

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

## From the Principal's Desk

Last week we had a short assembly. The topic: heroes vs. villains bowl off. This was a student council spirit day ask. While at the assembly, we chose representatives for each side and talked about how to cheer for those that were bowling. Bowlers from both sides shook hands and congratulated each other. We used it as an opportunity to talk about how taking turns is fun even when it is our turn to watch. We also talked about how it is the right thing to do to invite others in to play with us. While I turned it into a bit of a teaching moment, it was a lot of fun.



Students said it was fun. Staff said it was fun. It is important for us to remember that learning is fun. Playing with others is fun. Even cheering for another student is fun. Life is meant to be joyful.

I remember back when my own children were in kindergarten and I asked them how school was, they would tell me that they didn't learn anything, that they just played games and had fun. Secretly, I loved this answer! I could see that they were learning but they were loving learning.

One of the wonderful aspects of our ICLE learning partnership is that students feel joy in learning. I am thrilled when our students can learn a new concept but equally thrilled that they are learning to love learning itself.

Students are going to be asked to talk to you, as parents, about some of these activities. I would ask that you share in their joy of learning these concepts by taking the time to listen, perhaps to try an activity, and to ask questions of our teachers.

### Important Dates

- 10/20: St. Brigid Spirit Wear Day
- 10/24: Picture Retake Day-Free Dress for All
- 10/26: 1/2 Day-Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 10/27: No School-Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 10/31: Orange & Black Free Dress  
Halloween Parade & Parties-1:00pm
- 11/1: 4th Grade Mass-All Souls Day-8:30am  
5th Grade Living Saints Wax Museum-9:15am
- 11/3: St. Brigid Spirit Wear Day

Finally, I am reminded that not everything has to be a teachable moment. Sometimes we can just be silly and fun and that is great. So make sure to schedule a little goofy time to play a game, pretend with your child, or just enjoy being outdoors. Learning to be joyful is important!

*Laura E. Wilkowski*

### Picture Retake Day

Picture retake day with Hicks Studios will take place on October 24th. If you would like your student to have retakes, please send in your original picture packet along with an order form and money for a new package. There are order forms in the office if you need one. For those who are requesting retakes due to a blue/gray coloring on your child's teeth, Hicks Studio has said that your student can do retakes for no additional charge but you must send in the original pictures that day for their review. All students may have a free dress on this day.

### October Service Project Reminder

Don't forget about the service projects for the months of October! The K-5 Student Council is having a Can War as the service project for October. Families are encouraged to return all their cans & bottles to the store anytime during the month of October and send the bottle return slip into school with their student. Teachers will collect all the bottle slips and the class with the most money in returns will win a free dress pass and bragging rights. All slips must be turned in by October 31st. Monies raised will be used to purchase new filters for the water bottle refilling stations.

The Middle School Student Leadership is holding a book drive to benefit Shelterhouse. Middle School students may bring in gently-used books and place them in the boxes set up outside Mrs. Osborn's classroom through October.

### End of First Marking Period

The end of the nine weeks is fast approaching. October 25<sup>th</sup> is the official end of this first nine-week period. . We would encourage all parents in grades 4-8 to check Digital Academy to see if their student is missing any assignments. All assignments must be turned in by October 20th. Parent-teacher conferences will be held on Thursday, October 26th in the afternoon/evening and Friday, October 27th in the morning. You should have received an email with conference sign-up times from your student's teacher. Please reach out if you did not receive an email.

### Halloween Parties

Our Halloween parties will be on Tuesday, October 31, 2023. Students may wear orange & black to school that morning and will start to get into their costumes at 12:45pm. Please send your student's costume to school with them in the morning and make sure all parts are clearly labeled in case it gets mixed up with other student's things. We will begin the downtown parade at 1:00pm. 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.**

The Middle School students have chosen to have their Halloween party at the Midland Civic Arena. A permission slip should be coming home soon and parent drivers are going to be needed.

