

Saint Brigid Newsletter– Sixty-Seventh Edition, 02/19/2021

At Saint Brigid of Kildare, nourished by the Word and Sacraments, we find life in Christ by gathering disciples for worship, service, and education.

From the Principal's Desk

Did you ever have one of those experiences in Mass where you felt that the priest is speaking only to you? That the message that is being delivered applies exactly to you in your situation? I have had this happen to me a few times. I remember one especially well. It was during the summer of my college years. I was trying to help a friend through some rough experiences, and it was very stressful. I worried about my friend and that worry was disrupting my sleep, straining our friendship, and even affecting my relationship with others. I didn't know what to do. I listened particularly closely that morning, as I sought answers about how best to proceed. That's when I heard the priest speaking to me, heard God reach out. I left with a renewed sense of hope and joy that morning. I knew that everything would be okay.

Sometimes I sit in church and feel that the message applies to others, but not so much to me. I wonder if someone is experiencing the same feeling I had that day. Other times, I am distracted by my children, the people around me or by a situation that I am trying to solve in my own head, to the point that I don't really hear what the priest is saying.



Important Dates

February

2/23 - E.E. Raffle Ticket turn in

2/25 - E.E. Early Bird Ticket Drawing

2/24 - 4th Grade Mass

2/26 - Lenten Reflection/Retreats (K-8)

March

3/3 - 2nd Grade Mass

3/6 - Emerald Evening Event (Virtual Auction & Drawings)

3/10 - Kindergarten Mass

3/17 - 8th Grade Mass

3/24 - 5th Grade Mass

3/25 - Reconciliation (Grades 2-8)

3/26 - End of 9 Weeks

3/27-4/5 Spring Break

April

4/5 - NO SCHOOL - Easter Monday

4/6 - School Resumes

I wonder, then, why sometimes I hear things so well, and others not so much. The answer is simple. It is me. I am the difference in each situation. That summer day when I heard the priest talking directly to me, I yearned to hear something that would help me in my situation. That yearning opened my heart, my mind and my ears to hear the message and apply it to my life.

This Lent calls us to return to that sense of yearning so that we can hear God's call, repent and return to Him. How can I feel that yearning for God? I can recognize that I have sinned and repent. I can pray throughout my day—prayers of thanksgiving and prayers of need. I can fast. The yearning or hunger for food can serve as a reminder of what Lent should be doing for my heart.

The truth is, every time I hear the Word of God, I should feel the same way because God's Word is spoken directly to me, for me to take and reflect upon. If I can renew that sense of yearning, that experience can be a regular one. May God renew our sense of yearning for Him throughout this Lent.

Laura E. Wilkowski

Sick Days

A reminder that if your students are experiencing any symptoms such as congestion, fever, sore throat, headache, stomachache, vomiting, or nausea, we ask that you **please** keep them home. We have had a few students in the last week come to the office complaining of some of these symptoms. Some even said they had them before school started. If your child is complaining of any of these symptoms, we ask that you err on the side of caution and do not send them to school.

If your child **does** need to stay home, please contact the school each morning that they are out to let us know so that they can be marked as an excused absence. **You may call or email Ryan Delaney at 835-9481 ext. 48 or rdelaney@stbrigid-midland.org**

Don't forget to check in each morning using the Skyward app to do your child's wellness screenings!



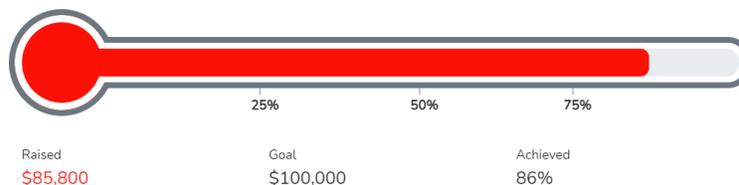
Emerald Evening Update

We are excited to say that over **902** tickets have been sold thus far! That's incredible! Our goal is to sell 1000 tickets. Be sure to get your tickets while they are still available.

Please consider purchasing a ticket, selling tickets to family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers! Give them all a chance to win the AMAZING prizes! Your children will benefit from this, as all of the proceeds go to the school!

The Emerald Evening Event will take place on March 6th as a virtual event. Bidding will be done using Auctria (as done in the past), and the drawings will be brought to you virtually. More detailed information will be coming your way!

