



## Message from the Head of School

Dear Families,

Thank you all for taking the time to fill out the school's annual Parent Survey. As of this writing, 70 percent of our parents have completed the survey. During the next two weeks, we will analyze the survey data and report back to you at the State of the School meeting that will take place on Wednesday, March 21.

I recently found an old newspaper clipping, dated May 18, 1952, from an old volume I inherited from a previous principal of the school. It was titled *Jewish Leader Finds Education at its Best in Catholic Schools*. A professor from Columbia University visited Saint Columbkille to learn more about Catholic schools and wrote about his findings after his visit. Interestingly enough, the article did not talk about students solving mathematical problems or analyzing *The Odyssey*, even though his visit took place in 1952. The professor posed the question, "Why should you respect people who are different from you in faith, or race or color?" A student responded: "Because every human being is a child of God."

The professor reported that he had learned from his discussion with the students that they "had been taught brotherly love. I felt sure they would grow up to be fine citizens, staunch defenders of their religion and of their country." He reported to the pastor and principal that he was impressed by the way the school was helping children to love their neighbors. "Certainly, I told them, their students were alert, friendly, and not afraid to speak their minds. They acted as ideal students should in a democratic society."

I speak often about the important task of educating the whole child and the need to find talent in each child and do everything we can to develop it. Clearly, people are most happy when they are good at doing things they like doing. We all know how important it is to challenge our children academically and there is much emphasis placed on academic learning. At Saint Columbkille, we are fulfilled when we see children soak in so much. However, for a person to be optimally successful and happy in life he or she must also be socially, emotionally and spiritually ready to face the challenges that life will throw at them. They need to be self-disciplined, independent, responsible, empathetic, reflective and resilient. Children who develop these qualities become difference makers.

At Saint Columbkille and at other Catholic schools, students are held accountable and are taught to understand their limits. They must learn to regulate their own behavior, even in the absence of reward or punishment, in order to accept responsibility for their actions. We teach them to stand on their own two feet as they learn how to solve their own problems. We teach them to care for one another and empathize with their classmates. We also want them to have the fortitude to learn from their mistakes and overcome difficult situations and disappointments.

I am still filled with rage over the non-response of our government officials who refuse to do something to take weapons of war out of the hands of people who lack the qualities that I have written about above. Taking guns off the street will reduce senseless tragedies, and teachers and administrators feel powerless when it comes to gun legislation. However, I am comforted knowing that, in our school and I am sure in many other schools, educators can be part of the solution by helping children gain social, emotional, and spiritual wellness. I am also heartened by the message coming from the students at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. From the mouths of our children comes hope.

We are making plans to express solidarity with the victims of gun violence on Wednesday, March 14. Our activities that day will remind our students of their responsibility toward one another. For our older children, that discussion can be more explicit. For our younger children, we feel it is important to shield them from talk about guns. No child should be burdened with the worry of gun violence. But we will take additional time that day to talk about peace and kindness. We will let you know if there is an event available for you to attend.

Let us continue our work together to make sure no child feels threatened or isolated. Let us work to make sure children smile more than they frown. And let's help our children to be able to navigate the world that they will find in their futures with love, hope, and joy.

Sincerely,  
William Gartside  
Head of School

## News & Updates



Grade 4 students participated in a presentation from AAA on maps.

### Easter Lunch

The Easter Lunch will be on Tuesday, March 27th. On the menu will be ham, potatoes, pineapple stuffing, carrots, bread, and a dessert. Lunch is \$6.00 per student.

Parent volunteers are needed to help run this event! If you are available during the day, please click the link below to sign up.

[Click here to volunteer for Easter Lunch.](#)

### Operation Rice Bowl and a Lenten Prayer

During Lent our community will participate in CRS Rice Bowl, a faith-in-action program that invites us to encounter our neighbor, as companions on the journey, through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

Rice bowls were distributed this week. We ask that you return your rice bowl the week after Easter.

[Click here to read the rest of the letter.](#)

GOD OF THE JOURNEY,  
WHENEVER WE STUMBLE ON  
LIFE'S ROADS, YOU ARE WITH US.  
YOUR LOVE ENABLES US TO GET  
BACK UP AND START AGAIN. MAY  
OUR LENTEN PRAYER, FASTING,  
AND ALMSGIVING BE AN  
ENCOUNTER WITH YOUR MERCY.  
MAY OUR EXPERIENCE OF YOUR  
SELFLESS LOVE INSPIRE US TO  
"GO AND DO LIKEWISE,"  
BECOMING COMPANIONS FOR OUR  
NEIGHBORS MOST IN NEED, AND  
FOR EVERY MEMBER OF OUR  
HUMAN FAMILY. AMEN.

## Summer Programming



Dr. Lawford Anderson, a geology professor from BU visit grade 1 science this week!

A six-week STEM Academy is offered from July 9th to August 17th 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 25th to August 17th to students entering grade pre-kindergarten through grade 4. This program provides a range of academic, enrichment, and recreational activities.

[Click here for to enroll!](#)

## 2018 BC Race to Educate



OUR SIGNATURE EVENT, BC RACE TO EDUCATE IS UPON US!

SATURDAY APRIL 28, 2018  
7:30AM REGISTRATION AND BIB PICK UP  
8:45AM KIDS FUN RUN  
9:30AM 5K FUN RUN AND WALK

The BC Race to Educate started 8 years ago with the help of the BC Hockey Team. The event has grown substantially and now includes a Pasta Supper the night before.

Each family is asked to set up a pledge page and raise a minimum of \$200.00 by asking friends, neighbors, relatives and businesses to help support Saint Col's. We will help you set up your pledge page and give you tips on how to fundraise. Our bi-weekly newsletter will include tips on how to train, a message from our race mascot, Gale Summers and tips for fundraising.

New this year:

Prizes for families who raise \$300, \$500 and \$1000!  
Weekly raffles for all those that sign up!  
Help setting up your pledge page by phone!

You can also count on:  
Prizes for top three fundraising families  
Prize for the family with the biggest team  
3 Pep Rallies at school  
Pasta Supper and Bib Pick up on Friday, April 27

THE KICK OFF STARTS NEXT WEEK! LOOK FOR INFORMATION ON HOW TO REGISTER, HOW TO SET UP YOUR FAMILY PLEDGE PAGE AND VOLUNTEER SIGN UP!

Questions? Contact Kate Ward at [kward@stcps.org](mailto:kward@stcps.org).

## Calendar Of Events

### March 2

- Early Dismissal 1:15PM
- Trimester 3 Club Registration Closes

### March 6

- Financial Aid Workshop: [Click here to register](#).

### March 9

- End of Trimester 2
- Race to Educate Pep Rally 2:30PM

### March 12

- Trimester 3 Clubs Begin

### March 10

- Reconciliation 10:30AM

### March 15

- School Play - Annie 6PM

### March 16

- No School - Teacher Professional Day
- K2 - Grade 8 Report Cards Available on Renweb

### March 21

- State of the School Address 6PM

### March 24

- Sweetheart Dance Gr 1 - 5

[Click here for the March Lunch Menu](#)

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