### Living Rosary

Our students did a phenomenal job in the Living Rosary this past Monday. You can watch the entire rosary at <https://youtu.be/ADoQffURxq4>. This is a private link so please do not share with others outside our school.

### Athletic Sign-Up's

Last call to sign up for 5th-8th grade boys basketball, 4th-8th grade pom team, and 4th-8th grade cheerleading. You may pick up a sign-up form in the school office or from Ms. Corie. All students must have a sports physical on file before the start of practice. The season will begin the last week of October and run through the end of January. Pom team members will perform at halftime of the 5 home basketball games and cheerleaders will cheer the duration of the 5 home basketball games.

### **Living Saints Wax Museum**

Our 5th Graders will be participating in a Living Saints Wax Museum on Wednesday, November 1st after the 8:00am 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.

### **Spirit Wear Sale**

We will be holding another St. Brigid Spirit Wear sale ahead of the holidays. A great time to grab a gift for your student or yourself! The sale will open on October 23rd and run until November 22nd. Orders should be ready for pick up the week before Christmas break. Three dollars from every item will be given back to the school. To view all the items available and place your order, visit <https://saintbrigidfall2023.itemorder.com/shop/home/>.

### **Dress Code Reminders**

As the temperature begins to drop, we wanted to remind parents that students must have a jacket with them to go outside for recess. Please insure that your student has a jacket with them when you drop them off at school in the morning

In regards to dress code, students may wear a navy blue, white, or gray (6th-8th grade) sweater. Only fleeces or green sweatshirts embroidered with the Saint Brigid Catholic School logo are permitted to be worn in class. . All other hooded and zip up sweatshirts are not permitted to be worn in the classroom. No sweatshirts or fleeces may be worn in church. Crocs are not allowed to be worn to school at any time. If students are not wearing appropriate uniform attire, we will ask them to change or call home for parents to bring the correct uniform.

### **Christmas Music Concert**

Our Christmas Music Concert will be held on Thursday, December 7th at 6:00pm in the Gym. K-5 students will perform their musical numbers followed by the 5th grade band, 6th grade band, and Shamrock band. Students need to dress in their Sunday best and be to their classrooms by 5:45pm.

### **Holiday Craft Show Bake Sale & Hot Cocoa Crawl Volunteers Needed**

Every year we hold a bake sale during the St. Brigid Holiday Craft & Gift Sale. The sale is on Saturday, November 18th from 9am-3pm. We need volunteers for a variety of things. First and foremost, we need parents to donate baked goods for the sale. All items need to be individually wrapped and must be nut-free. To sign-up to bring a baked good, visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4FAFA828A6F5C16-45139972-baked>. Baked goods can be dropped off at school on Friday, November 17th or the morning of November 18th.

We also need six volunteers to work a shift at the bake sale table. If you are willing to cover a two hour shift, please sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4FAFA828A6F5C16-45140471-bake>.

One more event that day is the Downtown Midland Hot Cocoa Crawl, which we will be participating in again this year. We will have a stand set up on the corner of Ashman & Larkin with hot cocoa available to community members. We need six volunteers (parents and kids) to help man the table to hand out cups of cocoa. If you are willing to cover a hour shift, please sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4FAFA828A6F5C16-45371461-hotcocoa>

Thank you in advance for you willingness to help at any of these events this day!!!

### **Veteran's Day Assembly**

We happily invite all veterans to join us for our Veteran's Day Assembly on November 10th at 8:30am in the gym. If you know of any veteran's in the community, we ask that you please invite them to attend and be honored by our students.

### **ICLE Updates**

As you know, Saint Brigid is partnering with the Institute for Catholic Liberal (Arts) Education. As a result, we are changing little things in the way that we present lessons to students. It has been remarkable how many of these strategies have become student favorites. For example, Fable Fridays is a part of the sixth grade English/Language Arts curriculum. For some lessons, students are given two fables and they are to compare and contrast both the stories and their meanings. Sometimes, they are used in Socratic Circles where students read and then discuss the stories and decide on the morals while the other group observes and comments on the discussion itself. Sometimes, they read the fable as a read aloud and use one of a reader's theater approach. Other times they discuss character traits and virtues. Fable Friday is a favorite among many. Ask your middle schooler about it!

