I had the opportunity this morning to have a couple of conversations that focused my thinking on the bigger picture. I, like most of you, get wrapped up in the daily doings, moving from thing to thing from the time I wake up until the time when my head hits the pillow. There is so much to do. I enjoy the morning coffees because I find that I can hit the pause button and listen to what is on the minds of parents who are present. This morning’s grade five coffee was an introduction to Loyola Academy, our middle school. I encountered super committed parents who are anxious, in the best of ways, about providing their children with a good education while keeping them sound in mind and body.

While I was listening and talking, my mind was drawn to personal memories of my own children and how they navigated those middle school years. I remembered my son who was losing sleep because many of his classmates had labeled him due to his passion for academics. I remembered my daughter’s tears when she came home to tell us that her “so-called” friends had abandoned her. I have to say, that I worried mightily about their mental health, their self-image and most importantly, about their happiness. My anxiety has given way to pride. The conversations I have with them now tell me that they are whole.

I wasn’t sure what to write about this week. I took a walk to gather inspiration. Walking past Ms. Myles’ office, I did a U-turn after noticing six middle school students at a table with two boxes of pizza. Mr. Hurd invited this distinguished group of students for lunch. They were the Loyola Leaders for the past few months. There are so many times over the course of many years when my conversations with middle school students were the result of some infraction or indiscretion. This conversation was a breath of fresh air. They were relaxed and confident. I asked them if any of their peers had given them a hard time about being selected for this honor. They told me that to the contrary, their classmates had celebrated their success. I asked them if they could tell me what they had done to receive such an honor. They all agreed that it was all about striving to be the best they could be and that they had learned this from their teachers. They named many teachers who had positively impacted their thinking.

If I had it to do over again, this morning’s coffee would have featured these young men and young women. They exuded quiet confidence and communicated a depth of thinking and feeling. They have a pretty good idea about who they are. I was incredibly impressed with the grade eight students, who with each passing day are becoming more and more nostalgic. Yes, it is not easy to be a middle school student who must navigate their world that is made more complicated with social media. These kids, while not perfect, have their priorities straight. They have high aspirations and they are grateful.

While it is true that parenting today is, perhaps, harder than it ever was, there is a fundamental recipe that if employed, will go a long way in forming children to become compassionate, happy adults. Children want to be loved. They secretly want you to structure their lives. They want you to help them define themselves. They don’t want you to fight their battles. They want you to guide them through the process. The children I spoke with today attribute their success at being young men and women for others to the teachers, parents and role models in their lives. Middle school students can appear to be self-absorbed and disdainful of parents. They do not often demonstrate their inner core. I was blessed today to be present when they did and I assure current and future middle
school parents that, truly, they do appreciate all that you do or will do for them.

I hope you all have a restful vacation, that when we return the flowers will begin to bloom and that during the days to come, your family bonds will grow tighter yet. Have a happy Easter!

Sincerely,

Dr. William Gartside
Head of School

News & Updates

State of the School Address
Thursday, April 25th 6PM

We understand and are grateful for the investment that you make to send your child to a high quality Catholic school. We firmly believe that you are partners in this endeavor. An extremely important meeting will be held on Thursday, April 25th at 6PM to give the results of the parent survey, present the action plan for the future and to discuss the long term view of what education will look like for your child in the years to come. For all the meetings that you have been invited to this year, this is the one you should not miss.

The meeting will be held in the gym. Childcare will be available for students in PK – Grade 4. There will also be the option to purchase pizza for any family whose children attend the after school program. You must RSVP for this event.

Second grade learned how membranes work by soaking raisins in different solutions and observing whether they shrank, swelled up, or stayed the same.

Click here to RSVP for the State of the School Address.

STCPS Summer Program
Enroll Now!

A six-week STEM Academy is offered from July 8th to August 16th to students entering grades 5, 6, and 7. Students will deepen their understanding of STEM concepts through hands-on lab, fieldwork, and engagement in the engineering design process.

An eight-week summer program is offered from June 24th to August 16th to students entering grade pre-kindergarten through grade 4. This program provides a range of academic, enrichment, and recreational activities.

Click here to sign up for the summer program!
BC Race to Educate  
Saturday, May 4th

The race is less than a month away! We are getting closer to our goal of $200,000. Thank you to all who have started to raise money! Please continue to ask for pledges during the April vacation. A big thank you to our generous sponsors!

Click here to view a list of sponsors.

Students enjoyed Easter lunch this week!

Calendar Of Events

April 15 - 19
- No School: April Vacation

Tuesday, April 23
- Spring Picture Day - Forms will be sent home on Monday, April 22nd

Thursday, April 25
- Grade 4 Morning Coffee in the library at 8 AM Topic: Grade 5 teachers will be in attendance to discuss the transition next school year
- Financial Aid Workshop 10 AM - 6 PM - Click here to sign up.
- State of the School Address 6PM

May 1
- Grade 3 Morning Coffee in the library at 8 AM Topic: Grade 4 teachers will be in attendance to discuss the transition next school year

May 3
- Spirit Day - BC Race to Educate
- Early Release - 1:05PM Grades 1 - 8 and 1:15PM Pre-K, K1 & K2

May 4
- BC Race to Educate!

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