Message from the Head of School

One of our long-time students at Saint Columbkille inevitably puts a smile on my face whenever I see him. He appears to be immune to the many stressors that afflict so many children these days. He works hard and gets along with the other students. With the mere mention of his name, teachers’ moods lighten. Having had many conversations with him over the years, I have come to understand that his parents have instilled beautiful values in him. And as he has gotten older, the conversations with him have become more profound.

Yesterday, I had the opportunity for a chat with him. He explained that there was a classmate who was having difficulty fitting in and that he felt bad for this student. He explained that this student, in his opinion, tries too hard sometimes and can be annoying. Nonetheless, he said that he did not take anything personally and after talking it through with his mother, thought that he should try hard to understand his classmate and help him to better fit in.

After our conversation, I took an inventory of my feeling toward people who I have found annoying and realized that I would do well to follow this boy’s advice. It is the season, if we allow ourselves the opportunity, to reflect upon our lives and how we impact others. It is the season of giving and sacrifice. As a Christian, my faith is grounded in the belief that God sent His Son to remind us that we are God’s hands to complete His creation. We have the responsibility to make the world a better place.

I am blessed to be a part of this school where I see the goodness of so many people who, at their core, have great empathy. I see parents organizing the Grace Givers program, started by parents a few years ago to give a little joy to families who are under financial pressure. I see parents taking the tags from the tree outside the office and returning with a gift for a child not their own. I am not surprised but, still, amazed that the community gifted our school more than $17,000 for Giving Tuesday. My heart is lightened when an anonymous person offered to pay for lunch for a child in need. I am thankful for the donor who offered a check to pay for the tuition of a child unknown to him. I smiled when I noticed that the first gift to the Teacher Christmas Fund was from a family who does not have a lot to spare.

In a world fraught with negativity and division, I am encouraged that there are so many who put the needs of others before their own. During this Christmas season, I will continue to pray in thanksgiving for the community that is Columbkille.

Sincerely,

Dr. William Gartside
Head of School
Check out dates and times for upcoming Christmas events

Learn more

Thank you for your support on Giving Tuesday!

Learn more

STCPS provides clinical rotation for BC nursing students

Learn more

Grade 5 students recently visited the Museum of Science

Learn more

Looking for information from the Weekly Reminders email sent out on Fridays?

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Visit Our Website Calendar

Download the 2019/2020 School Calendar PDF