

Saint Columbkille Partnership School (STCPS) Family Resource Guide

This resource guide was created by the Community Builders to share the 2017/18 activities.

General: How to access St. Columbkille school and event info:

- Mailing Address: 25 Arlington Street, Brighton, MA 02135 Tel: (617) 254-3110
- GPS Address: 321 Market Street Brighton, MA 02135
- Website: www.stcps.org
- School Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Saint-Columbkille-Partnership-School-196494043708940/>
- Community Builders Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Saint-Columbkille-Partnership-School-Family-Community-309368299234986/>
- Community Builders Email: communitybuilding@stcps.org
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/saintcols>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/saintcols/>
- A biweekly newsletter is emailed on Thursdays (note: STCPS uses Constant Contact to mail our newsletter. If you do not receive it, check your spam folder).
- A “Weekly Reminder” is emailed each Monday morning and goes over important information for the week.

Saint Columbkille Partnership School consists of three houses:

- Early Childhood: PreK, K1, K2
- Elementary School: Grade 1- Grade 5
- Loyola Academy: Grades 6 - 8

August

Saint Columbkille T-Shirt Purchasing – T-Shirts may be purchased from the main office for \$10.00 each (cash or check). T-shirts are worn daily in Early Childhood and once a week grades 1 - 8.

Ice Cream Social – The Ice Cream Social is an annual gathering on the field at Saint Col’s, usually held toward the end of the month. This is a great opportunity for all families to connect with each other, and it’s especially a great time to welcome new families to our community. Volunteers will be available to meet with new families assigned to their grade.

Chair: Administration

Date: Tuesday, August 29, 2017 6 - 7PM

September

Fall Picture Day (in uniform) – Students, dressed in full school uniform, have their pictures professionally taken individually and as a class. Parent volunteers are needed to assist the photographers prep the children before the school photo.

Date: Monday, September 11, 2017

Parent/Guardian Back-To-School Night – Join Head of school, Dr. Bill Gartside Assistant Head of School Mrs. Katie Lamothe and your child's teacher for Back to School Night. The program will begin in the gymnasium. Teachers will share the curriculum, daily schedule, classroom rules and expectations. The event is for parents/guardians only but child care will be available for those who register.

PreK – Grade 2 Thursday, September 14, 2017 6-7:30PM

Grade 3 – 8 Thursday, September 21, 2017 6-7:30PM

Opening of School Mass – All students and their families of all faiths are invited to attend Mass at St. Columbkille Parish to start the year as a community united in prayer. Students are asked to wear their uniforms. Plan on joining your classmates and their families afterward for a small reception on the plaza (weather pending)

Chair: Hospitality Committee

Date: Sunday, September 24, 2017 9:30AM (reception to follow, weather pending)

Kick-off Community Building meeting – The Community Builders organize events and activities for Saint Col students and families. The first meeting will provide an overview of activities and volunteer opportunities.

Co-Chairs: Jen Lynch and Julie Kenny

Date: Wednesday September 27, 2017: 8am: Library

Restaurant Fundraisers are organized bi-monthly and offer an opportunity for Saint Col's families to gather and enjoy a meal out. A portion of all proceeds is donated back to the school.

Chair: Katie Donnino

Location: Pizzeria Regina

Date: Wednesday, September 27, 2017

October

Grandparents/Special Elder Day – At this event, students' Grandparents/Special Elders are invited to a Morning Prayer service and a visit to the classroom of their special student(s).

Chair: Administration and Hospitality Committee

Date: Friday, October 6, 2017 9AM – 11:00AM
Coffee, Prayer Service, Classroom Time

Launch Fundraiser – Students and their families can meet at Launch Trampoline Park to jump off steam, have fun, and raise some money for our school!

Chair: Jen Lynch

Date: October 25, 2017

Trunk or Treat – Interested families volunteer to decorate their car/trunk with Halloween decorations so that St. Col's families can celebrate the holiday by "trunk-or-treating" in the school parking lot. Part of the parking lot is blocked off so that cars can set up their decorations and get bowls of candy ready. The rest of the school arrives a little later, and kids trick-or-treat from car to car!

