St. Col’s experience and ensures that the same high quality education in a caring community is available to a new generation. Please consider using the enclosed envelope to show your support or donate conveniently via the web at www.stcps.org/givenow.

Double the value of your annual gift!
Many companies match charitable gifts made by their employees: BNY Mellon, Federated Department Stores, Fidelity, Gillette, Google and The Home Depot to name a few. Participation is easy. Contact your human resources office to find out if your company has a program and sign up today!

Would you like to help St. Col’s save money on printing and postage?
Send your email to kcecere@stcps.org and we’ll sign you up for an e-newsletter.

Spirit is a publication of Saint Columbkille Partnership School. Please contact Mary Battles at 617-254-3110 x105 or alumni@stcps.org if you wish to get involved, submit news or simply reconnect with former classmates. We apologize for any errors included in this newsletter, and please let us know if you spot any incorrect information.