Message from the Head of School

After school on Monday, Eric, an STCPS graduate from one year ago, walked from Saint Joseph Academy to our school and asked permission to clean Ms. O’Brien’s room. He had learned that his former eighth-grade teacher had graduated with a master’s degree from Boston College earlier that day. He spent considerable time, tidying up the room, cleaning desks and white boards. He even scoured the ledges! He left a note on her desk, “I heard you graduated. I cleaned your room”. As it turns out, Ms. O’Brien, who is one of our more fastidious teachers was fretting that when she returned her room might be in disarray. Needless to say, her day, and probably her year, was made. There are sacred moments in life and this was one of them.

I recall Eric well. He was no different than most middle school students. He would be the first to admit that he sometimes pushed the limits. Ms. O’Brien and he had many conversations to steer him in the right direction. I do know that she never gave up on him. She never stopped believing that Eric had a big heart. He just had a difficult time showing it. Teachers and parents spend their days preparing their students and children for future success. It is so good to see that the messages we instill comes to the surface for us to see from time to time.

I like this time of the year. Even though I yearn for some time away, I look forward to the celebrations that mark transitions associated with the year’s end. The children are ready to move to the next grade. I hear teachers often ask their students if they are ready. The children enthusiastically say YES! The work of their hands is displayed beautifully around the school; a testimony to their creativity. The Loyola Academy students’ digital story-telling projects are thoughtful and moving. The songs emanating from the music room are crisp and joyful.

It seems like every week there is another procession. Second graders processed into and from the church for their first communion. First communion marks the time when these children have fully accepted responsibility for their actions and have become complete members of the church. They have completed the passage from innocence to the age of reason. Our eighth graders will process into the church as middle schoolers and process out as high schoolers. Five of our teachers processed into Alumni Stadium as graduate students and processed out as Master teachers. We are proud of them all!

I was impressed by the seriousness of our students and teachers during the May Procession, a procession that has taken place each May for the past one hundred and eighteen years at our school. We joined together as a community to remember the journey that Mary took as she followed her son from
Nazareth to Jerusalem. We prayed as a community for her intercession as we, too, journey through life.

It is good that we have way-stops as we journey through life when we can take a measure of our accomplishments. The end of the academic year is one such way-stop. I asked teachers to remember back to the first day of school when they looked upon the children for the first time. Oh, how they have grown.

When I think of Eric, and think of our teachers, I am reminded of the importance of patience. We must never give up on our children and must be hopeful that the seeds we plant in our children’s hearts and souls will grow bountifully. Sometimes the process takes longer than we expect but if we never lose hope and continue to love, good things will most assuredly happen.

Sincerely,

Dr. William Gartside
Head of School

News & Updates

Early Childhood Puppet Show
Saturday, June 1st 9:45AM

Please join us for a fun morning on the field at 9:45am. The Puppet Showplace Theater will present *Jane Saves the Day*, followed by treats and outdoor fun. Tickets will be $12 per family.

We are looking for volunteers to help plan the event, and to help out on the day of the event. If you are interested, please email communitybuilding@stcps.com, or sign up by clicking here.

Click here for tickets to the puppet show!

Grade 4 and 5 students enjoyed being environmentally friendly fashion designers in their exploratory class.

Five STCPS Teachers Earn a Master's Degree in Education from Boston College

Saint Columbkille Partnership School is proud of our five teachers who earned their Master's degree at Boston College's Lynch School of Education and Human Development. These teachers completed courses at Boston College while teaching full time at Saint Columbkille. If you see them please congratulate them for this great accomplishment!
Multicultural Potluck and Gr 1-7 End of the Year Show
Tuesday, June 11th 5 PM

Come celebrate the end of the school year, our community and your family heritage! This event is to unite and celebrate the wonderfully numerous cultures that comprise our school community.

Each family attending is asked to bring homemade food that is representative of their heritage OR is simply a favorite family dish to share. You may bring an appetizer, entree, salad, side, dish, and or dessert. Bring a blanket and enjoy the Gr.1-7 students, band, and choirs performances on the field at 6 PM.

Rain date Wednesday, June 12th.

Click here to volunteer for the event!

Results of the 2019 BC Race to Educate

WOW!!! We did it! Many thanks to all of you who participated. Check out these statistics:

- We raised $200,000, our best year yet!!!
- 90% of our students participated!
- 960 people walked or ran the race, close to 2000 attended!
- 176 teams participated!
- 97 teams met or exceeded goal!
- 7 classes had 100% participation!
- 25 families and staff raised over $1000 each!
- 67 sponsors contributed $100,000!
- 55 people participated as virtual runners!
- Gale finished the race!!!

Special shout out to Lisa Parcell, Jessica Savilonis and Joel Hales for serving as Parent Chairs. And, a big thank you to Boston College Athletics for all they did to welcome us to Alumni Stadium.

Plans are all ready underway for next year. A parent committee will be formed to help organize the race starting in September. Consider joining!!!
**Calendar Of Events**

**Monday, May 27**
- No School – Memorial Day

**Tuesday, May 28**
- Piano Recital 6PM

**May 28 – 31**
- Loyola Field Trips
  - Gr 6 Nature’s Classroom
  - Gr 7/8 Philadelphia

**Thursday, May 30**
- Ki Morning Coffee 8AM
- Ascension Thursday Mass 9AM

**Friday, May 31**
- Family to Family Meeting 8AM

**Saturday, June 1**
- Early Childhood Puppet Show 9:45AM

**Saturday, June 8**
- Come Home to Columb 4 PM

**Tuesday, June 11**
- Early Childhood Celebrations
  - Pre-K at 9 AM
  - K1 at 10 AM
  - K2 at 11 AM
- Multicultural Potluck 5PM – 6PM
- AND Gr 1 – 7 End of Year Show 6PM on the field

**Thursday, June 13**
- Field Day PK – Grade 5 Click here to volunteer!
- Last Day of all after school programming and clubs

**Friday, June 14**
- End of Year Prayer Service 10:45AM
- 11:15 AM Dismissal
Tuesday, June 4
- K2 – Grade 5 Democracy Day

Thursday, June 6
- PK Morning Coffee 8 AM

Friday, June 7
- End of Trimester 3
- 8th Grade Graduation Mass 11 AM
- Early Dismissal
  - 11:45 AM - Gr 6 - 8
  - 1:05 PM – Gr 1 – 5
  - 1:15 PM – PK, K1, K2
- 8th Grade Graduation Ceremony 6 PM

Community Announcements

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

Click here to sign up for a free membership to the Harvard Ed Portal.