

Saint Brigid Newsletter—Hundred and Third Edition, 1/18/2023

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

Since my daughter and I have completed so many puzzles in the last couple of weeks, I decided to re-run a previous column.

Over Christmas break, I had the pleasure of doing a puzzle with my family. We do not take on the easy puzzles- we always do at least 1,000-piece puzzles. Our process for doing a puzzle goes as follows: first, we turn all of the pieces over so that we can see the colors and details of each piece. Then we piece together the edges which serve as a framework for the rest of the puzzle. Next, we like to complete those parts of the puzzle that are most recognizable and therefore, easiest to put together. Then, we finish with the tough stuff.

Every time I do a puzzle, I realize how many life lessons can be learned by the completion of one. Our life in its entirety is like a puzzle completed. But a puzzle starts as many small pieces just as life begins with one tiny piece. Flipping over the pieces is much like seeing some of the details of your life but not fully recognizing why and how they go together. It is good to have some sort of a guide in your life. Most of us are fortunate to have many; parents, teachers, friends, and our greatest guide, Jesus. Lessons in life start small and fairly easy: how to add and subtract, how to play a game with another, how to play an instrument, and how to read. But as we go along, those basic skills lead to tougher skills: how to do algebra, how to solve conflicts with other people, how to play your instrument in conjunction with the rest of the band, and reading to learn information.

When you do a puzzle that has 1,000 pieces, it takes time. It also takes patience and perseverance. If you quit because it is getting hard, you will never realize the full beauty of the puzzle. In much the same way, we have to persevere through the tough times in our lives in order to see the beauty or results. The puzzle is definitely easier with others helping. When God made Adam, He saw that man was good but realized that man should not be alone. God wants us to ask others for help, and to accept help. Sometimes,

too, when I felt stuck while doing the puzzle, I would get up and move to another seat. This new perspective often allowed me to see what I couldn't see previously. In much the same way, we often need to look at life's problems from another perspective. Try to envision how this looks through another's eyes. Try to imagine what the results of doing something in multiple ways might produce before acting. Finally, the shape and variations of color of the pieces often provided a final clue when it seemed as though all the pieces looked the same. In much the same way, it helps to recognize what details make a problem or challenge the same or different from those that we have encountered previously.

I found it easy to get lost in the simple task of looking for a piece. I found it calming and rewarding knowing I was making progress. In much the same way, it is important for us to lose ourselves in the moments in life; allow ourselves to completely feel emotions, and experience every moment - the happy, the sad, and the struggles. Because those are the beautiful details that will form the beautiful picture in the end.

So the next time you are doing a puzzle, stop and think of the life lessons it contains. If you haven't done one for some time, it is never too late to lose yourself in something that seems too hard or too time-consuming to complete- you may find that you learn some of life's greatest lessons in its simplest actions. Happy New Year!



Important Dates

- 1/20: St. Brigid Spirit Wear Day
- 1/23-1/25: 5th Graders at Camp Hartley
- 1/23: Kindergarten Open House-6:00pm
- 1/25: 1st Grade Mass
Talent Show Rehearsal-3:00pm
- 1/29: School Community Mass-Catholic Schools
Week Kick Off 9:00am
- 1/30: \$1 Free Dress for Open Door
Talent Show & Ice Cream Social-6:00pm
- 1/31: St. Brigid Spirit Wear Day
- 2/1: Kindergarten Mass
STEM Fair-1:00pm
- 2/2: Middle School-Dress as Future Career
Aspiration
- 2/3: Dress as Favorite Staff Member
Sock Hop-6:00-8:00pm

Laura E. Wilkowski

Re-enrollment for Next Year

You should have received an email copy of your enrollment forms from last year from Mr. Delany by now. Simply update any information, change the dates and resubmit to be re-enrolled. If forms were completed by hand, they will need to be completed again. I highly suggest that families consider using the fillable PDF form for easy completion! Classes with 100% re-enrollment by Catholic Schools Week (or notification of the office in the case of a family who is moving) will receive an ice cream treat!