Thank you for helping us to reach our goal! **And**, thank you for your continued time and talent that you so graciously lend to our school.



Open Enrollment for the 2021-2022 School Year

Open enrollment for new families is still available. Do you have friends that are considering Saint Brigid Catholic School for their child(ren)? Tell them to contact the front office for more information on the school and how to get enrolled and registered!

Our best marketing tool is **YOU**, our current families! Share the good news of Saint Brigid Catholic School with your family and friends. Utilize your Facebook page by telling what make Saint Brigid so special. We would love to share your story. If you are willing to share, please call or email Mrs. Wilkowski at 989-835-9481 ext 49 or lwilkowski@stbrigid-midland.org.



Spring Break Travel?

We will resume face-to-face instruction after spring break. However, we are modifying our policy for quarantine following travel. This change is effective March 5, 2021. We are still requiring those that travel out of state to quarantine, but the time that they need to quarantine will be only 7 days from their return date. This change includes travel over Spring Break with the exception of those who travel outside of the country. They will be asked to quarantine for ten days." We feel comfortable making this modification due to several reasons:

1. The overall infection rate in the United States currently has returned to levels not seen since October 2020.
2. The case rate in Midland, MI has declined as well.
3. A majority of teachers and staff will have received both doses of the COVID vaccine (as of this afternoon).
4. Shared-time teachers and substitutes also had the opportunity to receive both doses of the vaccine.

In continuing to quarantine after travel, we are following the guidance of the health department but by shortening the duration of the quarantine, we do hope that it makes it easier for working parents to help students during this time.

Snow Day Policy

Just a reminder that we will follow Midland Public Schools when it comes to our snow days. An email will also go out to parents, a post will be made on Facebook and it will appear on WNEM.



It's Cold Outside

Please check the weather each morning and send your children with appropriate outdoor clothing. If the temperature is ten degrees or above we will go outside. Snow pants, boots, hats and gloves should be worn at these temperatures. We don't really have a lost and found this year, but we've been posting missing items on Facebook, so check there or call the office if your child is missing a glove, hat, etc. Thank you!

Saint Brigid Spotlight

Miss Sara Groth—Fifth Grade Teacher

Sara Groth, our fifth grade teacher, recently won an IXL award for her teaching during the stay-at-home order last spring. Sara never missed a day with students, pivoting her lessons to an online format and using IXL to practice skills and learn new ones. IXL data showed that her students made significant gains throughout this time. For that, she was recognized as one of the top 100 teachers worldwide!

In addition to her skills work with students, Sara took the time to mail letters to each student throughout the spring to help them to know that she missed them and was proud of their hard work. Sara does a fabulous job of making personal connections with students, and encourages them to push themselves to greater goals. Her students are more than ready for middle school as the year draws to a close.

Extremely talented, she also sings the national anthem at our basketball games, participates in community theater and cantors at masses. Sara also helps to lead the student council in deciding on service projects and spirit days! For her phenomenal teaching and making students successful in mind, body and spirit, we salute and congratulate Sara Groth! Thank you for your dedication, your positive energy and your commitment to our students and to the school!



Re-Enrollment for 2021-2021

Please remember to complete your child(ren)'s online enrollment for next school year on Skyward Family Access. It is essential in planning for the upcoming school year to have enrollment numbers. Having our enrollment numbers early assists in planning for the classes and classrooms by purchasing classroom books, supplies and other essentials. The more we know the better we can plan for another great year of education for our students.

If you have any questions regarding how to re-enroll please contact Ryan Delaney in the school office, or refer to the previous newsletters for detailed instructions.



Scrip Program

Congratulations to Katie Keyes and Anthony Jenkins, who were the winners of the Holiday SCRIP Contest. A \$25 Gift Certificate was awarded to each.

There will be details about the end of year contest at next month's PTO meeting, so stay tuned.

27 families have achieved \$100 minimum profit for PTO and will now receive 75% of their earnings back in the form of a tuition rebate.

15 of our 29 new families have signed up for SCRIP – if you are not one of them, go to <http://www.ShopWithScrip.com/> and start earning money today!



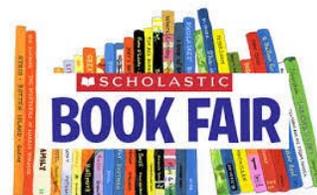
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Book Fair

The Book Fair at school is all done, but if you missed your opportunity there, you can still order online until February 23, 2021! Every purchase at these book fairs earns funds for our school and classroom libraries, while providing your child with fun books to read! Simply go to <https://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bookfairs/cptoolkit/homepage.do?method=homepage&url=stbrigidofkildareschool> to order online!



BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION

Please send your BoxTops into school by this afternoon to help with the school fundraiser!

"Traditional" Boxtops should be submitted in an envelope or a bag with your child's name & grade. Also, please remember that if you are not comfortable using the BoxTops All to scan your receipts...please take a moment to drop your receipts into one of the bins at school office or an envelope for them on the bulletin boards by the entrance of the church.

The top submitters of "traditional" Boxtops will receive a free dress pass! Please feel free to contact me with any questions at (989) 488-1960 or rpider@yahoo.com. The top submitters of "traditional BoxTops" will receive a free dress pass! Happy clipping!

Thank you,

Rebecca Pider
BoxTop Coordinator

Saint Brigid Fish Frys

We will not be hosting our Annual Lenten Fish Fry this year, but instead are encouraging support for our local restaurants. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, our restaurant businesses have taken a hard hit. We would LOVE to be able to support them in every way that we can! Please, if you are able to, support them this Lenten season by taking your family out to dinner or even grabbing take-out!

Essay Contest Winners

This week we continue to highlight the winners from The Saint Brigid Catholic School Essay Contest . Congratulations to all of our winners! And thank you to all of the students that took the time to write an essay and submit them. All of the essays were fantastic!

The topics for the essays were specific to certain grades as follows:

K-2: What I like about Saint Brigid Catholic School

3-5: Why I am glad that I get to attend Saint Brigid Catholic School

6-8: Why is it important that you are attending a Catholic School? What makes Saint Brigid Catholic School great?

"I'm happy I get to attend Saint Brigid Catholic school because I can learn about Jesus, and all the great things he did. I get to learn about the people who follow Jesus. I have nice teachers and staff and also a lot of friends. I learned so much about history, grammar, math, and reading. I also like Saint Brigid because one of my brothers are here. We do lots of fun projects and activities. We have lots of specials like music, art, Spanish and more. We have mass every Wednesday and the priest is very nice." - E. Mitus, grade 3

"I am glad that I get to go to Saint Brigid Catholic school. This is a Catholic school so I have a new priest. I am new at Saint Brigid and I really like it here. I have so many new friends and teachers. Ms. Twigg is amazing. She's so kind, funny, and loving. We just did a super fun science experiment, which everyone loved. Saint Brigid has eighth grade through kindergarten and so sometimes she can see the older kids doing science experiments. Next year I'll be in fifth grade so I'll be doing band and I've heard they have a very good band teacher. I love my new school. Thank you for all your support." - K. Berg, grade 4

"I am so glad and very grateful that I attend Saint Brigid Catholic school. I transferred when I was in second grade and I love all the teachers I have. It is very hard to pick my favorite because they are all awesome! This year I have Miss Groth and she's the best! We have small classes so it is very easy to learn and get extra help from the teacher if we need it. My class has 16 kids in it. Did you know we also have a reading expert that can help kids if they need extra reading help outside of class? We go to church (this year virtually) every Wednesday and each class takes turns participating in the mass which is very special. We are able to pray in class every day with her class and teacher. We have many different classes including, Spanish, art, band, music, and my favorite, GYM! This year has been very hard with the pandemic but our school did everything possible to keep us safe and keep us learning IN SCHOOL. When we couldn't be in school we did virtual school and our teachers were the best with making sure we had all of our subjects taught while we were home. I love going to school and seeing all of my friends. I feel that I learn something new every day and I know that when I'm ready to graduate one grade I will be ready to step into the next grade and be prepared. I am planning on going through eighth grade. Our school is one big family and we are there to help each other no matter what. We pray with one another and help each other throughout each day. I am proud to be a Saint Brigid night!" - Ian McLaren, grade 5

Grade	Winner
Kindergarten	Vivienne Lange
1A	Caroline Meyer
1B	Franklin Lundberg
2 nd	Lillian Chandler
3 rd	Elliot Mitus
4 th	Kaitlyn Berg
5 th	Ian McLaren
6 th	Maggie Wilkowski/Lily Meyer
7 th	Mia Bayardo/Caleb Pider
8 th	Dan Schneider