Hello Saint Columbkille’s Community,

I hope all is well as we enjoy Spring. There have been a lot of changes at St. Col’s since the last time we wrote. But change is not new to us in the Saint Columbkille’s community. Growing up here, I feel I can say: change is how we do it.

STCPS, that is Saint Columbkille Partnership School, is now celebrating the 10th anniversary of the partnership with Boston College, the Archdiocese of Boston, and the St. Columbkille Parish. This partnership has led to an even stronger Saint Col’s. The administration, faculty, and students are vibrant and thriving as we look forward to a continued partnership with Boston College well into the future.

See inside for details of our first annual “Come Home to Columb” celebration last June. We honored a legend in our community, Miss Battles, with the 2016 Saint Columbkille’s Heritage Award.

Inside you’ll also find details of the ceremony this fall when Mark McGuire, a current fifth grade student at Saint Col’s, received the Mary Battles Scholarship, which was designated for a student who exemplifies the values that Miss Battles instilled in our community.

Thank you so much for your support. Helping each other is something we do well in our community. We would like to fund a scholarship annually with your support: recognizing, celebrating, and honoring our great 116-year young Saint Columbkille’s community by ensuring that it continues to thrive for the next generation of students.

Thank you to all of you who joined us at our second annual “Come Home to Columb” event on June 10. Your generosity in supporting the Annual Alumni Scholarship in honor of Conrad (‘47) and Paula Bletzer truly makes a difference for this generation of Saint Col’s students.

All the best and I hope to see you soon!

Jerry

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Kelly McGrath ’89
kelly9175@gmail.com
Message from Head of School – Bill Gartside, Ed.D

Dear Alumni,

First of all, I want to thank all of you for your continued support of your Alma Mater. Without your support and the support of many others, this school would have followed the fate of so many other Catholic schools and closed. I am sure you all remember how much you were known, loved and certainly challenged by the sisters and teachers who sacrificed so much on your behalf. They formed your character and gave you the necessary tools in life to find success.

Our school is fast becoming a beacon of hope for other Catholic schools in the area and around the country. We have been able to blend the strongest traditions that Catholic education has to offer with new practices that will secure a successful future for our children in the 21st century.

As always, I invite you to come and visit the school. I would be happy to arrange a tour. When you come back, you will remember the classrooms and think about your former classmates and teachers, I hope fondly. You will see today’s vibrant teachers in action with happy children all around them.

Once again, thank you for your support. A high quality education today costs a lot of money. Your donations will help us to keep the tuition low and offer financial aid to families who cannot afford the tuition. You make a difference for so many students!

In Gratitude,
Bill Gartside

The Spirit is Alive at Saint Col’s!

Our commitment to Catholic education continues to be at the center of all we do at Saint Columbkille Partnership School. Traditions like the Cantata (now called The Nativity,) and the May Procession are still a part of the education here at Saint Col’s. The Nativity, held on December 16, 2016 was beautiful and well attended; there was not a seat in the church open once it started. The May Procession, held May 16, 2017, was a special time for all of us as the students respectfully walked up Arlington Street, gathering on the new field to crown the Blessed Mother. We prayed the Hail Mary in over 10 languages, representing many of the cultures in our school. Our second graders received Reconciliation and First Holy Communion and we even had 5 children baptized in early May. We are thankful to Fr. Fitzgerald, Pastor of St. Columbkille Church for supporting us in all of these wonderful events.

Pictured: Maxwell and Alessandro Capelletti with their parents and Fr. Fitzgerald at their Baptism on May 12, 2017.
Come Home to Columb 2016

Over 200 alumni and friends gathered to celebrate Saint Columbkille, each other, and Mary Battles on June 9, 2016 for the first annual “Come Home to Columb” event. After months of planning, the committee welcomed back alumni of all classes, especially the 50th anniversary class of 1966. Led by Tricia Mee, the group cheered, sang, and celebrated all that is Saint Col’s. Their walks down memory lane included Mass at St. Columbkille Church, a tour of the school, and socializing well into the evening.