Kindergarten Open House

Save the Date! Monday, January 23rd, will be our Kindergarten Open House from 6-7:30 pm. Families may come with their children. Children will experience a story, craft, and playtime while parents learn about our wonderful kindergarten and school! Word of mouth is our best marketing tool so please share this information with any families you know with an incoming Kindergarten student!

Camp Hartley

On Monday, January 23, fifth graders head off to Camp Hartley where they will stay overnight until Wednesday, January 25th! During that time they will have a full day of science outdoor explorations about nature, the history of the camp, and fun-filled team-building activities! Please pray for good weather and good times as well as for the safety of our students!

Gift Card Collection

As those of you familiar with the Emerald Evening event know, one of our most highly anticipated & enjoyed special events of the evening is our Balloon Pop. The concept is simple in that attendees may purchase a balloon, pop it, and receive a number that corresponds to a gift card, ranging from \$10-\$50! In order to make this possible, we need gift card donations. There are multiple ways that you can donate a gift card: purchase one from the Scrip table, buy one from a local business, ask a local business if they would be willing to donate one to the event, or donate an unwanted gift card you may have laying around. It's that easy! Just drop the gift cards at the school office **before January 31st!** Every family who donates a gift card will earn a FREE DRESS PASS for their student!

Emerald Evening Updates

Dinner Tickets: We are a little over a month away from our largest fundraiser for Saint Brigid School! This year's Diamond Jubilee, being held on February 25th, is guaranteed to be a glamorous event. Dinner tickets are now on sale! Tickets are \$125 and can be purchased online at charityauction.bid/emeraldevening2023 or at the School Office. The night will consist of dinner, silent auction, live auction, special events, and dancing to music from Sound Productions. Tickets will sell out fast so make sure you get yours right away if you plan to attend!

Cash Raffle: Cash raffle ticket sales are continuing to roll in. We have just around 250 tickets left to sell. If every school family just sold 2 MORE TICKETS, we would reach our goal quickly! This is a perfect time to put another social media post out there for all your friends & family to see. You'd be surprised how many people purchase from these posts! Reminder, tickets can be purchased with a credit card online at charityauction.bid/emeraldevening2023 or you may collect cash or check and turn it into the School Office in exchange for a ticket. Please remind people who are purchasing online to list your family name in the comments section so you receive credit for their purchase.

Day of Volunteers: In order to have a successful event, we utilize numerous volunteers throughout the evening in a variety of capacities. Whether you are attending the event and would be willing to help for an hour or you would prefer not to purchase a dinner ticket but would like to attend and volunteer for the evening or just a few hours, WE WANT YOU! A volunteer sign-up was emailed out yesterday with all the different areas we need assistance in. If you have any questions or would like more information, please reach out.

March for Life

Our 7th and 8th grade students will be traveling to Saginaw this Friday, January 20th to participate in the Diocese of Saginaw Ecumenical March for Life Event with Bishop Gruss and area Pastors. The students will participate in a rally at the Cathedral followed by a march to Holy Family Parish and conclude with a 30 minute Ecumenical Prayer.

Our 6th grade students will be participating in a local March for Life with Fr. Marc around downtown Midland.

LEGO Club

This is last call for a LEGO Club Leader! We would love to bring our K-3rd grade LEGO Club back but are in need of a volunteer to lead the club. Duties include planning weekly activities, ensuring we have materials needed on hand and facilitating the after-school sessions. The club typically runs 6 weeks beginning the end of January. If you are interested in facilitating this club, please reach out Laura Wilkowski. Unfortunately if we are not able to identify a leader, we will not be able to offer this club this year.

Report Cards

Marking period 2 report cards will be sent home on Friday. Please check you child's backpack for the envelope and then sign and return it to their teacher.

Valentine's Day Classroom Parties

Valentine's Parties will be held on Tuesday, February 14th. Kindergarten-2nd grade will have classrooms parties from 1:30-3:00pm. 3rd-5th graders will be going to the Roll Arena for a roller skating party from 12:30-2:30pm. Permission slips will be going out closer to the date and parent drivers will be needed. The PTO is covering the cost of this field trip. Middle School students are still working on the details of their party-look for communication from teachers soon.