Chairs: Erica Rego and Kim Herzig

Date: Sunday, October 29, 2017 2 – 4PM

November

Restaurant Fundraiser

Location: Fiorella's Express in Brighton

Date: Week of November 6, 2017

Thanksgiving Lunch – This annual event takes place on the Thursday before Thanksgiving. Our talented dining room staff prepares an incredibly delicious Thanksgiving meal for all interested students and staff. Parent volunteers are instrumental in making this event happen!

Chairs: Denise Shaver

Date: Wednesday, November 15, 2017

December

Christmas at St. Col's -- Tree lighting and Pancake Breakfast

Tree Lighting -- Held the first Friday in December, the St. Columbkille School and parish community kicks off the Christmas season with our annual Tree Lighting and Christmas Carols Sing Along

Chairs: School staff and Administration

Date: Friday, December 1, 2017 6PM

The Pancake Breakfast is held the next day, on Saturday morning. In addition to delighting in a delicious breakfast, attendees can visit with Santa Claus, bid on fabulous raffle items, purchase a live wreath, or fill their cookie bags with homemade Christmas delicacies in our ever-popular cookie room. Many volunteers are needed for this event!

Chairs: Kate Bragg, Katie Donnino, Kelly McGrath

Date: Saturday, December 2, 2017 9AM – 12PM

Grace Giving Tree – Families are invited to take one or more tags from the Grace Giving Tree and purchase the item(s) listed on the tag. Items are then brought back to the school by the identified date and a group of volunteers wraps and prepares them for delivery. This project helps grant Christmas wishes to our St. Col's and surrounding community members in need.

Giving Tree chairs: Administration, Jen Devereaux, and Katie Donnino

Dates: December 2017

K1 and K2 Christmas Show – Enjoy festive Christmas singing performances by our K1 and K2 classrooms.

Date: December 15, 2017 9AM Gymnasium

The Nativity – St. Col's 1st through 8th grade students perform the Nativity story in the church, accompanied by our fabulous music department. The school choirs, band, and each grade level perform songs on the altar during this beloved Christmas performance.

Date: December 19, 2017 6PM

January

Restaurant fundraiser

Location: Bertucci's in Newton Corner

Date: Week of January 22nd

Catholic Schools Week – Catholic schools across the country celebrate Catholic Schools Week, and St. Col's is no exception. Catholic Schools Week is a unique opportunity to showcase all that is wonderful at our Catholic schools! Usually taking place during the last week of January, Catholic Schools Week is filled with fun, family-friendly, and educational activities, such as Family Ice Skating, an all-school Mass, "Mix-it-Up" day, a focus on vocations and family heritages, and our **Passport to Learning Open House**. All current and prospective families are invited to the Passport to Learning, where attendees receive a "passport" and "travel" to each grade level and specialist class in order to learn about the fascinating projects taking place at St. Col's. In each classroom visited, the attendees receive a stamp on their passport.

Dates: January 28, 2018 – February 3, 2018

Passport to Learning Open House: Thursday, February 2, 2018 6PM

February

Launch fundraiser – Students and their families can meet at Launch Trampoline Park to jump off steam, have fun, and raise some money for our school!

Chair: Jen Lynch

Date: Week of February 12

March

Restaurant Fundraiser

Location: Corrib Pub, Brighton

Date: Week of March 5th

Vocabulary Day – Vocabulary Day is a fun opportunity to increase students' vocabulary in an interactive way. Each student is asked to choose a word and use household items to create a "costume" for the word and bring it to school. At the time of the Vocabulary Parade, students will don their costumes and join their classmates in a march around the school field so that the whole school can see and learn new words. It's incredible, amazing, and stupendous!!!!

Date: Friday, March 9, 2018 Time TBA

Annual Musical Presented by the Drama Club – Each year the drama club puts on a performance for the school community. The musical will be chosen in the winter.

Chairs: Saint Col Staff

Date: Thursday, March 15, 2018 6PM

First Reconciliation – Students preparing for their First Communion make their First Reconciliation at this Morning Prayer service.

Date: Saturday, March 17, 2018 10:30AM

State of the School Address - Join Dr. William Gartside as he reviews the results of our Annual Parent Survey and shares his vision for STCPS.

Date: Wednesday, March 21, 2018 6PM

Easter Lunch – This event takes place on the Tuesday before Easter and is just like the Thanksgiving Lunch, except with ham and potatoes instead of turkey and stuffing. Many volunteers needed!