Distinguished Alumni Award 2016 – John Keating ’63

John Keating, affectionately known as Jack, was the 2016 Distinguished Alumni Award winner. After graduating from Saint Col’s, Jack then went on to study Operations Management at Boston College’s Carroll School of Management, and to earn his MBA from Columbia Business School and CPA in Rhode Island. He has had a distinguished career working in financial and accounting in the high tech space. Even today, though semi-retired, he continues to serve as treasurer for 3 entities. He enjoys playing golf, rooting for the BC Eagles, (he’s only missed about 15 home football games in 59 years), managing real estate, and traveling. He has been married to Pat for 47 years and has three daughters, Kristin, Michelle, and Kara, and six grandchildren.

Jack’s love of Saint Col’s is evident to all who know him. He has a number of fond memories, including winning the vote to be Junior Fire Marshall in sixth grade (all the girls voted for him!), scoring 20 points in his last basketball game against Christopher Columbus in the school gym (the same one the students still use), and many dances and proms. He is a tireless supporter of Saint Col’s, generously offering his support and time to keep Saint Col’s the thriving academic institution you knew it to be while making sure it retains its neighborhood feel. As an alumnus of both Saint Col’s and BC, he is excited by their partnership and looks forward to contributing to Saint Col’s for years to come.

Mary Battles Scholarship Ceremony

Mark McGuire, a 5th grader at St. Col’s was the proud recipient of the Mary Battles Scholarship Award. Both Mark and Mary were honored in a ceremony in January. Mark is an incredibly hard worker and compassionate to all (much like Mary). Congratulations to Mark and thank you to Mary for her years of dedication to St. Col’s!

Pictured left to right: Kelly McGrath ’89, Mary Battles, Mark McGuire, Mrs. McGuire, Bill Gartside, John Izzo ’80E, Peter McLaughlin (Board of Trustees)
Upcoming Event

Class of 1957 60th Reunion
Saturday, September 16, 2017
The Corrib Pub Restaurant
For more information, email Richard Peach at dicks.record@verizon.net or call 617-642-6437

Come Home to Columb 2017
We always enjoy welcoming back our alumni and this year’s “Come Home to Columb,” held on June 10th, was no exception. This year, we were particularly pleased to honor Conrad (‘47) and Paula Bletzer with the Distinguished Alumni Award. Thank you to all of you who contributed to this year’s Annual Alumni Scholarship fund. Stay tuned for pictures from the event in our next issue!

In Memoriam
We apologize that we are not able to include your beloved deceased in this issue. Please email advancement@stcps.org or write the Advancement Office at STCPS to inform us of those you have lost since Fall 2014. We look forward to honoring the Saint Columbkille alumni who have gone before us in our next edition.

Welcome Home to Columb Class of 1962
On Thursday, May 25, we welcomed back 15 members of the class of 1962 for a school tour. This group, who call themselves the ROMEOs, (Retired Old Men Eating Out), reminisced and reveled in great memories of their time at Saint Columbkille School. Accompanied by some of their beloved Juliets, they also took a tour with Dr. Bill Gartside, exploring a number of different classrooms throughout the school. They were noticeably pleased to see that the school they loved so dearly was still thriving today. They joined more classmates at the Corrib Pub for lunch and laughs.

Jim Downey heads up this active class and can be reached at jdowney@downeycocpa.com.

Your Gift is Important
Alumni support is a key ingredient of our success. Your gift demonstrates appreciation for your Saint 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 online at www.stcps.org/donate.

William Gartside, Ed.D.
Head of School
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Kate Ward
Director of Institutional Advancement
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A Great Ring Reunion!
John Fiola, a local Indiana Jones, made an amazing discovery for Saint Columbkille School this May. With a metal detector, a curious mind, and a steadfast conscience, he stumbled upon a 1980 class ring with initials CC inside. He called the school, the advancement team contacted the Alumni Board, and together we were able to identify the ring as belonging to Carol Cioffi ’80. A gift from her dad, Carol had been looking for this ring since the day she lost it and could barely contain her joy when reunited with it 38 years later. Thank you, John! Thank you, Alumni Board! And thank you to the Saint Col’s commitment that leads all of you to treasure your experience here that much, 38 (or even more!) years later.