Parents are welcome to attend as long as all volunteer requirements have been met. Teachers will be sending out information regarding Valentine exchanges for their classrooms.

Emerald Evening Program Cover Contest

Are you a 5th through 8th grader who is looking for a way to help the school and have fun? You are invited to share your creative and artistic abilities by designing a program cover for the Emerald Evening event in February. This is a great opportunity to highlight your talent and support our school. If your design is chosen, you will receive a gift certificate to Pizza Sam's and be recognized at the school with your artwork on display.

Guidelines include :

- All artwork must be on an 8" x 10" white sheet of paper and in color.
- Artwork should include "A Diamond Jubilee" theme - (think: 100th year, diamonds, celebration, formal evening attire) Ask your parents for ideas too!
- Submission should include the title "Emerald Evening 2023" toward the top of the page and include the date of the event which is February 25, 2023.
- Your first and last name and grade should be written on the **back** of your submission.
- Each student is allowed only one submission.
- Entries should be submitted to the school office by Friday, January 27, 2023.

Catholic Schools Week Kicks off January 29, 2023

Sunday, January 29th Parish Appreciation Day: School Community Kick-off Mass at 9am with students performing the ministries, followed by a Community Coffee & Donuts in the Parish Hall. There are still Mass ministry spots available. Please sign up at <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1HFhCqezZC111hQN2NKL6GI1ncAmWHeudQYO9aJiAJIY/edit#gid=0>

Monday, January 30th Celebrate Community: Students, staff and volunteers are encouraged to wear free dress for \$1. All proceeds from the free dress day go to the Open Door to celebrate our community! K-5 students will be making Valentine's Cards for the Seniors at Riverside Senior Center, and Middle School Students will be playing bingo at one of the local senior centers (look for field trips forms to go home next week).

Monday evening at 6pm we have our **talent show** in the gym. Please bring your family to cheer on the talents of all students. Then stop by the **ice cream social** in the open area afterwards for a treat and talk to middle school teachers to learn more about what makes our Saint Brigid Middle School great and answer any questions you may have.

Tuesday, January 31st Celebrate Saint Brigid Students & Alumni Day: We will celebrate students with no homework and St. Brigid Spirit Wear free dress. Kindergarten-4th grade will complete a "Why I Love My School" activity in their classrooms and 5th-8th graders will participate in an escape room in the gym.

Also on Tuesday is Lunch with a Grand "Friend". Anyone can serve in this capacity; a grandparent, neighbor, friend or other relative. To RSVP for this event, please fill out the Google Form <https://forms.gle/NLoMRFKwtQAhS7ZM9> with the guests names and meal choice. **RSVP's are due by January 24th**

Wednesday, February 1st Celebrate the Nation: Celebrate our nation day begins with the raising of the flag by our Boy Scouts at the flagpole and prayer with parents and students at 8:00am, followed by Mass at 8:30 am celebrating the Feast of St. Brigid, our patron saint. Here is a video that you may watch with your children about Saint Brigid, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iUN7v5mTQT4>.

We will celebrate the future of our nation with a STEM fair from 1-3pm in the gym. Students will present their projects to other students, staff and parents during this time. The grade schedule is as follows: K-2nd: 1:30-2pm; 3rd-5th: 2-2:30pm; 6th-8th: 2:30-3pm

Thursday, February 2nd Vocations and Pastor Appreciation Day: Throughout the day, students will learn what the word vocations means and be able to talk with Fr. Andy, Fr. Marc, and hopefully the Sisters of Mercy. Middle School students are encouraged to dress as their future career choice on this day.

Friday, February 3rd Staff & Volunteer Appreciation Day: Students may dress as their favorite staff member on this day. There will be treat for volunteers to pick up from the front desk anytime during the school day. All parents that have volunteered in **ANY** capacity this school year are invited to stop by for a small token of appreciation. Staff will be treated to a Staff Appreciation Lunch during their lunch hour. Students will also enjoy a movie in the afternoon to wrap up a fun week!

