

Saint Brigid Newsletter—Ninety-Seventh Edition, 10/19/2022

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

Ever have a conversation that did not go at all the way you had planned it to go? Recently I tried to offer help to a woman who is taking care of her niece while the child's father is in the hospital. The niece has stayed with us quite a bit lately due to those same circumstances. She has been having trouble with her knees and, worried that she might do more damage to them with her sports, I offered to help by taking her niece to get them checked out. This led to a lot of angry responses from the aunt who took my comments as a criticism of the job she was doing. I apologized immediately for offending her and stated that I really was only offering to help as I knew she had a lot on her plate. She apologized and was able to talk about her stresses and we got back to being on good terms. But that offer of help did not go as I had planned.



I recently (after that conversation) had the pleasure of attending a workshop put on by Kim Bearden, one of the cofounders of the Ron Clark Academy. She had six basic tips to improving communication. They are as follows:

1. Have a consideration mindset- before you speak, consider how what you say will be received by the other. Had I done this in the above example, I would likely have started the conversation differently, perhaps first by commending her on what a good job I think she is doing in balancing her own family's needs with the needs of her niece.
2. Have the right motivation mindset. I did, in this case, have her needs as the motivation for my conversation. Do not start a conversation with an angry mindset or an attention-seeking or praise-seeking mindset.
3. Appreciate the motivation of those who come to you. Fr. Pat used to say, brings your problems to us; don't stand on the playground and talk about us. Talk to us.

Important Dates

- 10/21: St. Brigid Spirit Wear Day
- 10/24: No School-PD Day
- 10/26: 6th/7th/8th Mass
- 10/31: Orange & Black Free Dress Day
Halloween Parade & Parties-1:00pm
- 11/1: All Saints Day Mass
5th Grade Living Wax Museum-9:45am
- 11/2: 5th Grade Mass
- 11/3 & 11/4: No School-MANS Conference for Staff
- 11/6: School Community Mass-9am

4. Validate the other. People want to know that they have been heard. I heard the aunt loud and clear in the above example and said immediately, I hear that I have offended you. I am so sorry. I never meant to do that. In saying that, I immediately got an apology because she knew she had been heard and she heard me.

5. Conversation is a two-part program, say what you need to say (participate) and then hesitate (hush up and let others be heard).

6. Finally, celebrate the conversation. The aunt in the above conversation and I hugged it out and we thanked each other for the conversation.

Six strategies that we often, but not always, use. Six strategies that could have prevented, but ultimately diffused, a tough conversation. Six strategies that might help a conversation, or a conference, go a little smoother.

Laura E. Wilkowski

From the Pastor's Desk

With this year's added joy of celebrating 100 years it's been great to witness the community life of Saint Brigid take to new heights. We have so many great gifts in our midst. Starting in the month of November I'd like to invite all school families to join us for a monthly School Community Mass.

November is the perfect month to begin - it's a natural time of Thanksgiving. So please join us at 9am November 6, 2022. We will gather again on December 4, January 15, February 5, March 5, April 2, May 7 and June 4. Be sure to have your children come in uniform dress and remember that any student trained to assist at school mass can also sign up to serve at Sunday Mass (<https://rebrand.ly/stblitsignup>). Help us make an impact on the whole parish by showing up and joining in the Mass. I would even ask those who are not regular members of the Saint Brigid Community to join us. Your witness to the parish reminds us all of the life in Christ we are pursuing.

If you can stay to join us for Whole Family Catechesis. Adults gather in the Cardinal Hickey Parish Hall and students go to assigned rooms. These sessions enable you to have faith conversations at home or in the car. Before attending the Whole Family Event please register at <https://forms.gle/ZUGiuWrJ6X9o3PeH9>

Another parish event I would invite every family to is our parish retreat on November 5 - Journeying Together: Discerning our Gifts. Register at rebrand.ly/stbretreat The morning retreat will provide childcare and an opportunity for each attendee to discover your natural gifts. Best of all at the end of the retreat we will have a game day - bring your favorite board or card game to share.

