



**SAINT COLUMBKILLE**

PARTNERSHIP SCHOOL

### Message from the Head of School

Dear Families,

Welcome back to our families and a special welcome to those of you who are new to our school. Our teachers have worked hard to prepare for the school year and we are off to a great start! I have enjoyed walking the halls and into classrooms to see how much our students grew over the summer. I've even had a dozen or so students give me a huge smile to show where they recently lost a tooth.

We live in a complicated and fast-paced world. We are acutely aware that levels of stress and anxiety in our children have increased in recent years. This year, we will give added focus to developing best practices for advancing the social and emotional health of your children. Our teachers have now been trained in *Responsive Classroom*, a program that will help them to develop positive community in their classrooms and in the school.

Of course, we will continue to develop the intellects of our students by providing a rigorous curriculum that teaches children to think and problem solve. Just as valuable, we will teach students the importance of respect and kindness. We are committed to discovering and validating the uniqueness and voice of each child.

When we think of safety and security, we think of keeping our children safe from outsiders who may cause them harm. At Saint Columbkille Partnership School, we will do what is necessary to keep them safe from physical harm. As importantly, we also want our children to feel accepted and valued by all of the children and adults they encounter each day. Children's minds cannot grow when there is excessive worry.

Parents and educators share the awesome responsibility of helping form our children to be resilient, happy, well adjusted and giving. They will stand on their own feet, have a strong moral compass to guide them, and accept other people and new points of view.

Our teachers and administrators will work hard this year to build a community that values openness and collaboration. As we all know, these skills are profoundly needed in our world today. The children of today will be our future leaders and it is our honor to guide them on that journey.

Sincerely,

William Gartside  
Head of School

## News & Updates

**Picture Day**  
**Monday, September 10th**



Grade 4 students on the first day of school.

Hayward Photography Website

All students will have their pictures taken for school records whether or not you decide to purchase pictures.

All students **MUST** be in full school uniform.

You should have received an order form with your child today in their backpacks, however this year, you can also place your order on-line – at [www.haywardphotography.com](http://www.haywardphotography.com). The school password is SCPS18.

If you would like to purchase pictures, you must either complete the on-line form in advance **OR** you may bring in the paper form with payment on Monday.

### Back to School Night

**PK - Grade 2: Thursday, September 13  
6:00PM - 7:30PM**

**Grade 3 - 8: Thursday, September 20  
6:00PM - 7:30PM**

The program will begin in the gymnasium with a brief presentation. Afterwards, parents will make their way to the classrooms where the teachers will share their curriculum, daily schedule, classroom rules and expectations.

Child care will be offered for students in PK - Grade 5 for both nights. You must sign up in advance and fill out a separate form for each child. To register for child care, [click here](#).



K1 students on the first day of school enjoying the playground!



STCPS siblings enjoying seeing each other on the playground.

### SAVE THE DATE for our annual Special Elders' Day, Friday October 5, 2018 from 9:30 to 11am

Join us for our annual Special Elders' Day. Students are welcome to invite their grandparents or special elders to school on Friday, October 5 from 9:30 to 11 a.m. After a gathering on the plaza, our guests will be escorted to students' classrooms. Parents are welcome to attend the gathering on the plaza, but we ask that only special elders go to the classrooms.

Registration will be available next week, and we ask that you please register your child's guests so we can plan for refreshments.

## Birthday Celebrations

We celebrate student birthdays throughout the year by announcing their name during morning prayer. Students may dress out of uniform on the day of their birthday. If their birthday falls on a weekend or a day we do not have school, the student may dress out of uniform on the Friday before. Students also receive a special card and pencil!



Grade 8 students on the first day of school.

## Calendar Of Events

### Friday, September 7th

- Back to School Mass 9 AM
- Early Dismissal
  - 1:05 PM: Grade 1 - 8
  - 1:15 PM: PK, K1, K2

### Monday, September 10

- Fall Picture Day
- After School Clubs Begin

### Thursday, September 13

- Community Building Meeting 8 AM in the library - All parents are welcome to attend to learn about the opportunities to volunteer this year!
- Pre-kindergarten - Grade 2 Back to School Night 6 PM - 7:30 PM

### Tuesday, September 18

- Pre-K Morning Coffee in the library 8 AM

### Thursday, September 20

- Grade 3 - 8 Back to School Night 6 PM - 7:30 PM

### Friday, September 21

- Early Release Day
  - Grade 1 - 8: 1:05PM
  - PK,K1, K2: 1:15PM

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