Message from the Head of School

Every two weeks, I shut my door, something that I rarely do, to write the message for the school’s newsletter. This is something that I enjoy. As you can imagine, life inside of a school is busy. There is so much going on. When writing the newsletter message, I am able to sit back and look at the big picture. I can appreciate the children, their families and their teachers who work so hard and commit so much.

I must say, the last principal’s message announcing the increase in tuition was a more difficult message to craft. I know, first hand, of the sacrifice families make to send their children to a Catholic school. My two children graduated from Catholic schools and I remember well vacations that were deferred and purchases not made.

During the past two weeks, I have been thinking a lot about our families, particularly those who may be living from paycheck to paycheck. I do not want any family to have to make the decision to leave the school because they cannot afford to pay the tuition. I encourage you to apply for financial aid if you are unable to meet tuition costs. In addition to fund-raising for programs, we fund-raise to provide financial aid to our families.

Parents have told us through the annual survey that they place high value on highly qualified teachers and small class size. You all know how special our teachers are. You may not know that they could be making a lot more money if they chose to teach in the public sector. I have also been thinking about the learning environment at the school that allows for our teachers to know and love their students better by having fewer children in classrooms.

We know what it takes to provide an academically superior and values-based Catholic education. We know that children learn best in an environment that is well maintained, warm in the winter and cool in the summer. We know that teachers need coaches and children need counselors. All of these things cost money.

Know that most of the dollars generated from the tuition increase will be directed toward teacher raises. Studies show that student achievement is directly related to the quality of teaching. Our teachers are exceptional and should be justly compensated.

Our annual State of the School forum will take place on April 25th at 6pm. This is a meeting when members of the Board of Trustees will join me to discuss the school’s goals, finances, and future with parents. Please mark your calendars. This is an important meeting. I hope to see all of you there.

Again, I encourage you to apply for financial aid if you need tuition assistance. I know that Lavinia Ifrim has scheduled workshops to guide you through the process. Click here to learn more about financial aid. I believe that a Saint Columbkille education is invaluable. I know that as partners, we can accomplish great things that will be manifested in the children we teach.

Sincerely,

Dr. William Gartside
Head of School
LAUNCH Fundraiser
February 13th

Join us at Launch in Watertown from 4PM - 8PM on Wednesday, February 13 for a school fundraiser! Please bring the attached flyer to give to them when buying tickets or let them know you are with our school! We will receive 25% of the ticket proceeds!

Saint Columbkille students excelled in the Math League Competition. Many of our students are headed to the state finals! Congratulations!

Grade 6 student Sophie Minihane and grade 7 student Pablo Avila were named January’s “Loyola Leaders of the Month”

Click here to read the full story!

BC Race to Educate
May 4, 2019

May the 4th be with you!!! Start training and get ready for our Annual BC Race to Educate! For those new to STCPS, the BC Race to Educate is our biggest fundraiser of the year and a fun family event! Some walk it, some run it, some cheer for it, but we all do our best to support it.

We are looking for a core committee to help organize it. Contact Kate Ward at Kward@stcps.org to join this great group.

Summer Programming
Mr. Walsh enjoyed his time with the kindergarteners during the teacher swap last week!

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 learn more!

Calendar Of Events

Saturday, February 9
- Sweetheart Dance 3 PM - 5 PM

Wednesday, February 13
- Morning Coffee in the library at 8AM
  Topic: Social Media and Children
- Launch Fundraiser

Friday, February 15
- Spirit Day - American Heart Association
- EARLY RELEASE 1:05PM Grades 1 - 8 and 1:15PM Pre-K, K1 & K2

February 18 - 22
- February Vacation Week

Wednesday, February 27
- Morning Coffee in the library at 8AM
  Topic: Physical Education Program

Friday, March 1
- EARLY RELEASE 1:05PM Grades 1 - 8 and 1:15PM Pre-K, K1 & K2

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

Download our School Calendar PDF