### **Tips from the Reading Specialist**

#### **To Read with Fluency and Comprehension A Child Needs:**

##### Auditory Perception

- Listening with sustained attention
- Ability to discriminate sounds, rhythms, patterns
- Sequential auditory memory-narrative ability

##### Symbolism-Verbal Skills: Vocabulary

- Comprehension-understanding of concepts expressed in words
- Verbal reasoning
- Understanding that a mark, sound, a pattern represents an object or idea
- Print awareness

### **Update Regarding Scouting at St. Brigid**

Pack 3768 is changing Chartered Partners after a 26 year relationship with St. Brigid Catholic Church. This change is happening due to a desire to charter a Trail Life USA group at St. Brigid, as their integration of faith in the program better aligns with the mission of the parish. Although the Catholic Church has no official concerns with BSA, early in 2023 the Saginaw Diocese indicated to parish leaders that they not renew charter agreements into 2024. An amended charter will allow units to maintain relationships with Catholic parishes, such as Troop 798 at Blessed Sacrament. The amendment to the charter came after plans had already been set in motion at St. Brigid to sponsor a Trail Life unit in 2024. In order to make the recharter process as seamless as possible, St. Brigid has released the charter for Pack 3768 and Chestnut Hill Elementary PTO will assume the charter this month. This is not an excommunication of scouting from St. Brigid. Updates will be provided periodically to the school newsletter and scouts will be welcome to celebrate Scout Sunday at their home church, including at St. Brigid. If you have any concerns about this change, please contact Bradley Cayo. If you are interested in being a part of the Trail Life unit being formed at St. Brigid, please contact Chris Morabito at 989-859-0250.

The development of our boys and girls is part of our mission here at St. Brigid. We truly find life in Christ at Worship, in Service and in Education. While Trail Life is an all boys group, the parish would be happy to charter a girls troop with American Heritage Girls. Please let Fr. Andy know if you are interested in helping to lead the charter process for the girls. Both groups have excellent websites which can help answer your questions about their mission, program and vision for bringing up men and women of faith.

## **Parent Workshop Opportunity**

Swan Valley School District is so excited to welcome Chris McKenna, the Founder of *Protect Young Eyes*, on November 14 from 6:30-8pm at Swan Valley Middle School Gymnasium. This parent night is open to all Swan Valley School district parents with a target group of parents with students ages K-8. We also welcome friends of Swan Valley School district parents that might attend surrounding area school districts so please feel free to share this event with your friends. Our goal is to better prepare our parents which will in turn help protect our students as they grow up in this digital age.

### **WHAT TO EXPECT:**

#### **How to Create a Tech-Ready Home: Embracing the Tension between Careful, Countercultural, and Confident (Parents and Caring Adults, 14+):**

Although it's not possible to create an internet-safe home, it is possible to create one that is internet SAFER. After well over a thousand presentations to parents, grandparents, and caregivers just like you, and countless conversations, we've observed what it takes to have kids learn to use technology well. And we call it the PYE Core Values. This presentation breaks down these 5 foundational ideas. Do you know what's better than any parental control? Do you know why your router is the most important digital device in your home? Do you understand the toxic trio? Do you know why TikTok is so intoxicating to young brains? Get ready for a ton of practical tips, solutions, and ideas you can implement this weekend. Our desired outcomes include

- A deep understanding of why multiple layers of protection are necessary and how they work together.
- Awareness of the hardware and software tools that support your digital goals.
- How to use practical solutions so that your family is prepared, balanced, and protected online.

### **HOW TO SIGN UP:**

This is a free event but we do ask that you register & if you sign up that you please plan to attend. You can register here: <https://protectyoungeyes.com/event/swan-valley-middle-school-how-to-create-a-tech-ready-home-with-pye/>