



St. Brigid School
Excellence Faith Community

2023-2024 Newsletter
Sponsored by Portland North Dental

Advancement:
A Key to
Building Our
Future



To say that I am grateful to be part of this community is an understatement. For the past two and a half years I have watched as all of you have answered the call in one way or the other. This is unquestionably a community for others! Whether you are a parent, staff member, teacher, alumni, grandparent or parish friend you have a significant impact on our students. They see everything even when we don't think they are watching. They see you attending their events. They see you being kind to each other. They see the benefits your donations have made on our school. They see your good examples all around them. Thank you for being committed to being a positive role model to our students. Your support matters to us! Thank you all!
Vince



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Growth Mindset

What does it take to succeed? How does one rise to the challenges that are encountered in life? How is it that St. Brigid School is growing and bursting at the seams?

The formula is simple, but it is not always easy to follow. First and foremost, it takes an overwhelming amount of trust and faith that God will deliver on the promises he makes to provide for all our needs. Second, it takes a desire to use all the gifts, talents, and purposes each person is given. And third, it takes love, support, hard work, and a desire to share the teachings of Jesus with others. This mindset helps people rise to the challenges and strive to succeed every day.

In some ways, this is an easy task because the faculty, staff, parents, and students share a common belief system and know that having a faith filled, rigorous academic experience, rounded out by character development and a strong sense of morals and values is an important base for the success of individuals and vibrant communities.

In other ways, it is a hard task; because we are not promised a life without challenges, but we are promised the strength and grace to meet whatever comes our way. We know that God, ultimately, controls everything. We just have to trust Him. As we look ahead to the future of our school, may we be grateful for what we have and TRUST GOD in all things.



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Advancement Update

What a great year it has been so far!

The 2023-2024 school year began with upgrades and new surfacing on our playground, a successful Harvest Fair, a new Christmas Basketball Tournament, which our 8th grade Girls won, and our 8th Grade Boys finished second; a new version of "The Shirt", a competitive Jump-A-Thon where all students participated, and the best Catholic Schools Week ever!

Cheers go out to our students, teachers, and parents for making this all possible.

There is plenty of excitement on the way for the remainder of this school year. The Annual Appeal Campaign is off to the best start we have ever experienced. Thank you! We are planning another All-Catholic School Reunion on June 13, 2024. Stay tuned for more details. Last year's reunion was a resounding success. We look forward to a great turnout again this year.

Finally, we are preparing for our Annual Online Auction. The theme this year is "Kindness Changes Everything". The Auction will run from April 29th to May 4th. We will celebrate the close of the online event with a party at the Cathedral Guild Hall featuring The Jim Ciampi Band. Please save the date, as you will surely have a great time! This is an extremely important event for us. If you would like to support this event in any way, we would greatly appreciate it. We are looking for donations of gift cards, sports memorabilia, lake house rentals, ski condo weekends, sporting event tickets and anything else that would be a desirable auction item.

We have several Naming Opportunities available throughout the school. If you would like to memorialize a family, family member, honor a friend, family or faculty member or give your company great visibility, please contact Vince Ciampi or Brooke Reid.

I am so enthusiastic about the rest of the school year, and I am excited to see you all on campus. God bless you and your families. Thank you for making this community special!

Vince

Classroom Naming Opportunities

As we journey through life, there are many who imitate the ways of Jesus and reflect the light of God. People come into our lives and their presence, their example, and their words impact us profoundly. Take some time to reflect on the teachers, mentors, and wise people you have encountered in your life.

Who made a difference in your life? A special way to memorialize, honor, or recognize that special person in your life, or even promote your business, is to consider naming a classroom.

The cost of naming a room is \$5,000. This gift may be paid upon initializing the naming or in \$1,000 increments over the course of 5 consecutive years. All proceeds go directly to support the school.

Other Giving Opportunities

When you choose to support St. Brigid School, you are giving to a Catholic School with a consistent retention rate of students each year between 93-98%! Our students, families, teachers, and staff are committed to growing the school while maintaining the integrity of the faith community we are blessed to be part of. Our school has a dynamic and fluid strategic plan! As we complete tasks and make improvements, new attainable goals with action plans and completion dates are added. St. Brigid School is nearing physical capacity and has waitlists in all grades! Our ship is very much afloat. What better time than this to help us build on the foundation we have established?

