

Saint Brigid Newsletter– Sixty-Third Edition, 11/23/ 2020

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



Several companies have recently announced that they have effective vaccines for the Coronavirus and that they could begin to be used within a few weeks. What good news that would be when they are available for the general public. It is with great anticipation that most of us view that day when we can lose the masks, the fear, and the social distancing and know that we can still be protected from the virus. What a freeing feeling to know that we can again return to the activities that we were once freely able to do. Perhaps we can even see some of the angry actions of some who rallied against one another disappear. It is a great thing toward which we can look forward.

Advent, too, is a time of great anticipation. Advent is a time when we anticipate also the removal of fear, of anger and hatred, and look forward to a return to Peace and the promise of great love. For unto us is born a Savior, Christ the Lord. And even greater, Jesus promised to return to us again so that we could return to the Father where we will live together in peace, love and hope. Where we will experience joy without fear or anger or anxiety.

Let us take the time to reflect that while we eagerly await the removal of anxiety, fear and anger that the Coronavirus has brought about, the joy, peace and love we will experience with Jesus is so much greater. And while we have to wait for the vaccine to come out to experience immunity from the Coronavirus, Jesus' love, peace and hope is here for us today. We need only to open our hearts to receive it.

This Advent, try to still your minds and your worries just as the Coronavirus has stilled some of the activities around you. Try to reflect on what the Coronavirus has shown us is important in our lives; faith, love, family, connection, hope and God. Try to focus on what is coming and look forward to an eternal relationship with the One who brings Peace, Hope and Love to a world in need.

Laura E. Wilkowski

St. Brigid Fall Book Fair Thanks You

Thank you to all of you who supported our Fall Book Fair. We had approximately \$1000 of sales face to face and sold some online as well. Book Fair sales help to stock both the classrooms libraries and our school library!

Student Council and Student Leadership News

During the month of December the student council will sell free dress passes for \$1 each to raise money for a water bottle filling station. Students and staff (K-8) may buy up to two passes that may be used on any day except mass days. On December 10, K-5 students may wear a Christmas sweater or red and green clothing.

Student Leadership (grades 6-8) will do a canned food drive until December 18th and wear their ugly Christmas sweaters on December 10.

Boxtops for Education Update

Even with the limited Boxtops now available to clip, we raised just shy of \$50 for the school. Just a reminder to keep clipping the traditional Boxtops & send them into the school at any time. If you turn the in before our next big collection officially begins...feel free to label with your child's name & grade/teacher so they have "credit" towards the next collection's prize...

Also, if you are uncomfortable scanning your receipts...feel free to turn them into the office. I check weekly for any receipts to scan. Just remember...they need to be scanned within 14 days of purchase...

Finally, the winners of the free dress passes are as follows...

Isla Majeski

Luke Adam

Noah Pider

Cashton Galus

Alexis Luft

Margaret Wilkowski

Eve Jenkins

Isabella Lyons

Congratulations everyone! Thank you so much for your support. We are all winners as supporters of St. Brigid School!!

Midland Public Schools Goes Virtual for Shared Time

Students are receiving this week both an email address and a password (their student ID) for Midland Public Schools. They will need to use this email and password in order to bring up the CANVAS website that MPS is using to post the curriculum for specials teachers (art, music, PE, and band). Below are the steps necessary in order to log into MPS' CANVAS website.

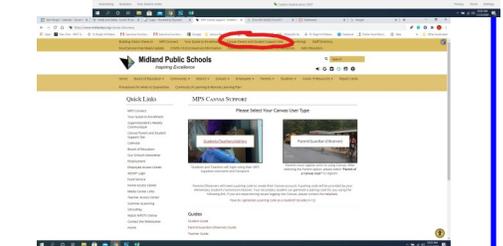
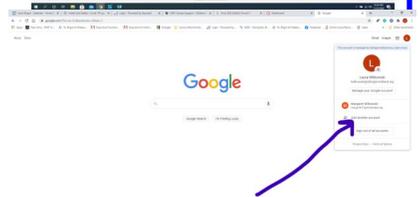
1. Go to Google.com
2. On the top right hand corner of the Google Page should be a letter in a circle that indicates what account the user is using.
3. Click on this circle with the letter in it and drop down to 'Add another account.'
4. Type the MPS email address that will be provided to by your child's classroom teacher.
5. Then type the student ID for the password.