Chairs:

Date: Tuesday, March 27, 2018

April

Picture Day (out of uniform) – Students dressed in "Sunday best" have their pictures professionally taken. Parent volunteers are welcome to assist the photographers prep the children before the school photo.

Date: TBD

Pasta Dinner – The BC Race to Educate weekend begins with a pasta dinner at St. Col's, where runners can "carbo-load" with their friends and pick up their race bib and t-shirt in advance of the next morning's race at Boston College. Join other St. Col's families for food, fun, and fellowship!

Date: Friday, April 27, 2018 5pm-7pm School Gymnasium

Chairs: Administration, Kim Herzig, and Jessica Hammond

BC Race to Educate – The BC Race to Educate is not only a fun community-building event, but it also promotes a healthy lifestyle while serving as the largest fundraiser of the year for the school. Each family is encouraged to create a race page in order to easily solicit donations from friends and family as they train for race day. The “fun runs” and 5K begin early in the morning in the Boston College football stadium, where all races begin and end. More information about this important fundraiser comes in January/February.

Staff Chair: Kate Ward

Parent Chairs:

Date: Saturday, April 28, 2018

May

Restaurant Fundraiser

Location: Panera in Watertown

Date: Week of April 30

Teacher Appreciation Day – This day usually occurs in early May and is a day to recognize all of the hard work of St. Col’s teachers and staff. Room parents help to organize how families will celebrate staff and teachers on this day.

Chairs: Room Parents

Date: Tuesday, May 8, 2018

First Communion – Students from St. Columbkille School and Parish Community make their First Communion at this morning Mass.

Date: Saturday, May 12, 2018

May Procession – It is a Catholic tradition to honor Mary, the Mother of God, during the month of May. At this event, St. Col’s comes together as a community to celebrate Mary by processing in unison around the school grounds, followed by an outdoor prayer service in which students take an active role.

Date: Tuesday, May 15, 2018 10AM

Book Fair – This weeklong fundraising event usually takes place later in the month and is an opportunity for students and families to purchase new books and gear up for a summer full of reading.

Chairs: Julie Kenny

Date: Week of May 21st

Art Show – Pieces of artwork from students in pre-kindergarten through grade 8 will be on display throughout the school.

Thursday, May 24, 2018 6 – 8PM

Music Showcase – Date and Time TBD

June

8th Grade Graduation Mass - A mass is held for the whole school community in honor of the 8th grade students.

Date: Friday, June 8, 2018 11AM

8th Grade Graduation - The graduation ceremony is held at St. Columbkille parish. Families are welcome to attend.

Date: Friday, June 8, 2018 6PM

Early Childhood Show – Each grade level will showcase songs that they have learned throughout the school year. Afterwards, families will be invited to the classroom for an end of the year presentation.

Date: Tuesday, June 12, 2018

Times: PK – 9AM, K1 – 10AM, K2 – 11AM

Grade 1 – 8 End of Year Show – Students present a showcase of music that they have learned throughout the school year.

Date: Wednesday, June 13, 2018 6:30PM

Potluck Dinner – This event helps us to unite and celebrate the wonderfully numerous cultures that comprise our school community. Each family attending this evening outdoor dinner is asked to bring homemade food (appetizer, entrée, or dessert) that is representative of their heritage OR is simply a favorite family dish. What results is a fabulous potluck meal that will fill your body and soul with amazing food and gratitude for the diversity of our community.

Chairs:

Date: Friday, June 15, 2018 6 – 8PM

Rain Date: Saturday, June 16, 2018 6 – 8PM

Field Day – Described by many students and families as their most favorite school day of the year, Field Day is a wonderful day where the different grades go outdoors to take part in obstacle courses and other fun and silly competitions. Early Childhood Field Day takes place soon after the school day begins, and Field Day for the older grades starts mid-morning and ends in early afternoon. Many parent volunteers are needed for this event, but we rarely seem to have trouble finding enough parents to help out!

Chairs: Jen Lynch

Date: Week of June 18th

Democracy Day – Students in grades K2 - 5 prepare a short persuasive essay related to a general topic proposed by their teacher. One student is chosen from each classroom to present his or her speech to the rest of the school. This typically occurs at the very end of the school year.

Date, time: TBD

Regularly Occurring Events

Early Release – All students are released at 1:15 on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month. Students in afterschool proceed straight to the afterschool program at 1:15 and have their usual pickup time.

