



Message from the Head of School

Yesterday, Ash Wednesday began the season of Lent. I helped to smudge the ashes on the foreheads of our students at mass. For our non-Catholic families, Catholics put ashes on our foreheads as a reminder to ourselves and to all around us that we have sinned. Covering oneself with ashes as a demonstration of repentance is an ancient custom in many cultures. Wearing the ashes is also a way we can demonstrate that we are proud to be a Catholic.

When the ashes are put on the forehead with the sign of the cross the minister states: *Remember, you are dust and to dust you shall return.* Our bodies came from nothing and in the end we will return to nothing after our death. This is quite a sobering and humbling statement. However, as Catholics we believe that our spirits will continue after our bodies have decayed and we believe we can be forgiven and made new, even during our lifetime.

The season of Lent is a time set aside by the Church for its followers to reflect on their lives in order to better understand their weaknesses and make the appropriate corrections that will put them into a better relationship with God and with their neighbor. Lent is a time for us to make ourselves whole again. Forgive me if you have heard me say this before, but at the end of each day, on my long drive home I reflect on the students and teachers under my care. I am most content on the days when a child or a teacher has come to grips with their mistakes and accepted responsibility. I know that they are ready for a new day, and can feel the joy of redemption instead of living a life of denial and isolation.

When I was a high school teacher, some years ago, I remember that the end of marking periods were stressful times for some of my students. As I cared deeply for all of my students, these times were also stressful for me. During the term I would give the requisite tests, surprise my students with pop quizzes, assign 10 page papers, and oral presentations. When it finally dawned on students that a report card would be issued the following week, students would come running with assignments that were due weeks or months prior. They would beg me to allow them to retake a test. And, without fail, would ask if they could do some extra-credit to increase their grade. I would remind them how many times I had pleaded with them to turn in the missed assignments or had urged them to study hard for the test they would have to take the next day. I reminded them that when the 10-page paper was due, I would always give extra time to get it in if there was a legitimate excuse. I saw myself as a fair but compassionate teacher. I would let students retake the tests from time to time. I would accept late assignments even after I had told them I would not. But... one thing I would not do was allow them to do "extra-credit" work because they had not done what was expected in the first place.

When we do wrong and recognize our faults, our normal reaction is to try to do something extra to make things right. I estimate that 20% of the profits in flower and candy shops come from many well-intentioned people assuaging their guilt!

I believe that God does not want us to do "extra-credit" when we fail. God wants us to do what we know we should have done in the first place. For me, it is not about giving up something (as is the custom) like candy or even Facebook for the forty days of Lent, as some of my colleagues are doing (I do think this is a good idea). This approach puts us squarely back to where we began at the end of the forty days.

Lent is an important time in our Church. It gives us that time to reflect. If we always do what we are supposed to do there would be no need for Lent. Having gone to the dental hygienist this afternoon, it is fresh in my mind that we always start out with the best intentions but when the next time rolls around, the ride to the dentist is often more difficult than the cleaning itself, for we know judgment is coming our way. The Season of Lent gives us that "restart". God made us, so I assume God knows that we are not perfect and that we will develop bad habits of behavior. I am also sure that God, as he reflects on his day, is smiling when people figure it out that while they will never be perfect, they can develop the habit of learning from their mistakes.

Sincerely,
William Gartside
Head of School

News & Updates



Pre-kindergarten student enjoying the nice weather!

Click here to sign up for the financial aid workshops.

2017/2018 Re-Enrollment

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/>

Click here to re-enroll for the 2017/2018 school year!

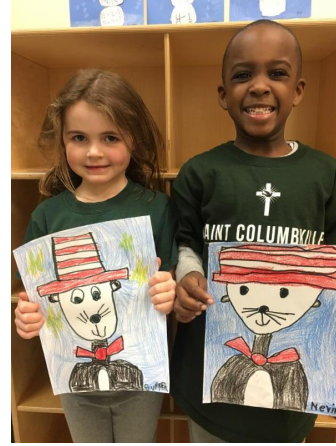
Restaurant Fundraiser at The Corrib Pub

Click here for the coupon!

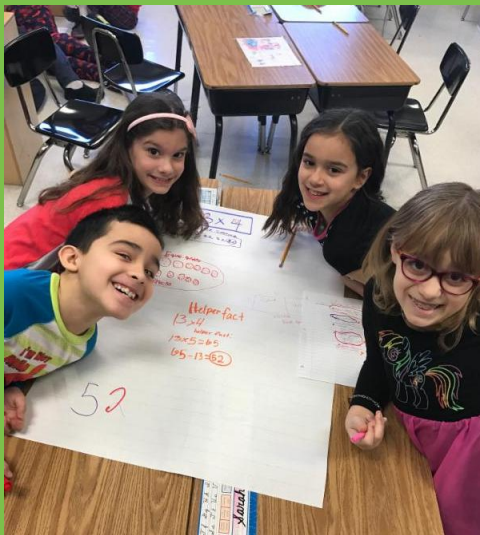
Join us on **Thursday, March 9th** for delicious food and fun at **The Corrib Pub**, 396 Market St, Brighton, MA.

The restaurant will donate 20% of all dine in

and take out sales back to our school.
Remember to present the coupon.



K2 students showing their drawings to celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday!



Third grade students working in small groups to use different strategies to solve multiplication problems.

Summer Programming

We are pleased to offer summer programming at Saint Columbkille Partnership School.

The Pre-K through Grade 4 Summer Program is offered for students entering grades Pre-K - Grade 4 and runs for eight weeks from June 26 - August 18. This program is Monday - Friday from 8AM - 5:30PM.

The STEM Academy Program is offered for students entering grades 5 - 7 and runs for six weeks from July 10 - August 18. This program is Monday - Friday from 8:00AM - 4:00PM.

[Click here to learn more about the programs!](#)



A Boston College-sponsored
Kids Fun Run and 5K Run/Walk
TO BENEFIT SAINT COLUMBKILLE PARTNERSHIP SCHOOL

BC Race to Educate
Saturday, April 29, 2017
Kids Race: 8:45am
5K Race/Walk: 9:30am
Starts and ends in Alumni Stadium, Boston College

Join all of your friends at the annual BC Race to Educate on Saturday April 29, 2017! This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and we need all of you to participate! You can now register at BCracetoe educate.com. Once you register, you will be sent a link to set up your family's pledge page. We are asking all families to raise a minimum of \$200.00. There will be prizes for families who raise the most money and lots of fun activities leading up to the race.

We will be offering sessions on how to set up your pledge page starting next week.

Lots of volunteers will be needed, details to follow. For now, save the date and get registered!

Calendar Of Events

March 3

- Early Dismissal 1:15PM

March 7

- Financial Aid Workshop 10AM - 5PM

March 8

- Grade 4/5 Morning Coffee 8AM in the library

March 9

- Restaurant Fundraiser at The Corrib Pub

March 10

- End of Trimester 1

March 13

- Financial Aid Workshop 12PM - 7PM

March 15

- Loyola Academy Morning Coffee 8AM in the library

If you are interested in having your child or a member in your family baptized (any age) or receiving first communion (3rd grade and older), please email Rachel Rumely at rrumely@stcps.org for information.

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