



SAINT COLUMBKILLE

PARTNERSHIP SCHOOL

Message from the Head of School

Dear Families,

The last sentence of our school mission statement reads: *Rooted in the Roman Catholic tradition, we search for the truth with joy, practice the good with conviction, and contemplate the beautiful as we prepare students for lives of faith, service and leadership.*

We are a *Catholic* School; and therefore, we teach the tenets of our faith, we pray and worship together in the Catholic tradition, and we teach our children the social justice values for which our church advocates. We hold special the religious traditions of our faith. We also respect and embrace our families who have different or no religious traditions. We also understand that there are different traditions that are searching for the same truth.

As Catholics, we *search for the truth with joy*. In the Jesuit tradition, we teach our children to always seek the truth by finding God in all things and in all people. We teach our children that God's creation is magnificent and they must look for the good. This is an important lesson, for if we stop looking for goodness, our perceptions will become jaded. For children, this is an easy lesson, because they are by nature joy-filled. Their eyes and hearts have not been programmed to look for anything but the good.

We want our children to habitually *practice the good with conviction*. We teach them to do good works even when there is not a reward to be had. If we are successful at this, our children will grow up with a passion and commitment to first see the need, and then to respond to that need. They will be the "Good Samaritans" that Jesus spoke about. They will become leaders in this endeavor and examples for others. This is how they will change minds and hearts as others can emulate their practice.

We can learn from our children. They *contemplate the beautiful* all the time. Our children take their cues from us. They can sense when we are stressed. I urge each of you to try and remember to take the time to look for and then think about the beauty around you. This will require us to slow down once in a while and put problems aside to allow ourselves to be rejuvenated.

It was so good to see so many of you at the Christmas tree lighting and at the Christmas at Saint Col's event this past weekend. The cookies that I bought are already gone and I wish I had bought more! A special thank you to Mrs. Ward who organized the lighting ceremony and to Mrs. Lamothe and her parent volunteers who created an event that was so enjoyable to our families and the community.

Sincerely,
William Gartside
Head of School

News & Updates

**Faculty and Staff
Christmas Gift Fund**

We all recognize that the greatest asset of our school is our faculty and staff. We also know that Saint Columbkille families have been very generous in appreciating teachers.

Please click on the following link to donate to the Gift Fund. For online donations, there will be an automatic tax deductible email sent to you. Families can also bring in a check or cash to the school office. We will not share any information regarding your gift with teachers or others. There is no predetermined amount for this gift. Please give as you wish.



[Click here to donate to the Faculty and Staff Christmas Gift Fund!](#)



Nativity Show "A Christmas Alleluia"

We invite the school community to join us in celebrating the Christmas season on Tuesday, December 19th at 6:30PM when Saint Columbkille Students, grades 1-8, present the Nativity "A Christmas Alleluia" at Saint Columbkille Church.

Christmas Toy Drive

Our Grace Givers program in conjunction with the Annual Allston/Brighton toy drive, sponsored by Reps. Moran, Honan, and other elected officials, as well as the BAIA and the Ward 22 Democratic Committee, will be collecting gifts for families in need- both in our school and our community.

Thank you to all the families who took gift tags from the tree! Please return the tag attached to the unwrapped present by Friday, December 15th. If you were not able to stop by and take a gift tag, you may purchase a toy for a child ages 0 - 13 and drop it off in the main office.



Calendar Of Events

Friday, December 8

- K2 - 8 Report Cards Distributed
- School Mass 9AM

Tuesday December 12

- Early Dismissal 11:15AM

Tuesday, December 19

- Christmas Nativity 6:30PM

Wednesday, December 20

- Grade 1 Morning Coffee 8AM in the library

- K2 - 8 Parent Teacher Conferences

Wednesday, December 13

- Kindergarten 2 Morning Coffee 8AM in the library

Friday, December 15

- PK/K1 Christmas Concert 9AM
- Early Dismissal 1:15PM
- Spirit Day

Thursday, December 21

- Full School Day

Christmas Recess
December 22nd - January 1

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