



Message from the Head of School

Mrs. Lamothe and I are finishing up our classroom observations this month. I know that she would agree that these visits really help us to remain upbeat and positive. During a typical day, there are problems that need to get solved, conflicts that have to be mediated, tears that need to be dried and even boilers that have to be re-started from time to time. There is paperwork to be completed and filed. There are grades to be posted and emails to be answered about the grades that were posted. There is so much to do that we sometimes forget about the good that is happening all around us. I am not complaining. It is what we do.

We do find respite, however, when we block our schedules off to visit a classroom. And when we do, I find it easy to concur with the opinions many parents voiced through the parent survey. Our teachers are highly qualified and they care deeply about the children they teach.

Today, we visited Mr. Sylvester's first grade music class. I anticipated being entertained by bright and cheery children. I was not disappointed. The children held their pitch. They were able to recognize the notes on a staff. They played their recorders in unison. They have learned so much in such a short amount of time. And so, clearly Mr. Sylvester is doing a fine job. His standards are high. He continually pushes his students to do better. He makes sure all of his students are engaged. He gives wonderful positive reinforcement to keep his students focused.

All of the above demonstrates that Mr. Sylvester is a really good teacher. However, what makes him an outstanding teacher has nothing to do with music. At the beginning of class, he gathered his students on the carpet and in a deliberately soft voice spoke to them about love. He said "Love is about putting others first." He told them that when they speak out of turn or become distracted, they are not listening to the needs of those around them. Most were intently listening. During the class, when a student forgot this message he would gently remind them.

I remember being told to behave by more than a few adults in my life on more than a few occasions. I never remember anyone explaining why I should behave well. Mr. Sylvester is an outstanding teacher because he teaches kids to read music, play and sing songs. More importantly, he teaches children to be empathetic, a virtue that is in short supply in our world. I know they will take his message to heart. I know most of them will think about others a bit more before they speak out. This is an important lesson learned and it is one that is music to my ears!

Sincerely,
William Gartside
Head of School



K2 students make Leprechaun traps for St. Patrick's Day!

This month's Spirit Day on March 24th will support Best Buddies. All donations will go towards funding programs that help support, guide and foster friendships for children and adults with Intellectual Developmental Disabilities.

Dr. Gartside and Ms. O'Grady will be participating in the Best Buddies Challenge Bicycle Ride on June 3rd, cycling from Boston to Hyannis Port!

Help us raise funds to promote Best Buddies on Friday, March 24th!

April Vacation Program

We are currently accepting applications for the April Vacation Program.

The program will run from Tuesday, April 18 - Friday, April 21 from 8:00AM - 5:30PM. This program is open to students in grades pre-kindergarten to 4.

Applications are due by Friday, April 7th.

[Click here to register.](#)



Grade 8 students enjoying their last ski session at Nashoba Valley.



Sixth grade students working on giant fish collages.

Morning Coffees

Thank you to those who have been attending the morning coffee meetings throughout the school year.

In April, we will begin the final meeting at each grade level. During these meetings, you will be able to meet the teachers for next school year and learn about the transition from one grade to the next. We hope to see many of you there!

Over the next two weeks, we will hold coffees highlighting the music program. Please see the calendar below for the schedule.



A Boston College-sponsored
Kids Fun Run and 5K Run/Walk

TO BENEFIT SAINT COLUMBKILLE PARTNERSHIP SCHOOL

BC RACE TO EDUCATE!!!! NEWS AND TIPS!

<http://stcps.org/bc-race-to-educate/>

Thank you to the 50 families and staff who have registered for the race! You know the date: Saturday April 29, beginning at 8:45am. We will have weekly tips for all of you, plus advice from our very own Gale Summers, our friendly and comedic face for the race!

REGISTERING FOR THE RACE and PLEDGE REG

First Goal- Every family to set up their own PledgeReg page

Register and set up your family's PledgeReg page. When you register for the race (see steps below) you will be able to create your own PledgeReg page. Your PledgeReg page is where your family's donation page will be housed and where you can direct people to make their donations. Even if you will not be able to attend the race you can still set up a page where people will be able to donate.

Yes, we will be able to attend the race and want to register for the BC Race to Educate- [Visit our webpage](#) and click on register now. Use the [How to set up Pledge Document](#) to help you register and set up your PledgeReg page.

No, we will not be able to attend the Race but still want to create our family's PledgeReg page. Email Katie Lamothe or Kate Ward and let them know you will not be able to attend the race but need a set up page as a volunteer. This way you can still fundraise and ensure we have 100% participation!

Still need help on setting up PledgeReg?

We can help you. Please email your class captain to set up a time to meet or talk over the phone. You are also welcome to email Kate Ward, kward@stcps.org, to set up a time in the office where we will help you.

Click below for Gale's weekly message!



Calendar Of Events

March 17

- Saint Patrick's Day Mass 9AM
- Early Dismissal 1:15PM
- K2 - Grade 8 Report Cards Available on MSP

March 18

- First Reconciliation 10:30AM

March 21

- Financial Aid Workshop 11AM - 6PM
[Click here to register.](#)

If you have not re-enrolled your child for next school year, please take a few minutes to do so! We are beginning to accept new students and will no longer be able to hold a place if you do not re-enroll.

To re-enroll or withdraw please follow this link <http://stcps.org/re-enrollment/>

March 22

- Early Childhood Music Program Morning Coffee 8AM in the library

March 24

- Spirit Day for Best Buddies

March 29

- Grade 1 - 8 Music Program Morning Coffee 8AM in the library

April 4

- State of the School Address Part 2 at 6:30PM
At the State of the School in January, many of you had questions about the financial health of our school and the strategic plan for the next 5 years. Join Dr. Gartside as he answers many of the questions raised and shares the results of the 2017 Parent Survey.

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