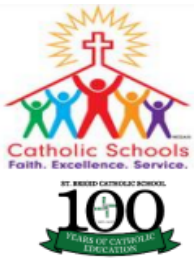
That evening, our annual Sock Hop will take place from 6-8pm in the gym. This is open to the entire family and is always a great time! A flyer with details should have went home with your child. The cost is \$6/adult and \$/child and include hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, cookies, ice cream, and a drink. You can return the form or RSVP online at <https://forms.gle/6cur75kT3XCKKiaeA>. RSVP's for this event are **due by Wednesday, January 25th**



Catholic Schools Week 2023
January 29-February 4

www.NCEA.org/csw

#CSW23



Catholic Schools Week 2023

January 29–February 4

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Saint Brigid Celebrates CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2023

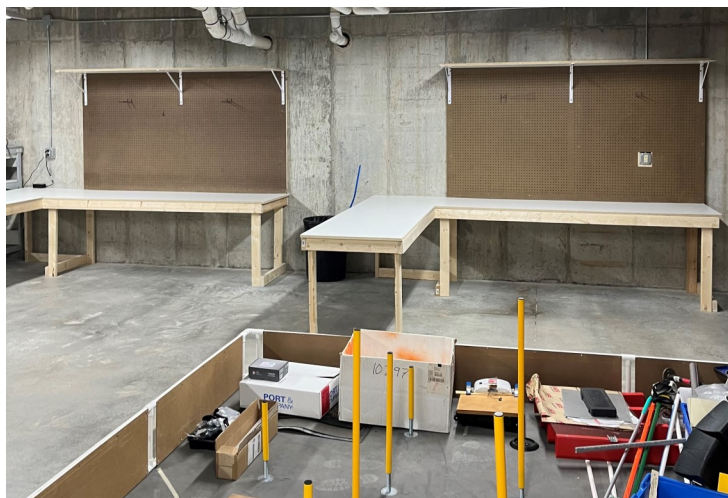


Sunday January 29 Parish Appreciation Day	Monday January 30 Celebrate Community Day	Tuesday January 31 Celebrate Saint Brigid Students & Alumni Day	Wednesday February 1 Celebrate the Nation Day	Thursday February 2 Pastor Appreciation Day Vocations Day	Friday February 3 Staff & Volunteer Appreciation Day
<p>School Community Mass with the students of our school doing all ministries. 9:00 AM</p> <p>Community Coffee & Donuts following Mass CHPH 10:00AM</p> <p>All students are encouraged to wear their school uniform to all weekend liturgies. Parents are welcome to show their school pride and wear Saint Brigid spirit wear as well.</p>	<p>Free Dress for \$1- Benefits Open Door</p> <p>K-5 Students make Valentines Cards for Senior Center</p> <p>6th-8th Grade Students play Bingo at Senior Center</p> <p>Talent Show CHPH 6:00pm</p> <p>Ice Cream Social Open Area, following the Talent Show 8:00pm</p>	<p>St. Brigid Spirit Wear Day</p> <p>No Homework Today!</p> <p>St. Brigid Alumni visit the classrooms and talk to students</p> <p>Lunch with a Grand "Friend"</p> <p>K-4th Grade Why I Love My School Cross</p> <p>5th-8th Grade Escape Room in Gym</p>	<p>Flag Raising and Prayer at the Flagpole Ceremony 8:00 AM</p> <p>Mass 8:30 AM</p> <p>S.T.E.M Fair (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) CHPH. All are welcome. 1:00-3:00pm</p>	<p>Thank You Father Andy and Father Marc! We are Blessed!</p> <p>Vocations Talk according to Class Schedule</p> <p>Middle School Students Dress as Future Career Choice</p>	<p>Dress as Your Favorite Staff Member</p> <p>Staff Appreciation Lunch</p> <p>Movie Day K-8 PTO-thank you for providing our treat.</p> <p>Sock Hop Everyone is welcome to come celebrate CSW and dance in the CHPH at a fun old-time sock hop. 6-8pm</p>
<p>Thank you for your continued support of Saint Brigid Catholic School!</p>					

Tips from the Reading Specialist

How can parents help their child with language comprehension?

