Message from the Head of School

As I write this letter, I am conscious of the sound of the chimes in the outdoor play area during recess. Most of the notes are put together in random fashion; but once in awhile, the music has a distinct rhythm. Whatever the case, students are making music because they have an inner desire to create and a drive to express themselves. They desperately want to be heard.

There are those who believe children should be “seen and not heard.” I do not share that viewpoint. I listened intently to Greta Thunberg, the 16-year-old Swedish girl who was invited to speak at the United Nations, speaking truth to power. She gave a passionate speech calling out world leaders for failing to act in preventing climate change.

We teach our children to do the right thing and to stand up for injustice. And when they do, they are often dismissed. After all, it is said that they do not have the experience necessary to understand complicated problems. We should listen to the children, for they know what needs to be done and see no reason for it not to be done.

The other day while at lunch, my cell phone buzzed: “there is a student in your office who says he needs to speak with you; it is urgent.” Five minutes later I was sitting at my desk, facing a very concerned fifth grader. He asked me if I knew that he was not in school last Friday. I confessed that I did not.

He then told me that his parents had taken him to an environmental rally in Boston. “I had to make some posters,” he said. He did not say that he “wanted” to make posters, but that he “had” to make them. I could see how important it was to him that he participated in the rally. I had a flashback to April 1970, when I was a senior in high school. My homeroom teacher took our class on an excursion to clean up a river on the first Earth Day. We got pretty dirty that day and I was awakened to the urgency of our environmental problem.

Now, 49 years later, I see how we have failed the next generation. Today, however, I have to be hopeful that there is a growing movement to put our children’s futures before profit. And, as it was back in 1970, children are standing up to sound the alarm. We must listen to the children, whatever discordant sound they make.

Sincerely,

Dr. William Gartside
Head of School
Loyola Academy students lead the school community through Saint Col's Clubs.

Elementary students are building character through the literature curriculum.

STCPS families participated in the 36th annual Allston-Brighton parade on Sunday, September 22.

From football in 1939 to flag football in 2019, a tradition of sports continues at STCPS.

Looking for information from the Weekly Reminders email sent out on Fridays?

CLICK HERE

Visit Our Website Calendar
Download the 2019/2020 School Calendar PDF