Thank you for choosing to be part of our community and for making your faith a priority for your family!

Blessings and peace,,
Fr. Andy Booms, Pastor

End of First Marking Period

The end of the nine weeks is fast approaching. October 25th is the end of this first nine-week period. Please have all missing assignments in by that time. We would encourage all parents in grades 4-8 to check Skyward to see if their student is missing anything. Parent-teacher conferences will be held on Friday, November 11th. Sign-ups will be available closer to the date.

Requirements for Volunteering in the School

Volunteers make the school function well and we welcome any and all volunteers. However, in order to ensure the safety of our students, the following are requirements of the Diocese which need to be completed **before** coming into the school to volunteer in any capacity, including chaperoning field trips and attending classroom parties:

- Complete Standards of Ministerial Behavior & Background Check Paperwork (from Parish Office)
- Complete VIRTUS training (in-person every 6 years; online every 3 years)
- Get fingerprinted at the Midland Police Department on Thursday mornings from 9-11am (only one time)

With the first classroom party coming up on Halloween, make sure you have these requirements met and submitted to the business office prior to that date in order to attend the party.

Boys Basketball

We have extended our boys basketball sign-up's to include 4th grade boys! Sign-up forms can be picked up from Mr. Delaney in the School Office and need to be turned in by the end of this week. All students must have a sports physical on file before the start of practice. The season will begin the week of October 31st and end the week of January 25th.

We are still in need of a coach for this team as well, if you are able to coach please consider doing so!!

Halloween Parties

Our Halloween parties will be on Monday, October 31, 2022. Elementary students will start to get into their costumes at 12:45pm. We will begin the downtown parade at 1 pm. Parties in the classroom will follow and run until the end of the day. Just a reminder that all parent volunteers and attendees must have done all volunteer requirements- fingerprinting, VIRTUS and paperwork. Children are encouraged to bring a bag or plastic pumpkin clearly labeled with the student's name.

Middle School students will be going to the Midland Civic Arena to ice skate for their Halloween Party. More information regarding this will be coming out from middle school teachers soon. Parent drivers & chaperones will be needed.

Midland Santa Parade Float

As part of our 100th Anniversary celebration this year, Saint Brigid School will be participating in the Midland Santa Parade on November 19th. Our theme will be Rockin' 100 Years of Catholic Education. We need a pole barn (preferably heated but we will take any pole barn) in which to store the float while we are building it and until the parade. We also need volunteers to help with the building process on November 6th, 2022 at 1 pm. If you can help with either, please email Laura Wilkowski at lwilkowski@stbrigid-midland.org.

I 55 Book Fair

We will be holding a virtual book fair online through I55 Book Fairs this year. We moved to this format to allow for a better selection, including many award winners, a more Catholic selection of books, and for ease and expense. Look for information to come home shortly about our book fair which will be from Monday, November 14th through Thursday, November 17, 2022.

Living Saints Wax Museum

Our 5th Graders will be participating in a Living Saints Wax Museum on Monday, November 1st after the 8:30am Mass. They will dress like their chosen saint and be on display and provide information about their life during the museum. Students and parents will have an opportunity to visit the different saints and learn about their life.

Veterans Day Speaker Needed

Every year for our Veterans' Day assembly we have a speaker talk to students about their military experiences and share a little (5-10 minutes tops) about how their faith was instrumental either in helping them decide to join the military, helping to sustain them through their experiences or maybe how their experiences brought them closer to their faith. Then we have a Q & A where students get to ask lots of questions. We are looking for a speaker for this year. If you have experiences that you could share, or know someone with experiences to share, please email Laura Wilkowski at lwilkowski@stbrigid-midland.org.



St. Brigid Holiday Craft & Gift Sale

Saturday, November 19th
9am-3pm

Vendors Wanted!

Email stbrigidholidaygiftshop@gmail.com or call the Parish Office (989)835-7121 for a vendor application.

**THE STUDENT LEADERSHIP
BAKE SALE RAISED**

\$270.20

FOR HURRICANE IAN RELIEF



THANK YOU EVERYONE WHO DONATED!