Dear Families,

Seek the good!

This week, I was invited to speak with our fifth graders to give a pep talk about their behavior. On the way to the room, I rehearsed my talk. I would speak to the boys about being too physical. I would remind the girls that they should not exclude one another. I would speak about honesty and respecting the property of others. After entering the room and greeting the students, I began to take my seat on a cushioned bench in the front of the room. As I was taking my seat, the room got quiet and all eyes were focused on me. Something was not quite right. The teacher’s eyes widened in apprehension. I paused. Nate rushed to my side saying, “Mr. Gartside, I got your back”. He then adjusted and repositioned the seat cushion to make it secure, saving me from an embarrassing moment. We all smiled, and I thanked him for thinking of me. Even though he cheated his classmates of a spectacle that would most likely have featured my legs in the air, most of the students were glad that he had rushed to my aid. There are a lot of things that are special about this moment. Nate never hesitated even though there was a risk that he would be derided by his classmates. His classmates did not deride him. They had his back!

I have taken to listening to audio books instead of the news to occupy my mind during my long commute home each day. The latest book is one that I would recommend. It is not a new book but one that was on my list for a number of years. *A Man Called Ove* is one of those books that helped to restore my faith in humanity. It was a delightfully uncomplicated book that speaks to the goodness that is inherent in all human beings. People are good by nature. Sometimes we forget this and focus our attention on negativity. Life would be so much more pleasant if we were able to refocus our heart’s eye on people who put forward their better selves. I recommend this book as it is filled with many valuable life lessons. It speaks to the power of love, to the importance of celebrating difference, and how we must never give up.

Last Saturday I walked the 5K Race to Educate. I felt as though I was walking on air. All I saw were smiles. I was walking in a “No Negativity Zone”. I felt the common effort. I felt community. I was particularly energized when I saw Brenda and Ciara, two of our second-grade students at the 4K marker with
their arms filled with litter. When asked about it, they simply told me that it was their job to keep the environment clean!

I often speak or write about the importance of instilling values in children. When you see the efforts of parents and teachers come to fruition, it is a beautiful thing to behold. The world is a beautiful place. We need only to look for the beauty that is rooted in God’s creation. I am blessed to see it all around me at Saint Columbkille. Thank you, Nate, Brenda, and Ciara... and everyone who made Saturday such a delightful day!

Sincerely,

Dr. William Gartside
Head of School

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**News & Updates**

**Vocabulary Day**

**K2 - Grade 8**

**Friday, May 17**

This event celebrates reading and how fun and creative it can be! Students gain a deeper understanding of the word they choose and get to learn new words by participating in our community word parades.

Students do not have to be in uniform and can wear the clothes they need for their costume. Each grade level will participate in an engaging learning activity where students will learn new vocabulary words from their peers. We will take plenty of pictures and share them on social media!

Students and teachers enjoyed running the BC Race to Educate this year!

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**Book Fair**

**May 20th - 24th**

Looking to purchase new books and gear up for a summer full of reading? The book fair will be open from May 20th - 24th. You may send in money with your child or come in before or after school. See hours below. We are still looking for a few more parent volunteers. **Click here to volunteer!**

**Book Fair Hours:**
- Monday, May 20: 10 AM - 4 PM
- Tuesday, May 21: 7 AM - 4 PM
- Wednesday, May 22: 7 AM - 4 PM
- Thursday, May 23: 7 AM - 7:30 PM
- Friday, May 24: 7 AM - 3 PM

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Grade 4 students explored Old Sturbridge Village and learned about life in the 1800's.
PK - Grade 8 Art Show and Loyola Digital Learning Night
Thursday, May 23rd
6PM - 8PM

Join us for an evening that showcases student work in the arts!

Mrs. Falconer and the students will be displaying their art work from the school year throughout the building. Every child will have a piece of work displayed!

The Loyola students will be presenting their digital storytelling projects. Come and take a gallery walk through the middle school classrooms.

The book fair will also be open during this time to purchase books!

K2 students were entertained by a performance of James and the Giant Peach at Wheelock Family Theatre.

K1 enjoyed a trip to the Franklin Park Zoo for their spring field trip.

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. More information will be sent home in folders soon.

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.

Calendar Of Events

May 10
- Baptisms 10AM

May 11
- First Communion 10:30AM

Wednesday, May 15
- PK Field Trip

Thursday, May 16
- Grade 1 Morning Coffee in the library at 8 AM
- Grade 2 teachers will be in attendance to discuss the transition next school year

May 20 - 24
- Book Fair

May 21
- May Procession 10AM

May 23
- K2 Morning Coffee in the library at 8 AM
- Topic: Grade 1 teachers will be in attendance to discuss the transition next school year
- PK - Grade 8 Art Show and Loyola Digital Learning Night 6PM - 8PM
Friday, May 17
- Early Release - 1:05PM Grades 1 - 8 and 1:15PM Pre-K, K1 & K2
- Vocabulary Day (K2 - Grade 8)

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.