Here are a few ways you could be part of our future:

- A School Bus: To help with transportation to sporting events and field trips.
- Exclusive Corporate Sponsorship: Your business will be represented on our website, newsletters, email correspondence, mentioned at public events, and on a sign in our gymnasium.
- Music Stage Naming: Promote your business, memorialize a loved one, or honor a family member. Name will be prominently and permanently displayed on our stage.
- School Building Naming Opportunity: We have the Father Hayes Center, and inside, we have the Craig and Dolly Foster Gymnasium. How would you like to have your name on the main school building? This is a forever opportunity, and comes with signage, recognition in our newsletter, on our website, and in a press release.

To learn more about these opportunities, contact Vince Ciampi, VP of Institutional Advancement at: 207-632-9309 or vince.ciampi@portlanddiocese.org.



St. Brigid School

Excellence Faith Community



A Letter from Principal Burke

As you read this newsletter, I hope you can feel the mission driven energy that is creating the momentum propelling St. Brigid School towards an exciting present and future. Our school is on the move and seeks to improve each day, provide a meaningful academic experience for the students, and instill and live the faith based values that will form the next generation.

We strive to live the gospel message in all that we do as a school community, and as you can see in this newsletter we are on the move thanks to a healthy enrollment, the generosity of many people, and a shared vision of what we wish for our most precious gifts, our students. As you read the stories and look at the photos, I am hopeful that you will come to understand who we are as a school or be reaffirmed in your commitment to be a part of our present and future. Together we can let our light shine brightly and focus our energy on the formation of students who love one another and want to make the world a better place for all of God's creation.

Sincerely,
Bill Burke
Principal

Brooke Reid in her Inaugural Year as Athletic Director

Developing a vibrant Middle School Sports program and finding ways to engage younger students in sports programs has been the focus of this year for Brooke in her inaugural year.

Soccer, Field Hockey, Cross Country, Basketball, Indoor Track, Outdoor Track, Lacrosse, Baseball, and Softball for students in grades 6 - 8.

Pointing families to soccer, basketball, little league, and softball along with hosting a skills and drills basketball league for k-3 students, complete with scrimmage games with Holy Cross and Greater Portland Christian School ensures our rising sports players will have foundational skills by the time they reach eligibility to play in the SMMSAC league.



Athletics Program Reaches New Heights!

Brooke Reid joined the St. Brigid Staff this year as Athletic Director and Development Associate. Her enthusiasm and organizational abilities have brought a new dimension to the Athletics Program.

Our St. Brigid teams enjoyed successful sports seasons so far this school year! In the fall, the girls' soccer and cross-country teams thrived, exceeding expectations. Our co-op field hockey team with Lincoln Middle School went undefeated!

The cross-country program received a generous donation from Kevin, Sam, and Winnie Bull for new uniforms. Thank you, Bull family!

Our winter basketball teams excelled as they played 2-3 games per week winning games, gaining confidence, and creating lasting memories. We even introduced our first Christmas Basketball Tournament that included 4 other middle schools. A great time for the kids before the holiday season! Indoor track is around the corner along with our 4 spring sports including lacrosse, baseball, softball and outdoor track. Let's Go St. Brigid Fire!

Thank you to all the volunteer coaches, parents, and staff for helping the athletic programs thrive. We look forward to continued success and growth.



Photo courtesy of Shawn Baker Photography



8th Grade Boys and Girls Basketball Teams finished strong.



Kindergarten/Grade 1 players show promising future talent.



7th Grade Boys and Girls Basketball Teams also had a great season!



Grade 2 players continue to learn skills and good sportsmanship.



Middle School girls played hard and exhibited great teamwork.



Grade 3 players are preparing to be fine athletes. We look forward to watching all these students as they work toward being part of our Middle School Athletics Program in the future.