- Read books together that would be too difficult for your child to read alone. Discuss vocabulary words and their meaning.
- Use high level vocabulary words in your daily interactions (ex. Instead of saying “It’s time to **clean** up your toys”, say “It’s time to **tidy** up”).



A huge thank you is in order for our rockstar Maintenance Supervisor, Gary Hollingshead, for his hard work in building work areas for our LEGO First Robotics and Middle School Robotics programs! We can't wait to put this area to use!

Parenting Your Anxious Child Series

There are still spots available for the parent series on “Parenting Your Anxious Child” . You may email Mr. Delaney to sign up or sign up yourself here: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1pfunluL1LHuzPogvh4psgG-CWqCTmpKA5zV7_r0-xSU/edit#gid=0

Parenting Your Anxious Child

Group for Parents

Sponsored by Saint Brigid’s Catholic School

Group Start Date

February 6, 2023

Eight Group Sessions

Mondays

6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Group Location

Saint Brigid’s Catholic School

To Register

Phone Ryan Delaney at the School Office at 989 835 9481 or

Email rdelaney@stbrigid-midland.org

Registration Deadline

January 27, 2023



The group will help parents understand how anxiety presents and maintains in youth. They will learn to differentiate between defiance and anxiety. Parents will learn proven strategies to help youth manage distress, resolve difficulties, and be more resilient.

Group Leader Brooke Maylee, LMSW

Partners in Change: Psychological & Community Services, PLC

Brooke is a graduate of Wayne State University School of Social Work. She specializes in treatment of youth and their families using evidenced based therapeutic methods.

Recess Rules

We recently devised some written rules for the playground. They are intended to keep kiddos safe. Teachers and Recess Monitors will be reviewing these with your kids but it would be wonderful if you also read the rules and explained them. That way the same rules that work for recess can apply to after-school play, after-school care, and extra recess time. It will also allow all volunteers to be on the same page as our recess staff.

Saint Brigid Catholic Schools Recess Rules:

- Pull-up/Monkey Bars: No sitting, standing, or flips off of bars. One direction on the bars; no chasing, tag, jumping, or pushing others. No climbing or crossing on top of the monkey bars.
- Slide: Slide down feet first only; no running or crawling up the slide or across the slide. One person at a time.
- No throwing snow, dirt, wood chips, or rocks.
- No Pushing and pulling on bodies.
- No toys from home - e.g. cars, dolls, hand-held video games or electronics of any kind.
- No playing or loitering in the restrooms.
- Do not bring equipment from home.
- Be a good sport. Everyone is welcome when playing games - NO closed games.
- Use kind words and actions. Always use appropriate language - NO name-calling, put-downs, threats and/or slurs.
- No football games are allowed- throwing a football is acceptable.
- Physical contact sports are not to be played.
- Tag will be played on the grass or the woodchips-not on the pavement
- Students may not enter the building without permission.
- Use equipment the way it was designed i.e. jump ropes for jumping only.
- To play in the snow, you must have snowpants and boots. If you have only boots, you may walk in the snow but not play in it. If you do not have boots, you must stay on the pavement.
- If you are having trouble working out a situation with another student, talk to the recess monitor before you talk to the principal or teacher. The recess monitors are there to help.
- Return all equipment to the Equipment Cart at the end of recess. DO NOT kick balls at the end of recess, never kick a ball indiscriminately into a crowd.

Recess Consequences:

- Warning
- Redirection
- Time out
- Referral to the office
 - This may result in written apologies, loss of recess time, family notification, in or out of school suspension

And speaking of volunteers, we can always use more recess volunteers. If you can commit to one day per week from 11-12:30 we would greatly appreciate it! Many eyes on the students do help to prevent issues!