Monthly Mass – Most of the school (with the exception of Pre-K and K1) attend Mass together on a monthly basis. Dates are published in the school calendar. All families are invited to attend any Mass or prayer service at St. Columbkille.

Parent Coffees – Weekly, administrators and/or teaching staff from St. Col's offer their time to meet with interested parents to discuss topics of interest according to grade level or subject matter. Each week has a designation, i.e. "First grade coffee" or "Music program coffee", and parents can attend as they are able. Parent Coffees are also a great way for parents to meet and connect.

Restaurant Fundraisers – For these events, we invite you to take the night off of cooking! Usually once per month there is a restaurant designated as a St. Col's fundraising restaurant. Families can opt to dine in or take out food at that restaurant that day; the restaurant, in turn, gives St. Col's a portion of the money earned from St. Col's families.

Spirit Days – Usually one Friday per month is termed a "Spirit Day". A charity or cause is chosen for the Spirit Days at the beginning of the year; on Spirit Day, students can bring in \$1 for that charity and dress out of uniform.

Parent Engagement/Volunteer Committees

Parent Advisory Committee -- The Parent Advisory Committee serves as an umbrella organization for home and school engagement. This committee works with the school administration and the various parent committees and serves as a sounding board for the strategic interests of the school. Membership for this committee is drawn from the various committees and includes two parents from each division, a Board of Trustee member who is a parent, a teacher, and members of the administration. It is anticipated that this committee will hold four meetings per year.

Administrative Liaison: Dr. William Gartside

Community Building Committee -- The mission of the Community Building Committee is to instill a sense of community by promoting a mutual support and friendship among parents through social programs. Committee members work with the school administration to provide enrichment programs to promote the “whole child.” The committee also works with the school to organize social events such as Christmas at Saint Col’s, Restaurant Fundraisers, Pre/Post BC Race to Educate Party, Book Fair, Holiday Lunches, the Multicultural Pot Luck, Field Day, and Grandparent/Special Elder Day. Some of the above listed activities, while social in nature, provide funding to support the work of the committee. Monthly meetings will take place to plan events.

Administrative Liaisons: Katie Lamothe

Parent Chairs: Jen Lynch, Julie Kenny

Parent Ambassadors -- The mission of the Parent Ambassador Committee is to foster and build relationships with the greater community and in particular with prospective families. Committee members will engage in outreach activities; speak at venues to market the school; help organize and execute Open Houses; establish a relationship with local parishes; mentor new families and plan events for parents. This committee will have bi-monthly meetings.

Administrative Liaisons: Rachel Rumely, Erica Rego

Room Parent Committee (and Race to Educate Team Captains) -- The mission of the Room Parent Committee is to support teachers with activities that take place in and out of the classroom. Committee members will work with teachers to engage parents for volunteer work. Duties for this committee include: monthly emails to parents, organizing the class gift for teachers, coordinating class parties and other events, for example, Teacher Appreciation Day. This committee will meet as a whole three times during the year.

Administrative Liaison: Katie Lamothe

Hospitality Committee -- The mission of the Hospitality Committee is to provide support at school functions. Duties include setting up and providing refreshments for meetings such as the Coffee with the Head of School, monthly masses and special event celebrations. This committee will have an organizational meeting at the beginning of the school year and individual members will volunteer for the various school functions held during the course of the year.

Administrative Liaison: Carol Cashman

Parent Chair: Kristy Moore

Development Committee -- The mission of the Development Committee is to support the school in its institutional advancement. Specifically, members of this committee will work under the guidance of the Director for Institutional Advancement to assist with fundraising initiatives for the school, for example, The BC Race to Educate and the Parent Appeal. They will also help the school to identify potential corporate and other sponsors. There will be approximately four meetings per year and sub-committees will

be formed from this group to work on various projects.

Administrative Liaison: Kate Ward

Parent Chairs:

Other Volunteer Opportunities -- Parents/Guardians can volunteer in other ways during the year, too.

- Lunch and Recess Monitors
- Field trip chaperones
- Special event volunteers
- Assisting the school with communications
- Assisting the school with maintenance
- Overseeing School Rewards Programs (Box Tops, Amazon Smile, Stop & Shop)
- Basketball Program