



**SAINT COLUMBKILLE**

PARTNERSHIP SCHOOL

### Message from the Head of School

Dear Families,

From time to time, people come to our school to learn more about us. They want to understand our curriculum, pedagogy and school culture. Of course we are flattered by the attention we get. On February 5<sup>th</sup>, a university president from South Korea and representatives from Boston College's Lynch School of Education will visit. Last week, a principal from a Catholic school in San Antonio, Texas called and asked for the "secret sauce." We see it as part of our mission to share our recipe for success and I love to talk about it. There was no magic wand that created this school. Saint Columbkille was created by teachers who see their jobs as vocations, by parents who want their children to succeed, by our generous donors who believe in Catholic education, and, of course, Boston College provided the expertise.

Earlier this week, some guests took a school tour. I was not disappointed when the first grade students shared three different algorithms for solving a subtraction problem. We watched three first graders recite their oral presentation for the *Passport to Learning* project without a hint of nervousness. Every classroom was filled with energetic, happy and engaged students. And our guests were also impressed with what they observed in the classrooms.

Our guests were equally impressed with what I will call the "unwritten curriculum" of good manners and everyday etiquette. We teach our children to respect their elders: when we entered a classroom, all of the students turned toward me and smiled. Together they chanted "Good morning Dr. Gartside; how are you?" We teach our children hospitality: as we moved from class to class we saw children rush ahead of us to open and hold doors. We teach our children to be grateful and polite: our littlest students in PreK were practicing their pleases and thank yous. A five-year-old on his way to the bathroom waited patiently for us to pass and when we did not budge, he said, "excuse me." We teach self-discipline: our students know how to line up and walk down the hall in an orderly fashion.

We teach our children to respect their environment and so our corridors are always clean. On that same note, a generous supporter recently donated Celtics tickets for our grade eight students. Some of these kids had never been to a game before. After the game was over, one of the students began picking up all of the trash and started looking for a trash can. She had a puzzled look on her face when she was told someone else would take care of it.

Guests come to Saint Columbkille to hear about our strong academics and community culture; they soon learn about our unwritten curriculum as well. It's this "secret sauce" that nurtures our students to grow into respectful and caring adults and prepares them for lives of faith, service and leadership.

Sincerely,  
William Gartside  
Head of School

**News & Updates**



2nd graders working on their Passport to Learning projects!

## Spirit Day Friday, January 26th

This month we are donating to the Leukemia Lymphoma Society. According to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, approximately every 3 minutes one person in the United States is diagnosed with a blood cancer. Saint Columbkille wants to be part of the mission towards a cancer-free world. Please come dressed in **red** and bring in a cash donation or you may donate online by [clicking here](#) and join us in the fight for research, remission, and long-term recovery!

## Catholic Schools Week 2018

Each year, we join all the Catholic Schools in the country to celebrate how special it is to be part of this community!

This year's theme is: Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed.

We hope that you will be able to join us for some of the activities that we will take part in!

[Click here to see the schedule of next week's events!](#)



# Catholic Schools

Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed.



Members of the Boston College Men's Basketball Team volunteered in our classrooms last week.

## 2018/2019 Re-Enrollment

Re-enrollment for the 2018-2019 school year is currently open. We encourage all families to re-enroll by February 16th. If your child will not be returning next year, please let us know by logging into RenWeb and following the same procedure as re-enrollment.

[Click here for re-enrollment instructions.](#)

## Passport to Learning Open House Thursday, February 1st

Please come and join our current students and their families at our Passport to Learning Open House!

We hope you are able to join us between 6pm and 7:30pm on Thursday, February 1.

Classrooms will be open, displaying projects students have recently completed. Teachers and staff will also be present to answer questions. Throughout the evening as you visit the classrooms you will receive a stamp on your passport. When you fill up your passport and turn it in you will be entered into a drawing for:

- First: Free registration fee for one student (\$300)
- Second: Free lunch for a week (or choice of 5 days) from the school dining hall
- Third: Free Saint Columbkille shirt and water bottle



8th grade has been working on engineering design projects in which they are building an incubator with a solution to keep an egg at a specified temperature.

## Calendar Of Events

### Friday, January 26

- Spirit Day for the Leukemia Lymphoma Society
- Free School Community Skating at Reilly Memorial Rink in Cleveland Circle from 6:00PM – 8:00PM.

### Monday, January 29

- Parent Coffee 8AM
- CSW Kick Off Mass - Whole School Mass 9AM
- Family Classroom Activity 10 - 10:30AM

### Thursday, February 1

- Passport to Learning Night: 6:00PM - 7:30PM

### Friday, February 2

- Early Dismissal 1:15PM
- Catholic Schools Night at the Museum of Science - Families are free of charge!

### Wednesday, February 7

- Community Building Morning Coffee 8AM

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