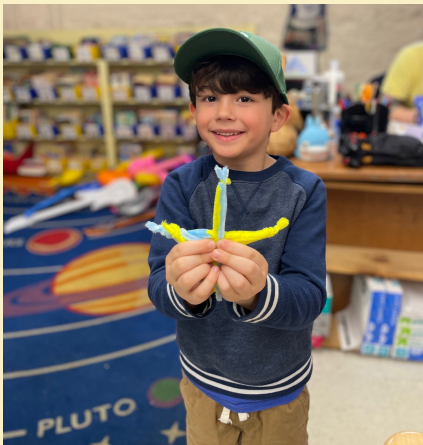
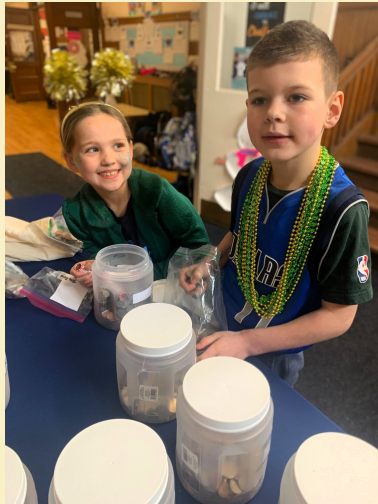


Middle School girls had a co-op with Lincoln. They had an undefeated season!



Highlights of This Year in Pictures

See how Faith,
Academics, and
Community foster
Excellence at St. Brigid School




St. Brigid School
Excellence Faith Community

What a Wonderful Year it Is!



The Legacy of the Sisters of Mercy Continues!



New Staff Members/New Roles

Sarah Wagner
Director of Aftercare, Afterschool Enrichment
and Summer Camp
Program

Kevin Conroy
Assistant Principal, Spanish Teacher preschool
through Grade 4

Mary King
Middle School Religion Teacher

Jennifer Goodine
Spanish Teacher Grades 5 - 8

Brooke Reid
Athletic Director/Fundraising and Events
Coordinator

Jessica Burton
Art Teacher

Emily Haley
Preschool Lead Teacher

Ally Fernandez
Pre-K Assistant

Katharine Echavarri
Middle School Science

Eileen Ouellette
Preschool Assistant



Pictured are: Ms. Haley,
Mr. Conroy, Ms. Reid,
Ms. Fernandez,
Mrs. Ouellette, Mrs. Burton,
Mrs. Echavarri, Ms. Wagner, and
Ms. Goodine (not pictured: Mary
King

All Catholic Schools Reunion

Last April 27, 2023, St. Brigid School hosted a reunion for alumni and attendees of all the Catholic Elementary Schools past and present in the greater Portland area.

It was a spectacular evening! Cathedral, St. Patrick's, St. Joseph's, Sacred Heart, St. Dominic's, Holy Cross, and St. Brigid Schools were all represented. Guests visited with the Sisters of Mercy, reminisced with old friends, and met new ones! Each school had a table where memorabilia and photos were displayed. It was fun to walk down memory lane!

A keynote address was given by Gerry Conley, who attended St. Dominics and Cheverus High School. Hearing him talk about the importance of Catholic education, validated the essence of what we continue to do, more than 100 years later in a building with a rich history, which was started by the Sisters of Mercy, and continues with the additional influence of the Jesuit Educational Vision.

We are excited to welcome alumni of all present and former Greater Portland Catholic Schools together again this year! If you attended St. Brigid School, St. Joseph's School, St. Patrick's School, Cathedral School, St. Dominic's School, Sacred Heart School, or Holy Cross you are invited to join this event.

Visit old friends, basketball players, former teachers, coaches, current administration and staff of St. Brigid School in the Father Hayes Center.

SAVE THE DATE

The next reunion will be held on June 13, 2024

5:30-8:00 pm in the Craig and Dolly Foster Gym in the Father Hayes Building

Refreshments, memorabilia, and tours of the school

RSVP on the homepage of our website: www.sbrigids.com

If you would like to set up a table of memorabilia for your alma mater, please contact Vince Ciampi at:

207-632-9309 or

email: vincent.ciampi@portlanddiocese.org

Are you a graduate of St.
Brigid School,
St. Joseph's School,
or St. Patrick's School?
We would love to hear
from you!

Fill out the Keep in
Touch form on our
website under the
Alumni Tab

www.sbrigids.com



A Message About Fundraising from Vince Ciampi and Brooke Reid

Fundraising is necessary to supplement the revenue that comes from tuition. Many of our fundraisers have become time honored, fun community traditions!