6. Finally go to the MPS home page and click 'Canvas Parent and Student Support Site' located At the top of the screen.

7. Select the 'Student/Teachers/Admins' link.

8. You will be directed to choose the Google email address that you previously entered.

9. Congratulations! You are now in the CANVAS website. As assignments are posted, they should appear here. The next time that you wish to use CANVAS, you will may start at step 6 above!



Living Rosary

If you have not already done so, please set aside some time to pray the rosary with your family using our school's Living Rosary. This rosary is put together using prayers from the students and staff can be found at:

https://zoom.us/rec/share/2PSOrZgcljb9XQqUkJIZhgWGLlx3wzNXETPIHePiZ6H7a5df9FWI_JZpLozXHKUH.gJSlmcSjla2MtxeU?startTime=1603992184000

Catholic Family Services Lends an Ear

Catholic Family Services plans to begin doing some counseling with students after Thanksgiving. It is not too late to sign up and we have spots available. Stop by the office to sign a consent form (both parents must sign).

Holiday Scrip Contest!!!

Every family who submits an order of \$100 or more will be entered into a drawing for a \$25 scrip gift certificate. Promotion will run through the end of December. 2 Winners will be announced in January.

Lunches this week

Don't forget– **Tuesday** is our annual Thanksgiving lunch at the school!

Also, **Wednesday** there is no hot lunch as we have parish volunteers in the kitchen cooking Thanksgiving dinners for pick up on Thursday. We are trying to keep these volunteers in a separate space from students for the purposes of preserving our cohorts. **Students will need to pack a lunch and eat in the classrooms.**

Travel Reminder

A reminder that with the number of cases of COVID-19 rising, it is more important than ever if you must travel, please do expect to quarantine your child before returning to school. For questions about your travel, you may call the office to talk with Laura Wilkowski. Thank you for doing your part to keep others safe!

The Meaning of the Advent Wreath

“The use of the wreath and candles during Advent are a longstanding Catholic tradition that was originally adopted by Christians in the Middle Ages as part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas.

The wreath and candles are full of symbolism tied to the Christmas season. The wreath itself, which is made of various evergreens, signifies continuous life. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life we find in Christ.

Even the individual evergreens that make up the wreath have their own meanings that can be adapted to our faith. The laurel signifies victory over persecution and suffering. The pine, holly, and yew signify immortality and the cedar signifies strength and healing. The pine cones that decorate the wreath symbolize life and resurrection. The wreath as a whole is meant to remind us of both the immortality of our souls and God’s promise of everlasting life to us through Christ.

The candles also have their own special significance. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent, and one candle is lit each Sunday. Three of the candles are purple because the color violet is a liturgical color that signifies a time of prayer, penance, and sacrifice.

The first candle, which is purple, symbolizes hope. It is sometimes called the “Prophecy Candle” in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. It represents the expectation felt in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

The second candle, also purple, represents faith. It is called the “Bethlehem Candle” as a reminder of Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem.

The third candle is pink and symbolizes joy. It is called the “Shepherd’s Candle,” and is pink because rose is a liturgical color for joy. The third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday and is meant to remind us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus, as well as the joy that the faithful have reached the midpoint of Advent.

On the fourth week of Advent, we light the final purple candle to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait for the birth of our Savior. This final candle, the “Angel’s Candle,” symbolizes peace. It reminds us of the message of the angels: “Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men.”

Though the Mercy Home Advent wreath does not include a white candle, this is a tradition that has become popular in modern day adaptations.

The white candle is placed in the middle of the wreath and lit on Christmas Eve. This candle is called the “Christ Candle” and represents the life of Christ. The color white is for purity—because Christ is our sinless, pure Savior.”

From <https://www.mercyhome.org/blog/sunday-mass/advent-wreath/>