In October, the Harvest Fair came back in full swing! The Annual Appeal kicked off in September and got a big push in November with Giving Tuesday. Wreaths were sold in December and in January the students Jumped for funds in a school-wide Jump-a-Thon! The Online Auction will be coming up in April and will culminate with a "Kindness Changes Everything" themed celebration featuring The Jim Ciampi Band on May 4, 2024. The Annual Appeal will end on June 30, 2024.

Net results from each of the above events as of February 1, 2024:

Harvest Fair: \$15,000

Giving Tuesday and the Annual Appeal: \$87,000

Wreaths: \$1,500

Jump-a-Thon: \$20,000

100% of the Annual Appeal donations and fundraisers revenue goes directly to support St. Brigid School. If you would like to make a donation, please use the envelope in this newsletter or use the giving link on our website at: www.sbrigids.com

Your gifts matter to us!



Save the Dates!



Online Auction on Bidding for Good: April 29 - May 4, 2024

End of the Auction Celebration: May 4, 2024, at The Guild Hall

All Catholic Schools Reunion:

June 13, 2024



ALL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS REUNION

June 13, 2024

5:30-8:00 PM

Alumni, teachers, and staff of

- St. Brigid School
- St. Joseph's School
- St. Patrick's School
- Cathedral School
- St. Dominic's School
- Sacred Heart School
- Holy Cross School

Are invited to attend a night of fun connecting with old friends, making new friends. Celebrate the Catholic Schools of the past and present.

RSVP to Vince Ciampi
207-632-9309

Bring Memorabilia
Food and Soft Drinks Provided
FREE Admission

For more information on these events, please visit our website at www.sbrigids.com
or call Vince Ciampi 207-632-9309



**We Love
to Make
You Smile**

Dr. Chris "Topher" Pochebit

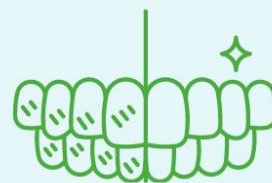
2004 graduate of St. Brigid, and 2008 graduate of Cheverus. Went on to major in Biotechnology at Endicott College while playing collegiate football. Returned home to Portland to graduate dental school at UNE. Dr. Pochebit enjoys all facets of dentistry and relieving patients of their predisposed fears they may have when visiting the dentist. He enjoys staying active with his wife Brittany, their three boys Daniel, Zachary and Ryan, and the family's yellow lab Franklin. Dr. P loves to stay involved in the community which he grew up and is currently the team dentist for the local Maine Mariners hockey team.



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Thank You!

Thanks to those who have supported our school through sponsorship and advertising opportunities this year:

Porta & Co, Portland Harbor Group--Raymond James, Alliance Physical Therapy, Varney Insurance and Bonding, Milliken, Perkins & Brunelle CPA's, St. Joseph's Rehabilitation & Residence, Broadway Gardens, Snowology 207, Cheverus High School, Miss Portland Diner, Free Range Fish & Lobster, Legends Rest Taproom, M.R. Brewer LLC, Mazzone Marketing, Acadia Lending Group, Benchmark Construction, Bruno's Pasta Company, Conroy Tully Walker Funeral Homes, Gowen Clean Power Systems, Guerrette Properties, Keeley's Banquet Center, Pearce-Dow-& Burns, Play it Again Sports, Poulin Construction, Rose's Italian Restaurant, Risbara Construction, Tumble Tikes Play Gym, Town and Country Federal Credit Union, Lockton Global, Conroy-Tully Walker Funeral Home, Wicklow Custom Homes, Pape Chevrolet, Seaport Credit Union

Our school community is beyond grateful to have such wonderful support!
We are on a path of growth, and do our best to care for the buildings, grounds, and most importantly,
the people who we encounter each day.

If you or someone you know would like to contribute to the advancement of St. Brigid School

Please contact
Vince Ciampi, VP of Institutional Advancement at:
vincent.ciampi@portlanddiocese.org
207-632-9309 or 207-797-7073

We would like to recognize the following honor/memorial contributions to the Annual Appeal:

In Honor Of:
Claire and Lucy Lafreniere
The Varney Children
Julian Nappi
Craig and Dolly Foster
Mikey Ray
Eileen Fox

In Memory Of:
Edward J. Guevin
Dr. Richard Dillihunt
Lucy Burke
Anne Nokes



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